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InSpire

Issue 84 June 2024

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley



Capel Village
D-DAY
80th Anniversary
Weekend

Thurs 6th June

Beacon Lighting on the rec
Burgers & Beer in the Sports Pavilion
Boxhill Bedlam Morris Dancers
From 8pm

Sat 8th June

Village Garage Sale - 10am
Afternoon Tea at The Crown - 3pm
"80"-themed Quiz at The Crown - 8pm

Sun 9th June

Café Church "D-Day" Service
The Crown - 10.30am
Church Teas - 3pm
The Rude Mechanical Theatre Co.
"The Dressing Book"
on the rec
7.30pm

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For Father's Day on Sunday 16th June

Ephesians 6:4:
"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

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www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is sponsored by

Philomena Bunce

in

*Loving memory of her dear husband
Jack Bunce*

We thank our friend Philomena for sponsoring this issue

Church Contacts:-

Vicar - Rev Liz Richardson The Vicarage, High Lea, 54 The Street, Capel. vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

Parish Pastoral Assistant: Sylvie Beckett 07711 849338

Safeguarding Officer: Leigh Smith 07732 825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Jackie Broadfoot

Advisor: 07918 559387
safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

See our **Safeguarding Notice** in 'News from the Pews' each month.

Churchwardens churchwardens@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Capel: Norman Ede 01306 713247

Joy Harman 01306 711482

Ockley: James Lee-Steere
jamesleesteere@javesestate.co.uk

Treasurer:

Capel & Ockley Helen Burt
helenmb0909@gmail.com
01306 711671

Capel Organist & Choir Anthea Smallwood 01306 711883

Ockley Organist Andrew Collings 01403 265794

PCC Secretary

Chev. Richard Winter-Stanbridge
sirrichard@giganticworx.com

InSpire Editor

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk
Suzanne Cole 01306 711449

Church website:

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Webmaster

webmaster@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

NEWS from the Pews

From the Registers



We mourn the loss of

David Christopher Ansell
10th April 2024

May he rest in peace
and rise in glory

Exploring how the wisdom of St Benedict Supports and Guides us through our Lives

The Group will meet monthly for 2-3 hours. Days and times to be decided. Each month the group will read a chapter of the Rule of St. Benedict and reflect on how the wisdom that it contains can guide and support us in the many challenges we face in our daily lives.

In between meetings, members of the group will practice aspects of Benedict's Rule that has been the subject of the meeting. At the next meeting, the group members may share and reflect on what benefits this has brought to our everyday lives. A couple of times a year, the group will spend a day at St. Mary's Abbey in West Malling. There will be talk on one key aspect of the Benedictine way of life. Time to reflect in silence and to join with the community in the Daily Offices (if wished).

This course is a part of our Parish Development Plan (PDP) - Discipling the Core. Going forward, members of the group may wish to run Benedictine Spirituality Groups within the Parish.

If you are interested in exploring Benedictine Spirituality and its relevance to our every day lives, please email:

joanna.elvidge1@googlemail.com with your name, together with the days and times that are best for you.

New! CollecTin

We will shortly be introducing our new collection taker: CollecTin as pictured. This is our new creditcard donations machine that we have purchased with help (and a grant!) from the central Church of England. By all means familiarise yourself and if you would like to test it out you are more than welcome!

Our sincere thanks to Dineke for organising this new initiative. We hope it proves a new and valuable source of income as so many people attending services including baptisms, weddings etc. do not have cash on them. A great new initiative!

Photo courtesy of Dineke van den Bogerd



SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

This notice will appear each month in InSpire

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding Officer: Leigh Smith 732825908

leighdesouza@yahoo.com

or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

Update January 2024: New diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns:
safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - JUNE 2024 at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

JUNE

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday | 1st 11.30am | Service of Dedication Service of dedication for the new window at St.Margaret's Ockley |
| Sunday | 2nd 9.30am 10.30am | Trinity 1 Matins - Ockley Family Communion - Capel |
| Sunday | 9th 9.30am 10.30am | Trinity 2 Holy Communion CW - Ockley Cafe Church D-DAY Service at The Crown Capel |
| Sunday | 16th 10.30am | Trinity 3 Parish Communion Capel |
| Sunday | 23rd 9.30am 10.30am | Trinity 4 Holy Communion BCP - Ockley Morning Worship - Capel |
| Sunday | 30th 9.30am | Trinity 5 Parish Worship - Ockley |

JULY

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 7th 9.30am 10.30am | Trinity 6 Matins - Ockley Family Communion - Capel |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|



*Don't forget you can find details of all events & services on
our website!*
<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>



Rev Liz writes

Dear friends,

June - a lovely month where we move from Spring into Summer and as I write this in the middle of May already some of my roses are blooming! A wonderful sight along with the burgeoning abundant green we enjoy in our villages. Were you one of those who saw that other amazing sight the other night - that of the Northern Lights?! Sadly we seemed to be oblivious to it. I think I thought we wouldn't see it here in Capel. How wrong can you be! I underestimated obviously and could only wonder in awe the next day when the photographs appeared on social media. Incredible pictures taken from the streets all around us. One of our family lives near Tolworth and they took a wonderful picture of the landmark Tolworth Tower as the backdrop to the Northern lights. Just imagine - instead of travelling to northernmost Iceland and Norway, with no guarantee of them appearing, you now can see them at Tolworth (!) Or Capel even!! I jest of course. Well I am waiting to see in the next few months whether we will see them again. Its a strange phenomenon though that our mobile phones pick up the colours of the light more clearly than the human eye. It reminds me a bit of God's Holy Spirit who of course we cannot see but yet is there all along guiding and helping us.

We have just celebrated Pentecost in church where the Holy Spirit was poured out on all the disciples and essentially is thought of as the birth of the church. To give a quick resume, Jesus died on Good Friday on the cross, rose from the dead three days later, appeared to many in real and unreal ways until finally he left earth and ascended into heaven. He promised that he would not leave his sorrowing disciples alone, that God the Father would send his Holy Spirit to lead them into all truth. God the Holy Spirit is our advocate, comforter, counsellor, helper and is also like a 'first responder', ready to come alongside us when we are especially in need. He or she is the third member of the Holy Trinity. Confused?! Well don't be - just know God is always with you and has even gone before you preparing your way. If you would like to know more then I am planning to run some sessions where you can explore what Christianity is all about. Please email me on liz@hostmyserver.co.uk or telephone 01306 711260 for more details.

We are really looking forward to the special D-Day village celebrations and hope you may wish to remember D-Day at our Anniversary D-Day Cafe Church in the Crown Garden on Sunday 9th June at 10.30am. Do hope you will join us! Let's not underestimate the positive possibilities in life then as we remember the incredible achievements made by our forbears.

Keep looking out for incredible sights whether seen or unseen by the human eye!

With all blessings, love and prayers

Liz

liz@myhostserver.co.uk 01306 711260

Vicar St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley

Royal Patron for Bible Society



Author: Mark Woods, 10 May 2024

The Society has had a Royal patron since 1943, when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth became joint patrons. Now King Charles has agreed to become our Patron.

The King's mother Queen Elizabeth II was our Patron from 1952, when she acceded to the throne. Her patronages were reviewed after her death, and the King has said he would be 'delighted to accept the patronage of Bible Society'.

King Charles has said that his faith is 'deeply rooted' in the Church of England. He told faith leaders on his accession to the throne that he was 'a committed Anglican Christian', and promised at his Coronation to 'maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the gospel'.

The King's patronage is an indication that the monarch knows and values the work of a charity. Our own royal connections go back to Queen Victoria, who became a member of the Society in 1838.

Bible Society's Chief Executive Paul Williams said: 'We're absolutely delighted with this news, and very thankful. This is an affirmation of the value of Bible Society's work in sharing God's word at home and abroad.'

'The King's patronage is a sign that the Bible is being taken seriously at the heart of our country's life, and we're so pleased that the connection with the Royal family which meant so much to us under Queen Elizabeth is to continue.'

'Please pray for the King's health, and that he will continue to flourish in his role as monarch.'





Small Boat Crossings

There are very few headlines that have generated as much debate and controversy as this. Tens of thousands of people crossing the English Channel in small, often inappropriate vessels, waiting for the weather to be good enough to make the short, perilous journey towards “freedom”. Ironic, isn’t it, that the very same headline 80 years gave rise to enormous national pride! The audacity of the D-Day landings as troops from the UK, America and Canada climbed aboard whatever small boat was in front of them, waited for the weather to clear and headed out on a trip fraught with danger that would ultimately bring freedom and the end of WW2 was astonishing. Courage and, for too many, sacrifice on a scale that is unimaginable to the generation in which we now live.

From the 6th to the 9th of June this year we, as a village community, will be remembering the bravery of all those who took part in the D-Day landings. Sunday 9th June falls on the weekend when St. John’s holds its regular monthly Café Church and the 80th anniversary of Operation Overlord (the codename given to the landings) will be at the centre. There is an open invitation to all to come and join us. It’s an informal and inclusive service open to people of all faiths and none where we can come together to give thanks for the freedoms that we enjoy today that came at such an enormous cost 80 years ago.

So, as we listen to the relentless bluster and rhetoric of self-interested groups from all sides that’s clouded the debate on the current small boat crossings, maybe we can think of the human cost of men, women and children lost in pursuit of their dreams of personal “freedom”. And as we do that, we should also remember the 4,144 allied personnel that died on 6th June 1944 (plus the thousands injured) who were lost in the pursuit of someone else’s freedom. Jesus says in John 15, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” We should be truly grateful that so many gave everything for those that they never knew.

Bob Cranham

St. John's, Capel invites you to

Café Church

Sunday 9th June @ 10.30am

D-DAY ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

in the garden of The Crown, The Street, Capel

INFORMAL - INCLUSIVE - INSPIRING

Think you know what Church is like?

Think again!

CAPEL MILITARY SHOW

A FUNDRAISER FOR CAPEL AND OCKLEY PCC

5TH, 6TH AND 7TH OF JULY



CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS

For the third year running we will be running the tea and coffee stall at the show. This year we will be doing Friday as well as Saturday and Sunday and we will, therefore, need even more tray bakes!

Cakes required are **chocolate, coffee, ginger, carrot** and **lemon drizzle**. Wrights pre-packed mixes are good as they are made with vegetable oil & water and don't require any eggs. A frosting is required but **no coloured sprinkles** please as they bleed into the icing.

Trays need to be 32x20x3.3cm. They can be purchased on amazon or from larger supermarkets – Tesco and Asda both sell them. **Only one cake mix per tray.**

If you have any queries please contact Leigh Smith on 07732825908

You can find a sign up sheet if you can help make cakes in our churches, together with a **separate sign up sheet for volunteering** to serve over the weekend. Family and friends are most welcome - and helpers get **free entry** to the show.

©Suzanne Cole (photo)



‘Spreading hope and love amid the darkness’

Baptist organisations in Palestine and Israel are continuing to support people amid the ‘heart-wrenching reality’ of the war in Gaza.

One such organisation is Christian Mission to Gaza, whose founder and president is Hanna Massad, the former pastor of Gaza Baptist Church.

In regular newsletters to supporters, Hanna details how CMG is actively involved in providing essential aid to those affected by the conflict.

This includes winter clothes, groceries, meals for people sheltering in churches and beyond (many Christians are sheltering at St Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church and the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church), as well as financial support to help families meet basic needs.

After Rwanda: Church leaders speak out over hostility to refugees

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of Southwark have joined with leaders of other churches in England to renew their commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, as legislation to enable asylum seekers to be deported to Rwanda was approved by Parliament.

In a joint statement with leaders of the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches, they pay tribute to all those who “live out Jesus’s call to feed and clothe the poor, and to welcome the stranger, at times in the face of opposition and prejudice.”

The statement voices concern that asylum seekers and refugees have been used as a “political football” and that the kindness of churches and charities towards people fleeing war, persecution and violence has been “unjustly maligned by some for political reasons.”

National Redress Scheme: Proposed financial award framework and approach to funding

Details of the proposed financial award framework for the Church of England’s national Redress Scheme have been published.

If approved, the framework would be used to calculate offers of financial redress to survivors and victims of Church-related abuse. Details of the proposed approach to funding the Redress Scheme have also been announced.

The Redress Project Board has agreed the recommended financial award framework for the National Redress Scheme. If approved through the Church of England’s legislative processes, the framework would result in individual awards of between £5,000 and £660,000 in rare and exceptional circumstances.

The Redress Project Board recommendation follows many months of detailed conversations and consultation with survivors of Church-related abuse.

The Chair of the Redress Project Board, Bishop Philip Mounstephen, said: “The recommended financial awards framework, developed with guidance and input from survivors and external experts, aims to address the range of suffering experienced, offering financial redress in a clear and transparent manner.

“No amount of money can ever undo the past. Our hope, nonetheless, is that this could be a significant step both towards the acknowledgment of wrongdoing, and, however incompletely, towards helping rebuild lives.”

The Redress Project Board has benchmarked the framework calculations against other similar schemes and has also received external specialist input. The Board has aimed to ensure that the levels of financial redress that could be offered are in line with or exceed those found in comparable schemes.

Financial awards would be calculated by taking into account factors such as the nature of the abuse and its impact on the applicant. In addition to individual financial awards, the Redress Scheme will offer eligible applicants other forms of redress, such as emotional and therapeutic support, and apology.

Baptist colleges launch projects exploring science and ministry

Cardiff Baptist College and Regent's Park College are among four theological colleges in the UK and Republic of Ireland to have been awarded funding to develop teaching resources incorporating science, ethics, and theology.

The funding is part of the Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS) project, based at St John's College, Durham University. It has awarded funding of up to £60,000 to each college, to support them to incorporate scientific topics into their core curriculum.

Cardiff Baptist College will run activities including a campus-wide 'befriend a scientist' shadowing programme.

Regent's Park College, Oxford, will connect students with a heritage of science-engagement by key Baptist figures, leading classes and producing resources for a wider community.

ECLAS' Science for Seminaries programme works with theological colleges to equip ministers with a grounding in science to 'preach persuasively, pastor responsively, and spread the gospel.' This is its third round of funding grants - and the first time Baptist colleges are taking part in the scheme.

Tribute to Lord Field

The Bishop of Bristol, Vivienne Faull, and the Bishop of Ramsbury, Andrew Rumsey, who are the Church of England's joint lead bishops for Cathedrals and church buildings, have issued the following statement:

"We are truly saddened to hear of the death of Frank Field (the Rt Hon Lord Field of Birkenhead, CH) following a period of illness.

"Lord Field was deeply committed to the Church of England. As Frank Field, the active and long-serving MP for Birkenhead, he made time alongside his political career to serve from 2006-2016 as Chair of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, the national advisory and decision-making body on changes to the Church of England's cathedrals.

"Under his leadership, the Commission played a key role in shaping major development works at cathedrals including Norwich, Blackburn, Durham and Wells; supported the installation of innovative works of art at St Paul's and Liverpool; and approved the installation of the first solar panels on cathedral buildings in Bradford and Gloucester. He also helped to secure £40 million of funding for Anglican and Catholic cathedrals under the government's 2014-18 First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund.

"This role followed earlier periods as a member of the General Synod of the Church of England; a Vice-President of the National Churches Trust; Chair of the 2011 King James Bible Trust; and Chair of the Churches Conservation Trust. He was also a member of the Ecclesiastical Committee from 2002 until his death.

"To each role he brought an inquiring mind, a keen sensibility, a drive for action and a deep commitment to the Christian faith.

"We honour the memory of Lord Field and give thanks for all that he contributed to the work of the Church of England, and to wider society.

Archbishop calls for halt to “indefensible abuse” of rivers

The Archbishop of Wales has called for a halt to the “indefensible abuse” of our waterways. Rivers, he said, were dying because of pollution.

Archbishop Andrew John's comments came during his recent Presidential Address to members of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales at the start of its two-day meeting in Newport.

Archbishop Andrew said, “Why should we be concerned about water? Because our rivers are dying. Water companies are illegally pumping raw sewage into them. And even as sections of our farming communities are underpaid and undervalued, intensive farming practices, promoted by unsustainable food production systems, are poisoning rivers with excess fertiliser and animal waste – witness the tragic situation in the Wye Valley.

“We recognise investment is being made to improve our drainage and improvements are being delivered. However, all of us – including the industry, regulators, government and local authorities - must play a part in halting this indefensible abuse of the most essential element of life.”

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the similarities between faith and sport.



The Euros 24

A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives.

As we build up our *godly muscles*, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

Editor: Tony Horsfall, a retreat leader and author recommends a different type of prayer....

Using Rest to Pray

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.

Editor: by the Revd Dr Roger Roberts

Do you struggle with doubt?

Do you ever look at other Christians and wonder: "Do they REALLY believe this Christian stuff? That Jesus really was the Son of God who rose again, and is alive today?"

Doubt is an honest place to be, and it is not the opposite of Christian faith. To believe is to be in one mind. To disbelieve is to be in one mind also. To doubt is to waver between the two minds, to be in a state of 'double-ness', or 'two-ness'. To doubt something is to be willing to believe it – IF you can find evidence to back up the story.

If you are in this state of 'double-ness' just now, you may find the story of the disciple Thomas (John 20:24-29) to be helpful. Unlike the other disciples, he was not present on that first Easter night when Jesus appeared to the other disciples. Instead, Thomas was told that someone whom he'd seen crucified and dead was alive again three days later, and in perfect health.

Thomas had been devoted to Jesus, but the fact that dead people don't rise again was just too much for him. So, despite the joy of the other disciples, he could get only as far as: "unless I see the nail marks... I will not believe it."

It was a week later that Jesus appeared again to His disciples and confronted Thomas. He said simply: "Put your finger here; see my hands... Stop doubting and believe."

Jesus then looked forward to all the millions of people in the future who would never meet Him in person, and so would have understandable grounds to doubt. "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thomas needed physical recognition before he could say "My Lord and My God." Today, if you want to believe, but honestly struggle with doubt, consider using this simple prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I have never seen You in person. So, I sometimes doubt that you exist. The Bible tells us that it is only the Holy Spirit who can open our 'spiritual eyes', and so I ask You to do that for me. Please give me not physical recognition, but faith recognition. I will do my bit, and will read about you each day in the Bible. Through Your Word, please open my spiritual eyes so that I can see You clearly as Jesus, the risen Son of God. Amen."

High Days & Holy Days: 16th June Richard of Chichester, wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly

Ever wonder where the prayer ... *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day'* comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3rd April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: "Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

Editor: Lester Amann considers the work of King Hezekiah

Tunnels

Of all the remarkable engineering projects in the world, one is surely the Channel Tunnel. This undersea railway subway is the longest in the world and connects Kent, England with Calais, France. It is over 31 miles (50.46 km) long and was opened just over 30 years ago, in May 1994.

After six years of construction, this massive enterprise created three tunnels, running parallel to each other. Trains go through two large tunnels with a smaller service tunnel for ventilation and access. Every day, about 500 trains go through the tunnels carrying passengers, cars, lorries and coaches.

The Bible tells us of another amazing tunnelling project. King Hezekiah wanted to fortify the city of Jerusalem against the invading Assyrian armies and needed to protect the water supply. Using simple hand tools, and digging through solid rock, the completed tunnel was 1,750 feet long (533 m)! It still exists today and tourists with torches can shuffle along the cold, wet and narrow passageway from one end to the other.

Close to the tunnel is an original written inscription which describes how the tunnel was excavated. Two teams, one starting at each end of the curving channel met in the middle. Apparently, their direction was guided by men listening to hammering sounds as they gouged through the rock.

King Hezekiah's tunnel was indeed an incredible engineering feat and accomplished without modern machines and sophisticated technology. His vision and careful planning saved the people from their enemy. (2 Kings 20:20)

At the end of his eventful life, a eulogy was written that *King Hezekiah did what was right and what was pleasing to the Lord his God*. His accomplishments were done *in a spirit of complete loyalty and devotion to his God*.

We may well ask, when our time draws to a close, if such a fitting tribute will be given to us.

Techie trouble

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

With Petertide ordinations in mind...

First friend: 'It took me forty years to discover I had not the gifts for Holy Orders.'

Second friend: 'Goodness, whatever did you do when you found out?'

First friend: 'It was too late to do anything. By then I was a bishop!'

Keep it short

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion...."

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

June 2024

Well we find ourselves in June already! Let's hope we do get a prolonged period of summer sunshine sometime soon! When the sun has appeared, it has so obviously brightened everyone's day—in every sense of the word! It is so reviving and uplifting even. We are entering the summer holiday period and I hope that everyone enjoys their breaks, wherever they are off to.

We are also entering the busy period of fundraising for our church by means of a refreshments stall at both the Military Show in Capel and the Capel Show in August. Leigh de Souza is kindly co-ordinating our cake baking and volunteering rota for the Military show. You can find 'sign up' lists for both baking and taking a turn to volunteer on the day in both of our churches. Later in the summer, at the Capel Show, we will be selling burgers, so do keep an eye out for the volunteer rota for that one too! These are now both huge fundraisers for our church, and we have to keep moving with opportunities to join in with these events (some new and some long-standing) and play our part in raising much needed funds for both St John's and St Margaret's. Likewise in November, our now annual Christmas fair is another new fundraiser for our churches.

There is plenty of news in this issue. Wars continue to rage around the world and there are references to Ukraine, Israel & Gaza and Sudan in this issue. See page 16 for an update on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. *"World Vision is appealing for support for its work in Sudan. Since the war broke out last Spring between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, over nine million people have had to flee their homes"*. There is an interesting and thoughtful article on page 12 entitled **'Using Rest to Pray' - 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still'**. The 80th anniversary of D Day is prominent in a weekend of commemorations and activities in Capel—see the inside front cover. There is also a prayer on page 18 from Nigel Beeton remembering the fallen. We continue the series 'Reflecting Faith' with the Rev Dr Jo White on page 19 in a timely entitled article: **Reflecting Faith: The Church and politics (with a small 'p')**. You will be pleased to know it is a politics free article! That will be a rarity amongst reading material in the next few weeks leading up to the General Election!

Finally, it is Father's Day on Sunday 16th June. Although it isn't a day that is celebrated in churches, unlike Mothering Sunday, I think it's one many of us like to mark, even if our fathers are no longer with us. Ultimately, as Christians we are also thinking of our Father in Heaven, father to us all and creator of all things—including our much loved earthly fathers. My Dad has been gone for nearly nine years, but such was the bond, that there isn't a day goes by without my thinking of him, missing him, but also be so grateful for the times we had together. He was the steadfast rock in our family, quietly wise and calming any worries but also full of humour! I thank God every day for the happy and secure childhood I enjoyed and most of all for giving me the most wonderful father who I had until I turned 50. We were truly blessed and have many many happy memories to look back on. I'm sure everyone will have their own loving thoughts of their fathers, some still here, and some gone like my own. But our Father in heaven is always there for us—not just on Father's Day and he knows us all intimately. ***"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."* Psalm 139:14**



We praise you that your care and protection surround us like a father. On this Fathering Sunday, we remember all the people who have nurtured us, especially the important men in our lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart. Hear our prayer for fathers. We praise you that your care and protection surround us like a father. Hear our prayer for fathers around the world. Amen

Best wishes,

Suzanne

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

***"For every dream that has taken flight, there's a father who believed."* – ...**

In loving memory of our dear Dad, Colin



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series which will run for the next two years.

What's the Big Idea? *An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Ruth*

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (chapter 1). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (chapter 2).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (chapter 3). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (chapter 4).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. '*Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning*' (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story.' (Eugene Peterson).

See associated Quiz on page 27

Sudan – one of the world's worst humanitarian crises

World Vision is appealing for support for its work in Sudan. Since the war broke out last Spring between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, over nine million people have had to flee their homes.

Now John Makoni, National Director of World Vision Sudan, warns:

"Sudan is currently quite possibly the worst place in the world for a child to live, due to the huge numbers of boys and girls affected by the conflict," explains Makoni. *"but also because of the full range of physical and emotional challenges they face. Children are literally being starved, abused, and traumatised by what they are experiencing and witnessing. Many have fled the violence but have been unable to find any real safety."*

Before the war, World Vision's work in Sudan focussed on providing clean water, sanitation, income generation, and health and nutrition activities. Even then, Sudan was facing a severe hunger crisis and rising levels of child malnutrition, with one in three in need of humanitarian assistance.

But now, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), today more than half the population are struggling with hunger and malnutrition, while **about 19 million are acutely food insecure and nearly four million children under five are malnourished.**

Most of these people are stuck in places that are hard to access due to the conflict.

According to the [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), some 24 million children in Sudan are "at risk of generational catastrophe".

If you would like to support World Vision in its efforts to help, please go to:

www.worldvision.org.uk

Martin Niemöller

With all that is going on in the world today, with wars in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza Strip, Sudan, Myanmar and many more, involving huge loss of life on all sides, the words genocide and holocaust are often mentioned. This made me remember a famous quote that is often used on Holocaust Memorial Day in January:

First they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—
and there was no one left to speak for me.

I always thought it was part of a poem, but it is an amalgam of quotations from speeches made by Martin Niemöller from 1946 onwards.

Niemöller was well known after the Second World War as a victim of Nazi persecution and opposition to the regime. In the speeches he confessed his own inaction and indifference to the Nazis' victims and explained that during the first few years of Nazi power he remained silent as Germans persecuted other Germans. He often included communists, people with mental and physical disabilities, and Jehovah's Witnesses and sometimes used "we preferred to keep quiet," rather than "I did not speak out". His speeches were directed to other Germans in the Western part of Germany that he considered had failed to accept their responsibility for Nazism, atrocities, and the Holocaust. He thought that Germans passed the blame to the Nazis, their superiors and other Germans whilst not accepting their own responsibility for what had happened.

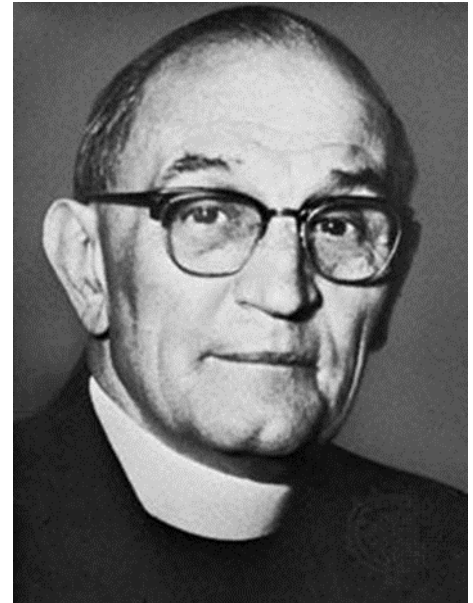
Martin Niemöller was born in Lippstadt, Germany, on 14th January 1892. In 1910 he became a cadet in the Imperial German Navy and during World War I was the commander of a U-Boat. He was dismissed for failing to sail his U Boat to the UK under the armistice treaty. By 1920 he started training as a minister in the Lutheran Church at Munster following in the steps of his father, Heindrich. He married Else Bruner on 20th April 1919 and they had six children. He was a monarchist and nationalist resulting in him being critical of the Weimar Republic and took part in the Kapp putsch attempting to overthrow the government. Believing in Germany needing a strong leader he voted for the Nazis in the final parliamentary elections of 1933 supporting their antisemitic autonomy for Christianity stance. It was when the Nazis tried to bar non Aryans from ministry and the Old Testament from Christianity that Niemöller and others established the Confessing Church eventually seeing the Nazi state as a dictatorship.

From 1934 he became famous for his charismatic and critical sermons which resulted in him being arrested numerous times and finally in 1937 was arrested for treason and sentenced to seven months imprisonment. He was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in solitary confinement and later to Dachau. Surprisingly, whilst anti-Nazi he was very nationalistic, and he did attempt to rejoin the Navy but was rebuffed. He was finally released by US troops in Tirol, Austria in 1945.

After the war he toured making speeches and was critical the part that Germans played in the rise of Nazism, and also the allies denazification process. He was unpopular in Germany but popular elsewhere. By the 1950s he had become a pacifist and worked for the World Council of Churches for international peace and became its President in 1961.

A complicated person with antisemitic beliefs for the greater part of his life, he died on 6th March 1984 at Wiesbaden, West Germany, at the age of 92.

Written by Stuart Cole



PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: "It is normally my habit to submit a lighter poem, but the eightieth anniversary of the Normandy landings is not really a time for light-heartedness. Some time ago I wrote a poem about a relative of ours, Alexander Rae 1924 – 1944, who died in Holland in October 1944, but there were so many young men like him who died in the last year of the war fighting to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny. So, I adapted the poem to reflect more generally the sacrifice of all those young men: A Distant Grave

A Distant Grave

A distant grave, a foreign land
Kept neatly, with respect
Though not at all what they'd have planned
Yet what they did accept.

These youthful lads were wrenched from home -
No one of them was old -
Joined thousands of their fellow men
Fought up a beach, named 'Gold'.

And some survived, though many died
Some fought their way through France
And, though quite likely terrified
To Holland they advanced.

Then 'Market Garden' – a quaint name
For brutal deeds of war;
But no-one heard those troops complain
In darkest forty-four.

And yet more soldiers met their fate
Their lives cut short too soon;
As shells fell close, to detonate
In war's demonic tune.

And so they lay, so far from home
So far from kith and kin.
But they, with fallen comrades showed
The way to fight and win.

D-DAY 80

Prayer for a Better World

Generous God, we thank you:
for the gifts you have given us,
the abundance of your Creation
and the beauty that surrounds us.

For the people whose lives have touched ours,
for the love they show,
the burdens they lift,
the hopes we share.

Compassionate God, we ask you:
to fill us with your love,
to place in our hearts a spirit of courage,
to move us to reach out to others in need.

And lead us to play our part,
so that now and in generations to come
all your children may share
in our hope for a better world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

*Catherine Gorman, written for the
Your Catholic Legacy consortium*

A Night in June

The sun has long been set,
The stars are out by twos and threes,
The little birds are piping yet
Among the bushes and the trees;
There's a cuckoo, and one or two thrushes,
And a far-off wind that rushes,
And a sound of water that gushes,
And the cuckoo's sovereign cry
Fills all the hollow of the sky.

By William Wordsworth

Shield me

O may God shield me, and may God fill,
O may God watch me, and may God hold;
O may God bring me where peace is still,
To the King's land, eternity's fold.
Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

From The Creed Prayer, poems of the Western Highlanders

Reflecting Faith: The Church and politics (with a small'p')

When you drive in the English countryside you should be able to see at least one church spire or tower from pretty much anywhere. Just about every village has its own church building.

The size and grandeur of these village churches varies greatly, and was usually dependent on who paid for them in the first place!

In the main they were built with money from the local 'Lord of the Manor' – not necessarily a 'Lord' in the titled sense, but the person who owned the majority of the land and properties. Most people would work for him and live in a house provided by him. The two went together. Often, in order to keep their job and home, they were expected to attend 'the Lord's' church.

Many such churches were constructed at a time when people assumed that the more money you gave to the church, the greater would be your place in heaven. Hence the ostentatiousness in many a small village church!

By the early 1800s society had begun to change shape rapidly. The Napoleonic Wars which had been raging in Europe for many years were concluded at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. There were new processes being discovered and invented which meant changes in working practices: the 'Industrial Revolution' was well under-way.

'Society' itself began to change with industrialisation bringing working folk into towns and away from the places, people, family members and authority figures to whom they had deferred all their lives. Politicians and Society leaders were becoming concerned that the political unrest still taking place on the continent might catch on here.

This month: Have a look at a town church or a city church this month. See if you can find out anything about its history. Was there any reason for it being built where it is that reflects faith?

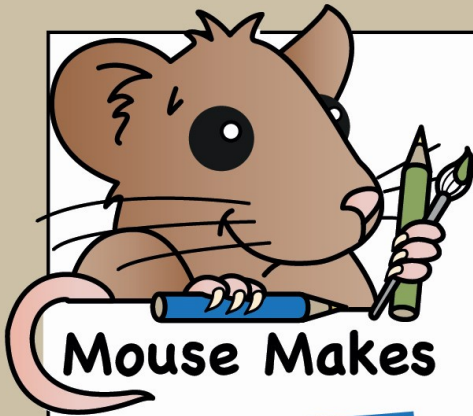
Outdoor Travelling Theatre is Coming to Capel! 9th June

The fabulous RUDE MECHANICAL THEATRE COMPANY is bringing their show "The Dressing Room" to the Capel recreation ground. This wonderful highly professional band of actors tours the south east every year and we are so lucky to have them coming to our village. If you haven't seen them before don't miss the opportunity. Their shows are musical, very funny and highly original.

You can arrive early from 6pm and bring a picnic if you wish. The Cricket club bar will be open for drinks.

To book tickets online search: www.therudes.co.uk .

If you have any questions you can call Miranda Ashwood on: 07891 639386



Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPUIO UISFF: POF

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | O | T | A | S |
| O | P | E | R | A |
| T | E | N | E | T |
| A | R | E | P | O |
| S | A | T | O | R |

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

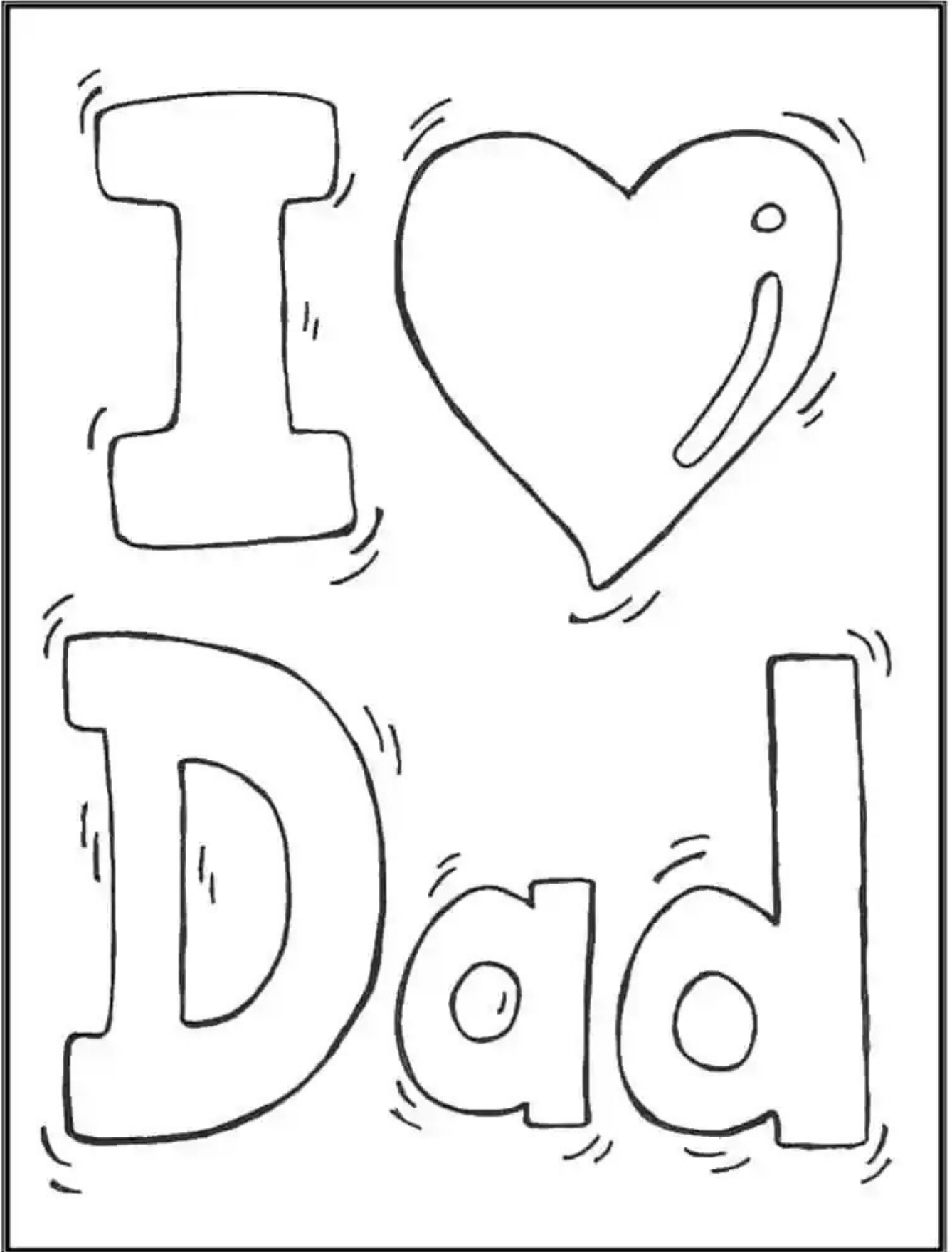


A G A D A U G H T E R E G
V A S E Z E C H A R I A H
J M O S E S A J A C O B O
A Z L I B O F A T H E R P
I J O S E P H J A N O A H
R O M A D A V I D G E H N
U B O A E I D A S O N A O
S V N C E E Z E A D A M A

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE

Colouring page
Father's Day



Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

The wonderful world of Ladybird Books...

I'm really excited about a new exhibition running at my local museum this summer. It promises to prompt joyful memories of childhood for many older people – and maybe remind them of when they first learnt about Jesus.

'The Wonderful World of the Ladybird Artists' aims to "uncover the story of the talented artists who illustrated Ladybird books for more than 30 years." It's a fascinating exhibition that has already been staged in cities from Canterbury to Northumberland and is at the St Albans Museum until 8th September.

The organisers say: "This colourful, family-friendly exhibition includes rare books, original artwork and artefacts, and reveals how illustrators played such an enormous role in Ladybird's extraordinary success."

Ladybird Books also played a vital role in thousands of Sunday Schools and churches in the UK and many other English-speaking countries from the 1940s until well into the 1970s.

For many children and young people, these books were their first introduction to the Bible, with numerous parents, grandparents and carers reading them as bedtime stories. 'Easy Reading' versions helped many children read about Jesus for themselves.

I've been collecting some of the Bible-based copies of the Ladybird books from local charity shops, with titles such as 'Stories about Jesus the Helper,' 'Children of the Bible' and 'Two Stories Jesus Told,' featuring the classic parables, the Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son. I've been struck by the faithful retelling of the Bible stories, and the quality of the illustrations.

These colourful books were a staple of many Scripture classes and Sunday School prize-giving and helped form the Biblical understanding of a generation of children. Today, the books have become very collectible, with prices on the rise.

Ladybird books were, naturally, a product of their times with, for example, the skin tones of Jesus and the apostles often lighter than what reality might have been. The books were produced for a time when Bible stories were more widely known, and families were routinely depicted as mum, dad, a son and a daughter.

In recent years, more bizarre incarnations of Ladybird Books – such as 'The Ladybird Book of the Zombie Apocalypse' – have introduced new audiences to the Ladybird style, with an ironic, comic twist.

Personally, I much prefer the originals!

Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, *but....!*

Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
Man Struck by Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

The Pavilion Café



**Every Wednesday at Ockley Cricket Club Pavilion
9 am until midday**

Come and enjoy a warm welcome and a delicious range of homemade cakes and savouries - including gluten/dairy free. Bacon butties every fourth Wednesday and freshly made teas and coffees.

The Pavilion Café was originally the idea of Kindred Spirits, the women's outreach group from Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green Parish, 11 years ago. It is run by a team of volunteers in support of charities, local charitable causes and Ockley events.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Liz know! 07951 710176
lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk



*Shirley caught the flower ladies
red-handed, dealing trugs*

*With the Summer Solstice in June, let us celebrate God
the Creator*

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

God in All

He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

A prayer of St Patrick

BOOK REVIEWS

by Parish Pump



How to See Life: A Guide in 3 2 1 **By Glen Scrivener, 10 Publishing, £8.99**

Perspective is everything. So how do you see life? This book is your chance to slow down, get your bearings, and look again at life according to Jesus.

How To See Life: A Guide in 321 is an introduction to the deepest Christian truths. It also works with 321, a free interactive course: <https://speaklife.org.uk/321course>. Written in a chatty tone, it includes QR codes with links to the 321 course videos.

Like or Follow: what every teenager needs to decide about Jesus **By Dave Boden, 10Publishing, £4.99**

Whatever your first impression of the most famous person in history, many young people claim He is still relevant to their lives today.

This simple introduction to Jesus for the curious will help you to explore why so many people build their lives around His teaching. You'll be introduced to the facts and evidence about Jesus and discover how he can reframe your world with hope and purpose.

With easy-to-understand language, relevant stories and illustrations, and discussion questions & a QR video after

each chapter, this book is a great read for teens who may think they've heard it all before, as well as teens who haven't heard any of it before.

Honesty Over Silence – it's OK not to be OK **By Patrick Regan, SPCK, £9.99**

This book opens the conversation on spirituality and mental health in a way that shows you that you are not alone.

Honesty Over Silence tackles topics that many find difficult, such as trusting God when life is painful, dealing with anxiety and depression, learning to look after ourselves, developing our character, and living with thankful hearts even in tough seasons.

It examines our strength in letting go of our need to be in control, as well as looking at how we can stop comparing ourselves to others, and instead live authentically and honestly as we grow into the people God has created us to be.

Yearning for the Vast and Endless Sea – the Good News about the Good News **By Chris Russell, Canterbury Press, £16.99**

Evangelism can create suspicion or imply tribalism, or can be seen as a desperate response to falling numbers.

But what if we recovered an authentic understanding of evangelism as good news that enables people to know that they are drenched in the love and grace of God? And how do we do that?

This is a book for everyone who wants to share the gospel but is wary of how to do so. Its title is taken from Saint-Exupery, 'If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the people to gather wood, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.'

Drawing on writers like Bonhoeffer, Newbigin and Pope Francis' landmark *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chris Russell aims to set the ideal of evangelism in a deeper and richer theological context. He asks how the Church and individual Christians can communicate the love of God in language and action, and explores how the Good News is received.

Food for the Journey Bible Themes: 365-Day Devotional

Various Authors, Edited Elizabeth McQuoid, IVP, £25.99

This book provides Bible readings for the whole year from trusted Bible teachers at the Keswick Convention.

Featuring well-known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Don Carson, Jonathan Lamb, Peter Maiden and many more, it offers daily encouragement to draw closer to God through His Word.

The book is an omnibus of the Food for the Journey Themes series, with a theme for each month of the year. It features three brand new themes that are only available in this volume: Grace, Suffering and The Holy Spirit.

Notes on Feminism – being a Woman in a Church led by Men

By Lauren Windle, SPCK, £12.99

Can I truly be a feminist and still go to church?

As Christians we come to the conversation from a slightly different vantage point. For starters, we have the benefit of a personal relationship with our creator plus the ultimate handbook in the Bible to work out what is right and just when it comes to equality. So why do many Christians feel the Bible presents a barrier rather than a boost when it comes to championing equality between the sexes?

Lauren Windle draws upon her years as a journalist to weave together a wide range of voices on a subject that society has been wrestling with but, in the Church, few are brave enough to probe too deeply for fear of what they might find. This book isn't here to tell you what to think. The views it presents are intended to inform, not form, your opinion on key topics, including: defining feminism, the lessons we teach boys, female preachers, a woman's place in the household, beauty standards and #ChurchToo.

If feminist stirrings feel like a barrier to your faith, this book might help you unpick the confusion and ongoing debate, while keeping God at the centre.

Quotes for June

Some observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. - *Billy Graham*

God knows what He is going to make of us. - *James Montgomery Boice*

Godliness is nothing but Godlikeness. - *George Swinnock*

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. - *Henry D Thoreau*

Man is most free when controlled by God alone. - *Augustine*

Of what does life essentially consist? The Bible answers that life is composed of relationships. - *Robert Horn*

Suspicious subtract, faith adds, but love multiplies. It blesses twice – him who gives it and him who gets it. - *CT Studd*

Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church. - *C H Spurgeon*

The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. - *S D Gordon*

Successful marriage is always a triangle: a man, a woman and God. - *Cecil Myers*

Gluttony is an emotional escape, a sign that something is eating us. - *Peter Devries*

If you're naturally kind you attract a lot of people you don't like. - *William Feather*

Some miscellaneous light-hearted observations on life:

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him. - *Dereke Bruce*

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. - *Ben Williams*

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall. - *Anon*

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis. - *Anon*

Acupuncture is a jab well done. - *Anon*

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds. - *Anon*

If at first you succeed, break it and start over again. - *Anon*

Christian leaders killed or disappeared in occupied Ukraine

Into the third year of Russia's occupation of parts of Ukraine, Christian leaders are still being killed, tortured and disappeared. And in Russia, priests who oppose Putin's invasion continue to be imprisoned or silenced.

"As President Putin begins his fifth term our partners describe growing pressure on the Church," says Paul Robinson, CEO of UK-based Release International, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide.

"And yet," he says, "in the face of fear, insecurity and oppression, hunger for the gospel is growing. We hear reports of churches packed to overflowing and many giving their lives to Christ."

In February, the body of a Ukrainian Orthodox priest was found in the streets of Kalanchak in Russian-occupied Kherson. He was 59-yr-old Stepan Podolchak. According to his bishop, Russian military forces had "tortured Fr Stepan to death".

He's not the first Christian leader to be dragged away and dispatched by the occupying forces.

Fr Stepan Podolchak was seized on 13th February and hauled away barefoot with a bag over his head, according to Norway-based human rights organisation Forum 18. His bruised body was found lifeless in the street two days later.

Some reports say he had been shot in the head. But the official cause of death was given as a heart attack.

The Kyiv-based Centre for Journalistic Investigations told Forum 18, "He prayed for Ukraine, even under occupation. Apparently because of this the Russians took away his life."

It's believed he was taken by operatives of the Russian Interior Ministry's Centre for Countering Extremism. Increasingly, denominations other than President Putin's Russian Orthodox are being regarded as extremists.

Along with other priests, Fr Podolchak had been pressured to desert the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and join the Moscow Patriarchate.

United Nations Special Rapporteurs have stated in writing to the Russian authorities their 'serious concern for the alleged enforced disappearances and torture... of clergy in the occupied territories'.

In areas of Crimea and Ukraine taken over by Russia since 2014, many religious groups have faced increased persecution under military rule. Churches forcibly closed include those of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Baptists, and Greek Catholics.

In the Eastern Ukraine town of Balaklija, the Russian-appointed city mayor went into the chapel and declared: 'There will be no God here. There will be no Christians. Only the Moscow Orthodox Church.' The occupiers looted the building before confiscating it.

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

I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me. - *Sigmund Freud*

I took the wife's family out for tea and biscuits. They weren't too happy about having to give blood though. - *Les Dawson*

Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand. - *Anon*

Quiz on the Book of Ruth

See page 16 for the associated article

Quiz on the Book of Ruth

1. Why did Elimelech go to live in Moab with his family?
Disagreement with his town leaders; Famine in his home town; Distant relatives invited him
2. What happened to Elimelech in Moab?
He died; He left his wife; He was killed by the King of Moab
3. What relationship was Ruth to Naomi?
Daughter; Granddaughter; Daughter-in-law
4. Who said "your God shall be my God"?
Naomi; Ruth; Orpah
5. What did Naomi tell the people in Bethlehem to call her?
Sara; Rachel; Mara
6. Who was Boaz?
Kinsman of Elimelech; Kinsman of Naomi; Town mayor
7. Why did Boaz allow Ruth to glean in his field?
He was short of workers; She was beautiful; She had looked after Naomi
8. What was Boaz doing at the threshing floor?
Threshing grain; Winnowing barley; Treading grapes
9. What did Ruth do while Boaz was sleeping?
Uncovered his feet and lay down; Gently woke him up; Covered his head and sat next to him
10. How did the townspeople regard Ruth?
As a beautiful woman; As a virtuous woman; As a caring woman
11. Why does the kinsman not want to marry Ruth?
Didn't like her; Already married; Didn't want to spoil inheritance
12. What was taken off and handed over to signify the agreement between Boaz and the kinsman?
Robe; Sandal; Ring
13. What was the name of Ruth's son?
Obed; Boaz; Jesse
14. What was the name of Ruth's great-grandson?
Jesse; David; Solomon

What's the Big Idea? *An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Ruth*

QUIZ

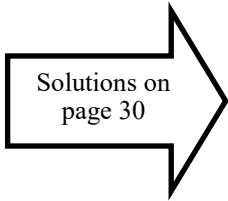


...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

Easy Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | | | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | 5 | 7 |
| | 5 | | | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | |
| | | | 7 | | 1 | 9 | | |
| 7 | 9 | | 3 | 2 | 4 | | 6 | 1 |
| | | 4 | 5 | | 8 | | | |
| | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | | | 9 | |
| 4 | 7 | | | | | 8 | | |
| | | | | | | | 7 | 4 |

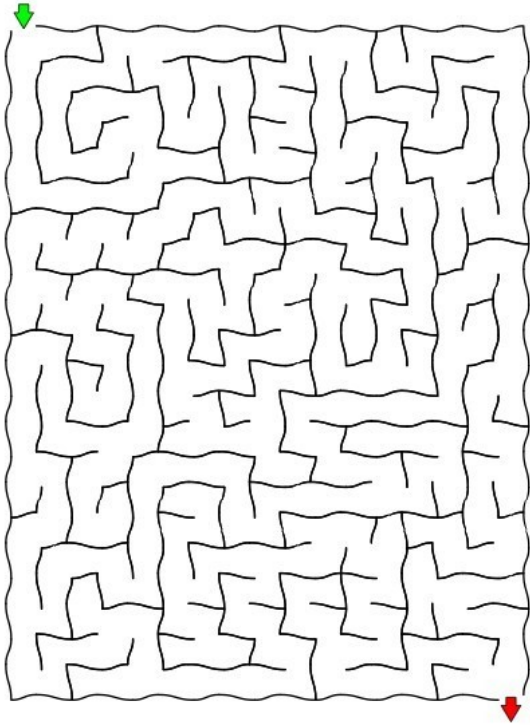
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Medium Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | | | | 5 | | | | 3 |
| | 9 | | 6 | | | 7 | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | 4 | |
| | | | | 8 | | 3 | | |
| | 3 | 7 | | | | 2 | 6 | |
| | | 1 | | 9 | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | | 6 | | | 4 | | 9 | |
| 8 | | | 5 | | | | | 7 |

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June's Maze



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind

CROSSWORD CLUES

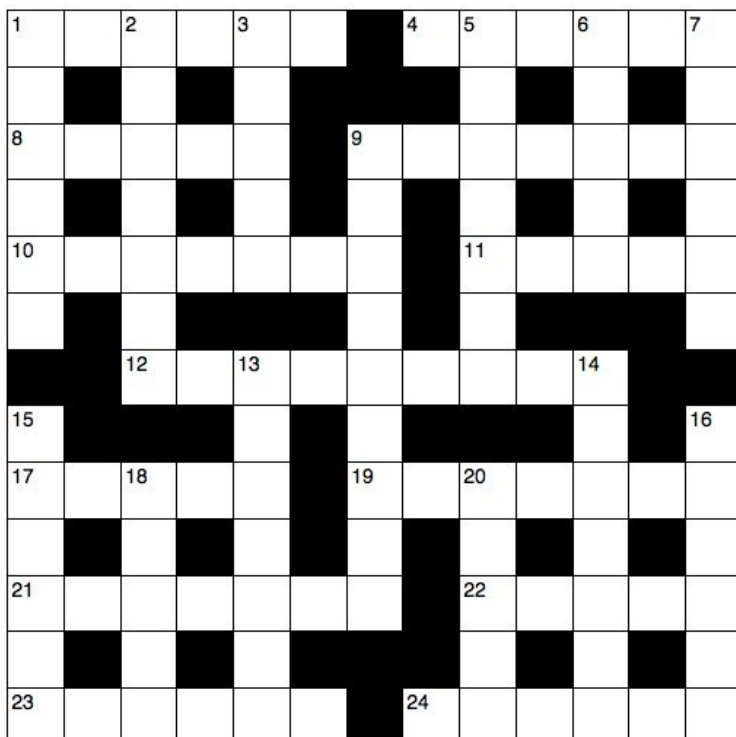
The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



**Puzzle
Solutions on
page 30**

Puzzle Solutions

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | M | B | U | S | H | | S | C | H | O | O | L | |
| T | | I | | I | | | | O | | W | | U | |
| T | I | R | E | D | | | F | A | M | I | N | E | S |
| A | | E | | E | | | A | | P | | E | | T |
| C | I | T | A | D | E | L | | | E | N | D | O | R |
| H | | T | | | | | S | | T | | | | E |
| | | | A | T | O | N | E | M | E | N | T | | |
| F | | | | S | | | H | | | | A | | A |
| A | V | E | R | T | | | O | R | A | C | L | E | S |
| R | | A | | R | | | O | | L | | E | | L |
| M | A | R | R | I | E | D | | | L | A | N | C | E |
| E | | L | | C | | | | | E | | T | | E |
| R | H | Y | T | H | M | | | H | Y | S | S | O | P |

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

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Easy Sudoku solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 |

Medium Sudoku solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 |

Answers to Quiz:

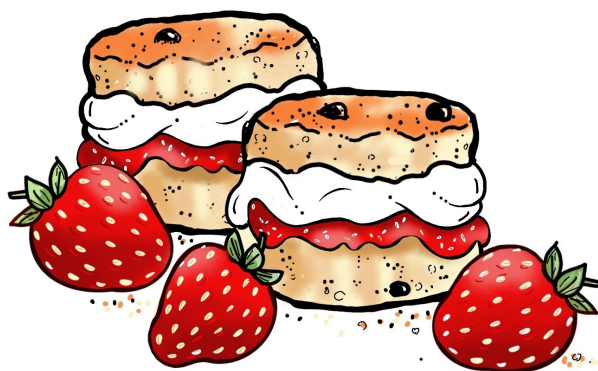
- Famine in his home town (Ruth 1:1)
- He died (1:3)
- Daughter-in-law (1:22)
- Ruth (1:16)
- Mara (1:20)
- Kinsman of Elimelech (2:1)
- She had looked after Naomi (10-11)
- Winnowing barley (3:2)
- Uncovered his feet and lay down (3:7)
- As a virtuous woman (3:11)
- Didn't want to spoil inheritance (4:5-6)
- Sandal (4:7-8)
- Obed (4:17)
- David (4:17)



Church Tea dates 2024

Please note that all teas will take place
between **3.00 and 5.00 pm**

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <i>Sunday 16th June</i> | <i>NOW CANCELLED</i> | <i>See new date in July</i> |
| Sunday 14th July | * NEW Date | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Sunday 4th August | | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Sunday 25th August | | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Monday 26th August | Summer Bank Holiday | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Sunday 15th September | | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Sunday 6th October | | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Sunday 3rd November | All souls service 3pm TEAS START AT 4PM | St John the Baptist Chapel |
| Sunday 24th November | | St John the Baptist Chapel |



*Don't forget you can find details of all events
& services on our website*

<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

St John and St Margaret's - a Christian presence in the Capel and
Ockley communities

“Under the warmth
of the summer sun
the world awakes
and blossoms
into every imaginable
colour. “



Wild orchid on Capel Nature Reserve
Photo: Suzanne Cole

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to
Suzanne Cole inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk **By 20th of each month please.**
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