



THE WORD

Editor: Stuart Baker: 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. 239

NOVEMBER 2022

OUR CHURCH

God Centred, Relationship Driven and Life Transforming



Joint Service with St James', St Peter's and Liverpool Road Methodist Church

The three Anglican parishes and LRMC will worship together on Sunday 30th October at 10.30am in St John's Church.

The talk will be given by Tim Wright on "Jesus Came To Give Us Life."

Please come and join us for the service, and please stay afterwards for refreshments and a chance to chat with members of the other churches.

Remembrance Sunday



We shall hold our service of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November in church. The names of the Men of Birkdale who gave their lives in two world wars

will be remembered, and a wreath will be laid at the Roll of Honour and we shall observe a period of respectful silence at 11.00am.

IN THIS ISSUE

Our church services in November: pages 4-7

Dates for Your Diary: page 8

Christmas Tree Festival and Fair: pages 9-11

"Lest We Forget" by Dennis Davis: page 12

The New Bishop of Liverpool: pages 16-17

The Nigeria Water Project: page 17

**Don't forget that British
Summer Time ends at
2.00am on Sunday 30th
October and to put your
clocks back one hour.**



**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES TO OR ABOUT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT US BY EMAIL
info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk**

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BIRKDALE

AN EVENING WITH LADY DODD



ALMOST SOLD OUT: A FEW TICKETS LEFT

FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER @ 7PM

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

TICKETS FROM CHURCH OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

6th January - The Two Popes

For further details contact
Christine 07821 982477

SUNDAY @ 7

Christmas

Sunday 4 December 7pm
St John's Church, Birkdale

Can we encourage you to come to worship and have fellowship together and get into the festive spirit amongst over 20 Christmas trees and join us for an informal service with seasonal refreshments!

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet those from our partner churches and build up our relationships with the other Christians in Birkdale.

As we move towards the goal of appointing new clergy to our parishes it is our responsibility to make sure we are ready. Our new vicars will be working across the three churches and will be encouraged from the start of their ministry to see that we, as three congregations, have prepared the way for that new ministry.

So please make this, and other joint services, your priority as we all embark on this journey.

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

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, & biscuits:	Mrs. Sally Wright
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris	Buildings Inspector:	David Halsall
Safeguarding:	Stuart Baker and Ms. Michelle Baldeh		



Visit our new website
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 3rd and 17th November.

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



Worship on the
Twentyfirst Sunday
after Trinity

SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER

**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 Twentyfirst Sunday after Trinity

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

Jesus Died and Rose Again

The Reading: Romans ch.6 verses 4-14

4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.

11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

**SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER at St John's Church: Sunday@7
THE THREE BIRKDALE ANGLICAN CHURCHES**

**St James' and St Peter's and St John's will join in worship at St John's Church
on 6th November at 7pm.**

Refreshments will be available.

Please arrive early and get to know some of our fellow Birkdale Christians.



Worship on
Remembrance
Sunday

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER

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

Collect for the Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Remembrance Sunday

Lord of the nations, Saviour and judge of all: remove from human hearts all bitterness and hate, grant to those who have died in war your mercy and forgiveness and bring us all to the peace of your eternal Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered and died, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

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

Love and Hope

Reading: John ch.15 verses 12-17

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

17 This is my command: Love each other.



Midweek Book of
Common Prayer
Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER

10.30am service IN CHURCH

Worship on the Sunday
next before Advent:
Christ the King

SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone

Collect for the Sunday next before Advent

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

Jesus is King

The Reading: Luke 24: 46-52 & Matthew 28: 16-20

Luke 24: 46-52

And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem. 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent and turn to me.' You are witnesses of all these things.

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

They worshipped Him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all their time in the Temple praising God.

Matthew 28: 16-20

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Worship on
Advent Sunday

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone.

Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

Hope Springs Eternal

The Reading: Isaiah ch.7 v.14 & Isaiah ch.9 vv.6-7

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The message of Advent? – history is going somewhere!

'And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger...' (Luke 2:7)

'They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.' (Matthew 24:30)

What a contrast between the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – and His eventual return! No one knows when that day will be, but it will be earth-shaking. In the meantime, Advent reminds us of the last of six great saving actions of God in Jesus Christ. The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem was to inaugurate our salvation. The Death of Jesus at Calvary established it – forever. The Resurrection of Jesus at Easter confirmed it. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven celebrated it. The Gift of the Spirit at Pentecost drove it worldwide. And sixthly will come the Return of Jesus at the world's end – to consummate and complete it.

The message of Advent reminds us that history is not circular or locked into an unending stalemate. Neither can we ever accept a notion of successive reincarnations, for the Bible is clear that *man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment* (Hebrews 9:27). The Bible has had many pre-runs of that final 'Day of the Lord.' Noah's flood, the overthrow of wicked Babylon; these and other upheavals were but pointers to the final 'Day of our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 1:8), when all wrongs will be stopped, and the Lord shall reign with justice.

For the Bible is clear that world history is leading to a *Conclusion*, to the new heaven and the new earth. That will be inaugurated when 'He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.' Christ's return will usher in the final triumph, bringing about the dismantling of the whole apparatus of Evil that has so harassed us across the centuries.

The Cross and Resurrection secured the victory over evil. Christ's return will make it final! Believers echo Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - 'And so we will be with the Lord for ever.' If we have a *strong view of the future, we can be sure it will energise us in the present!* In the meantime, Advent is coming round once again. It's time to celebrate the first of God's six mighty acts that secured our salvation – and look forward to the future.

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 (560518). Tea, coffee, homemade cakes are provided. £5.



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. **STOP PRESS!!** We have to limit tickets to this event to a maximum of 120, and at the date of going to press almost all of the tickets have been sold. If you wish to come please contact Sally or Christine as soon as possible.



Christmas Tree Festival and Fair

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!!



An early, early Burns Night Supper

Friday 13th January 2023 at 7pm in the church hall.

Haggis, neaps, tatties, cranachan, bagpipe music, and Scottish themed entertainment to celebrate (12 days early!) the 264th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland.



A late, late Pancake Party

Friday 24th February 2023 at Tim and Sally's house.

Rather than have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday St John's will have a late, late pancake party three days late. OK, Lent will already have started but just give up chocolates instead of pancakes! Come and enjoy friendship and fun and let Tim cook bespoke pancakes of your choice. Further details closer to the date.

There will be **other friendship events at St John's during 2023** including a Quiz Night with our genial quizmaster Andy Dean and glamorous scorer Cheryl; a right royal Bangers & Mash evening at about the time of the Coronation; a summer fair; a strawberry tea; an Italian themed evening; for those who enjoy puddings, Just Desserts; and an evening of fun playing Beetle and Bingo! Watch this space!!

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

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 6PM - 9PM

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 10AM - 3PM



REMINDER!! CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL REMINDER!! AND CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER & SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

We are now only a few weeks away from our Christmas Fair and preparations are well under way, but as usual, we need your help and support.

Boxes have been put at the back of church for any donations you may wish to contribute for the various stalls. There are also two lists for the hampers, and we would be grateful if you could please sign against any of the items you feel you could help with, and bring them to church **NO LATER than Sunday 20th November.**



Your help would also be appreciated for various roles i.e. assist with placing the boards in church for the trees; decorating the halls; setting up the halls with tables and chairs on Thursday evening 1st December; greet and welcome visitors in church for an hour or so throughout the event; relieve stall holders for breaks. If you are able to help in any way, no matter how small, please either speak to me or Judith Foster - we will be pleased to hear from you.

And let's not forget our magnificent cake stall. Christine Baker would love to hear from anyone willing to help with baking cakes, etc.

While we appreciate that it is a very difficult time for everyone, we can only make this event a success with your help, for which we are always very grateful.

If you haven't already done so, please put the dates in your diary and bring as many family, friends and neighbours to enjoy our assortment of stalls, and possibly pick up some Christmas presents. There will also be activities for the children. And then, why not enjoy some delicious home cooked food in the cafe.

Once again, we are looking forward to making this Christmas Fair a huge success, Please try and support it in any way you can.

Sylvia Kent

*** If you very kindly offered to donate the sponsorship of a Christmas tree but have not yet paid for it, PLEASE arrange to send the payment to either Sylvia or Judith.

We be shortly having to pay for the trees. Thank you.***

Judith Foster



Christmas Fair: Raffle Hampers

At our Christmas Fair we always have a Raffle on the Friday evening and another on the Saturday. The holders of the winning tickets each receive a fabulous hamper containing many of the essentials for the Christmas festivities.

All the contents of the hampers are provided by donations from our parishioners. Sylvia Kent has put lists on a table inside the entrance of the church inviting our congregations to undertake to provide certain items so as to make sure that everything on these lists is provided for and to avoid duplication.

After all, although mince pies are nice we do not want a hamper to be filled with ten packets of them but no brandy sauce!

If our readers will be attending at church on Sundays 6th, 13th and 20th November PLEASE look at the lists and if you are able to donate anything for the hampers sign your name against whichever items you will donate.

If you are not able to come to church on those Sundays but would nevertheless like to provide something for the hampers PLEASE contact Sylvia Kent who will tell you what has not already been donated.

This is what we need for the hampers:

Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, Brandy sauce, Box of mince pies, Sweet biscuits, Tin ham, Cheese, Jar of mincemeat, Mixed nuts, Cheese crackers, Jar pickles, Bottle wine, Cranberry sauce, Small jar coffee, Small packet tea, After eight dinner mints, Tin fruit, Tin Nestle's cream, Sage and onion stuffing.

Whether you can sign the lists at church or whether you will contact Sylvia PLEASE do so by **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER.**



Fruits of the Harvest

Our congregation has been supporting people in need in our parish through the Family Wellbeing Centre for more than a year. Since starting we have given 48 food vouchers, harvest gifts twice, Easter boxes, and a Christmas lunch and magic show. Of this year's harvest gifts Sally writes:



Sally Wright and Clive Morris
and the fruits of the harvest:
35 bags of fruit, ready for delivery.

"After some very generous donations were received at our Harvest Festival time in September we have used part of the wellbeing fund to make 35 fruit bags. Thank you to all for your generosity in supporting this. In the last three weeks we have also provided 5 x £30 food vouchers. We hope to continue supporting these families over the coming months."



LEST WE FORGET

108 years ago began the The Great war. Young men across Europe eagerly volunteered and left home to seek adventure and fight for King and Country or Für Gott Und Kaiser, little knowing that this was to prove to be a "World War", in which an estimated 10 million men were to lose their lives in battle. Statistics vary as some added those who died from other causes. It was believed that it would be a short war: "Over by Christmas". By its end in 1918 nearly every family in Britain had lost someone.

The small British Army arrived in France on the 7th August 1914 and moved up to the Belgian border. It was here that **John Henry Parr** of the Middlesex Regiment became the first British soldier to die when he was sent to locate the enemy, shots rang out, it has never been established whether it had been trigger-happy Belgians or Germans who shot him.

The first German to lose his life was Albert Otto Mayer who was on a cavalry patrol when they ran into a French piquet. Mayer charged and killed Jules-André Peugeot before being killed himself.

The horrors of trench warfare set in as stalemate ensued. A German soldier writing home to his fiancé told of how naive he had been and the fear he suffered anticipating the enemy barrage and of mustard gas which might come back and gas them if the wind changed. He spoke of men crawling in lice and of the smell of unwashed men and unburied corpses. He ends by saying that he is no longer the same man and condemning the war. "I am left in despair, a broken man not worth the love of a woman; damned to hell, I am dead. Marry another."

At last, on the 11th November 1918, a cease-fire was signed to take effect from 11.00 hours. On that morning 20,000 more casualties (dead and wounded) were to result as men fired off their guns up to the last minute. 3,000 Americans became casualties when the commanding General ordered them to capture a village occupied by the Germans so that he could have the bathing facilities. If he had waited 2 days it could have been occupied without loss.

John Lawrence Price, a Canadian was the last Commonwealth soldier to die at 1058 hrs. George Edwin Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers was the last British soldier. Henry Gunter, an American of German descent was the last Doughboy. Augustin Trebuchon was the last Frenchman. The last German was an officer shot by the Americans after the cease-fire when he went forward to tell them the war was over.

An estimated 1,100,000 men from Britain and the Commonwealth gave their lives. 49,000 Irishmen, 61,966 Australians and New Zealanders, 64,976 Canadians, 78,187 Indians, 17,000 Africans, 2,000 Chinese, 1,150,000 Frenchmen. 53,402 Americans, and nearly 2,000,000 Germans.

Shocked by these terrible losses War memorials were erected in many countries across the world to honour the glorious dead. This was thought to be the War to end all wars. Now the dead of many other conflicts have been added, and the world faces another potential conflict.

We need God's presence more than at any other time in living memory.

On Armistice Day when we stand and say "We Will Remember Them", let us pray for lasting peace in the entire world. I hope this shows the reason why we keep this day of Remembrance.

O God Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope For Years To Come.

Dennis Davis

All Together Now



The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and mythologised events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in no-man's land?

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in no-man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.

After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas.

In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead.

The statue pictured above was created by sculptor Andrew Edwards and is entitled **"All Together Now."** Our readers may have seen it in the grounds of St Luke's Bombed Out Church at the junction of Berry Street and Leece Street, Liverpool. It was created as a lasting memorial to the brief Truce, commemorating the event as a memorial not of war but of peace.

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 November, the groups will meet on Wednesday 9th and Wednesday 23rd 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

Observations on life

Evil is not effectively resisted with hatred and guns. The only response to evil that has ever worked is the response of Jesus.... And that is to lead a life of love. That means what it has always meant: visiting the sick, giving to the poor, helping those who need help. – Jeffrey Burton Russell

Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries. – Anon

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important. – Anon

The best vitamin for making friends is B-1. – Anon

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. – Albert Einstein



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

On the challenge of hitting 11 o'clock precisely

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

It is a great shame that your church doesn't have chandeliers – although in your low-ceilinged converted cinema, any chandelier more than a few feet tall would also be embedded in your floor carpeting. But I find that there is nothing like watching the standard bearers on Remembrance Sunday parading up the aisle with their flags and getting them caught up in our brass candelabra.

One year, the procession ground to a halt while a bearer fought to retrieve his flag, and was obliged to leave it flying in the centre of the church while he presented me with an empty pole. I always feel obliged to tell parishioners that, since all the candelabra will inevitably be sent spinning, not to stare at them, or they may leave the church hypnotised. On the other hand, Miss Simpson generally leaves the church looking like that.

Major Hastings always arrives bejewelled with so many medals that every time he kneels for prayer, it sounds as if he is taking the collection. Their weight increases his stoop by at least ten degrees, to the point where some feel we should support him with a personal flying buttress.

Since the trumpeter playing the Last Post can be of varying quality, your idea of broadcasting it from London into your church is inspired. However, your worries about whether your radio will be good enough need not trouble you. If you tell your congregation that they are about to hear the broadcast silence and you then simply not switch the thing on, no one will be able to tell the slightest difference whether the silence is being broadcast or not. In fact, they will even congratulate you on hitting 11am at exactly the right moment.

I always use subterfuge; I have the church clock disconnected and then when we reach the time for silence, irrespective of the true time, I get a churchwarden to toll the bell eleven times. This way, I have apparently come to the exact moment without a hitch for the last 30 years.

You will also find that preaching about warfare and of man's inhumanity to man will give you greater insights into the working of your church council. The only difference is that on committees – sadly – the use of machine guns is rather frowned on.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Life and death

The vicar was preaching a powerful sermon concerning death and judgment. In the course of the sermon, he said: "Just think - all of you living in this parish will one day die." At this, a man in the front pew began to laugh quietly. After the service the vicar demanded sternly what he had found so funny about his sermon. The man replied: "I was just so happy that I don't live in this parish!"

Next Bishop of Liverpool to be The Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath



Downing Street has announced that the Ninth Bishop of Liverpool is to be the Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath. Bishop John will join us from the Diocese of Chelmsford where he has served as Bishop of Bradwell since 2018. He follows Bishop Paul Bayes who retired in February 2022..

Bishop John comes from the ancient Christian community in Kerala, South India, and was ordained into the Church of North India in 1994. He moved to the UK in 2001 taking up positions in the Diocese of Rochester. Bishop John then served as Archdeacon of Barking before becoming the Bishop of Bradwell in 2018.

Amongst other roles, Bishop John is the Chair of Churches' Refugee Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. He is the Church of England's Lead Bishop on Churches Together in Britain and Ireland relations and a trustee of CTBI. He chairs Christians Aware, an educational charity, and serves on the Anglican Communion-wide Advisory Group of USPG, an Anglican mission society. The Bishop lectures widely on faith and social engagement and in Biblical theology.

Bishop John demonstrates the influence of the evangelical, Anglo-Catholic and Oriental Orthodox traditions that shaped his theology and contributed to his formation and follows a Benedictine framework of spirituality. He has served in catholic and evangelical parishes and has been known as a unifying leader in situations of conflict.

Bishop John is married with one adult daughter. He is a keen walker and enjoys reading poetry and novels from various parts of the world.

Bishop John says "I am delighted and humbled to have received this call to be the next Bishop of Liverpool. I have come to love Liverpool through my numerous visits when my daughter was in university here for six years. I look forward to becoming part of the vibrant and diverse communities served by the Diocese of Liverpool.

We have many challenges ahead of us both in the church and society. A pandemic has shattered human confidence and a cost-of-living crisis is staring at our face. Anxiety, fear, and anger take many forms in such a context.

As a follower of Christ coming to lead a diocese that aspires to be a bigger church to make a bigger difference, I want to proclaim and live out a message of hope, peace, and justice. I pray that I will lead a church that is faithful in offering our communities the hope that we have in God, serving the communities by working together well and in partnership with others.

The good news in Jesus Christ breaks all barriers and boundaries and is always welcoming and inclusive. I am excited about leading God's people out to proclaim this good news in words and deeds in a new context and to love and care for those I serve".

Welcoming the appointment Bishop Bev, The Bishop of Warrington said "Bishop John is an excellent appointment to our diocese and his wisdom and grace will help guide us as we continue to seek to be fit for mission asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference. I look forward to welcoming him and Jessy and working alongside him in our diocese."

The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell added: "It is a huge joy to be welcoming John Perumbalath as the next Bishop of Liverpool. John is a person of huge vision and integrity, a biblical scholar, a champion for justice, a loving pastor, and a humble and good-humoured disciple of Jesus Christ.

"Strengthened by his care and leadership, the Liverpool diocese will continue to be a bigger church striving to make a bigger difference. Building on the courageous example of previous Bishops of Liverpool, John will be a new and compelling voice for the Christian faith in the Liverpool diocese, across the north and in the life of our nation."

Bishop John is expected to be installed in Liverpool Cathedral in a special service early next year. Until that time Bishop Bev, the Bishop of Warrington will remain as Acting Bishop of Liverpool.

Nigerian Water Project—it's in the pipeline!

Worshippers at St John's have been very generous and have provided £1,000 towards the cost of boring a hole in order to extract water for a Idanre, a town in rural Nigeria, not very far from Akure where Roy Doran developed close links many years ago. The funds have been sent by an international bank transfer and have been received in Nigeria.

Roy has received this message of thanks from Revd. Canon John Oso, the priest at St Andrew's Anglican Church of Alade and Idanre:

"Indeed the Lord is good to us. We received the sent money in Naira equivalent in our Bank account today. All praise to God. We do appreciate you. I will break the news to our people on Sunday and we shall do a letter during the week. The said amount will also fast track our work on the borehole project. Thanks so much again."

On 26th October Roy received these images from Revd. Oso showing that the work has already commenced.



THE WORD will keep its readers informed about how the project proceeds and we look forward to being able to report that water is being drawn from the ground.

More than 1,500 people will benefit from this project!



GOD in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'An Old Woman Saying Grace'. It now hangs in Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Thank you, Lord, for food to eat

There is a character in a Russian novel who says 'Ladies and gentlemen, let us assume that man is not stupid...but if he isn't stupid, he is monstrously ungrateful all the same – a creature that has two legs and no sense of gratitude.' That is certainly true in a world where carping and criticising come more easily than praise and thanksgiving. It is an attitude which rubs off on all of us, and is like Aesop's fable of the donkey, who was never happy with his lot, whatever the weather, whatever the season.

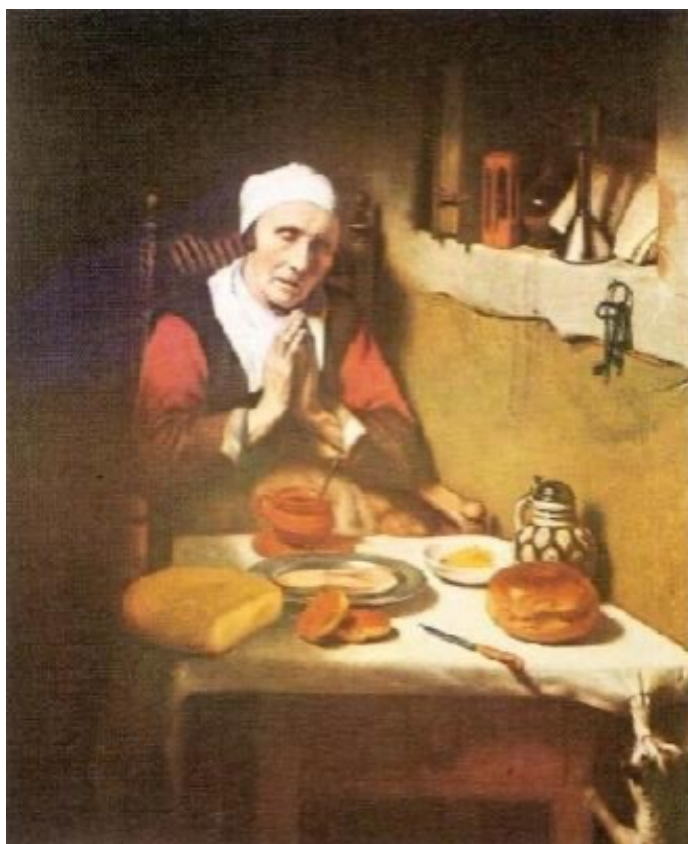
Aesop told the story to remind us of the need to cultivate a spirit of gratitude – not to put blinkers on our eyes and be negative about life, but to open both eyes and hearts in thanksgiving for the world in which we live. We do that each time we celebrate the eucharist together. We do it when we say grace before meals.

This month's painting, **'An Old Woman Saying Grace'** by Nicholas Maes brings this truth to mind.

Maes was a pupil of Rembrandt and he lived from 1632 to 1693. He spent most of his life in Dordrecht in Holland, and, apart from portraits, he delighted in painting women – women spinning or reading the Bible or preparing meals. Here the woman is sitting down to a simple meal of soup, bread, butter and fish. But before she enjoys this food, she puts her hands together and, as simply as the food in front of her, mouths a prayer of thanks to God.

The artist tells us that this offering of prayer was a daily pattern for the woman. For on the ledge at her side lie an open Bible, a lamp and an hour-glass, and on a nail some keys. Signs that such prayer can be a light to illuminate the days of our lives and the key to open our hearts to the kingdom, just like the woman in the painting.

It is a tender moment, both concentrated and intimate. At first glance, there is a tinge of sadness for the table is set just for her. She will eat alone. And then our eyes catch sight of the cat's paw reaching up to enjoy the food as well. Who knows? – something may spill over the edge of the table for the cat to enjoy. Simplicity and humour go hand in hand to remind us all of the need to be thankful. And thankfulness for food can spill over into thanksgiving for all the mercies and gifts that come our way in life.



OCCASIONAL

EXAMPLES OF 'TWICE A YEAR' CHURCHGOERS

WE ONLY GO AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER - FOR THE KIDS MAINLY



WE GO WHEN IT IS A PARADE SERVICE - MOTHER'S DAY AND REMEMBRANCE USUALLY



WE TEND TO GO ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY AND THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - I DON'T KNOW WHY REALLY - IT'S JUST A HABIT WE'VE GOT INTO



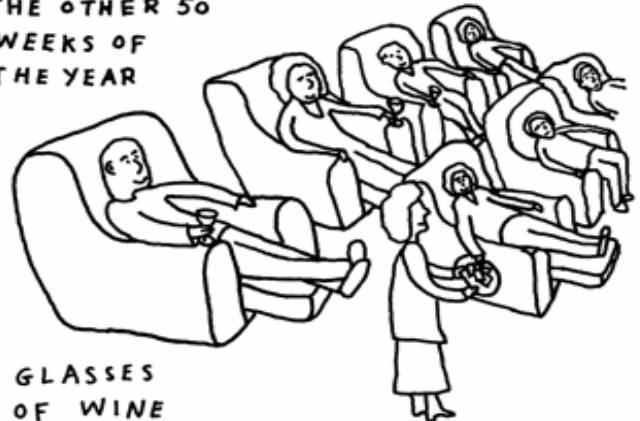
CartoonChurch.com

ATTENDERS

HOW TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO CHURCH A BIT MORE OFTEN

TELL THEM ABOUT THE GREAT TIMES WE HAVE DURING SERVICES FOR THE OTHER 50 WEEKS OF THE YEAR

WE REPLACE THE PEWS WITH RECLINING ARMCHAIRS



GLASSES OF WINE ARE SERVED

AND THE MONEY IS GIVEN OUT RATHER THAN BEING COLLECTED IN

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

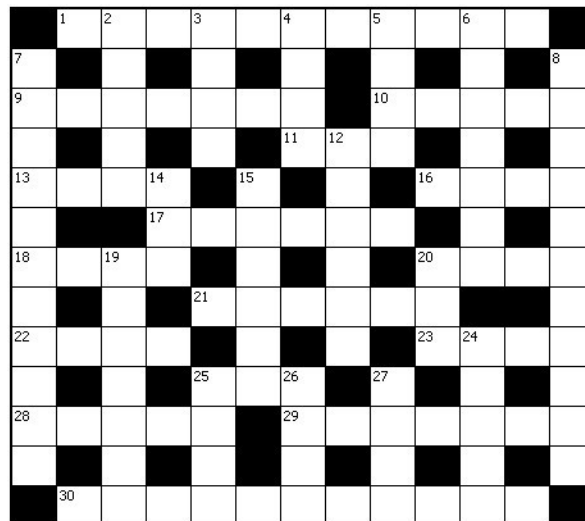
01704 873899

Part of Dignity plc
a British company



CROSSWORD

Solution on page 22



Across

- 1 (and 20 Down) 'Lord of all __, Lord of all __, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)
 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you __ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline __ (2,3)
 11 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)
 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but __ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must __ God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, __ Eareckson Tada (4)
 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat __' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 'No fear of me should __ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem __ how __ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the __ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

In our Book of Remembrance in November

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Edward Warren Craig, 1982
Samuel Leather, 1985 | 10th Jacqueline Goadsby, 2000 | 27th Jeffrey Heap, 1944
Reginald Wall, 1988 |
| 2nd Charles Ernest Perry, 1983
Daniel Mitchell, 1989 | 12th Percy Mackinder, 1980
Charles Edwin Smith, 1964
Edna Vernon, 1986
Patricia Ann Coop, 2010 | 28th Joan LeClair, 1994
29th Christine Taylor, 1983
John Ernest Rimmer, 1983
Ronald Horrocks, 1979 |
| 4th Sydney Albert Roberts, 1991 | 13th Edna Rubert, 1986 | |
| 6th John Lloyd Howarth, 1949 | 14th John James Marriner, 2002 | |
| 7th James Thomas Rimmer, 1987 | 15th Arthur Wilson, 1988 | |
| 8th Andrew Rob ^t Thomson, 2009 | 16th Kenneth W Whitehead, 1999 | |
| 9th Ruth Heap, 1982
Arthur Frederick Moon, 1998 | 17th Harriet Alice Hamer, 1962 | |
| | 18th Kathleen Butterworth, 2005 | |
| | 19th Kai Adolf Andersen, 1986 | |
| | 20th Albert Jackson, 1949 | |
| | 23rd Frank Joseph Rimmer, 2008 | |
| | 24th Stanley Loines, 1993 | |
| | 26th Peggy Heap, 1993 | |

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

We record the recent deaths of Barbara Carr (Janette Law's mother) and Beryl Carr (Julie Ann Bevan's mother).

We express thanks for their lives and sympathy to Janette and Julie Ann, and to their families.

God in the Sciences

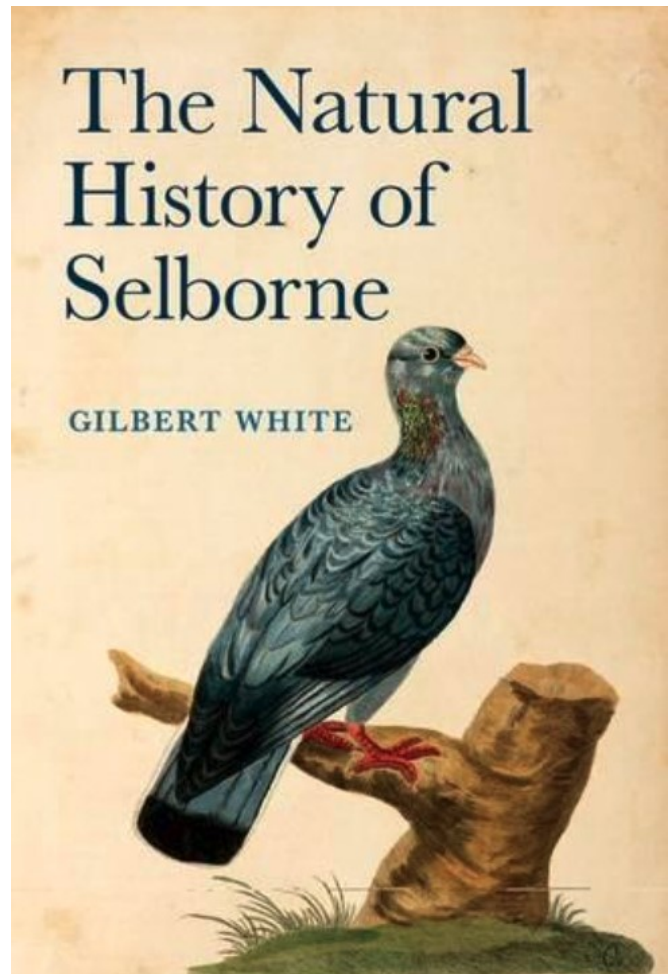
Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Wonder and Worship

“I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea”.

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to “pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation”. His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White’s book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there’s even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.



White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone - from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation - could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree - especially in winter when it’s easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them” (NIV).

White’s book can be downloaded for free at:
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>

WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 24

November is a wistful month, tinged with sadness and good-byes. The last of the leaves are falling, as the trees go to sleep for winter. It is a month of remembrance, of poppies, of remembering lost loved ones, and of letting go. It is a month of bonfires for the 'Guy', and Thanksgiving for Americans. It is a month of remembering Saints and looking forward to triumph - the church year ends with the joyful Sunday of Christ the King. And then Advent begins...looking forward to a very special Baby!

poppies
remembrance
courage
bravery
flanders

dead
guns
war
peace
afghanistan

iraq
thanksgiving
turkey
all
saints

advent
leaves
sadness
angel
mary

elizabeth
bonfire
gunpowder
guy



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide. DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

KEEPING THE FAITH

by John M. Shakespeare

Christian Faith, said Dr. Stanley Jones (Theologian), is about a cosmic optimism. It enables those who are believers to look at it through optimistic eyes and see the promise there.



Dr Stanley Jones

Faith is a belief held despite evidence to the contrary where scientific explanations appear to put the idea of religious Faith under threat. The relationship between religious Faith and science raises many great questions, that still continue to perplex both philosophers and theologians.

Epicurus (341-271 BC), tried to show that we have no reason to fear death, by the strength of our belief and Faith in God: when we are alive and death is not harming us; or we are dead and there is nothing to be harmed. This of course still allows it to be perfectly rational to fear the process of dying, and the pain that may accompany it, which Christian Faith can help us to alleviate. Faith can perhaps be said to be a belief concerning outcomes that we are seeking. Sometimes we may find that the result is not as we wished. At such times Faith has its greatest challenge.

St. Augustine (354-430 AD), argued that God had endowed human beings with powers of reasoning in order to be able to discuss all theological problems. He was impressed by the theological arguments which included God in the doctrine of final cause and purpose, leading into the philosophies of "Causation" as a prime factor of existence.



Portrait of St. Thomas Aquinas by Sandro Botticelli

Consequentialism in the field of ethics embraces the view that we need always to consider the consequences of what may be the result of our requests. In the following of Faith, it is not uncommon to have honest doubts, which I believe are dispensed with as our Faith develops.

The relationship between reason and Faith was given by Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), who maintained that the two are complementary.

Some beliefs, like the existence of God, can be argued by natural reason, while others such as the doctrine of the Trinity do require Faith.

For Aquinas there is harmony between reason and Faith, since both types of trust are worthy of our belief, which probably represents the most satisfying idea for a religious believer.

Faith is often mocked by cynics as something abnormal, yet how often do we put Faith in others who we believe in?

The French philosopher René Descartes (1596-1670), devised mechanical conservation laws from God's immutable nature. Today quantum physics posits a universe in which, (at sub-atomic level at least), exact mathematical prediction is impossible. Nonetheless, science still regards the universe as in some sense orderly, and some scientists see this as evidence of divine origins, a reason for Faith in God.



René Descartes

No writing about Faith would be complete without the mention of "Pascal's Wager". Although to some it may seem like blasphemy, Blaise Pascal (1623-1670), a French mathematician, physicist and philosopher had a deep regard for the rest of us in this world. His wager states, "It is sensible to have Faith in God, rather than dismiss the Faith". His argument went, that if you said you believed in God when you died, you would go to Heaven and if you denied God, then you would go to Hell.

The rousing words of Joseph Addison's hymn (1672-1719), about a rational universe, contains views that many hold today. That is the idea that the universe in its intricately ordered structure, provides evidence of a God with rational power, seen as a great cosmic mathematician. I feel that the last few lines of his hymn "Firmament", expresses his message.

"In reason's ear they all rejoice
and utter forth a glorious voice.
Forever singing as they shine
the hand that made us is divine".

Trust, I believe, plays a crucial role in having Faith. Trust in God is, I believe, even more worthy than the trust that we have in doctors or dentists. Yes, we may suffer pain from time to time but Faith in God is the substance behind our belief. It will, I believe, bring us to our final salvation.

the elderberries gardening club.

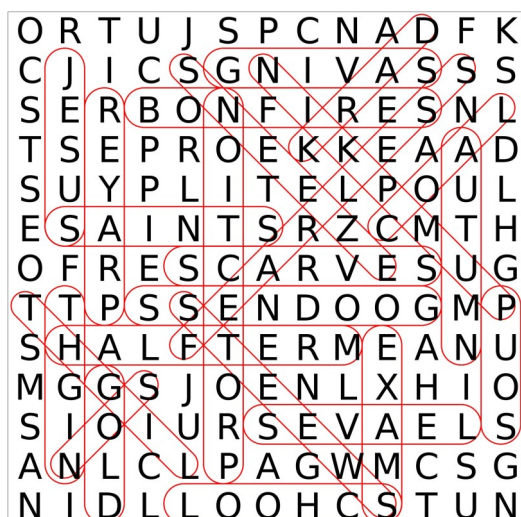


The group meet from 10.30am-noon on **the second Wednesday of every month** at Saint John's Church on Saint John's Road in Birkdale.

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

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

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

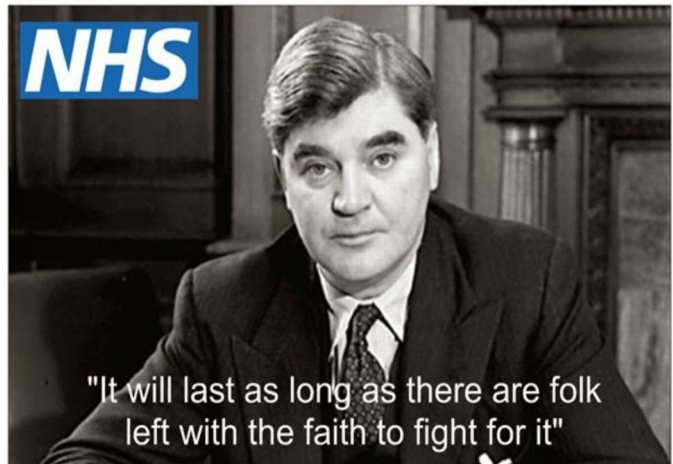
www.jalveypestcontrol.co.uk

The man who gave us the National Health Service

If you use the services of the National Health Service this autumn, spare a thought for the 'presiding spirit' which led to its founding.

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was born 125 years ago this month, on 15th November 1897, the sixth of ten children. The family lived in Tredegar, Monmouthshire, where his father was a miner, and his mother was the daughter of a colliery blacksmith.

When he was 14, Bevan followed his father and older brother in the mines, but in his spare time spent hours in the local library, self-educating himself. At 19, Bevan joined the Independent Labour Party and in 1919 he moved to London to continue his studies and encountered the works of Marx and Engels. In 1925 his father died in his arms of the miners' disease pneumoconiosis.



In 1926 Bevan was appointed a full-time union official and was soon caught up in the miners' strike, which led to the General Strike of May 1926. Bevan became known as a firebrand activist and agitator.

In May 1929, when he was 31, Bevan entered Parliament as Independent Labour Party member for Ebbw Vale. A passionate socialist, he regularly attacked Neville Chamberlain, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, and even his own party's prime minister, Ramsay Macdonald. Bevan's outspokenness caused the parliamentary authorities to suspend him from the house in 1937, and his own party expelled him for a time in 1939.

When in July 1945 Labour was returned to government with a landslide, the new Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, offered Bevan a Cabinet position. "I understand that you have much experience of negotiation. I am offering you the post where you will deal with health, housing and the local authorities."

And so, at 47, Bevan became the youngest member of that Cabinet. He oversaw the building of over a million new houses before 1950, and in 1946 the government steered through the National Insurance Act, which created the infrastructure of what was to be the Welfare State.

In 1948 the National Health Service Act, which Bevan had seen through Parliament, became law. This allowed people to receive, free at the point of use, medical diagnosis, and treatment at home or in hospital. As the writer Brian Brivati observes: "It was the decision to nationalise the hospitals that made the profound difference in the... creation of the NHS. This decision was Bevan's and its implementation was down to his skill, patience, and application as a minister. It is the most significant and lasting reform in the history of the Labour Party, and it was achieved by one man."

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was Minister of Health 1945 to 1951. The National Health Service became operational on 5th July 1948.

Bevan died on 6th July 1960 at the comparatively young age of 62. His legacy remains as important today as it was then.

Our late Queen Elizabeth II remembered:

Some of our readers may have seen a letter which was sent by our former Priest in Charge, Rev Jeremy Leffler, to the editor of "The Daily Telegraph." For those who did not see it we reproduce it here:

"Sir, As priest in charge of the Parish of St John, Birkdale, Southport, I used to visit an elderly Scottish lady who, amongst other things, would regale me with tales of how she used to play with the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret at Balmoral as a child.

She and the late Queen were very similar in age, and Barbara's father had been one of the estate's gamekeepers. When the Royal family came to stay, Barbara was invited up, and they became firm friends.

When Barbara died I wrote to Queen Elizabeth to inform her, saying that I was not sure of the actuality of the stories but that I had heard them often. I received a letter in reply from one of her staff, saying how touched she had been to be informed, and how she remembered Barbara with great affection for her companionship in those long-past summer days.

I already held Queen Elizabeth in high esteem, but this raised her even further.

Jeremy Leffler, Birkenhead, Wirral."

With thanks to David Wall for submitting this to the Editor.

From the archives...

In the November 1965 issue of The Parish Magazine of St John Birkdale Rev. Ernest Wright wrote in his article "From the Editor's Window":

"... The Parochial Church Council has decided that we shall have a Gift Weekend... You will be receiving a letter, asking for the generous help of all those who belong to us, or make use of our services in any way. I am sure we have many friends who will want to help us keep our financial "head above water"! The plain fact is, that with all our heavy commitments to the Diocese, the Church Overseas.. and the heavy cost of maintaining our church premises our collections and offerings in Church fall short of balancing our expenditure by about ten pounds a week*. We have a Sale of Work every two years which almost squares the deficit. I wish we didn't have to depend on a Sale of Work to rescue us from insolvency!"

(*£10 per week in 1965 would now be worth about £180 or £9,360 in a year)

As the French might say: Plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose. Or as we might say: we may change our cars to electric but we still drive on the left side of the road! Ed.

Looking after our buildings and churchyard

To state the obvious, our buildings and our churchyard do not look after themselves. They require a lot of regular inspection and routine maintenance and inevitably they need some major repairs from time to time.

Keeping an eye of the condition of the premises is absolutely essential. The churchwardens do much of this but they have been and are greatly assisted by a few others. Our thanks, as always, are expressed to David Wall for the time and effort which he puts in when keeping the gardens very neat and tidy and when mowing the lawns.

We also thank Duncan Rothwell for having been our Buildings Inspector for several years. This involved him (and Liz, whom we also thank) doing periodic walking tours of the buildings and grounds and noting and reporting issues of concern. Duncan has recently stood down from this role and the wardens are very pleased that David Halsall has agreed to take this on. We thank David for being willing to do this invaluable task.

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

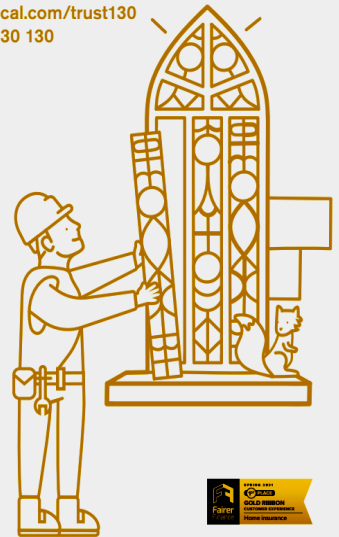
Purchase at
choiceplan.co.uk

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 providers¹ – and we will donate £130² 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 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.
¹ www.fairerfinance.com/fairgo/functions/experience-ratings/home-insurance
² 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."

Facing a Bleak Midwinter

The Parochial Church Council and the Churchwardens are immensely grateful for the generosity of all who worship at St John's and all who are part of our church family although living far away.

The entire nation now faces the prospect of a very bleak midwinter owing to the immense increases in the cost of living and in the cost of electricity and gas. If our church (not including the church hall) uses gas and electricity in the period from October 2022 to March 2023 at about the same rate as in the same six month period last year our total bill is likely to be in the region of £5,350 which is approximately £3,500 more than we paid last year.

We have heard on 26th October that the Commissioners of the Church of England intend to make a donation to the Diocese of Liverpool in the sum of £475,000 to help parishes cope with the rise in the cost of energy, and we have been informed that St John's is likely to receive £1,000 from that sum. That will be welcome. **Nevertheless, even after receiving that donation our energy bills for October to March are likely to mean that we shall pay about £2,500 more for heating and lighting the church in this winter period than we paid for last winter. That is an increase of almost £100 per week.**

It is only through prayerful generosity that we can keep our church going. The PCC will consider at its next meeting in November whether our services during the winter months (excluding December) should be held in the church or in the church hall which is far less expensive to heat.

If anyone reading this article does not already support the church financially but would like to do so here are the church's bank details:

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

Some very senior clergy have made recent statements about political issues:

Could the phrase "let me be clear about this" be made a criminal offence please?

Jonathan Clark, Bishop for the Falkland Islands

When I hear Christianity being used to justify homophobia, or racist attitudes, or Christian symbols being adopted by extreme political groups, I want to weep at what feels to me a desecration of what I hold most dear

David Walker, Bishop of Manchester

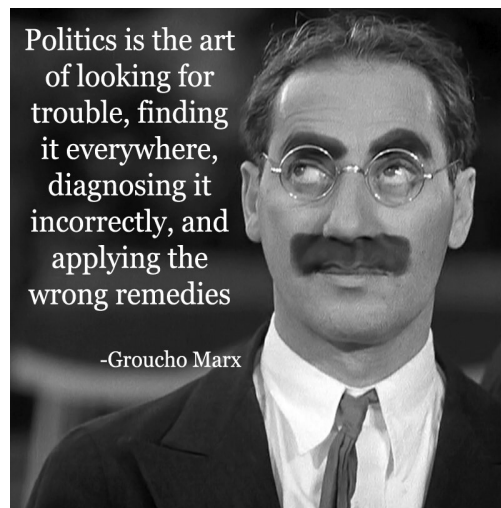
I'm deeply sceptical about trickle-down theory. You know, if you cut money for the rich, ever since [John Maynard] Keynes wrote his general theory in 1936, whenever it was, he showed very clearly that the rich save if they've got enough to live on. So if you want to generate spending in the economy, you put more money into the hands of those who need the money to buy food, to buy goods, to buy basic necessities.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

But you can always rely on Groucho Marx to put it succinctly:

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies

-Groucho Marx



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 (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.

Prayer for November

Lord Jesus, King Jesus,

In this world of trouble, we thank you that you have overcome the world! You understand the mess we are in and offer us hope and a future. We may not see how to go forward, or how to solve the problems that surround us and those we care about and those who suffer, but you are sovereign over all situations and circumstances. We can trust you, our King and our Saviour. In your name we give thanks and stand with confidence and strength to face each day.

Amen.

by Daphne Kitching



★HAPPY★ To BIRTHDAY!

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

The Last Laughs



Fred Astaire was once invited by Anthony Perkins to see his new Broadway show, which he found dire. Ever the gentleman, Astaire felt he had to say something positive when he visited his friend backstage. In the end he simply shook his head in wonder and said "Tony, I don't know how you do it."



Oscar Wilde's remark when asked by Herbert Beerbohm Tree what he thought of his *King Lear*: "My dear Herbert," Wilde gushed, "good is not the word!"



Dorothy Parker, commenting on the death of US President Calvin Coolidge: "How could they tell?"



Sir John Gielgud on *Casablanca* star Ingrid Bergman: "She speaks five languages and can't act in any of them."



Groucho Marx in *Duck Soup*: "Gentleman, Chicolini here may look like an idiot and talk like an idiot, but don't let that fool you. He really is an idiot."



Dolly Parton, on herself: "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap."



F.E. Smith, barrister, later to become Lord Birkenhead: Judge: "You are extremely offensive, young man!" Smith: As a matter of fact we both are; and the only difference between us is that I am trying to be, and you can't help it."