



# St James Church Magazine

*June - August 2022*

# Letter from the Vicar

Reverend Fabian Wuyts  
Vicar of St James



## Anointing

It was on the 6th February 1952 that Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor became Queen, less than two years after my mother's birth. That put things in perspective for me. At the heart of the Coronation there was a hidden ceremony not filmed by the TV crews. At this most sacred moment, the Queen was anointed with oil by the Archbishop who asked for the Spirit of comfort, wisdom, government, counsel, strength and knowledge to confirm and enable her to take on her royal role.



A similar sacred moment happened when I was priested in 2015. The then Bishop of Dover anointed me with oil, asking the Holy Spirit to give me the grace and the power to proclaim the gospel of salvation, to minister the reality of God's new covenant and to fill me with wisdom and discipline.



Most of us will never go through an 'official' anointing by a church leader, but Scripture says that every Christian has been anointed and set aside for a purpose by God himself (1 John 2:20). Paul wrote that, 'God who makes us stand firm in Christ, has anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come' (2 Cor. 1:21-22).

The same Spirit of wisdom, comfort, power, counsel, strength and knowledge that was invoked at the Queen's Coronation and at my ordination is living in you, enabling you to express the kind of life you have been called to live. Furthermore, this gift of the Holy Spirit does not come in portions or doses, for the promise is that 'his divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness' (2 Peter 1:3).

It is true that you can resist, quench or grieve the Holy Spirit by the way you live or by refusing to yield to his promptings and life within you (Acts 7:51, 1 Thess. 5:19, Eph. 4:30). God wants to bless you and to fill you with his presence so that you can shine his light in a dark and confused world. He has anointed you with a power from above, his Holy Spirit, to accomplish the works that he has prepared. '...We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do' (Ephesians 2.10). Let us therefore walk in step with his Spirit.

### *Prayer*

*Heavenly Father,*

*You promised to grow your Church as we proclaim the Kingdom of your Son. Increase in number your Church at St James as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.*

*May your Holy Spirit guide us into the future.  
Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.*

*We say this prayer in the name and to the glory  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

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*Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the Magazine. If you have something to share for the September - November 2022 edition, do contact the Editor either directly or through the Church Office - details on page 31. **Deadline for copy is Wednesday 17th August 2022.***



June 2022 marks the celebration of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee! You will have read much about this in the papers and other magazines and there has been and will be lots of coverage on television. So in *this* magazine we're concentrating on other things (although we do hope you'll all come along to the Platinum Jubilee Fun Day on Saturday 4th June in St James Church).

In these pages we celebrate other things: the work of our flower arranging team, the appointment of a new Bishop for Bath and Wells Diocese (he does write about the Queen's Jubilee!), St James' own Hannah Buckman receiving the Pride of Somerset Youth Award and our wonderful NHS staff.

We also have reports on the Easter Monday ramble, Spring Harvest and St James Church AGM. There's a report on our financial situation, with maybe a prompt for us to think about our stewardship giving - more news on that to come, I think. Richard and Sue Carpenter keep us up to date with things ecological as well as how we may need to think about how church, as a whole, moves forward.

Finally, it may not be too early to think about pantomime again...

*Chris Doyle - St James Parish Magazine Editor*

*Once you've read the magazine, do feel free to give it to someone who otherwise might not get to see it. The magazine is also published online.*

*Please let friends and neighbours know how they can access this and previous editions through the St James website: **[www.stjamestaunton.org](http://www.stjamestaunton.org)***



## How to plan a church ramble

1. Find a focus point
  - Dunkery Beacon
2. Make sure the final descent is gentle for ageing knees
  - I remember some fun animal tracks
3. Walk the route to find somewhere for lunch
  - handy group of fallen trees to sit on (remember the knees!)
4. Identify points of added interest
  - Stoke Pero Church,
  - "The Mound",
  - Bronze Age burial cairns on Robin How



And so the 2022 Easter Monday Ramble - The Dunkery Explorer - took shape and was enjoyed by eleven of us - and one dog.

One nice thing that happened was the group spontaneously singing "Thine be the Glory" when in the church - a little heavenly oasis.

("The Mound", by the way, is a low earthwork that was made in the 19th century as a meeting place for the local hunt.)

Next year will be the 60th year of the Easter Monday Ramble - I'd better start thinking ...

Martin Wakefield





# DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



Letter from:

**Michael Beasley, Bishop Elect, Diocese of Bath and Wells**

## *Guided by faith*

Visits undertaken, trees planted, ambassadors welcomed, honours awarded, miles travelled! Just a fraction of what our Queen has done. When, on her 21st birthday, Elizabeth II pledged herself to our service her whole life long, she could scarce have imagined the commitment she was making.

What has enabled all the achievement that we celebrate in this year of the Platinum Jubilee? Her reign has seen joy and sorrow, triumphs and setbacks. The Queen gave an insight into what has seen her though in 2002 when she said:

“I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God ... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.”

I'm inspired to be coming to Bath and Wells during this Platinum year that sees us celebrate the Queen's steadfast service that flows from her Christian faith. Just as the young Elizabeth II couldn't know what lay ahead as she looked to the future, neither can we. As we emerge from COVID, see war in Ukraine and confront a cost of living crisis we live in challenging times. To face our days we'll need all the faith and experience, creativity and skills of everyone in Bath and Wells. Above all we have the hope of the Christian Gospel that has stood our Queen in such good stead throughout her long life. It's the faith I'm looking forward to serving and celebrating with you as together we live and tell the story of Jesus.

Every blessing  
Bishop Michael

# NEWS : NEWS : NEWS

## New bishop announced

As you will see from the page opposite, Bath and Wells has a new bishop - well soon, anyway! It is hoped Bishop Michael will formally take up his role in the autumn.

On 28 April 2022 Downing Street announced that the Rt Revd Michael Beasley will be the next Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Currently the Bishop of Hertford, prior to taking a fulltime role with the church, Bishop Michael was an epidemiologist, a background he was called on to use during the pandemic as a member of the Church of England's Covid task force.

He is already familiar with Somerset. His wife Lizzie is from a local farming family and before his interview for the role they both undertook a 60 mile walk around the county.



## A warm welcome for Bishop Michael

On the day it was announced that he is to become the next Bishop of Bath and Wells, Bishop Michael undertook a 10-hour, 84-mile tour of the diocese. He met with a variety of people, undertook media interviews and attended a host of events at churches and in the community. The children of St Mary's primary in Bridgwater were delighted to be the first to hear the news of his appointment at 10am.

Find out more at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/new-bishop](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/new-bishop)

# NEWS : NEWS : NEWS

## **Spring Harvest 2022 *Restore, Renew, Rebuild***

We have just come back from Spring Harvest '22 and have been blown away!

The Teaching, Worship and Evening Celebrations have been just right, sensitive for this season and met people just where they were. Many Christians and families have been struggling and hurting over the last couple of years. All the program content was very appropriate with lots of encouragement and positive input and building of His People.

**The theme was the life of Nehemiah**, and the mission of Jesus. We were taken on a journey from Nehemiah's prayer, through the rubble of Jerusalem (and our lives), to what our Heavenly Father shows us we can all be, as we looked at God's promises and that God is doing a new thing; this is the hope and joy of the gospel.

As an example of what it was like to be there, during the evening celebration on the second day, the sung worship was interrupted as the leader felt very clearly from God that we were being asked to pray for each other's families, for those who are struggling with issues and life currently, and to just turn around and pray with each other. We shared with a lovely mum behind us, about her daughter who had been struggling with life, who made a commitment to follow Jesus the day before. She asked for strength and determination to continue, and that her faith would grow really strong. We asked for prayer for our two oldest granddaughters, now 16 and 18yrs old struggling with O and A level revision and boys in their lives, with Christian things being pushed further away. Both girls were there at SH and enjoying it and we asked that they would know a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and knowing they are really loved by God.

Before we had got back to our apartments, our daughter had texted to say, "I really love being here, the Holy Spirit is so lively and I can feel it by proxy. Gabbi has come back with friend and she is **soooo happy**, Maddie has stayed behind and **gone forward for prayer**."

When I caught up with the girls a little later, Maddie asked me "What did you pray for Pappy?" I told her what we had prayed for and she just hugged me in tears of joy...

So if you would like to experience, see and sense God at work in wonderful ways, why not decide to come and see for yourself next year... The theme is

### **Spring Harvest 2023 'Flipped – the Upside-down Kingdom'**

In faith, I have reserved 2x 8 bed Gold Apartments with Balconies. I'm hopeful to book more if there is a rush! Do contact me for more details or to book.

David Jordan Mobile: 07810 205701 Email: [dlydiajordan@btinternet.com](mailto:dlydiajordan@btinternet.com)

# Spring Harvest 2022 Picture Parade



*Lunch on the balcony*



*"We're in Studio 36"...for the morning Bible teaching*



*Our ever-hopeful seagull friend!*



*End of final morning streamers*



**SPRING  
HARVEST  
2023**

**Join us in 2023**

Book this week at the Holiday Booking Shop,  
or from 8am 8th June 2022



**Early  
Bird Prices  
valid until  
31st July  
2022**

**Minehead**  
**10-14 April**

**Skegness**  
**10-14 April**

Book online [springharvest.org](https://springharvest.org)  
Book by phone 0330 100 9330

Groups of 16+ and adapted accommodation:  
Minehead: 0330 100 9332 | Skegness: 0330 100 9331



# Out of sight...?

Where is the most remote place on earth? Usually our minds would jump to thoughts of desert or jungle, mountain or icy waste. But of course, it's actually the deep ocean floor and in particular the trenches dropping up to 11000m below sea level. This month we take a look at why the deep ocean really matters; it may be out of sight, but it shouldn't be out of mind.

The first thing to realise is that it really is different. There's only enough light for photosynthesis down to 200m; below 700m it's essentially black. By 1000m the pressure difference is around 100 times that between sea level and outer space. And yet life goes all the way down and can be found in every part of the ocean depths.

We know the physical surface of other planets better than we know that of our own – over twenty years ago we had produced better mapping of Mars than of the ocean floor. Even today, only 20% of the global ocean seabed has been surveyed in detail. Perhaps more importantly, recent studies indicate that up to two thirds of the life living in the deep oceans could, as yet, be unknown to science.

We often think of 'the sea' as so big that nothing we could do could harm it. However, there are a number of threats facing the oceans today, each of which may have a dramatic effect on life across the globe.



**Plastic debris** – it is estimated that over 14 million tons of plastic waste end up in the ocean every year. Much will eventually be broken down into tiny particles, some small enough to enter the human bloodstream. All in all, plastic pollution threatens food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change.

**Temperature increase** – over 90% of the heat energy from global warming has gone into the oceans. Even small increases in temperature



can have a devastating effect on the inhabitants of the ocean, especially non-mobile ones such as corals.

**Acidification** – increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere directly lead to the oceans becoming more acid. Again, this has a direct impact on corals and many shellfish as this makes it harder for them to grow their shells. There is also evidence that toxic algal blooms are worse in acidified waters.

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***We risk a mass extinction event of marine species that rivals anything that's happened in the Earth's history.***

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**Deep sea 'mining'** – many areas of the deep-ocean floor are rich in minerals such as manganese, cobalt and nickel. Scientists, though, are highlighting the risks of seeking to exploit an environment about which we know so little and where our activities would lead to widespread pollution.

These are just a few of the impacts we have on this fragile environment – the oceans are also affected by chemical pollution, noise pollution, deoxygenation and over-fishing. Impacts often combine – warming reduces oxygen levels as well as increasing the impact of acidification.

We are also seeing **sea level increases** – these have been rising at about 3mm a year since the start of this century, doubling the rate seen across much of the previous hundred years. This is due both to the impact of warmer water (it expands) as well as the melting of ice caps and the like.

Some change may not be gradual. Temperature changes – especially in the polar regions – could lead to a rapid breakdown in the current global ocean circulation pattern. Without the warming waters of the Gulf Stream, Britain could face vastly colder winters.

So, what can we do? On the one hand the answer is 'nothing in particular'; on the other it's 'everything'. All the mainstream environmental issues (and associated campaigns) – climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity, over-exploitation of resources – impact the oceans. Let us therefore continue (or start) our actions in all these fields as we **'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'**

Richard Carpenter

# Wilder Churches

## Grass mowing

The grass in the church grounds is now on its new mowing regime and it will be interesting to see the effects. I've put up signs on the South side of the church to explain why the grass will be growing until July when it receives its cut.

I have mown paths through the South side areas, so that you can have a closer look at the plants and insects. Another path has been mown through the meadow area behind the posts and flags.



## Jubilee Fun Day

On June 4th we will welcome visitors as part of our Platinum Jubilee Fun Day at St James. You will be able to have a closer look at the meadow wildlife! Perhaps you will observe the different varieties of bees we have? Or look for butterflies and other insects or hear the yellow rattle?!



*Here's a damselfly  
seen in the meadow  
in late May.*



## Surveys

New surveys of the church grounds are planned for later in June. A group of local nature experts will be looking at the other wildlife we have, like beetles, spiders and moths.

We also hope to identify all of the trees. This will be useful to know, and we have to do this as a prerequisite for planting any new trees which we may like to do as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

The results of these surveys will be available on the Eco Church section of St James Church website in the Autumn.

Sue Carpenter

# St James Players

*'Never knowingly over-rehearsed'*

St James Players are members and friends of St James Church, Taunton. As a troupe, we have been in existence since 2008 when one of our church members had a vision for a full-scale pantomime and brought together a group of people of faith with an interest in 'Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising'.

We enjoy using drama to bring a smile to the faces of our audiences, friendship together and raising funds for organisations in our community. Over the past 14 years we have worked together to produce six biennial pantomimes, three murder mysteries, a passion play and four online presentations during Covid which can be viewed in the St James Players Playlist on the church YouTube page.

You may have supported us by coming to our most recent production, *Death on Delivery*, a murder mystery, in which you were probably as mystified as we were! But hopefully you enjoyed the performance (and the canapes and cakes) as much as we did. As a result of the evening and your support we were able to send £635 to Taunton Youth for Christ to help with their Youth Bus project.



It was really great to be able to perform live again and we are looking forward to planning further productions for 2023. St James Players is an open group and if you have an interest in drama, catering, lighting, technical stuff, costume or scenery making, music or dance you would be very welcome.

Have a chat with Jenny Wakefield, Chris Doyle, Ruth Crooks or any of the Players Team; we'd love you to join us.





# Bless the hands that bless

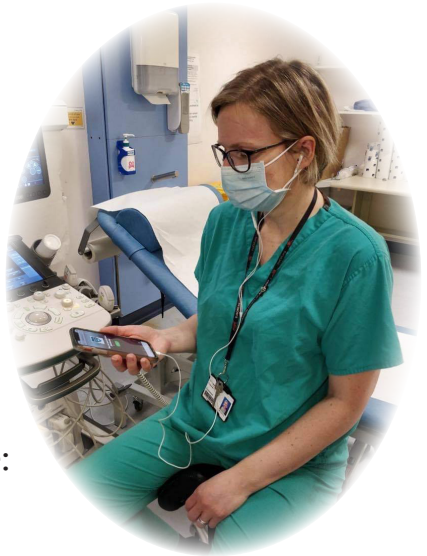
*I was watching Songs of Praise on BBC1 recently and saw Lucy Bunce playing the harp and singing this song.*

*Lucy wrote her NHS Blessing at the request of Dr Susie Hunt, who runs a clinician support service called 'Doctors for Doctors' at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, during the first lockdown in March 2020. Hearing of the immense pressure on NHS staff during early 2021 she contacted producer Chris Mitchell and they made a professional recording in 24 hours (both at their respective homes in Cambridge and Reading). I am so grateful to the NHS staff who treated me recently. I dedicate this to them.*

*Ed.*

Bless the hands that bless,  
now care for the ones who care.  
Father of hope give rest,  
protect all from despair.  
Strengthen weary feet:  
as they walk in the way of love,  
kindness let us speak:  
reflecting you above.  
Open the hands that bless,  
to receive what they need today.  
Father of all, the wellspring of life:  
bless the hands that bless, I pray.

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(used with permission)



# Young Street Pastor honoured in Pride of Somerset Youth Awards 2022

Taunton Street Pastor Hannah Buckman was given a special award by Somerset Day Patron, former BBC Reporter Clinton Rogers.

Once again, the Pride of Somerset Youth Awards, now in its 15th year, highlighted the remarkable achievements of young people across our County.

The final and most prestigious 'Sandy Padgett' award went to Hannah Buckman. Now 18, Hannah is at Plymouth University studying Radiology. She received the award because she is a wonderful example of a young person who is contributing positively to the community.

As a volunteer, Hannah has, for many years, coached trampolining at Quayside Gymnastics Club in Bridgwater. She is also a Taunton Street Pastor and, having completed the 13-week training course ahead of her 18th birthday, she is currently the youngest member of the team offering support to patrons of the night time economy. She volunteered at Taunton's two vaccinations centres and is an active member of St James' Church where she is a member of the acclaimed amateur dramatic group, St James Players. She also spent time shadowing NHS staff in Derriford and Launceston hospitals to gain experience ahead of her intended career as a radiographer.

Congratulations, Hannah!



*Hannah is presented with her award by former BBC Points West reporter, Clinton Rogers*



# Church Flowers

Have you ever stopped and thought about who arranges the wonderful displays of flowers in St James each week and for special occasions, such as Easter and Christmas? We thought it was about time the team was recognised and we asked them for a few thoughts about what it's like working with the team and what they gain from it as well as what they give...



*I have been involved with church flowers for a number of years and have enjoyed helping make our church a beautiful place to worship. Flowers in church symbolise beauty and the love of God.*

*It is great to be part of a team - all at different stages and with different degrees of experience learning from each other.*

*Annie Reid*

I have been a part of the team since I joined St James in 2018. I sincerely believe flowers have a ministry all their own. I never know how an arrangement will work out when I begin. I simply say a prayer over the buckets and have a go!

The stunning beauty of creation hits me every time from collecting greenery from garden and countryside to choosing the flowers; it brings me closer to God. The peace and tranquillity which comes with arranging them when it's so hushed and still in the church has to be experienced.

*Lyn Jones*



*I have been part of the flower team for 3 years. I have always had a love of gardens from a young age. I belong to Taunton flower Club, and I enjoy using lots of different foliage, shapes and colours. I feel very blessed to be part of this lovely welcoming team at St James.*

*Carole Whitaker*



It's such a privilege and joy to be part of the Flower Team. It's truly amazing how, between us, an empty space in church becomes an array of beautiful flowers and leaves. We find that as we pray and ask the Lord for inspiration and ability, He really does enable something very special.

It's a great blessing. If you love flowers, come and join us.

*Marilyn Gibson*







The flower 'team' is a wonderful group full of faith, friends & fatsia leaves! I soon realised that it didn't matter that I couldn't remember if it was a pitisporum or a petunia and that the only 'qualification' I needed was to enjoy flowers. I certainly had no training other than admiring the different flowers that were displayed each week & have learned so much about faith by watching how a display comes together when we work as a team. It has been such a joy to see God working in his own special way to bring bunches of flowers and buckets of greenery together to

make arrangements which we can then share with you all. One of my flower friends described it as the Ministry of Flowers and it has been my pleasure to be part of this lovely group.

Deb Rowden

Come to the church to see the flowers,  
Hear the stories, and spend an hour  
Unwinding from the stresses of the day,  
Reading the Bible, and also to pray.  
Chatting to friends in the congregation  
Having a coffee from another nation



Foraging for greenery in the local park  
Looking for the perfect shade not too light or dark.  
Our arrangements keep us busy  
We run round in a 'tizzy'  
Easter, Christmas, and Mother's Day,  
Round the church we make displays.

Lavender and Lilac have a lovely smell,  
Aistroemeria, and Lilies look a bit like bells,  
Daffodils and Daisies don't last very long,  
Impatiens and Dandelions don't belong, but  
Every flower is God's creation  
Sent by Him for our adoration

By Sue Jeanes



Lyn says, "I'm really keen to try to encourage others to join us. We each have our own style and that is the beauty of flower arranging – everyone has a unique touch. We are a loving, friendly group with plenty of room for MEN and ladies!"

If you're interested in joining the team, speak to any of these ladies and they'll be happy to talk to you.

## A church that is **younger and more diverse**

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The third strategic imperative identified by the Church of England – to be **younger and more diverse** – is perhaps the one to have raised most concerns – *‘What about the older people who actually make up most of the church today?’*



It is clearly not the church turning its back on its older members; it is about churches reflecting more closely the communities in which they are situated. It's also usually the older people who say most clearly that they want to see more children and young people in church.

As things stand, the average age of a typical CofE congregation is 61; that's over 20 years older than the average age across the country. Still more worryingly, outside of large cities, the average age in church is 72.

Since completing its initial vision work, the CofE has gone on to identify six 'bold outcomes' we need to see if we are to satisfy the three strategic imperatives. These include:

- Doubling the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030.
- A Church of England which fully represents the communities we serve in age and diversity.

Looking around – both inside our walls and beyond them – it is worth reflecting on where we differ from our own community: which sections of the people of Taunton do we not reach? The diocese is currently recruiting a Diversity and Inclusion Adviser, and it is useful to look at those areas of our community life where diversity or inclusion may be lacking as outlined in the job description for this role:

- **Age** – according to the CofE, an 81-year-old is eight times more likely to go to church than a 21-year-old.
- **Women** – though women constitute 2/3 of the church in this country they are very much underrepresented in senior leadership.

- **Deaf and disabled** – do we truly look at what we do with the eyes (and ears) of others?
- **LGBTQ+** – see *‘Living in Love and Faith’* for a deeper understanding of issues here.
- **Differing backgrounds:** be that other ethnic or socio-economic groups – are we happier forming a community only of ‘people-like-us’? How do we reflect the full implications of Galatians 3:28 – *‘There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’*

There is a danger that we consider ‘church’ as being a series of events and so believe we ought to have the equivalent of CBeebies, Netflix and BBC4 rather than realising that it’s about community and having all involved together. The archbishops writing in their foreword to *‘Living in Love and Faith’* put it this way:

*‘Our prayer for the Church through this work is that collectively we demonstrate the same love to one another that we have experienced from God; the grace that includes everyone whom Jesus Christ is calling to follow him; the holiness that changes the world and the unity that calls others to faith in Christ.’*

As we here at St James look to make our own community younger and more diverse, these considerations raise a number of questions:

- How do we open up without putting off those already in the church?
- What is it about the way we do church that puts some people off?
- How well do we know those around us – whether that is the parish or – as individuals – simply those living on our road?

A final key thought – this is about the church as a whole, not ‘churches’. Stephen Cottrell put it this way:

*‘The overriding aim for the future is that any worshipping member of the Church of England, when asked by their friend where they could go to explore their faith, would be able to recommend an expression of Church locally that would really suit them.’*

Richard Carpenter

*This is the last of three articles focussing on the strategic priorities identified in the Church of England vision; next time we will reflect on the core of the vision – to be Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped.*



# ...MISSION



Taunton Area Debt Advice is our Mission Focus for June. TADA was founded about 9 years ago by Graham Reid, one of our church family. TADA is a Christian charity supported by a number of churches in the local area. They

aim to offer solutions to help people free themselves from the burden of debt.

Many people experience financial difficulties at some point in their lives but the earlier they tackle the situation, the easier the solution. Left to increase, the impact on health and wellbeing can be very serious. All those working for TADA are volunteers who want to help tackle this ever-growing problem.

The Covid period has been difficult in so many ways and the real impact of the pandemic has yet to emerge as the safety net of the furlough scheme has ended and the effect of rising costs becomes apparent.

TADA are affiliated to Community Money Advice (CMA). The advice offered is totally confidential and is free to anyone in the Taunton area, regardless of background, circumstances or belief.

Do talk with Graham if you would like to know more.

TADA are based at: Taunton Area Debt Advice, St Mary's House, Magdalene Street, Taunton, TA1 1SB

Telephone: 07921 526087 Website: [www.tada.org.uk](http://www.tada.org.uk)



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

The main ministry of Barnabas Fund is to send financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. The project's aim is to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders. The charity also aims to raise awareness of the persecution that exists and thereby inform the prayer of its partner churches and also to work to contest injustice by appropriate means.



Barnabas Fund has been active in many different countries that have been affected by recent crises. When the news on Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, etc. fades from our screens, Barnabas are still there. Recent events in Ukraine are creating vast needs in that country but there is also a domino effect in food production which will potentially cause unimaginable consequences.

Barnabas Fund will be our Mission focus in July.

For more information there is a very informative website and online magazine, visit: <https://barnabasfund.org/>.

Jenny Wakefield

Looking forward to September...



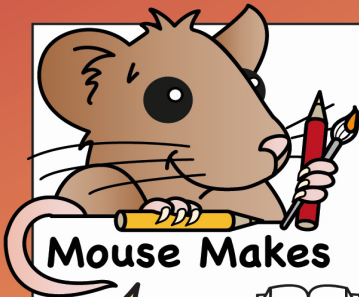
Moving on

### Praying for our Schools

It's that time of year when many children in primary, senior schools and college will be preparing for important exams. Do you remember what it was like?

Please pray for the children in our church family and our local schools over the next few weeks (SATs happened in May and GCSE's and A levels are ongoing). Preschoolers, Year 6, 11 and 13 are preparing for their next move and it can be an anxious time. Pray too for the teachers and staff as they encourage and support their students.

# Children's Pages



Mouse Makes



Read the full  
story in Acts 2:1-11



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



It was the **festival of Pentecost**, **fifty days** since **Passover** and **Jews** from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to **celebrate**.

The **Apostles** and other believers were all **together** in one place when they heard a **sound**

like a strong **wind** and **saw** what looked like **tongues of fire** which spread out and **touched each person**.

All of them were **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and began to **talk** in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

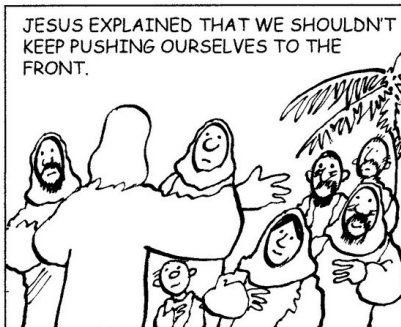
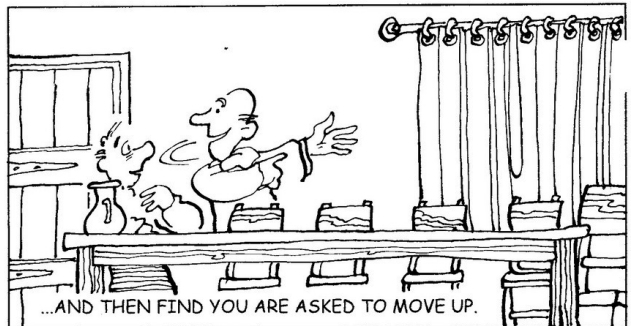
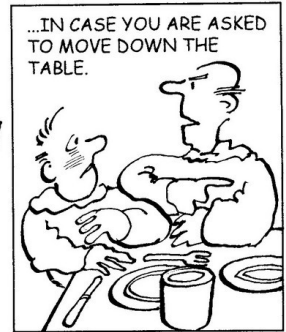
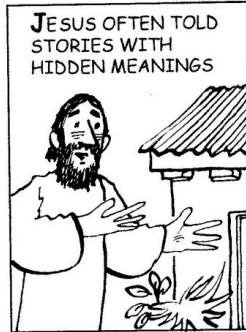
A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their **own**

language about the great things **God** had done.

About 3,000 people **heard**, **believed** and were **baptised** that day!

All the words in **bold** type in the story are in the word search, can you find them?





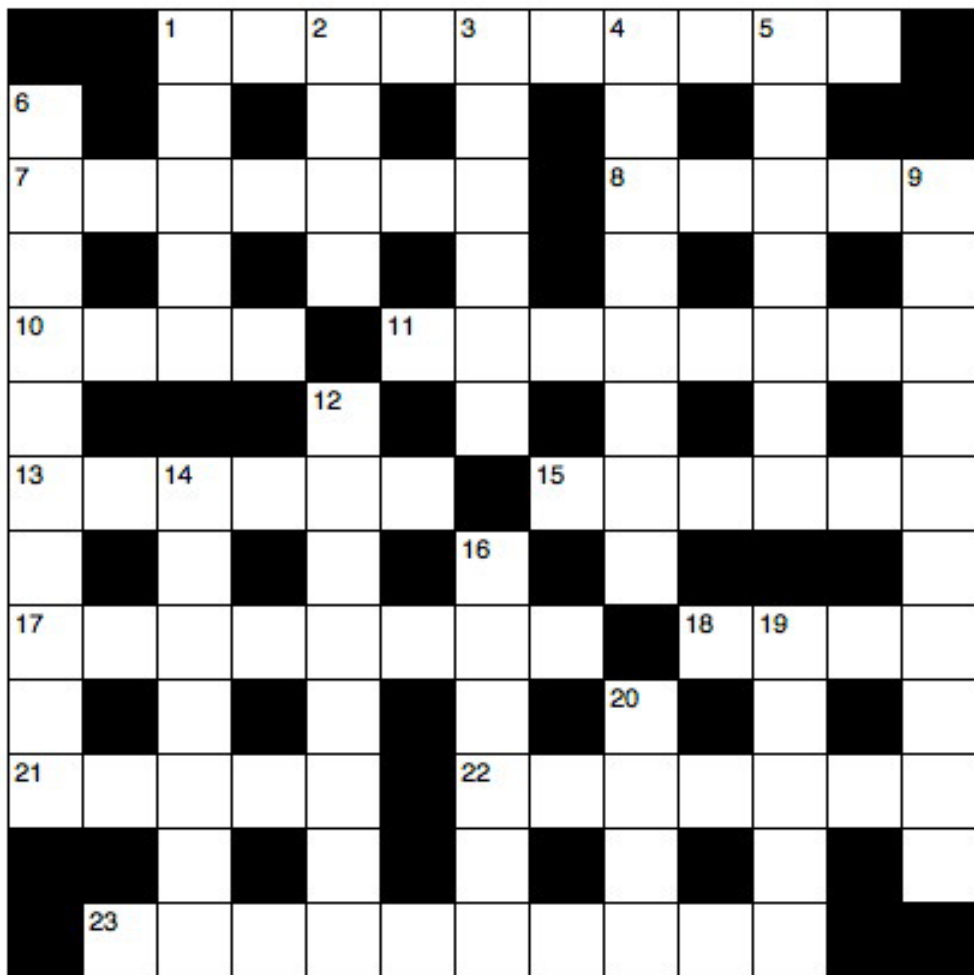
# CROSSWORD

## Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

## Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)



DOWN: 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils. 20, Give.

ACROSS: 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

The most effective way to remember your  
wife's birthday is to forget it once...

# Our Financial Situation

At our annual meeting, we heard from Richard Sainsbury about our present financial situation. This is something of which all church members need to be aware, so here are the main points from the presentation.

## The headline figures

Total income for 2021	£135,496
Total expenditure 2021	£163,548
Deficit	£ 28,052

But this figure is misleading, because around £4,000 was funded from a grant in 2020 for TLG; but we also know that it would have been more had we not had a legacy of £12,000. So the figure we need to know is:

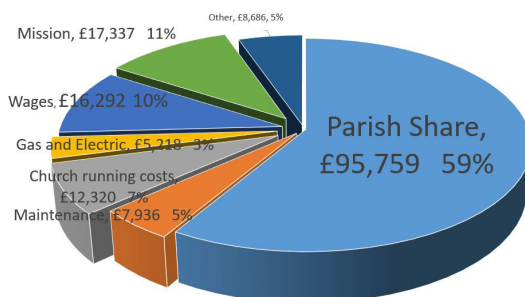
**Deficit on church running costs    £ 36,000**

The deficit is being funded from reserves, which now stand at £203,078. While this sounds comfortable, the reserves are there for many purposes, including paying for major repairs (e.g. we need to replace our electrical distribution boards) and projects (such as the proposal to employ a Children and Families Worker).

We are not expecting a significant change in the deficit for 2022, but in 2023 will have increased fuel bills due to our current fixed price contract being up for renewal.

## Expenditure

2021 Expenditure

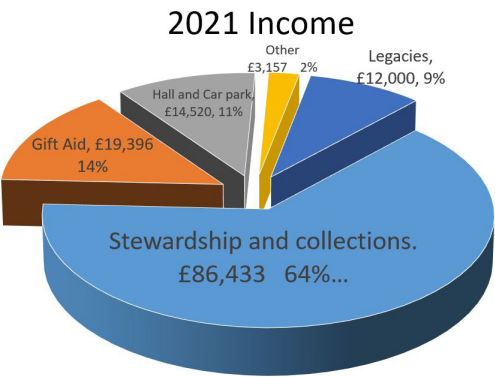


There is little scope for radically reducing expenditure, 80% of which is on three items: Parish Share (59%), Mission Giving (11%) and Wages (10%).

The Parish Share primarily pays for the costs of employing clergy – stipend, housing, pension, training. We more than cover the costs of

employing one vicar, with the rest supporting churches who are less well-off than us. But with reducing numbers of people attending services across the diocese, the costs are being focussed on a smaller number of people, so are likely to stay high until a major structural change in clergy numbers can be implemented, which will take time. We have mentioned the idea of Focal Ministry previously, so do ask if you want to know more.

Income

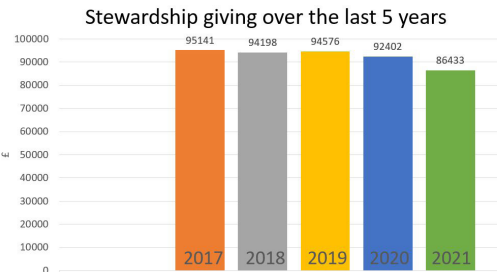


Income has been affected by a significant reduction in Hall Hire charges over the pandemic. While it is now recovering, it is not yet back up to pre-pandemic levels.

Stewardship Giving

Stewardship giving (and the associated Gift Aid) has also reduced during the pandemic, largely due to several people moving away or moving to other churches. While we are gaining some new members, it is still too early to say if this will bring us back to where we were.

However, giving had been falling before the pandemic, so we have quite a lot of ground to make up. We need to reverse the previous decline, recover from the pandemic, allow for increasing fuel costs and inflation, and provide for initiatives that are aimed at reaching out to more people in the community.



A stewardship campaign is being planned, so watch this space ...

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

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

### **Annual Meeting**

**Elections:** Nigel Bright and Joyce Kirk were re-elected as church-wardens. Roger Fenton, Lyn Jones and Vashti Smit were re-elected to the PCC, leaving two vacancies. At the following PCC meeting, Richard Sainsbury was elected to one of the vacancies (he had formerly been co-opted). Filling the other vacancy will be taken up by the PCC. Thanks were expressed to outgoing PCC member Lizzie Haddell.

**Electoral Roll:** There were 167 names on the roll. Three members had died during the year, Nicki Bradford had been ordained, 16 people had moved away or moved churches, and there were 5 new members.

**Annual Report:** this can be accessed on the church website ('Reports and Policies' page).

**Finances:** Please refer to the article 'Our Financial Situation' on the previous pages of this magazine.

**Parish Share:** This is our major item of expenditure, which covers the cost of employing clergy across the diocese. It is not assessed according to a set amount per parishioner; so, as attendance numbers fall, the Parish Share per person increases. The diocese is aware that we can't carry on doing church in a way that is not working, so is tackling a strategy of Focal Ministry to reverse declining attendance in rural parishes.

**Vicar's Review:** Fabian began his review by observing how complex a church is, and then listing all the areas in which people are actively involved, which makes the church not just function but be alive. He then looked back at 2020, the journey from being in lockdown to being back together and able to worship, with lots of ups and downs on the way.

### **Vision and Action**

**Children and Families Worker:** Andy Levett of the diocesan Education Team has directed us to the example of Christ Church Clevedon, who have had a positive experience of focussed recruitment in lieu of appointing a Children and Families Worker. The current thought is to recruit locally for someone to take a 9 hour per week post to organise Sunday activities.

**Prayer Ministry:** Following the commissioning of the Welcome Team, and the Deputy Wardens resuming their role, Prayer Ministry is being restarted after Sunday Morning services.



**Discipleship:** Fabian Wuyts presented a short paper on '*Discipleship – What it means and how to grow it at St James*'. We need to recognise that while there are good things happening on the path of discipleship, our present practice is not as effective as we would like it to be. Principally:

- Coming to faith: The Alpha Course has helped Christians to grow but has been ineffective in bringing non-Christian friends or contacts to faith. Similarly, we bring people to social events and groups, but this does not usually translate into people actually discovering the Gospel.
- Growing in discipleship: Home groups (and other meetings) enable church members to grow, but they are not multiplying, and it can be hard for outsiders to integrate. They can be based more on 'head knowledge' than experiencing the life of the Spirit and can be inward-looking. We need to be more diverse in our range of small groups.
- Living out our discipleship during the week: church members serve through ministry in the church, service in the community and in their individual contexts. We need to develop this, noting that one of the priorities of the CofE is to become a church of missionary disciples.

The PCC then broke into small groups to look at what should be our priorities and what stops us inviting friends to become part of our community. The discussion will be resumed at future meetings. Any observations from church members are welcome.

### **Miscellaneous Matters**

**Safeguarding:** Jenny Wakefield presented the Annual Safeguarding Report in the form of the status as recorded on the diocesan 'Parish Dashboard'. We are now on the upper Level 3 of the system, working through various actions to achieve overall 'green' status.

**Keeping the church open:** the church is currently open only when Rachel is in the office. Before extending the hours, we need someone to oversee a rota for unlocking and locking – any volunteers?

**Worship service for isolated people:** The PCC was pleased to give its blessing to a proposal for running twice-monthly sessions in church for isolated people, for hymn singing and Bible reading.

**Disposing of redundant furniture:** the PCC agreed in principle to dispose of the heavy green chairs. For some time now we have been using the lighter chairs from the hall in preference. There are also some other items of furniture in the chancel that we no longer use.

*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  
Vicar*



*Nigel Bright and Joyce Kirk  
Church Wardens*



*Rev David Wilkie  
Curate*



*Martin Bluemel*



*Richard Carpenter*



*Roger Fenton*



*Marilyn Gibson*



*Lyn Jones*



*David Jordan*



*Julie Kimber*



*Sue Lucas*



*Sheila Marlow*



*Chris Rickard*



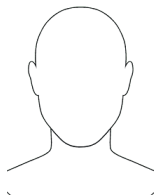
*Richard Sainsbury*



*Vashti Smit*



*Nic Tall*



*Vacancy*



*Jenny Wakefield*



*Martin Wakefield*

## PARISH CONTACTS



**Vicar: Rev. Fabian Wuyts 01823 333194**  
email: fabian.wuyts@gmail.com



**Curate: Rev. David Wilkie 01823 325496**  
email: davidwilkie83@gmail.com

**Church Office: 01823 272931**  
**Administration Co-ordinator: Rachel Knowlman**  
email: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

**Church Wardens: Nigel Bright 07817 627326**  
**Joyce Kirk 01823 971431**

**Children & Young People's Co-ordinator:**  
currently vacant

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

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

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

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

**Church Treasurer: Richard Sainsbury 01823 284688**  
email: rjsainsbury61@gmail.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Wakefield 01823 277318**  
email: jenny@scoopscoop.co.uk

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



# St James Church Queen's Jubilee



# Family Fun Day



*Bouncy Castle  
Face Painting  
Tower Tours  
Rocket Making  
Union Jack Hunt  
SPLAT the VICAR  
Refreshments  
and much more!*



**FREE  
ENTRY**

*small charge for  
some activities and  
refreshments*

***Saturday 4th June 2022***  
***11am - 3pm***

***[www.stjamestaunton.co.uk](http://www.stjamestaunton.co.uk)***  
***(the church next to the cricket ground)***