

# St James Church Magazine



June - August 2018

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## Letter from John Dykes

So now we know! Our new Vicar is to be the Revd Fabian Wuyts from Whitstable, in Kent. He is leaving his work in Canterbury diocese to come here – which should help us think of the extended time of their

vacancy – even as we rejoice that our wait has an end in view. But why so long before he comes? He has to give 3 months' notice and one of the Bishops in our diocese has to be available, along with the Archdeacon and representatives of the Trustee, to institute him. We eagerly await the date!

He comes with his wife Vashti, and they have 4 children, who will be gladly received into our young people's work. Obviously more detail will be known later, but do pray for them as they all settle in our vicarage in Richmond road, probably during August.

But what else do we know? Well, first of all we know that this appointment is of God, the direct result of all the prayers about a new minister, and for those with the responsibility of actually doing the choosing. In particular we should give thanks to Ruth and Steve here, and the PCC which gave them the task. They will all now be ever-so-slightly on edge about how their Vicar-to-be will turn out. But, as I say this is God's choice, not ours!

And we shall need to co-operate for the best results, even with God's man in front, just as we have during the vacancy. We cannot be found wanting by our God: he is King of all, even of us.

And will there be changes, people have asked? The answer is yes, definitely! The nature of this new ministry will depend on the nature of the new Vicar – leader, just as we have had varied styles among our readers

and Clergy. But never fear, St James will still be St James, with its essential ethos still the same.

As I write Pentecost and Trinity Sunday are still ahead, when we shall be thinking of the power the Church possesses. We have had to grasp and hold onto that ready for the next move of the Spirit in our midst. Vicky and I have seen 5 Vicars of St James come and go, each one different some indeed (if I may judge) better at God's work than others, but the Church has moved on and will be building on all of the past and looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. May God the Holy Trinity guide and guard us as we go, with Fabian at the helm

All joys

John Dykes

### **Letter From The Wardens**

Dear All,

It feels as if we've reached a pivotal moment in the vacancy as we now look ahead the the arrival of Fabian and his family.

So from the wardens is a simple thank you to you all for supporting us during the last few months, whether in prayer, by an encouraging word, or stepping up to take on additional work to ensure God's work is done.

We will soon be holding our next Warden's Invite event and hope to see you there.

Thanks and Blessings, Ruth Joycey and Steve



## My Testimony

There was a mystery in my Life, really could not solve,  
I had to wait the **Lords Time**, and let it all evolve.  
I told **The Lord** I needed **Him** about the age of four.  
I listened to the preaching learned about **His Law**.  
Learned the Hymns, sang aloud **His Praise**.  
But **The Holy Spirit** new of other ways.  
So as thru Life, I drifted far away from Land,  
Still I had that longing to join the happy band.  
**The Lord He Knew** my sorrows, wouldn't let me go.  
So when I lost another Sister, It wasn't such a blow.  
It simply was the **Lords Way** of showing me **His Truth**,  
Thus I Was Baptised and brought Into 'New Youth'!  
Blessings now are tumbling me O'r & O'r & O'r,  
I'm certainly not the same as I was before.  
**His light** is shining thro me to the world around.  
My feet are firmly planted on that **Solid Ground**!

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord !

Really have been found

John L Wilson... coming back to St James now for two years



# Filling the gaps

We all know the old adage, one volunteer is worth 10 pressed (wo)men. As we celebrate Volunteer Week 2018 (1-7 June) I want to give thanks for and to the thousands of volunteers across Somerset who love and serve our communities.

Former US first lady Rosalynn Carter once said that a nation without volunteers is a nation without a soul. As we experience continued cuts to our local services, it is volunteers who are 'filling the gaps'. Offering anything from volunteer drivers ensuring isolated older people can get to the shops, to church groups providing space for young families to meet, to share stories and support each other.

Yet they are not only a lifeline for the more vulnerable groups, all our lives are so much richer thanks to our volunteers.

Our churches, and the ministry of each, rely heavily on the generosity of our volunteers. Whether working with children and young people, helping serve tea and coffee after a service, delivering a reading or leading prayers, or being part of the flower or cleaning rota. Your vicar may be a volunteer too – as more people are called to serve as self-supporting ministers. Volunteering is at the heart of Christian service and discipleship. It's about the stewardship of our time and talents.

However we are hearing that nationally, volunteering is in decline, and so it may take a rethink in our approach to release those talents, those gifts. There are many hugely talented people within our churches and our communities but sometimes they may feel reticent about putting themselves forward. People might be too humble, or not confident in their own abilities; feel they are not the right fit or not 'churchy' enough to put their hand up. How much more powerful for all of us if someone we know says to us "you'd be

great for that, you have a real gift for it.” What an encouragement! By having those conversations we recognise and release those God-given gifts.

And let’s be creative. The accountant worshipping in your congregation every Sunday who you have earmarked for the Treasurer role next time around might actually have a passion for creative prayer. Not everyone wants to do their day job in their spare time!

Imagine how our churches might be transformed if we create the roles around the people we have and their gifts, rather than the other way around!

So thank you for your gift of time and talent and be sure to encourage those around you in theirs!

The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley

Bishop of Taunton

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## **Lee Abbey Church Weekend Away**

We have made a provisional booking for a church weekend away at Lee Abbey from 15-17 February 2019.

As in previous visits the programme will be led by staff from the Abbey and there will be plenty of opportunities for fellowship as well as teaching. There will be groups and activities for children and young people.

Further details of how to book and arrangements for payment will follow soon, but please keep the date free and if you want to secure a place early please speak to Steve and Nicki Bradford or Ruth and Mark Stevens





## INTRODUCING & ADIOS SUE.....

Well its hello and goodbye because **Sue Clarke**, has recently left St. James having been worshipping with us since October. Those of you who were in church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April will have heard Sue speak about her call to Bolivia and her plans to return there on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Sue was given the almost impossible task of telling us about her short term mission work with CMS



(Church Mission Society) in 10 minutes! But she did an amazing job of giving the congregation a whistle stop tour of Bolivia, Cochabamba, (the town she is returning to) and her work at the Church of La Trinidad, which is part of the Anglican Communion.



Sue has had a number of roles in her life, including being a mum to

her three children, all of whom are now grown up. Much of her working life has been spent in Christian or charitable occupations. For eleven years she worked with ARM, Anglican Renewal Ministries, in an administrative role, a time that coincided with Michael Mitton as director. More recently she has worked as a manager for an organisation called Salcare in Derbyshire where she lived. Salcare provides a one stop shop providing advice, support, and practical help to anyone who was struggling to manage financially and practically. She has also worked as a fundraiser for the RSPB, an organisation that she values. Sue has been a lay reader and also a church warden in her home town in Heanor, Derbyshire.

However since the age of 10 Sue has also had a long standing belief that somehow some day she would be called to South America, and this has remained with her. In fact 20 some years ago she found a Spanish Bible in the Salcare shop she worked in, and the conviction was strengthened that she would one day need it, and this is now the case.

With family having grown up and left home, Sue volunteered for short term mission work on a 2 year Placement with CMS. Initially the placement seemed



likely to be in Nepal, but as a result of what Sue would call God-incidences, she ended up being directed to Bolivia. Last year she went to La Trinidad Church in Cochabamba and became involved there as a missionary, assistant to the American vicar Tammy. As Sue told us, the work has been varied, as the church is involved in working with the community, which includes children's ministry, visiting the local detention centre, supporting families, outreach to university students and providing support for the two other volunteer staff members there. In addition, there is also a church plant in Puntiti. The community is a very poor one, and social and medical care is non-existent as we know it, so the level of need is high. However the enthusiasm for knowing about Jesus is very evident, so there is plenty of opportunity for the church's ministry. Sue says of her time in Cochabamba:

*I was so deeply blessed by my time in Bolivia before and I learnt some very important life lessons. One of them is just how little we need in life to be happy. Another is the love that is shared between our Christian brothers and sisters around the world. I found I could live more in the moment, appreciating this amazing world.*

Sue returned to the UK in September last year, as her daughter was having her first child and needed Sue's support. Initially Sue was not sure that she would return to Bolivia, but now that baby Monty is six months old, she has felt that it is right to return to Cochabamba to fulfil her 2 year commitment, and then who knows what else God has in mind. When she returns she is hoping to initiate some new projects including art therapy and environmental awareness, in addition to other work that is already established.

Please pray for Sue, her health, her protection and for the work of the church in Cochabamba and Puntiti.

*God's love is the same in any language,  
post from La Trindad's website: John 3v16*

**STOP PRESS:** Sue has arrived safely in Bolivia, is staying with a mother and her daughter in Cochabamba "and it feels as though I have never been away!"



# Are Christian Bookshops going the way of the DODO?

The other day I was in one of Taunton's Charity Shops-my favourite as it happens as it supports work amongst young people in the UK and other parts of the world. I bought a book. An illustrated version of Aesop's fables. I bought it for my great grandson aged nine who is starting to enjoy reading. He has a brother whose autism means that he is non-verbal but it seems to us that he has a good range of understanding words. The hope is that the older grandson will be able to read the stories and show him the pictures so that he will understand them and they, hopefully, can enjoy the book together. Will it work? I don't know. The older brother loves his younger sibling beyond measure.

I have always loved books and reading from an early age. As a young boy I used to buy penny books from Woolworths (remember them?) that were summaries of classics like Gulliver's Travels and Dick Whittington not forgetting Robin Hood! I entered into the world they described as if I was in the story with them. I was firing arrows with Robin Hood, having my hair pinned back with Gulliver (I wish).-Wandering through the plains of South Africa with Prester John. My reading has changed over the years but my approach has never changed. This is the point with reading books, we enter into the world of the author. When I was active in Methodist ministry, I was entering into the world of those authors whose knowledge and wisdom was opening up new vista for me. New insights, new perceptions, new questions, new insights into prayer and meditation. Above all, they were taking me into their understanding of God, His love for the world, his love for me and love for those for whom Christ gave up his life on a cross. To enrich oneself means that you can enrich others. As we prepared to leave my college after four years of training, the principal reminded we students, 'we have given you a lot, for years of learning how to study, knowledge of the Bible, prayers, liturgy, history of the Church, but remember, you will meet people who know God better that you ever will'. How true that has proved to be! I remember listening to a sermon in a Bristol church, one of our tutors was also present and his comment afterwards was 'you could tell that he hadn't read a book for twenty years'. I never wanted that to be said of me.

Of course, there are other sources of knowledge these days if you know how to use search engines on the internet. Either way, it is important that we feed on other people's knowledge and wisdom in order to share it with other people.

This piece started out as a musing on the demise of Christian Bookshops. No doubt there are a multitude of reasons why this is so, but one question that must be asked and answered is "Do Christians read enough books about their faith, especially the ones that address our faith in relation to our modern world?" The Frontier!!! But then, there is another book that is quite widely read.

That book is you and me. We are God's book- a long time before people switch on to reading the bible. No doubt you remember the saying 'he/she is like an open book'. When people read us, what story are we telling, what story are people reading? Do we commend our faith, our God or not.

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A prayer for Trinity Sunday:

Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
set up your kingdom in our midst

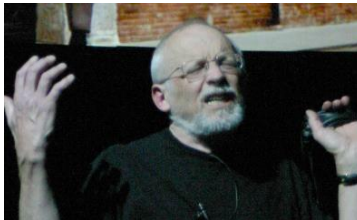
Lord Jesus, Son of the living God;  
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Holy Spirit, breath of the living God:  
renew me and all the world.

Tom Wright

# Passioneaster2018

After Babes in the Wood Panto last year, there was general enthusiasm for an Easter production in 2018 and a suggestion that we should have a try writing our own material. A small writing group (left) made several attempts to get together in what remained of 2017, and gradually ideas began to emerge about telling the story from the view point of 'ordinary' observers of the Passion story. However, it wasn't until January when we arrived at the point of 'can we really get something written, rehearsed and performed by Easter?' that it started to happen. We truly believe that what happened was God-inspired, not us. The script written by five different people came together, and thanks to Sue's brilliant choreography, the enthusiasm of the cast and tech team, together with additional talent, we were able to produce a performance that had an impact on our audiences and also managed to raise over £900 for Open Door. Thank you to all who made it possible, and most of all, we give thanks to God for the gift of His Son, who gave his all for us.









## Spring Harvest 2018

In April, just after Easter a small group from St. James, led by David and Lydia Jordan, set off for Butlins, Minehead for six days at Spring Harvest. The Theme, this year was “Only the Brave”, so we weren’t sure what we were letting ourselves in for. We needn’t have feared as we had a really good time, getting to know people and learning a lot from the talks and the worship. We can thoroughly recommend the experience. Here are a few photos and more importantly the comments.



*Worship: Self effacing and God glorifying – Geoff T*



“When’s our next group session?”

“Round about now!”

Walking Closer to God, at Spring Harvest





"Not quite sure what we had let ourselves in for! But it was great, especially hearing inspirational speakers, who could demonstrate that God is active and working in the World (including the UK!!)"  
**Jenny & Martin W**

From the moment I had by faith made the reservations to the next Spring Harvest, I felt that this was going to be special. We were not disappointed... Everyone in the group encountered God in relevant and challenging ways, including the children, who after only 2 days were asking if we could book next year!!

So with that in mind we are planning for Spring Harvest 2019 - 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April Theme "Unlimited when you Pray"...  
 Coming? **David Jordan**



"It's was great to be at Spring Harvest with so many St. James folk sharing together excellent Bible teaching and worship as well as hearing of all the exciting things God is doing in the world. It's uplifting, transforming and deeply encouraging".  
**Richard & Sue L**



"The place to be for lunch!"  
 Pictures taken in Cynthia, Andrew, Geoff and Maggie's palatial pad.





# Coming Events – June to September

in addition to our normal services, prayer meetings and groups, here are some of the things that will be happening in the next three months. Others may be added do keep your eyes on the bulletin.....

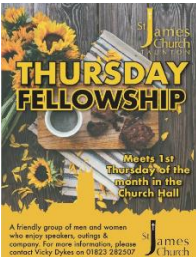
## Regular Monthly Events



**MESSY CHURCH – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month 10.30 am**  
(not August)

**SOUL SPACE – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month 7 pm**

Worship service for the teenage age group



**THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month – 2.30-4 pm** (For full details see Vicki Dykes or the programme at the back of church).

## Other events this quarter

**WATCH OUT FOR WARDEN'S EVENTS –** No dates yet but will be published in the bulletin

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**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 7pm ORGAN DEMONSTRATION** Peter Jeanes will be pulling out the stops to demonstrate the newly refurbished Organ – Come and hear how it sounds.

**Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> BRING & SHARE LUNCH –** Julie Kimber and Courtney Curtis will be talking about their visit to Mexico with the REBUILD programme



**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July ST JAMES CELEBRATION DAY**  
**10.30 -3.30 pm and 7.30 pm Taize Service**



Come and celebrate with us and welcome visitors to our church

**AUGUST WORKING PARTIES**



**Every Wednesday in August** there will be opportunity for fellowship as we engage in the practical jobs that need doing to keep our church home maintained. Jobs at all levels of expertise – Do come along and join the fun.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August FRENCH WEIR FUN DAY –12-4pm.**

Do come and support our Church Team at this community event.

**REVD. FABIAN'S LICENSING CELEBRATION**

We look forward to welcoming Fabian, Vashti and their family when they arrive

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

At the time of going to print the date for this is not known so watch out for further information in the bulletin from the wardens

# The doctor and the ill person

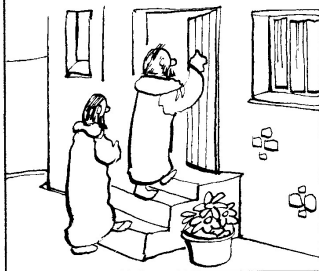


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!

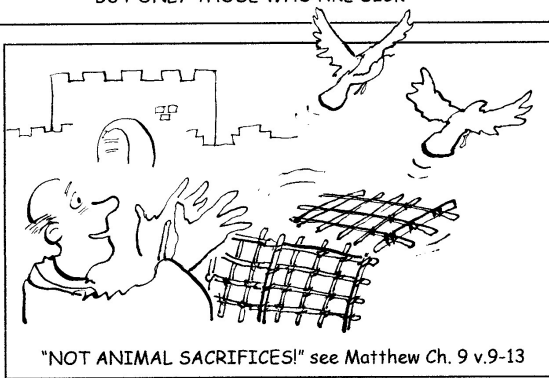


"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"

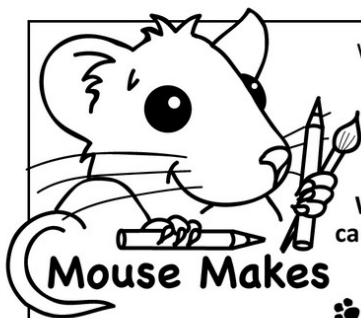


"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13



Which animal did Noah let out of the ark first?

— — — — —  
Genesis 8:7

What plague of animals came out of the River Nile?

— — — — —  
Exodus 8:6

What insects did John eat in the wilderness?

— — — — —  
Matthew 3:4

Which animal can we learn from?

— — — — —  
Proverbs 6:6

Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?

— — — — —  
Luke 3:22

Which animal did Jesus ride on?

— — — — —  
Matthew 21:7

DID YOU KNOW?



Four of the miracles Jesus performed were to do with fish.

1. Feeding of the 5000  
Matthew 14:15-21
2. The coin in the fish's mouth  
Matthew 17:24-27
3. When Jesus called His first disciples  
Luke 5:4-11
4. At the Sea of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection  
John 21:4-11



Which animal goes with which bible character?



LAMB	HOLY SPIRIT
LIONS	BALAAM
LOCUSTS	JESUS
DOVE	JONAH
RAVENS	PAUL
BIG FISH	SOLOMON
DONKEY	DANIEL
BEES	ELIJAH
SNAKE	JOHN
PEACOCK	SAMSON

DID YOU KNOW?

There are four animals that are small but the Bible says are extremely wise... the **ANT**, the **HYRAX**, the **LOCUST** and the **LIZARD**.

Look up  
**Proverbs 30:24-28**  
to find out why.



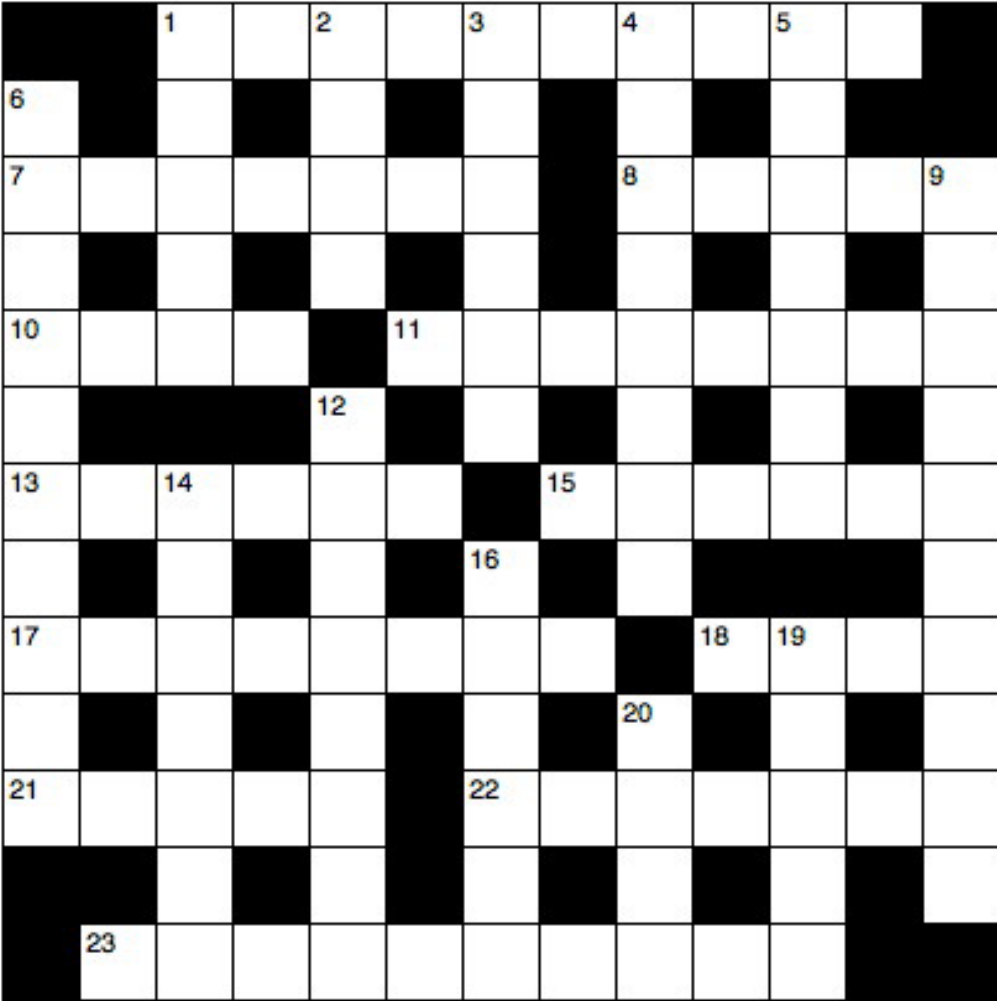
DOG CAME LAMB G A  
P L I Z A R D O V E Q N N  
F Q P E A C O C K G O A T  
I U R A V E N U S X D T F  
S A B U L L K S H E E P R  
H I S N A K E T E O E I O  
L I O N H Y R A X R G G

Find the animals in the word search

SHEEP • GOAT • LION • LAMB  
DONKEY • RAVEN  
SNAKE • DOVE  
LOCUST • QUAIL • HYRAX  
CAMEL • DEER • FISH • FROG  
GNAT • PEACOCK  
ANT • OX • LIZARD  
DOG • PIG • BULL



# Crossword



Answers can be found on Page 31

## Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8) (8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

## Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)



## St. James Church School Easter Service

It was again a privilege to welcome St James School, parents and relatives to the school's Easter Service in the church. Despite the snow the previous day, the children were back and the pavements sufficiently clear for even the youngest children to walk down in safety sporting their yellow safety jackets.

Parents arrived in anticipation of seeing their children perform and were welcomed with coffee and hot cross buns.

The children arrived on time, bubbling with their usual excitement being out and doing something different. As ever their responsiveness and smiles were a real joy to those welcoming them. They quickly settled into their seats or on the floor and an excited buzz of sound could be heard as they waited for the service to start.



What stands out is the enjoyment and enthusiasm that each class showed as they presented their pieces, whether song, poetry or artwork; the good listening from the rest of the children; the gusto with which the whole school sang for the whole school numbers and of course their behaviour and attention to their teachers, which was as good as ever.

The items presented by the different classes showed an interesting variety, from the time honoured "spring chicken" of Reception to the enthusiastic song about Palm Sunday from Year 1, the art work of year 2 and year 5, the celebration of language with the year 3's Italian Easter song, the poetry of year 4 and the prayers of year 6.

The whole school songs, aided by Mr. Rawle, from the church, and Mrs O'Connor leading the singing and signing, was a joyous sound and was a delightful demonstration of how important singing is at both an individual and corporate level. The final song Eye of the Tiger, while not a traditional Easter song, was an explosion of sound and enjoyment which lifted everyone.





## Other news from St. James Church School

One of the teachers at St. James is taking some time out from school, in June, to take part in a charity event that leaves the mind reeling. Carol Sheehan is part of a team of four taking part the Race across America. 3,100, miles, 12 states, 24 hour team cycling in 7 days!! What's more, all four are people who have been treated for cancer and are now seeking to raise money for children who are suffering with Cancer.

They are part of a group call Cycling Fighting Cancer Life Plus. As well as continuing to provide bikes and cycling equipment for children living with cancer, they are launching a new service called CFC Active. For the first time in the UK providing one to one sessions with specially trained exercise advisers for teens and young adults living with and beyond cancer to help them get more active and confidently take up a new sports and pastimes. Staying active is seen as an essential component in overcoming almost all side affects presented by cancer treatment.



If you want to find out more or make a donation have a look at their website  
<http://www.cfcraam.bike/>

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**Xplore club, run by volunteers from the church led by David Jordan,** is going well on Wednesday afternoons, with 16 regular attendees and lots of fun, games and stories. This term we are looking at some old testament heroes, Moses, Joshua, Gideon and Samson

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### Prayer in the Hive



Twice a term (on the first Friday of each half term) we meet to pray for the school. We meet in the Hive (portacabin in the school carpark) at 8 a.m. So set your alarm clock for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June and join us.

## News from WEC International

As you may have read in David and Margie's last letter, they have had a busy year with visits to Africa, and attending conferences with church



leaders, who are seeking to fulfil WEC vision for Reaching the Unreached. (In the picture they are in Ghana). This vision is in many ways, the same for Africa as it is for Taunton, although the context might vary, the aim is to

spread the message of God's love to those who have yet to hear it.

So what does mission in Africa look like – here are a couple of snapshots:

**The Gambia** - in one area WEC is involved with an innovative project which aims to improve the physical, socio-economic and spiritual well-being of the community. There is a nutritional centre which provides care for 114 inpatients, an outpatient therapeutic program which can care for a further 146 patients, a small income generating project, and a medicinal garden, important in a country where medicines are expensive and the source is often questionable.

**Burundi** - Stephen and Catherine are seconded from the DR Congo team, Stephen joined two of the Burundian team, Peniel and Lambert in a visit to Gitega. Peniel works with a local organisation called *Blessed To Be A Blessing*, working on an agricultural project with the community. Stephen hoped for opportunity to teach and indeed he was able to speak to a community group about how God values each and every one of us, and how we each have an essential role in God's plan for creation and humanity. Ten people that day responded to his message.

Showing God's love in practical and tangible ways, is an important part of WEC's vision, which follows in the path of Jesus, who healed as well as saved. Sharing God's love is the privilege we have as forgiven people. In the words of WEC's founder CT Studd.

"True religion is like the smallpox. If you get it, you give it to others and it spreads."

# The 2018 St. Margaret's Lectures

## 'Beyond Words'

To give the 2018 St. Margaret's Hospice Lectures we are delighted to welcome...

### **Wednesday 6th June - Professor Max Watson**

Professor Max Watson is a palliative care clinician and director of Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) at Hospice UK in London. Since 2014 he has been pioneering Project ECHO methodology as a means of 'democratising medical knowledge', tele-mentoring and building communities of practice. Brought up in Belfast, Max studied theology at New College in Edinburgh before being ordained to work in Nepal for eight years. From the time of his early life in Belfast, seeking a 'spirituality beyond words' has been very important to him.

### **Friday 6th July - The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley**

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley is Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and author of several books, including *The Splash of Words*; *Believing in Poetry* and *the Collage of God*. Canon Oakley's interests are the relationship between faith and poetry, human rights and the language and place of faith in the contemporary world. He is a trustee of the Civil Liberties Trust, an ambassador for Stop Hate UK and a patron of Tell MAMA, supporting victims of anti-Muslim hate.

All lectures to be held at:

St. Margaret's Hospice, Heron Drive, Taunton, TA1 5HA

Tickets £10, towards costs of the evening

Drinks and canapés will be served from 6.30pm, with lecture to start at 7.15pm

Tickets are available at:

[www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/2018-st-margarets-lectures](http://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/2018-st-margarets-lectures)

St. Margaret's Hospice

Registered charity number: 279473



# NEWS UPDATE

As you will have seen from the article in the last magazine and from information on the board at the back of Church, the PCC has agreed to partner with seven other B1 churches to sponsor a

## ROC Conversation in Taunton

**On Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup> - Venue to be confirmed**

ROC is a Christian Ministry 100% committed to and involved in the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Its aim is that of community transformation. Any projects that are considered as a result of the Community Conversation will be in response to the expressed needs of the community and will seek to partner with and involve people of goodwill within the community. This has many positive benefits for Kingdom growth, and the remarkable outworking of this can be seen throughout the country where ROC has been working.

The essential ingredients for the churches involved are **PRAYER and CHURCH UNITY**. In Taunton much has happened over the years and there is already a tradition of churches working together within the community, e.g. Street Pastors, Chaplaincy, Besom etc. The ROC conversation will enable this to be celebrated and to explore how this can be developed and further resourced.

**Prayer** is essential for our task in spreading God's Kingdom and this is where everyone can take part. By the time the magazine is out there will have already been three joint prayer meetings, the remaining four are:

**Monday June 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30-9 pm NORTH STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 7.30-9pm LIVING LIGHT CHURCH, Gypsy Lane, Bishop's Hull Tuesday**

**Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30-9pm TAUNTON VINEYARD CHURCH @ Canon Street**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7.30-9pm TAUNTON FAMILY CHURCH @ The Albemarle Centre**



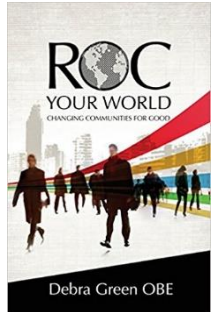
## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

You may be a little sceptical about this ROC business and community transformation. If that's the case a good book to read is

### **ROC YOUR WORLD Changing Communities for Good**

I'm a pretty slow reader, but I read this in one sitting, partly because it was easy to read, partly because it was encouraging and it joined up a lot of dots in my thinking.

It's written by Debra Green OBE the founder of ROC and contains a very solid explanation of the philosophy and rationale behind ROC together with some accounts of developments that have happened that are both encouraging and challenging. If you have one of those funny QR code apps on your smart phone, it will also enable you to listen to interviews / testimonies about the impact of ROC projects.



Fundamentally it acknowledges that in the UK we live in a post-Christian era, where “depending on geography 85-97% of the population have no meaningful frequent connection with Church”. Debra and her team are convinced there needs to be a change in mindset in order to overcome the cultural shift that has happened in our society. “To find more appropriate ways to get people to discover that God is real and relevant...” What she has found is that by engaging with the communities in which we live, with churches prayerfully acting in unity, engaging with people of goodwill who are also seeking to work for the common good, it has been possible to bring God's transforming power into situations that often seem impossible. She talks about miracles of multiplication, where God has taken the small things that we have to offer and using them with the same potency as the miracles of the loaves and fishes or the widow's cruse of oil. However this is no quick fix, the basis of community transformation is relational, building relationship within the community, developing trust, respecting others efforts and showing integrity and commitment.

I can't do the book justice in a short article, but it really is worth a read, if only to encourage you that this is one of the ways that God is active and working, and that it's not all doom and gloom for our society- there is hope and we can be part of it.

## ***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 re-elected as churchwardens and Steve Bradford re-confirmed as Associate Warden.

Jamie Fox, Sheila Marlow and Jenny Wakefield were re-elected to the PCC, and Sue Lucas was also elected, having previously been a co-opted member. Thanks go to Jesse Eveleigh who stepped down from the PCC at the end of his term.

Richard Sainsbury presented the accounts for 2017. Overall, the income was £211,394 and the expenditure £148,263. Most of the surplus was due to a very generous legacy from Sheila Tremaine, and money held in the organ appeal fund at the end of the year.

Joyce Kirk reviewed the events of 2017 and the changes we have been through as a church, offering heartfelt thanks from the Wardens for all the additional assistance and prayer that the church has offered in the time of vacancy.

Steve Bradford then talked the church through the next steps in the process to recruit our new vicar. We have prayed as a church throughout the vacancy process, so we can be confident that the new appointee will be the right person for the role.

### **Safeguarding**

Jenny Wakefield, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, has undertaken some work on risk assessments following requirements from the Diocese. For most purposes we are well covered, through the existing Health and Safety Policy, aide memoires and practice guidance, which various groups are required to work within. Some activities, mainly one-off events or more risky activities, would need to have an additional assessment undertaken, and a form is available for this purpose.

A small group led by Beccy Fox is looking at a church social media policy, using guidance on the Diocesan website. This will cover our Facebook pages and a possible future Twitter account.



## **Data Protection**

Martin Wakefield presented a Data Protection Policy to take into account the new GDPR regulations which are affecting all kinds of organisations. There are three points to note:

- The new policy also serves as the Privacy Notice we are required to make available. This will be posted on the website.
- The contact details form will be updated so that new contacts can indicate their consent for us to use their details. Please be sure to use this form in future. It will be available shortly.
- We have made good progress with compiling a list of all the ways we hold personal data, including such things as group membership lists. If you have not already spoken to Martin and have such records, please speak to him soon.

## **Baby and Toddler Group**

We will be recruiting a new leader for the Baby and Toddler Group, to take over from Sheila Marlow. The PCC decided that, if another volunteer does not come forward, it would be prepared to pay someone to carry out this vital role. Please talk to Kate Taylor if you know of anyone with a Christian ethos who might be interested, either as a volunteer or employee.

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

The PCC was pleased to make a grant to church member Sue Clark, who is now in Bolivia working with CMS.

Reports are made to the PCC on a wide range of matters, but there is insufficient space to do them justice here; including:

- The church houseparty in February 2019.
- Transforming Lives for Good – mentoring school pupils.
- Redeeming Our Communities event in September.
- Citizens UK – CofE involvement through the deanery.
- Coal Orchard redevelopment, as it affects the church
- And reports from the coordinators, who together are covering a very wide range of matters.

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



# NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

Pastoral Care Coordinator - Annie Reid 07812 130619

Church office: 01823 272931 e-mail: [info@stjamestaunton.co.uk](mailto:info@stjamestaunton.co.uk)

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

Magazine Editor - Andrew Slade 01823 259440 e-mail: [3waypersonalprint@gmail.com](mailto:3waypersonalprint@gmail.com)

Churchwardens - Joyce Kirk 01823 971431 / Ruth Stevens 01823 972838

## HOME GROUPS

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

7:30 pm 13 Gyffarde Street

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

7:30 pm 28 Comeytrowe Lane

(Contact Steve Bradford 337690; hosts Wakefields 277318)

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

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

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

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

Thursday

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

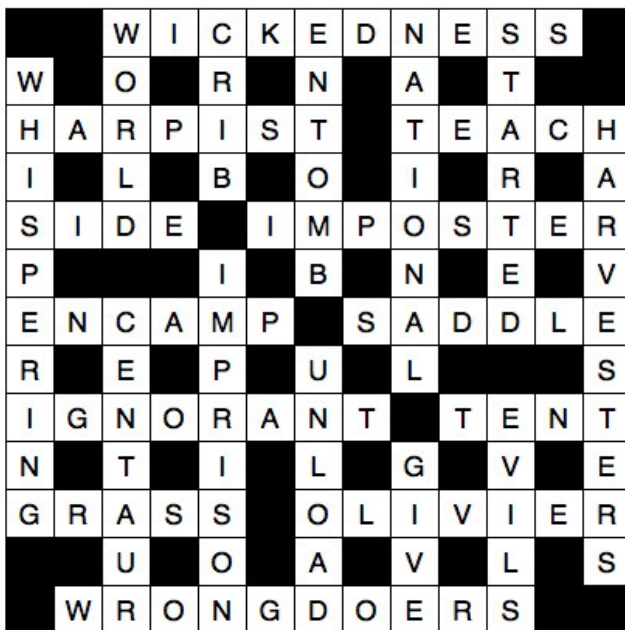
7:30 pm 69 Richmond Road Womens' Group (Contact Margaret Jones 333194)

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

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

## OTHER GROUPS

- Mondays** Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall  
Contact Sheila Marlow 01823 254367
- Tuesdays** Bell ringing (alternate weeks) Contact Marian Gentile (275278)
- Wednesdays** Art Group in the Church Hall Contact Church Office (272931)
- Praise and Play in the Church 9.30am - 11am - for pre-school children and their parents/ carers every Wednesday.  
Contact Kate Taylor (619739)
- Thursdays** Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month)  
in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507)



ACROSS: 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

DOWN: 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils. 20, Give.

# Mystery Object

It's amazing what turns up when you're clearing out! We've recently been rearranging the outer vestry – we had to move stuff around to gain access to the organ, and decided that it was time to retire the ancient large glass-fronted cabinet. We had been working towards this point for some time, and having moved the cabinet out, we didn't want to move it back!



So we emptied out the last few bits and pieces, and this object appeared. Despite having cleared most items from the cabinet a couple of years ago, this one was new to us.

And here it is assembled. It's 220 x 75mm (or 8½" x 3" back when it was made).

The narrow slots would have gone all the way round, including across the removable piece, but the uprights have broken off.

Do you know what it was used for? We think we have worked it out, but it took a while. Don't try searching Google images – we couldn't find anything like it. If you want to see it, it's in the office.



Answer in the next magazine (if we remember). And a special commendation in the notices for the first correct (non clergy) answer (and that's the only clue you get!).

*The Premises Team*

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The Next Newsletter is due out on 2nd September. All entries for this Newsletter must be submitted by end of 31st July. All entries are at the discretion of the Editorial team and the space available.