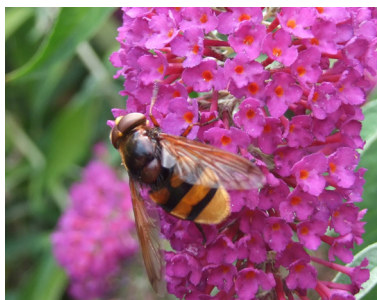


# St James Church Magazine



September - November 2018 Edition

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## WELCOME

My family and I are grateful for the wonderful sense of welcome we have experienced since we arrived in Taunton. The cards, the help, the smiles, the kind words and the prayers have all played a part in making us feel particularly welcome into our new home and into my new role as Vicar of St James.

I think that welcome, or hospitality, most clearly defines Jesus' mission and ministry. Many of the stories found in the gospels point to what it means to welcome someone, to include them, to show hospitality. Before there was healing, there was a welcome. Before a miracle, there was a welcome. I have always been amazed by Jesus' welcome and how he opened his arms to the unwelcomed of his day, those struck by infirmities (the blind, the crippled and the lame), those regarded as nobodies because of their status (the poor, the tax collectors). He invited the little children who were considered by the culture to be invisible, to come to him. He welcomed the women, also a cultural boundary not to be crossed, to sit with him and discover the love of God. For me, the most outrageous and profound act of welcoming is summarised at the cross. For God showed his love for us in that "while we were still busy unwelcoming God in our lives" (my loose translation) Christ died for us! (Rom. 5:8).

Since God took the initiative to welcome us back home with an act of grace, let us learn to be outrageously generous in our welcome this month. Let us find creative ways to be generous with our time, in our attitude, in the way we treat others and make them feel loved and important. It is time to reaffirm that little things matter, that small gestures of kindness and welcome are deeply remembered. Contrary to what society wants us to believe, we do not have to be heroic or make grand gestures to make a difference. Every little gesture of kindness and welcome have the potential to transform the lives of others. We should never underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around and are signs of God's welcome.

With our love and thanks,  
Rev. Fabian Wuyts and family.

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## Who's move?

I have never really grappled enough with the intricacies of chess to have been able to master the game. However, I have dabbled enough to learn the permitted moves of each piece and to understand that the overall aim of the game is to move each piece in such a way that eventually victory is won. The grand master triumphs by his strategic moves. Normally, each piece on the board, though vitally different in its role, can play an important part in the ultimate victory. Each piece is in the hand of the Grandmaster. Each move is the result of the overall plan in the mind of the Master.

The God of the Bible is a mover and a shaker. His command to move can sometimes shake us from the relative ease of our lives, our complacency and our stultified expectations of God. Scripture, however, does seem to suggest that when God is planning his strategy, he often moves certain people out. As God begins to implement his salvation plan, Abram receives the order to move at the age of seventy five with no indication to where he was moving. Prior to the deliverance of his people from

Egypt, God moves Moses from the comfort of palace life with Pharaoh to the everyday labour of a shepherd in exile. Forty years later Moses is on the move again with a return ticket to Egypt.

After leading a settled life for three years, Elijah becomes a man of no fixed abode as God moves him to Ahab's palace, the brook Kidron, Zarephath before being moved back to the royal palace and then on to Mount Carmel and later Horeb. Nehemiah had to exchange his role as a royal wine taster in Persia for that of a major project manager in order for Jerusalem to be rebuilt.

The induction of a new incumbent here at St James is another reminder that God moves people out and in, from one task for another. I was also reminded of this at the July Prayer Meeting when someone prayed that God would show us whether he/ we should be prepared to move from positions and responsibilities which we currently hold, if we discern that to be the will of God for us and the church.

In many churches there are individuals longing for a release from the responsibilities which they have held and exercised for so long. At the same time, I am sure that there are others who when the possibility is mentioned, tighten their grip upon their position, determined not to release it for another to take hold of.

But God uses different people at different stages of his work. As a work develops, different insights and skills may be required to develop that work further. It is very unlikely that God will make that person redundant- does he ever? It may mean moving out in order to move over and to move in to another area of church life. Alternatively it may be a call to hang in and to continue the work which you are doing. A willingness to obey God's promptings will be a blessing to that person and a blessing to the rest of the church. The vision and the strategy is ultimately God's. Our part is to be willing to be moved to the most strategic part of the board to ensure ultimate victory. The glory is for God, after all, and not for us.

Geoff Treasure



Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock,  
Bishop of Bath and Wells  
For Parish Newsletters - September 2018



## **A SAFER CHURCH FOR ALL**

Two years ago I was asked by the two Archbishops to become the lead bishop for safeguarding for the Church of England. This is a responsibility I undertake alongside my ministry as Bishop of Bath and Wells.

I was therefore much involved with the July's General Synod, which once again had an important focus on safeguarding. During the debates I spoke about the Church's journey of safeguarding; our history (with many shameful episodes), our present (a commitment to improve but a work in progress) and our hopes for the future (ensuring the Church is a safe and welcoming place for all).

I have been asked on more than one occasion whether the role of safeguarding bishop should fall to a bishop who already has responsibility for a diocese and my answer is always an emphatic 'yes'. Since 2016 I may have been the face of the Church of England on safeguarding matters, but providing a safer church for all is the responsibility of every one of us and I believe that my connection with life in the parishes is essential to my national role.

In our diocese we have a first-rate safeguarding team who are supporting the hugely dedicated people in our parishes who are playing their part to ensure our churches are the place of safety they should be. I am deeply grateful for all that they do and it will be an honour this month to preside over a service in Wells Cathedral which recognises the particular contribution and commitment of all our Parish Safeguarding Officers.

I have said we must own the responsibility of safeguarding in every diocese

and in every Cathedral, parish and chaplaincy and this is a group of individuals who has taken this responsibility to heart and is acting to deliver it. They deserve our thanks. The service will be at 2.00pm on Saturday, 29 September and everyone is welcome to come to show their support for this important work of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The church has acknowledged and apologised to survivors of church-related abuse and has reiterated its commitment to address and learn from the failings of the past. However, it is in the courage and grace of the survivors I have met along with the commitment of all individuals in the parishes where I find the hope for the future as we strive together to make the Church a safer place for all.

With warm Christian greetings,

**The Rt Revd Peter Hancock**

Bishop of Bath and Wells





## St James Funday & evening Taizé service

The views from the top of the tower were magnificent for those who climbed up on the day of our annual Fun Day. Over 60 people braved the 132 steps to the top visiting the bell tower on the way, and were shown how the bells were rung by Marian, Alan, Mary and Andrew.



Those who didn't want to risk the climb could see the action on the monitor below.

For those too young or less agile there were art and craft activities and displays of our banners and windows. In the South Aisle the bouncy castle was very popular with the under 1.1 metres, our first customer arriving before we had officially opened the



doors. Children bounced from castle to craft tables and back again!

Ruth and the refreshment relay team were kept busy all day serving coffee, tea, homemade cakes and lunches.



Outside Norman took fun day flyers to the park and Martin was outside with Richard Sainsbury's tower photos, inviting passers by to come and see what was happening inside.







Freda was busy with her Traidcraft stall.



While in the creche area Betty singlehandedly demonstrated how to make God's eyes, as part of our Taunton Live Yarn Bombing activity in the town. The art group were on hand to demonstrate different styles of painting



At 3.45 pm



the last visitor climbed the tower and after a quick cuppa it was all hands to move 250 chairs to return the church to "normal" for the evening Taizé service. This provided a change of mood to the busy atmosphere of the day and at 7.30 Chris, Ray, Ruth and Lizzie led a beautifully contemplative service in the Taizé style.

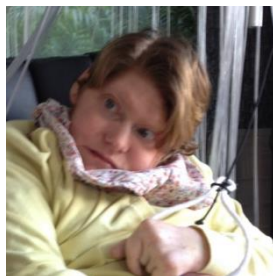


Thank you to everyone who helped before, after and during and to those who came to support, enabling over 140 or so people to experience us as a church community in a variety of ways.



## Mary's Beat

Some you reading this magazine will remember Mary Dyer, who worshipped at St. James until the end of 2016, after which she suffered from illness and finally died in March 2018.



Mary was born with profound disabilities but that didn't stop her having a very full and enriching life during her 29 years. She was greatly loved by her family and following her death last year they set up a fund to *"help make it a little easier for people with disabilities in Somerset and Devon to have musical experiences, music therapy and/ or to be able to take part in outdoor activities – as you know these are things which enriched Mary's life and also those who knew Mary and shared those experiences with her."*

The fund is called **Mary's Beat** and is administered by The Somerset Community Foundation. The SCF website (see link below) gives details of the fund and how to apply for a grant. Currently the fund is open for applications".

[www.somersetcf.org.uk/marysbeat](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/marysbeat)



In July this year Mary's dad, Piers and her Aunt Rachel, set out on a 912 mile cycle ride from Cossington to Le Mans to raise funds for Mary's Beat. In 2000 Mary and her family took part in a "tortoise and hare" ride from Leatherhead to Le Mans (picture right) and so 18 years later Piers and Rachel

have repeated the journey in Mary's memory. They have surpassed their original goal of £1500 by raising nearer to £2000.

They arrived home in Cossington to bells and whistles and a wonderful welcome from family and friends, having travelled the 912 miles in 23 days. To read about the trip go to

<http://marysbeat1.blogspot.com/>



# Voice says goodbye to Rod and Rita

**Voice** is our young people's discipleship group, held jointly with St Mary's on Friday evenings. Rod and Rita Corke were very involved from the beginning three years ago, so it was with



sadness we had to say goodbye to them before they left to go to their new parish in Great Malvern. We are missing Rita's warmth and love and Rod's great wisdom and crazy games. To commemorate the last meeting with them we had a communion service up on the roof of St Mary's church, just as the sun was setting. The roof is easily accessed from the little room called the Priest chamber where we usually meet. Even Ollie (heights not his favourite thing!) enjoyed the view and it was a very special time.

Nick and Maureen have now stepped up to lead with Liz from St James.

A few weeks later a group from Voice joined up with Christians from all different churches to pray for the young people of Taunton. There was a wonderful sense of unity and a real desire to reach out and nurture our young people. Taunton Youth for Christ, led by their Chairperson Kate Solanki, organised the event and we joined in leading a slot of prayers.

Taunton Youth for Christ are organising an all Taunton worship night for young people on **September 15<sup>th</sup> at Taunton Baptist Church**. Voice will be going as a group, as always all young people of secondary school age are welcome to join us. We usually meet at 7.45pm Friday evenings at St Mary's church, please contact **Liz Sykes for further details**.

L.S.



## Weeds, Windows, Working Party and the sound of Willow Whacking



The first evening of the Summer Working parties got off to a cracking start as a team of fourteen willing volunteers reported to Stan to tackle jobs around the churchyard. It was a lovely fine evening and entertainment was provided by the cheers and razzamatazz of Somerset whacking willow to beat Hampshire next door in the Cricket ground. Meanwhile

indoors Cynthia and Lin got to work on repairing the service books, and Stan made sure the promised cake and coffee was served up. So by the time this edition of the magazine is out the August cleanup will be concluded thanks to the organisation of the Facilities Team and all those who came to help.



Stan with his right  
and left hand men.



John on window painting – only six more to go!



Howzat! Joyce joining the team after watching Somerset win!



Barbara taking a breather from weeding



Any one for a trim – barbering the yew tree.



Roger heading for new heights with the ladders.



There's a hole in the churchyard dear wardens, dear wardens.

But who gets the job of unblocking the drains?





# NEWS UPDATE

## ROC CONVERSATION

When the magazine comes out on September 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be only 24 days to  
**the launch of the ROC Conversation on**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at the Rugby Ground 7-9 pm**

The steering group is planning for between 200-250 people to be present on that evening from a range of community organisations across Taunton Deane. Some will be statutory - police, county and town council, health etc and others will be voluntary from both faith and non-faith standpoints.

The common factor is bringing together people of goodwill who are seeking the good of the community we live in.

Sponsored by the Christian-based Organisation ROC, we are praying that God will use this opportunity to do great things in Taunton. PRAYER & UNITY among the churches is key to this so PLEASE:

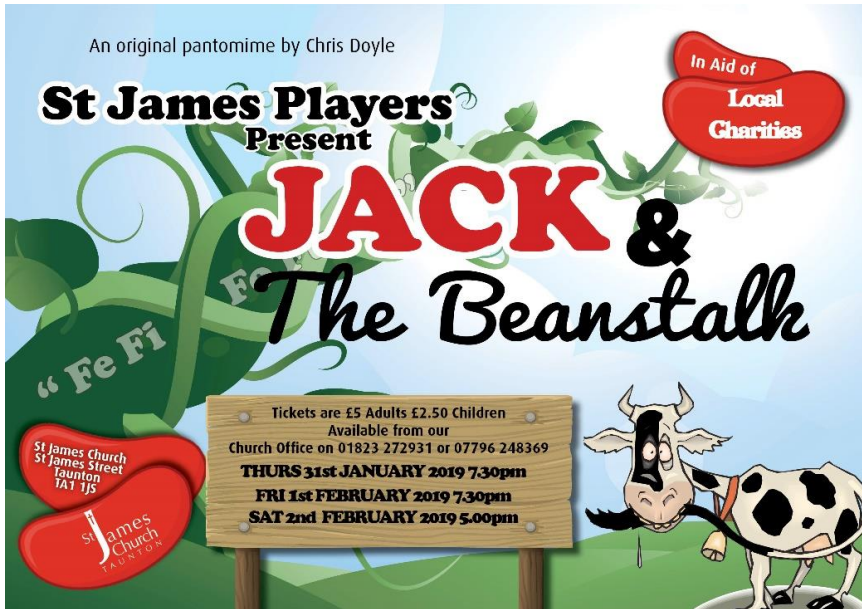
- Pray for the event and the people who will be attending.
- Pray for the organisation of the event, the nuts and bolts practicalities.
- Pray for the churches in Taunton and their leaders that they will grow in unity.
- Pray for Debra Green and the ROC Team as they prepare for coming to Taunton.
- Pray for Guidance as to what Actions will result from the Conversation.
- Pray for ROC Tavistock and what has been started by ROC there and ROC Aylesbury for their conversation in October.

**AND ESPECIALLY COME TO THE FINAL JOINT PRAYER MEETING ON TUESDAY  
11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER @ 7.30 TAUNTON FAMILY CHURCH @ The Albemarle Centre,  
Albemarle Road, Taunton**

**For more information speak to Jenny Wakefield or Roger Fenton**



# Oh, yes it is!!



Preparations are well under way for the  
6<sup>th</sup> St James Biennial Pantomime – and the  
secret is out...it's

## Jack and the Beanstalk!

Rehearsals are now under way and tickets will be on sale in October. If you would like to be involved and haven't already signed up, please speak to any one of the following:

Jenny Wakefield, Ruth Crooks,  
Bethan Baigent or Chris Doyle



## Fabian and Vashti have arrived



It was with great pleasure and anticipation that the St. James family, local clergy, readers, other church leaders and members of the local community gathered to welcome Fabian as Vicar of St. James. We were joined by thirty members of the church in Seasalter who had travelled to support Fabian and Vashti at the start of their new ministry. Bishop Ruth, lead the service with a blend of warmth, reverence, informality and joy. We wish Fabian, Vashti, Nadia, Raphaël, Chiara and Nathan every blessing and happiness as they settle into their new home.



“And now for the notices”

The wardens looking relieved now after all the hard work of the last few months, Fabian is now installed as our Vicar.



Mike leading the procession with the processional cross re-borrowed from St. Mary's.



Accepting the symbols of ministry - the mayor presents a map of Taunton

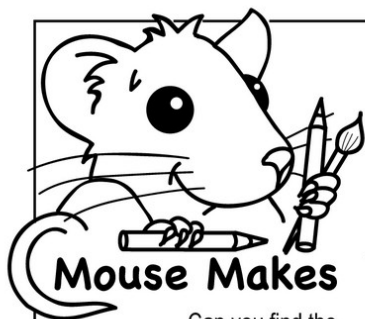


"How many cups will we need, tonight?" Lots!!

Meeting members of the congregation at the after service celebration.







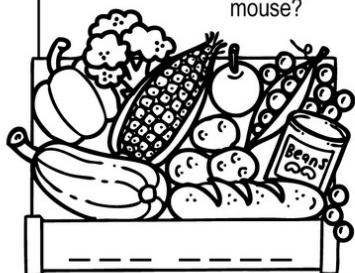
Can you find the mouse?

## A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSCT 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.



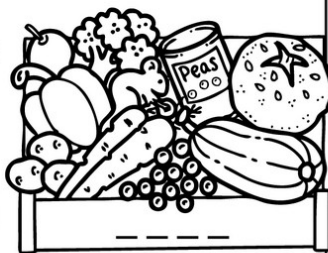
IPOPVS



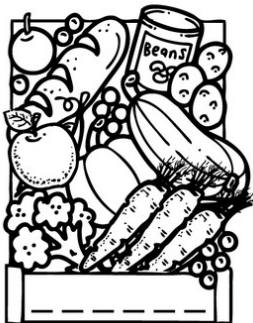
UIF MPSE



XJUI



ZPVS



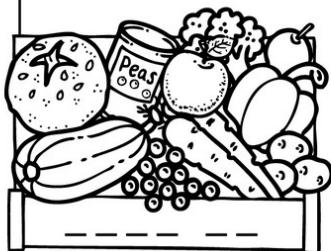
XFBMUI



BOE UIF



GJSTU



QBSU PG



ZPVS



IBSWFTU

Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom.  
A vineyard owner went to the marketplace  
at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

I'll pay you the normal  
wage for a day's work.



He went out again  
at 9 o'clock ...



and mid-day ...

and 3 o'clock ...

and again with just 1 hour  
to go before sunset.



I'll pay you a fair wage

At the end of the day ..



Pay the last workers first.

They were given a  
whole day's wage..



and so were those who  
had worked all day.



You paid them the same  
and we worked all day!



My friend, you agreed to  
work for a day's wage

I want to give those  
who were hired last  
the same as you got.



Can't I do what I want  
with my own money?

Or are you jealous because  
I'm good to others?



Jesus concluded...



So those  
who are  
now last will be  
first, and the first last.

# WORD SEARCH

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

story

God

friend

same

marketplace

money

give

grapes

Jesus

kingdom

day

wage

fair

sunset

vineyard

again

whole

first

paid

workers

jealous

last

owner

hired

# BESOM

The Besom in Taunton has grown substantially in the past 18 months, praise God, with the leasing of a warehouse, enabling greater storage, improved efficiencies, and opportunity to clean and repair donated goods. The result has been more furniture, white goods, household items being available and delivered free to more needy families and individuals in our community. We continue to work closely with most of the local social working agencies which provides a way to ensure our services and goods are directed to those in greatest need.

A number of regular volunteers meet at the warehouse every Tuesday and Thursday between 10 and 12, and enjoy fellowship whilst cleaning and repairing furniture etc, and to pray for the needs and work of the charity. You would be most welcome to join us.

Besom continues to provide crisis food boxes to the most needy. Working alongside the Taunton Food Bank, Besom is able to respond to particular needs and diets, and delivers to those physically unable to collect from the Food Bank. St James Church has recently agreed for The Besom in Taunton to have a food box, located in the lobby area, for those church members wishing to donate items of food. There is a standard list of food and household items given out in the Besom boxes and we would welcome any donations.

Besom continue to undertake projects – decorating and gardening - helping those individuals and families unable to tackle the job themselves. Volunteering to work on these projects provides Christians with a way to use their God-given gifts and the opportunity to witness their love of Jesus; at the same time growing fellowship between church members of the same church and other local churches working together.

We would welcome your support for the work of Besom within our local community – the giving of your time, your donations of food, furniture or household items and especially your prayer for the work and ministry of The Besom in Taunton. Do please come and visit us at the warehouse, Unit 8, Crown Close, Crown Industrial Estate, Taunton, TA2 8RX any Tuesday or Thursday morning.

Elaine Fenton  
07432 629444





## St James Church School Leavers Service



This was held on the last day of term and was bound to be an emotional occasion for the 38 leavers present and their hard-working teachers, Miss Gudgeon and Ms Lacey and their teaching assistants. The service was a lovely mixture of prayers, singing, memories and humour. The songs and readings were aspirational and hopeful. Dictionaries were given to each child and cups for effort, hard work and progress over the year. Parents were given a glimpse of the Kilve trip that had been a formative experience for many earlier in the year and then the Leaver's Film: in this the children gave their interviews about their school experience, what they had learned and what it meant to them, culminating in Miss Gudgeon's fun videoing of the school community dancing, walking, somersaulting, fast forwarding and backwarding, to the delight of the entire school. What stands out is the positive relationships and encouragement to do their best and be the best they can be.



In a remarkable joint class presentation the whole year recited in relay "The Places you will Go" by Dr Seuss, with hopes of positives



juxtaposed with warnings that there will be tough times, lonely times but ending with the positive statement:

*...and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.  
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.  
And never mix up your right foot with your left.  
And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed!  
(98 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent guaranteed.)  
KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!  
So...  
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray  
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,  
you're off to Great Places! Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way.*

The poem has resonances of Pilgrim's Progress, as the pilgrim faces the challenges of life following his commitment to God.

As a church, let us pray that the children will hold on to what they have learnt, fulfil their dreams and that they will come to understand the words of Jesus:

***I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

(John 10 v 10) which is the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust motto for their schools.

Following the service, parents took the opportunity to take photos and thank the teachers and staff for their hard work. Then the Year Six Leavers had their opportunity to assail different heights by climbing the tower, visiting the Bell chamber, and ring a bell, with Marian, Alan, Mary and Andrew. Meanwhile down below, Peter Jeanes introduced the children to the newly refurbished organ with a little bit of Bach and invited some of the children to have a go.

Goodbye Year 6, in the words of the final blessing given by Nicki at the end of the service:

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

## Painting by numbers...

W.H. Smiths used to have a series of books in which you could paint by numbers. Inside the covers were famous pictures with the colours removed. Each segment of the picture was given a number for the colours to use for that part of the picture. In an instant, or after a few weeks of effort, I could be Van Gogh or Constable or Picasso or anyone else in the book. Not really! The reaction to my efforts would not be anything like a reaction to the real thing.

Last year we visited the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and like hundreds of others that day we stood overwhelmed by Rembrandt's portraits and Vermeer's studies (my own favourite was the 'Girl with a pearl ear ring') It wasn't painting with numbers, following a pattern laid down by someone else. This was something wrung out of a person's heart, the whole of their being was poured out on to a canvas. I am no art critic, but it seems to me that what the artist is after if not only to create an image, a portrait, or a vista, but to create a reaction.

A reaction that comes from the heart as well as the mind..

Is it too big a jump to translate this into our worship, our response to God? We have to respond by heart and not by anything else. One of the most challenging of preachers I knew and I was asked to be his helper (mainly for my benefit and not his!) He could be divisive, he could be challenging, he could open doors in our minds, make you examine yourself and your beliefs. Most of all, you could not ignore him. You could go on a journey with him or walk away. But forget him? No.

One of the authors I recently discovered, John Pritchard, wrote this about worship, 'worship should not be routinised'. What a challenge!

To go outside the familiar and comfortable - that is, outside our comfort zones, outside our familiarities. In worship we are responding to the image, the sense of God that has been created.

In my own personal pilgrimage or in my ministry, this came home in a very dramatic and soul-searching way. My sense of worship was transformed when I was influenced by the Iona Community. The openness, the world view, the seeing of everything I do as an act of worship was life changing.

That's it! Worship that involves the whole of life! What more could anyone want? A constantly transformed and transforming Church? Isn't this the Spirit working in us and with us?

Brian Stocks



## Let's **pray** for our young people

**"And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily."**

Luke 18:7-8a (ESV)

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Pursuit and Taunton Youth for Christ are hosting another evening of extended prayer and worship for the young people of Taunton.

Young people, parents and grandparents are welcome to join us at any time between 6pm and 10pm on Friday 5th October at Riverside Church.

**Let's pray together and see breakthrough!**

For further information please contact  
[letsprayfortaunton@gmail.com](mailto:letsprayfortaunton@gmail.com)

# JACOB'S LADDER

In Colossians chapter 1, Paul writes 'Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He existed before the world began and he holds all creation together.'

Modern day scientists lend some weight to Paul's words. For example:



- We have 24 hours in a day. If the Earth were to spin very slightly faster, the night side would be dramatically colder and the daytime dramatically hotter.
- The size of Earth is just right for sustaining life. Any bigger, gravity would be higher and there would be so much ammonia at ground level we wouldn't be able to breathe. Any smaller, gravity would be lower and water vapour at the surface would dissipate. We need water to survive.
- If Jupiter were any smaller, Earth would be subject to strikes by asteroids (comets). Jupiter is 11 times bigger than Earth and attracts asteroids towards it because of its gravitational pull.
- There are four fundamental forces in the universe: Gravitational; Weak nuclear (radioactivity); Strong nuclear (holds protons and neutrons together) and Electromagnetic (holds atoms and molecules together). Scientists think that if any of these forces were to vary by more than 2%, the universe could not exist.

Scientific understanding is developing all the time. One of the early Popes, Gregory I ('The Great'), who dispatched Augustine as a missionary to England in 597, described our country as being at the end of the universe! At the last count, there were 10 billion trillion stars in the universe. The light from some stars which is now hitting Earth has been travelling at 186,000 miles a second from the time Jesus was born. The physicist Paul Davies says "The impression of design is overwhelming."

This summer you may have visited Sidmouth and used a local landmark, Jacob's Ladder, to get down to the beach from Connaught Gardens. The first route constructed in 1871 was literally a ladder, but the original had to be replaced and a concrete base was provided in 1934 to prevent the foundations washing away. The present stairway was installed in the mid 1960's.

In Genesis Chapter 28 we read about Jacob's dream in which he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, with angels from God going up and down on it. On waking from the dream, he declared, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I wasn't even aware of it... what an awesome place this is...it is the house of God, the gateway to heaven." Jacob was a deceitful and flawed man in many ways, but God spoke to him nonetheless, something which might be encouraging to us all. This Biblical story made me think that, figuratively speaking, the ladder to heaven is always there, but it is not always visible.

It might not be visible when we have times of doubt, or when we lose faith. However, there is resounding encouragement in Acts 17 which gives us all firm hope: 'God is not far away from any of us.'

The American poet Mary Oliver wrote this poem, called the Song of the Builders, which is about human potential:

On a summer morning  
I sat down  
on a hillside  
to think about God -  
  
a worthy pastime.  
Near me, I saw  
a single cricket;  
it was moving the grains of the hillside  
  
this way and that way.  
How great was its energy,  
how humble its effort.  
Let us hope  
  
it will always be like this,  
each of us going on  
in our inexplicable ways  
building the universe.

Does this scientific information about the universe make you feel insignificant? Like an ant in a city, or a cricket on a hillside? The creator of the universe returned to earth as Jesus to remind us that we are all supremely significant to Him. Together we can change the world, if we are prepared to return back to being the people God created us to be. It's that simple, providing the ladder has a firm foundation. He is not far away...

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

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

### **Safeguarding**

Jenny Wakefield, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, presented the annual safeguarding report. The main points to note are:

- 58 people have completed safer recruitment procedures requiring references and DBS checks. There are many other roles where non-DBS safe recruitment is needed, but volunteers still need to be aware of any safeguarding issues that could be involved, the support and training available, and the need for safe working practices.
- 62 church members have done the basic C0 training course, 65 have done C1, and a small number have done more advanced courses. 46 members still need to do C0, 18 C1, and 8 C2. A C2 course is being arranged in September. More C0 and C1 courses will be run locally to pick up the remaining people.
- Risk assessment guidance and processes for all church-based activities has been reviewed. Overall assessments are recorded in the Health and Safety Policy; Safe Working Reminders are issued to all members annually; guidance is made available to C&YP leaders; food preparation guidance is available, and the warden's aide memoire covers various matters pertaining to Sunday services. Separate assessments should be carried out for matters not covered in the standing guidance.

### **Transforming Lives for Good (TLG)**

The PCC reviewed progress with the proposal to set up a TLG mentoring scheme with our church school. We also noted that a similar scheme is being looked at by Taunton YFC, "The Accompanying Project", which supports vulnerable children through the transition from primary to secondary school; it could make sense to join in with that rather than go down a different route.

The PCC is definitely interested in looking further at a mentoring scheme along one of these lines and would be prepared in principle to fund it. We will look at this again in October.

## **Finance**

Richard Sainsbury reported that finances are running as expected. A final payment had been received from the estate of Sheila Tremaine, bringing the total of her legacy to £46,235.

It was agreed to follow the practice of previous years and make mid-year grants of £500 to our four non-local mission partners (Barnabas Fund, TearFund, Samaritan's Purse and WEC). A full review of mission giving has been scheduled for November.

A grant has been made to Nicki Bradford towards her training for ordination. While the course is paid for by the CofE, other expenses such as needing a dedicated laptop are not, and students find that the allowance for books is inadequate.

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

- Planning continues for the Redeeming Our Communities event in September, being promoted by a group of B1 churches.
- David and Margie Whitehorn, our mission links with WEC, have been asked to consider staying on for a further three years in their role as Africa Area Directors.
- The PCC expressed its thanks to Steve Gill, whose Soul Space group organised a Pizza party for visitors from Zambia.

## **Coordinators**

The PCC receives notes from the monthly meetings of the coordinators. These meetings have been happening throughout the vacancy and have been most useful in discussing operational matters and for the coordinators to support each other.

## **Thank You! Thank You!**

Many thanks to Jacky Gillingham, who has been on the PCC for 25 years – as an ordinary member, churchwarden, Deanery Synod representative and latterly as a member of Diocesan Synod.

Thanks too to Steve Bradford, who has ably and firmly chaired the PCC during the vacancy, and set a record for early finishes, for which we are all grateful!

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

*MW*



## **“I AM AN ORDINAND”**

Many of you will know that I have been selected to train for ordained ministry, so I'd like to share a little of what that means.

The process of discernment is a long process involving a number of stages. For me this began back in 2013 when I went to see a vocations chaplain. He then recommended that I saw an assistant diocesan discernment advisor (ADDO). For various reasons including the retirement of my original advisor and my own unsuccessful first attempt at panel this has meant seeing two different advisors over several years, but the process at this stage normally takes about a year. Finally, in April I attended a 3 day Bishops Advisory Panel in Stafford. The panel is held over 3 days and includes three interviews, a presentation and group discussions, a written exercise and generally being observed the whole time unless worshipping or asleep! During this time, you are being asked to demonstrate that you fulfil nine criteria covering a call to ordination and the skills and characteristics that will be required in a priest.

From that a report and recommendation is sent to the Bishop (in my case Bishop Ruth) who decides whether to send you for training. I heard my result from a phone call whilst Bishop Ruth and my ADDO were waiting at Heathrow Airport for their flight to Zambia, which led to the rather bizarre experience of Sarah my ADDO telling me I had got through with a shout of congratulations from Bishop Ruth in the background.

I will be training to be an incumbent (full-time paid) minister so when my training is complete will be moving to take up a curacy somewhere, however for now I will remain at St James as I will be juggling part-time training with working. I am following a course with Sarum College based in Salisbury. This includes 10-15 hours a week self-directed online study, plus a week's summer school and regular weekends away. At the moment, this means I will step back from all activity at Church, unless it relates to tasks and activities required as part of my study.

At the time of writing this I have just received a large pack of reading and preparation for my first Summer School which begins in August. The focus of the week will be Practical and Pastoral Theology. I look forward to finding out what that is about. By the time you read this article I will have been to Sarum, so do come and ask me and hopefully I will be able to tell you!

Thank you all for your support and encouragement so far and please do keep praying as I study.

Nicki Bradford

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## September Prayer

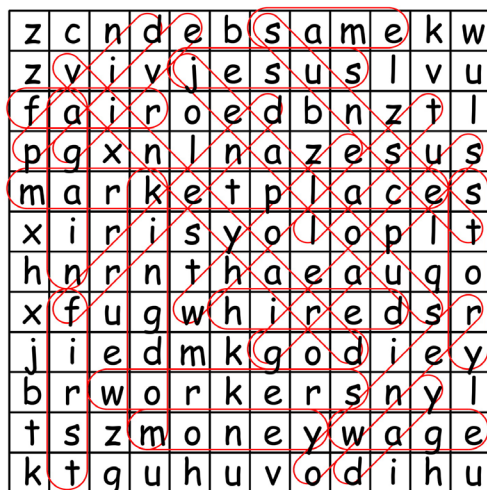
Dear Father,

September again! How quickly the months roll by. How quickly our lives move forward.

Help us this September to welcome the new starts in our every-day lives – the new school year, the new clubs and activities for all ages that start up again this month. There are so many opportunities, so much to keep us busy. Help us Lord, this September to commit each new day and each new activity to you, aware that every day is a gift from you.

Help us to choose wisely how we spend the time you give us and to reflect your love and generosity and kindness to those we meet each day. In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



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### DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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