



# St James Church Magazine

June - August 2019



July 20 1969 - "Houston. Tranquility  
Base here. The Eagle has landed"



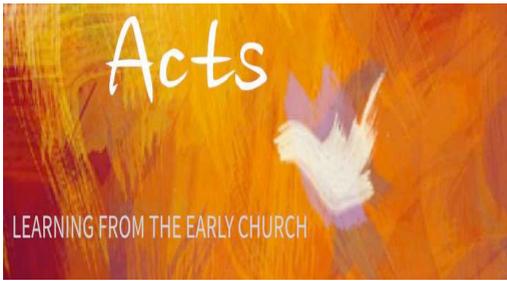
July 21 1969 - "One small step for  
[a] man, one giant leap for mankind"

# Letter from the Vicar

Reverend Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James



For the next few weeks we will observe the early church through the eyes of Luke's second book called the book of Acts. This book functions as a bridge between the Gospels – portraying the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – and the letters sent to the various churches born out of the missionary work of the apostles. This is one of the reason why the book has often been referred to as 'The Acts of the Apostles'. Others, however, have called the book 'The Acts of the Holy Spirit', because of the central place given to the work of God's Spirit.



I think both titles express a deep reality of what it means to be in step with God's plan and God's vision for his world. On the one hand, Jesus had promised the sending of an 'advocate' (the Greek word is 'paraclete' which can mean 'advocate' in the sense of defender or 'helper'). He is the Spirit of truth, revealing to us the works of Jesus and enabling us to be his witnesses in our generation. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, His guidance, His gifts, His enabling presence and His ministry, the work of the church is of little value. On the other hand, Jesus commissioned us to go and make disciples of all people. In other words, once we hear the direction, we must exercise faith and act.

Vision and action go hand in hand! Jesus is the head, we are the body – his hands, his feet, his voice and ears. We are the people of God on a mission, bringing in through our lives and testimonies the reality of heaven. We are the outworking of the prayer, "your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven".

The 'kingdom of God', or 'sphere' of divine rule, is at the heart of Jesus and the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is about God's overall purposes for his world. It is the future heaven, already breaking in the here and now of a broken humanity.



We are called to live now the vision and values of the age to come. A classic expression of this vision of a new order of reality can be seen in the life and work of Archbishop Desmond Tutu with his vision of a 'rainbow people'. This vision is such a striking contrast to the 'black and white' mind set of apartheid. He saw and worked tirelessly for that vision because it pointed to something at the heart of God's new creation.

For the coming six months, we will be praying and seeking altogether the vision God seeks to impart to us at St James. It must be a vision grounded in a desire and longing to see God's overall purposes for the parish, the town, the country and, dare I say, the world. It must be a God-sized vision that will stretch our faith and imagination, taking us on a journey of discovery and amazement. This is why the book of Acts is such an encouragement. It tells us the journey taken by those guided by the very breath of God and committed to respond in faith and obedience. Their stories have since been a source of inspiration and encouragement down the centuries. I wonder what stories our response of faith and obedience will produce!

*Fabian*

Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James

## Contents

Page 2	Letter from the Vicar
Page 5	Ramble Ramble!
Page 6	A letter from the Bishop of Bath & Wells
Page 8	What is the 'Go Team'?
Page 9	Mission Partner Report - Banabas Fund
Page 10	Goodbye, Mr Eveleigh
Page 13	News from St James School
Page 14	Journey Into Space - St James' Fun Day
Page 16	'I've been reading...' book review by Martin Wakefield
Page 18	Spring Harvest Unlimited 2019
Page 20	Crossword
Page 22	Children's Pages
Page 24	What is the PCC and what does it do?
Page 25	Who's Who at the Zœœ PCC
Page 26	What has the PCC been discussing recently...?
Page 28	Parish Contacts

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The PCC has seen fit to allow me loose on the Parish Magazine as the newest editor...so here goes!

In this edition you'll find some of the regular articles - letters from our Vicar and the Bishop, reviews and pictures of recent events, and we learn a bit about the Barnabas Fund. This term sees the departure of Jason Eveleigh, Head teacher of St James School for the past three years - we have an interview with him before he moves onto his new post. And if you've ever wanted to know what the PCC is, what it does or who sits on it, we have the answers here.

The highlight of this July will be the St James Fun Day which, this year, celebrates the 50th anniversary of man's first moon landing. Find out when it is and what's in store on the centre pages.

If you think you have something to contribute to the next edition of the Magazine, do contact the Editor either direct or through the Church Office. I hope you enjoy this edition and do pass it on to your friends!

Chris Doyle - St James Parish Magazine Editor

**Deadline for copy for Sept-Nov edition is 19th August**

# Ramble Ramble!



*Above: It's art, Jim, but not as we know it! (Chip Lane)*

*Right: What an orderly group (at Norton hill fort)*

The first Easter Monday Parish Ramble was in 1963, so this year was the 57th in the series!

We now try to make this an easier walk for those who find hills difficult.



In early May we made our routine inspection of the acres of bluebells on Cothelstone Hill.

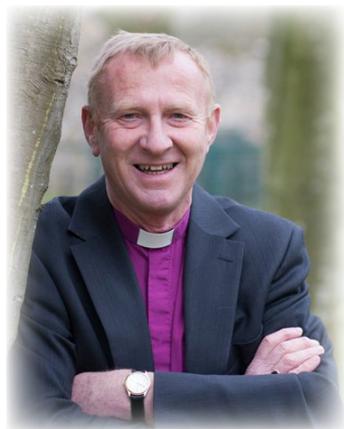
And on the late May holiday a select group ambled 4 miles to Tarr Steps ... and back 4 miles to Withypool for the obligatory cream tea!





# DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



Letter from  
the Right Reverend Peter Hancock,  
Bishop of Bath and Wells

## **We all have something to offer**

There is a story told about Sir Michael Costa who was an Italian-born conductor and composer who became well known and popular in England during the nineteenth century. It is said that one day he was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the rehearsal, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might just as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments, the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" Michael Costa could tell that the piccolo was not playing. Something was missing and because of that the performance was incomplete.

I am sure there are times when we can all identify with that piccolo player. There are times when we may feel insignificant and useless. Whatever age we are there is the temptation to look at other people who seem to have more talent than we have, who are better at things than we are, who are more confident or skilled than we are - and to think we don't matter or that our contribution doesn't count.

Perhaps we are tempted sometimes just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway, or that because other people can do it much better than we can, that there is no point in us joining in.

I take heart from the story of the feeding of the five thousand. In the middle of that story we read of Andrew, Peter's brother saying: 'There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?' (John 6:9). This is a story of someone giving what he has to the Lord and about Jesus then using what is offered to feed a multitude of hungry people (John 6:1-14).

What do we learn from that? Surely one thing we learn is that each of us has something important to offer which God can take and bless and use. Whether our talent is great or small, the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have and until we offer our lives and our gifts to God and ask him to use us for his glory and to serve others.

With warm greetings,

*The Right Revd Peter Hancock*

Bishop of Bath and Wells



# What is the 'Go Team'...?

You may have noticed some people wearing turquoise or magenta t-shirts on a Sunday morning with the eye-catching logo on the front. The Sunday Club or children's leaders wear them to help both children and parents know who the children's leaders are. As a church we seek to ensure we select all our children's leaders using the recommended procedures of the Church of England.

But why "The Go Team"\*...? It's part of the challenge that we all have as Christians, and part of Jesus' command in Matthew 28. We all, young and not so young, gather together on a Sunday to learn more about God and his plan for our lives. We do this so that we can 'Go' out into our weekday lives to follow his plan for us; so we can share God's love to those we come in contact with, at home, school, work, in the pub, at the café, in our clubs or volunteering circles. In short, in every part of our everyday lives, trusting that God will walk along side us.

So, should we all be wearing "Go Team" t-shirts? Well for the time being it's limited to the Children's groups but who knows what's next?



*Hilary Hayes (centre) and Vashti Wuyts (right) have recently taken over the role of Children and Young People's Co-ordinators*

\*The logo was approved by the Diocesan "Go Team".

## Mission Partner Report

At the start of June Paul Rhodes visited St James. Paul and his wife Katy are no strangers here, as Paul grew up in the church as a member of the CYFA group and married Katy who was also a member of St James.

Paul entered the Ministry and until recently was Pastor of churches in Caversham and Swindon. He is now responsible for Church Partnership at Barnabas.



*Paul at Spring Harvest this year featuring the Brick Kiln Project combating debt in Asia*



Barnabas Fund is an aid agency for the persecuted Church, that works in over 60 countries around the world where Christians are marginalised because of their faith.

The main ministry of Barnabas Fund is to send financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. The ministry's aim is to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

Barnabas also aims to raise awareness of the persecution that exists and thereby to inform the prayer of its partner churches and also to work to contest injustice by appropriate means.

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*There are more details and information about all our Mission Partners on the boards in church. Do feel free to take some time to find out more and please continue to pray for all of them.*

# Goodbye, Mr Eveleigh

In July St. James School will be saying 'Goodbye' to their Head teacher Jason Eveleigh, who has been at the school since 2016. Mr Eveleigh has been a good friend to St James Church and has enthusiastically encouraged our links with the school. We asked him to contribute his thoughts about his 3 years at the school by answering some questions.



*Outgoing Head teacher, Jason  
Eveleigh, with the school's decorated  
Wyvern*

## *Where will you be going when you leave St. James?*

In September I will become the substantive head teacher at Westover Green Community Primary School and Autism Centre in Bridgwater, Somerset. It is a similar school to St James in as much as it has 14 classes and over 400 pupils. The school serves a community which includes a significant number of vulnerable pupils and families in challenging circumstances. I was previously the Deputy Head teacher and Acting Head teacher (4 terms) at Westover Green from Sept 2004-2010 so it is strange and exciting to be returning 9 years later.

## *What have been the key positive things that have happened in your time at St James?*

In my time at St James there have been so many positives – I shall list a few:

- First and foremost, working with so many wonderful children and families.
- Leading an exceptional staff team and working with a dedicated, supportive (and challenging) Local Governing Board and colleagues in our Multi-Academy Trust.
- We have further developed links with the local community in many ways

- most notable is the lovely synergy between school and St James Church and members.
- Appointing and helping in the development of staff.
- I have expanded the leadership team of the school and nursery. I have also grown and learned from their experience, skills and talents.
- Re-establishing our school kitchens and improving the children’s dining experience.
- Expectations of our pupils has continued to grow; we have seen so many successes in progress and attainment but also progress that cannot be measured in academic terms.
- The school population has continued to grow, now 14 classes and the learning environment has developed.
- We have increased the positive perception of school for most of our families and have seen parental engagement with the school flourish.
- In the current climate, with significant real-time funding cuts to all public services, we have managed to be financially prudent, therefore securing jobs and provision for children in ever challenging times. In addition to the above meaningful points we retained our Ofsted ‘Good’ grading in December 2018.

*As a head teacher who had not taught before in a church school, what has been your experience?*

I have taught in a church school for 4 years at the start of my career but that was a very different experience from that of leading a church school – I only hope that I have ‘done you all proud’. In the community schools that I have led, I have always fostered and encouraged partnerships with my local churches as we all want our children guided to grow into wonderful, well-rounded individuals. Leading a church school, I have been blessed with excellent support and guidance from many people; successive vicars, Reverend Tim and Reverend Fabian, Jenny Wakefield, Lauren Jewhurst (one of our staff members and Governor), and St James church and its members. I have learnt much about working with the diocese and about the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and the requirements necessary for the grading of church schools. At our mid-term SIAMS inspection I was delighted when our diocesan link adviser said,

*‘Your school is one of the happiest I have been in. What lucky children to have such smiling and enthusiastic staff. The quality of all of your*

*continued...*

*environments, both inside and outside, are a credit to you. Your church school character is evident in the tangible love and care shown.'*

### *What will you miss about St James School?*

It was not an easy decision to leave such a lovely school and great staff team. I will miss the wonderful children and working alongside the dedicated, hardworking group of people that the children and families are lucky enough to have here.

### *Dare I ask what you won't miss?*

I won't miss getting regularly stuck in Taunton traffic but am quite prepared to be regularly stuck in Bridgwater traffic!

### *What advice would you give to us as a church about how we can support the new Head and the school?*

Mr Johnson is very lucky to have such a giving and pro-active church to support St James School. I will make him aware of the fabulous links that are already in place and can only ask that this support remains. I am hopeful that he continues to welcome the support and friendship that I have received and, when he has settled into St James, that opportunities to develop links further can be explored.

### *Anything else?*

In case I miss anyone during the last events of my final half term, please do pass on my very sincere thanks and best wishes to everyone at St James Church. You have all been so accommodating and supportive to me personally and what you give and do for our children and families is staggering – St James School is very lucky.

*Jason was in discussion with Jenny Wakefield*

*Thank you, Jason, for all you have done for St James and the very positive links we have had with you and the School. Westover Green is very fortunate to have you as their new head.*



# News From St James School

## Easter Service

The church was again packed out as family and friends joined with the children and staff to celebrate the Easter Story. The service was organised and led by the children's Ethos Forum. Well done!



## Xplore Group

Members of St James have had a busy year with the 'Xplore' after school club, with 18 children attending and several on the waiting list. It's a real joy to spend time with such a lovely group of children.

## SATS in May

After a year of hard work, the Year 2 and year 6 children have been busily engaged with their tests. Please pray that teachers and pupils find time to relax and enjoy the summer now that they are over.

## Mentoring in schools.

Geoff Treasure has recently trained as a TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) Coordinator and is hoping to be able to lead a team offering mentoring for individual pupils. Please pray for this opportunity to support the school. If you would like to know more please speak to Geoff.

## Church School Prayer meeting

The church school prayer meeting continues to meet in the Hive on the second Friday of each half term. All are welcome to attend - you need to be an early riser as we start at 8 a.m. Speak to Sue Lucas for details.

## IMPORTANT DATES



## School Summer Fayre

*Thursday 27th June*

**School Leavers' Service @ St James**

*Tuesday 23rd July*

# Journey Into Space St James Fun Day Saturday 20th July

In the early morning of July 21st 1969, just over six hours after the first space craft had landed on the moon, the world waited and watched as the hatch of the Lunar Excursion Module opened.

The camera recorded, in grainy images, the foot emerging and an arm grasping the hand rail. With a slight jump backwards onto the moon's surface, Neil Armstrong uttered the history-making words, 'That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.'

So, this year's St James Fun Day celebrates the 50th anniversary of this momentous event with a whole range of fun space-related activities. Children have the chance to dress in a space suit, crawl through the Lunar Module and make their own 'first step' onto the moon.

Try your hand at programming a computer. Make and launch your own rocket. See what the astronauts ate on their journey through space - and enjoy some more down to earth cakes and drinks.



Take time to explore the wonder of the universe, and our God who made it all, in the special reflection and prayer areas. And why not visit the Eco zone to think about the delicate balance of our wonderful world and what we can do to sustain it.

There'll be trips up the church tower to survey the town, space themed videos and lots of craft activities. So many different things to do - it's an event for all ages that will fascinate and amaze you.

Like the original moon missions, many people are involved in the preparation of this event. We look forward to lots of you visiting the exhibition and taking part. Do come along and invite your friends for what promises to be an action packed...FUN DAY...!

Find us near the -  
Somerset County Cricket Ground

**St James Church**

# JOURNEY INTO SPACE

**CLIMB OUR CHURCH TOWER!  
SEE THE VIEWS AND BELLRINGING**

**WELLBEING**  
Healthy Living

**REFRESHMENTS**  
Down to Earth  
snacks and drinks

**REFLECTION & PRAYER SPACE**  
Explore the wonder of the universe  
and the God who created it.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**  
Fun for all the  
family!

**ROCKETS**  
construct, decorate  
and launch water  
rockets

**LUNAR EXPERIENCE**  
Put on a Space Suit  
and go aboard our  
Lunar Module

**...AND MUCH MORE!**

**GEEK CORNER**  
computing,  
navigation &  
communication

**ENVIRONMENT**  
From living in space  
to how we care for  
our Earth

**CELEBRATING  
THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF APOLLO 11**

**FREE ENTRY**

**St James Church  
TAUNTON**

**SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2019  
10.30AM - 4.00PM**

## I've been reading ...

**The Forgotten Factor – Placing Community at the Heart of Mission** (Grove Booklet on mission and evangelism no. MEv117) by Mark Berry and Philip Mountstephen, both of CMS.

Actually, I should say re-reading, because this 2017 book re-surfaced from the aside pile on my desk the other day, where I had put it for a magazine review. A quick look indicated that it is well worth a look, and I will get a copy for the church library. It's only 28 pages, so why not have a read?

Its basic message is that, in the West, we have forgotten what the Bible has to say about community in favour of concentrating on our individual relationship with God. And when we say community, that's both the church as community and the relationship of the church to the wider community. So it's about both about how we 'do' church, and how we 'do' evangelism.

The book starts with a story that is probably familiar to many of us: coming back from a youth camp, houseparty or conference, and bemoaning why ordinary church can't be like that. The author realised that what had happened was that, while they were together, they had built a community, and going their separate ways was "breaking what had become quite deep bonds of community". So they deliberately set about building community, "something truly Christian, a place where God was at work amongst us."

A review of Scripture then follows and includes a quote from another Grove Booklet: "Creating community is at the heart of the Christian theological tradition in the doctrine of the Trinity. Individualism, separateness and fragmentation give way to individuality, mutuality and belonging." The New Testament shows Jesus building community and proclaiming the kingdom of God, the ultimate community. Paul describes the way the early church works by using the image of the various parts of the body working together – but as a community rather than a church organisation. And "the calling of both old and new covenant people is to be a blessing to the whole world." This culminates in Acts 2:42-47, where the fellowship of the believers is described leading to "the Lord adding to their number daily." So it is the witness of the community that leads to the increase, without any reference to evangelism by individuals.

But that is not to say that mission happens only through a community in one place. The booklet goes on to describe a second type of mission, exemplified by Paul and others being sent out in groups to establish churches in other places. Both are needed, and both happen around communities.

Eventually the book gets around to “The Forgotten Factor”. Drawing from a 1995 book by Robert Warren, *Building Missionary Congregations*, three vital dimensions of church life are described: Up (Worship), In (Community) and Out (Mission). The authors then suggest that for many churches these are very unequal with worship being at the centre, community a poor second and mission is just one of many activities in the life of the church. Their “conviction is that we need to focus far more on our identity as a community”, using Acts 2 as a blueprint.

The dynamics of grace are then explored as the key to building community, notably the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. This leads also to a more porous boundary around the church, with less emphasis on rules. This makes it easier for people to join the community. And it works the same for communities based on place and those sent out to start new churches. These are both missional communities that we can expect to grow.

The dynamics of grace then get another chapter all to themselves with special focuses on hospitality, inclusivity, gifting, generosity and forgiveness. In conclusion, the Christian community is described as a “Community of Mission”, and quoting St Theresa of Avila, one that is truly the body of Christ - he has no body but that of the church. The early church went out together as a community, “and it was the Spirit that propelled them together out into the world.”

The model of church which the booklet describes might seem very different from church as we have come to know it in the West. But we have to acknowledge that our present way of doing mission is weak and does not reach far into society. The booklet exhorts us to break this mould and get back to the community model of the early church. In St James Church we can perhaps see expressions of community in various ways while still revolving around what happens in the church building on a Sunday. So we have starting points for the big job of building up our sense of community, and through that our mission, to be of equal importance to our worship.

# Spring Harvest

A small group from St James went all the way to Minehead to join in the Spring Harvest pre-Easter holiday celebration. The theme of Prayer Unlimited was embedded in teaching and worship, and there were many inspiring testimonies of how God was working in amazing ways in parts of the country traditionally seen as no-go areas. Pete Greig led some very practical sessions on 'How to Pray' and a copy of his book is now in the Church library.



"Outstanding!"

"Prayer  
will never be the  
same again"

"I enjoyed  
watching my  
children's faith grow  
whilst having a fun-  
filled amazing  
time"



# Unlimited 2019

**UNLIMITED** WHEN YOU PRAY...

#SH2019



SPRING HARVEST 2019



It was a very special time, getting to know others and having fun together, especially with that mischievous Geoff T around. So here are a few pics and comments from those who went.

"Life changing!"

"Can't wait for next year"



"Amazing take-home memories"

Duggie Dug Dug (quoting Richard Rohr): "Yahweh - we breathe the name of God: Yah...weh..Yah...weh, for the whole of our lives"

"Best night ever"



## Crossword

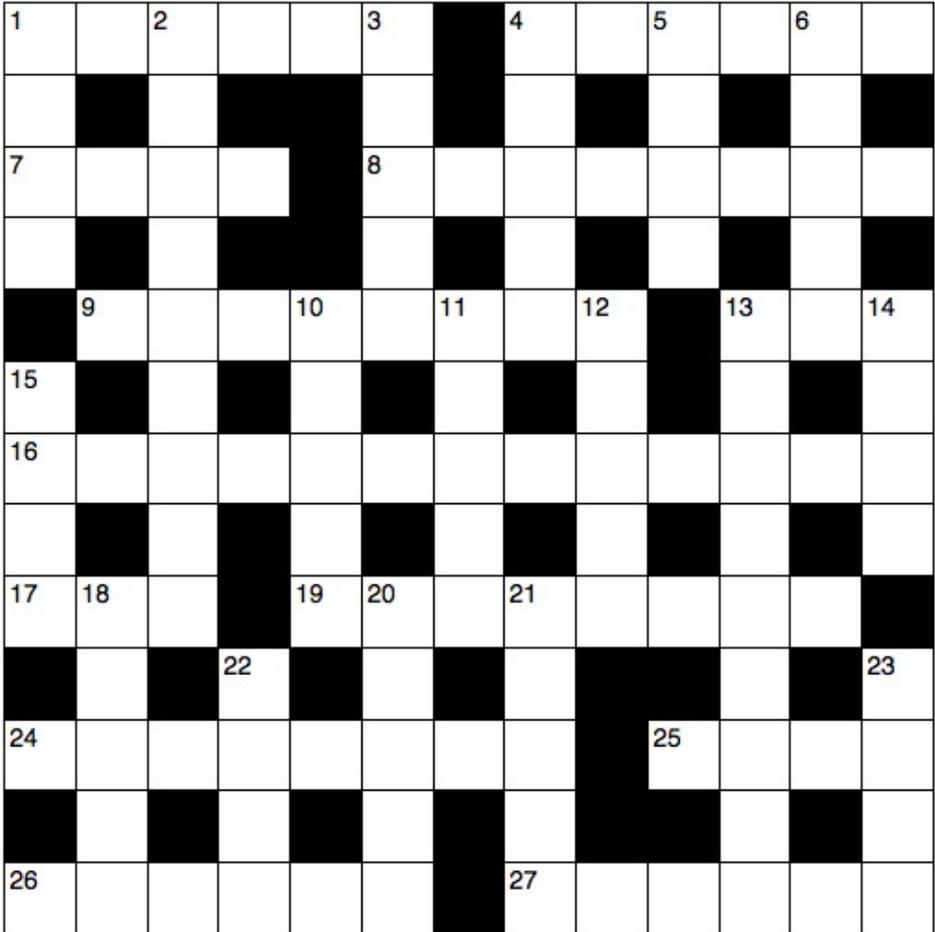
### Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

### Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across        The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)

- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)



**ACROSS:** 1, Riches; 4, Abner's; 7, Soul; 8, Damascus; 9, Statues; 13, Add; 16, Craftsmanship; 17, Old; 19, Redeemer; 24, Walls are; 25, Wise; 26, Target; 27, Thieve.

**DOWN:** 1, Rest; 2, Courtyard; 3, Sadhu; 4, Arm he; 5, Nose; 6, Round; 10, Tutor; 11, Timid; 12, Sense; 13, Ashbelite; 14, Dips; 15, Echo; 18, Lhasa; 20, Exact; 21, Erect; 22, Flog; 23, Mede.

# Children's Pages

Can you colour in this Bible verse?

LOOKING FOR  
DIRECTION?

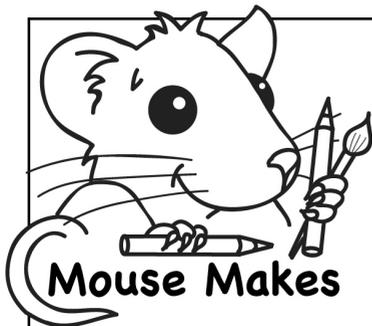
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GOD SAID:

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I WILL INSTRUCT  
YOU & TEACH  
YOU IN THE  
WAY YOU  
SHOULD GO

PSALM 32:8



Who did Jesus choose as His first disciples?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 4:18

Which disciple was a tax collector?

Matthew 10:3

Who was John's brother?

Matthew 4:21

Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

Mark 3:19

Which Apostle wrote Revelation?

Revelation 1:1

Who became the Apostle to the Gentiles?

Acts 13:9  
 Acts 9:1-18

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Some of the Apostles recorded the stories of Jesus and wrote about what it means to be a Christian.

*Matthew and John wrote gospels.*

Paul wrote many letters to the new Christian churches. (Look at the New Testament to see how many he wrote.)

**James, Peter, John and Jude** all wrote letters.

**John** wrote the book of Revelation.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Four of the disciples were fishermen: **Andrew, Peter, James and John.** They would have used **two** different nets to fish: a circular one in shallow water and a large dragnet in deep water.

In the time of the disciples it was usual for men to have two names. Which second name belongs to which Apostle?

JUDE	BOANERGES
MATTHEW	SIMON
JOHN	DIDYMUS
PETER	THADDEUS
THOMAS	SAUL
PAUL	NATHANIEL
BARTHOLOMEW	LEVI



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

Can you find **JESUS** and all the Apostles in the word search?  
 PETER • JAMES • JOHN  
 ANDREW • PHILIP  
 BARTHOLOMEW  
 MATTHEW • THOMAS  
 THADDEUS • SIMON  
 JAMES • JUDAS  
 MATTHIAS • PAUL



## **What is the PCC and what does it do...?**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the strategic body for the church. Every Church of England church has one and it is responsible, along with the vicar, for setting the overall vision and direction of the church. It also has responsibilities in managing the finance, buildings and fabric of the church, and planning services and the future direction of the church and events.

The PCC at St James is made up of 17 elected and co-opted members who normally serve a three-year term. The vicar is chair and at present Steve Bradford is the vice chair. The church wardens serve on the PCC and the church treasurer is a co-opted member. There are some members who possess specific skills and experience that helps inform their advice and the decision-making process on the Council. There are others who have a general interest in the spiritual life of the church and are willing to help where and whenever they can. Any of these positions is open to members of the church who are on the Electoral Roll and elections are held at each Annual Church Meeting. The facing page shows the current members of St James' PCC elected at this year's Annual Meeting.

As well as its normal 'duties', at present the PCC, through a small working group, is looking at the church vision and values. The group is led by the vicar and the group then feeds back information, findings and advice to the PCC.

The PCC makes budget decisions and considers requests for finance. Recent initiatives include sponsoring Julie Kimber and Courtney for their house building trip to Mexico, supporting the Transforming Lives for Good with St James School, and giving Nicki Bradford a grant towards her ordination training.

The PCC meets monthly, usually on the second Monday evenings. Meetings are varied and interesting, and they are open meetings so anyone is welcome to come and observe.

We would encourage people prayerfully to consider becoming a PCC member in the future and if you want to know more, speak to those who are currently serving. You can find contact details for several of the PCC members on the back cover of this magazine.

SB with CD

# Who's Who at the Zee PCC



*Rev Fabian Wuyts*



*Associate Warden  
Joyce Kirk*

*Church Wardens Steve Bradford and Ruth Stephens*



*Richard Carpenter*



*Ruth Dunn*



*Roger Fenton*



*Jamie Fox*



*Jamie Haddell*



*Lizzie Haddell*



*Sue Lucas*



*Sheila Marlow*



*Ruth Praeter-Gillard*



*Richard Sainsbury*



*Liz Sykes*



*Nic Tall*



*Jenny Wakefield*



*Martin Wakefield*

## ***What has the PCC been discussing recently...?***

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

### **Vision, Values and Way Ahead**

At its Away Day in March, the PCC began the process of discerning how the church should develop and grow. At the Annual Meeting, Fabian Wuyts presented the results of the Away Day and asked those present to add their thoughts to those of the PCC. In May the PCC tasked a group (including representatives of the ministry team and the congregation) to take the discussion forward (as the PCC is too large a body to do this easily) and to report back to the PCC in six months.

Meanwhile, a number of small incremental changes are planned for the way we do things, for example experimenting with different ways of serving communion.

### **Annual Meeting**

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to give it its proper name!), Steve Bradford and Ruth Stevens were elected as churchwardens. Outgoing churchwarden Joyce Kirk is now Associate Warden. Lizzie Haddell, Ruth Preater-Gillard and Chris Rickard were elected to the PCC, and Roger Fenton and Liz Sykes were re-elected). Thanks go to Helen Dawe and Stan Wojcik, who decided to come off the PCC.

Richard Sainsbury presented the accounts for 2018, highlighting the following:

- Overall, income was £157,291 and expenditure £156,941, giving a net surplus of £350.
- Three-quarters of income came from stewardship (£94,197) and tax reclaimed via Gift Aid (£20,626). Another third (£30,722) came from hall hire and car park charges.
- Half of expenditure was taken up by the Parish Share of £75,522. Other expenditure was split approximately equally between wages, mission grants, repairs and running costs.
- Mission giving totalled £16,900, with the main grants going to Taunton Team Chaplaincy, Besom, Taunton Area Debt Advice, Taunton Youth for Christ, Street Pastors, Tearfund, Barnabas Fund, Samaritan's Purse, WEC and Open Door. A further £900 went to Traidcraft from the monthly sales stall at the back of church over several years.

In response to a question about giving to overseas missions, the meeting was informed that the PCC had appointed a group to review this area and to encourage more involvement from church members.

Concern was raised about people talking over the pre-service song. The meeting was informed that the wardens are well aware of this and are considering how best to handle the situation.

In response to a question about whether the organ could be used in services, the meeting was informed that there is an ongoing discussion about this and it is intended to try out some ideas in the coming weeks.

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

Geoff Treasure updated the PCC on progress with TLG, the mentoring scheme for struggling children, where we will be working with our church school. David Jordan and Geoff have undertaken training and they are now building a body of volunteers to carry out the work.

### **Personnel Changes**

Vashti Wuyts and Hilary Hayes have taken over from Kate Taylor as Children and Young People Coordinators. Nicki Bradford has taken over the role of transport coordinator from Andrew Slade. Chris Doyle is now the magazine editor, succeeding Andrew Slade.

We are still seeking a safeguarding administrator and a deputy church administrator, with these roles possibly being combined.

### **Miscellaneous Matters**

The group which is to look at our response to ecological concerns is due to meet soon.

The Supporting Volunteers Group has reconvened and will be concentrating initially on providing all volunteers with appropriate job descriptions, including what support they can expect from the church.

B1 churches are looking at the provision of a winter night shelter, following last year's trial, and hope to involve other interested churches. A coordinator is being sought for this project.

ROC Taunton Deane is currently concentrated on mentoring families and is recruiting volunteers to provide life coaching.

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

MW

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