



St James  
Church  
TAUNTON

# St James Church Magazine

*December 2019 - February 2020*



## Letter from the Vicar

Reverend Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James

***“Of all the hardships a person had to face, none was more punishing than the simple act of waiting.”***

*‘A Thousand Splendid Suns’ Khaled Hosseini  
(author of “The Kite Runner”)*

I guess waiting is not a strong suit for many of us in our ‘hurry-up’ culture. Everything seems urgent with people expecting our immediate attention and things that must be sorted quickly.



During Advent the Church celebrates the beginning of a new Liturgical year and invites each of us to a period of waiting. But while some ‘waitings’ are rather passive, like waiting for a late train or the results of a test, Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation, more like waiting for the coming birth of a child. It is not just about retelling the stories of Jesus’ birth, but also about looking forward to the future promise of his return and how to ready ourselves for that.

The Bible is filled with stories of people who waited for the fulfillment of a promise or who waited for their prayers to be heard. To Abraham,



God had promised that he would be the father of a great nation, that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sands on the seashore. He waited for many long years and only experienced the fulfilment of the promise in his old age with the miraculous birth of Isaac (both Abraham and Sarah were then well past childbearing age!).



Zechariah and Elizabeth found themselves in a similar position. They had waited a lifetime for a child. They had prayed and hoped that God would listen to their prayers. They spent years suffering disappointment, sorrow, and God's silence; until God broke that silence with the announcement of a birth, that of John the Baptist.

These figures were forced to wait for God to respond to their prayers. In the process they most certainly learned to trust him and to trust in his love. Those stories remind us that what may often seem to us like unnecessary waiting may be necessary for the fulfilment of his mysterious plan, not just for us but for the world.

At St James' we are entering a time of expectant waiting as we seek to discern in prayer and conversation how God is calling us to be Good News - to one another, to the community, the town and the world.

Waiting is an expectant patience. It's a patience that says, "I don't know what God is going to do, but I know God is going to do something."

— Max Lucado —

Advent is the perfect time to look at our lives, at our relationship with God and with each other and, in prayer, to let Jesus enter our hearts and change our lives.

As we do that, may the peace of God be over us to shelter us, under us to uphold us, around us to protect us, behind us to direct us, ever with us to save us.

Quote: ***"We can all learn to recognize Him better among us and welcome Him with joy."*** Unknown

*Fabian*

Fabian Wuyts - Vicar of St James



Inca Nation...

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Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the Magazine. If you have something to share for the next edition, do contact the Editor either directly or through the Church Office - details on page 35.

In this edition there are several notifications of events - Christmas Services, our December Mission Focus and an exciting Murder Mystery Evening! (Tickets available from the Church Office.) There are some very interesting (and maybe controversial) reports of trips and visits and there is a good deal about 'Eco things'.

We have news of our Church school and a beautiful and moving poem. There are also some challenges...perhaps God is calling you for special work.

Do read and then, maybe, pass this on to a neighbour who isn't a member of St James' so they can see what we get up to.

Chris Doyle - St James' Parish Magazine Editor

**Deadline for copy for March-May edition is 18th February 2020**

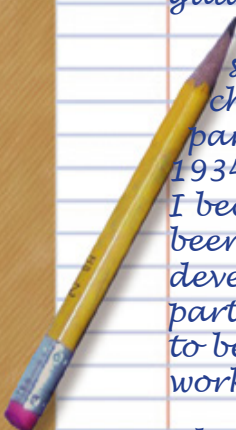
*This month's cover is a photo by Chris Doyle of part of the Nativity facade of the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona designed by Antoni Gaudí*



Ink our nation...



## The Epistle of Joyce Lander to the St Jamesians



Thank you for your support in prayer and for leaving messages to encourage me in my move to Newton Abbot. I feel the Lord has been guiding me from the time I put the house on the market (sold within 24 hours) to my settling into the flat and for finding a church for my needs. My husband Eric's parents attended St James' Church from 1934, and Eric attended from the age of 7. I became a member in 1964 so St James' has been very special in my Christian growth and development. In the early days, I found being part of the church quite hard as opportunities to be involved were difficult because I was working full time.

I have so many people to thank over the years, especially Vicky Dykes and Thursday Fellowship, the love and welcome of Stan and Alice Williams many years ago along with Dick and Peggy Barrett. My home group, led by Celia Wojcik, started in 2000 and the love, fellowship and Bible teaching has held us all together. I have enjoyed supporting the Baby and Toddler Group and the School Experience led by Jenny Wakefield and her team.

So, St James' will always be my family though I am now living in Newton Abbot, and I will enjoy visits from any of you.

Wishing you all God's blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Love Joyce

If you'd like to contact Joyce or arrange a visit, you can get details from the Church Office – Ed.



# DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



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

So it has been decided. There is to be a General Election on 12 December and much has been made of the fact that this is the first December election since 1923. Things could be worse however, as the 1885 General Election took place over three weeks from 24 November to 18 December 1885. It was nonetheless an

important milestone in social history, as it extended voting rights so that for the first time a majority of adult males could vote and most constituencies returned only a single member to Parliament. These were quite radical developments and at that election large numbers of men voted for the first time. It saw the Liberals, led by Gladstone, win the most seats but not an overall majority, with the Irish Nationalists holding the balance of power and the Unionist MPs having a significant voice. The 1885 election also saw the first socialist party, the Social Democratic Freedom, participate.

So significant was this election that my predecessor, Bishop Arthur Herve, wrote an open letter on 2 October 1885 suggesting that, *'all Christian subjects of the Queen had a duty of special prayer to Almighty God that He will be pleased to guide the minds of the Electors to make such a choice of representatives as shall tend most to the glory of God, the honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and the happiness of the people.'* In his view Parliament was responsible

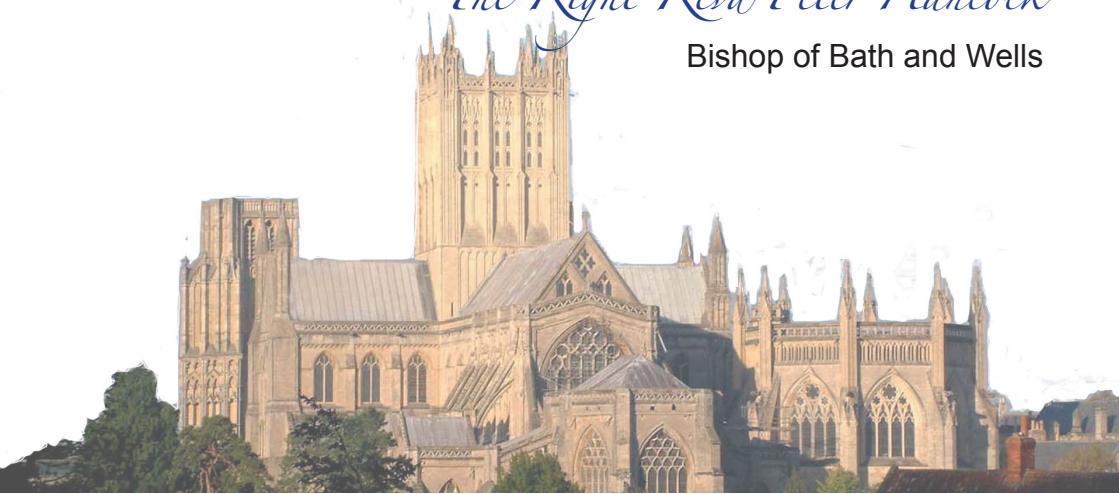
for establishing '*peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety*' and the '*welfare of all people.*' In asking people to pray, as well as to vote, he made it clear that whilst people would have different '*political leanings*' that they needed to come together to pray for the '*peace and happiness of the nation at large*'.

I think we all know that this General Election before us now will similarly be critical in helping to determine the future of the United Kingdom – at least for the immediate future. In writing this article I am therefore seeking to follow Bishop Arthur Hervey by reminding us all of the responsibility we have to pray for our country and to work with all people for the welfare and the well-being of everyone.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

*The Right Revd Peter Hancock*

Bishop of Bath and Wells



*(Editor's note - even after 12th December the Bishop's comments, reminding of our responsibility to pray, still hold good for the ongoing government of our country through the Members of Parliament in the Commons and members of the House of Lords.)*

In car, nation...





For our harvest lunch in October, we asked those bringing food to choose items with an eco-touch - locally produced, no single-use plastic, organic or fair-trade perhaps. That led me to think how we might apply such thinking to our wider choices about the food we all eat.

What if all our food was: well produced, well traded and well used? We can all reflect on these and see where we might make our choice and use of food more in line with the fifth mark of mission: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

Here are three areas where we may be able to make what we eat just a little more planet-friendly if we look for things that are:

## Well produced

### Low energy

Embrace seasonality: remember that growing crops in heated greenhouses can mean that locally produced (out of season) foods actually use more energy – to heat a greenhouse – than similar items shipped across the world.

Raising animals is actually a fairly inefficient use of many types of land; would we better off just to eat more fruit and veg ourselves? It's been said that one acre can support one cow or ten people. Also, of course, animal husbandry is a significant contributor to high levels of greenhouse-gasses.

### Nature friendly

Here, of course, the key thoughts lie around organic production and animal welfare. Do remember that it's not just egg-laying chickens who need space and freedom to move. Hopefully assurance schemes should help in our assessing this aspect but it may be simpler to buy from known, local suppliers.

### Less processed

Buy food, not food-products: it's an old adage that the aim of the food (processing) industry is to sell us sweet fat. In all too many cases processors don't add value; far too often they're just looking to add that fat and sugar (and some water if possible).

## Well traded

### Bought for a fair price

If prices seem too good to be true then they probably are – at least for somebody. All too often that's the farmer or they're just a loss-leader to entice us buy more things where the profit margins are high enough to offset that 'loss' for the retailer.

### Local

Long distance transport uses energy and creates pollution; in some cases there's a tendency to distort the economy of the producing areas. Buying local also helps to ensure that losses in the supply chain are kept to a minimum.

## Well used

And once we've bought something, let's make sure we eat it. Some estimates indicate that, in Britain, we throw away or waste around a fifth of what we buy.

Also, let's not buy into the myth of perfect fruit and veg; a recent BBC report suggests that between 20 to 40% of produce in the UK is binned before it even leaves the farm. Some of that will be down to retailer's unpredictable buying patterns but much will be 'quality' standards we don't need.

Remember, the world already produces enough for everyone to have enough, it's just that some of us are not only greedy, we're also wasteful. In all, perhaps a third of all food grown for humans is wasted or lost.

## Small steps

Becoming more eco-friendly in our approach to food doesn't (necessarily) mean turning vegan or (for those of us able to remember it) adopting an approach to self-sufficiency as seen in 'The Good Life'. Rather, let's think of these three pointers as we buy and use our food. Small steps matter; what counts is the direction we're seeking to travel.

Richard Carpenter

p.s. The wildflower area in the churchyard has now been prepared and sown – let's see what spring brings!!

## ST JAMES' ECO WARRIORS



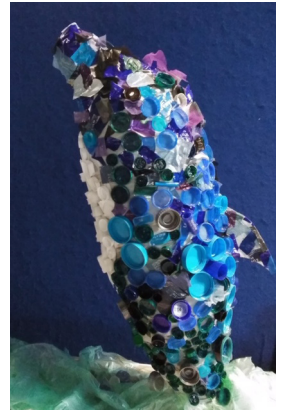
Children of St. James' Church in Taunton have taken the lead in spreading the eco message and have become Eco Warriors. They have told the rest of the congregation their own hopes for God's wonderful world and they have built a beautiful bug hotel in the church grounds.



In addition to this, they have made a sculpture inspired by the Skyscraper Whale of Bruges, called Finn the St J's Dolphin, and played their part in a plastic free 'bring and share' Harvest Lunch.

Now they are looking forward to a catwalk experience as they put on a fashion show dressed in clothes destined for the charity shops and they have helped prepare and sow a wild flower area next to their bug hotel.

Well done St J's Eco Warriors!



In 'Carnation'



## A Pearl of Great Price

When I began my training for the Methodist Ministry I had some very good and experienced teachers; some of their 'off-the cuff' remarks were the best. One came in the middle of a lecture - 'Remember, brethren, never over estimate people's knowledge, never under estimate their intelligence'. Never was this more important to have remembered than during my first African Christmas.

The Mission was a very busy one with a girls' boarding school of about 180 girls, and a small clinic with a few hospital beds. That first Christmas was in the middle of the worst flooding for many years, that made the work harder in many ways. It was a wearying journey to get food for the school and, because the road had been partially washed away, it meant everything had to be carried for over a mile to where a VW Combi van was waiting for us. The girls were away for Christmas holiday and the classrooms were available for our use. We planned a training day with the Lay Preachers. I was going to share some insights into John's teaching about Jesus being the Word of God. Being new to the country and having very little of the language, Beniah, the evangelist, was translating what I was saying. Very quickly I was floundering and I lost the gathering's attention. They were bored and I was frustrated and feeling that I was letting them down. This was where I needed to heed the advice of my Principal, 'Never over estimate their knowledge...'

As they left to return to their villages I had to acknowledge I had missed the mark in no uncertain terms. I turned to Beniah and he was upset for me. I asked him, 'Beniah, what would you have done?' He looked at me for a moment and in true graciousness he replied, 'Muruti (teacher), I would have told them a story about a man, a woman and a baby...'

There is a timelessness about this story of Christmas. Amongst all the carol concerts, Nativity plays and parties, we are telling a story about a man, a woman and a baby for the world to hear. Never let us forget that, especially as now we see the Western World as a mission field. Never let us over-estimate people's knowledge but never under-estimate their intelligence.

In telling that story, we are also telling our story. The Methodist Prayer Handbook for this year has a very telling phrase, 'We have to practise our faith story, to tell testimonies before they are eulogies...' Or, as another Methodist preacher used to say, 'The Church is only one generation away from annihilation...it is for us to make disciples...' Brian Stocks

## Susie's climate protest

Isaiah 1 v 17 encourages us to, 'Seek justice; defend the oppressed.' Christians have a long history of social action based on a love for fellow humans and a desire to stand up for those without a voice. I joined Extinction Rebellion (XR) knowing that although the organization is not specifically Christian it shares very many of our core beliefs such as valuing each person, their unique contributions and the sense of community fostered when we take the opportunity to listen to others rather than thinking about getting our own ideas across.

XR believes in non-violent direct action to alert everyone about the climate crisis. The two-week rebellion in London during the autumn was primarily focused on Government because, although they have declared a climate emergency, we have yet to see any real change in behaviour and any commitment to change. It seems to be very much 'business as usual' despite letters to politicians, petitions and the usual means of raising our objections to policy.

The addiction to the fossil fuel industry is international and multi faceted. A recent example of government duplicity comes from UK Export Finance (the Government's foreign credit agency) who promised in 2017 to offer £1 billion to help UK companies export expertise in 'infrastructure green energy and healthcare' to Argentina. Although sounding worthy, instead what has happened is that the money has gone to prioritise support for major oil companies such as Shell and BP who are fracking in the vast Vaca Muerta shale heartlands. Fracking here has already caused irreversible damage to the ancestral homeland of Argentina's indigenous Mapuche people after an oil fire burned for more than three weeks near a fresh water lake in Vacu Muerta (source: Guardian 22.10.19). And this is just one example, despite evidence that the burning of fossil fuels causes increased CO<sub>2</sub> levels and possibly irreversible impacts on global climate. As relatively well off inhabitants of the global north, we are cushioned against immediate impacts but globally we are already seeing extinction of some animal populations and whole regions becoming uninhabitable. This has the knock-on effect of widespread starvation, mass migrations and civil wars. As Christians, who believe that we are custodians of a wonderful, diverse and precious planet, I feel we cannot stand by whilst the rich few exploit the many.

That is why, on 14th October 2019, I took the step - along with around 1700 others - actively to get myself arrested. I went to training sessions to

understand what my rights were and that we all have a right to peaceful protest. The idea behind mass arrests was to signal to Government and business that we cannot continue on the current road to disaster for the planet. It is not enough for individuals to make huge changes to their life styles in the hope that this will change global warming (of course individual change is good) but this problem requires national and international action to introduce system change at a global level.



It was an early start to the day (4am). After finding St Paul's Cathedral barricaded off by police, our group made its way to the Bank of England to protest about the continued investment by banks in fossil fuels, driving forward our dependency on them. I sat down in the middle of the road and, after about two and a half hours, the police told me

I was contravening section 14 of the Public Order Act. I refused to move, they read me my rights and I was carried away by four police officers. I was sent to Lewisham police station and remained in a cell for about 11 hours. It was warm and dry, I was allowed a book to read and food and drink. The police were respectful and civil. I met some wonderful Quakers who had been involved in another action, they were all well over the age of 75, completely undeterred by arrest and quietly singing worship songs (what an inspiration!). I was given a conditional discharge pending further investigation. Should I subsequently get a court appearance, I am seriously considering representing myself so that I can have the chance to explain why I took such drastic action, why I have never knowingly ever broken the law before (and would have previously been appalled at the very idea) and why, in this case, the normal rules simply do not apply.

We are literally fighting for the existence of humans, animal populations and plant species. I believe as a Christian that it is my duty in love to try to represent those who are suppressed and repressed. Jeremiah tells us, 'Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place (Jer 22, v 3). If you are interested in finding out more about XR (it doesn't have to involve getting arrested!) I would love to talk to you.

Susie Peeler





# ...MISSION

This autumn we have focused on three of the Missions that we support.

## Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal



In September Hilary Hayes challenged us to contribute to 'Operation Christmas Child' by packing a box or donating items for the boxes which are sent to children as a gift of love to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Coffee mornings in September and October raised funds for the distribution costs and, in November, 69 boxes were dedicated during an All Age Worship service to be dispatched for delivery.



Samaritan's Purse is an international aid agency and has been active this year in the many areas where humanitarian disasters have struck, including the devastating hurricane in the Bahamas, as well as many ongoing areas of distress. Have a look at their website for more details or speak to Roger Fenton, our Samaritan's Purse representative.



<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

## The Open Door – Taunton

Our food and offerings for Harvest have been given to Open Door, which caters for the needs of those who are homeless and roofless in the town. Open Door is open every morning in the week up to lunch time and provides meals, clothing, washing and laundry facilities as well as friendship and support for the diverse community who, for many reasons, do not have a home of their own. As winter approaches the needs of the homeless will become more extreme. Churches and organisations like Open



Door and ARC in Taunton are working with the Council to support initiatives under the Emergency Provision for Cold Weather. For more details about Open Door do look at their website or talk with Jonathan Sladden, their chairperson.

<https://www.tauntonopendoor.org.uk/>

## Home for Good

In November, in recognition of Adoption Sunday, the work of Home for Good and the various adoption agencies was highlighted. There is a vast need for both foster parents and adopters to meet the spiralling numbers of children in care and those placed for adoption. Home for Good was founded by Krish Kandiah, an adopter himself, to challenge churches to consider fostering and adoption and demonstrates ways that foster carers and adopters could be supported by their Church Community.



For more details have a look at their website or speak to Sheila Marlow, who is a former foster carer and HfG Champion.

<https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/>

In December the focus will be on...

# tearfund

...so watch out for details and the big Christmas card!



## Ollie Goes to Africa!

Between the days of the 4th to the 14th of August, I went to an area of Kenya called Lake Nakuru with Scouts from all over Somerset. Whilst we were there we helped at three schools which are sponsored by Younique Travel Adventures, the company we travelled with.

The first school we visited was called Melon Mission, which is a large school and has many children. One thing I remember is that most of the buildings were just sheds and there was one big concrete building where the classes were. They had rows of desks in each room and there were diagrams and learning aids all over the walls.

The second school was Little Kings which was a lot smaller than Melon Mission and the site it was on was a lot smaller too. It was a small yard with a row of small rooms where there was one class, a shed, the loos and the teacher's office. The classroom was small too and one of our jobs was to paint the classroom walls.

There was a group of five orphans from three different families that all lived together. The oldest child was just 12 but cared for all of them because they and the school couldn't afford a carer. My group pooled together some money to buy some food and extra bedding for them as they had to share a bunk bed where the two oldest slept on the top and the youngest three slept on the bottom. This was the only place where they could sleep which was honestly disheartening to see. We were told that this happens all over Kenya.



The third school we went to was Silver Bells, larger than Little Kings but it was a nice school with a medium size yard with trees and shade. The group I was in only visited this school for one day, so we just did sports with them - Frisbee, catch, football and so on.

Even though it was their summer holiday a lot of the children prefer to be in the schools because it's somewhere nice to be. They are safe, they get fed 2 meals a day and there are lots of things to do.

That was my time in Kenya volunteering at the schools. We also went on a safari in the Lake Nakuru Nature Reserve, to an Elephant and Giraffe Sanctuary, visited the Equator and the second largest volcanic crater in the world, The Menengai crater, which supplies geothermal power.

*Oliver Samson (Ollie) goes to Phoenix Scout Group and is a member of our youth group. He attends Taunton Academy and is studying for GCSE's. Ollie has appeared with St James' Players in panto and in 'Passioneaster2018'.*

New  
Vicar  
Mary

After ma  
months  
interreg  
St Mary  
Taunton  
new vica

Rev Tob  
Osmond  
installed  
ceremon  
31st Oct  
by the R  
Peter H  
Bath an

Tobie w  
curate  
St Geor  
Wilton  
also tra  
Toront

His firs  
notices  
not be  
coffee  
as he  
watch  
rugby  
on tel

Our  
Lucas  
singin  
band.



# Church Transformation....!

Well, not sure if this is quite what the theologians and Church leaders mean when they talk of 'Transformation'.

When Fabian agreed to be the guest interviewee for a church based 'Desert Island Discs', he may not have realised this is what would happen. But he might have guessed with Vashti



heading up the scene setting, while Annie developed her talents as a mocktail hostess. Those of you attended will probably remember the desert island with inflatable palm trees and paddling pool long after the Vicar's choice of music. However, one memory that will stay in the mind is the 'Superman' theme with Nathan running to his daddy to be picked up and whirled around with the music, safe and secure.

On a more serious note, transformation is needed for our churches to enable those who have been put off 'churchianity' to discover the saving power of God's grace that can change and re-focus lives. Like Nathan, we need to be secure and confident in trust and love of our Heavenly Father if we are to share an authentic faith that will change lives. So let's hope and pray for more transformation at St James' as we seek to grow.


Jenny Wakefield



*We don't sing carols no more...  
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*



# #FollowTheStar



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



## *Our Christmas Services at St James Church, Taunton*

### **Sunday 1st December**

**10.30am** Christingle Service

*Fun and wonder for all ages*

### **Sunday 8th December**

**10.30am** Holy Communion



**7.00pm** Praise Service

### **Tuesday 10th December**


**6.15pm** Business Carol Service

*For all who work in Taunton with Taunton Team  
Chaplaincy*

**Taunton**  
Team  
**Chaplaincy**




Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ,  
who is God with us, during this wonderful season.





# #FollowTheStar

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## **Sunday 15th December**

**10.30am** Family Service

*A Christmas experience not to be missed!*

**7.00pm** Holy Communion

## **Sunday 22nd December**

**10.30am** Holy Communion

*Children get their own party!*

**6.30pm** Carols by Candlelight

*Followed by mince pies!*

## **Tuesday 24th December**

**4.00pm** Crib Service

*Participate in the special story of Christmas*

**11.30pm** Midnight Communion

*'Silent night, holy night...'  
Midnight on Christmas Eve*



**Wednesday 25th December 10.30am Christmas Day Celebration**

Coffee and mince pies first.  
Just short of an hour, a chance to unwrap the Christmas Gift.



# St James Church School

A message from new  
Headteacher, Nigel Johnson



Thank you to our wider school community for all being so open, helpful and welcoming during my first half term as Headteacher.

Just a little about me as I know that the plan is to do an interview with me in the next edition. I'm a Headteacher because I want to make a difference. My own experience of school was fantastic. I was challenged and supported by some amazing teachers and I want that to be the case for children at St James Church School. Along my journey as a Headteacher I've learnt first-hand that links with the local community and church are important in making a school truly part of and well regarded in its community.

St James is a wonderful school and I feel blessed to be the new Headteacher.

A few key things that I have learnt about St James from my short time here:

- Children are clearly the most important people in the school
- Children have huge respect for all staff
- Safeguarding is taken very seriously
- Staff work as a team and support each other
- Staff take on responsibilities with enthusiasm
- Difficulties happen and children's behaviour can be challenging but we work as a team to get the best out of them
- We work with all parents positively

Together with the Leadership Team we have written a School Development Plan and I attach a short summary (*see right*). Ensuring that our ethos is clear so that children know our values, along with giving children and staff opportunities for reflection and to explore their spirituality are amongst our key priorities.



# St James Church School

## SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PARENTS



**Ensuring  
that our  
curriculum  
is great**

**Embed  
Learning  
expeditions**

**Link the  
curriculum  
to our local  
area**

**Make sure  
we build on  
skills and  
knowledge  
each year**



**Reading is  
a golden  
thread at St  
James**

**New Library  
and space for  
Accelerated  
Reader tests  
etc**

**Progression  
of skills in  
each year  
group**

**Reading  
programmes  
used to  
check and  
target gaps**



**Writing  
skills  
improve in  
each year  
group, year  
on year**

**Train staff  
on ways to  
make writing  
interesting**

**Link writing  
to learning  
expeditions**

**Focus on  
handwriting  
from KS1**



**Making sure  
that our Ethos  
reflects what  
staff, parents  
and children  
want from the  
school**

**School,  
values are  
embedded  
and discussed  
often**

**Reflection:**  
Children  
reflect on their  
own actions,  
their work etc

**Spirituality:**  
Children  
explore their  
own beliefs  
and sense of  
who they are



**Listening  
to children  
and their  
opinions**

**Eco Team  
improve  
our school  
environment**

**Ethos  
Forum: shape  
assemblies  
and our Ethos**

**School  
Headteacher's  
Forum: meet  
and raise issues  
and help to  
drive changes**



**Making sure  
that disadvan-  
taged children  
achieve as  
well as other  
children**

**Understand  
the gaps  
that children  
have in more  
detail**

**Teaching is  
targeted at  
all children,  
so they  
catch up**

**Interventions  
for children  
that fall  
behind, and  
they catch up**

*As Nigel has mentioned, we hope to have a longer interview with him in the next edition once he has settled into the school a little more - Ed.*

# School Report

## Harvest Celebration

St James School came for their annual Harvest celebration in mid October, a little later than expected as heavy rain led to a swift rearrangement of plans. But all was good on Friday 18th, two days before our own Harvest service. As ever, the church was full with parents, relatives, staff and, most importantly, the children.



They sang their hearts out, showed their parents a range of their work and performed confidently and clearly. The tale of harvesting the giant turnip gave everyone a chance to appreciate the humour as one of the classes acted out the story.



It was one of those weeks when the Church saw several quick changes of configuration as chairs were moved, re-moved, stacked and unstacked.

Thank you to everyone who was involved.



## TLG is good to go

Please remember Geoff Treasure and David Jordan in your prayers as the 'Transforming Lives for Good' mentoring team meet the children with whom they will be working and start their new roles. This is an exciting and positive partnership with the school.

## School Website

Unless you are a parent it's often difficult to know what happens in school, and it is probably very different from what it was like when most of us were there! Primary schools are exciting places where children experience learning and exploration everyday. Having a look at the school website is a good way of keeping up with what is happening there and it will help you be more informed as you pray for the staff and children.

**<https://www.stjamesch.co.uk>**

Is this the worst Christmas cracker joke...?

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get? *Missile toe...!!!*



## THE ARCHWAY

*Many people, regulars and visitors alike, have commented on the arch under the west tower in St James'. It started life as the 'entrance' to the wood for our panto, 'Babes in the Wood'. It was suggested we keep it and use it for other displays. By the time you read this, Harvest may have given way to Advent/Christmas!*

*When I first created this, I explained that God has given each of us gifts to use. Mine tend to be 'arty' – design, drawing and painting, music, writing, drama – but others have different skills.*

*Perhaps you have a head for figures, or you're good at organising. Maybe catering or the coffee rota is your forte or you're at your best when it comes to praying with others. You might be someone who is good at arranging events or you're adept at dance and performing arts. Meeting and greeting and making people feel welcomed is as much a skill as maintenance - making sure the technical stuff works and the building is still standing. Some have a gift for teaching, some for just 'being there' for others. There are those who manage or take part in Besom projects or who are good at fund raising...the list goes on. And not all of these are 'showy' – many things happen behind the scenes when others can't see, but each gift, skill and act is important.*

*When I first painted the arch two and a half years ago, I was asking God where and how he wanted me to be working. He seems to have found plenty for me to do...! A while back we talked at St James' for many months about our 'front line' and one of the things I feel a real responsibility for is just to 'be there' for the chaps with whom I play golf and listen when needed.*

*I posed questions to myself then, and to the members here at St James - Is God speaking to you? Do you have skills and talents that you can use for him? Is God prompting you into a new area of work for him? Well...?*

# What a challenge!



It was a sad sight. The farmer had watched his crops grow over the summer and smiled to himself as he anticipated a bumper crop. Now as he looked at the same field, all he saw were dead stalks, bedraggled by the weather. What might have been a great harvest was now a total



loss. The reason was simple - he had been unable to hire in a band of reapers at the time of harvest. The harvest was ready; the labourers were not. It was a picture known to Jesus.

*‘Don’t you have a saying, “It’s still four months until harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.’ (John 4:35)*

*‘Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37)*

Sixteen or so youngsters meet every Wednesday at St James Church School for Xplore Cub. For almost every child who attends there is one who would like to do so but numbers are limited. It would be possible to run a second club to cater for these but team members are needed to enable this to happen. Sadly, we do not have them.

*‘The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’*

This month we have launched ‘Transforming Lives for Good’ within the school. Currently we have four mentors who give one hour a week to one pupil for one year. The school have said that they could provide thirty children who would benefit from this one-to-one relationship.

*‘The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’*

Some team members of Xplore Club would like to mentor but cannot undertake responsibilities in both areas of this work.

*‘The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’*

Both these ‘fields’ offer immense and rewarding opportunities. Have you thought that this might be an area of outreach in which you could become involved?



If you would like to talk further about Xplore, have a word with David Jordan. If mentoring might be your calling, please see Geoff Treasure for further information.

*‘Don’t you have a saying, “It’s still four months until harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.’ (John 4:35).*

*‘Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37)*

Geoff Treasure

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## School Pastors in Taunton

Taunton School Pastors started working with Taunton Academy about 5 years ago. We are Christians from churches in Taunton who volunteer to commit ourselves to the service of young people at the school. We support the young people and wider school community by providing a listening ear and a reassuring, friendly presence.

We do this because we believe that Jesus loves our young people and has invited us to show that love by turning up, listening to and caring for them where they are.

Taunton Academy has a chaplain and a lovely room which was decorated over the summer to be the chaplaincy. Young people of all ages regularly go there at break or lunchtimes to ‘chill out’, talk or do an activity. Wednesday lunchtimes is ‘Wellbeing’ time and we have the privilege of sharing and spending time with them.

Some School Pastors take assemblies, mentor individual young people, listen to reading and are often invited by staff to accompany them on school trips. We patrol on 3 days a week and walk with the students as they go home via the shop and park where we have some good conversations and can support anyone who feels vulnerable.

Please pray for the students, the staff and the School Pastors and give thanks that we have been welcomed by the school.

Marilyn Gibson

## *Three in One*

*We walked the stony Quantock track  
In boots that bore the brunt of  
Mud baked ruts and juts of flint,  
Catching the slide and funnel of grass,  
Expectant of the views to come,  
And for every rusted bracken bank,  
White barked birch, brilliant  
Against the sky so blue.*

*Over the top we marched towards  
The stand of beech trees, in chilled shade,  
Parted from the sun and frozen puddled,  
Maze of paths, twisted through the dipped floor.  
Glimpse of sun splash through the trunks,  
The jarring sound of boots on stone  
Now changed to mush as thick leaved piles  
Absorbed and muffled footfall to a ....hush.*

*The urgent pace now slowed to  
Linger, sliding, wandering, searching,  
Stopping to catch breath and gaze above.  
Then there it was, the twig that  
Yielded all the elements of time together,  
Past, present, future, three in one,  
The mast, the gold bronzed leaf, the leaf bud  
Stretched out from its life blood's pulse.*

*Weeks before had spied that same twig,  
Still here, as was,  
The leaves now rain drabbed, curled by beaten wind,  
But all held tight in that wild place,  
Affirming masts of forebears as they trod those paths before us,  
And of babe, just budding, yet to walk but will.  
Our glorious footfall praises ring,  
Of gladness to be there in the being.*



I wrote this poem following a winter's walk on Lydeard Hill, several years ago. I was profoundly moved on seeing a particular twig on a beech tree. It demonstrated to me how past, present and future were all held together, encapsulated in that one twig. I thought of parents, ourselves and daughters and the news we'd just received of a grandchild 'on the way'. Over a period of around a hundred years all these people would have walked the same path on the Quantocks. The same thread of life holding us all together in the one place.

Praise God for His amazing creation!

Bridget Hall

# Crossword

## Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

## Down

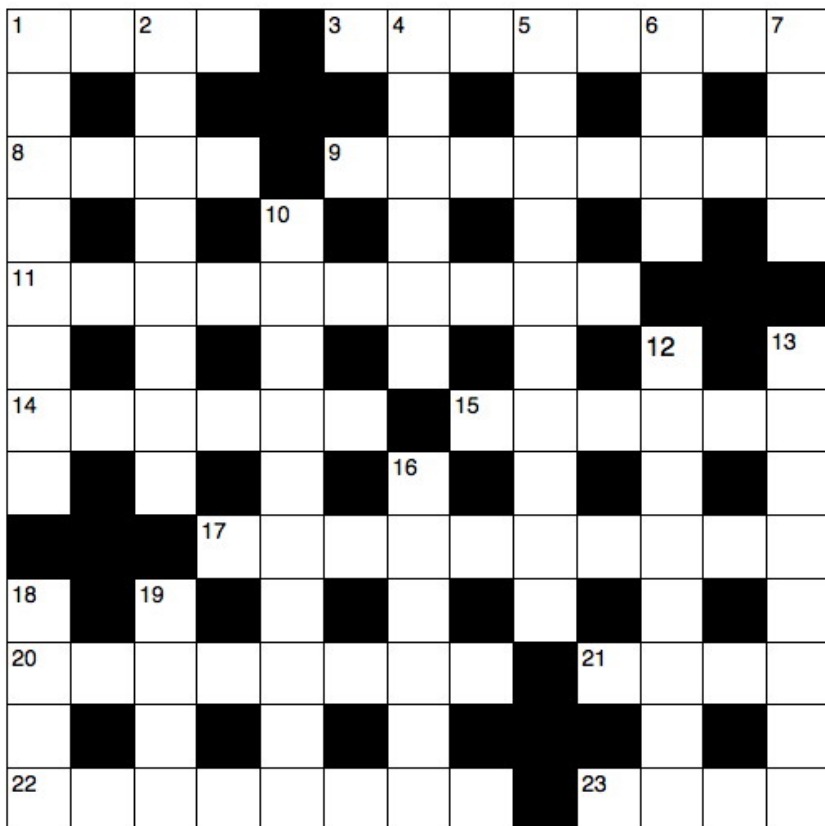
- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

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DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asas. 19, Clan.

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.





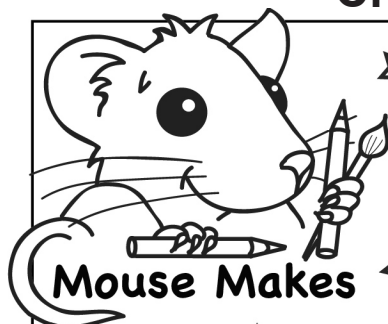
## Spell Checker gone wrong...!

My spell checker and predictive text seems to have taken over here...  
Can you work out which seasonal song this is meant to be...?

Err weigh inner Major, no cribbage FORE! abed  
The lit tell aud geese us leys darn hiss wheat Ed  
Thus tars inner bride's Kyle hook darn wear heel aye  
The lit Tel laud geese us as leap honour hey!



# Children's Page



## Mouse Makes

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

**Read**

*Luke 2:7*

Why were the shepherds afraid?

**Read**

*Luke 2:8*

What good news did the angel tell?

**Read**

*Luke 2:10-11*

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?

**Read**

*Luke 2:13-14*

Where was Mary's baby born?  
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

**Read** *Luke 2:1-6*

What did Mary dress her baby in?

**Read**

*Luke 2:6*

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?

**Read** *Matthew 1:21*

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

**Read**

*Luke 2:16*

Colour a star each day until Christmas

Good news!

Glory to God

A Saviour is born



# Christian Radio Stations

There are many Christian radio stations available on broadcast radio, satellite and the internet. The following stations are ones that I either use or are aware of. They are all available on the internet in addition to the conventional broadcast methods listed below.



- **United Christian Broadcasting (UCB):** <https://www.ucb.co.uk/>  
UCB1 and UCB2: DAB broadcast radio  
Music, chat, interviews, teaching, news with no commercial advertising.
- **United Christian Broadcasting Ireland:** <http://ucbireland.ie/>  
This can be manually added to many FreeSat satellite receivers, Frequency 11553 MHz Horizontal, Symbol Rate 22000 FEC 5/6. Also available on Sky channel 0214  
Music, chat, interviews, teaching, news with no commercial advertising.
- **The Bible Radio:** <http://bible-radio.eu/>  
Wide variety of music, narrated bible readings, teaching and testimonies.  
No news or commercial advertising. Automated internet only station
- **Transworld Radio:** <https://www.twr.org.uk/>  
FreeSat channel 790. Also available on Sky channel 0138.  
This is a talk only station providing teaching and discussion. No commercial advertising
- **Premier Radio:** <https://www.premierchristianradio.com/>  
FreeView channel 725.  
Most probably the best known station. Music, chat, interviews, teaching, news and commercial advertising.

Many satellite receivers and DVRs provide an audio output that can be fed into a hi-fi system. Some Bluetooth loudspeakers also provide a cable connection input that could be connected to a satellite receiver or DVR.

Norman Bambridge

*(Thanks to Norman for this. If you would like more information or explanation of some of the technical terms, see him! - Ed.)*

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

*Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in September, October and November*

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding requirements for church transport drivers have been clarified with the diocese. Safer Recruitment applies only when the church needs to organise lifts when friends are not available. A leaflet is available with more details.

Face-to-face C0 and C1 courses will be run in February for people who cannot easily use the online courses. These will be for both first-timers and those who are due refresher training.

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

In October the PCC looked at the first summary document produced by the Vision Group. The aim is to describe succinctly our present situation and ways of working, but not at this stage to look at actual strategies or priorities. It illustrates that there is much more to church than what happens on Sundays. There won't be a marked break from the past, as we have been progressively thinking more about making contacts with the wider community. There is much in the document about going out and branching out; and our creativity will be important when it comes to pioneering.

The next steps are to share the document with the whole church, and to appoint a Strategy Group to look at our priorities for the mid and long term.

## **Finances**

Our finances are very similar to where they were this time last year. Running expenses are slightly down, but we are spending more on youth work. There is a balance of £57k in the Projects Fund.

Our Parish Share is increasing by around £12,000 in 2020 to £94,526. This increase reflects our growing membership. The PCC discussed the importance of the Parish Share and how important it is to supporting the missional work of the wider church.

## **Personnel**

Chris Rickard is taking over the role of Planned Giving Officer. Our thanks go to Richard Taylor who has been doing this job admirably for many years.



The PCC continues to discern the way ahead for an Assistant Administrator post. This would support the Church Administrator during busy periods and provide holiday cover, assist the Parish Safeguarding Officer with recruitment paperwork, and populate the church membership database. Furthermore, we need to work out the best way of handling operational matters, such as finding volunteers for stewarding, moving chairs, etc., which is not part of the Church Administrator's current job description, but takes up a lot of her time. Fabian and the wardens will bring a proposal to the December PCC.

We are thinking too about the future staffing of the Children and Young People's work. The current idea is to employ a full-time Families Worker. The children's work team had a good meeting with diocesan advisor Andy Levett and welcomed the opportunity to talk through the work we already do within the church to cater for children and young people. We are now at the stage of looking at how we would fund the post. In parallel with this we are bearing in mind the need to appoint a permanent Children & Young People's Coordinator to take over from Hilary and Vashti, who are filling the role temporarily.

### **Miscellaneous Matters**

The Eco group has received advice from Somerset Wildlife Trust and is implementing various recommendations. Growth in the churchyard is not being cut back so much. Sunday Club has built a 'bug hotel'. A closed compost bin has been installed. Planning is in hand for insect-friendly climbing plants for the wall adjoining the cricket ground, and wildflower meadow planting behind the Medical Centre.

The PCC has an annual programme for reviewing governance matters. In this period we have looked at: the Data Protection Policy (all leaders are looking after the church's personal data properly); the wages, fees and charges for 2020; the insurance policy; financial policies; the Health and Safety Policy; the fire Risk Assessment; the diocesan anti-bullying policy; the Disability Policy; and the Capital Expenditure Plan (which is a list of potential projects).

With regard to the list of projects, we have added a potential project to do something about the main doors which can be dangerous in high winds.

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

Martin Wakefield

# 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 Stevens*



*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*

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

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email: fabian.wuyts@gmail.com

**Church office: 01823 272931**  
e-mail: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

**Church Wardens: Steve Bradford 07411 639404**  
**Ruth Stevens 01823 972838**  
**Associate Warden: Joyce Kirk 01823 971431**

**Administration Co-ordinator: Alex Dickinson 01823 272931**

**Children & Young People's Co-ordinators:**  
**Vashti Wuyts 01823 33194** e-mail: vashti.wuyts@gmail.com  
**Hilary Hayes 01823 444766** e-mail: mhhayes@outlook.com

**Discipleship & Home Groups Co-ordinator:**  
**Roger Fenton 01823 412113** e-mail: rogrifenton@gmail.com

**Fabric (buildings & technical) Co-ordinator: Martin Wakefield**  
**01823 277318** e-mail: martin@scoopscoop.co.uk

**Outreach & Missions Co-ordinator: Jenny Wakefield**  
**01823 277318** e-mail: jenny@scoopscoop.co.uk

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Annie Reid 07812 130619**

**Worship Co-ordinator: Richard Lucas 01823 412942**  
e-mail: richardlucas.net@gmail.com

**Church Treasurer: Richard Sainsbury 01823 284688**  
e-mail: rjsainsbury61@gmail.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Wakefield 01823 277318**  
e-mail: jenny@scoopscoop.co.uk

**Magazine Editor: Chris Doyle**  
email: dancingdoyle@sky.com



All profit goes to  
Taunton Rail Responders



# Murder Mystery Evening

Including an Evening Buffet  
Coffee and Cake at the Interval  
and featuring St James' Players  
with a Radio Play.



**Friday 21st February 2020**

Beginning at 7pm with an Evening Buffet

For Tickets, please contact the Church Office on

01823 272931

St James Church, Taunton

**£10**

a ticket

**Bring your  
own drink**