



THE WORD

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE. PR8 4JP
Charity Number 1128171

St. John, Chapter 1, verses 1 and 14:

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."*

ISSUE No. 234

PLATINUM JUBILEE EDITION

JUNE 2022



This month the Queen makes history by celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. 70 years in the job!

We join with millions across Britain and the Commonwealth who thank God for Queen Elizabeth's dedication, wisdom, and steadfastness over the past seven decades.

The world has changed so much since 1952. But through it all, our Queen has kept her long-ago promise to the British people, to serve them with all her heart and might. And, because the Queen is a Christian, we know that God has honoured her and helped her in her role.

Truly, God has blessed Queen Elizabeth II, and we thank Him for her.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES TO OR ABOUT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT US BY EMAIL OR PHONE:
Email: info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk Phone: 07732 691542

OUR CHURCH



Our Church has been in need of a Spring Cleaning for a long time. Two years of covid stop-go lockdowns had an effect. The window ledges were thick with sand and dust, the pews were in need of being wiped down and dusted, and our hymn books and pew Bibles which have been sitting on the floor under the pews needed to be cleaned and repositioned. There were lots of cobwebs which gave the church an uncared-for appearance.

The notice boards were cluttered and the tables at the back of the church were an untidy collection of flyers, lists, charity envelopes and the like. Many of the kneelers had come adrift from their fastenings at the back of the pews.

During May much work has been done to make the church tidier and cleaner. Our congregations might not notice this if they do not pay

attention to the state of the church but many hours of work have been done. Our readers are invited to look at the notice boards in the porch (there may even be something of interest to you!) and see how neatly they are now arranged. Look, too, at the tables at the back of the church.

Sally Wright has repaired the hangers on many embroidered kneelers and Tim replaced the broken hooks so that all our kneelers now hang neatly at the back of each pew.

And if you see a cobweb: please tell the wardens!

Our PCC is making good progress in preparing the Parish Profile which is part of the procedure in seeking the appointment of a new Vicar to the parish. We do not know how long that process will take, but we want to be ready for it, and we want **Our Church** to be presentable and attractive to any applicants. Last year the outside of the church was redecorated, and repairs were carried out to parts of the interior. The grounds are well looked after and our church hall is in good condition.

There are still a few items of repair which will have to be looked into but the PCC is keeping on top of what needs to be done. **If you have not been back to church since we reopened, come and see for yourself!**

NEW SERIES OF SUNDAY SERMONS

Starting on Sunday 26th June we shall embark on a new series of five sermons based on five separate **"One Things"** which are to be found in the Bible:

One Thing I ask (Psalm 27, 4-6)

One thing you lack (Mark 10, 17-22)

One thing is necessary (Luke 10, 38-42)

One thing I know (John 9, 13-25)

One thing I do (Philippians 3, 12-14)

WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

Priest (retired) Reader:	Rev. Roy Doran Mrs. Christine Baker	Safeguarding:	Stuart Baker and Ms. Michelle Baldeh
Churchwardens:	Stuart Baker Clive Morris	Church of England Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent
Deputy Warden: Wardens' Assistant:	Tim Wright Miss Lucy Wright	Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton
Treasurer:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent	Girl Guides St. John's Brownies: Brownie Guiders: St. John's Rainbows:	Mrs. Janette Law Mrs. Helen Jones and Mrs. Lesley Scott Mrs. Lesley Scott
PCC Secretary:	Alex Vernon	Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris	Magazine Editor: Magazine Secretary:	Stuart Baker Mrs. Yvonne Dyson
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris	Notice boards, I.T and kneeler repairs:	Mrs. Sally Wright

TEAM WORK MAKES CLEAN WORK

On 16th May Sally Wright, Barbara Cameron and Stuart Baker spent an afternoon cleaning the church.



Sally did sterling work with the hoover. Barbara certainly needed her Marigolds, cloths and many buckets of hot water. And Stuart found a very long handled brush behind the organ which enabled him to sweep the window ledges which were thick with sand and dust.

The Wardens thank Sally and Barbara for giving up their time and working so hard to make great inroads into making **Our Church** clean and tidy.

ANOTHER JOB AWAITS

The stage in the church hall has become a repository for all manner of stuff and is very cluttered and untidy. Some items belong to groups who use the hall but some has been put there a long time ago and appears to have been forgotten about. The Wardens will announce a date on which we will have a session when everyone or every group who owns anything on the stage will be asked to come and identify what is theirs so that it can be stored neatly or discarded. If our readers are aware that they or their group own anything which is on the stage please be ready and willing to come and help get the stage tidy when invited to do so.

Sally Wright asks:

Do you have a spare afternoon on **Friday 10 June**? Well, if the answer is yes, then **please come along to St John's at 1.30pm**. Farnborough Road Junior School children are coming to our church to provide afternoon tea. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to build links with the local school and it's lovely that they want to provide these refreshments for us. I'm sure there will be a lovely buzz and happy atmosphere so please come along and support this event, I will certainly enjoy being waited on by the children for a change! I hope you will join me.



Refreshments after the Sunday Services

It's been pleasing to see that some of our congregation have stayed behind after the Sunday morning services and our monthly midweek communion services recently to have a coffee or tea and a chat.

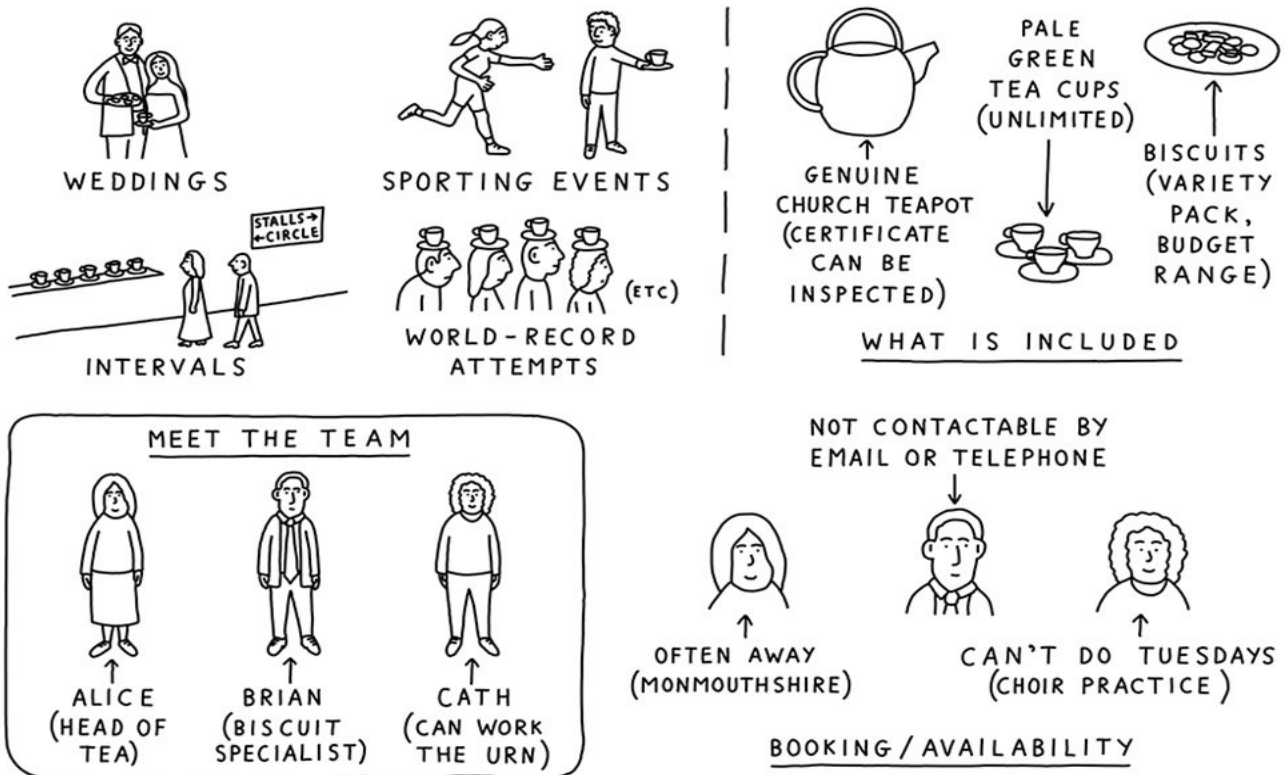
Next time you come to church do remember to stay for a few minutes and enjoy meeting your friends at church and catching up on what's been going on.

We do need some volunteers to help with serving the refreshments.

Please offer to be of help on an occasional basis and let Beverley Cummings, Christine Baker or Sally Wright know that you are willing to do this on a rota basis.

TEA AND BISCUITS

LET THE CHURCH DO YOUR CATERING



During the reign of Queen Elizabeth II: How many do you remember?

Clergy at St John's

1949-1956 Rev F.H. Marshall
 1956-1966 Rev E. Wright
 1967-1973 Rev O.J. Yandell
 1973-1997 Rev J.W.C. Harding
 1998-2011 Rev P.C. Caton
 2012-2021 Rev J. Leffler

Curates at St John's

1952-1953 Rev C.G. Cutcher
 1954-1956 Rev H. Gordon
 1956-1957 Rev I.K.W. Saville
 1963-1967 Rev D. Harris
 1967-1971 Rev J.W.T. Wilson
 1979-1982 Rev M. Buckley
 1988-1991 Rev P.W. Dawkin

Dates for your Diary



St John's Film Nights

The next film will be shown on **Friday 24th June**. It will be "**Castles in The Sky**" starring Eddie Izzard. It is a story based on real events about a British scientist who pioneered the development of radar which was a vital part of this nation's defence during World War II. Please let Christine know if you will attend (560518). Tea, coffee, homemade cakes are provided. £5.

See page 7 for a full list of Film Nights.



St James' Platinum Jubilee Celebration

St James' will be hosting an event on **Sunday 5th June** to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be tea on the lawn if the weather allows, and there will be food, games, stalls, and entertainment.



St John's 'Royal' Summer Fair

St John's will hold a '**Royal**' Summer Fair on **Saturday 18th June** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in the church hall and grounds. There will be a raffle for a fabulous 'Royal' hamper, various stalls and children's crafts and the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful afternoon tea. Entry will be free and we would love to see as many people as possible joining in the fun. See Sylvia's article on page 19



St Peter's Open Garden Sunday July 3rd at 1pm.

Home grown plants and delicious refreshments await you. Admission £3.



St John's Strawberry Tea in the garden at

34 Oxford Road on **Saturday 16th July** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Details will be in the July issue of **THE WORD** but please put this date in your diary and do come and support this summer event.

Making Donations to St John's through online banking

The church's bank details are:

Account name: Parochial Church Council of St John's Parish (Birkdale)

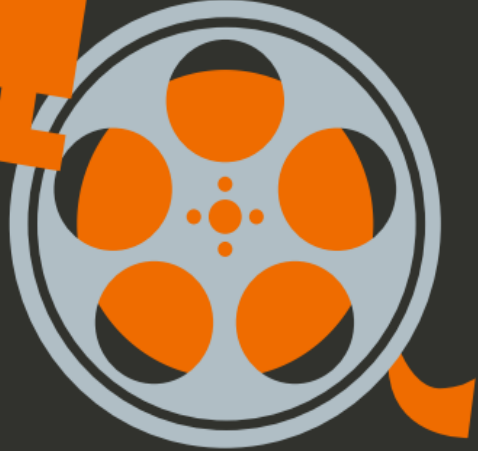
Sort Code: 60-20-11

Account Number: 86882120



St John's Presents

FILM NIGHTS



Come and join us as we enjoy great
films and refreshments @ 6.30pm
film begins at 7pm

13 May – Patch Adams



24 June – Castles in the sky

29 July – The book thief

30 September – Miss Potter

28 October – Secretariat

25 November – Blind Side



For further details contact
Christine 07821 982477

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of Mary Bailey on 15th May and William (Bill) Pilling on 20th May. Please pray for their grieving families and friends.



Nigerian Water Project

Our readers will recall that St John's is collecting voluntary donations to assist with the cost of sinking a bore hole in a village in Nigeria to obtain water from deep underground.

We all take the supply of drinking water for granted but for many people in Africa clean water is not readily available. Roy Doran's link with a village community in Nigeria has brought this to our attention.



The response so far has been very generous and our congregation has given, or committed itself to giving, £752 up to the date of going to print.

The cost of the project will be about £1,240. So we are still nearly £500 short of the target.

There are so many requests for charitable donations at the current time and in the difficult economic climate in which we live that there comes a time when we may all want to give but feel unable to do so.

But if anyone feels able to make any further contributions to this project please give them (preferably in cash, and in a marked envelope clearly indicating that the gift is for the Nigerian Water Project) **by not later than the end of June.**



Thursday Evening Prayers

The next prayer meetings by **zoom** and telephone will be at 7.30pm on 9th June and 23rd June.

If there is anything which you would like to pray about with others contact Sally, Tim or Lucy Wright, or Christine, Clive or Roy.

JUBILEE CONCERT:

Southport Orchestra will perform a concert at Emmanuel Church on Saturday 9th July at 7.30pm.

The programme will be a cornucopia of light classics and popular music from the 20th century, but **NO JINGOISTIC FLAGWAVING.**

Come and enjoy an evening of wonderful music! Tickets will be £10 for adults and £5 for anyone under 18. Ask Christine or Stuart Baker.



Celebrate Pentecost and the Platinum Jubilee with the Two Cathedrals service

5th June 3:00 pm at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral



The traditional Pentecost service returns to Liverpool 40 years after Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to both cathedrals in 1982. Our ecumenical Pentecost celebrations also form part of our celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

The celebrations start with an act of worship on the steps to the Metropolitan Cathedral. Worship continues with an all age family service at Liverpool Cathedral starting at 3:45 pm. Following this we have the Big Picnic for the Platinum Jubilee.

With big games and fun activities provided by In Another Place we invite you to bring a picnic and join in the fun. We will have food and refreshments available from the Welsford Bistro.

Order of the day

3:00 pm	Act of worship at foot of Metropolitan Cathedral
3:45 pm	All age worship at Liverpool Cathedral
4:00 pm	Big Picnic starts inside Liverpool Cathedral

Everyone is welcome!

Our Pentecost and Platinum Jubilee celebrations are made possible thanks to the kind support of 'the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund'.

Worship on
Pentecost

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

**10.30am service IN CHURCH and via
zoom & phone**

**Worshippers in church may remain in church after
the first part of the service has concluded and
receive Communion.**

Collect for Pentecost

GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**The subject of
Roy's talk:**

The Day of Pentecost

The Reading: Acts 2, 1-21

1. When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
- 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
- 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
- 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
- 5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem.
- 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
- 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"
- 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?
- 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
- 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
- 17 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
- 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
- 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

SUNDAY 5th JUNE at St John's Church: Sunday@7

THE THREE BIRKDALE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

St James' and St Peter's will join in worship at St John's Church at 7pm

The service will be led by Curate Ben Dyer and Lucy Wright and the talk will be given by Ben. The topic will be the challenging issue: "Why does God allow suffering?"

Refreshments will be available before the service so please arrive early and get to know some of our fellow Birkdale Christians.



**Worship on
Trinity Sunday**

SUNDAY 12th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone.

Collect for Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee, that thou wouldst keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

**The subject of
Sally's talk:**

Trinity Sunday

The Reading: Matthew 26:16-20

16 And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' "

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples.

Midweek Book of Common
Prayer Communion Service

WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH

Worship on the First
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 19th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone

Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The subject of
Clive's talk:**

Choose Joy

The Reading: Habakkuk 3, 2-19

2 O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 The brightness was like the sun; rays came forth from his hand, where his power lay hidden.

5 Before him went pestilence, and plague followed close behind.

6 He stopped and shook the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. The eternal mountains were shattered; along his ancient pathways the everlasting hills sank low.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan under affliction; the tent-curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O Lord? Or your anger against the rivers, or your rage against the sea, when you drove your horses, your chariots to victory?

9 You brandished your naked bow, sated were the arrows at your command. You split the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw you, and writhed; a torrent of water swept by; the deep gave forth its voice. The sun raised high its hands;

11 the moon stood still in its exalted place, at the light of your arrows speeding by, at the gleam of your flashing spear.

12 In fury you trod the earth, in anger you trampled nations.

13 You came forth to save your people, to save your anointed. You crushed the head of the wicked house, laying it bare from foundation to roof.

14 You pierced with their own arrows the head of his warriors, who came like a whirlwind to scatter us, gloating as if ready to devour the poor who were in hiding.

15 You trampled the sea with your horses, churning the mighty waters.

16 I hear, and I tremble within; my lips quiver at the sound. Rottenness enters into my bones, and my steps tremble beneath me. I wait quietly for the day of calamity to come upon the people who attack us.

17 Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.

19 God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.

Worship on the Second
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 26th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone.

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, who never failest to help and govern them who thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love: Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The subject of
Christine's talk:**

**NEW SERIES
STARTING TODAY**

One Thing I Ask

The Reading: Psalm 27

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh – my adversaries and foes – they shall stumble and fall.
- 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
- 4 One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
- 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.
- 6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
- 7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me
- 8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.
- 9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
- 10 If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- 12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.
- 13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- 14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Joining the Sunday morning services and Thursday evening prayers by zoom or by telephone

To join the **weekly Sunday morning services** by **ZOOM**:
The Identification Number every Sunday will be: 827 7997 1592
The Password every Sunday will be: 860066

To join the **weekly Sunday morning services** by **TELEPHONE**:
The telephone number you must ring is: 0131 460 1196
The Meeting Identification Number every Sunday will be: 827 7997 1592
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)
The Password every Sunday will be: 860066.
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)

To join the **fortnightly Thursday evening prayers** at 7.30pm by **ZOOM**:
The Identification Number every Thursday will be: 879 8059 1143
The Password every Thursday will be: 966358

To join the **fortnightly Thursday evening prayers** at 7.30pm by **TELEPHONE**:
The telephone number you must ring is: 0131 460 1196
The Meeting Identification Number every Thursday will be: 879 8059 1143.
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)
The Password every Thursday will be 966358.
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)

To use your telephone to join us we suggest you dial the number and join the service about 5 minutes before the start.

We believe that calls to this 0131 number are FREE for calls lasting no more than 59 minutes. We have checked this for basic BT packages. If the call lasts longer than this you will be charged. Our services usually last around 45 minutes so you should be able to end your call well within the time limit.

BUT PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALL PACKAGE CHARGES WITH YOUR PROVIDER
IF YOU NEED ANY HELP: Please contact Clive (564206) or Sally (553977) or Lucy (553977) for any further details you require.

Hearing the Word by telephone

If you would like to hear a recording of the Sunday morning talks telephone **0151-329-2184** at any hour of the day or night.

The calls are **free**. Each talk lasts about 15 minutes and is available for a week.

Each recording becomes available during the afternoon of the Sunday on which it is given.

NEW: St John's Young Adults

Lucy and Alex have started a new group for young adult Christians to meet and to enjoy social activities together. They plan to meet every month. See the next page for details. **THE WORD** wishes them every success with this and we hope that through them other young people will become part of St John's.

NEW: St John's Young Adults

St John's socials

April Wednesday 20th. 7pm
Pub Quiz night. The Park pub

May Sunday 22nd. 3pm
Afternoon tea. Lucy's house

June Friday 24th. 6pm
Beach rounders and food

July Saturday 9th July. time tbc
Day trip to the Lakes!

Aug Thursday 11th. 7pm
BBQ. Lucy's house

Sept Friday 16th. 7pm
Gin tasting and pizza night



The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'

Beware All Donations!

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

This has been an unusual month: we have moved from hysterical excitement to deep disappointment within the space of days.

For many years, our vestry has displayed an oil painting generously donated by the Dowager Duchess of Stansby - given to us, I suspect, because her son, the tenth Duke, would not allow it in his house. It was supposed to depict Daniel in the lions' den, although I always thought it looked more like a prospective adopter visiting a dog rescue centre. The Dowager was less than pleased when it wasn't made the centrepiece in the sanctuary, but we managed to persuade her that her exceptional work of art would be safer from theft if locked away.

Then - our cleaner happened to knock it off the wall. If it had landed in her bucket of disinfectant and been totally destroyed, it would have been a sadness I suspect I could have learned to bear. But something more interesting happened. Some of the Dowager's oil was chipped off - to reveal a painting underneath of what looked like a cherub.

The cleaner told the churchwarden, who instructed her not to tell anyone about the find. This inevitably meant that, within the hour, the entire parish knew of the discovery of what had already been transformed into a priceless pre-Raphaelite treasure. Our churchwarden has yet to learn the fact that if you tell someone something in complete confidence, they assume it means they can only tell one other person at a time.

By evening, mutually opposed camps had already formed. Miss Timmins wanted the treasure to be placed in a side chapel, as a shrine, preferably with candles permanently burning beside it. She envisaged St James the Least of All becoming a place of pilgrimage, and that this yet-to-be revealed cherub may work miracles of healing. She was already asking for opinions about where the car park should be built to cater for the thousands of tourists who would soon be flocking here. Another group wanted to sell it as soon as possible and use the money to repair our church tower. A third group insisted the fortune it would raise be given to African missionaries. Meanwhile, the tenth Duke was consulting his solicitors to see how he might get the canvas back to his castle.

We compromised by getting the thing X-rayed, to see what work of art lay underneath. It turned out to be by a local artist who had painted an advert for the village pharmacist to sell his own brand of gripe water.

Shrines, towers and good deeds were quietly forgotten and the last we heard of the tenth Duke was that he was consulting a second set of solicitors to see if he can get out of paying the first set for the work that they had done to retrieve the painting.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

5th June

Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of First Fruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.



Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

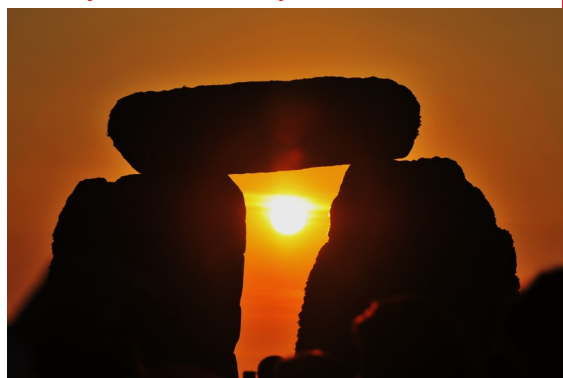
That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

21st June Summer Solstice, longest day of the year

June is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol* + *stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.



The current war in Ukraine may remind us of an earlier conflict in which Russia was involved in hostilities with the Ottoman Empire and in which Britain became involved.

Dennis Davis has carried out some research into one of this country's Victorian iconic characters and he has kindly submitted this article:

The Lady with the Lamp

1853 saw the start of the Crimean war when Russia tried to expand into the Ottoman Empire. Britain and France went to the aid of the Ottoman Empire in 1854. The main scene of action was in the Crimea. Britain was ill-prepared for this war. Mr Sidney Herbert, Secretary of State for War and another minister went to visit the troops and were appalled by what they found. The troops were worn out, their uniforms patched or in tatters, some had no shoes, they were filthy and unshaven; one had worn the same clothes for nearly two years, others had made smocks from blankets.

There was no provision of any medical equipment for the sick or wounded, and there was mismanagement, over crowding, ill treatment, cruelty and neglect. The injured men were cared for in an old Turkish barracks with no hygiene, and sanitary facilities were overflowing. Cholera was rife.



Florence Nightingale
by William Edward Kilburn c 1856

The news of this at home caused an outcry. The Army was obstructive and thought that some of the camp followers could be taught to care for the wounded. It was thought that women made the best nurses, some thought the soldiers' wives would be suitable to care for the lightly wounded. Others thought that Nuns would be best suited.

Mr Herbert looked for a suitable person to take charge of a party of nurses to go to the Crimea. Mr Herbert's wife suggested there was one eminent and willing person. A young Lady by the name of Florence Nightingale was chosen; she had some practical experience in nursing on the continent and of hospital management. She believed that she had a calling from God to help the sick.

The first 38 young ladies selected by Miss Nightingale, included 10 Catholic Sisters of Charity.

The conditions they found shocked them, but they had been taught the importance of hygiene, basic nursing care and the need for fluids. Their first task was to clean the wards. She found her patience and firmness would be severely tested due to obstruction by the military.



Her popularity was borne out in letters home as troops sang her praises. One wrote, "In the silence of the night, often would be seen the slender form gliding noiselessly through the wards and corridors with her lamp. Every poor fellow's face softens with gratitude at the sight of her." The Lady with the Lamp.

She went on to found the first proper Nurse Training at St Thomas's Hospital, London and established the standards of nursing that are still applied today.

Florence Nightingale was a local heroine in my native Derbyshire where she and her family lived for some time.

My Great Grandmother, Jane Somner, nee Munday, 1833-1933 lived at Windsor. On the celebration of her 100th birthday she was interviewed by a reporter from a Sheffield newspaper and made the following comments: "Oh what joy and celebrations we had with street parties to welcome home the soldiers from the Crimea".

Dennis Davis.

With help from "A History of the Russian War" Milner and Company, London. 1858.

What 6000 steps a day can do for you

A recent study has found that doing 6000 steps a day can reduce your risk of an early death, if you are aged over 60. People under the age of 60 should aim for between 8000 and 10,000 steps a day.

However, taking more than 8000 steps a day has no particular benefit, and the oft-repeated mantra that everyone should take 10,000 step a day has no grounding whatever in science. (The 10,000 steps idea came from a 1964 Japanese marketing drive to sell pedometers!)

Researchers from the University of Massachusetts Amherst point out that: "Steps are very simple to track, and there is a rapid growth of fitness-tracking devices."

The major thing to remember is that there is a "lot of evidence suggesting that moving, even a little more, is beneficial, particularly for those who are doing very little activity."



SUMMER FAIR/AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 18TH JUNE - 2pm to 4pm

After a long 2 year wait we are now counting down the days and really looking forward to our Jubilee Summer Fair, serving a delicious afternoon tea (ditch the calories for one day!) but which wouldn't be the same without strawberries.

Then why not try your luck on the tombola with its fabulous prizes. It doesn't stop there! There will be a variety of bottles to win on the bottle stall, and don't forget our exciting "right Royal Hamper" to be won.

If your garden is looking a bit bare at this time of year, why not treat it to some refreshing new plants from our plant stall. When you have finished doing your planting, treat yourself to a couple of books from the book stall and possibly relax in your new garden!

Finally, we haven't forgotten the children, who no doubt will enjoy taking part in some crafts! There will also be games for the young and not so young and anything in between - everyone welcome to "have a go".

If you haven't already put the date in your diary, please do it now and come along on **Saturday 18th June** and enjoy a great time with friends and family.

All that remains now is for us to pray for a fine day so that we can spend our time outdoors. Please feel free to dress in "Royal" colours - or even in "Royal" robes if you have anything tucked away in your wardrobe!

Looking forward to seeing you all for a successful afternoon.

Sylvia Kent

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Saturday 18 June 2022

2pm till 4pm

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APPEARANCE



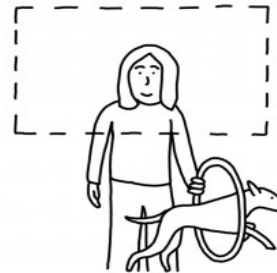
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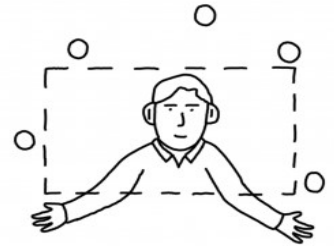
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CATHEDRALS OF EUROPE

by John M. Shakespeare and R H Anderton

Cathedrals have stood for Christianity in Europe since the 12th century and earlier. As beacons of faith for Christians they have arisen, despite religious and political wars, and still stand today in all their glory.

Cologne Cathedral (The Cathedral Church of St Peter) ... is the seat of the Archbishop of Cologne in Germany. At 515 feet high it is the tallest church in the world with twin spires as well as being the largest Gothic church in northern Europe. It was built in the 13th century on the site of an earlier Roman temple. During a period of excavation work two 6th century graves were discovered. One was a boy with a richly adorned grave. The other was a woman, believed to have been Wisigard, a 6th century Frankish queen. The cathedral also houses a reliquary (a container of Holy Relics) from the Crusades. During World War II the cathedral suffered bomb damage, and the repairs were not finally completed until 1956.



St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna ... is more commonly known by its German title "Stephansdom". It is the seat of the Archbishop of Vienna. The Romanesque and Gothic structure seen today was proposed by Duke Rudolf IV. The site is actually situated on the ruins of an earlier church and an ancient Roman cemetery. The main entrance, "The Giant's Door", and the two towers, "The Pagan Towers", were constructed from some of the debris from the earlier church. During World War II the cathedral was saved from intentional destruction at the hands of the retreating German forces by a Captain in the Wehrmacht who disobeyed orders to fire 100 shells to reduce the cathedral to rubble. *(Editor's note: unhappily, it is recorded history that the roof and many timbers were destroyed by fire which was started by civilians when the Russian army invaded Vienna and which accidentally spread to the cathedral).* Inside the cathedral is the tomb of Emperor Frederick III.

Stockholm Cathedral (Storkyrkan, which means the Great Church) ... is the seat of the Bishop of Stockholm. Inaugurated in 1306 and dedicated to St Nicholas the cathedral was enlarged during the 14th and 15th centuries. After the Reformation it became a place in which Mass in the Catholic

tradition was celebrated in the Swedish language instead of in Latin. Later it became a Lutheran church not dedicated to any saint. Amongst its important works of art are a life-size sculpture of St George and the Dragon, and a painting, "Vädersolstavlan" (The Sun Dogs painting) which shows one of the earliest images of Stockholm. Used for coronations of the Swedish Royal Family it recently celebrated the wedding in 2010 of the Crown Princess Victoria and Daniel Westling.



The Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris ... is situated on the Ile de la Cité, an island in the River Seine. In 1160 the Bishop of Paris, Maurice de Sully, began building a church which was larger and better suited to the growing population of Paris than the previous church had been. The Cathedral was consecrated to the Virgin Mary and is reputed to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture. In December 1431 the "boy king" Henry VII of England was crowned King of France in the cathedral at the age of 10. A fountain was added to the cathedral in 1625 to provide the Paris population with a supply of running water. It was nationalised in 1789 as part of the French Revolution and was the place in which Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor. Under the Concordat in 1801 use of the cathedral was returned to the Roman Catholic Church but ownership remained with the State. The condition of the cathedral deteriorated and required extensive repair. The story of "The Hunchback of

Notre Dame" by Victor Hugo in 1831 raised awareness of the decaying state of the building and some years later led to major restorations taking place. The Allied victory of the liberation of Paris in 1944 was celebrated by the singing of The Magnificat in the Cathedral. It remains today as a symbol of Christianity in France.

Cathedrals stand throughout Europe to proclaim faith in God. Wise words from theologian **John H Newman**, (1801-1890) remind us "We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe."

Editor's Footnote: On 15 April 2019 fire broke out beneath the roof of the Notre-Dame cathedral. The spire collapsed, most of the roof was destroyed, and the upper walls were severely damaged. Extensive damage to the interior was prevented by its stone vaulted ceiling, which largely contained the burning roof as it collapsed. Many works of art and religious relics were moved to safety early in the emergency, but others suffered smoke damage, and some of the exterior art was damaged or destroyed. French president Emmanuel Macron said that the cathedral would be restored by 2024, and launched a fundraising campaign which brought in pledges of over €1 billion as of 22 April 2019. It is thought by some that a complete restoration could take twenty years or more.

WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 28

This year Her Majesty The Queen becomes the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Celebrations will include The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) on 2nd June when more than 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together. Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Platinum Jubilee Beacons: The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will also continue. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

Majesty
Queen
First
British
Monarch
Platinum
Jubilee
Seventy
Years
Service
United
Kingdom
Realms
Commonwealth
Celebrations
Birthday
Parade
Trooping
Colour
Soldiers
Horses
Buckingham
Palace
Balcony
Beacons

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

In our Book of Remembrance in June

1st Gertrude Edmondson, 1974
Miriam Rigby, 2005
2nd Mary Moore, 1987
4th George Williams, 1985
6th Robert Hall, 1986
Roy Maguire, 1992
7th Ann Beeley, 1984
8th Stephen Tasker, 1977
9th Elsie Bredow, 1973
Maureen Burton, 2009

10th Ethel Marshall, 1969
Edna Marriner, 2002
11th Harry Lea, 1983
Jean Beeley, 2012
16th Montague Hare, 1999
18th Reginald Hughes, 2008
19th Ernest Gorton, 1967
20th Norman Hamer, 1988
24th Marion Coop, 2004

If any of our readers wish to have the name of a deceased relative inscribed in the Book of Remembrance please contact Stuart Baker.

GOD in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at the Book of Kells

The Thread of God's love

In 563 an Irish monk was forced to leave his homeland because of a conflict that had led to a misuse of power and even bloodshed. On Pentecost Sunday he arrived on the island of Iona off the north-west coast of Scotland with twelve companions. There he began a new way of life, founded on Christ's mercy and forgiveness of the past, and so created one of the great centres of faith and mission in the Christian Church. His name was Columba, and we keep his feast day on 9th June.

His monastery on Iona started as a small cluster of wooden buildings with a church and a guesthouse. Around were fields of crops and cattle and bees. But under Columba's guidance, it grew, and from Iona monks were sent into Scotland as one arm of a missionary advance that reached down through England to France and across Europe.



That outreach was an amazing achievement. But just as amazing was the consolidation of monastic life on Iona that resulted two centuries later in the Book of Kells. This text of the four Gospels was begun by scribes and artists in the library of Iona. It grew into one of the masterpieces of Celtic art that was taken to Kells in Ireland to escape the Viking invaders who ravaged the island.

Along with the text of the Gospels, there are illustrations of Jesus, Mary and the four evangelists, together with decorations at once intricate and fantastic: patterns that interweave and interlace across the page with an odd face here and a weird creature there. The design is in brilliant detail, and you can follow the lines as they weave in and out. This delight in patterns is evident in lots of Celtic art.

It is good to imagine Columba on Iona meditating on the thread of God's grace woven into his life as he looked back to his years in Ireland and his pilgrimage to Iona. It might have seemed at one glance a complicated interweaving of events and experiences, and then perhaps as he looked again, he would see God's love threading its way through that history and redeeming both it and him.

It is the same for us. As we look at our lives, they may seem complex and involved patterns of events and circumstances taking us here and there. As we ponder those patterns, then we can begin to see a thread woven into the patterns that guides and leads us on. And as we stand back, all the patterns and threads seem to make sense as we spot that guiding thread. Just as we can stand back from the designs of this page and see God's love spelling out the name of Christ, our Lord.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Third member of the Trinity.

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

As we celebrate Pentecost this month, it's appropriate to ask the question: what does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? Everybody who has committed their life to Christ possesses the Holy Spirit, *'if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.'* (Romans 8:9). It is the Spirit who brings us new birth into the family of God.

The Spirit assures us of God's love and acceptance, despite our fears, doubts or failures. As adopted children we can address God as our father: *"God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"* (Galatians 4: 6). By using the same word used by Jesus, we can grow in intimacy with our Father and pray to Him, especially when we struggle to find the right words.



The Holy Spirit is committed to producing a family likeness in those who follow Christ. This Jesus likeness enables us to live as Jesus would in our place, ie: work, family, time, interests etc. Paul describes this as the fruit of the Spirit: *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23). He talks about fruit not fruits! We can't pick and choose, as they come as a total package to be developed over a lifetime!

The Spirit is committed to producing new desires for God: reading the Bible and praying, forgiving others, meeting with other Christians and sharing our faith. He will also give us the motivation to overcome wrong habits, attitudes or lifestyle in our lives.

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).



the elderberries gardening club has sprung back to life after 18 months, with members eager to return to the club, and they are hoping that new faces will join them too.

The group meet from 10.30am-noon on **the second Wednesday of every month** at Saint John's Church on Saint John's Road in Birkdale.

Shelley Lewis-Lavender, chairperson, has been inundated with new enquiries.

The club offers talks from guest speakers, trips to historical houses and gardens, and social events.

To find out more, email elderberriesgardening@gmail.com or call Shelley on [01704 560690](tel:01704560690).

God in the Sciences

These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website (www.faradaykids.com). For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out *101 Great Big Questions About God and Science*, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)

Help, my kids just asked me a science question!

Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!



That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about **how** God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

Ukrainian church leaders urge people to pray

A senior church leader in Ukraine has told the citizens that Russia's war on Ukraine "did not begin with missiles and bombs – it began with deception, untruth and lies." So says the head of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko).

"The Lord is now showing us how we must resist with the testimony of truth. Evil is evil, not just an alternative viewpoint, and war is war, not just some conflict. Rapists, looters and murderers are criminals, and what they are perpetuating is a genocide of the Ukrainian people."

The Metropolitan also said that Ukrainians knew that Russia had long had "evil plans to restore the tyranny of a rotten, overthrown empire."

But, he said "The Lord is with us in this struggle, because we are fighting for truth and goodness against demonic tyranny and resentment.... We believe that our people will overcome all new challenges – that Ukraine will win its victory."

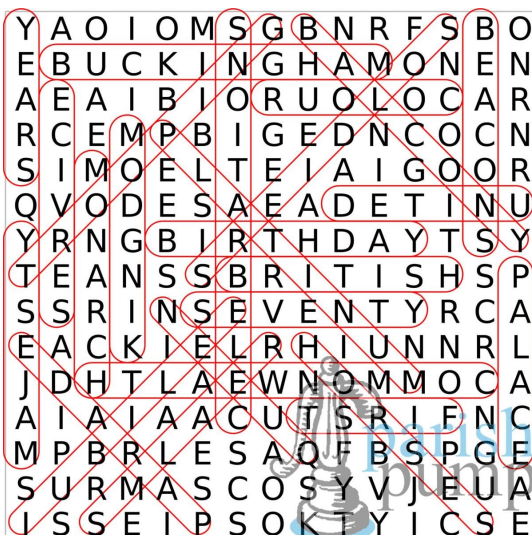
Meanwhile, the Primate of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, said that this Spring and Summer may well be the last for many, including himself.

He went on: "As the war escalates, and the enemy intensifies its offensive against Ukraine, I call on everyone to pray vigorously and tirelessly for the Ukrainian army, because the fate of Ukraine and the world is now being decided."

If readers wish to donate tinned and dried foods and toiletries for the relief of displaced Ukrainians please bring them to St John's Church on Sundays and we shall arrange for their onward transmission

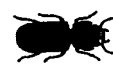
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*Heather looked radiant in white, the details
picked out subtly in gold...*

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

To Stuart Baker on 1st June
Jan Ball on 15th June
John Dyson on 28th June

If there are any birthdays, anniversaries or other reasons to celebrate which our readers would like to share with others **DURING JULY** please let the Editor know by email to stuartbaker@msn.com

The Last Laughs



The friary appoints its first web analyst

Techie trouble

The vicar had 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."

ST. SOMEWHERE IN THE WOLD

Worn out? Come in for a Service! This church is not just four weddings and a funeral.

Raise needed

I told my boss that three companies were after me and therefore I wanted a raise from him. My boss asked what companies wanted me. "Gas, water and electricity."

Judgement

The poster read: Where will you be on judgement day?
The graffiti below read: Still waiting for the Churchtown bus.

