



THE WORD

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

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

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

ISSUE No. 246

JUNE 2023

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

God Centred, Relationship Driven and Life Transforming



Saturday 8th July in the garden at 34 Oxford Road. In recent years we have been blessed with good weather for this event and we hope that this year will be no exception.

The church gardens are looking tidy. We thank David Wall for all that he has done in the past, and we also are very grateful to Michelle Sullivan (and her three musketeers) and David Budworth for weeding and lawnmowing in recent weeks.

All of our readers are welcome to do some weeding, hedge-trimming and tidying at times to suit themselves. The church makes no charge for this! Bring your own tools.

Summer is almost upon us. By the time when the next issue of **THE WORD** is published we shall already have passed the longest day of the year and the evenings will start drawing in!

This has been a springtime of many bank holidays. Easter, May Day, the Coronation and the May Spring Bank Holiday. Now we have the summer ahead of us which offers two opportunities for our congregation to join together in fellowship. The Summer Social will be held on Saturday 3rd June at church, and there will be a Strawberry Tea on

Interregnum News

In September our PCC will update our parish profile and re-advertise the vacancy in our parish. There are several other parishes in our Deanery which are also currently without a Vicar or Priest in Charge which means that any potential applicants will be able to apply to a number of parishes. We hope that at least one suitable candidate is inspired to apply for the position at St John's.

THE WORD will continue to keep our parishioners informed of any progress.

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

WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

Priest (retired)	Rev. Roy Doran (572387)	Church of England Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)
Reader:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)	Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton (564737)
Churchwardens:	Clive Morris (564206) Tim Wright (553977)	Girl Guides	Mrs. Janette Law (565951)
		St. John's Brownies:	Mrs. Helen Jones and
		Brownie Guiders:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
		St. John's Rainbows:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
Wardens' Assistant:	Miss Lucy Wright (553977)	Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside (568874)
Treasurer:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)	Magazine Editor:	Stuart Baker (560518)
PCC Secretary:	Vacant	Magazine Printer:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris (564206)	Notice boards, I.T, Website developer, Publicity designer:	Mrs. Sally Wright (553977)
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris	Buildings Inspector:	David Halsall
Safeguarding:	Mrs. Abbie Holden (07961003359)		

Queen for a Day

In the May issue of **THE WORD** we invited readers to share their memories of Coronation Day in 1953.

We have received three reminiscences which we include on page 10.

Who is the happy and glorious young lady who was crowned as the Coronation Queen for the area around Lark Lane, Liverpool? Read on to find out...



Thursday Evening Prayers

The next prayer meetings by **zoom** and telephone will be at 7.30pm on 1st June and 15th June.

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



Colin and Sue Paterson wish to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes during the past few months. It helped us both to cope.

St John's Church Birkdale

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

2nd & 4th
Wednesdays
2-4pm

St John's small hall

Growth Groups

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7.30pm
@ 32 Hartley Crescent

*Finding out more
together*



WE'D LOVE YOU TO JOIN US

*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



FRIDAY

Coffee, Cake & Chat

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ST JOHN'S RD, BIRKDALE PR8 4JP

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BIRKDALE
MONTHLY
2ND FRIDAYS
10.30AM



WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S



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



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

For details of our screenings
see our church noticeboards

17 February

17 March

28 April

26 May

23 June

Free entry, refreshments available

ST JOHN'S INVITE YOU
TO JOIN US IN OUR

SOCIAL EVENTS

If you'd like further details or to book a place please contact Christine 07821 982477 or Sally 07800 550097



Friday 13 January @ 7pm

Early, Early Burns Night

Friday 24 February @ 7pm

Late, Late Pancake Party

Saturday 11 March @ 7pm

Andy Dean's Quiz Night

Friday 21 April @ 7pm

Italian Food Night

Friday 5 May @ 7pm

Coronation Bangers & Mash

Saturday 3 June @ 11.30am

Summer Social

Saturday 8 July @ 2pm

Strawberry Tea

Friday 22 September @ 7pm

Harvest Supper

Friday 20 October @ 7pm

Just Desserts

Friday 17 November @ 7pm

Bingo and Beetle Night

Friday 1 December 6-9pm

Christmas Tree Festival and

Saturday 2 December 10-3pm

Christmas Fair

YOUNG ADULT SOCIALS

2023

Saturday 15th April
Ghetto Golf & Baltic market

♥ Saturday 13th May
Knowsley Safari park

Saturday 17th June
Pizza and games @ Lucy's

Saturday 15th July
Rivington

Friday 11th August
BBQ @ Lucy's

Saturday 23th September
Bowling and Nando's

St John's Church, Birkdale

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BIRKDALE



SATURDAY 3 JUNE
11.30 AM - 2 PM
ST JOHN'S HALL

FOOD | RAFFLE | PLANTS
CRAFTS | BOOK STALL
FREE ENTRY

ST JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE, PR8 4JP

As summer is approaching, the team are busy preparing for our fantastic Summer Social event, which is being held in the hall on **Saturday 3rd June from 11.30 am until 2pm** when we will be serving an assortment of delicious sandwiches and cakes with tea or coffee.

There will also be some stalls selling books, plants, jewellery and handmade fragranced candles, and not forgetting our usual raffle with fabulous prizes including a hamper, so please make a note in your diary and come along with family and friends and support it.

So why not come along for a couple of hours and enjoy spending time together, having some lunch and treating yourself (or a friend!) to something from one of the stalls.

Sylvia Kent

JUDE: a new series of Sunday sermons

Many of us have probably not looked closely at the epistle of Jude and may not know exactly where to find it in the Bible. It is the fifth shortest book in the Bible and it nestles between the Third letter of John (the shortest book) and Revelation. It contains a mere twenty five verses.

After our sermons on Nehemiah have concluded our speakers will begin a new, but short, series on the letter of Jude. What can be gleaned from such a short epistle?

It reminds the reader of the need for constant vigilance, to stay strong in faith and to beware of false teachings. It is believed to have been written in about AD65 by Jude, a half-brother of Jesus.

It condemns in fierce terms certain people whom the author saw as a threat to the early Christian community, but it describes these opponents only vaguely. According to Jude, these opponents are within the Christian community, but are not true Christians: they are scoffers, false teachers, malcontents, given to their lusts, and so on. The epistle reassures its readers that these people will soon be judged by God. It is possible that the group being referred to would have been obvious to the original recipients of the letter, but if a specific group was being referred to, knowledge of the details has since been lost. Despite the persecution of and opposition to Christians Jude saw as a greater threat the false teachers who had already infiltrated the church and the corrupt doctrines which they were teaching.

Worship on Trinity
Sunday

SUNDAY 4th JUNE: HOLY COMMUNION

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

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

Collect for Trinity Sunday

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

**There is only One God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit**

The Reading: 1 John chapter 5 verses 1-12

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.

Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Worship on the First
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 11th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone.

Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

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

**The Wall is Finished:
What Now?**

The Reading: Nehemiah chapter 7, verses 1-6

1 Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

2 that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

3 And I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand guard, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house."

4 Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few, and the houses were not rebuilt.

5 Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first return, and found written in it:

6 "These are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city."

What have we learned from the Book of Nehemiah?

One of the powerful messages of Nehemiah is how much you can accomplish when you align yourself with the will and plan of God. Nehemiah and his followers do what seems to be the impossible because they are doing what God has called them to do. You don't have to rebuild a wall to do the will of God.

If you've ever looked at a messy situation and thought, "someone ought to do something," you will understand the passion Nehemiah felt for Jerusalem. From distant Persia (modern day Iran), Nehemiah heard that its walls lay in rubble, even decades after the Jews returned home. *But what could he do?*

That's the question we may have when we consider some big need we see in our church or ministry or community. You want to do something, but what can you do? Nehemiah wasn't in full-time ministry—he was in government work. He wasn't trained in seminary—he was a businessman. He wasn't even local to Jerusalem, but a thousand miles away across an inhospitable desert. But he overcame these difficulties and galvanised others to join him in doing God's will by steadily rebuilding the walls.

The lesson from this: when God wants to use you, difficulties don't matter. What God requires in His servants is a humble heart and courage to do God's work, God's way.

Worship on the Second
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 18th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Defend the Faith

The Reading: Jude, chapter 1, verses 1-3

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.



Midweek Book of
Common Prayer
Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH

Worship on the Third
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 25th JUNE
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone.

Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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

Who are we dealing with?

The Reading: Jude chapter 1 verses 3-4

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

BRAIN TEASERS

1. I shave every day but my beard stays the same. What am I?
2. You see a boat filled with people, yet there is not a single person on board. How come?
3. I have branches but no fruit, trunk or leaves. What am I?
4. David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle and what's the name of the third son?
5. Where does today come before yesterday?
6. What invention lets you look right through a wall?
7. What goes up and down but doesn't move?
8. What has lots of eyes but can't see?

Answers on page 16. (With thanks to Judith Foster for submitting these)

WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 20

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also the ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

- Simon
- Peter
- Fisherman
- Bethsaida
- Galilee

- Andrew
- Jesus
- Rock
- Transfiguration
- Raising

- Daughter
- Garden
- Gethsemane
- Betrayed
- Cock

- Crowed
- Feed
- My
- Lambs
- Sheep

- Keys
- Kingdom
- Gates
- Hell
- Binding
- Loosing

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

How St John's celebrated the Coronation

On Friday 5th May more than thirty of our parishioners and some friends enjoyed a Bangers and Mash supper in the church hall and answered some very difficult questions on a Royal theme in a special quiz. The hall had been decorated by our head of bunting, Sally Wright, and the meal was prepared by Christine Baker. After some fun and games in the hall we were greatly assisted by many- too numerous to mention them all- who helped clear away and do the washing up.



Two days later, in glorious spring sunshine, we had a picnic lunch on the church lawn which was attended by about thirty of our own congregation and some friends from Liverpool Road Methodist Church.



Memories of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Day.

Dennis Davis:

I was living in married quarters at Whittington Barracks Lichfield sitting in front of a nice warm fire with ample cups of tea and chocolate biscuits all because I had blotted my copy book. Several days earlier we were preparing our intake of recruits for a Coronation Parade in the City of Lichfield. A soldier dropped his rifle; the CSM (Company Sergeant Major); roared. "Sergeant Davis put that man in the guardroom". Without hesitation I marched him at the double where he was placed in a cell.

I returned to the parade to be told to see the CSM after it was over. Duly I went to his office only to be kept stewing for a time. "You did not salute the monuments when you left the square, so you will not take part on the parade but will be guard commander as a punishment instead". As it happened, I did my guard on the eve of Coronation day and came off duty at 7.30 am. So here I was, and it was teeming with rain outside. I thought, I could stand this kind of punishment any time.

Sylvia Musgrove: (the Queen for a Day in the picture on page 2)

I was 14, living in Hadassah Grove, off Lark Lane, Liverpool. I was chosen to be the Coronation Queen for the area of four streets off Lark Lane: Hesketh Street, Lucknow Street, Prince's View and Leda Grove.

We had a big party in the community centre on Lark Lane. The hall is now a restaurant on Lark Lane opposite Hesketh Street. I had to write a speech so I made a scroll decorated with the rose, the daffodil, the thistle and the shamrock.

Councillor and Mrs Collins crowned me. The stage had a rotten floor and Councillor Collins' foot went through the stage. Everyone was shocked. He was very brave and all was well. All the ladies on the committee did the catering for lots of children and their families. There were long rows of tables and at least 70 children attended.

My dad dressed his car, a Morris 8, in red, white and blue crepe paper. It was a rainy day. The crepe paper became a bit soggy!

After it was over we went to Dad's boss's home on Livingstone Drive and watched all the real coronation on a nine inch black and white television. A good day was had by all.

I was given a small Bible by the organisers of my coronation. It is inscribed as a memento of the day, thanking me for being the Queen for a Day. Seventy years later I still have it and it reminds me of a happy day.

Judith Foster: One coin

I have in my possession an Elizabeth the second crown (Five-shilling piece to the younger people). "So what!" you say, "nothing special." Value-wise you are probably correct but to me it is priceless. It represents the hopes and dreams of my dad for me.

Knowing I was on the way my dad saved enough to purchase the coin, not easy then. As my mum said, I was lazy and arrived two weeks later than expected. If I had been "on time" it would have been when the king died.

So, how can a coin represent so much? A new family, a new job, a new queen: a lot rides on our hopes, dreams and plans for the future. Someone, somewhere will be buying a coin or coronation commemorative of Charles III for their child.

If we do not look forward into the future with some aspirations, goals and dreams we will never achieve what we can. We, hopefully, will not be the ones saying, "I wish I had done this or that".

As we move into a new king's reign let us echo his promises to serve. We are all on the cusp of a new beginning. You never know what you can achieve if you do not try.



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

Beware the Church Microphone

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does *not* necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargoyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

I was also not convinced that the 16th century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Whoever fixed the fencing failed, and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped, and ended up in the Colonel's flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats, and chomping everything in sight.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Anonymous Wisdom

One test of a person's strength is his knowledge of his weakness.

Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

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GOD in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee' by Tintoretto. It hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC.

'He gave us eyes to see them'



In 1833 Mendelssohn composed two overtures inspired by the sea. 'Fingal's Cave' portrays the gentle roll of the waves and the call of the wind on the waters around Staffa. 'Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage' paints a sea journey when the fog lifts, the sky clears, the safety of land beckons and the boat arrives in the harbour.

This month's painting shows us a very different picture of the sea. It is 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee' by Tintoretto. He was an Italian painter of the Renaissance period who worked in Venice until his death in 1594. All his paintings are marked by intensity and drama, whether it is the Last Supper, the Conversion of St Paul, or this canvas. Tintoretto worked so quickly and so single-mindedly that he was nicknamed 'Il Furioso.' And it is the fury of the sea that is captured here. Not the lazy waters of Venice or the calm seas of Mendelssohn's music. Now the sea and the sky above are in torment and revolt, and the world is dominated by the violence of this storm.

The Sea of Galilee is like that. One moment, the sky is clear and windless, the next, a gust can whip up the waters into anger. In Scripture the sea is always an element to fear. For the psalmist the sea contains creeping

things innumerable and even monsters. For John in the book of Revelation, the sea ceases to exist when the new heaven and the new earth appear. The threat of that element is pervasive in this painting. The sail of the boat bends with the raging of the wind, and the vessel is tossed up and down – so near the shore, and yet so far. Above, the clouds frown.

But enfolding the scene are two signs of hope and life. To one side we see a tall tree in leaf and growing. At the other side is the tall figure of Jesus: a sign of safety and hope to the disciples, floundering in the boat. His feet are just vague outlines in the water, but His hand is firm as He beckons to His followers. Peter, brave and headstrong as ever, begins to climb out of the boat with no immediate sense of danger. This month of June ends with his feast day when we celebrate a saint who was so much like us. Wanting to follow Jesus, but finding himself weak; eager to serve, but unable to back words up with deeds. And yet, through all that, God's grace triumphed in Peter's life. We know that he will be saved here as he steps onto the wild water to reach Jesus.

This raging element is a parable of life with its storms and challenges for Peter and for all of us. Just as the sea threatens to swallow the boat and the disciples in it, so we know how the world threatens to swallow us up. Each of us, in our discipleship, faces concerns and challenges, anxieties about the present, even despair about the future. Tintoretto is saying to us from this canvas, Reach out and take hold of the sure hand of our Lord. That will be an anchor for you when the sea of life is calm and when the storm rages. 'Will your anchor hold?' asks the hymn, and we can reply:

***'We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
Steadfast and sure while the billows
roll;***

***Fastened to the rock which cannot
move,***

***Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's
love.'***

W CROSS R D

Solution on page 19

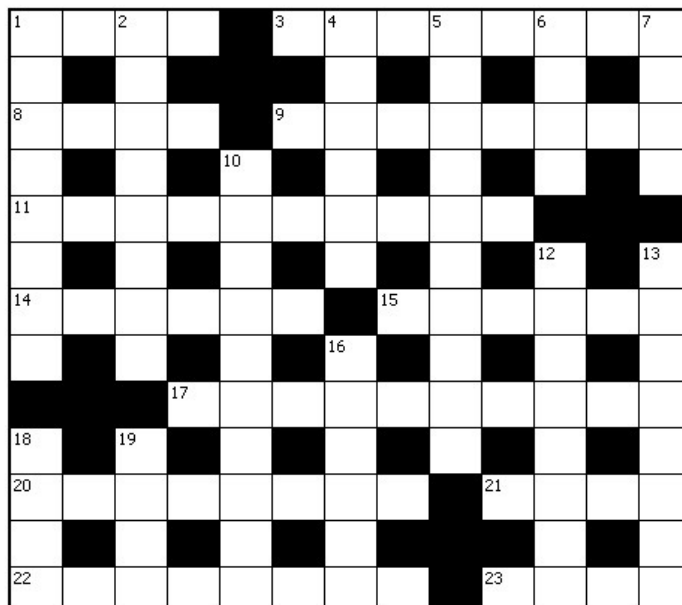
CLUES

Across

- 1 See 23 Across
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
 8 Invalid (4)
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from



- being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
 7 Swirling current of water (4)
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

In our Book of Remembrance in June

- 1st Gertrude Edmondson, 1974
 Miriam Rigby, 2005
 2nd Mary Moore, 1987
 4th George Williams, 1985
 6th Robert Hall, 1986
 Roy Maguire, 1992
 7th Ann Beeley, 1984
 8th Stephen Tasker, 1977
 9th Elsie Bredow, 1973
 Maureen Burton, 2009
 10th Ethel Marshall, 1969

- 10th Edna Marriner, 2002
 11th Harry Lea, 1983
 Jean Beeley, 2012
 16th Montague Hare, 1999
 17th Jeane Smith
 18th Reginald Hughes, 2008
 19th Ernest Gorton, 1967
 20th Norman Hamer, 1988
 24th Marion Coop, 2004

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

Observations on our Christian pilgrimage

We can do more good by *being* good, than in any other way. — Rowland Hill

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. — Matthew Henry

Meekness is having a teachable spirit. — Ronald Dunn

OFFICIAL—An apple a day helps to keep the Doctor away

We all know this old saying. It is a common English-language proverb that appeared in the 19th century, advocating for the consumption of apples, and by extension, "if one eats healthful foods, one will remain in good health and will not need to see the doctor often."



A study carried out by researchers at the Harvard Medical School and the Arthur Margus Institute for Aging Research in America has reported that eating fruit such as apples and blackberries which contain flavonols could lower our chance of developing frailty. Quercetin, a plant flavonol found in those fruits, may be the most important in preventing frailty, reduction of muscle strength and fatigue.



The researchers' report, which was published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, says that about 10% of people aged over 65 live with frailty, and this figure rises to between 25% and 50% for those aged over 85. The researchers found that by eating a medium sized apple every day the effect of the flavonol reduced the odds of developing frailty by 20%.

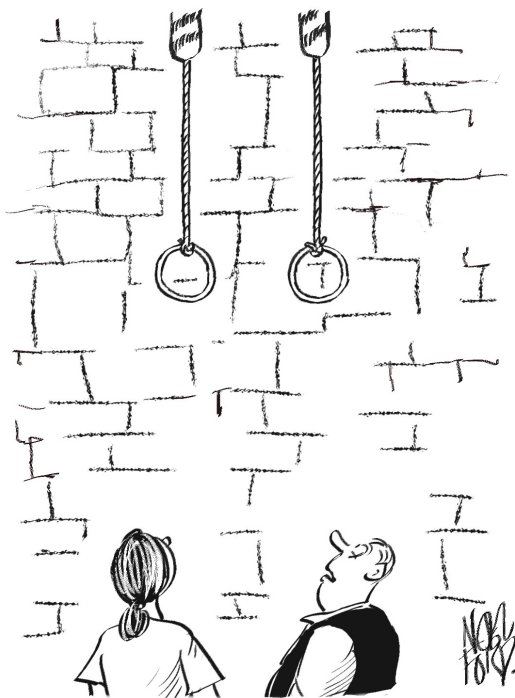
(Source: The Times newspaper 24th May 2023)

BRAIN TEASERS

ANSWERS

- 1 A barber
- 2 All the people in the boat are married.

- 3 A bank
- 4 David
- 5 The dictionary
- 6 A window
- 7 A staircase
- 8 A potato



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

Church bulletin notices ... that didn't quite work...

The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

The students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

Dennis continues his research into the religious wars, terror, persecution, murder, rebellion and turmoil after the Reformation. It is his aim to show what was done in the past for the religious freedom we have today. What if this had never happened? Our world would be a different place today.

William The Silent



Portrait by Adriaen Thomasz. Key

Prince William of Orange (known as William the Silent) was the hero of the people and a member of the ruling body under the Governor of the Netherlands, Margaret of Parma, the sister of King Philip II of Spain. William had been brought up a Lutheran but served Philip

loyally, even observing the rites of the Catholic Church. He became unhappy with Philip's policies. His appeals to Philip fell on deaf ears. He was invited to go to Spain but did not do so as he did not trust Philip. This distrust came after William tried to marry his second wife who was a relative of Philip's. Philip expressed his pleasure and at the same time treacherously behind William's back was blocking the union from taking place, but William found out and feared that if he went to Spain he would not have been allowed to return. In spite of this he still maintained his loyalty to Philip and tried to get Philip to relax these measures but was unsuccessful.

In 1560/61 Philip stepped up his actions and appointed extra bishops who would be more senior than the Netherlands Bishops. Their leading role was to head up the Inquisition. Originally the Inquisition was for the Jews and the Moors who were given the choice of convert or burn at the stake that was now extended to include heretics in the Netherlands. One Bishop, Granville, said, "we must

inflict chastisement with full rigour and severity." He went on to say that the people could only be made to do things by fear and chastisement.

Philip appointed the Duke of Alva, one of the leading Spanish generals, to put down the rebels while Philip ruthlessly pursued the use of the Inquisition to root out heretics and appointed many extra Inquisitors. At the same time he issued an Edict that all heretics high and the low were to be tried equally. Those found guilty faced a range of Punishments depending on if they retracted and more serious for those who did not: fines, imprisonment, banishment, branding on the forehead, slitting of nostrils and execution. By the sword for men, women to be buried alive and burning at the stake. The possessions and property of the guilty were confiscated by the state. People were encouraged to inform on suspected heretics and offered half of their property as a reward.

Civil war broke out in France and Philip had promised Catherine de Medici, his mother in law, support. He ordered Margaret of Parma to send 2000 men to fight the Huguenots. She sent 1500 and she had to pay them herself; in essence it was sending Calvinists to put down Calvinists. Under Cardinal Granville it had become an age of corruption. Justice and finance councils were sinks of iniquity, there was no law, and pardons could be bought for the most atrocious of crimes for the right price. William managed to keep clear of this sea of corruption. William, whilst still practising as a Catholic began to take an interest in Calvinism.

A citizen of Cambrey converted to Lutherism and asked the Cardinals permission to leave the town and take his possessions with him. He was told to come back at midday for an answer, when he duly arrived he found the executioner waiting for him. He was taken out and immediately beheaded.

To be continued.

William The Silent

In part 2 of his interesting series entitled "What If" Dennis has told us part of the history relating to William, Prince of Orange, who was known as William the Silent.

Our readers may wonder why William became so known. With the assistance of Wikipedia the Editor takes the liberty of adding these lines in order to offer an answer. There are several explanations for the origin of the style "William the Silent". The most common one relates to his prudence in regard to a conversation with Henry II, the King of France.

It is said that one day, during a stag-hunt in the Bois de Vincennes, King Henry, finding himself alone with the Prince, began to speak of the great number of Protestants who had greatly increased in his kingdom to his sorrow. His conscience, said the King, would not be easy nor his realm secure until he could see it purged of the "accursed vermin" who would one day overthrow his government, under the cover of religion, if they were allowed to get the upper hand. This was the more to be feared since some of the chief men in the kingdom, and even some princes of the blood, were on their side. But he hoped by the grace of God and the good understanding that he had with his new son, the King of Spain, that he would soon get the better of them. The King talked thus to William of Orange in the full conviction that he was aware of the secret agreement recently made with the Duke of Alba for the extirpation of heresy. But the Prince, subtle and adroit as he was, answered the King in such a way as to leave him still under the impression that he, the Prince, knew all about the scheme proposed by Alba; and on this understanding the King revealed all the details of the plan which had been arranged between the King of Spain and himself for the rooting out and rigorous punishment of the heretics, from the lowest to the highest rank, and in this service the Spanish troops were to be mainly employed.

Exactly when and by whom the nickname "the Silent" was used for the first time is not known with certainty. It is traditionally ascribed to Cardinal de Granvelle, who is said to have referred to William as "the silent one" sometime during the troubles of 1567. Both the nickname and the accompanying anecdote are first found in a historical source from the early 17th century.

COMPASSION ACTS

10 Years of Southport Foodbank

It is a bitter-sweet celebration as we mark 10 years since Southport Foodbank was launched. There is much to celebrate, the people fed and the volunteers who have been empowered. However we are also shocked that in our society we have had to run this service. Come and join us for a short service of thanksgiving and reflection, led by Rev Patrick Evans with contributions from Rev Richard Vernon and voices from the past, present and future of our grassroots local charity. 5.30pm, Tuesday 6th June 2023 followed by a BBQ, Lakeside Church. PR9 0LA

Uniform Hub

A reminder that our Uniform Hub is open Tues-Friday 10am to 12noon at 17A Cambridge Walks for all your pre-loved school uniform needs. No appointment or referral is needed and you can bring an item with you to swap, make a small donation or take free items. It is for the whole community as so many of us hate to see waste and find ourselves being stretched to afford the very costly uniforms and sports kits.

Donations of blazers from Y11 school leavers (good condition only) are welcome at this time of the year.

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.

A scientist reflects on God's heart for the suffering

It's difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people's pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, during lockdown, I found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19, because the reminders of its impact on people's lives were everywhere that I looked.



One of the ways I managed my own feelings during the pandemic was by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It's not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised "new heavens and new earth" mentioned in the New Testament. One day "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay" (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across

1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary;

20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden

Down

1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona; 7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian;

16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

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

the elderberries gardening club

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



social events.

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

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

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St Peter's Church, Birkdale @ 7pm

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SERMONS



COMMUNION

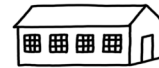


TIMES OF SILENCE



ACTIVITIES

AND CHURCH HALL



NOT REALLY HYMNS



TALKS



COMMUNITY



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WHY CHARITY?

by John M. Shakespeare
and Roger H. Anderton

Since 1601, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, there has been a Regulator and Registrar of Charities. In 1853 the Charitable Trust Act was passed in order that the general public could support charities with confidence.

How can we define what Charities are? The following should give some helpful pointers. Principally, Charities should be established to give help, wherever and whenever it is needed, either in the form of cash, goods, or actual physical help. It will also mean being non-judgmental in giving, and being able to show tolerance whatever the circumstances.

The first written connection between charity and home, is found in the English satirist John Marston's play, "Histrio-mastix", first performed in the 16C:-

"True charity beginneth first at home,
Here in your bosomes dwell your deere-lov'd hearts,
Feed them with joy; first crowne their appetites,
And then cast water on the care-scroch'd face,
Let your own longings first be satisfied,
All other pity is but foolish pryde."

Sir Thomas Browne was the first to put the expression into print, in the form we now use, in "Religio Medici" 1642, "Charity begins at home, is the voice of the world, yet is to every man his greatest enemy."

It is generally considered that the charitable work that we undertake, should be done in a confidential manner. Aristotle (384-322 BC), stated that there is no virtue in undue humility. The wearing of T-shirts advertising the charity being collected for, either in a running event, or just a collecting tin, I personally see no harm in. Generally, salaries paid to charitable organisations, should I feel be kept

to a reasonable level, and reflect the breadth of responsibilities that are involved.

In Timothy I (Ch6 verses 15-20), I believe we are told of the dual purpose as follows: if we are well off, we should give not only from our own riches, but of the provisions of God. To quote him: "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share. Thus storing up for themselves, of good foundations for the future, so that they may take hold of the life, that really is life".

I believe that gifts to others as charitable aid, should not be seen as creating an obligation for the donors. This is a point that arises in some commentaries on Foreign Aid, e.g. what do we expect, if anything for the aid we have supplied. Aid we supply as a country, maybe in the form of medical aid, agricultural aid or industrial aid.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616), makes, I believe, a good point in 'Timon of Athens' Act 1: "Tis not enough to help the feeble up, But to support him after." This reminds me of one of the salient points, when we say, "It is better to teach people to fish, than just supply them with fish."

So when we decide to support a charity, what are the signs we should be looking for. Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013), made a very good point about the story of "The Good Samaritan" in that it was not just physical assistance that was provided, but also funds for helping his recovery.

We do, I think, need to find charities where our money is most needed, and that has the administration structure to ensure its impact. When it comes down to it, in reality since it is not easy to check out a charity's actions, our giving is probably based more on emotional grounds than anything else.



Warm Welcome

During the winter months Birkdale Community Hub and Library in Birkdale village was part of the Sefton the Warm Spaces initiative which ran until April, the library is very pleased to be able to continue to provide a place where members of our community can come to meet and chat with others with **Warm Welcome**.



Warm Welcome is held every Thursday between 10 and 4 pm, is free to use and open to everyone. It offers a welcoming and relaxed place for you to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits, read newspapers and magazines and browse the many books we have at our library.

We meet in our spacious, bright upstairs meeting room and, weather permitting, visitors can also enjoy the outdoor seating area known as The Sidings. All areas are fully accessible. We look forward to seeing you there.

Birkdale Community Hub and Library is based in The Stationmaster's House, adjacent to Birkdale station. The library is free to join and in addition to the main library we have a library room at Birkdale Methodist Church where you can also browse the shelves and borrow and return books. We also offer a home visit lending service.

A range of activities take place at the library, such as Knit and Natter, held on Tuesdays at the library and on Wednesdays at the church library room, shared reading, guitar and Spanish classes and for children, Storytime and Lego club on Saturday mornings, all held at the library. Local councillors and Birkdale's community police officer also hold drop-in session at the library.

For more information about our facilities, opening hours, how to join the library and to get involved in any of the activities, call in or 'phone the library on 01704 566992.

Birkdale Community Hub & Library, 2 Liverpool Road, Southport. PR8 4AR. 01704 566992

Website: www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thestationmastershouse>

The story behind the hymn: Lord, for the years

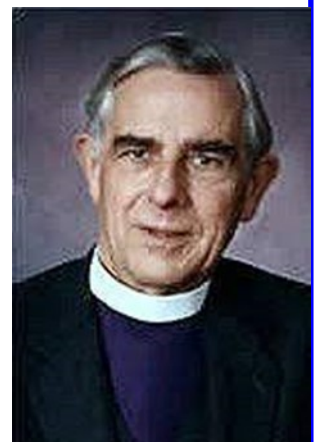
This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the **Revd Timothy Dudley Smith**, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for the Queen herself. She did indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...



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

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.

Can it really be that long ago....?

75 years ago, on 21st June 1948 the ship HMT Empire Windrush docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

Also 75 years ago, from 24th June 1948 to 12th May 1949 the Berlin Blockade and Airlift took place. The Soviet Union began a rail, road and canal blockade of Berlin, cutting off all routes between West Germany and West Berlin. The Allies launched a massive airlift – over 200,000 flights – to take in nearly 9,000 tons of supplies each day.

65 years ago, on 9th June 1958 London's Gatwick Airport was officially opened.

50 years ago, on June 27th 1973 "Live & Let Die", the 8th James Bond Film, and the 1st to star Roger Moore opened in cinemas

40 years ago in June 1983 Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party won a landslide general election victory and the first episode of *Blackadder* was shown on BBC 1.

30 years ago in June 1993 comedians Bernard Bresslaw and Bernard Manning both died.

20 years ago in June 2003 President Putin of Russia made a state visit to the UK. If he did this now he would be arrested as a war criminal!

10 years ago in June 2013 the House of Lords voted in favour of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, paving the way for same sex marriage in the UK although not in the Church of England).

Greetings from all of us here at Revive!

These past two months were full of blessings having some of our children being reintegrated and 3 new babies have arrived. A few days after they arrived all of them had to be hospitalized with severe respiratory problems. The three of them were in 2 different hospitals, meaning that we had to relocate all of our staff to the hospitals, leaving the baby house unstaffed. We needed to rearrange our routine, change our tasks and during the weekend some of our staff members looked after the remaining children in their own homes. Today as I am writing this letter to you, all of them are back from the hospital and are receiving medication at Revive to help their recovery.

Back to their biological family

We have had several children being reintegrated with their biological families.

Our Stories

"Today I understand the importance of a family!"

Eduarda was just 10 when she came to Revive after being abused and incarcerated in her family's home. She was frightened, but soon made good friendships with the staff and other girls. She went back to school and was able to have a normal childhood. Thanks to the Revive team she was able to go live in safety with her grandmother in another city, where she has been for the past 9 years. Eduarda returned to Revive recently, not as a vulnerable child, but as a young woman with a child of her own.

"I'm so grateful for the guidance Revive gave me back then, it still is affecting my decisions for the future!"

It was great to see the transformation in her life. She was able to speak to the current girls at the house sharing her experience and encouraging them.

Help Revive impact the lives of more vulnerable children - restoring lives and renewing hope - just like Eduarda.

Revive Foster Care

These past 2 months have been busy for the foster team! 6 weeks ago we placed a 6 year old girl in a new foster family, and we are happy to announce that this week she was reintegrated with her biological family. We are really pleased with how she is doing and also how the new foster family adapted to their new role!

We are so happy that we have been able to help this little girl live with her older sister after such a positive foster placement!

The Community Market

This month the community market celebrated it's **first birthday!** We are so grateful to God for the partnership with Agua Viva church, our partners who donate food, the volunteers who serve faithfully and for the lives of the 22 families we serve. Thank you for all of your prayers and support for our work in this community.

Alpha update

Daniel and Sarah have really enjoyed leading the Youth Alpha course at Revive with the teenage girls. They are nearly at the end of the course and have two more sessions to go.

The course will end as it began, at their home in the countryside, where the girls will watch the final video and then have an afternoon of fun and games which they are really looking forward to! During the course, all the girls have enjoyed the videos and the discussions, and some of them made wholehearted commitments to follow Jesus. Please join us in praying for that and that the girls will continue to grow in their relationship with God.

We pray that that as you bless the work of Revive, you in turn will be blessed knowing that you are playing a part in the big picture of **bringing God's love in action to children, women and families here in the city of Olinda.**

As ever, please do share the work of Revive with your friends and family. We rely on the kindness and generosity of people like you to do the work that we do, and your prayer and provision is most appreciated.

Every Blessing, The Revive Team

Church Hall Users (Note: with the exception of the Friday Film Nights the activities listed below are NOT run by St John's Church. They are run by independent groups who use our hall). Contact details are provided in case readers wish to enquire about or join these groups.

Monday

9:45am-10:30am (6weeks- pre-walking) and 11:00am-11:45am (6months - pre-school).

Moo Music Southport and Preston

Fun, interactive music classes for babies, toddlers and preschool age children.

Contact: <https://moo-music.co.uk/areas/sp/>

1.30pm to 3.30pm **Ainsdale Bridge Club**

Ideal for keen players of the game and those who want to improve their play within a friendly setting of duplicate bridge.

Contact: Dave Pountney 01704 577843 or via email:

jandavepountney@gmail.com

7.00pm to 8.00pm **Zumba@Fitness**

A fun and friendly class and a great workout.

No dance experience needed. All ages and all fitness levels welcome

Contact: Kay Bennett on 07716312909

Tuesday

4.30pm – 5.30pm **Kiwi Sports Coaching**

Tag Rugby class for boys and girls aged 5-7

School holiday classes sometimes available

Contact: shanehuttonnz@gmail.com

7.30pm – 9.00pm **Connected Voices Choir**

We are a non-audition choir for adults, singing a range of uplifting music – from pop and rock to soul and funk. We are open to anyone who loves singing, whether they think they can sing or not!

Contact: info@connectedvoices.co.uk or for more information visit the website

www.connectedvoices.co.uk

Wednesday

Morning, monthly class. **All Aglow Weaning Workshop**

Start your baby on solid food with confidence with an interactive, relaxed and informal class. Suitable for babies 4-10 months.

Contact: Jennifer@allaglow.co.uk

10.30 – 12 noon

2nd Wednesday of the month only. **Elderberries Gardening Club**

A social gardening club, where speakers are invited to talk on various topics, and visits and social events throughout the year.

Contact: Shelley Lewis Lavender on 01704 560690 or via email:

elderberriesgardening@gmail.com

7pm – 8pm **Functional Yoga**

Exploring joint mobilisation, functional movement and relaxation - suitable for beginners.

Contact Lindsay: 07747038613 or email lindsay@wobblytreeyoga.com

Thursday

11am - 12noon **Daisy Baby Tinies & Wrigglers**

A weekly baby class to help you learn tools such as baby massage, yoga, rhythm, rhyme, story and sensory experiences to help aid your baby's development with ease.

For all babies from 6 weeks old.

Contact: Emma Lowe – 07866926223

6.00-9.00pm: **St John's Rainbows (6.00-7.00pm) St John's Brownies (6.00-7.15pm) and Girl Guides (7.15-9.00pm).**

Contact: Janette Law 01704 565951

Friday

6.30-9.30pm Once per month **St John's Film Nights**

A chance to see some great modern films. Tea, coffee and homemade cake available.

Contact: Christine Baker 01704 560518

Saturday

7.30 – 9.00pm **Sequence Dancing**

Traditional & Modern Sequence & Ballroom Dancing. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome.

Contact: Phone or text: John Gaffney 07786 640683. Email: johngaffney3@icloud.com

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

To Stuart Baker on 1st June
Jan Ball on 15th June
Doris Brookfield [90] on 23rd June
John Dyson on 28th June

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

The Last Laughs

Better by half

As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: "You are better looking than half the women here."

**

Reasons for marriage

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, "Did you marry Dad because he was a vicar?"

"Not at all," I replied.

"Did you marry him because he was good-looking?"

"No, not that either," I replied.

"Did you marry him for his money?"

"Definitely not," I laughed. "He didn't have any."

"So," he concluded sadly, "you just felt sorry for him."

**

Gardening

Overheard at my gardening club meeting: "I never knew what compost was until I met my husband."

**

Marriage

During a heartfelt chat with her friend about relationships, my wife sighed and said, "You know, if something happened to Lloyd, I don't think I could ever marry again."

Her friend nodded sympathetically. "I know what you mean," she said. "Once is more than enough."

**

Laundry

I often do the laundry for our church, and one day I decided to do the altar cloth with a lavender-scented detergent. When our minister next walked past the altar, he sniffed in bewilderment. "What's this?" he asked.

"Guess," I said coyly.

"I have no idea," he said. "It smells like the stuff my daughter uses to line the hamster's cage."

DIY

Our churchwarden has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church. For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that she once tried to fix. So, our vicar wasn't surprised the day he found her in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "This thing won't cooperate," she complained.

The vicar thought for a moment: "Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"

**

Find and replace?

A minister whom I know of uses a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalise each service, he enters a 'find and replace' command. The computer then finds the name of the deceased from the previous funeral and replaces it with the name of the deceased for the upcoming one. Not long ago, the minister told the computer to find the name 'Mary' and replace it with 'Edna'. The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the congregation intoned the Apostles' Creed. "Jesus Christ," they read from the pre-printed programme, "born of the Virgin Edna..."

**

Plant

During our minister's very lengthy sermon, a large plant suddenly fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the floor. He smiled sheepishly. "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep!"

**

This next one...

A local DJ was introducing a record at our annual church fete/parish party. "This next one," he said, "is for Charlotte, a choir member, who is a hundred and eleven! Hey, Charlotte, congratulations on a ripe old age!"

There was a short pause and then the DJ said in a somewhat more subdued voice, "I'm sorry, I got it wrong. This next one is for Charlotte, who is ill."



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