



# THE WORD

Editor: Stuart Baker: [stjohnbirkdale@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbirkdale@gmail.com)



**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. 238**

**OCTOBER 2022**

## OUR CHURCH

**God Centred, Relationship Driven and Life Transforming**



It is with great sadness that we record in these pages the death of our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away peacefully at Balmoral Castle on Thursday 8th September 2022.

Her Majesty reigned from 1952 to 2022 and was a much loved and respected monarch. The nation and the Commonwealth had rejoiced in the celebrations of her Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum Jubilees. The Queen had a strong Christian faith and dedicated her life to the service of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Her fortitude and devotion to duty were such that only two days before her death Her Majesty discharged her last constitutional role by inviting the new leader of the Conservative Party to be the Prime Minister and to form a new government.

Many of us at St John's, and the majority of



British people, have lived their entire lives in the second Elizabethan age. The political, cultural and social changes which have occurred in the last 70 years have been immense. There will not be another such monarch of our islands in our lifetimes, and probably there never will be. The nation mourns her passing and now looks forward to the long and happy reign of King Charles III.

**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES TO OR ABOUT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT US BY EMAIL:  
Email: [info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk](mailto:info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk)**

## **A Tribute from The Archbishop of Canterbury**

It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead.

As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty's extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty's faith in what and who we are called to be.

In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

As we sustain one another in the face of this challenge, our shared grieving will also be a work of shared reimagining. I pray that we commence this journey with a sense of Her Late Majesty's faith and confidence in the future.

As a faithful Christian disciple, and also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she lived out her faith every day of her life. Her trust in God and profound love for God was foundational in how she led her life – hour by hour, day by day.

In The Late Queen's life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others.

Her Late Majesty found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and her God, "whose service is perfect freedom" (BCP). For giving her whole life to us, and allowing her life of service to be an instrument of God's peace among us, we owe her a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

The Late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth.

It was my great privilege to meet Her Late Majesty on many occasions. Her clarity of thinking, capacity for careful listening, inquiring mind, humour, remarkable memory and extraordinary kindness invariably left me conscious of the blessing that she has been to us all.

In my prayers at this time I also give thanks for the marriage of The Late Queen and His Late Royal Highness Prince Philip. Theirs was an inspirational example of Christian marriage – rooted in friendship, nourished by shared faith, and turned outwards in service to others.

May Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury

# WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

*St John's Church, Birkdale*

## THAI NIGHT

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

7PM

Tickets £10 inc  
food and drinks

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF  
ANY FOOD ALLERGIES  
WHEN BOOKING



St John's Presents

# FILM NIGHTS

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

29 July - The book thief  
30 September - Miss Potter  
28 October - Secretariat  
25 November - Blind Side

## YOUNG ADULT SOCIALS

2022/2023

Sunday October 9th

Pumpkin picking & Sunday Lunch

Saturday November 5th

Bonfire party @ Hurlston Hall

Saturday December 3rd

Christmas fayre & supper @ Lucy's

Friday January 20th

Snow White Panto @ The Atkinson

Friday February 10th

Film and fajita night @ Lucy's

Sunday March 12th

Waffles and Walk in the pinewoods

St John's Church, Birkdale

ST JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE, SOUTHPORT, PR8 4JP

*St John's Church,  
Birkdale*

# Christmas Tree Festival & Fair

ALL DAY CAFE

Christmas Stalls

\*Cakes \*Tombola \*Raffle

Children's activities

Free  
Entry

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 6PM - 9PM

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 10AM - 3PM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BIRKDALE

AN EVENING WITH  
LADY DODD



**FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER @ 7PM**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL  
WINE & CHEESE  
TICKETS £10**

TICKETS FROM CHURCH OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

## WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

Priest (retired) Reader:	Rev. Roy Doran Mrs. Christine Baker	Church of England Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent
Churchwardens:	Stuart Baker Clive Morris	Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton
Deputy Warden: Wardens' Assistant:	Tim Wright Miss Lucy Wright	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
Treasurer:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent	Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside
PCC Secretary:	Alex Vernon	Magazine Editor: Magazine Printer:	Stuart Baker Mrs. Christine Baker
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris	Notice boards, I.T, Website developer, etc., etc....	Mrs. Sally Wright
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris		
Safeguarding:	Stuart Baker and Ms. Michelle Baldeh		



**Visit our new website**  
[stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk](http://stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk)

- Find out about what's going on at St John's
- Check out the calendar for upcoming events
- Listen to the weekly talks
- Find out about booking the hall
- Free on-line bible
- Show it to your friends and family

**God centred, Relationship driven,  
Life transforming**

*We believe in  
the power of  
prayer*

---

**PRAYER  
TIME @ ST  
JOHN'S**

---

Led by the leadership team

**1st and 3rd Thursdays  
7.30pm**

**SEE WEBSITE FOR ZOOM DETAILS**

## Thursday Evening Prayers

The next prayer meetings by **zoom** and telephone will be at 7.30pm on 6th October and 20th October.

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



## During the 10 days before the Queen's Funeral

Upon hearing the sad news of the death of the late Queen on 8th September our church's leadership team made arrangements for the church to be open for private prayer and reflection for an hour on every day from 9th September until the day before the funeral. A display of very appropriate images, prayers, and reflections was created by Sally Wright and was displayed on the screen in church.

This gave an opportunity for people in our parish, not only regular churchgoers but also the public at large, to come and spend some quiet time in respectful thought and to light a candle of remembrance. The numbers who attended were not huge but it was heartening to see several people who are not part of our congregation but who clearly felt the need or desire to pay their respects.



On Sunday evening, 18th September, St John's again opened its doors and welcomed worshippers from St James', St Peter's and the Liverpool Road Methodist Church for a joint service which was well received. **THE WORD** offers the thanks of the parish to Sally and Tim Wright, Clive Morris and Roy Doran for their leadership at these services.

## Bible Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October: how many translations by now?

Some of us think that we are almost multilingual if we can greet people abroad with a friendly "bonjour" or "guten morgen" or "hola." But have you ever wondered how many languages there are and how many Bible translations there are in the world? And how many more are still needed? Wycliffe Bible Translators reports the following, as of 2021:

There are, according to Ethnologue, 7,151 languages spoken today. That number is constantly in flux, because we're learning more about the world's languages every day. And beyond that, the languages themselves are in flux. They are living and dynamic, spoken by communities whose lives are shaped by our rapidly changing world. This is a fragile time: Roughly 40% of languages are now endangered, often with fewer than 1,000 speakers remaining. Meanwhile, just 23 languages account for more than half the world's population.

There are now 3,495 languages which have some Scripture available to 7.04 billion people.

*This figure of 3,495 breaks down into:*

717 languages with a complete Bible – 5.75 billion people

1,582 languages with a complete New Testament (some also have Old Testament portions) – 830 million people

1,196 languages with some translated Bible portions – 457 million people.

Meanwhile, there are a further 828 languages which have work in progress – 67.6 million people. And also, there are 1,892 languages still waiting for translation (or preparatory work) to begin – 145 million people.

The Bible is the most read book in the world. In the past 50 years, the Bible has sold over 3.9 billion copies. It is the most recognizable and famous book that has ever been published.

Worship on the  
Sixteenth Sunday  
after Trinity

**SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER**

**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 the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Abraham  
A Man of Faith**

## **The Reading: Genesis ch.12, vv.1-5**

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you.

2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

5 He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan.

## **St John's Support for the Water Project in Nigeria**

Worshippers at St John's have made very generous donations to support the provision of a new water well in rural Nigeria, an area with which Roy Doran has had close connections. We have raised the sum of £1,000 and arrangements are now being made to transfer that money to the bank account of the church which is financing the creation of the well.

We hope to be able to include in **THE WORD** some photographs of the well during and after its construction so that our readers can see how their donations are being used.

**SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER** at St James' Church: **Sunday@7**  
**THE THREE BIRKDALE ANGLICAN CHURCHES**

St James' and St Peter's and St John's will join in worship at St James' Church on 2nd October at 7pm.

Rev. Ben Dyer will briefly share St James' new vision and will discuss the future possibilities for Sunday @ 7

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

Worship on the  
Seventeenth Sunday  
after Trinity

**SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER**  
**10.30am service IN CHURCH**  
**and via zoom & phone.**

### Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**God Sets His People Free  
Through Moses**

### The Reading: Exodus ch.3, vv.1-12

1 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God.  
2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up.  
3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."  
4 When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.  
5 "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground."  
6 I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.  
7 Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering.  
8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.  
9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them.  
10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."  
11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"  
12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."



Worship on the Eighteenth  
Sunday after Trinity

**SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER**  
10.30am service **IN CHURCH**  
and via zoom & phone

## Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Be Holy As I Am Holy**

## The Readings:

### 1 Peter, ch.1 vv.15-16

But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God – who chose you to be His children – is holy. For He himself has said, "You must be holy because I am holy."

### Exodus ch.20, vv.1-17

Then God instructed the people as follows:  
I am the Lord your God who rescued you from slavery in Egypt.

Do not worship any other gods besides me.

Do not make idols of any kind.

Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honour your father and mother.

Do not murder.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbour.

Do not covet your neighbour's house, wife, servant or anything else your neighbour owns.



**Midweek Book of  
Common Prayer  
Holy Communion Service**

**WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER  
10.30am service IN CHURCH**

**Worship on the Nineteenth  
Sunday after Trinity**

**SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER  
10.30am service IN CHURCH  
and via zoom & phone.**

### **Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**God Is With Us**

### **The Reading: John ch.1, vv.1-14**

- 1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He existed in the beginning with God.
- 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.
- 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.
- 6 God sent a man, John the Baptist,
- 7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony.
- 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light.
- 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
- 10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him.
- 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.
- 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.
- 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.
- 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Worship on the Twentieth  
Sunday after Trinity

**SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER**  
**10.30am service IN CHURCH**  
**and via zoom & phone.**

At this service we shall be joined by worshippers from St James' and St Peter's. It would be wonderful to have a full house! So please come and join us. Refreshments will be provided after the service.

## Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Jesus Came To Give Us Life**

## The Reading: Mark ch.10, vv.46-52

46 Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road.

47 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!"

50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My Rabbi, the blind man said, "I want to see!"

52 And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed

you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.



## Dates for your Diary: Coming Soon



### St John's Film Nights

Our next film to be shown on **Friday 28th October** will be the highly acclaimed "**Secretariat**" starring John Malcovich and Diane Lane. It is a heartwarming film and true story (with some dramatic licence!) about a famous champion racehorse, its setbacks and its triumphs. Please let Christine know if you will attend. Tea, coffee, homemade cakes are provided. £5. See page 3 for a full list of Film Nights.

### Thai Food Night



#### Friday 14th October

At Tim and Sally's home.

Lots of lovely flavours to enjoy. Tickets from Sally. See page 3.

### Remembrance Sunday

#### Sunday 13th November

At 10.30am in church. We shall remember all those who have died in conflict, including those whose names live for ever on our Roll of Honour and there will be a period of silence at 11.00am.



### 40 Years with Ken Dodd: a talk by Lady Ann Dodd

#### Friday 18th November at 7.00pm

At church. Come and hear an interesting talk by Lady Ann Dodd about her life with the Master of Mirth. You'll be tickled to bits! Tickets, to include wine and cheese, £10 from Sally or Christine.



### Christmas Tree Festival and Market

#### Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December

Don't miss this event... it's our biggest fundraiser of the year AND it gives many charities an opportunity to collect some extra donations and to increase their local profile. There will be lots of stalls including the sale of cakes, crafts, books, Christmas gifts and decorations, a tombola, a raffle, and in the small hall there will be activities for children. And, of course, our famous all day café!!



**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**

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER  
AND SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER



While Christmas may seem a long way off to some people, the Team have now started planning and preparing another fabulous event, but as always, we will need your help and support.

Boxes will be placed at the back of church on Sunday 23rd October for items for the bottle stall, tombola, children's bran tub, and of course not forgetting the raffle. Please start now thinking about the different items you would like to donate. I realise this is a very difficult time to be asking for your help once again, but we would love to make this a Christmas Fair to remember so please put the dates on your calendar.

If you are willing/able to bake cakes etc for the cake stall, please speak to Christine Baker who will be only too pleased to hear from you.

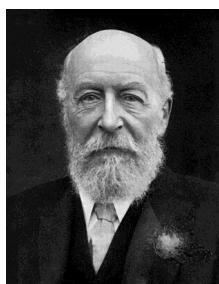
Also, if you are willing/able to spare an hour or so to help on any of the stalls on either of the days, or maybe you will be able to help decorate the two halls on Sunday afternoon 27th November, please speak to me.

If you are willing/able to assist with any of the "jobs" in church i.e. help with putting the boards and Christmas trees in place; decorating a tree; acting as Stewards to welcome people on either day, please speak to Judith Foster.

We can only make this a success if we all play our part in whatever way we can, no matter how small. Please don't be shy about coming forward..

**we need you!**

**Sylvia Kent**



One hundred years ago, on 24th October 1922, **George Cadbury** died. He had transformed his father's failing chocolate and cocoa business into one of the world's most successful companies and provided low-cost housing and improved working conditions for his employees.

George was the third son of John Cadbury, a Quaker who founded Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate company. With his brother Richard, George took over the family business in 1861 and founded the chocolate producer Cadbury Brothers.

But his consuming interest was in the welfare of his employees and others: having taught in an adult school he was aware that poor housing was a major problem.

One of his first moves was to relocate his factory to a greenfield site south-west of Birmingham with access to canals and the new railways. It was here that he later founded a Quaker higher educational institution – now the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

But apart from his chocolate he is best known for his creation of a rural factory village (designed by architect William Alexander Harvey), called Bournville after the nearby river Bourn. The houses – not exclusively for factory employees – were never privately owned, and they remain attractive and affordable to the present day: a huge change from the poor living conditions in town.

Cadbury was a keen proponent of Quaker values. In 1901 he bought the Daily News (later the News Chronicle), where he campaigned for improved working conditions and social security. He was prominent in setting up the Birmingham Civic Society in 1918, and he gave a country park to the people of Birmingham, as well as a large house to the Crippled Children's Union to use as a hospital. It is now the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

## Reflecting Faith: the Cross in our churches *The Revd Dr Jo White*

I recently read a web article which was wondering if Christians actually need a 'cross' in our church buildings; or indeed if they were unhelpful in our worship. The major argument against having one, it seems, was that it could become the focus of our worship, and it is not okay to worship idols.

To me this argument is nonsensical. The cross is a graphic reminder of what Jesus Christ has done for us in His death. No one in their senses would dream of worshipping a cross itself, as it was the most humiliating and debasing form of capital punishment – it was a means of gruesome execution.

Christians use crosses in churches to remind people of just how far Jesus was prepared to go to rescue us from what St Paul called 'the dominion of darkness'.

So this Sunday, why not have a look around your local church building, and count how many crosses there are?

I would expect there to be 'hidden' crosses where the building was consecrated, and also under the altar itself. There will also be various paperwork, service books, sheets and hymnals which all have the sign of the cross on their covers.

Perhaps you have candle holders with crosses sculptured into them. And in most Protestant churches you will see a cross on or above the altar table itself.

Many processions of choir and clergy will be led by a raised cross bearer. And in churches where the Bible is processed into the nave for reading during a service, a cross is also carried.

People turn to face these processions as they travel without necessarily understanding which part they are facing: the Cross, the Bible or the Person?

The answer is – we follow the Word of God – the Bible – *not* the cross.

The same is true in any procession. We stand to honour the clergy in their role as Christ's servants, not the cross which may be held aloft before them.

## The story behind ... O God, our help in ages past

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the 'Father of English hymnody'. Certainly, before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business.

Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton. (At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs.) As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language (learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French). He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. (At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: *'There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!'*)

Watts' literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday.

It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns. Some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', and the Christmas carol 'Joy to the World'.

## Harvest Service

On Sunday 25th September St John's held its annual Harvest Service which was one of our best attended services this year. No sheaves of corn or baskets of cabbages and potatoes were brought to fill the church with the heady aromas of harvest produce, but instead our congregation provided a substantial amount of dried and tinned food and some fruit which has been sent to the Soup Kitchen which we have supported for many years.



We were joined at the service by our new Christian Mission Society partners Marcio and Noemi who are receiving training in Oxfordshire before they return to start their new mission work in Brazil where they intend to take the Gospel to the people in public open spaces rather than hope or expect that people will come to them in church. There is a lesson for all of us in that: why do we feel disappointed when people do not come to church? Declining numbers are in part the result of Christianity being side-lined for decades which has the effect that huge numbers of people now know little if anything about the Gospel and formal religious worship. It is no surprise that people who have no connection with the church are not falling over each other to come into buildings which can look very imposing and austere.

Let us as a church congregation pray for the work of Marcio and Noemi and wish them great success as they take the Gospel to the people, particularly young people, in Brazil.

Our congregation should also be thankful for the work of Cath Whiteside and Shirley Wall who created these beautiful arrangements of flowers:



## Growth Groups

Do you want to find out more about what you have heard on a Sunday? Would you like to look deeper into the Bible and discuss with others and grow as a Christian?

Growth Groups focus on how we can apply what we have learnt on a Sunday to the rest of our lives. Through small groups we will grow closer together and be able to support each other through the mountain tops and valleys of life.

In October, the groups will meet on Wednesday 12th and Wednesday 26th at 7.30pm. The Young Adults group will be led by Lucy and Alex and another group for any age will be led by Tim and Sally.

It will be an informal time to listen, discuss and grow together as a church and as individuals. There will be time together to look at what has been talked about in church the previous Sundays plus time to chat to each other over tea and cakes.

At St John's we are aiming to be a God centred, relationship driven and life transforming church in Birkdale. We strive to be a Church where people feel at home, know they matter, grow in their faith and where they feel confident to invite others.

If you want to know more or have any questions just catch one of us on a Sunday.

Please consider whether you could join us to grow together in our faith. We would love to see you.

Tim and Sally

## MIDWEEK COMMUNION AND COMMUNION WINE

The monthly midweek communion (held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am in the St Nicolas Chapel in our church) is a service using the [Book of Common Prayer](#). It is a traditional communion service led by a robed priest (usually it is Roy). If readers have been thinking of coming but have not yet done so, please come and join us. The service lasts a little over half an hour and there are refreshments available afterwards: tea, coffee and biscuits, with an opportunity for a chat with friends.

In order to reduce the risk of covid infection as far as possible we are currently not using a communal chalice for communion wine. Instead, each communicant is offered an individual small amount of communion wine from separate small containers: no sharing! And because we are aware that some communicants do not feel comfortable drinking alcohol, even in very small amounts, [the communion wine at our midweek services and on our Sunday communions \(1st Sunday of each month\) is non-alcoholic.](#)





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

## On Publishing My Book

The Rectory,  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

After all these years, who would have believed it: to have my own book printed! I must admit, I had imagined a leather-bound volume with gold leaf lettering on the spine – perhaps even titled 'Volume One', implying future delights when further work would appear. A paperback, held together with glue was a slight disappointment. The publisher's reason for a print run of 50, saying that it meant fewer would have to be dumped in cut-price bookshops, was not what I had expected either.

He seemed to think that my commentary on Eusebius's tables for cross-referencing the gospels, as explained in his letter to Carpianus, would not have mass interest. While I concede it will be unlikely to dent the sales of Harry Potter, and that I am unlikely to be involved in negotiating the film rights, I had hoped for slightly more enthusiasm for this stride forward in global knowledge.

The excitement of the book launch and signing was also tempered when only the bishop arrived, expecting a free copy, so he could mark it for theological errors. My suggestion that he take a copy to colour it in did not go down well. I suspect I will not now be asked to deliver a paper on it at the next clergy conference.

I was briefly excited when several parishioners came into the shop. But it turned out that one wanted to book a baptism with me, and another wanted to complain that at his recent wedding, I had nearly married the best man to the bride. I was tempted to tell him that the time may come when he wished that I had, but decided that would be another sale lost.

I could not even console myself with a free drink. The publisher had only brought two bottles of that particular white wine, of unknown origin, that seems specially reserved for book launches and retirement parties. I suspect it derives less from a vineyard and more from a laboratory. One bottle he kept for himself and the other disappeared after my Confirmation class came in to ask whether the book would be serialised on TV.

In the end, I bought all 50 copies myself, placed a note in the bookshop window saying that, due to exceptional demand, the print run had been entirely sold out. It has also solved the annual problem of Christmas presents; in your case, a second copy will probably arrive for your birthday too.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

# REVIVE INTERNATIONAL

## RESTORING LIVES, RENEWING HOPE

St John's Church continues to support Revive International in Olinda, Brazil, in addition to CMS, our local Family Emergency Fund, and The Soup Kitchen.

Here is some recent news about what is happening at Olinda:

Our staff had training about trauma in childhood with Joaquim Braga. He spent the day with us and everybody could learn a bit more and ask questions about the theme.

A new baby boy M.V was brought to us at the end of July. He is now one month old and is still waiting for the decision that will put him on the adoption list or not. All the children are now back to school and to their regular activities.

Due to the financial crisis and the recurring fall in the exchange rate in recent months, we are looking for new sources of support to develop our work, as well as seeking to reassess our accounts and reduce our expenses as much as possible. We are grateful for your support and we pray that God will provide for us more donors so that we can continue the work we have already developed for almost ten years with vulnerable children in Olinda.

July marked the 3 year anniversary of Revive house number 2. This house has seen lots of younger children pass through and be re-reunited with biological family or being adopted. We hope to eventually have most of the children that would pass through house 2 being put into foster families whilst they wait to be placed into a permanent solution.

### **Foster Care Update**

We are so excited that in less than a week we will officially launch the foster care service! We have one family ready to receive children.

We are currently sharing a campaign on our social media to help people become aware of what Foster Care is and to encourage families to sign up to the next round of training which will start in October. We are still in need of more financial support to help run this service. The foster care team's social worker, Rayane, has just been voted into a very important role on the City Council for Children and Adolescents. We are really proud of her hard work and know that she has such a huge heart for vulnerable children.



### **the elderberries gardening club.**

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.

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

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

## GOD in the Arts

*The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at “Morning in the Riesengebirge”. It now hangs in the Schloß Charlottenburg, Berlin.*

### I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS

“The artist should not only paint what he sees before him, but also what he sees within him.” These are the words of a German romantic painter, Caspar David Friedrich, who lived from 1774-1840.

The inspiration for most of his paintings was the countryside and the world of nature around. As he looked at its beauty and grandeur, it awoke



in him feelings of wonder and awe, which he expressed through his art.

At the age of 34 he painted a cross in the mountains as an altarpiece for a church in Dresden: the first time a pure landscape had been used for an altar. Later in 1811 he painted a similar, but more profound and more moving work: ‘Morning in the Riesengebirge.’

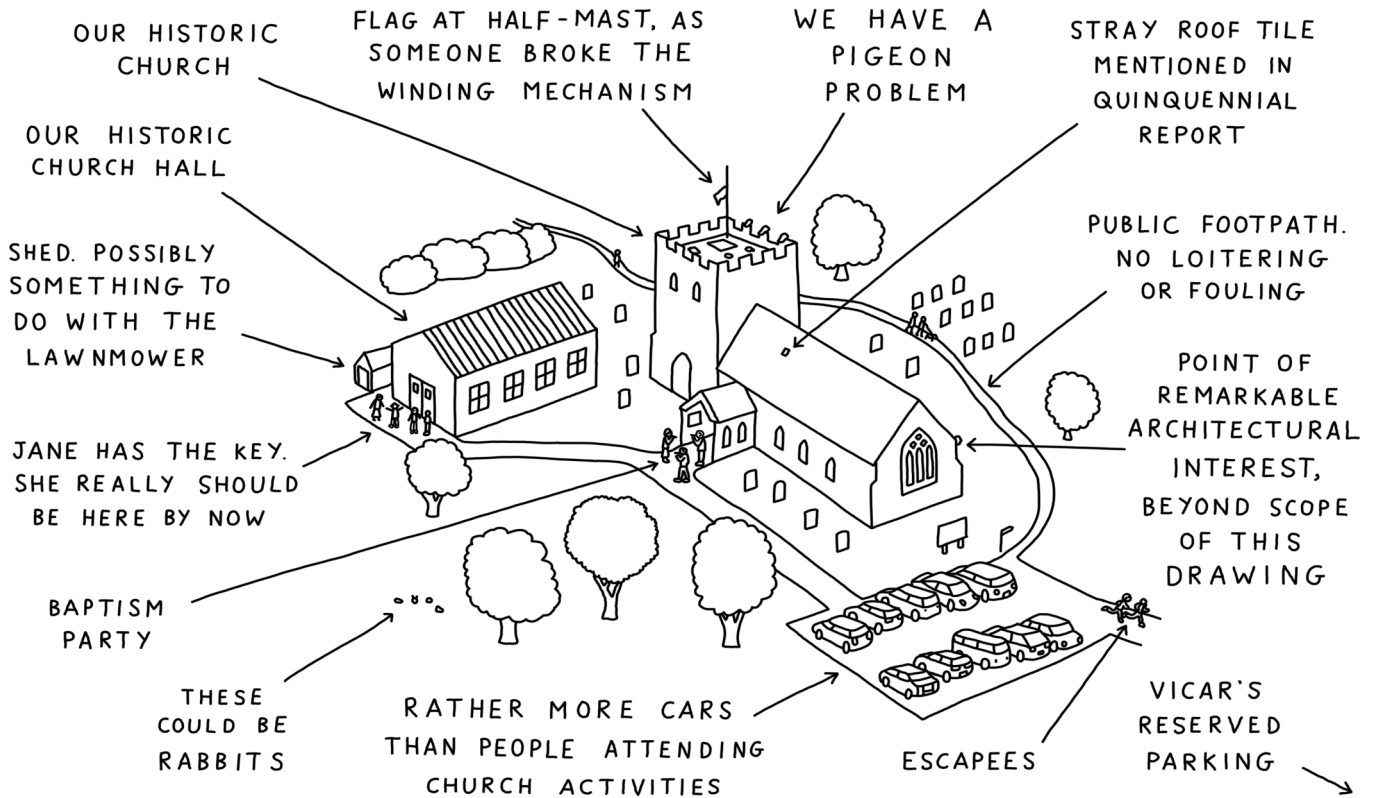
Friedrich was a great walker and climber, and he loved the mountains of East Saxony depicted here. The first rays of the sun are coming over the horizon to illuminate both the beauty of the hills, and the tall crucifix placed on the mountain top. Friedrich looked at the glory of nature at sunrise and saw there a sign of God the Creator, and God the one who sent His Son to redeem that Creation.

Like Caspar David Friedrich, and like the psalmist, we can look to the hills and see the glory and greatness of God. This will be the theme for many of us this month with Harvest celebrations. But we give thanks for creation and the bounty of the world at a time when we hear reports of glaciers melting, water levels rising, greenhouse gases warming up our planet, and resources of food and fuel wasted and depleted. It is too easy to take this world for granted and imagine it is here solely for us.

Caspar David Friedrich invites us to look at the world, its beauty and greatness, as a gift to cherish, not to manipulate and exploit for our own use. As we look at this earth with eyes of wonder and gratitude, then we shall find the God who created and redeemed it, and ask what service and stewardship we can offer Him in the world.

# THE PARISH CHURCH

SEEN FROM ABOVE



CartoonChurch.com

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US

At NFU Mutual we can look after you, your family and your business.

Our insurance products and financial planning services include:

- Home
- Car
- Business
- Farm
- Equine
- Travel
- Income Protection
- Financial Planning
- Pensions

NFU Mutual Financial Advisers advise on NFU Mutual products and selected products from specialist providers. When you get in touch we'll explain the advice services offered and the charges. Financial advice is provided by NFU Mutual Select Investments Limited.

For a real conversation about your needs call us or pop in Centenary House, 3C Maple Court, White Moss Business Park, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TG  
Tel: 01695 511 77



R A Austin, H M Roberts, D W Shove & M J Cope is an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982). And an introducer to NFU Mutual Select Investments Limited, a member of the NFU Mutual group of companies.

## A SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING SERVICE

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL CONSULTANTS

### BROADBENT & SEDDON

33 Liverpool Road  
Southport

**01704 550055**

### COYNE BROS.

3 Old Mill Lane  
Formby L37 3PE

**01704 873899**

Part of Dignity plc  
a British company



# W CROSS R D

*Solution on page 23*

## Across

1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)

4 As balm (anag.) (6)

8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)

9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)

10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)

11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)

12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)

17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)

19 Mice den (anag.) (7)

21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)

22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)

23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —, so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

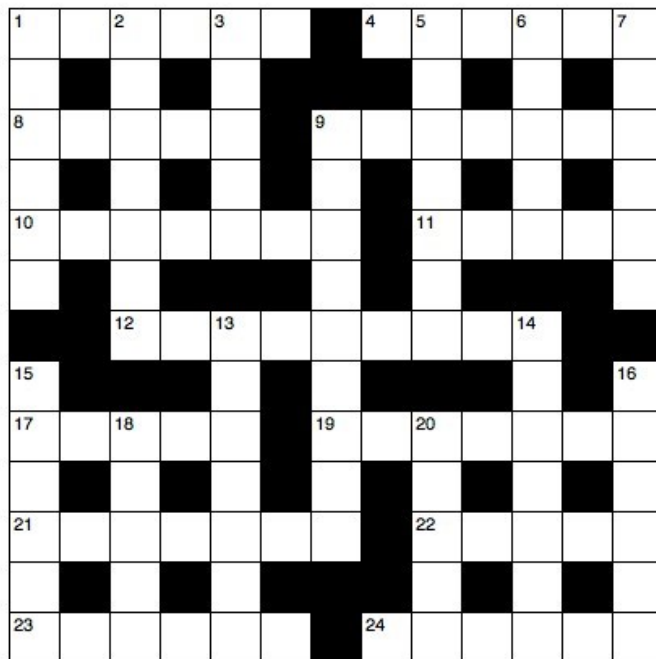
24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

## Down

1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)

2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)

3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)



5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)

6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)

7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)

9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)

13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)

14 'The Lord of heaven and earth... does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)

15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark 9:43) (6)

16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)

18 Track (Job 41:30) (5)

20 Religious doctrine (5)

## In our Book of Remembrance in October

1st Norman Edmondson, 1972

3rd John Brown, 1973  
Charles Hare, 2011

4th Maude Crosby, 1977

5th Winifred Webb, 1986

8th George Pacey, 1986

12th Jane Gorton, 1981

13th Albert Beeley, 1981

14th Elizabeth Rimmer, 1986

16th Robert Burge, 1992

19th Doris Shawe, 1980  
Marjorie Tasker, 1989  
Lucy Maguire, 1992

20th Margaret Forshaw, 1985  
John Monk, 1985

21st Janet Anderton, 1981

24th Mary Livesley, 1964  
George Lockie, 1980  
Helen Whitehill, 2017

26th Annie Vowles, 1976

27th Sarah Whitehead, 1994  
Albert Butterworth, 1989

30th Karen Calvert, 2010

***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 Sciences

*Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### Continuing the Celebration!

On 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. "Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns."

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: "celebrate the festival to the Lord your God... For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." Tabernacles was a proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting.

Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we're not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.



Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle.

I'm very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God's creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!

**Love letter:** An advert appeared in the student newspaper of the university:

*Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with university student - seeks six-footer with brown eyes answering to initials J.A.D. Signed, His mother*

# WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 25

With October, autumn is underway – the leaves are turning gold, the chilly nights are closing in and the shops are full of Halloween things. Our ancestors were frightened of the dark and cold of winter, and feared that evil things might attack them. So they lit fires and wore frightening masks, to ward off evil spirits. But Christianity taught a much better way: it taught that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that when He died for us on the cross, He overcame all the powers of evil that there are. So we don't need charms to ward off evil, we just need to turn to Jesus in prayer. He will protect us from any power of darkness that menaces our lives. The Psalms say that He is our shield and protector!

Autumn  
Gold  
Night  
Dark  
Pumpkin  
Sweets  
  
Saints  
Goodness  
Saving  
Prayer  
Protection  
Light  
  
Jesus  
Son  
fearless  
School  
Exams  
Half term  
  
Coal  
Leaves  
Bonfires  
Sneeze  
Scarves  
soup

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

**ACROSS:** 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galat. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.  
**DOWN:** 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sara. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

# What Is Reality?

by John M. Shakespeare

Both my religious and philosophical senses, have for many years been puzzled about, "What is Reality". In my following discussions, I shall try to find some conclusions.

The big question asked by early philosophers was, what goes to make up Reality. Empedocles (494-434 BC), a Sicilian philosopher, claimed the answer to this question was that the world is made up of four elements, namely, Earth, Air, Fire and Water, these being led by the two forces of Love and Strife. The latter, thought to be measures of Reality.



I must with all sincerity repeat the claim that the principal drivers in the lives of us all, are God's Good and Satan's Evil. I believe that the influences of both these forces of behaviour, make up the Reality of life.

I believe that two of the most hazardous professions in this life must be that of prophets and innovators. Both these practitioners try to forecast what will happen in the future. Some idea or risk that seems real to the forecaster, may not in Reality turn out to be a fact. The dangers as I see them are, "what is hoped for", and "what in fact happens", being the difference between wishing and Reality.

I suggest that we can spend too long on contemplating, what are the Realities of life, whilst missing what is actually before us. To make this point, I quote from the poem by D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930), called "Pax" "All that matters is to be at one with the living God, To be a creature in the house of the God of Life"

I believe our behaviour signals what we see as Reality, and our actions reflect our real thoughts. In the Bible, the book of Proverbs (Ch14 verses 14-16), gives reality to some behaviours, "The perverse get what their behaviours deserve, and the good what their deeds deserve. The simple believe everything, but the clever consider their steps. The wise are cautious and turn away from evil, but the fool throws off restraint and is careless." Imagination can be a good thing, I believe, for example, when reading a book or daydreaming. Sometimes however we can be frightened by things that we imagine may happen to us, especially I suggest when relating to medical disorders, the Reality being in the doctor's diagnosis.

Personal perception of life and people, are what for me classifies the dilemma between Fiction and Reality. We really need to trust the authenticity of our source, before we can define fact or fiction with any degree of certainty.

So what are my conclusions about Reality. Well, one simple answer may be seen, as what we believe in is Reality to us, but not necessarily to anyone else. Finally I leave you with the old proverb, "Even a broken clock is right twice a day". Read into that what you wish?



## From Our Own Correspondent

**Doris Brookfield** wrote to us in September from Yorkshire:

This month is going to be very special for me, as I am going on my own to visit my family who all live in the South of England. This will be the first visit I've made to them since August 2020. So much has happened since then. Stephen developed Lymphoma, and then I moved to Ilkley to be near my Daughter, then earlier this year I had my knee replacement which unfortunately didn't go to plan: How I prayed to God to help Stephen and myself overcome these set backs, and with the help of all your prayers we are slowly getting through our storms.

Last week Adele and I came back to Southport to visit my niece and to attend the Flower Show, which Bob and I always loved to go to each year. It was really nice but my leg ached so much after three hours, so I returned to the hotel and fell asleep. I keep forgetting I'm 89 now and can't do what I did years ago. On Friday we came into Birkdale and had coffee in our favourite cafe and said farewell to Jane. It was strange sitting there again but it wasn't sad. God answered my prayers in 2021 and brought me here to Ilkley, it was his wish I should be here and I'm very happy.

I felt like the spider which came down while I was in bed last night. I'm linked to St. John's and Birkdale by a thread that is strong enough to take my weight.

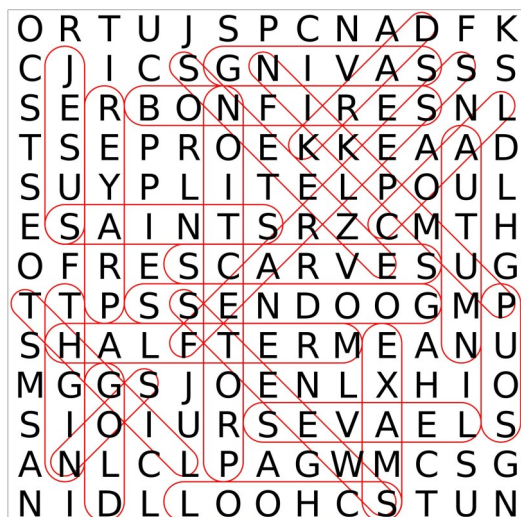
We visited Bob on his beloved Royal Birkdale, but I know he's in heaven and he is waiting for me, so I wasn't sad.

I will have to buy a feather duster as I can't reach high enough to dust my ceiling!

I'll tell you about my visit another time, till then God Bless you all for being my strength when times have been difficult, I still feel part of your family. Like a spider attached by a thread called Zoom.

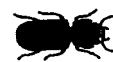


## WORD SEARCH solution



# J. E. ALVEY

VERMIN AND INSECT CONTROL



Domestic and Industrial Contracts

Rats · Mice · Moles · Pigeons · Ants · Fleas · Wasps etc.

13 VICARAGE LANE,  
BANKS. PR9 8ES

Tel: 01704 213025

[www.jalveypestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.jalveypestcontrol.co.uk)

## The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN)



The work of the CCN is linked to and inspired by the reconciliation between the British and the Germans, which took place after the bombing of Coventry in November, 1940, and the bombing of Dresden, Germany in 1945.

The beginning of the CCN can actually be found in 1326 when medieval craftsmen hammered into the oak beams of the roof of the ancient St. Michael's Church in Coventry, nails hand-forged by unknown medieval town smiths. In 1940 that ancient church, then a Cathedral, was burned in the anger and hatred of war. Those 14th century nails were strewn amidst the remains of the Cathedral.

As if to make a grave of the mound of destruction, the Cathedral's stonemason tied together two partly consumed beams into the shape of a cross and placed it among the rubble; a local priest, with the same intuition of death, made a cross of three of the ancient nails. Inevitably, the Christian response to the devastation was the utterance of Jesus from the Cross: 'Father Forgive.' The new Cathedral, built next to the ruins, now grows like a limb from the old, and the heart of the Christian religion is proclaimed in the rhythm of 'Crucifixion-Resurrection through Forgiveness.' Today, the Cross of Nails stands as a world-renowned ecumenical symbol of reconciliation and hope.



In September Christine and I enjoyed a holiday in Germany and visited many towns which had formed part of that country's industrial heartland during World War II and which had been very heavily damaged by Allied bombing. As is so often the case, some of the most interesting buildings in any old towns are its churches. We found that in the Cathedrals at Nüremburg (*left*) and Würtzberg (*right*) there are Crosses of Nails which have been made from the damaged nails in the former Coventry Cathedral.



Hundreds of nail crosses have been given to various organisations, originally using medieval nails from the old cathedral but more recently using modern replicas. In many places the Coventry Cross of Nails is mounted on a wall, or displayed on an altar.

The recipients of nail crosses from Coventry were brought together in 1974 to form an ecumenical "Community of the Cross of Nails", developed by Bill Williams, Provost at Coventry Cathedral from 1958 to 1981. The network of over 200 organisations in 45 countries shares a commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation. It includes dozens of churches in Germany, including the Dresden Frauenkirche, and Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and Chapel of Reconciliation (Kapelle der Versöhnung) in Berlin, and in other cities in the UK and elsewhere. At many, the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation is recited each Friday. It is difficult to image anything good coming from war, but a commitment to justice, peace and reconciliation is surely one.

*Stuart Baker*

# Plan Now & Save

with our pre-paid funeral plan



Now is the time to buy a Choice plan and stop funeral costs outpacing inflation and savings

### Your Plan Benefits

- Peace of mind for you and your family
- Security for your money
- Guarantees Funeral Director costs are fixed at today's prices

**£50**

donated to your local church for each plan

### Ask us about Choice plans

Call our helpful Southport staff on 01704 500 086 or visit us at 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport PR9 9DR



**Howard's**  
Funeral Directors

Purchase at  
[choiceplan.co.uk](http://choiceplan.co.uk)

Contains promotional material

## Ten Trust130 donations. One brushed-up stained glass window.

Take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical – one of the UK's most trusted home insurance providers<sup>1</sup> – and we will donate £130<sup>2</sup> to your church or cathedral. And of course the more people who take out home insurance policies, the more funds that are raised. So restoring that dull, draughty pane to its sparkling former glory could be in sight.

Find out more at [ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://ecclesiastical.com/trust130) or call our team on 0800 7830 130 and quote TrustP21.



Trust130.  
Limitless donations.  
Endless possibilities.

 ecclesiastical



Trust130 celebrates over 130 years of insuring churches and cathedrals.  
<sup>1</sup> [www.fairerfinance.com/fairgo/functions/experience-ratings/home-insurance](http://www.fairerfinance.com/fairgo/functions/experience-ratings/home-insurance)  
<sup>2</sup> Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.  
Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No. 24899. Registered in England at Beneficial House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4JH, United Kingdom. EIO is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 110242.



**214, Liverpool Road  
Birkdale  
Southport  
Telephone: 565059**

**HAIRDRESSING  
FOR ALL  
THE FAMILY**

**Tuesdays : O.A.P rates by Diane**



"Never mind, let's just be happy that Baz came to church in the first place."

## 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 **twice-monthly 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 **twice-monthly 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 (#)

**BUT PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALL PACKAGE CHARGES WITH YOUR PROVIDER**  
**IF YOU NEED ANY HELP:** Please contact Clive or Sally or Lucy 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.

## Prayer for October

Loving, Creator God,  
Thank you for your wonderful creation. In these days of concern about climate change and the damage caused by modern lifestyles and choices, help us to be more aware. Help us to make good choices. Help us to be good stewards of Your creation.  
You are so generous Lord. You provide for us – more than enough to meet the needs of all people. Help us to play our part in making sure there is fair distribution of all Your provision. Help us to reflect Your generosity, Your compassion, Your justice. Help us to care for Your world and Your precious children.



In Jesus' name,  
Amen

By Daphne Kitching

www.southportorchestra.co.uk

# SOUTHPORT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Jeff Rimmer

## ANOTHER NIGHT TO REMEMBER

WEBER

Der Freischutz Overture

GREIG

Piano Concerto

(Soloist: Tom Kimmance)

SIBELIUS

Symphony No. 2

SATURDAY,  
3rd December 2022  
7-30 pm

EMMANUEL PARISH CHURCH  
Cambridge Road, Southport,  
PR9 9PR

TICKETS: Adults £10 U18's £5  
available from Orchestra Members,  
Via [admin@southportorchestra.co.uk](mailto:admin@southportorchestra.co.uk)  
Or on the door (payment by cash or card)

SO22

After enjoying the Christmas Tree Festival and visiting the Christmas Market why not come and listen to a superb concert at Emmanuel Church? Southport Orchestra will be joined by a very highly acclaimed professional pianist, Tom Kimmance, who will perform Grieg's Piano Concerto in A. You all know this piece: it was immortalised by Morecambe and Wise in their Christmas Special with Andre Previn. "I played all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order Mr Preview..." Well, Tom Kimmance will definitely play ALL the right notes AND in the right order, and he will give a stunning performance! The orchestra's programme also features an Overture by Weber to his opera "Der Freischutz" which starts softly and builds to arousing finale, and Sibelius's Second Symphony which is his most popular symphony.

**For tickets contact Stuart or Christine Baker**

# ★HAPPY★ To BIRTHDAY!

If there are any birthdays, anniversaries or other reasons to celebrate which our readers would like to share with others **DURING NOVEMBER** please let the Editor know by email to [stjohnbirkdale@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbirkdale@gmail.com)

## The Last Laughs

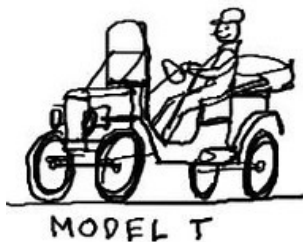
The following are genuine notes left for milkmen.



- ~ Dear Milkman: I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- ~ Cancel one pint after the day after today.
- ~ Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
- ~ Please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops of the milk.
- ~ Please cancel the milk. I have nothing coming into the house except two sons on the dole.
- ~ Please bring me a form about cheap milk, as my boyfriend has made me stagnant.
- ~ Please do not leave milk at no. 14 as he is dead until further notice.

### Henry Ford's secret.

When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them:



"To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?"

"The formula," said Ford, "is the same formula I have always used in making cars - just stick to one model."

What?!

I get most of my exercise these days from shaking my head in disbelief.



"Stuff huffing and puffing - I'll stick to fracking"



"What will they laugh about now they can't joke about me never being King?"