

St James Church Magazine



September - November 2016 Edition

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God's one big plan

This Autumn during most of our morning services we will be looking at the big picture. The picture of God's interaction with the world and human existence, from creation to salvation. Roger Fenton, our discipleship coordinator, has been putting a lot of thought into this and is producing homegroup notes to go with the series; so if you are already lost with the concept or terminology, don't worry, you will find out more!

I often hear people say that they can understand Jesus, his teachings and his mission, but that they find it hard to link Christian faith with much of the Old Testament – well this is precisely what looking at God's one big plan hopes to achieve.

It is a big picture which reflects our individual relationships with God too. We see him in creation; we realise that because we are human we often fall short of his ideals and our own aims; we see false starts and new hopes in our faith journey – a bit like Noah and the rainbow; then we realise that God, despite all our weaknesses and failings, has chosen us, knows us as individuals, wants us take our place among his special people. Our coming to faith, whether gradual or sudden, is very similar to the rescue of people who were slaves, set free by promise and hope into a new life - and frequently there are those desert experiences to contend with along the way.

He sends us prophets – living, or voices from the past in scripture – to exhort, encourage and sometimes to warn us; he allows us to exercise that greatest human gift of free choice to organise our affairs, but offers solid advice about power and its abuses; he watches sadly as we fall out with each other and when we turn our backs on him to follow our own plans; he is with us in our own times of waiting and longing, ready to rescue again.

All of these themes and more will come up in the morning services and homegroups. So try to make regular weekly attendance at worship one

of your mainstays this Autumn: being together is the best way of keeping faith as well as using our own life experiences and circumstances to encourage others. Of course God knows if you have to work shifts, are struggling with illness or infirmity, or have complicated family lives – but that is why we have two services every Sunday plus others midweek. Every time you / your family / your friends are not present in corporate worship there is a gap which cannot be filled by anyone else, and who knows how God might have wanted to use you that time? We are all part of his one big plan today...

Unlike the people of the Old Testament, we have the transforming knowledge of God's supreme intervention in his world in sending his Son and bringing in a new sort of covenant relationship with his people, no longer based on obedience, rules and fear (upon which the Old Testament faiths of Islam and Judaism are still largely based), but on faith, trust, repentance, forgiveness and grace.

Through all of this, God has not changed; but he has graciously allowed the ways in which people perceive him to develop with their changing societies, knowledge and technologies. Sometimes the one big plan has almost collapsed when seemingly all of his human creation has rebelled and ignored his ways – but no, there have always been just enough faithful people to cling on to the truth, often sacrificially.

I believe that seeing how we are part of God's one big plan will strengthen our faith in him individually and as a church, and help us to find renewal and hope – wherever in life's journey we currently find ourselves, and whatever the future may bring.

God bless,
Tim



September article

‘The night has passed and the day lies open before us. Let us pray with one heart and mind’. Words with which we begin morning prayer.

September can often be one of the busiest months of our church calendar. I suppose it’s partly because holidays have come to an end, children have returned to school, and we feel the need to get back into the swing of all those meetings! Somehow we feel we must have a PCC due to the summer break (never mind that the legal requirement is just 4 meetings a year); or we want to fit in a confirmation course before Advent; or there’s all those appointment interviews to be had if we want someone to start in the new year.

Busy, busy, busy! Last month Bishop Peter spoke about our first diocesan strategic priority as putting mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do, ‘living and telling the story of Jesus’ love for us’. And if we are going to be able to fulfil that charge then we must underpin our ‘living and telling’ with prayer. Otherwise it will just be about giving busy people more things

to do. As we enter into that conversation with Jesus so we will be able to discern what is important, where we should focus our efforts and what we may need to stop in order to do so.

Earlier in the summer we heard the Sunday gospel of the story of Mary and Martha, welcoming Jesus into their family home. He evidently found their home to be a place of welcome and hospitality, somewhere where he could relax and be himself.

We were once invited to dinner with a couple who we had got to know through church. It was an amazing evening, a 7 course dinner, in effect Christmas with all the trimmings although it was summer. There were even silver candelabra! I found out later that Rose had never had folk round for supper before. She'd purchased the candlesticks specially. Over the next few years we got to know them well to the point where we all could relax over a coffee rather than be worrying about dropping peas on the carpet.

Prayer needs to become part of our daily bread and butter where we don't find ourselves self-conscious but entering into the welcome of family. Where sitting and listening with Mary or sharing our worries and concerns as Martha did becomes a natural way of living. And where we can hear the voice of Jesus encouraging and challenging us in our living and telling of his story of love.

A Litany of Reconciliation

Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
we make our prayer to you, saying,
Hear us, Lord of life.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Guide our nation in the days and months ahead
to walk the paths of peace and reconciliation.
Hear us, Lord of life.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Give to our leaders wisdom and sensitivity
to work for unity and the common good.
Hear us, Lord of life.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Mend broken relationships
and restore to wholeness whatever has been damaged by heated debate.
Hear us, Lord of life.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful
and lift up all who are dejected.
Hear us, Lord of life.

Lord, graciously hear us.

With you, Lord, is the well of life
and in your light do we see light.
Hear us, Lord of life and peace:

and make us whole.

With you, Lord, is the well of life
and in your light do we see light.
Hear us, Lord of life:

Heal us and make us whole.

Lord our God,
accept the prayers of your people
and in your mercy look with compassion upon our nation,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Acknowledgment to The Church Of England

Introducing

Andrew and Cynthia Wright

Andrew

and Cynthia a relatively new to Taunton and St. James, and have written about the journey that has brought them to us.

What brings you to Taunton?

Cynthia was diagnosed in 2002 with neural degeneration caused by an allergy to gluten and in 2008 her neurologist confirmed that she had progressive MS also. As Andrew's parents had moved to a Christian care village in Lanarkshire, 40 minutes from us we wanted to remain close to them; but our children wanted us near them as soon as we could. Andrew's mother died in Jan 2015 and we began seriously searching for a house in Somerset, near to Ilminster where our son, Phillip has his business.



So where did you grow up and meet?

Cynthia was born in Lancaster on the first bonfire night after WW2, the family say she was so important the nation celebrated her birth with rockets and Catherine wheels. She grew up in Barrow in Furness before moving to Sheffield in 1960. Andrew was born in Bebington, on the Wirral peninsular. His time at St Andrew's CofE school has left him with a love of old churches. His father was the first male nurse ever to train at the local hospital, but in 1959 he left nursing education to work in an FE college in Rotherham near Sheffield. During the 60's we both attended Sheffield Youth Squash and met on Kinder Scout during a Whit Monday hike that Youth Squash had organised.

Tell us about your family

We married when Andrew was doing medical research for a PhD at Newcastle upon Tyne University and moved to West Lothian when Andrew began lecturing at Napier Tech. College. We never intended to stay up north but he stayed for 36 years and after 7 changes of title he retired from the institute now known as Edinburgh Napier University. As well as lecturing and serving on the University Senate he was for 25 years Year Tutor to yr 1 and 2 students on the Biological Sciences Degree programmes.

Cynthia was a stay at home mum while Phillip and Shona were growing up; although 'stay at home' did include an 18 month stay in Hong Kong when Andrew got seconded to the University of Hong Kong. After the children had grown up Cynthia worked for John Lewis in the Bridal/Gift List department. Phillip did a Land Management BSc at Wye College, London University where he met his wife Sarah, he later trained as a Microsoft engineer and runs

Monkey Puzzle computers; Shona went to Kidderminster College and the University of Northumbria to do a BA in Drama and Performing Arts and works as Stage and Production Managers in small to medium touring Rep companies. She has worked in Taiwan and India with theatre groups that work with handicapped actors and this year Dubai and USA. Phil and Sarah have a daughter Bryony and a son William, both at secondary school.

Tell us about your faith journey

We both were born to Christian parents who attended local Gospel Halls, Cynthia has clear memories of making a decision at a youth event at Capenwray Hall to trust in God's offer to forgive her sins (at 14 they were terrible!); Andrew has no firm time when he made the decision, through Sunday School/Bible class, Primary School scripture lessons he gently moved to trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection for God's forgiveness. We stayed at Brethren Gospel halls except for the last years at Newcastle when we attended a Baptist church. Coming back from Hong Kong we were not settled in our church and joined a new plant of Livingston Baptist Church in the Dedridge area. Andrew was a deacon for over 25 yrs and Cynthia served as a deacon for 3yrs but was Pastoral Care coordinator for 15 yrs.

How do you relax?

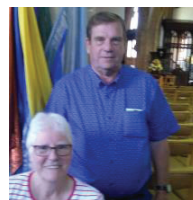
The hill walking days are long gone! Andrew fishes and is adamant that based on his catches there are no fish in the North Sea. As Cynthia's abilities have worsened we have opted for sedentary things—season tickets for Edinburgh Rugby and now for Somerset Cricket club; we took in The Open Golf Championship at Carnoustie and the World Rowing Championships at Strathclyde Park. We have also taken the wheelchair on cruises to the Med, Greenland, a return visit to Hong Kong, to Australia and New Zealand and to the wilds of Alaska.

Andrew has developed an interest in issues of science and faith and has attended Faraday Institute Summer Schools, he is a Director of the John Ray Initiative, a Christian environmental education charity and is a member of Christians in Science. In 2014 he arranged a series of talks in the church in Dedridge by scientists who were Christians using a grant from St Andrews University.

And the future in St James?

Mmmm! ---God knows.

But we are both enrolled to attend the Christian Leadership course this winter, maybe at 70 we will put more in than we take out, but we both believe in apprenticeship training in the church and that God has a role for everyone. Andrew has auditioned for the church pantomime---he last acted at the age of 10.





"It's Mrs Filby with her hard-as-concrete home-made rock cakes for the Harvest Festival. Let's pretend we're not in."

Schools out and Year 6 are on top of the Tower!

In July it was time to say goodbye to the year 6 children at both St. James and North Town Schools, when they held their Leaver's Services in the church.



For the 29 children in Yew Class at St James School, a wonderful powerpoint celebrated their adventures in the school over the years. After the service, the year 6 children stayed behind for a drink and buns. The occasion was extra special as they were invited to climb the Tower with the Reverend Tim, stopping off in the ringing chamber to ring a bell or two. Down



below Peter Jeanes came in to show them how the organ operated, and one or two had a try at playing, which they found very different to piano practice.

There were a few tears being shed as the children were genuinely sad to be saying goodbye to the school they had known for

seven years. These children have been frequent visitors to the church over the years for services, and for Easter, Christmas and Pentecost experiences; some were also familiar faces who had been part of our Xplore club. We wish them well as they go on to their new Secondary schools and for the future.



BIBLE READING NOTES

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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|--------------------------------|--|
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Colourful Bible exploration

YP's Every Day with Jesus (12 – 16 years)

Dig deeper into God's word

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Summer Fundays at Home



It has been a while since we celebrated St. James Day or held a Fun Day at Church (last one was 2008!!). This year we



combined both ideas. St. James Day is traditionally on 23rd July, so this gave a theme as we

celebrated the life of James the disciple. During the day there was a steady stream of visitors of all ages. The big draw was the opportunity to climb our 120ft tower and hear the bells ringing out. Those unable to do the climb were able to watch the bell ringing team in action on camera. Ploughman's lunches, cakes and other refreshments were in great demand and Ruth Crooks and her team of caterers were kept busy. At the entrance Annie and Co. tempted people in with ice creams and coffee and inside there was a bouncing hive of activity with children's and adult art, displays and competitions. Between 100 and 150 people (and 2 dogs) came to see us and find out what happens in church. A huge thankyou to the team of 25 plus people who made it a really great day.



and Away

Three weeks later and there was more fun to be had at French Weir Park, when we took the Church out to the annual Fun in the Park organised by the Friends of French Weir. It was a brilliant community event, with plenty of sunshine, ice creams and free activities. The church stand was so busy that we



eventually ran out of supplies by 4 pm. It was such a lovely day that people were reluctant to leave the park. Lizzie

facepainted her way through the afternoon, non stop, and there was a constant stream of



customers for shell painting, Pet Rocks, model and mask making and drawing. David was again up for a challenge on the Jenga blocks and took on some very expert opponents. Huge thanks

to Jane, Lizzie, Sheila, Chris, Mark, Ruth, Daisy, Sue, Roger, Norman, Martin, Jenny and to all who came to visit us.





Saturday 10th September

10 am -1pm

Coffee morning and Tower Open



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



Sunday 2nd October

10.30 am Harvest All Age Worship

**Followed by Harvest Lunch
Bring & Share**

Friday 21st October

7.30 pm

Barn Dance in the Church

with Celia and Band



An Invitation to Supper with Bishop Ruth

On 28th September at 7pm we will be welcoming the Bishop of Taunton to St. James. Bishop Ruth is only the 5th female bishop to be appointed in the church England. Speaking on BBC radio following her appointment she confess to be surprised and thinking that God was having a joke with her, having grown up with a non-conformist background where there were no women in positions of leadership.



Following a university degree at Manchester, Ruth trained initially as a nurse before following a call to lay pastoral ministry; continued this when the family moved to Nottingham in 1990. She was ordained in 1996, and served for twelve years firstly as a curate and then as a priest in charge in Nottingham. During this time, she also became Area Dean for one of the poorest areas in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. In 2010 she moved to Bermondsey as Parish Development Officer and also became an honorary chaplain to the Queen. In 2013 she moved to Wiltshire as an Archdeacon.

Ruth's personal ministry is driven by a care for the most vulnerable in our society, striving to work with other faith groups and organisations to give them the right kind of support. In Nottingham this was demonstrated in her work as Trustee and Chair of a project to work with young families in a hugely disadvantaged area, as well as being a member of the Professional Services Committee for Relate, Nottingham. It also led to her role as founding member of the Nottingham Arimathea Trust, a project which provides shelter for destitute Asylum Seekers.

From her experience of urban parishes, Ruth also has a keen interest in regeneration and what that means for local communities.

Ruth is married to Howard, who was ordained in 1993 and is currently Vice Principal at Trinity College Bristol. They have three adult sons: Nathanael, Jonathan and Benjamin. Ruth describes her husband and sons as "outdoorsy" and whilst she does enjoy walking and the outdoors, you are just as likely to find her curled up with a good book, or playing the saxophone, "badly" according to her.



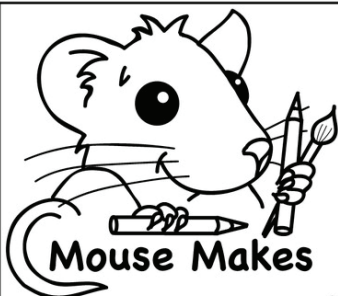
So do book your place for this opportunity to hear Bishop Ruth speak about her faith journey and her hopes and enthusiasm for her role in the diocese. This is an opportunity to invite a friend as it promises to be a great evening.

(Article from Information provided by the DBE communications team)

HARVEST WORD SEARCH

s	f	i	e	l	d	z	t	b	f	e	e
p	a	t	h	m	o	i	l	i	w	q	c
r	n	b	m	s	m	i	e	r	a	u	w
o	t	c	e	y	o	a	g	d	t	w	r
u	a	q	z	s	u	w	r	s	e	e	d
t	s	m	i	a	t	e	e	n	r	s	j
e	t	n	b	l	g	v	w	r	k	r	s
d	i	f	f	e	r	e	n	c	e	t	f
c	c	z	z	a	o	r	o	m	n	h	d
b	u	e	h	r	w	r	r	a	h	o	z
e	a	t	e	n	n	a	l	c	o	r	n
s	w	p	u	k	f	p	d	g	r	n	g

seed	outgrown	field
ever	farmer	fantastic
corn	learn	path
difference	rocks	sower
thorn	birds	plants
sprouted	good	grew
soil	harvest	eaten
water	best	died



Thank you
God for...





See how many words can you
make using the letters from
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

HARVEST THANKSGIVING



Lord God, you made the world;
You made the land we live on,
the air we breathe,
the water we drink,
the food we eat.



Thank you Lord for the harvest.



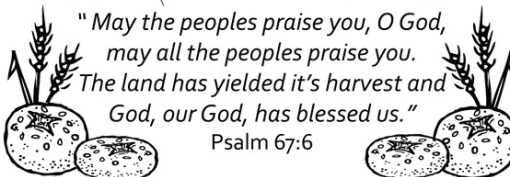
Lord God, you give us all that
we need each day to live.



Thank you Lord for the harvest.

Lord God, help us to share all that you give us.

Thank you Lord for the harvest.



*" May the peoples praise you, O God,
may all the peoples praise you.*

*The land has yielded it's harvest and
God, our God, has blessed us."*

Psalm 67:6

What foods can you think of to finish this acrostic?

H

F

A

E

Raspberries..

S

V

T

E

I

S

Vegetables..

T

A

L



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13: 3-8, Mk 4: 1-9, Lk 8: 4-8

crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path



Some fell among thorn plants and



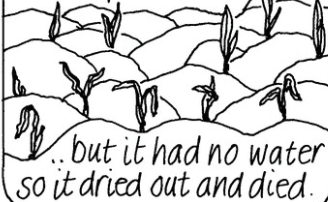
and some on to rocks.

some fell on good soil.



The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...



...but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move onto another 'best thing'.

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it,



and that makes all the difference!

Helping Jesus

Once, when Jesus wanted to be by Himself, He went to a deserted place. But when the people heard that Jesus was there, they came from all the towns round about to where He was. (John 6: 1-14)

When Jesus looked round, He saw a great crowd of people - about 5,000 of them! That is a very large crowd.

Jesus saw that many of them were lame or blind or sick. Back then, there were no hospitals or proper doctors, and if you got sick, you either died or the sickness left you permanently handicapped. Something in your eye might end up with you becoming blind in that eye!! Jesus went round healing many of them.

When evening had come, the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to send the crowds away, but Jesus realised that they had eaten nothing all day.

Jesus asked what there was to eat, and Andrew, Peter's brother, said that he had found a boy who had two small fish and five small loaves, but he knew that that wouldn't go far! Jesus told them to get the people to sit down.

The boy willingly gave his lunch, which his mother had given him for the day, to Jesus, thinking that Jesus and His disciples would eat it.

Then Jesus said grace (gave thanks for it) and a miracle happened!!

The disciples began giving out the bread and fish to the people. There seemed to be more and more as they came back for more to give out!

After what must have been a long while - there were 5,000 people!

There was enough for everyone of them! Every one of them was full!

Jesus told them to gather up all that was left, and it filled twelve baskets!!

There was more than there had been at first!!

Quite often, Jesus waits for us to take the first step before He works a

miracle like that. He waited to see if there was anyone willing to give something, however small, as a step of faith in Him.

When He saw that the boy was willing to give up his lunch, Jesus worked that wonderful miracle.

One of God's principles is that He requires us to show faith in some way, before He acts.

Whenever Jesus healed someone, He asked the person what they wanted and got them to say that they believed He could help them.

In the case of someone too ill or even dead, it was the faith of someone else upon which Jesus acted. (The daughter of Jairus, Lazarus)

When Jesus saw that the young boy was prepared to give his lunch, then Jesus brought about the miracle, and used his lunch to feed all those people. Had he not given his lunch. But kept it for himself, there would have been no great miracle and the disciples would just have sent the people home. That would have made Jesus very sad.

It's the same for us today, if we ask God for something, we must be prepared to show our faith in Him first.

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be put into your hand. For the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

(Luke 6: 38)

It's the principle of giving.

Behind the Scenes

The Parish Safeguarding Officer



If you have looked at the notice Board in the hall or church entrance or if you have been chased to complete a DBS form and safer recruitment procedures or attend some training you may be aware that **Jenny Wakefield** is the church's safeguarding person. This is a post that is required as part of our safeguarding procedures and one that she has occupied since the beginning of the century! But the role is not just about filling in forms and ticking boxes, it's about seeking to ensure that our church is a safe place for everyone to be.

Like many organisations working with children or vulnerable adults, it is important that we follow safeguarding procedures, especially in an organisation which has open membership and where we seek to encourage everyone to come and find God's grace and love. Increasingly in our society we are being asked to be aware of people who may be suffering abuse. The message has been clear for a long while in relation to children, but now the bigger challenge is to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults – those who are older or have different forms of disability. Many members of our congregation will be involved with formal or informal pastoral care of those around us and as such everyone is involved in safeguarding. The message is to avoid brushing concerns under the carpet, which has happened too much in the past. If anyone has concerns about a child or a vulnerable adult then they need to know what to do. For most people this will be about passing on their concerns or seeking advice, rather than taking any action. The poster at the entrance to the church gives contact details of agencies to contact in emergency or urgent situations. In the more likely instance that you need to consult or seek advice then speak confidentially to the Vicar, your Parish Safeguarding Officer, Pastoral or C&YP coordinator - that's what we are here for.

We also have a children's advocate appointed, **Sara Bright**, whose role it is to support a child if issues of concern have been raised. Although it is our hope that her role is a nominal one, it is important to have someone in place should a need arise.

A prayer for Shaping our Future

Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit guide us into the future.

Help us, throughout the diocese, to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives.



Give us courage, rigour, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.

Amen.

www.bathandwells.org/shapingourfuture

RESENTMENT

Mark 11:25-26

If you are not getting answers to your prayers - check yourself very thoroughly and honestly as to whether you have any resentments - unconfessed, hateful thoughts against others - in your mind.

Spiritual power cannot pass through us if resentments exist in us. Someone once said, *"Hate is a non-conductor of spiritual energy."*

"But", you may say, *"I don't hate anybody!"* (As we think of all our acquaintances!!!)

When I thought about this, I found that I may not actively **hate** anybody - but there were resentments! As I looked back I saw that I resented the badly behaved and lawless people I saw around me - the vandals, the muggers, the drug-takers.

I resented people who park in the church car park without a permit then just go off shopping.

I resented people who jump the queue I am in.

I resented cyclists who ride through red lights while I have to wait.

I resented people who stop to talk in the middle of the pavement in everyone's way, instead of stepping to the side.

I resented those who break into cars or churches to steal.

I resented those who drop litter.

I resented drivers who cut in front of me, who drive badly giving no signal at roundabouts or road junctions.

I resented those who committed the September 11th atrocity in the US.

I resented those who do not even acknowledge some act of courtesy.

I resented those who come just in front of me in the queue and take an absolute age to be dealt with!!

The list went on and on back into the past!

I even resented the Egyptian who broke into our cabin in Port Said, on the ship home from India in 1944, to steal my mother's gold watch!!!

I found that I was **full** of resentments!

«Resentment», «jealousy», «bitterness», «ill will» or «hate» what's the

difference! The Lord requires us to **love** our fellow men, no matter what they may have done, for He loves them and longs that they turn to Him. (1 John 4:7-11)

Remember - *"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age"* (Ephesians 6: 12)

In other words, the fight is not against the people who do evil, but against Satan who deceives them into doing the evil.

As we come to the Lord in prayer, we need to ask that He will take from our hearts all ill will, grudges, hates, jealousies and resentment.

Anything that keeps us from loving. We need Him to do it for us, for we cannot do it ourselves.

Jack Edmonds

The PCC has been discussing...

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in June and July (no meeting is held in August).

Safeguarding

Jenny Wakefield presented the annual review of safeguarding. The key points are:

- Safer Recruiting is now largely embedded, with 64 people actively approved or going through the recruitment process and who are required to have DBS checks.
- We need to review our procedures for introducing new roles into our church structure.
- Training requirements for all who are involved in any way with children, young people or vulnerable adults have been established by the House of Bishops. A one-hour awareness course is to be given to all those peripherally involved with safeguarding. Other courses are to be given to those undertaking roles which are directly affected by safeguarding.
- We now have a Parish Safeguarding Summary Policy, prepared by the diocese to cover salient points in the diocesan policy. Please ask for a copy if you have not already seen it.

Five Year Vision

The PCC and other leaders attended an Away Day on 2 July at St Paul's, Weston-Super-Mare, led by their vicar, Andrew Alden. Some points that we can consider applying to our own situation include:

- Numerical growth must be the number one driver. It's encouraging to see that a weekly attendance of 400+ can happen in a church like ours.
- Church members want to be part of a community that has a vision beyond itself, one that acknowledges that God has put each one of us here for a purpose.
- How well do we know the town, and people's needs, so we can focus our outreach? St Paul's Weston has identified target groups for outreach.

- Andrew Alden emphasises the ‘four marks of membership’ at every service at St Paul’s Weston: worship weekly, belong to a ‘branch’ (like our home groups), join a team and give financially.
- St Paul’s prioritise their monthly ‘Prayer Hangouts’, by not holding other evening meetings that week.

At the following PCC meeting, we looked at how we might build on our monthly Tuesday prayer meetings. We need to sell the benefits of prioritising prayer to all church members, perhaps including feedback on the Sunday following. While it would be counterproductive to give the impression of imposing this on church members, its importance can be stressed to leaders. We do not necessarily need to cancel home groups that week, but should say that if people can’t afford the time to attend both, they should opt for the corporate meeting. The prayer priority meeting should be all about catching God’s vision for St James.

So please make a note in your diaries for the 4th Tuesday of each month! We will be making them a priority for the six months from September to March. Tim Jones and Steve Bradford will take the initiative forward.

Snippets

- We are in discussion with Taunton Deane Borough Council about the Coal Orchard redevelopment, in particular the loss of parking spaces.
- A simple ‘Complaints Policy’ has been added to the PCC’s standing orders. The vicar and churchwardens will continue to carry out a first assessment of any complaint.
- A group has been set up to look at how we might best support the many church members who volunteer their time and skills to jobs in the church and other organisations.
- Two generous donations have been received towards the cost of new data projectors. As well as having to replace the main church projector, we have also had to replace the portable projector we use in other locations.
- The PCC has reaffirmed our practice of not seeking grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund or other lottery-funded organisations.

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

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

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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

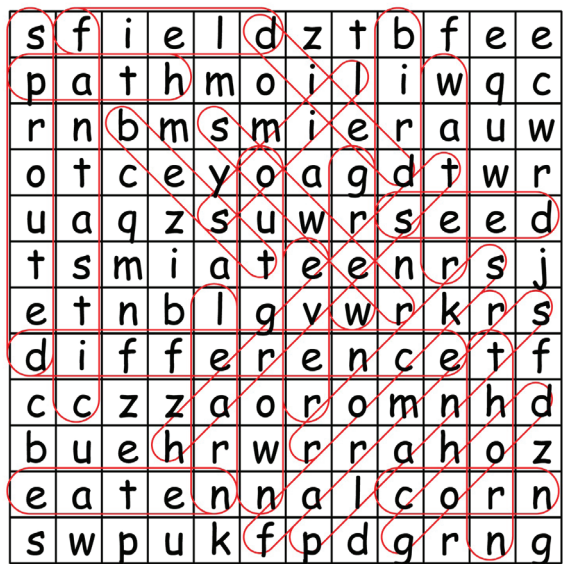
Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall
Contact Sheila Marlow 01823 254367
- Tuesdays

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)





DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The Next Newsletter is due out on 4th Dec. 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.