

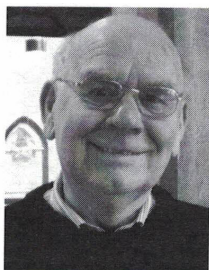
# St James Church Magazine



March - May 2017 Edition

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## Familiarity breeds...

It was the last lesson of the morning-not the best time to grab the minds of reluctant learners. The topic was the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The youngsters were in good discussion mode. One by one we looked at possible ways of disproving the resurrection and, I believed, overcome them “And so I said”, with a note of triumph in my voice, “there is only one true explanation of all the evidence?” I looked around at the class anticipating an array of upraised arms. One arm only was visible just at that moment when the bell rang to signify the end of the lesson. “Yes I said’ to the pupil with raised hand, what is the conclusion?” “Please sir, can we go to lunch now?”

A deflated and disappointed Sir dismissed the class concluding that the resurrection from the dead had to take second place to pasta and chips.

I felt an acute sympathy with the apostle Paul amongst the intellects in Athens. He had sought to prove the deity of Jesus through the resurrection from the dead. “When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” The uniqueness of the man from Nazareth failed to excite them. For Paul, however, as with the other apostles, an encounter with the one who had been crucified, died and buried, had turned his own life upside down, inside out and back to front. It transformed his beliefs about the past, the present and his future.

The resurrection became an incontrovertible fact of history.

Those who had witnessed his crucifixion had become witnesses of his resurrection. "... He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 'After that, he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles and last of all he appeared to me also..." (1 Corinthians 15:5 – 8).

His present life was consumed with the conviction that the resurrection of Jesus had declared him with power to be the Son of God. (Romans 1:4). It gave him the motivation to travel miles, to be subjected to misunderstanding, to criticism, to injustices, to hostility and to a myriad forms of suffering and persecution. (2 Corinthians 11:21 – 29). It formed the very heartbeat of his gospel, differentiating it from competing religions and philosophies (1 Corinthians 15:32). On a personal level, as Paul shows in Romans 6, the resurrection of Jesus enabled him through the power of the risen Christ to conquer the personal failings he once experienced and to live a more righteous and holy life. (Romans 6:1 to 23).

And the future? The future was glorious, for the resurrection of Jesus had removed the sting from death, victory from the grave, (1 Corinthians 15:55 – 57) weakness and frailty from the human body (1 Corinthians 15:53 – 54) and despair from everyday living. It had provided him with the guarantee of a future life in a resurrection body in the presence of his God. (1 Thessalonians 4:15 – 17).

Now isn't that worth getting excited about?

Geoff Treasure



# FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

## 27 FEB -12 MARCH



Did you know that the tea and coffee you drink each Sunday is fairly traded and that St James is a **FAIRTRADE CHURCH**?



### Why fair trade?

However hard they work, millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve. The prices they are paid are not enough for them to feed their families, pay for medical care, or send their children to school. They are trapped in a system that is unfair.

We can play our part in changing people's lives. By choosing to buy fairly traded products we enable farmers to get a better deal for what they grow or make, leading to a better and more stable income which will help them to break the cycle of poverty they are trapped in.

**Traidcraft** is just one organisation which supports small farmers and craftsmen to trade their way out of poverty by treating them as equal partners and giving them a fair price.



We have a stall at the back of the church on the first Sunday of every month for sales and orders and would love to see you there.

**Shona Gilmour-White, Freda Davis and Lin Davies**

Letter from the  
Right Reverend  
Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton  
For Parish Newsletters -  
March 2017



As I write this, in the past week we have been hearing of President Trump's travel ban which includes the prevention of refugees from entering the US. US lawyers have suspended the ban and a fight is ensuing, on Twitter and in the courts. Archbishop Sentamu, and the Bishops of Liverpool and Durham have been among those who have publicly spoken out and reminded us of the Christian charge to welcome the stranger in need.

Bishop Peter and I have made a very specific Bishops' Lent Appeal this year to support the work of welcome to refugees. To support this appeal, every day of Lent there is a story on the diocesan website of someone working for the common good. Amongst them are some specific stories of refugees and those who work to support them. We hope you will take the opportunity to read them and reflect on how they open up Scripture for us through an example of 'living the story'. And in response, we ask you to consider giving something towards the work we are doing in the diocese and beyond to support such work.

Perhaps you are holding a Lent lunch or taking a special, additional offering each week in your church. Would you consider giving this to the Bishops' Lent Appeal for Refugees? Half of what is collected across the diocese will go to the work here in Somerset. And half will go to encourage the work of a church community in Greece supporting them in providing food and shelter for those in immediate need.

I have been very encouraged to hear of the stories of those who have found practical support and a warm welcome from the people of Somerset in the midst of despair, anxiety and fear. It has been a real joy to see folk gathering together to offer whatever they can by way of befriending, language support, homes to those in need. One primary school has even seen the children collecting money to buy bicycles for two Syrian children. Such generosity!

We've now welcomed four families to Taunton with more on the way. In Yeovil and Bath there are young people and families being supported through the government resettlement scheme. And in Nailsea and Taunton, community sponsorship hopes to welcome others. Our diocese has played its part and provided £5000 this past year for training, interpretive support amongst other things. We are committed to doing more this year and would welcome whatever help you can offer.

+ Ruth, Taunton

## **Prayer for Resurrection Power**

Thank you Father that, because of what Jesus achieved on the cross, we can be resurrection-powered people; empowered to live each day confidently, whatever life's challenges may be, knowing that our security is in you alone.

In Jesus you have overcome the world and its troubles and have defeated death. When the world seems overwhelming Lord, help us to keep Jesus as our compass and to come safely to the one who has the words of eternal life. Help us to hear those words and respond in trust and anticipation.

Thank you Father for giving us your Son and your Spirit. Thank you for your life-giving Easter work. In Jesus name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

# Babes in the Wood



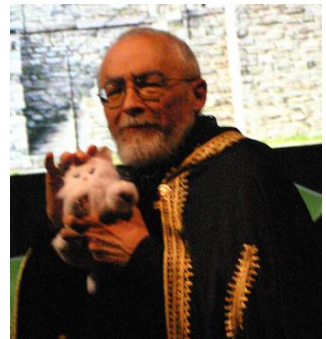
The tradition of a biennial pantomime started in 2008, when John Newton, former Head of Taunton school, raised the possibility, with the triple F aim of Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising, and thus the *St. James (Never knowingly over-rehearsed) Players* were born.

This year we presented our 5<sup>th</sup> Pantomime, extending the performances to three nights, and seeking to raise funds for Taunton Street Pastors and the Christian Foundation for Disabled Children in Thailand. We were delighted to be able to raise a total of £1454. In the pictures you'll see many familiar faces and some new talent. We would like to thank all who helped to make the pantomime such a success especially those who laboured behind the scenes, served coffee and helped in so many ways. For those of us taking part it has been enjoyable but daunting knowing that over 400 people were prepared to pay money to see us perform. We have learnt much from working together, and we have seen so many mini-miracles that have enabled us put the show together. We are very grateful to our script writer Graham Barraclough, from Yorkshire, who always



manages to weave in to the production, lots of fun, frolics, but also a message of

forgiveness and the possibility of redemption even for the baddest of baddies.



Shown here is the whole cast and crew (apart from the Martins, where were they hiding?) and includes three lovely ladies from SCAT who came to help with the make up.



Most of the junior cast in the schoolroom being taught by our wonderful Dame Daisy.



Marion and Robin celebrating on the last night



And who is the man behind the mask?





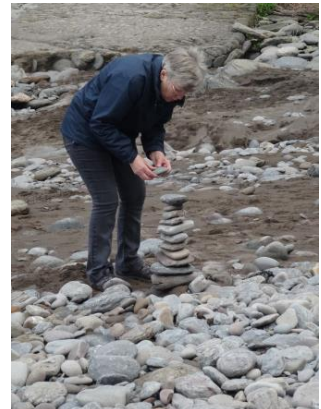
# Lee Abbey 2017



February is often a chilly time of year, but the weekend of the Parish house party was wonderfully mild, so it was possible to enjoy both indoor and outdoor activities. Here are a few pictures of some of the group enjoying a relaxing time in lovely surroundings, as well as enjoying the talks, worship, creative activities,



prayer and fellowship provided by the Lee Abbey community





No animals or birds were harmed during these activities, only clay pigeons, several of which were massacred by Messers Jordan and Wright. (And yes, that is the Mrs. Bright and Lucas left)





# News from St. James School

## Introducing Jason Eveleigh

Jason Eveleigh was appointed as the new Head Teacher at St. James School in September last year, following the retirement of Heather Cunningham. I met Mr. Eveleigh, in December, three months into his appointment and he spoke with infectious enthusiasm about the school and its plans for the future, which includes additional classrooms, to meet the growing numbers applying to the school.

Jason is married to Deborah, who is also a head teacher, of a school near Glastonbury; they have two teenage daughters, Eleanor and Olivia, and live in the north of the County. Jason has experience of working in a school in a challenging area, having been deputy head at Westover Green in Bridgwater. More recently he has been Head of Westonzoyland Primary, a school in a large village community.



Jason was encouraged to consider applying for the vacancy at St. James, despite being very settled at Westonzoyland. Having visited St. James, he came away very impressed by the atmosphere and feel of the school and decided to apply. He is conscious that he has inherited a very good team which is essentially child centred and enthusiastic and one that has worked hard to show very significant improvement since it became an academy in 2012.

Although Jason has not worked in a Church school before he has been impressed by the leadership and support offered by the Multi Academy Trust. He has always sought to work with the local community and that has included the church. At St. James and other schools he has worked with the Malachi Trust, a community interest company, founded on Christian principles, working with complex families and children, often using drama workshops. ([www.malachi.org.uk](http://www.malachi.org.uk))

Jason is very pleased that there are already strong links with St. James and hopes these will continue and develop. He was looking forward to seeing the school use the flexible space for Christmas services having experienced the one at Harvest. Volunteers are often needed to support specific projects and he hopes that church members will feel able to consider offering their skills if they feel able.

# Christmas Worship

In December it was a real joy to welcome staff, children and their parents to a range of Christmas services. Nursery Christingle, KS1 Nativity and KS2 celebrated enthusiastically and joyously. These are a few pictures from the school Facebook page. See more at



<https://www.facebook.com/St-James-Church-School-Taunton-262088463915651/>



Above Mr. Dakin, the RE Coordinator introducing KS2 Christmas celebration



To the right

“Hey Ewe”. The KS1 Nativity presentation

# Answers to Prayer.

The obvious answer to the question of ‘Does God answer prayer?’ Is an emphatic yes, but sometimes it is not the answer we would prefer. Can you remember the Coptic Christians who were beheaded by some Isis member so that their blood flowed into the sea? No doubt they prayed for deliverance which never came. As Stuart Kennedy, the first World War Padre wrote, ‘...I would not want my sons to pray for me to be safe, but for me to have the courage and strength to do my duty’. But we would not be honest or fair if we did not recognise those moments when our prayers and heartfelt desires seem to be heard and fulfilled.

Methodist Ministers are used to moving Circuits on a regular basis. It used to be that every five years we would move from one area of the country to another to take up our ministry in a new area. This can be a time of great stress and disorientation. Not only do we change houses, but we change people, we change ideas, we meet up with new kinds of church practices and people with different spiritualities to our own. This can be a hard time to endure with any kind of equanimity.

You know something of my background. From Secondary school with no more than a school certificate in education, working background in a coal mine, then onwards to theological education which gave me much more than I deserved in terms of knowledge and experience . And after seven years in Africa and eight years in Stockport, we moved as a family to Liverpool. I entered into a new world. The people who were leaders of the Church included a Vice Principal of an Educational College, an ex-policeman, a man who owned his own travel company, and others. In the congregation were teachers and the Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council and the deputy Environmental Officer of Liverpool way beyond by status in society. I was beginning to wonder if it has been right to accept the invitation to move there. At our first meeting of the Leaders I begged them to understand that I would need their help and guidance to run the Church as i felt completely out of my depth. After our second meeting, one of the men told me ‘You are the first minister who has ever asked me ‘What do I think? Everyone else has told me what I have to do.’

After several days of wandering around the village trying to grapple with my sense of lostness and wondering what my role, if any, would be. I can remember my praying, ‘God. Give me the young people!’ As I turned round the corner of the street leading to the Church, I met one of the young girls who came to

the Church who welcomed me with a smile of welcome. As John Wesley once commented, in a different situation, '...my heart was strangely warmed'. Eight years of service lay ahead of me, and during my time there, my prayer was answered..

During those early years we had four daughters who moved with us to Liverpool and the changes were as difficult for them as for us. But unconsciously or consciously, we set about creating a Church to which they would be happy to attend and to which they would feel confident enough to bring their friends. As things developed, we had a flourishing Sunday Night fellowship with over forty young people attending. Our house was constantly besieged with young people wanting to come into the manse to see either us or our daughters. A brother and sister who were having a difficult home life, came nearly everyday to spend time with us after school. Once a gang of teenagers were waiting outside propping up the wall when the police car stopped to find out what they were doing. They were taken aback with 'we are waiting for the bible study to begin'. The police knocked on the door to check them out. Just before we left we were holding classes to talk about confirmation (or membership classes) and there were so many that we had to take the door off the sitting room to get them all in one room.

Bernice organised two Christian Musicals by Paul Field in which the youngsters performed singing, drama and dancing backed up by members from both the Anglican and Catholic Churches. (Much to the anguish of the Vicar who was complaining that his people were not available to do things)

This of course in only one part of the whole story. The the longing was there, prayer was there, the vision was there, but it demanded a lot of hard work and commitment by many people in the Church, more gifted than I was and am. Just to pray and expect God to do it all, is as one of my tutors used to say 'this isn't good enough'.

Brian Stocks

# Services and Easter and

## **Sunday 26th March**

10.30am Mothering Sunday All Age Worship

## **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

7pm, Quiz and Chips

## **Sunday 2nd April**

10.30am, Morning Worship

Messy Church in the Halls

## **Sunday 9th April**

10.30am, Palm Sunday Holy Communion

Sunday Club in the Halls

## **13th April Maundy Thursday**

7pm, Last Supper Meal and Communion

# nd Events

## Pentecost

### **14<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday**

10.30am, Good Friday combined service with crafts for children. Hot Cross Buns and coffee from 10am  
Followed by Walk of witness to the town centre  
2pm, An Hour at the Cross

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday**

10.30am, Family Communion Crafts in Church

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April Bank Holiday Ramble** - Meet at Church 10.15 am, time to be confirmed

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

10.30am **May Civic Service - All Age Worship**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

10.30am **Pentecost Celebration**



# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Jn1:29-34, Mt3:13-17, Lk3:21-4:13, Mk1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised-washed  
in the river Jordan- to say sorry for what  
they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...

Please baptise me.



No, it should be the  
other way round.

No, this is the right way now  
to complete God's plan



So John baptised  
Jesus in the river Jordan.

The Holy Spirit filled  
Jesus and God spoke..

This is my precious son.



Jesus then went into  
the desert for 40 days.



He didn't eat or drink, and  
at the end was very hungry



The Devil came to test him.

Show me you are God's Son  
by turning this stone  
into bread.



The Bible says 'You  
need more than  
bread to keep you  
alive.'



The Devil took him to the highest  
roof of the temple in Jerusalem.



Why don't you jump? God would make  
sure His angels would catch you

The Bible says 'Don't  
try to manipulate God.'

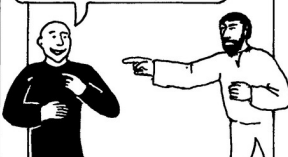


The Devil took Jesus to where he  
could see the whole world.



I have power over all  
this, and I could give it to you.

Just worship me

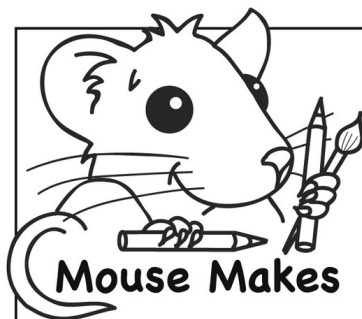


Go away! Only God  
is to be worshipped!

Then angels came  
to care for Jesus



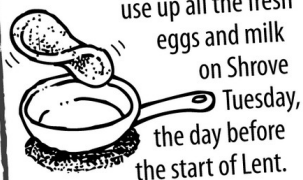




## SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did.

Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove



## ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance.

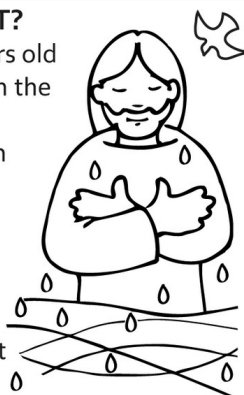
In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



## WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone.

For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called **LENT**



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.



- 1 The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

- 2 The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

- 3 The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,  
Please forgive me for

Amen



## MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes *'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'*.

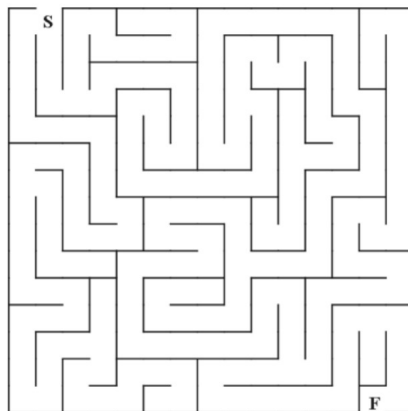
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

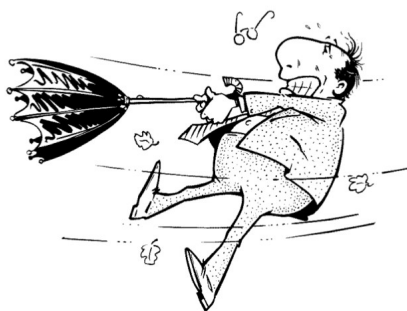
## SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



**What did the north wind say to the east wind?**

Let's play draughts



**How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?**

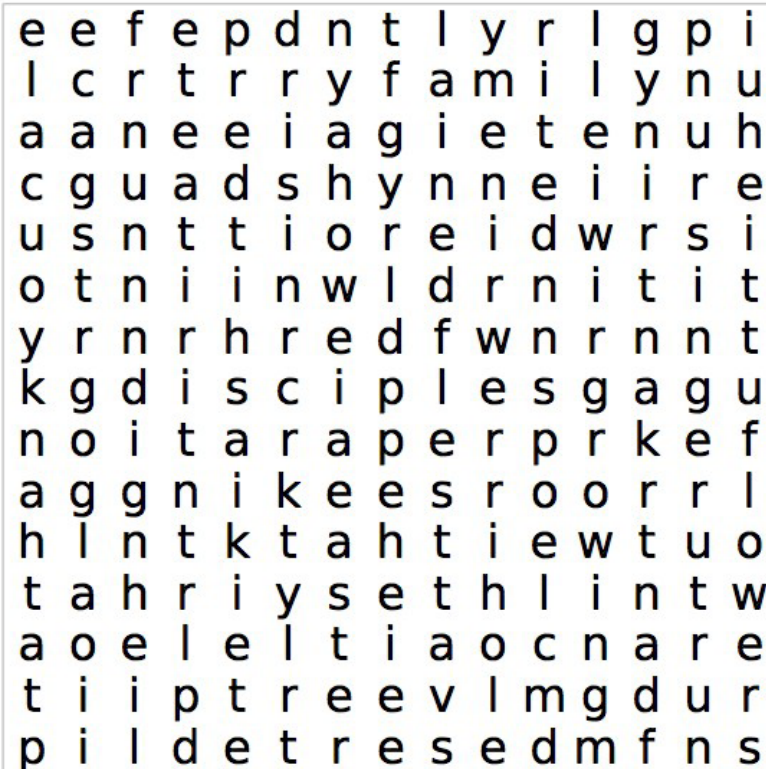
It is a breeze.

**What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?**

Thunderwear!

# WORDSEARCH

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.



lent  
spiritual  
easter  
preparation  
fasting  
prayer  
desert  
selfdenial

repentance  
seeking  
finding  
growing  
mothers  
love  
care  
nurture

learning  
teaching  
disciples  
worldwide  
flowers  
thankyou  
nursing  
family



## A report from Sue Carpenter

I joined the volunteers at RAFT in November 2015, and have been glad to be part of this community organisation which is in the parish of St James. As we see our 150<sup>th</sup> shipment of aid leave this week (late January 2017), here is some more information about us.

RAFT was established in late August 2015 and has grown from a very small project in a garage to a large and successful organisation with a busy and lively warehouse.

We are not affiliated to any political party or religious group and we welcome donors, supporters and volunteers equally and with much appreciation. Our current working hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (Mend to Send day) and Saturday from 10am till 3pm and we can be found at The Old Auction House, Canal Road, Taunton, TA1 1PN.

We aim to help refugees and displaced people wherever and whenever we are able, regardless of colour, culture, religion or football team (!) - if someone is in need, and we can help then we will try our best to do so. Thus far we have helped refugees in Calais, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Greece, Uganda, Romania and people in poverty in Ghana and the Ukraine. People in need in our local community and within the UK have also benefited through our links with organisations including TAH, Open Door and the Food Banks. We are very glad to have helped the four refugee families who have been re-settled in Taunton so far under the government scheme.

(more information about Somerset's response here: [http://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/14730552.Somerset\\_set\\_to\\_welcome\\_30\\_more\\_refugee\\_families/](http://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/14730552.Somerset_set_to_welcome_30_more_refugee_families/))

Donations have come from a huge range of groups and individuals and the support we have received from churches within Taunton and across Somerset,

Devon and beyond has been wonderful! For example: groups of churches have collected donations of aid; volunteers from local churches have come to sort and pack; Mother's Union groups have made lovely hand knitted items and we have received financial donations too.

Here are boxes ready for shipment; We use distinctive labels, and it is heartening to see videos of these being unloaded at their destinations! Some of the clothing goes to 'Free Shops' in Syria, where refugees can go and choose for themselves using a token system.



We are so grateful for any support. Whether it be words of encouragement, telling your friends and family about us, **volunteering** for a few hours a week to come and help sort and pack aid, or by giving financially. Thank you.

Our current needs are as follows:

*Food: Tinned beans, pulses, tinned veg and fruit, rice, flour, oil, spices, UHT milk, energy/cereal bars, baby food (halal or vegetarian).*

*Clothes: Good quality seasonal clothing, and good quality, practical footwear.*

*Bedding: Blankets, sleeping bags, baby blankets and sleeping bags.*

*Medicine and Toiletries: Basic first aid items, basic medicines, incontinence pads, sanitary towels, shower gels, dental care, hair care, deodorants.*

*Baby: Nappies, wipes, nappy cream, breast pads, maternity pads, gentle baby soap.*

*We always need strong medium-sized boxes. At times there are specific appeals for items from aid organisations - so we post these on Facebook:*

*People to People Solidarity - Taunton Deane/Refugee Aid From Taunton #raft, or on our Facebook page : Refugee Aid From Taunton #raft*

Our website is currently under construction.

If you have a query about an item you'd like to donate, please ask me (Sue Carpenter), or get in touch via Facebook or visit us, or phone 07545 895768 (opening hours )

[info@refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk](mailto:info@refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk) is the address for Paypal donations, or cheques payable to Refugee Aid from Taunton to the above address. Monetary donations are needed to fund fuel for shipping aid, and to purchase medical aid, food, nappies, and other specially requested items.

Thank you so much for your continued support, we have been able to do so much and to help so many because of your generosity and kindness.



## **DIVINE INTERVENTION**

*His master said "Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full." [From the parable of the great feast, Luke 14 v23]*

Christian revivals seem to happen elsewhere (eg Wales-1904; Outer Hebrides-1949), but could one happen in Taunton? 150 years ago revival happened a few miles away, in the Blackdown Hills.



George Brealey was visiting friends in Wellington to say a final goodbye before sailing to the West Indies to do mission work. He then discovered the boat's captain has turned down his request for a reduced fare and had sailed without him. Locals found that he was unexpectedly available and invited him to preach at Clayhidon. Through this 'God-incidence' his mission to the Blackdowns was started. There was great poverty in the Hills at the time.

Brealey was born at North Tawton, Devon, in 1823, son of a textile worker. As a boy he learnt about Jesus from his mother. He later married and worked as a shoemaker in Exeter. He felt called to be an evangelist, and preached in the city streets with his son at his side, often to abuse. He was described as 'a combination of contrasts- bold, yet gentle; dauntless but with tender sympathy; at times hasty in forceful expression, but always the unflinching friend.' He had an amazing ability to steer a conversation towards the gospel. His diary about the Blackdowns mission shows his boldness:

'I had been visiting people, giving away Bibles and tracts when a man with some photographic apparatus drew near. He said he had new inventions in photography<sup>1</sup>, and the world was so much wiser and better than it used to be. I replied "Men have discovered much by science that we did not know before, but it has not made man, as man, better. One of the worst inventions is refusing divine photography."

"Divine photography, sir, I have never heard of that," said the man.

Brealey replied, "This photography is very ancient. It means writing in the light. You could not take a photograph without light."

"No sir", he replied.

Brealey continued, "Now, by divine photography I mean what God has written about persons in the light of his word. You have no method of photographing the heart, but God has done so. I can show you the likeness of your heart in my album" He then showed the man various Bible verses including John 3 v19: 'Man loved darkness

rather than light, because their deeds were evil.’ He explained: “So, men do not come to the light of God’s word, they hate the divine photography. And if you seek to photograph man as he is, you will not have many customers, I find.”

From 1864, Brealey built chapels at Browdown, Bolham, Stapley, Rosemary Lane, and Bishopswood. He opened three schools because illiteracy was widespread. Scripture was always the first lesson of the day. He was not a wealthy man, and had to raise all his funds. George Muller of Bristol was also a benefactor to the schools. Today, Rosemary Lane and Bishopswood chapels are still active.

In the first two years, 140 people were baptised in local rivers and streams. Brealey helped 132 people to find new lives in North America and other parts of the British Isles. He wrote, ‘Our work on the Hills is a seed bed, or nursery, for spiritual plants to be transported into other fields.’ He died in 1888 after 24 years there.

- ☐ Would Brealey’s methods be suitable in today’s society? Probably not all of them, but remember we all have different gifts. He was a catalyst.
- ☐ Could revival happen in Taunton? Certainly. Look at the green shoots around already...
- ☐ Should we pray for this? Definitely

In the Queen’s Christmas broadcast she said how, as a follower of Jesus, she found him a guiding light for her life. She quoted Mother Teresa too: ‘Not all of us can do great things, but we can all do small things with love.’ Thus, we see a shoemaker, a Queen and a nun who are united by a common faith and bond.

Mother Teresa reminds us that whilst individually we might not be marked out for greatness, we can still be involved. A group of us meet on the second Tuesday of each month to pray for revival. Myself or Les Andrews can give you an idea about how the evenings work. You will be very welcome if you’d like to play a part.

<sup>1</sup> Fox Talbot created the first photographic negative in 1835 and Kodak mass produced the first box camera in 1888.

Andy Hall





**Thursday Fellowship** is a meeting for ladies, and we are now glad to have gentlemen too; on the first Thursday of each month at 2.30pm.

This group has been going in various forms for 40+ years and is currently well supported. We are run by a small committee who set up the annual programme with input and suggestions from any of the members. Our aim is to have a mix of Christian and secular speakers, but in each meeting we include a hymn, bible reading and prayers whoever the speaker is. I think we manage a blend of interesting and informative meetings, not to mention fun; and it is particularly good to have members of the congregation with their speciality from time to time. Please note from the current programme that Janet Tall is our speaker in May.

If you ask our members what they value from the meetings the words 'friendship' 'fun' 'a way to meet members of the congregation if you are new to church' and 'a relaxed afternoon' are various responses.

We do try to reach out not only to church members but friends of members who often initially have no church commitment. We never pressure people to join but often find that it is a way in to church for some who need that bit of encouragement.

Apart from our monthly meetings which include an annual cream tea and Christmas celebration – see the photograph above – we have trips to the theatre when appropriate.

We pay for our speakers through a monthly donation, and the occasional coffee morning. A further coffee morning pays Scripture Gift Mission for a Pavement worker with street children in Brazil and we supply the free literature on the table at the church entrance.

I would like to encourage anyone who has just a little interest in knowing us to choose a subject on the programme that they think they might enjoy, and come and see. We are glad to welcome intermittent members and from where I stand I believe the quality of friendship is of the highest.

Vicky Dykes

# ***The PCC has been discussing...***

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in December, January and February.

## **Five Year Vision**

The PCC is continuing to work through the Church of England's ***From Evidence to Action*** material, which covers a broad range of growth factors. The results will be recorded in a new Parish Profile.

The topics covered in this period were: *A church which is welcoming and builds on-going relationships with people; A church that has clergy and lay leaders who innovate, envision and motivate people; and A church where lay people as well as ordained clergy are active in leadership and other roles.*

The topics to be covered in future meetings are: *A church that actively engages children and young people; A church that nurtures disciples; and A church that has a clear mission and purpose and whose clergy and congregations are intentional about growth.*

Tim Jones has compiled a summary of our progress in discerning the vision, in the form of a table looking at where we were in 2006, 2011 and today, along with some pointers as to our thinking about the future. It shows just how much has been achieved over this period – that God has been very active in St James. Tim will now review the document with the coordinators, and then the PCC will consider the next steps.

## **Finance**

- The Standing Committee met the archdeacon and the Diocesan Head of Finance in January to discuss the large increases in our Parish Share. Our points were noted, but it will take time for them to be considered by the diocese.
- Richard Sainsbury presented his forecast of expenditure for 2017. Overall, a deficit of around £4,000 is projected at the end of the year, but this is at the pessimistic end of the range. As usual, much will depend on unexpected repairs.
- The support we will give to our mission partners (both local and overseas) will be broadly the same as for 2016.
- The final accounts for 2016 are in preparation at the time of writing, but are expected to show a surplus. This is mainly due to fewer repairs being needed over the course of the year.

- Richard Taylor reported that 154 of the 202 regular attenders at services are members of the church's stewardship scheme. The total amount of planned giving by church members in 2016 was £85,716 which was £4,603 more than in 2015.

### **Youth and Families Worker**

For some time, the PCC has wanted to explore the possibility of employing a Youth and Families Worker, or something similar. At its February meeting the PCC gave the go-ahead for Kate Taylor (C&YP Coordinator) to work up a job description for this. A working group is now being formed to help Kate.

The idea is for a shared post between St James and St Mary Magdalene, given that some of our young people attend the group at St Mary's. It would also cover the older Sunday group at St James, cultivate links with parents, and seek to include Year 6 children before they move to secondary school.

The cost is expected to be around £6,000 per annum for three years. Grants may be available to cover part of this, and/or an appeal may be made to church members.

### **Snippets**

- The October count showed a regular (at least monthly) attendance of 202, compared to 196 last year. Praise and Play is now being counted as an established weekly service, so its regular members are included in these figures; previously it had been classed as a "fresh expression".
- Jenny Wakefield (Outreach Coordinator) has been asked to conduct a review of our mission support, by mid-2017.
- The PCC decided to make a small grant to the group which is establishing a branch of Citizens UK in Taunton. The diocese is strongly supportive of this new body, with Bishop Ruth acting as chair. Citizens UK "organizes communities to act together for empowerment, social justice and the common good" and are in the process of expanding their branch network.
- The PCC looked at whether a limit should be put on the length of service of PCC members. It was generally felt that a strict rule was not needed, but there may be circumstances when long-standing members may wish to make way for new faces.

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

# NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

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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)

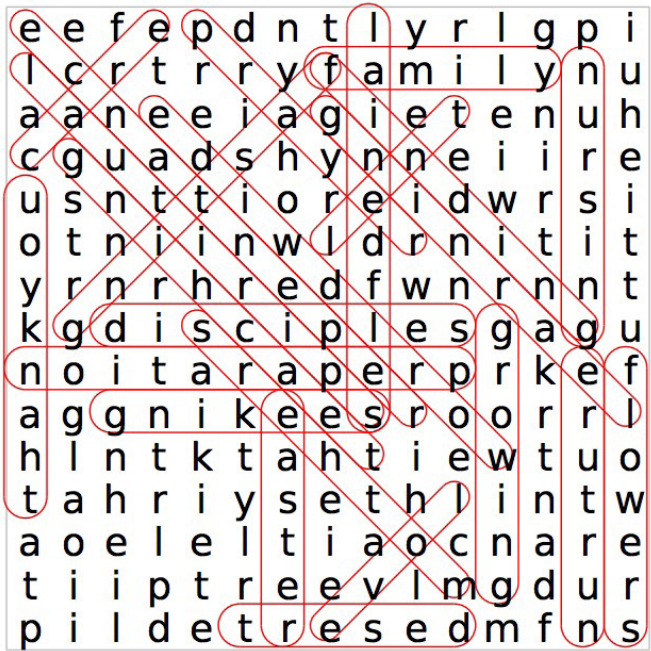
7:30 pm 69 Richmond Road Womens' Group (Contact Margaret Jones 333194)

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)







1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**CAPTION COMPETITION**  
Please pass on any Captions to Andrew Slade or Jenny Wakefield

**MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**  
The Next Newsletter is due out on 4th June. All entries for this Newsletter must be submitted by 30th April. All entries are at the discretion of the Editorial team and the space available.