

# St James Church Magazine

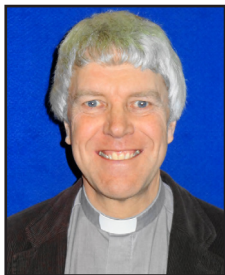


June - August 2017 Edition

## Contents

Page 3- 4	Tim's Letter
Page 5	Come, Holy Spirit of Jesus
Page 6 – 7	Bishop's letter
Page 8 – 9	Introducing Steph Mortimer
Page 10	TYFC
Page 11	Farm Visit to Rob's Organic Small Farm and Dillington Estate
Page 12 – 13	Giving For Life
Page 14 – 15	Pentecost
Page 16 – 17	Fun Day
Page 18 – 20	Children's Page
Page 21	Wordsearch
Page 22	School Report
Page 23	Women's World day Of Prayer
Page 24 – 25	I've been Reading
Page 26	Restoring The Organ
Page 27	Midge
Page 28 – 29	PCC
Page 30 – 31	Regular Listings

## Time to move on



Margaret and I have decided that this is the right time, for St James' and for ourselves, to move on. So we will be leaving in October.

I do realise that there is never a perfect time for things in this imperfect world, but this seems as good as any. There are people in post in the various roles in the church who are well able to carry God's work forward and to plan for the welcome of a new minister in due course. I will ensure that the planning of Sunday worship is done until early 2018; we rejoice in having an accomplished and varied team of service planners, leaders and speakers. Other areas of ministry are similarly well provided for.

The process for appointing a new minister in an Anglican church is pretty robust, and we are very fortunate in having the Simeon's Trustees as our patronage body. In times past the right to appoint to a 'living' was often vested in the Lord of the Manor, and was then inherited, sold or bought as property - often by people with no interest in the local church. Charles Simeon was an Anglican minister in the period when such patronage was beginning to fail, and went around buying up, or being given, the rights to appoint ministers in parishes up and down the country. Today the Trust which bears his name is responsible for the patronage of about 160 livings, including ours.

Most of the Simeon's parishes are, like Charles Simeon himself, evangelical in tradition. They seek to appoint the most appropriate person for the particular parish, whereas other patrons (eg bishops, or Oxbridge Colleges) can sometimes have a different agenda of seeking to make a church fit into their particular theology, or to place people who come from their own groupings.

The parish (PCC) needs to draw up a Parish Profile – describing the parish and what it feels is God's vision going forward. St James' is in a strong position here, having been doing a lot of work in discernment over the past years. A 'Statement of Needs' will also be drawn up as a guide to the patrons for advertising the vacancy in the relevant places (basically the Church Times and on the C of E website). The Bishop will also be involved; the appointment is effectively a three-way process between patrons, parish and diocese. I may well have got some details wrong, but

there are lots of people in the church with great experience of all this, so rest assured.

Meanwhile you all have several huge jobs to do:

- Pray regularly and specifically for those who are your representatives in this process, and for the person whom God has already got in mind – that the enemy cannot intervene to upset the process
- Be realistic about what things can be done during a vacancy. Hopefully most things will be able to carry on (unimpeded by me!); but God does not want worn-out or fractious Christians. Some things can be laid down for a season, and be careful about starting new things
- Be aware that changes in any part of your life cause stresses. Be self-aware if you get anxious, or possessive of certain roles, or find you have disagreements over issues which would normally be trifling. Talk with one another!
- Don't be tempted to push your own agendas, or group together to form little alliances... it can happen so easily because we are human. Be open, generous... and light hearted
- Become, or remain, committed to weekly worship – regardless of who is leading or preaching, or whether everything is perfect (it won't be, nor is it now). You need a strong, growing, praying and worshipping community during the vacancy and when welcoming the new person into post

Above all, be open to what God might want to do through St James' in the years ahead. This will be different from what he might have wanted in years past, or in the present – but will be exciting and rewarding as his kingdom on earth grows just a little closer through you.

God bless, Tim

# **Come, Holy Spirit of Jesus**

(Rev 3:20 Acts 2:4)

At my invitation,  
at the opening of my heart,  
just as you promised, Lord, you come,  
to ignite your flame of love and presence,  
to leap through words of scripture  
and prayers and songs.

Into my life, Lord, you come,  
bringing purpose, joy, peace  
and the assurance  
that this is just the beginning  
of forever and ever.

Holy Spirit of Jesus  
come, fill me, comfort me,  
equip me, inspire me  
today.

By Daphne Kitching

Letters from the Right  
Reverend Peter Hancock,  
Bishop of Bath and Wells  
For Parish Newsletters - June 2017



As you read this one of the issues dominating the news will be the General Election. Some wit once said: 'If you don't vote, you get the government you deserve, and if you do, you never get the results you expected.' Witty that may be, but it is also somewhat cynical and it is one of the things our Archbishops have warned us against. In a Pastoral Letter released to all parishes and chaplaincies they have said that the first obligation we have as Christians is to pray for the election and to recognise the very real burdens and responsibilities carried by those in political life and their families. The second obligation they suggest is to set aside apathy and cynicism and to renew our commitment to the virtues of love, trust and hope in God and in each other. These virtues they suggest should guide and judge our own actions and shape and determine the life of our nation.

Faithful, humble, trusting prayer is one mark of true discipleship and I hope that many of us will be engaging in the opportunities to pray with others between Ascension and Pentecost. If we do we will be praying with millions of other Christians across the world, praying that many more people, among them our own friends and families, will discover and open their lives to the love of Jesus Christ. Services are being held in Bath Abbey on 25 May and in the Cathedral on 4 June. At Bath Abbey there will be interactive prayer stations, mixing traditional and contemporary worship and at the Cathedral there will be a Prayer Fayre. We are all invited to take part and to pray together expectantly for the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Come and join your bishops in praying: 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Rt Rev Peter Hancock  
Bishop of Bath and Wells

Not just in Britain or Europe but around the world vigils have been held to remember all those whose lives have been touched by the tragic event in Manchester on 22<sup>nd</sup> May

People have gathered in public places, in homes and at work, in churches and cathedrals to remember all those whose lives have been turned upside down by violence.

People of all nationalities, ages and creeds have come together in a shared longing for peace and justice in our world.

But underneath the shock and anger and grief there has been a determination by the people of Manchester to stand together, to support those most affected and to unite across their diversity. They have resolved to rebuild and repair the damage to their city and to face down the fear that terrorists seek to instil in our lives.

Incidents like this raise many questions, including the question: 'where is God in the midst of all this?' At moments like this I am reminded of something I read many years ago and which has remained with me: 'In Jesus, God did not come to explain suffering, or to remove it, but to fill it with his presence.' In this life we may not get all the answers we seek to the pain and problem of suffering. We live in a world which continues to be torn apart by suffering in many ways. But I believe we live in a world which is held and shaped by the love and light of God. Jesus came to fill the world with his presence.

Let us make that the focus of our prayers

Rt Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

#### An ancient prayer for peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom:  
Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies;  
that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



### Introducing.....

Steph Mortimer and her family have been members of St James for over five years. How she came to St James is a story of finding friendship and a faith family far from her home on the other side of the Atlantic.

I met Steph for this interview at her home, with the sounds of the St. James nursery just across the way. Her youngest daughter was there too and it was delightful how happily Georgie played while we talked.

Steph was born a long way from Taunton, growing up in New York, in the eighties. Her father and grandmother were staunch members of the Episcopalian Church (a bit like the C of E in America). They were the kind of people who kept the church going, in fact her nan was church secretary for 50 years!! Steph's Mum came from a Jewish background, but although they celebrated Hanukah, it was her Dad's church that had the biggest influence. She attended Sunday School and then the Youth group as did many of her friends from school, and being a Christian seemed a normal part of life. She went on to University, which happened to be at a Catholic affiliated college, and there participated with others in church activities. Having grown up accepting faith as a natural part of her identity, she recalls an "Aha moment" when studying the Big Bang theory in science, and thinking, "well if the Big Bang happened, then why couldn't God be the cause of it. Surely it's better to believe in something causing it to happen than nothing". Steph has continued to grow in her faith, as the reality of Jesus's teaching has made sense to her.

So how does a New Yorker come to be in Somerset? During her third year at Uni, she spent time in Oxford as part of her course, fell in love with England, and was determined to come back when she finished her studies. Following graduating with an English degree and a masters in Humanistic Multicultural studies (Ethics for short), she spent time in Florida, and then had an opportunity to work for Oxfam in England. She had hoped eventually to do development work with Oxfam and is



passionate about them as an organisation and the philosophy they work to, working with communities to help them grow and aiding people to stand on their own two feet.

However, while working for Oxfam in Somerset, she met her husband Craig, who is a Tauntonian, and worked for his family's taxi firm. They married in 2013 and have three lovely children, Zoe, Bea and Georgie, who you will often see on a Sunday morning.

It was as a result of looking for a local church, that Steph eventually came to St. James. She was wanting to have Zoe baptised, and contacted Alison Buckman, then Children and Families' Worker at St. James. Impressed, by the genuine openness and friendship she received from Alison, she came to St James and found a welcome that was attractive. Through the toddler group she met and made friends with other young mums, many of whom she is still in contact with. After Zoe was baptised Steph has continued to be very much part of the church. Now she in turn enjoys bringing her friends to Praise and Play, and feels she is carrying on the role that Alison pioneered.

Originally the family were living in Wellington, but when friends were moving to Bournemouth the opportunity arose to move to their house in Cranmer Road, and as a result they are one of the small number of our families living in the parish. When time came to choose a school for Zoe, she and Craig decided to choose St. James school, and now Bea has started in the Nursery. No excuse for being late for school!!! She hopes that when all the children are at school she will be able to play a bigger part in the school life.

At present Steph works four days a week, with adults with learning difficulties, which is a rewarding but demanding job, made harder by staff shortages.

At St. James Steph helps with Praise and Play, and has also started helping with the Urban Saints group on Sunday mornings, and is very enthusiastic about this group of young people. This no doubt reflects her own experience of how vital Christian friendships are for teenagers. Indeed, the importance of friends is a theme in talking with Steph, and her natural networking "come along with me", seems to be one of her gifts, as well as just loving being mum to her three girls.



## **Taking the good news relevantly to every young person in Taunton.**

Firstly a huge Thank You, TYfC have had many amazing years serving out of the office given by St James. Your support has been incredible.

We have had an amazing time in the schools recently with new additions to our work. We have been providing a Y7 Breakfast club in castle school and Lunch Club (for vulnerable young people) in Bishop Fox's. TYfC have also started a Friday night Rock Solid Youth Club, in partnership with Canon Street and North Street. Over the past year we have been encouraged with the cross over between school clubs and Church interaction. Several young people having the confidence to take their friends to CU and youth clubs. This is the start of young peoples relationship with Christ and it amazing to see young people being the evangelists. It has also been a privilege to be welcomed into vulnerable young peoples lives. Speaking God truths into their lives as we work together to build up, encourage and release young people into more of what God sees in them.

This year it was been awesome to talk to a young person about the gospel and heaven at lunch time. Sit and encourage a young person who was panicking about exams. Facilitate young people sharing their faith. Be a part of 5 young people giving their lives to Christ. We can only provide clubs, Serve Schools and transform lives thanks to the generous donations given by churches and individuals.

## **Farm Visit to Rob's Organic Small Farm and Dillington Estate**

For some years I have been a Director of a small Christian Charity set up by Sir John Houghton, the Climate Change expert and Prof 'Sam' Berry about 20 yrs ago.

The Charity is The John Ray Initiative (JRI) named after a 17 century natural historian and C of E clergyman. One of our activities is to run the Certificate in Christian Rural and Environmental Studies which has around a dozen students working by distant learning toward the Certificate. To support them we organise study weekends at Ripon College, Cuddleston, Oxon., and a summer Farm Visit. This year I have worked with Rob Walrond, our Diocesan Rural Advisor to have our farm visit on 8 July at Rob's organic diversified small farm at Pitney and then by contrast an afternoon visit to Dillington Estate, Ilminster (3000 acres).

If you are interested in Environmental Issues then this could be a chance to look at issues raised by organic farming, and understand how the rural economy impacts on life. The visit is free but you would need to bring your own lunch. Having your own transport would help, though I have room in the car for 2.

A word to the wise-- this is a serious visit not a jaunt to a farm. If you are interested contact me. If you don't know me I usually sit by the second pillar from the front on the pulpit side of the church.

Dr Andrew Wright

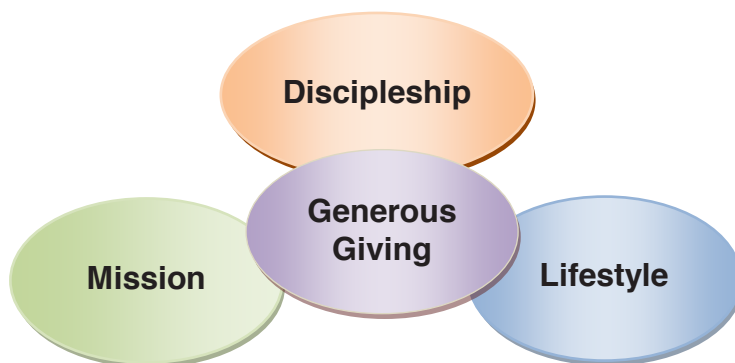
# Giving for Life

## Encouraging giving in our church (Part 1)

### Introduction

Giving and generosity are vital issues for churches and for church members. Generous giving provides resources to enable the mission and ministry of the Church and fosters distinctive Christian lifestyles that enable others to be touched by the overflowing generosity of God. This short guide aims to help PCCs encourage generous giving amongst their church members.

Giving for Life has four key themes: **generous giving** is an integral part of our **discipleship**, that resources God's **mission** in the world, and has an impact on our **lifestyle**.



This current economic background is significant, but is not a reason to avoid the topic of generous giving. Discipleship is an ongoing challenge in good times and bad, and our message and teaching must be constant. If they are not, there is a risk of unintentional miscommunication. Ceasing to talk about giving when times are tight would suggest wrongly that our giving should be from surplus. Only teaching on giving during more prosperous years might also accidentally imply that giving is for the wealthy, and the challenge of generous giving does not apply to those who have less to give. Yet it is often precisely the converse that is true – experience across the Church suggests that those on the lowest incomes are the most generous givers when their gift is expressed as a proportion of their income.

Many church members are already giving generously. Church members give an average of just over 3% of income to and through the church. Yet General Synod also *challenges church members to assess annually their financial giving as a proportion of income, and to take as an initial target 5% of after-tax income to and through the church, and a similar amount to other work that helps to build God's kingdom in times of economic stringency as well as of plenty, in response to the lavish generosity of God to us in Christ* If church members were to reach that target, the ability of parishes to engage with social structures would begin to be transformed. For example, this might mean having the resources to:

- expand the number of youth, children's and family workers working locally in parishes.
- provide proper support for fresh expressions – forms of church for our changing culture established primarily for those not yet members of any church.
- provide ministry to ensure the physical and spiritual care of elderly people whose numbers are predicted to rise by 85% in the next three decades.
- sustain engagement with community projects.

Accountability and openness are important. As St James' seek to resource their mission, it is vital that the needs of the church are shared with our members, who need to know the financial situation of their church, its vision and the cost of achieving it.

There can, however, be a temptation to focus too strongly on the difficulty of meeting the costs of the church, and to lose sight of some key elements. A strategy based on good practice distilled from parishes around the country and recommends that:

- regular and systematic teaching and preaching on giving and generosity are set in the context of discipleship.
- money is not only talked about in the context of giving to the church, but that wider money and lifestyle issues are also addressed
- communication with church members clearly explains how their giving supports the church's mission and ministry, both within the parish and more widely.

*To be continued in September magazine...*

# Pentecost Experience

Following Easter we are reminded again of the momentous events of Pentecost, when the promised Holy Spirit came and transformed the group of fearful but hopeful disciples into men and women, who couldn't stop themselves from telling everyone they met about Jesus. Braving threats of imprisonment and death they started spreading the word.



Using the Pentecost Experience material, we shared this amazing story with the children at St. James School. Thirteen classes were invited to come to church, with their teachers and teaching assistants, to hear about the waiting, the receiving, and the acts of the apostles in the early days of church; they learnt how today, from those small beginnings nearly 2000 years ago, millions of people from Alaska to Auckland, claim to follow Christ's teaching. To the delight of the children we ended by celebrating the Church's birthday ... with cake.

We were very thankful to Mrs. Forbes, Elm class's teacher, who liaised with us and arranged the programme for the classes.

We are also grateful to all the wonderful people who acted, created the scenery and got together on a sunny Sunday afternoon to put the scenes together. Also those, like Joan, Sue x 2, Deb and Patricia who served cake and drinks and put up with sudden changes of plan; Chris Doyle for keeping his mural at the entrance in place to remind the children about Easter. Pictured left is some of the team trying to assemble the giant map. Fortunately, we did manage to prevent Alaska being placed in the North Sea!!!



Right: Lydia (aka Celia) talking to year 1 about Waiting for the coming of the Helper that Jesus had promised.



Left: Joan with one of the Pentecost Cakes





Right: Thomas (aka David) and Mary (aka Jenny), explaining how the Spirit came at Pentecost.

Below: Miriam (aka Sheila) telling the story of Peter and John healing the lame man at the temple.



Right: Martha (aka Chris) telling the children how the early Christians shared their possessions.



Finally, we all joined together around the map of the world to hear from Paul (aka Andrew) and Cornelius (aka Steve) how the Good News of Jesus spread from Jerusalem throughout the world, and that now there are over 2 billion Christians all over the world.



We finished with wonderful birthday cakes celebrating Pentecost as the birthday of the church, supplied by Lydia, Joyce, Joycey, Hilary and Annie, which were much appreciated by the children.



Find us near the Somerset County Cricket Ground

St James Church

# Fun

Find out about the things that happen



**Bellringing**

**Display about**

**Refreshments**



**Bourgeois**  
Under

**Charity & Local O**  
**Display**

Proud to be part of

**Sat 29th**

**Taunton Live**

The performing and creative arts festival • 24th - 30th July





**Church**

# Day

open in your local church

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**Come and climb our Church Tower**

(120 ft above ground level - over 8's only)

**Demonstration**

**about the history of the Priory**

**Exhibitions**

**Worcester Castle**

over 10's only

**Local organisations**

days

**Hands On Art**

**Children's Craft  
Activities**

**Display of Bible Art**

e.g Illumination, printing

**And much  
more...**

**on July 10.30am - 3.30pm**

**Prize Service with lights  
starting at 6pm**

St James  
Church  
TAUNTON

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

I will be with you



At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah



So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



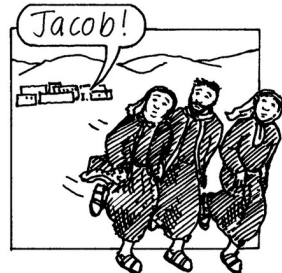
Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.

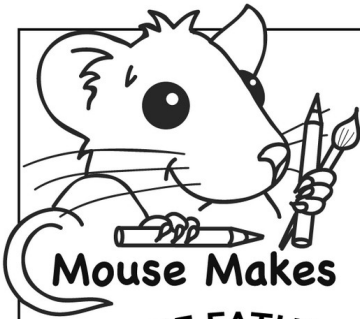


They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...





"May the *grace* of  
the Lord **JESUS** Christ  
and the *love* of **GOD**  
and the *fellowship* of  
the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:13



## GOD - THE FATHER

Can you find all the  
names of the Trinity  
in this 3 in 1  
word search?

## GOD - THE SON

C R E A T O R  
J O N E L H O L Y  
E A I L M G N O A  
H S A V I O U R H  
O J M A G D I D W  
V U O N H I G H E  
A D F A T H E R H  
H G I M Y K I N G  
E T E R N A L

M E S S I A H  
S J M O S T T A L  
C E M N V W R B A  
H S A V I O U R M  
R U N O N R T E B  
I S U B E D H A W  
S H E P H E R D A  
T A L I G H T A Y  
L O R D O O R



LORD • GOD  
JEHOVAH • I AM  
YAHWEH •  
HOLY • ONE  
SAVIOUR • KING  
ETERNAL  
ALMIGHTY  
CREATOR • JUDGE  
FATHER • ON HIGH



JESUS • CHRIST  
SAVIOUR • LORD  
EMMANUEL  
SHEPHERD  
LAMB  
WAY • SON  
DOOR • LIGHT  
BREAD • WORD  
MESSIAH • VINE



## GOD - THE SPIRIT

HOLY • SPIRIT • COMFORTER • TEACHER • GUIDE  
HELPER • TRUTH • POWER • WISDOM • BREATH • ETERNAL



Hiding in one of the puzzles is the word 'TRINITY', can you find it?





## St RICHARD of CHICHESTER

St Richard of Chichester, who lived from 1197 to 1253, is patron saint of the English county of Sussex.

In 1244 Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester but King Henry III wanted someone else as bishop and he ordered that no one should feed or house Richard. So Richard lived with a friend who was a parish priest and visited his entire diocese on foot for two years until the king relented.

Richard is widely remembered today for the prayer he is supposed to have said as he was dying. The prayer was adapted for the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell and it is in this form that most people know it today:

Day by day,  
Dear Lord, of thee  
three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly,  
Love thee more dearly,  
Follow thee more nearly,  
Day by Day.

## SOUNDS STRANGE

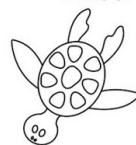
There are still quite a few people called Richard today but some saints' names sound very strange to our modern ears - how many of these names are saint's names and how many of them are something else all together? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Wenceslas
2. Mesrop
3. Blaise
4. Porphyry
5. Waudru
6. Methodius
7. Attracta
8. Sebba
9. Fiacre
10. Budoc



**What do you call a man with a  
map on his head?**  
Miles.

**What do you call a  
woman with a  
tortoise on her  
head?**  
Shelley.



**What do you call a man  
checking your homework?**  
Mark.

**What do you call a Vicar  
on a moped?**  
Rev.

Answer: all of them are saints listed in  
the Penguin Dictionary of Saints -  
honestly.

## Wordsearch for June 2017

June brings us Trinity Sunday, when the Church celebrates the wonderful truth that we live in a family relationship with God; a relationship based on three Persons in one God. Here, in Jesus' own words, is spelt out very simply how men and women can actually know the God of all the universe: "And **I** will ask the **Father**, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the **Spirit** of truth.... "**I** will not leave you as orphans; **I** will come to you" (*John 14: 16-18*)

So the Way to God is: AUTHORISED by the loving plan of the Father; ACHIEVED by the mediation at the Cross of Jesus the Son; and ACTIVATED by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Trinity  
Sunday  
Church  
Celebrates  
Truth

Family  
Relationship  
one  
God

Three  
Persons  
Father  
Son  
Holy

Spirit  
Jesus  
Counsellor  
Orphans  
Loving

mediation  
indwelling



# St. James Church School

## Easter Celebrations

It was a great pleasure to welcome the pupils, staff and parents for their Easter Celebration at the end of last term. With both doors open to facilitate everyone getting into church, despite the obstruction caused by the Wessex Water excavations in the car park, Nigel and the refreshments team were kept busy to ensure the usual St. James Welcome.

In fact it was standing room only, as parents arrived to watch their children tell the story of Easter in song, poetry and paintings. The singing was enthusiastic and it was clear that the children enjoyed using their voices. Towards the end of the service one class paraded their drawing around the church, in time with a rousing tune, played for them by Rob Rawle at the Clavinova.



Year 4 had produced a group of paintings telling the story from Palm Sunday to Ascension, and they kindly left them for the church to enjoy over the Easter period. Four of which are reproduced here.

Thank you St. James School.





## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

St. James needs a representative to help organise and take part in next year's service here in Taunton which will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

### **Can You Help?**

Designed by women from a different country each year, the service is translated into more than 60 languages, and a thousand dialects. Here in Britain there will be around 5000 services involving thousands of women and men across all denominations. On the day, the first service is held as the sun rises over Samoa. We are part of a great wave of Prayer and intercession that continues to circle the earth until the last service is held as the sun sets over American Samoa. By that time, an estimated three million men and women in 170 countries will be joined together in prayer.

And prayer changes things

If you would like to discuss this further, my telephone number is 01823 256925

Jane Dean

## I've been reading ...

I've been catching up on more "back issues" of the Grove Evangelism series. Two from 2015 caught my eye as worth a mention in the magazine, and they have linked themes.

The first is No Ev109 **Freshly Expressed Church** by Tim Sumpter, who is vicar of two large villages on the outskirts of Derby. His booklet looks at how "fresh expressions of church have helped a more traditional parish develop its ministry of evangelism". There are lots of ideas here, so I'll just list a few of them that might be relevant (in the order they appear in the booklet):

- It isn't the church building we need to step outside of, but rather our way of "doing church" and all that it implies.
- Fresh Expressions of Church are not just doing church services in a new way, but finding new ways to be incarnations of Christ. There are five aspects to this:
  1. Witness through lifestyle – new members are joining a body of believers, not just a worship event.
  2. Relationships and hospitality are part of the picture.
  3. Conversational testimony.
  4. Experiencing truth, not talking about it.
  5. Go out to where people meet each other as well as seek to bring them into the body of the church.
- The way we do things in church is influenced by society already, so we shouldn't be afraid of moulding new ways of doing things to relate to present trends in society.
- Take risks!
- We are re-seeding the Gospel into the nation's culture.
- There is a tendency for churches to revert to being worship-shaped rather than mission-shaped, and to fall back on comfortable styles of worship.
- Avoid setting up a dichotomy between "fresh" and "stale", etc. We need a "mixed economy" (Rowan Williams' term). Both innovators and traditionalists can work together for the renewal of the church and the re-evangelisation of society.

There isn't one specific thing that the booklet is driving at, but its aim is to think practically through the challenges of being church in new ways.



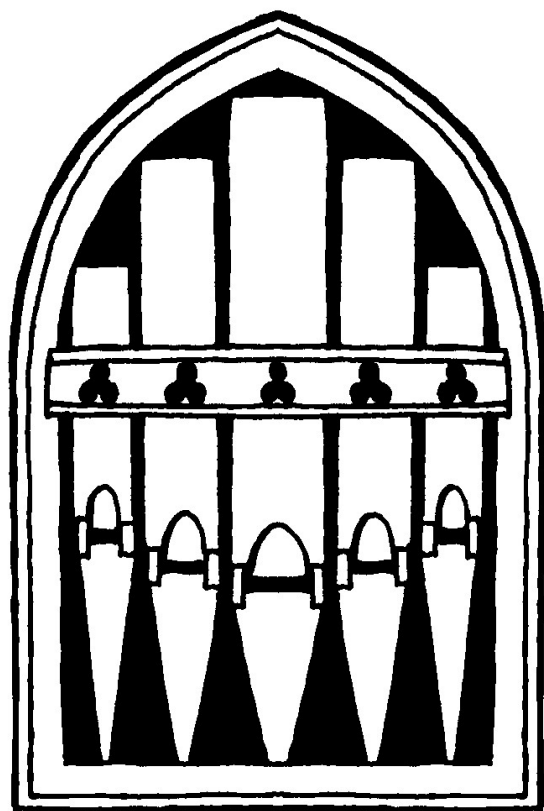
The second booklet is No Ev111 ***Creative Tension in Urban Mission*** by Andy Weir, who is the Research, Review and Training Officer for Church Army. Its theme is how we can be both creative and faithful at the same time when undertaking evangelism. So it picks up on some of the themes of the first booklet, which was examining how Fresh Expressions fit into a traditional church setting. In both situations, there may be concerns that new initiatives don't lose the hallmarks of the Christian faith.

It sets out six tensions:

1. Should we help the people around us, or judge our outreach by how explicitly it preaches the gospel? We can't expect everyone we help to want to explore faith, but the relationships that develop can well be the first step along that road.
2. When tackling social issues, do we work in partnership with non-Christian organisations, or, risking "contamination", go it alone? The author sees the two approaches (or theologies) as providing essential corrections to each other.
3. Should we focus on the local community (in the parish) or have a wider vision for the whole town, or seek to serve a wider area? This is perhaps not so big an issue where there are town-wide initiatives, but there is a danger of ignoring the local opportunities as a result.
4. Can we run activities that serve particular parts of the community which at the same time become part of the church family? Both can happen when the activity takes place in an environment where people feel loved and valued.
5. Should we stick to our received understanding of faith, or rethink it in the light of our experience (in conducting evangelism, etc). While the core of the gospel should be unchanged, much that surrounds it is cultural and needs to be continually questioned.
6. Are we expecting dramatic change as a result of our witnessing, or are we content with our impact being "beneath the surface"?

For the first five of the tensions, the author very much advocates a "both and" approach, taking the positive aspects of both sides of the tension. But in the last one, his experience leads him to come down firmly on what he calls "mundane holiness": people who tend to the needs of others, who do the jobs that need doing, etc. But where there are tensions, they can be approached creatively.

MW



## **Restoring The Organ**

Organ pledges have been coming in and we have nearly reached the £8000.00 we need to get the organ working again. With thanks for all the support given. If you still wish to make a pledge there is still time!!

## Midge

Midge is a dog that is full of fun,  
She gets scent of a rabbit, and makes it run.  
She puts up a pheasant and makes it fly,  
Over the hedge and into the sky.

She might come if you call, and then again not,  
She can leave you there standing, and feeling quite hot.  
She has smells to smell, she has rabbits to find,  
You just have to wait and be quite resigned.

Oh where is that dog? Oh where can she be?  
Look just behind you, can't you see?

Up in the morning full of the day,  
But I bet she knows if you're going away.  
Crunch of the biscuit, touch of the paw,  
Then pack up anything dropped on the floor.  
Roll on the back, for a 'Tickle my tum',  
She knows how to get around her 'Special Mum'

John Wilson

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

Here's a summary of the Annual Meeting in April, and the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in March and May.

### **Annual Meeting**

Ruth Stevens and Joyce Kirk were elected as churchwardens. Steve Bradford has since been appointed as Associate Warden.

Helen Dawe, James Haddell and Liz Sykes were elected to the PCC, along with new Deanery Synod representative Nic Tall. Steve Bradford and Ruth Dunn were re-elected to the PCC and Richard Carpenter and Martin Wakefield to the Deanery Synod. Many thanks are due to outgoing PCC members Michelle Durnell, Joe Gentile and Richard Taylor; and Julie Kimber who has served as Associate Warden and Deanery Synod rep.

Richard Sainsbury presented the accounts for 2016. Overall, there was a surplus of £9,695, mainly due to some generous donations from church members to fund work which would otherwise have depleted the PCC's reserves.

Tim Jones reviewed how the church has been developing over many years and gave some pointers of things to be developed in the foreseeable future. Ten years ago, we prayed for a regular (monthly or weekly) membership of 200, and we have now reached that. Over the next five years we should be praying for at least 250, and looking further ahead to 300 people; when we reach that, we can consider planting new congregations or churches.

Tim observed that, like most voluntary organisations, 20% of our members do the bulk of the in-house work. This is not a bad thing, because it frees the other 80% to focus on being engaged as Christians in their workplaces, homes and neighbourhoods.

### **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 topics covered in this period were: *A church which actively engages children and young people*, and *A church that nurtures disciples*.

We will draw together our thoughts on discerning the vision at the PCC Away Day on 16 September, prior to working on the Parish Profile (which is needed for the process of finding a new vicar).

## **Safeguarding**

Recent central CoFE guidelines require that all volunteers should have safeguarding awareness training. At the last count, that means 138 people! The training can be done online. If you help in any way in the church, but haven't yet received details of the course, please contact Jenny Wakefield (our Parish Safeguarding Officer).

## **Youth and Families Worker**

As previously announced, we have been looking at employing a Youth Worker, to be shared with St Mary Magdalene's. The duties would be:

- Lead the *Voice* group at St Mary's on Friday evenings; some of our young people attend that group.
- Be available for the Sunday morning groups at St James.
- Establish relationships with Year 6 pupils at local schools.
- Develop an activity on first Sunday evenings.

The PCC heard that while the advertisement had been circulated to local churches, no applications had been made by the closing date. Church members are asked to pray about the future direction for this initiative.

## **Barnabas Fund**

We have been looking at our support for the persecuted church, but so far, no church member has expressed an interest in promoting the mission we currently support, Barnabas Fund. We have looked at the different approach taken by Open Doors, which also supports the persecuted church (not to be confused the local "Open Door" service). However, we wonder if the issue might be that as a church we lack a vision for non-local mission. A working group is being formed to look at this whole issue: please talk to Jenny Wakefield (Outreach Coordinator) if you would like to be involved.

## **Grants**

The PCC was pleased to make a grant to Nathan Peeler for a trip to South Africa with Tearfund; and also to Courtney Curtis for a trip to Mexico with Urban Saints' housebuilding programme.

*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

Pastoral Care Coordinator - Annie Reid 07812 130619

Church office: 01823 272931 e-mail: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

Children and young People's Coordinator - Kate Taylor 01823 619739  
e-mail: rhtaylor14@tiscali.co.uk

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)

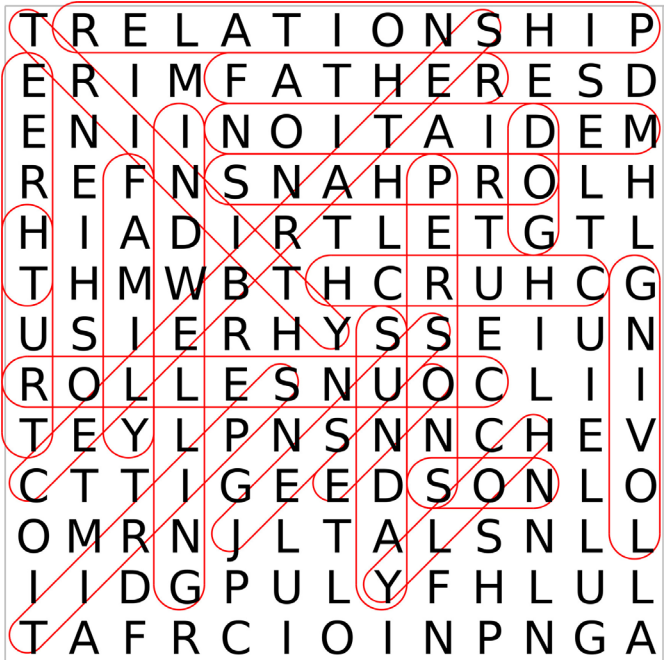
7:30 pm 69 Richmond Road Womens' Group (Contact Margaret Jones 333194)

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)





---

### **MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

The Next Newsletter is due out on 3rd September All entries for this Newsletter must be submitted by 1st August All entries are at the discretion of the Editorial team and the space available.