



# **St James Church Magazine**



**March - June 2019**



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## *Thank you Andrew*

For the last eight years Andrew Slade has been the editor of the St James Magazine, and his quiet dedication to providing the church with a quality newsletter every three months (and on time) has been much appreciated. Certainly the increased circulation is a good indicator, at Christmas we had 150 copies printed and we needed to run off extra copies by the New Year.



This is the first edition without Andrew at the helm, but the content, style and method of production owes much to the pattern he has set. During this time, Andrew has also been Transport Co-ordinator, another of those vital, behind-the-scenes roles co-ordinating lifts for those who would not otherwise be able to attend services at St James.

Andrew has felt it is time to step down from his roles as editor and Transport Co-ordinator, and he and Mandy hope to spend more time with the church in the area in which they live. However, they won't be leaving entirely and plan to worship at St James once month, to keep in touch with the family here.

Thank you, Andrew, for your dedication, perseverance and skill - we'll try to keep up to your standards.

# Growing from the inside out



Ask any successful athlete about the key to their success and they're likely to mention discipline. At church and in our home groups, we have been exploring the Spiritual disciplines or practices that have been central to Christian life over the centuries.

I hope we are discovering or rediscovering together how those spiritual practices are meant to facilitate God's transforming work from the inside out. At the beginning of his book "Celebration of Discipline: the Path to Spiritual Growth," Richard Foster reminds us all that "superficiality is the curse of our age." He says that our greatest need is not for more intelligent or gifted people, but for more people with real depth. The spiritual practices we have been exploring call us to move beyond surface living into the depths. They invite us to explore the inner caverns and equip us to be an answer to a hollow world.



I am glad that he chose the word 'Celebration' in his title because the very purpose of the spiritual practices is liberation from the suffocating slavery to self-interest and fear. When we are being transformed from the inside out our true self is liberated from all that weighs it down.

*(continued overleaf)*



While we must be clear to say that inner righteousness is a gift from God to be graciously received (Ephesians 2:8-9), God has given us the practices of the spiritual life as a means to grow. The apostle Paul wrote, “he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:8). That farming analogy is very helpful. A farmer

is helpless to grow grain, all he can do is provide the right conditions for the growing of grain. He cultivates the ground, he plants the seeds, he irrigates and nurtures, but growth happens when the natural forces of the earth take over.

For Richard Foster, Spiritual Disciplines are God’s way of getting us into the ground; they put us where he can work within us and transform us. It is now my hope and prayer that those practices will grow in all of our lives and the life of his church. In time we will start to see growth and share stories. Let us remember this: our world is hungry for genuinely changed people. Let us be among those who believe that the inner transformation of our lives is a goal worthy of our best effort.

*Fabian*

Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James

## The Thursday Fellowship



The picture shows the Thursday Fellowship group in January 2019. The group is open to ladies and gentlemen and meets at 2:30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Do feel free to come along for fun, fellowship and to meet other members of the congregation for a relaxed afternoon.

Contact Vicky Dykes for more information

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### Traidcraft at St James'

Shona Gilmour-White was selling Traidcraft goodies for many years and when I first came to be a member of St James' nearly three years ago, I knew it was something I had wanted to do more of. Shona invited both Lin Davies and myself to talk about future options and with Lin's boundless enthusiasm and my clear commitment, we agreed to share the task.

Shona had told us that she had sent a few hundred pounds from time to time to the sister charity called, Fairtrade Exchange. It is with great pride and a fitting tribute to Lin that Richard Sainsbury was able to send nearly £800 to Fairtrade Exchange in December 2018!

Traidcraft has undergone an economic reality shock but I'm excited to say is continuing as a charity! However, there are and will be some more changes to the availability of items that we can sell in the future.

After Lin's health deteriorated last year she very graciously handed over responsibility to me. I wish to thank Richard for helping me with the finances and new recruits, Ellen Price and Michael Hayes as we continue with monthly stalls in church.

Please talk to us about ordering and about any information or issues that you do not understand! With heartfelt thanks to all who purchase ANYTHING that has the Fairtrade logo!

Freda Davis: [fredadavis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fredadavis@hotmail.co.uk)





Letter from the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton

*For Parish Newsletters – March 2019*

### ***Let Him look at you***

The other day, someone was speaking about visiting with her elderly mum. She was telling us that whenever she visited she would offer to do any jobs that might be needed and beyond her mum's reach. Her mum's response was to say: **“Just sit down and let me look at you”**. I've been thinking about that conversation ever since.

What a wonderful thing to say to your child, **“Just sit down and let me look at you”**.

She was sharing this vignette, a year after her mum's death. There are no more opportunities for her mum to 'sit and look at her'. How glad she is that she took the time while her mum was alive.

I wonder if I can say the same. Have I made time for the things that really matter or am I so focused on the tasks at hand that I forget the need for space to develop relationships? I have a sense that this isn't just about the people who matter to me but also that it may be Jesus speaking to me as well. **“Just sit down and let me look at you”**.

The story of Mary and Martha opening up their home to Jesus in hospitality perhaps reminds us most of the priority of spending time in the presence of Jesus. Martha complains at Mary's lack of

support in helping with the household jobs. Jesus' response is to suggest that Martha has become so distracted with the 'tasks' of hospitality that she has missed the point of what welcome and relationship is.

We often think of this story as being about Mary and Martha's priorities. Which is of greater significance? Our attitude of service or that of spiritual exploration? However, I'm wondering if Jesus was saying something more. "**Just sit down and let me look at you**". What would Jesus see if He looked at you? **How** does He look at you?

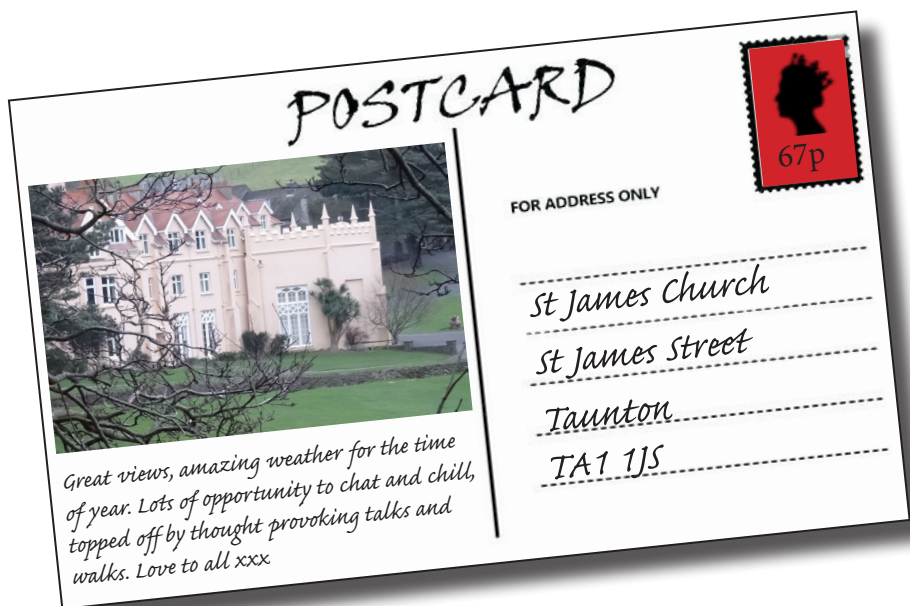
March 8th is International Women's Day, often an opportunity to remind us that society's way of looking at women has changed over the years. The 'Me Too' movement has revealed some of the ways in which women have been objectified resulting in forms of abuse. Alongside that growing realisation we are increasingly aware that many women and men feel a sense of dissatisfaction with how they look and can find their mental health affected as a result. Many of us find another person looking at us, uncomfortable.

I'd like to suggest that we might hear these words, "**Just sit down and let me look at you**", as an invitation from Jesus to spend time under his gaze this week. Not as a means of incurring shame but rather to receive the look of love that he so wants us to see.

*The Right Revd Ruth Worsley*

Bishop of Taunton





A weekend in rural Devon in February might sound a little risky given the vagaries of our English climate, but yet again Lee Abbey proved to be a place of rest and relaxation for the 70 of us who were fortunate enough to go. We were a mixed bunch, as you can see from the picture below, which captured almost all of us (thank you, photographer Steve). As ever there proved to be something for everyone...and NO WIFI or PHONE RECEPTION! Here are a few selected memories.







Time for  
togetherness and  
talking; taking on  
new skills and  
taking time out  
to be together as  
family in all its  
many guises.



Even time for knitting,  
tinkling the ivories and  
escaping into Lynton  
for a Cream Tea!

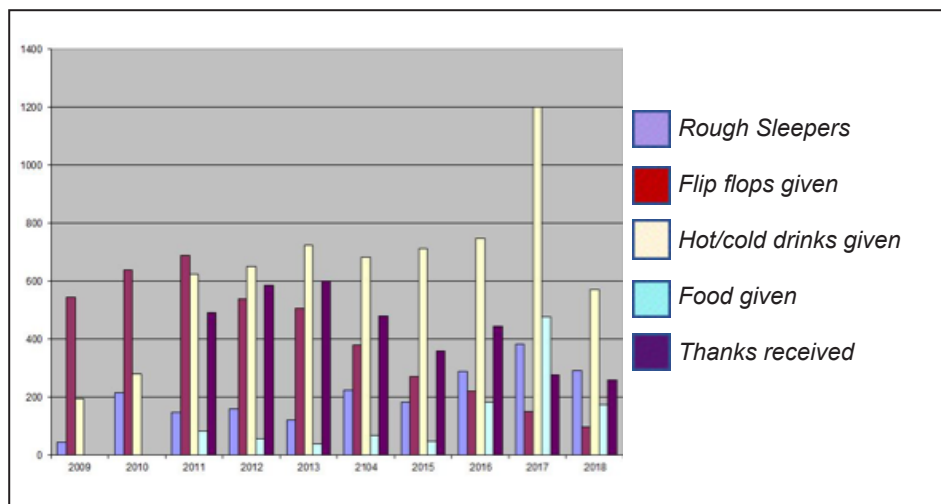
# Reviewing the Ministry of Taunton Street Pastors (with 2018 Statistics included)



web:[www.taunton.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.taunton.streetpastors.org.uk)

The team of Christian volunteers who patrol the streets in Taunton town centre on Saturday nights and other special occasions, as well as on the Halcon and Priorswood estates, have reviewed the activities of the last twelve months. The statistics reveal quite a lot but they cannot convey adequately the impact on many individuals' lives as God uses street pastors to listen, care and provide practical help as well as respond to enquiries about spiritual issues and personal faith.

Many illustrations can be given of God's faithfulness and answers to prayer, sometimes quite literal and extraordinary. (More details are available in the annual report which can be provided on request.)



Since launching Taunton Street Pastors in 2008 we have trained and commissioned 129 Street Pastors for service. People giving their time freely and generously have had their service recognised publicly, both individually with local and national accolades, and corporately through the conferring of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (the equivalent of an MBE for groups).

It is important to understand that the raw numbers cited in the chart cannot convey the full significance of the ministry. It is all about getting alongside people at different times in varying circumstances.

2018's report reveals that in those eleven years street pastors:

- picked up nearly 20,000 glass bottles and cans from the streets, avoiding injured feet and harm from these potential weapons
- signposted 348 people to agencies that can help them sort out a personal problem or issue
- enjoyed conversations with nearly 1,200 people about issues relating to their beliefs
- had 2,355 encounters with people who were sleeping rough on the streets of our town and have offered a listening ear, blankets, hot drinks, food and signposting to supportive agencies/organisations
- gave away 4,167 pairs of flip flops to women to avoid injured feet from broken glass
- gave away more than 6,450 hot drinks and bottled water
- calmed situations down with the offer of 5,332 chewy sweets
- dispensed nearly 500 foil blankets or hoodies to prevent hypothermia
- conducted nearly 301,000 hours of patrols, night and day seeking to listen, care and help.

It is important to note:

- Not everyone can go out on the streets – some pray, others support financially. All are part of the team
- Town centre teams go out every Saturday night patrolling and frequently offering a free street cafe through until the early hours, working with anyone and everyone: clubbers, party goers, diners, dealing with those who are impacted by drink or drugs, the homeless, the vulnerable, victims of crime, etc.
- By being a very visible presence we stop bad things happening, reassure and, most of all, just get alongside people to chat and listen
- We save lives and avert suicidal situations – an example of this occurred on 4th November last year, when Street Pastors were advised of a distressed man who had ended up in the River Tone. Fortunately the combined efforts of the SP team managed to pull him to safety and call the emergency services.
- We also work in the Halcon and Priorswood estates weekly – this is increasingly important as statutory services are withdrawn, yet Christian volunteers are a stable and constant presence

- We maintain a great relationship with most people and enjoy a strong reputation among many groups including CCTV operators, door staff, the police, etc.
- It costs approximately £11,500 to operate Taunton Street Pastors for a year. Key items of expenditure are our co-ordinator paid for 1 day/week (like most schemes, we fund this from donations by churches and individuals), insurance, premises rental, running training courses for potential Street Pastors, delivering in-service coaching (all team members are highly trained and have to undertake compulsory refresher training every 3 years),
- Since Autumn 2018 Taunton Street Pastors have been working with their counterparts in Bridgwater to respond to the influx of some 6,000, largely male, workers engaged in the construction of the Hinkley C Nuclear power station. A grant from the Hinkley Community Fund has enabled us to appoint an administrator for a few hours each week to release our coordinator for this developmental work over the next three years.

Street Pastors experience a real sense of frustration when they encounter people with mental health issues or homelessness late at night when the statutory agencies are unavailable. Whilst the teams have considerable local knowledge of where to signpost people, it is heart-breaking to have to conclude a patrol and go home to a warm bed and a caring family knowing others don't have those basic needs met. In situations where there is a serious mental or physical health need the SP teams are able to try and make contact with the ambulance service or the council's emergency duty team. It has been good to see the development of a partnership in recent months between churches, council and health agencies to offer an all night café on very cold nights.

We are grateful for the generous support by many people and charitable bodies over the years. We recognise the many calls on public and charitable funds but ask that you will feel able to continue to partner with us in this remarkable opportunity to demonstrate Christian compassion and care to anybody and everybody.

Thank you to everyone connected to St James' Parish

*Adrian Prior-Sankey* MBE  
Co-ordinator of Taunton Street Pastors



## 2019 Organ Recital Series

2:00pm Saturday 23rd March

*Martin Ellis*

*Martin was Assistant Director of Music and Chapel Organist at Taunton School (1973 – 1986) and latterly Organist at St Martin's, Dorking and Chapel Organist at Epsom College.*

2:00pm Saturday 25th May

*Harrison Cole*

*Harrison is the Senior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral. This is a key role in the Music Foundation, assisting in the training of the choristers and sharing in the playing and conducting of services.*

6:00pm Friday 21st June

*Nicholas Freestone*

*Nicholas is Assistant Director of Music and Assistant Organist of Worcester Cathedral, where he is the principal accompanist of the Cathedral Choir and directs the Cathedral's Girls' Choir.*

*The programme for each recital will be posted on the website when available.*

### *The Organ*

The core of the organ was built by WH Hill in 1861. This has been extended several times and now has 1580 pipes, three manuals and pedals. It was refurbished in 2018 and is now back in use for special events. The proceeds from the recitals will contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the organ.

### *Tickets*

£10 for adults, £5 for under 16s.

£25 for all three recitals if bought together (£10 for under 16s)

Please email [tickets@stjamestaunton.co.uk](mailto:tickets@stjamestaunton.co.uk) with the number you require for each date. We will send you details of how to pay. If you don't have access to email, 'phone the church office on 01823 272931, or call in there (Tues, Wed, Fri mornings): St James Church Office, St James Street, and on the door, but please arrive early.



## Oh Yes it was! – Jack & the Beanstalk 2019

But it very nearly wasn't! Snow, sore knees, thighs and throats, exam revision and school the next day, were all part of our Panto experience. But God was very good to us all and there was an incredible team spirit in evidence from the youngest (Zoe and Iris, both aged 6) to the oldest (and we won't mention who that was!).



Preparation for our 6th pantomime, since it started in 2008, began in May with the inevitable questions as to what should we do. Jack and Beanstalk had been on the cards before but scripts didn't come up to scratch. Then God's timing again intervened, with Chris Doyle being confined to barracks with a detached retina and warned against any physical exertion for 6 weeks (no golf, no singing!). So he wrote the script – "Just like that". The result was (we think) a fun filled romp of a pantomime, involving all the time honoured jokes and devices with a fresh St James feel. There were memorable moments - when the Cow's head fell off in the middle of butting the villain to kingdom come, the Harp's not-to-be-repeated launching himself into the audience, the chicken and



cook's supporting act and Jack's courageous climb up the beanstalk, filmed on a misty day in October, just in time before the "beanstalk" lost all its leaves. Little did our wonderful new Vicar realise when he applied for St James that he would be wearing a chicken costume only six months after arrival – bless you Fabian, you were wonderful...such rhythm!





We leave you here with a few snapshot memories of some of the wonderful performances and feats by our cast, who were truly amazing and supported by a small but dedicated crew of sound, light, backstage, front of house refreshmenters and make up team (from Somerset College), without whom it wouldn't have been possible.



We are only sorry that the weather stopped so many people getting there but, thanks to Mike's video camera, there is always a possibility of catching us on camera.



Pictured also here are a few of the behind the scene shots, putting on the make up, when the make up team couldn't it" through the snow, and the start of the take down exercise for the Sunday Service. As much fun had behind the screens as in front!



"make



## STOP PRESS

We raised £1510 - £755 each given to The Besom in Taunton and Conquest Riding Centre. Thank you!



## *Easter at St James*

During Easter our normal pattern of worship will change a little. These are the details of the main Easter Services.

### **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

**Sunday 31st March 10.30am**

A time to be grateful

### **Sunday 7th April 10.30am**

Messy Cafe Church

A journey to Golgotha

### **PALM SUNDAY**

**Sunday 14th April 10.30am**

bring some foliage to wave!

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Thursday 18th April 7.00pm**

Last Supper meal and short service





*Come and Join us this Easter time at St James*

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Friday 19th April 10.30am**

Christians coming together.

Hot Cross Buns & coffee after the service

**THE LAST HOUR**

**Friday 19th April 2.00pm**

A quiet service as we "wait with Christ"

**EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS**

**Sunday 21st April 10.30am**

All Age Communion service

He's Alive!

**BANK HOLIDAY RAMBLE**

**Monday 22nd April 10.15am**

Meet in the Church Car Park

# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

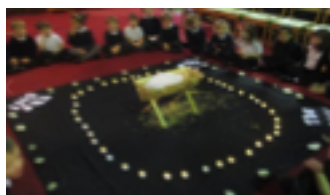
## A CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Five stories told 65 times to 350 children and at least 400 star biscuits demolished!

Christmas seems a long time ago now but back in December we were fortunate enough to bring the Christmas Story to life for the pupils at St James School.



A huge thank you to the team of thespians, costume sewers,



biscuit makers and servers, and scene makers, who combined to enable over three hundred children from the school to hear and think about the amazing story of God's love in sending his son to this earth to bring salvation and hope for all.

Thank you to the children who listened so well and to Miss Forbes and the teachers and support staff for the organisational task of enabling 14 classes to be safely walked down to the church and back again.

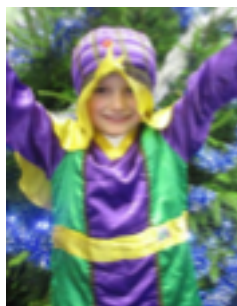


*Pictures above: Telling the story*

*Left: Some, but by no means all, of the Christmas Experience team*



# CHRISTINGLE AND NATIVITY



No sooner was the Christmas Experience over it was time for the children to re-enact the Christmas in their own Nativity play both for their own peers and, later



in the week, for their parents. It was lovely to see and hear the children singing their songs and playing their different parts as angels, shepherds, wise men, and of course a lovely Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem with donkey in tow.



The Nursery and Reception children came later in the week to have their Christingle Service, and parents and children thoroughly enjoyed making their Christingles. Fabian joined Lauren Jewhurst, one of the governors, in leading the service. As had been the case in our own Christingle Service at the beginning of December, the children were highly delighted as Fabian dressed in his Christingle costume and the children help pad him out and stick fruits for the seasons on his costume.

As the children sat round carefully holding their candle, the flame beautifully illuminated each of those precious little faces.



Term ended with the KS2 Carol Service in which the joy of singing was again evident as each class offered their unique contribution to their understanding of Christmas and its message for all. Pictured here are Year 5 singing 'Silent Night'.



Do continue to pray for the children of our Church school, that they will grow to understand about God's world, God's love and the possibilities that life can offer. "Life in all its Fulness" and wonder. John 10.v10

## GOOD VISIBILITY

Now that the old St James swimming pool has been demolished, have you noticed how much more visible the church is from the Brewhouse direction? But with a more visible church, does it necessarily follow that the faith of the people inside it is more visible too? That's an interesting question...



Have you also noticed the sunlight shining through the south windows of the church in summer? How the stained glass provides beautiful colours to the interior? Now imagine if the source of that light were inside the church, shining outwards? Jesus called on believers not to hide their light under a basket but to let it shine for all to see. The theme of Inside-Out has been our homegroup theme recently.

When light shines into dark places it overcomes darkness. Like it or not, there are dark places in the lives of many ordinary people in our community. In response, over the last 10 years many cross-church voluntary organisations have sprung up, including Taunton Team Chaplaincy, Street and School Pastors, Hospital chaplaincy, Foodbank, Workwise, Besom, Open Door, CHARIS refugee aid, Taunton Youth for Christ, Parish Nursing and most recently ROC (Redeeming our Communities). To this should be added the very long standing outreach work of St James and other individual churches with children and youth, debt advice, home visits, Taunton Against Poverty, etc. All these opportunities to serve Jesus make Taunton such a vibrant place for Christians here.

In my work with Taunton Team Chaplaincy, I have been thinking about just a selection of the encounters volunteer chaplains and Rail Responders have with people for whom it could be said have darkness or trouble in their lives. For example:

- an owner of a small shop, worried about lack of trade;
- an office worker facing redundancy;
- a care home resident, lonely and fearful of their future;
- a homeless person, worried about their physical safety;
- a stall holder at Taunton Flower Show with a terminally ill parent;
- someone on a platform at Taunton railway station with mental health problems.

These are just illustrations. The range of problems people face is, of course, almost infinite.

There are two common sayings which summarise how fragile life can be for many people, including ourselves at times:

1. There are three kinds of people:
  - those who have been through a storm;
  - those who are about to go through a storm;
  - those who are in a storm.

2. Many people are two pay packets away from living on the streets.

For those in a storm, Scripture tells us that a) God's grace is needed to get through it, b) God loves us, and c) we should love God and our neighbour. Loving our neighbour asks for a caring response. In addition, loving God includes responding to Jesus' great commission to go and make disciples, or as St Paul put it, being ambassadors for Christ.

Is this easier said than done, altogether too overwhelming? The good news is that we are all given different gifts. Some find it easier to talk about their Christian hope, while others may help a person through their storm in practical ways. Some may offer to pray for a person or help a neighbour in their street. Some may just use a smile. Some may prefer to give help on a one to one basis, others may prefer to be part of a bigger group. None of these responses to people in our community is better or more spiritual than the other. Thankfully, one size does not fit all.

In Saul's conversion, as described in Acts 9, he fell to the ground after being blinded by a light. As he lay there, Jesus appeared to Saul and said "Arise and go to the city and you will be told what to do." The account tells us that Saul (later to be known as the apostle Paul) went into Damascus. There, Ananias prayed for him and his life was transformed. Maybe we could use the following prayer to Jesus ourselves: "What do You want me to do?"

Jenny Wakefield, myself or other members of this church who are involved with many of the organisations mentioned above will be happy to give you more details of opportunities to serve at St James or in our community.

You may have heard the daily shipping forecast on Long Wave radio. Visibility is mentioned... "Lundy, Fastnet...moderate, becoming good".

As a church how would we rate on a visibility forecast, if there was such a thing? Let's pray that it would say "good, becoming better!"

Andy Hall



## An update for the ROC TD action group

Since the ROC conversation in September an Action group was formed to focus on the areas that were highlighted in the Report created by ROC following the conversation.

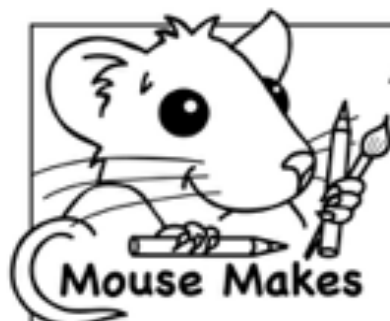
The areas of priority were seen to be:

**Support, Loneliness, Mental Health issues, Homelessness.** Also it was recommended that there should be a **mapping exercise** to create an information base of all the organisations and support service both secular and non-secular in the interest of closer cooperation for the common good.

Following consideration, the focus has centred on four marginalised people groups who need to be welcomed back into the centre of our community with all they have to offer rather than being seen simply as problems to solve. In this way they become needed rather than needy. **These groups are rough sleepers, families on the fringe** (maybe lacking parenting skills, good family routine), **young people disconnected** (those in need of drawing alongside), **and isolated and lonely people**. Rather than thinking about *helping* these groups, we prefer to say, 'How can we, maybe through a range of initiatives, draw out their value, and in the *process*, support their needs?'

Recent developments and plans for the future include:

- constituting ROC Taunton Deane as a registered charity with a Board of Trustees
- setting up a website to act as a point of contact
- continuing to build a strong network of relationships with statutory agencies, volunteer groups and churches
- we have some ideas for 'projects' emerging from the action groups
- we are operating two centrally-led ROC Taunton Deane projects - the first is as the provider for emergency overnight provision for rough sleepers in Taunton the second is the development of a community mentoring scheme
- creating a directory of existing community provision



## JESUS IS ALIVE!

After Jesus had been raised from the dead He met Mary and Mary Magdalene "Greetings," He said, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee He said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Read the account of Jesus' resurrection in Matthew 28:1-20



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

Can you find these words from the story in the word search above? EASTER • DAWN  
DAY • MARY • TOMB • EARTHQUAKE • ANGEL • HEAVEN • ROLLED • STONE • GUARDS  
JESUS • RAISED • FEAR • JOY • RAN • GREETINGS • TELL • DISCIPLES • SEE • ELEVEN  
GALILEE • MOUNTAIN • WORSHIP • ALL • GO • MAKE • BAPTISE • TEACH • END • AGE



## **Bible Crossword** (solutions can be found at the foot of the page)

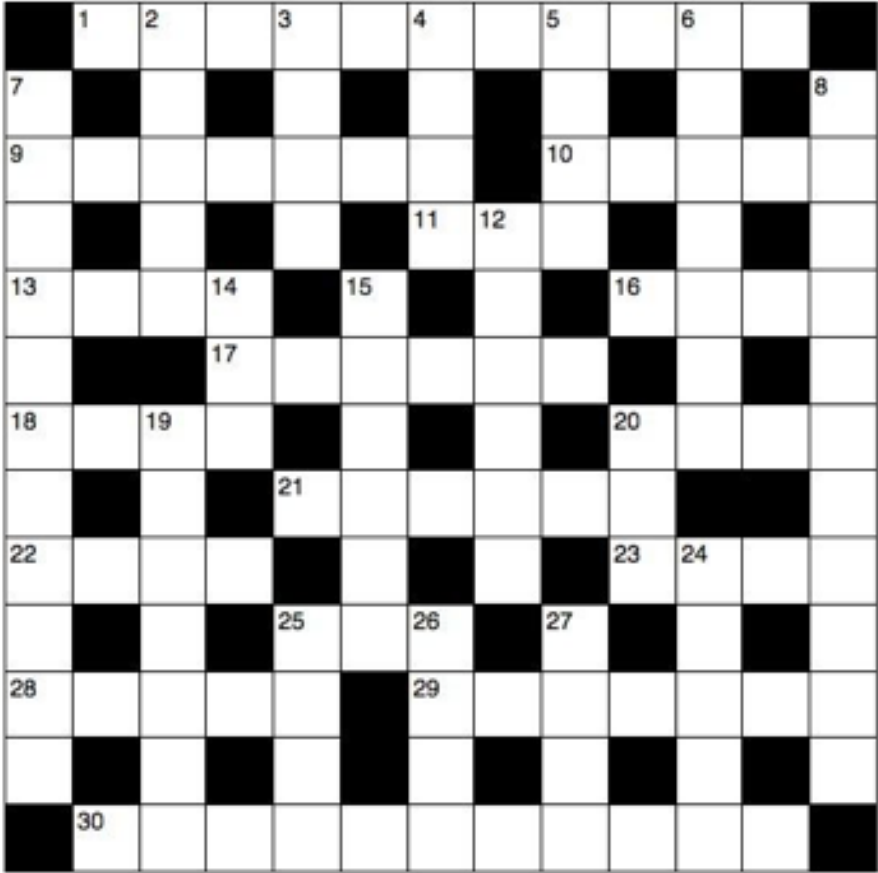
### **Across**

1. These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9. 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10. King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11. Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13. Mede (anag.) (4)
16. High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17. He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18. A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20. Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
21. 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22. 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23. Edit (anag.) (4)
25. 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28. Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
29. 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
30. Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

### **Down**

2. 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3. Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4. 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5. Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6. 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7. Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
8. 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
12. 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
14. This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)

15. Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
19. He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
20. 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
24. 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
25. Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
26. 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
27. Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlight-ened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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

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

### **Membership**

The annual attendance survey carried out in October count showed that there are now 207 adults attending services at least once per month (197 in 2017), and 37 children (29 in 2017).

### **ROC**

Since the ROC conversation in September, members of St James have been attending the Action Group meetings. Several subjects are being explored and we are involved in two of those: building a database of support services across the area to enable the other initiatives to see what is already happening; and helping to staff a week-long night café project in December to assess the needs of rough sleepers. The latter was led by the council, police and health authority using the premises of Canon Street Family Church and staffed by church volunteers. Attention is now turning to how this service could be run for a longer period next year, picking up on the experience of churches in other places.

ROC Taunton Deane is now being established as a charity in its own right, as the work has already outgrown the informal structure of the B1 group of churches.

### **Finances**

In December, Richard Sainsbury presented a forecast of income and expenditure for 2019. While income is expected to increase, expenditure is likely to increase more, half of which is due to the higher Parish Share for 2019. However, it is not possible to predict expenditure on repairs, where unexpected items can appear. The forecast is therefore conservative, and a small deficit is predicted.

Giving to our mission partners over 2018 exceeded the 10% minimum set by the PCC. Nevertheless, it was agreed to make the usual end-year payments to our four non-local mission partners (Barnabas Fund, Samaritan's Purse, TearFund and WEC).

In February, Richard Taylor submitted his annual report on Gift-Aided giving. The main item to note is that income from regular giving from

church members in 2018 was £88,868, which is £2073 less than 2017. The PCC decided that the annual stewardship promotion would be held over several Sundays in May.

### **Safeguarding**

Beccy Fox has stood down as Assistant Parish Safeguarding Office, having done sterling work on the database, training and safer recruitment. Finding a replacement is underway.

While on the subject of recruitment, finding new staff for the church magazine is also underway; we are looking for someone to run the car lifts scheme; and new leaders and helpers are required for children's and young people's groups.

### **Miscellaneous Matters**

- Fire and First Aid training is being arranged, principally for the deputy wardens and leaders of on-site church groups.
- The list of people approved to administer bread and wine at communion services is kept under review. Recognising that sometimes it is not possible to draw from this list, the PCC agreed that the Vicar may appoint someone on a one-off basis, with that name being put forward to the next PCC meeting.
- It was agreed to provide our halls free of charge for events run by the WATCH project for people with mental health problems, physical disabilities, lone parents, the elderly, migrant workers and adults with drug and alcohol problems.
- It was agreed that a group of church members could engage with the Eco Church initiative with a view to registering and seeking ways to fulfil the "fifth mark of mission".
- A grant to meet half of the course fees was made to Sara Bright, who is looking to launch the Family Links Nurturing Programme locally. This is a nationwide initiative that delivers training on providing adults and children with the understanding, skills and ability to lead emotionally healthy lives, build resilience, empathy, self-esteem and support positive relationships.
- As part of its round of keeping everything we do under review, the PCC received the annual Facilities Report, and looked at the arrangements for church opening times and security.

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

MW

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