



# **St James Church Magazine**

## **September - November 2019**



# Letter from the Vicar

Reverend Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James



## 50 years ago...

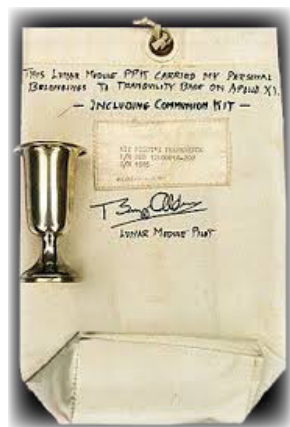


Commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin formed the American crew that landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on July 20, 1969, at 20:17 UTC.

As we all well know, Armstrong became the first person to step onto the lunar surface. This took place on July 21 at 02:56 UTC; Aldrin joined him 19 minutes later. That moment was epitomised with one of history's most famous one-liners:

***"That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind"***

What is less known is how Aldrin responded to the profoundly moving experience of walking on the moon. He radioed Earth saying "I would like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past hours, and to give thanks in his or her own way." As a practicing Christian, Buzz Aldrin then used bread and wine he had brought with him to celebrate communion. He later commented, "It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements."



Faced with the overwhelming experience, Aldrin in his own way thanked God for his awesome creation and mighty powers.



In a similar way, I know that those involved in the Apollo 11 Fun Day were all grateful to God for seeing so many people, families, young and old, coming through the doors of St James, having fun and interacting with the various activities, climbing the tower and ringing the bells.

Many of the children and families had come from the St James and North Town schools which indicates our growing connections with them. Others were families from our weekly groups, or people responding to personal invitation, Facebook, posters, leaflets, or families and individuals just passing by and being invited in by our very courageous and effective welcomer (you know who you are!).



Above all, it was a great team effort of young and less young volunteers, many doing things a little bit (or a lot) outside their comfort zone and experiencing the enabling presence of God. So many prayers were answered and as Vicar of St James, I am so grateful for the countless hours of volunteering and the financial generosity that went into this day.

We did not pause at the end of the day with Communion like Buzz Aldrin did on the moon, but I am sure that in our hearts we all felt a desire to say, "To God be the Glory."

*Fabian*

Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James

*See a report and pictures from the Fun Day on page 30  
Do come along to Fabian's Desert Island Discs - details on page 16*

## Contents

Page 2	Letter from the Vicar
Page 5	Parish Prayer Walk - Jenny Wakefield
Page 6	A letter from the Bishop of Taunton
Page 8	Nicki's News
Page 10	God's Fingerprints - a reflection by Andy Hall
Page 12	August Working Parties - a 'Thank you'
Page 13	Open Door - Jonathan Sladden
Page 14	ECO Church at St James - an update from Richard Carpenter
Page 16	What's On?
Page 18	School Report
Page 20	One person, one hour, one year - Geoff Treasure
Page 21	It's Shoebox Time Again! - Hilary Hayes
Page 22	I have been reading... by Martin Wakefield
Page 24	Crossword
Page 26	Children's Pages
Page 28	What has the PCC been discussing recently...?
Page 30	Journey Into Space - a mission report on the Fun Day

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Welcome to this edition of the magazine, with reports of what's gone on and also looking to the autumn as summer starts to drift into just a pleasant memory of some fine weather and England's ICC cricket victory.

I recently watched the smallest insect I have ever seen bustling round the edge of my patio table. It was a marvel how its little legs could carry it so fast. Isn't God's creation fantastically intricate and perfect...? We were reminded of this on the 'Journey Into Space' Fun Day (see the report on page 30) and we are also aware of our responsibility to look after it - see Richard Carpenter's article about ECO Church on page 14.

Thank you to all the contributors this time. If you think you have something to share for the next edition - a poem, a prayer, an article or book review, a notification of a future event - do contact the Editor either directly or through the Church Office.

Chris Doyle - St James Parish Magazine Editor

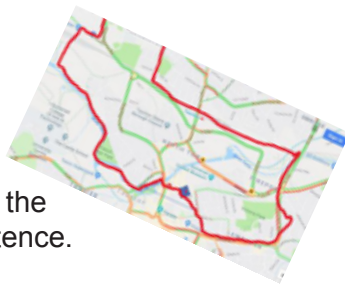
**Deadline for copy for Dec-Feb edition is 19th November**

*This month's cover is a photo by Chris Doyle of a wheat field in France*



# Parish Prayer Walk

Ever realised what a strange shape our parish is? It used to be a lot larger, before St. Andrews was built to serve the rapidly growing area north of the railway and followed a river route no longer in existence.



Earlier this year a small group of people met together to walk and pray for our parish. We discovered there are a whole host of organisations, residential settings, shops, etc that we take for granted as we whizz by in the car or on a bike. Moving at a slower pace we appreciated the diversity of the area and the many things we saw. As we walked in pairs or small groups we prayed or conversed about what we saw. When we returned to church we shared what we had seen and prayed together for various aspects of the parish. It helped give a little insight into area around us.

In our August Prayer Walk we spent longer outside covering more of the parish. Do you recognise where these photos were taken? You will have seen more pictures on the boards at the back of church, together with more information about our Parish's demographic. However, we have a long way to go to understand about the diverse needs of those around us.



Please take time in your prayers to remember those who live and work in the area our church serves. Perhaps there is one place or road either in our parish or your own community that you particularly feel needs your prayers and God's blessings.

JW





# DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



Letter from  
the Right Reverend Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton

## **A time for grace and patience**

September is the month when schools go back, harvest services are being planned, and the College of Bishops takes place. Yippee! Actually I'm not being sarcastic. Of course there's always a sense of this is a month when many of us feel 'back at work'. It can seem a busy month with lots to challenge us. However we do have some agency in how we approach the tasks of daily living, don't we?

So, for instance, at the College of Bishops this month, we shall do more work on 'Living in Love and Faith', the theology, social anthropology, biblical scholarship and scientific knowledge being considered as the Church reflects on issues of human identity, sexuality and marriage. I'm looking forward to it. And that's not being sarcastic either. You see it is not that this will be an easy topic, something which we can just all agree to but rather it will be an opportunity to meet together with one another in the presence of God. We will no doubt have some difficult conversations, grapple over imponderables, find ourselves feeling vulnerable but this is the stuff of life, and seeking to find God's way in a world which has little time for religious faith anymore.

The College meets in an Oxford college over a few days and it can sometimes seem rather distant from the everyday world in which we live. However we always celebrate Holy Cross day while we are there. The Collect for that day reminds us that *“the passion of thy blessed Son hast made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace”*.

That surely means that life and peace can be found even **through** the experience of pain and death. In fact sometimes it's the only way to find them. Dealing with complex issues, tackling challenging tasks is not about finding the easiest and quickest route to an answer. Sometimes it requires much more from us and we need the grace and patience of the Christ who made Himself a sacrifice for us.



The following is the prayer we use on Holy Cross Day after we receive bread and wine together, perhaps we need to use it more as we face the challenge of seeking to live as men and women of God in His world today.

*“O faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he come: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope.”*

*The Right Revd Ruth Worsley*

Bishop of Taunton



# Nicki's News

*Nicki Bradford is part-way through her theological training. This is the first of a series of updates giving an insight into what she's studying and how she is progressing!*



When I started training last year I had intended to try and write at least a short piece every magazine – the fact that I haven't tells you something about the busyness of the course! I am writing this just a few days before Summer School of year 2 starts. The first year has been great with many pluses and of course some challenges.

Highlights include meeting students from many different church backgrounds and experiences. Within the small group I am part of we have someone who has only experienced cathedral worship and a local church they were sent to as part of the selection process, to someone who is training as a pioneer minister out of an already pioneered church and everything in between. This, of course, also makes some of the challenges as we plan worship together. One person's idea of informal is very different from another's!

Another highlight was a weekend residential with a focus on rural ministry. We spent a morning on a farm where the family had built up a business which enabled them to rear their own cows, which they processed in their own butchery before sending some of the meat to be used in the gastro pub the family also ran. It was very interesting hearing the farmer's view on agriculture, life and Brexit; but what struck us all most was the fact that as far as possible they kept a Saturday Sabbath as far as possible. So, when we visited none of their machinery (and they had lots) was in use. An interesting contrast to the Area Dean we met in the afternoon who had not had a day off in a month!

The pattern of study is ten-week modules. This year we have studied Human Identity and Vocation, Christian History and Doctrine, and the Bible and Preaching. Much of the work is online self-study with a lot of reading, but we also have an online tutorial some weeks – and twice during each unit I meet with a group of friends to reflect with them on what

I have been doing. The final two weeks of each module are set aside for assignments. Each unit has one straightforward essay type assignment and one that has a reflective style with a task of some sort. Some of you will have been at the evening service when I was videoed preaching for one assessment, but I have also had to write a blog about our church history and its relationship with our community and reflect on a focussed conversation with a church member. The studying is very interesting, and it is great to be guided through some deeper reading about many topics, but I have to admit I do find the assignments challenging.

Our next Summer School has a title of 'Seeing Salvation', which, like all Sarum work, has multi-layered content. So we are looking both at Salvation and what that means to us and others but also at Christian art, with the challenge to produce a group piece of artwork which demonstrates our learning and experience from the week. By the time you read this, Summer School will be over so do ask how it went!

Once again can I thank you for all your prayers and support and for the interest you all show when we speak. It is also not unusual for God to be calling other people from a church from which someone begins training – so who knows, maybe he is calling you too...

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*An Evening of*  
**DESERT ISLAND DISCS**  
*with...*  
**FABIAN WUYTS**

Rev'd Fabian Wuyts St James Church  
With Host Brian Harris 

**FRI 13TH SEPT 2019 7.30PM**

Followed by Refreshments - Please sign up at the back of the Church  
or contact the Church Office for more information on 01823 272931

# God's Fingerprints

A book by John Samways with this title reminds me that evidence of God is around us all the time. At its most fundamental, we can see that in our very existence. But paradoxically we are often too busy with life to notice. I became aware of two examples of God's fingerprints during one day when we were in West Wales this June, visiting the island of Skomer. We'd gone there to see the cute and colourful puffins which obligingly hop around a few metres from the camera like film stars.

But I was fascinated to learn about another bird which lives there, manx shearwaters. Like puffins, they also nest in burrows in the soft soil. We couldn't see them because they get attacked by larger gulls in daylight and they only emerge in the dark. However, we could hear the cheeps of their chicks almost under our feet. After maturing for 7 years the adults fly 10,000 km from the coast of South America, to breed on Skomer each year, back to where they were born, the longest migration journey of any animal on earth. They mate for life. Skomer and nearby, even smaller, Skokholm hold about half the world's population of manx shearwaters. They live to about 55 years of age, so in a lifetime a bird will migrate about 1 million km – more than the distance to the moon and back!

Outside the breeding season, they live entirely at sea. How do they navigate back to tiny Skomer, only 2km wide, all the way from South America? No one really knows, but one theory is that they use the stars above them to pinpoint where there are. These amazing facts are one example of God's fingerprint on His creation, seen and unseen!

Writer Matthew Parris saw the chicks emerging at midnight from their burrows to learn to fly, before making their journey to Brazil and Argentina the next day: 'I felt, as I stood there, a solitary and privileged witness to a supremely important moment in the life of not only an individual but of a species. Beneath the canopy of the stars something immense and timeless was stirring.'



There was a lively swell on our journey back from Skomer which kept the boat's fifty passengers rolling in our seats in unison. When we docked there was a lot of chatter about the great day we'd all had and some relief that no one had been ill during the crossing. The boat pitched in the swell as the skipper manoeuvred against the concrete jetty. His mate tied up and prepared to help us off.

We were sitting towards the stern and waiting our turn when we noticed one of the first passengers leaving. He was carrying a large bag which might possibly have unbalanced him, but we then heard a scream from another passenger. The man was gone from sight. The mate shouted to the skipper to, "Pull away, pull away!" Everyone became silent and tense. Our first fear was that the man had slipped between the jetty and the boat. We both prayed hard that he would be saved. I'm sure that others were doing so too. It turned out that he had slipped on the gunwhale of the boat and been pitched across the wet and narrow landing stage through a gap in the barrier on the other side and into the sea. With an urgent shout the mate plunged in after him and after several minutes managed to pull him out. Both men were drenched. The immensely relieved mate gave the man an emotional hug. This brought spontaneous applause from all of us on board.

We learned that the passenger had fortunately landed on the jetty's foundations which were under the surface of the sea. This prevented him going down any further, weighed as he was by his wet clothes. This answer to prayer was the second example of God's fingerprint that day.

The writer of Psalm 8 vs 3-4 observes this: 'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?'

As Christians we know the answer to that.

Andy Hall

# August Working Parties

As summer slips smoothly into autumn, take a few moments to look around at the windows, the churchyard, the general tidiness of the church and its surroundings.

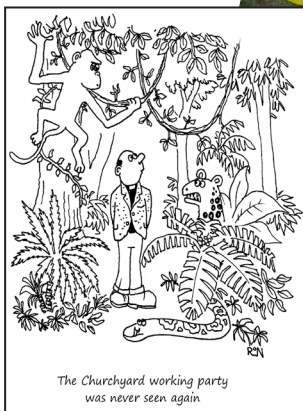
Many have been working on Wednesday evenings during August to spruce the place up and carry out some general and essential maintenance. But there are some places you cannot see... down into the drains, for example, where these intrepid volunteers have pushed drain-rods (and probably gloved hands!) to ensure all is clear and waste water can flow freely.



Painting and varnishing, cleaning and decorating, gardening and brickworking, sorting and mending - our annual summer clean has been completed once again with due care and attention and adherence to health and safety guidelines.



Here are a few pictures of just a small proportion of the volunteers - there were plenty more. 'Thank you' to all who have taken part in the August Working Parties, toiling away tirelessly, bolstered by camaradery, fellowship, tea and coffee... and, of course, cake!





# The Open Door (Taunton)

*Jonathan Sladden explains a little of why Open Door exists and how you might be able to be involved in assisting them.*

## **Why are people homeless?**

Most people are '2 pay cheques away' from losing their home. If three life challenges occur at the same time, then the likelihood of losing one's home increases dramatically. Such challenges can include job loss, relationship break-up, depression and dependence on alcohol or substances. There are some 'structural' issues such as single males not fulfilling criteria for social housing which is in very short supply.

## **How might you help with the problem of rough sleeping in Taunton?**

- You could join a team of 40 volunteers at the Open Door day centre who assist our 3 staff with providing meals, showers, clothes and laundry facilities for people who sleep rough. They help around 20 to 30 a day with a total of 300 people each year.
- If you have a skill, you could help with our advice and guidance service. You might be able to help our clients improve their sense of wellbeing and purpose. This service helps clients obtain their identity documents, access relevant allowances or services and find suitable accommodation.
- The cost of running the centre is over £2000/week. Even though we have grants for some of the services we provide, we still rely on the generosity of individuals and groups of supporters who organise sponsored events such as cycle rides, running marathons and even having a hair cut.
- Our donation platform is Virgin Giving (search Taunton Open Door).
- We have limited storage space so please check our website about what is currently needed when considering donating food or clothing. Each year churches and schools donate food which can be stored and items such as toiletries.

## **What are the challenges facing Open Door?**

- Over the next 12 months we need to find a new treasurer to replace our present treasurer who is retiring. We are looking for someone with a good understanding of finances.
- Complex needs of our guests.
- 'County lines' drug suppliers targeting vulnerable people.

*For more information see their website [www.tauntonopendoor.org.uk](http://www.tauntonopendoor.org.uk), talk to Jonathan in church or email [mark@tauntonopendoor.org.uk](mailto:mark@tauntonopendoor.org.uk)*



## What is Eco church?

Eco Church is an award scheme run by A Rocha UK, for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. You can find out more about them and the scheme at:

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

## Why is St James involved?

A number of us went to a diocesan event described as a Planet repair workshop some months ago. We were struck by some words that Bishop Ruth used in her introduction to the event:

***"It's vital we find ways to look after our planet. As people of God we are called to be carers of the world. There are five parts to Mission and the final one is to treasure the earth and use it well, but on so many levels we are not looking after what God has given us."***

## What have we done?

A small, ad hoc, group met in July to see how St James measured up against the A Rocha criteria. While promising in some areas, this showed up some weaknesses which mean that we're not yet in a position to apply for an award. We will be looking at how we can improve, especially in the way that we use our buildings and land and we expect that this will improve our scoring in these areas.

## How we can help?

From our initial meeting and other discussions, a number of initiatives are coming to the surface:

- More help with recycling – one option under consideration would be to provide a collection point for some further items beyond what the current Somerset Waste Partnership services can take. Compass Wellbeing already collect for many of Terracycle's sponsored schemes. We may provide facilities at St James for more convenient drop off by church members and others using our premises.

- Greening/wilding parts of the churchyard – we are looking into changes that would allow some areas to develop in a more wildlife-friendly way.
- Finding ways to encourage us all to adopt more eco-friendly ways in our everyday lives
- It's clear that many people would like to cycle more but feel that Taunton's streets simply aren't safe enough. Jonathan Sladden would be happy to take groups of six or so cyclists out for an hour or two to show them safer routes around Taunton.

Do keep an eye on the Bulletin for more details of these and other initiatives.



## Wider involvement

There are couple of events coming up soon:

- Somerset Wildlife Trust is organising its second Big Taunton Litter Pick between **23rd and 29th September** - details can be found at: <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/bigtauntonlitterpick2019>
- Also, Taunton Transition Town are running Going Green - lifestyle choices for a sustainable future on **Saturday 21st September** from 11am to 4pm at Castle Green in Taunton.  
See <https://twitter.com/TauntonTrans> for more details.

Richard Carpenter

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*"He has made everything beautiful in its time, He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God.*

*I know that everything God does will endure for ever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him". (Ecclesiastes 3.11-14)*



# What's On...?

A few notable events and dates for your diary in the next couple of months



## Friday 13th September at 7:30pm

Fabian Wuyts' Desert Island Discs  
Hosted by Brian Harris from Apple FM  
Come along and find out more about  
Fabian than you ever realised...!

Coffee and cake to follow so sign up on  
the list in church if you'd like to come

## Saturday 14th September

The church will be open to welcome those  
taking part in 'Ride+Stride', a sponsored  
bike ride or walk between churches raising  
money to help save historic churches,  
chapels and meeting houses for the benefit  
of future generations - [www.rideandstrideuk.org](http://www.rideandstrideuk.org)



## Wednesday 25th September at 10am

Operation Christmas Child Coffee Morning  
in church alongside Praise and Play  
- see Hilary's article on page 21

## Sunday 30th September at 10:30am

Newcomers Service and lunch

A chance for regular worshippers to invite  
friends and neighbours to see what goes on in our church.  
Maybe you're curious - why not come and check us out...?

**WELCOME!**



## Sunday 6th October at 10:30 Morning Service

Transforming Lives for Good - a speaker at our  
Morning Service launching the TLG Mentoring Scheme  
- see Geoff Treasure's article on page 20



**Monday 7th October** at 7:30pm

ECO Group Meeting

at Hesperia, The Avenue

Contact Richard Carpenter for details

and see Richard's article on page 14 for progress so far



**Saturday 19th October** from 10am

Operation Christmas Child Coffee Morning and  
box filling/packing - see Hilary's article on page 21

## HARVEST AT ST JAMES' SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER

This year's Harvest Service will be  
***All Age Worship at 10:30am***

Do come and join us - look out for  
more details on the Bulletin

These are just a few of the things going  
on at St James Church

To keep up to date with what else is happening, you  
can check out the weekly Bulletin available in church  
and also on our website:

**[www.stjamestaunton.co.uk](http://www.stjamestaunton.co.uk)**

# School Report

## Summer Fayre

This year a small team offered to lend a hand at the annual St James school fayre. David and Vashti supported Fabian being pelted with sponges on the 'Splat the Vicar' stand. Nadia and Martin's penguin frame was a great hit! Meanwhile Jenny did her best to help out with the high volume of lucky and unlucky tickets at the Tombola stand.



## Xplore

Once again, the Xplore group proved popular with sixteen regulars joining us on Wednesday evening for sixty minutes of fun, food, games and craft. It was a brilliant group and the leaders, Geoff, Annie, Deb, Sheila, Jenny and Mike, feel very privileged to be involved. Apparently next term is already booked up with a waiting list. We are hoping David will be back with us soon, we miss him greatly.



Our picture shows Geoff, Deb and Sheila surrounded by the rainbow of handprints - one for each child in the school.

## 'Farewell Mr Eveleigh' and 'Hello Mr Johnson'



We wish Jason Eveleigh well as he moves to Westover Green as Head Teacher. Our grateful thanks to him for continuing to develop the links between the School and the Church.

Our best wishes to Nigel Johnson as he comes to St James in September as the new Head Teacher. We hope to have an interview with him in the next edition of the Magazine.



A small group continue to meet to pray for the school in the Hive twice a term, on the 2nd Friday of each half term. Our next meeting is Friday 13th September at 8 a.m. (provisional) Do come and join us!



**2018-19**  
**We Had Fun!**



The occasion was tinged with sadness following the unexpected news of a death within the St James school community, and we continue to pray for the family, staff and children as they come to terms with their loss.

# One person, one hour, one year

It doesn't seem much to ask or to give, does it? It seems even less when you realise that every year;

- in England alone 2,620 pupils aged six or under are excluded from Primary Schools
- at Secondary and Primary levels 348,000 pupils are excluded from school every year.
- 93% of boys in young offenders institutes were excluded from school

## One person, one hour, one year...

...can make a significant impact upon the life of one such child emotionally, educationally, mentally, socially, within the school, within the home and within the community. That is why St James has joined Transforming Lives for Good, a Christian charity which seeks to encourage the local church to provide help and support for such children in their local school. Through this work we hope to strengthen even more our excellent relationships with the school and to reach out to families within our parish.

Without advertising for helpers God has provided us with six people who will be trained by TLG in September and commence work as mentors in October at our local church school. It is hoped that, within time, God will provide us with further helpers who catch the vision for what we believe is an exciting and meaningful form of service for God, the school and the parish.

## One person, one hour, one year

So much potential. So many lives touched. So much help and so many resources provided for mentors. Could it be that this is just the kind of service you might offer? On October 6th our morning service is receiving a visit from TLG and our initial team of mentors, and their work, will be officially recognised by the Church. To find out more, in the meantime, do have a word with me, Geoff Treasure, or David Jordan. Just...

## One hour, one year of your time





# It's Shoebox Time Again!

Here is a quote from 12 year old Iosif from Moldova:

***"I am so very happy that the Lord Jesus Christ did not forget us and sent us Christmas gifts through you."***



Could you help make a difference to a child this Christmas? Now is the time to pick up a list in church of the suitable gifts that make up a shoe box. There are several ways that you can help.

- 1) If you want to make up a whole box then pick up a leaflet, a pre-printed box and choose which category of child, and away you go. These need to be completed by the end of October
- 2) If you would rather contribute a few items to a box then look at the list, buy a few things and give them to Hilary.
- 3) Another way of helping would be to come to one or both coffee mornings that we are holding where we hope to sort out and pack up the many items that people have contributed, and also raise funds to cover the transportation of the boxes.

The first coffee morning is on **Wednesday September 25th** from 10am onwards in church. For this one we are overlapping with Praise and Play so that they can discover about the shoeboxes and so that you can enjoy their company. (They will be on the crèche side of church and we will be near the servery so don't worry, you won't be tripping over them!)

The second coffee morning is on **Saturday October 19th** from 10am onwards in church.

Thank you for any help  
you can offer.

Hilary Hayes



# I have been reading...

*Buildings for Mission* by Nigel Walter and Andrew Mottram, 2015

Blame the vicar for this one! Fabian “kindly” passed me this 335-page tome on buildings maintenance, drawing my attention to the chapters on developing buildings for mission.

The first half of the book is gripping, with headings such as ‘Bats’ and ‘Timber Decay’. So I’ll leave those parts aside, you’ll be pleased to hear.

## **The main message**

We have turned our church buildings into single-purpose private members’ clubs, and need to reclaim them for mission.

The Victorians are to blame, as usual. Yes, they saved a lot of buildings from crumbling away, but they also stuffed them full of fixed pews, which meant they could only be used in one way. And the heritage industry has regarded all subsequent change as loss.

## **Some quotes**

I’m going to let the book speak for itself, through some selected quotes.

“Consider these words in relation to your church building: engagement, encounter, being alongside, dialogue. Identify to what extent your church building facilitates or inhibits these activities among people. Does it have the right sort of arrangement to facilitate the building of relationships?”

“Locked churches reinforce the impression that they are the private premises of a ‘private members’ club’.”

“Many non-church people have anxieties about and fear of church buildings, what goes on inside them and the people associated with them. For some people, churches are virtually alien territory and are viewed with apprehension.”

“It is the form of the Church in the west which has become the biggest barrier to the gospel. The broad sweep of ecclesiastical life does not bear witness to the grace, passion, radicality, authority, tenderness, anger, excitement, involvement or acceptance of Jesus.”

“If the Church has learnt one thing from the twentieth century it is that the inherited model of ‘monocultural’ single-function churches has failed.

In place of this single-function model, this chapter proposes a four-dimensional model for church buildings, identifying four distinct modes of operation.” (Community meeting places, Teaching and learning places, Human creativity and artistic places, Aesthetic and threshold places.)

“Perhaps the greatest failing of contemporary conservation theory is that it has no account of, nor even concern with, how tomorrow’s heritage can be created, because it has no understanding of change, of how to engage with a living building.”

“Most church buildings suffer from a sharp divide between inside and outside, which makes them buildings that demand ‘pre-commitment’ – you have to know in advance that you want to enter and what you will do there before you even approach them. This is increasingly counter-cultural and makes our buildings more suited to some sort of secret society.”

“The healthiest model is seen on those buildings that combine a ‘traditional’ (i.e. community) understanding of Church with the low threshold of, for example, a café space that is easy and welcoming to come into. ... Having enjoyed their coffee or benefitted from the childcare they may then find themselves in a place of community where we are able to share our stories in both directions, thereby earning the right to share the bigger story we believe we all need to hear and partake in.”

“The challenge Jesus makes to the professional religious of his day is that the Kingdom of God is to be found in the mix of life, where (what we call) sacred and secular are jumbled up together, not in withdrawal from life. The parable [Luke 13:20-21] is attacking the boundaries that separate holy from unholy and the conventional means of telling good from bad. The way God works is not by separation. This is why the tax collectors, the publicans and all other sinners are invited to the party, and why our church buildings need to be open to all. Placing what is considered ‘worldly’ activity inside our churches challenges the distinctions we make between holy and unholy. It will not always be comfortable, or without its critics, but at least it looks like the kingdom of God.”

### **Where do we go from here?**

How might we use our buildings for outreach, not just for hiring out? We have already wondered about making a café/foyer area, so maybe that’s something we could follow up and ask the local community about?

MW

# Crossword

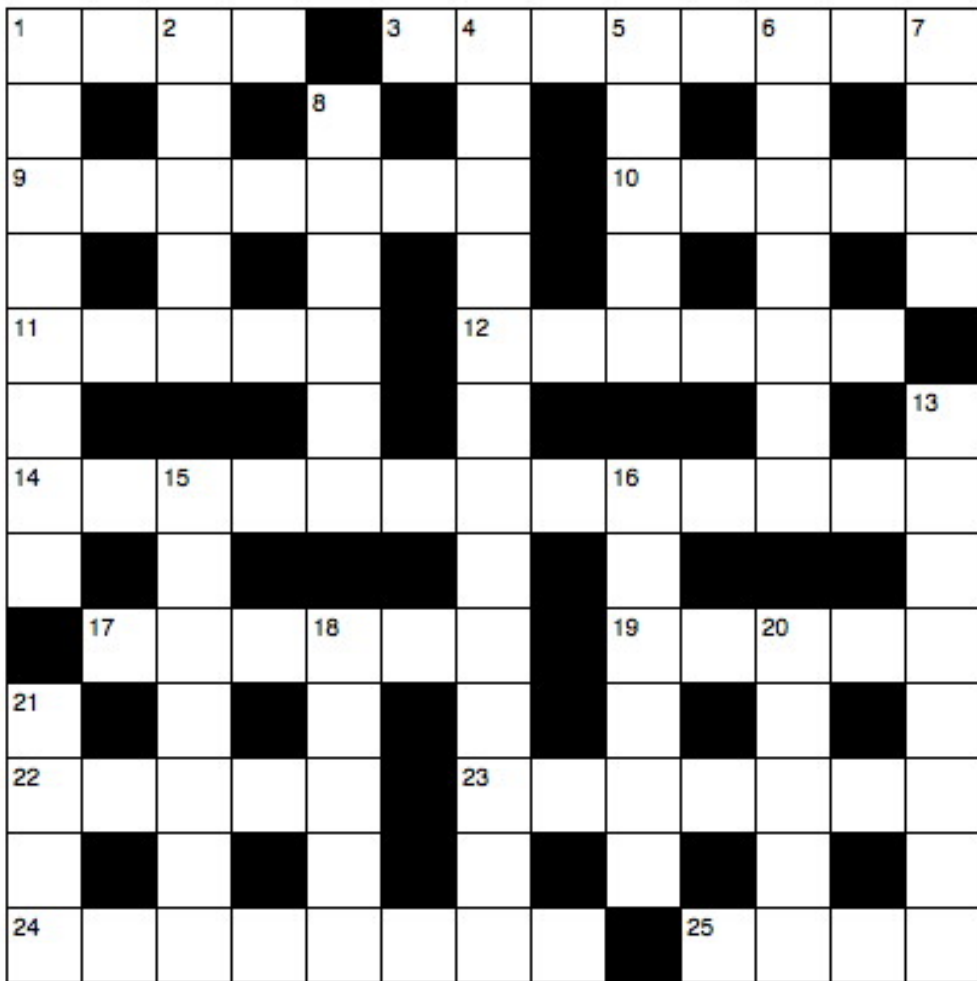
## Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

## Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)





DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

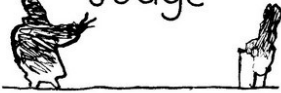
ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

**A little thought...**

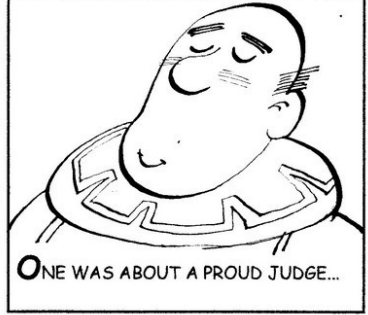
**Before you criticise someone, make sure you've walked a mile in their shoes. That way, you're a mile away AND you have their shoes!**

# Children's Pages

## The Tale of the The Widow and the Judge



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

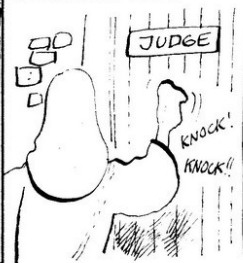


ONE WAS ABOUT A PROUD JUDGE...



...AND A POOR WIDOW

THE WIDOW NEEDED HELP  
FROM THE JUDGE.



BUT HE WAS FAR TOO PROUD  
AND BUSY TO LISTEN

BUT THE WIDOW  
WOULD NOT GIVE UP

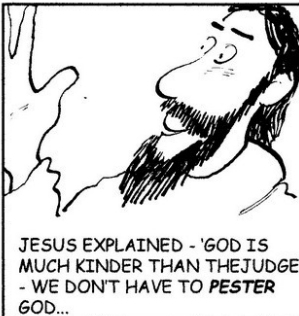


PLEASE COME AND SORT OUT  
MY LEGAL PROBLEMS



AT LAST THE JUDGE  
GAVE IN - AND WENT  
TO HELP THE WOMAN

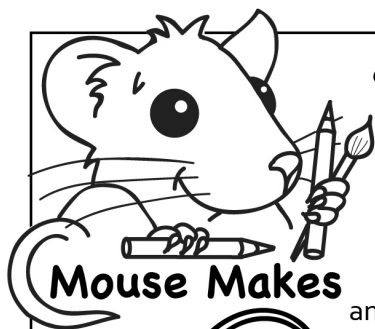
I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE  
YOU KEPT PESTERING ME!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'GOD IS  
MUCH KINDER THAN THE JUDGE  
- WE DON'T HAVE TO PESTER  
GOD...



...HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS  
WITHOUT OUR NAGGING HIM.

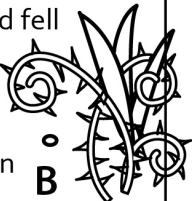


## Mouse Makes

Read  
the  
story  
in  
Mark  
1:1-20



Once there was a man who went out to sow corn. As he *scattered* the seed in the field some of it fell along the **path** where it was stepped on and **eaten** by the birds. Some of it fell on **rocky ground**, when the plants sprouted they **dried** up because the soil was dry. Some of the seed fell among **thorns** which grew up with the plants and **choked** them, and some seed fell in the **good** soil; the plants grew and produced corn - a **hundred** grains each!



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



JESUS • TEACH • LAKE • CROWD • GATHERED • BOAT • SHORE  
PARABLE • LISTEN • SOWER • SOW • SEED • PATH • BIRDS • ATE  
FELL • ROCKY • GROUND • SOIL • SUN • SCORCHED • ROOT  
WITHERED • THORNS • CHOKE • GRAIN • GOOD • SPROUT • GROW  
THIRTY • SIXTY • HUNDRED • HEAR • EARS

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

*Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in June and July. (The PCC does not meet in August.)*

## **Safeguarding**

Jenny Wakefield presented the Annual Safeguarding Report to PCC. All volunteers should undertake the C0 Safeguarding awareness training. If you have not yet done this, it is available online. The course offers advice about safeguarding issues that any of us might encounter.

Packs are being developed for every volunteer, through the work of the Supporting Volunteers group. These are aimed at making sure we look after all volunteers and they understand what is expected of them.

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

The Vision Group is now meeting to look at the way ahead for us as a church. The members are Steve Bradford, Nigel Bright (congregation representative), Jamie Fox, Joyce Kirk, Ruth Stevens, Nic Tall (ministry team representative), Martin Wakefield and Fabian Wuyts.

Fabian shared the image of the tree – being rooted in Scripture, with branches of work reaching out. As a church we want growth, not just in numbers, but in the depth of our faith. As we grow, there may be elements of the work that need to be pruned, and we need to trust God. We need to be prepared for change – and prepared for growth.

The PCC looked at nine words/phrases that had emerged from previous discussions as representing our values as a church: Diversity, Growth, Equipping, All Involved, Encountering God, Laughing & Sharing, Intentional, Service and Generous. The Vision Group is developing further thoughts on these themes.

## **Finances**

Richard Sainsbury reported that our finances are where they should be for this time of year.

We made the usual half-year grants to our overseas mission partners. The PCC agreed to continue to support Besom for the next three years so that they can renew the lease on their warehouse. Over the last three years Besom has quadrupled the support they give in the community.



## **Personnel**

We are still looking at how to staff the assistant administrator and safeguarding administrator roles.

We are thinking about the appointment of a permanent Children & Young People Co-ordinator to take over from Hilary and Vashti, who are filling the role temporarily. We are bearing in mind the possible future employment of a paid Children and/or Families and/or Youth Worker.

## **Mentoring Schemes**

There are three new mentoring schemes being planned.

Geoff Treasure updated the PCC on progress with Transforming Lives for Good (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.

Sara Bright and Mandy Habgood (Vineyard Church) thanked the PCC for the support as they launch the Family Links Nurturing Programme. They are looking to start the first programme in September to run alongside Toddler Group / Praise and Play.

The ROC project is continuing to progress a mentoring programme, with a particular focus on reaching out to families with children under 12.

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

- Concern has been expressed about the noise at the start of services, notably people talking over the singers when they begin the pre-service song. We are looking at how to encourage folk to fall silent at this point!
- We looked at the possibility of installing a Terracycle all-in-one recycling box, but the ongoing cost was prohibitive. Instead we are looking into whether we can be a collection point for another scheme.
- The PCC agreed to fund the refurbishment of the clappers on five of our bells to avoid any major damage to the bells or the tower.
- ROC is looking for a co-ordinator to progress the winter night shelter project. It is likely to be hosted by the Salvation Army and Canon Street Pentecostal Church, with other churches stepping in as volunteers.

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

MW



# Journey Into Space

Our annual fun day took off to the moon this year! It was inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first Apollo moon landing, which led to a whole range of activities aimed at encouraging people to think about space, the universe and beyond. It was hoped that, in amongst the fun, visitors would have the chance to contemplate the wonder of it all, as well as reflect on our own responsibility in caring for the planet.



So, while the children had a good time - donning space suits for a trip in the lunar lander, making badges and bags, doing experiments, setting off water rockets (including one that landed in the yew tree) and having their faces and nails painted - there was also plenty of opportunity for thinking, checking out carbon foot prints and getting geeky with computer programming.

For those of an energetic disposition the tower, as ever, was very popular. Marian and her team were scooting up the tower every 30 minutes with the added bonus of seeing the Australian and English women's cricket teams playing for the Ashes.



Space themed snacks and moon baps were consumed at the servery. Ruth and her team were working flat out, while information about keeping fit and healthily fed were available from Slimming World and the Studio. It was exhausting and we are really grateful to everyone who contributed in any way to make it happen.

It was a great day and hopefully the interest in science and faith and caring for our planet will be something that will continue to challenge us.

# Current PCC Members

A reminder of the current members of the Parochial Church Council  
If you'd like to raise any issues with the PCC or find out more about what  
the Council does, do talk to any of these people



*Rev Fabian Wuyts*



*Church Wardens  
Steve Bradford and Ruth Stephens*



*Associate Warden  
Joyce Kirk*



*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*

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Ruth Stevens 01823 972838  
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Children & Young People's Co-ordinators:  
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