



# 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. 248**

**AUGUST 2023**

## ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

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



The poet Richard Owen Cambridge once said to 18th century gardener Lancelot "Capability" Brown "I hope I die before you. I want to see heaven before you have improved it."

He designed more than 170 parks and was nicknamed "Capability" because he would tell his clients that their property had capability for improvement.

He had some critics. His contemporary Uvedale Price, in *An Essay on the Picturesque*, likened Brown's clumps of trees to "so many puddings turned out of one common mould."

Here at St John's we are very fortunate to have had our lawns mowed by David Wall for many years and more recently by David Budworth. But there is more that needs to be done – there is capability for improvement! – and it would be very helpful if some of our readers would be willing to help with doing it.

The shrubs need to be trimmed and shaped from time to time, the borders need to be weeded, and the areas at the rear of the church hall which were cleared three years ago also need to be weeded. Whilst it would be nice to set aside a day when a team of people will come and do a 'blitz' this is not really the answer. The grounds require regular attention if we are to keep them looking tidy.

Whenever volunteers are sought for anything it is possible that the words will fall on stony ground and be ignored or forgotten. But amongst us all at St John's although we may not have Capability Brown in our congregation we may have our own capability to help.

If **YOU** are willing to assist to keep your church grounds looking tidy please contact the wardens.

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

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

Priest (retired):	Rev. Roy Doran (572387)	Church of England	
Reader:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)	Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)
Churchwardens:	Clive Morris (564206) Tim Wright (553977)	Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton (564737)
Wardens' Assistant::	Miss Lucy Wright (553977)	Girl Guides	Mrs. Janette Law (565951)
PCC Treasurer:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)	St. John's Brownies:	Mrs. Helen Jones and
PCC Secretary:	Mrs. Sally Wright (553977)	Brownie Guiders:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris (564206)	St. John's Rainbows:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris (563789)	Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside (568874)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Clive Morris (564206) Tim Wright (553977) Stuart Baker (560518)	Magazine Editor:	Stuart Baker (560518)
Safeguarding & Recruitment:	Mrs. Abbie Holden (07961003359)	Magazine Printer:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)
		Notice boards, I.T, Website developer, Publicity designer:	Mrs. Sally Wright (553977)
		Buildings Inspector:	David Halsall

## St John's PCC Update

The PCC met on Monday 10 July. The main discussion centred on the work needed on the west wall and window (the window above the church's War Memorial), which has been considered for a number of years now, and repairs to the west wall of the church hall. Having received another estimate for the remedial work it was decided that the work should go ahead as soon as practicable and spending of up to £35,000 (to include scaffolding) was authorised. This work will involve repairing some parts of the sandstone tracery in the large window, repointing the brickwork on the west elevation, and replacing some bricks which have deteriorated. In addition there is a need for some repointing of the bricks at high level on the west wall of the church hall. A gift day will be held (details will be announced in due course) and the possibility of making an application for a grant from National Churches Trust will be explored although we may not satisfy the criteria. A large part of the cost will have to be taken out of the church's reserves.

The PCC is grateful to David Budworth for taking over mowing the lawns but more volunteers are needed for the gardening. (see page 1)

Our vacancy for the role of vicar will be advertised again in September and the vision document and parish profile will be updated.

*Minutes of PCC meetings are displayed on the noticeboard in the church porch. Please speak to Sally (PCC Secretary) or Christine (PCC Chairman) if you have anything you would like considering by the PCC.*

## Thursday Evening Prayers

In August most of our worship leaders will be absent on holiday at various overlapping times and it has been decided that our fortnightly Thursday evening prayer sessions on zoom will not be held in August.



**We shall resume the prayer sessions on 7th and 21st September.**

### SAD NEWS:

Cathy Leffler's father passed away recently after a long illness. Cathy had been helping her mother to look after him. We send our condolences to Cathy, Jeremy and all their family at this sad time. A thanksgiving and memorial service will be held on 1st September at Okehampton, Devon.



St John's Church Birkdale

# BIBLE STUDY GROUP

**Not meeting in August.**

**Will resume on 13th September**

2-4pm

St John's small hall

*We believe in  
the power of  
prayer*

## PRAYER TIME @ ST JOHN'S

Led by the leadership team

**Not meeting in August.  
Will resume on 7th & 21st  
September**

**SEE WEBSITE FOR ZOOM DETAILS**

# Growth Groups

**Not meeting in August.  
Will resume on 13th September  
at 7.30pm at 32 Hartley  
Crescent**

*Finding out more  
together*



WE'D LOVE YOU TO JOIN US



**FRIDAY**

*Coffee, Cake & Chat*

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

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BIRKDALE

MONTHLY

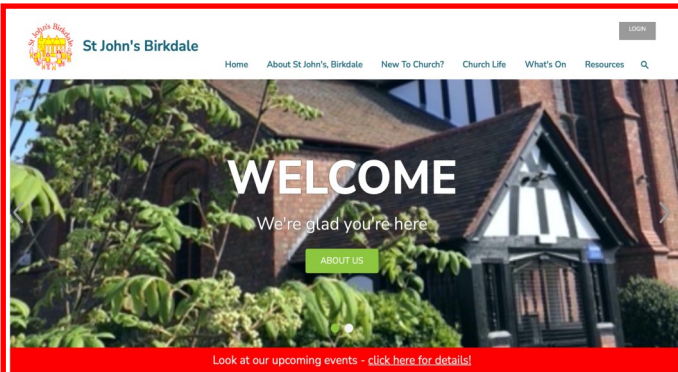
2ND FRIDAYS

10.30AM

**MEETING on Friday  
11th August.  
Do come and join us: we'd  
love to see you!**



# WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S



## Visit our website

[stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk](http://stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk)

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

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



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

14 July

29 September

27 October

24 November

15 December

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 Fair & Afternoon Tea

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  
Christmas Fair

Saturday 2 December 10-3pm

## 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 23rd September  
Bowling and Nando's

St John's Church, Birkdale



ST JOHN'S CHURCH BIRKDALE

# HARVEST SUPPER

*Friday 22 September  
@ 7pm in the hall*

**COME AND JOIN US FOR  
CHICKEN CASSEROLE  
AND APPLE PIE  
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**

**TICKETS £10  
FROM CHRISTINE OR SALLY**

Please let us know of any food allergies when booking

Worship on the  
Ninth Sunday after  
Trinity

**SUNDAY 6th AUGUST: 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 the Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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  
Sally's talk:**

**Obedience**

### **The Reading: 1 Samuel ch.15 vv.17-23**

17 And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.

18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?"

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

22 And Samuel said,

"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king."



Worship on the Tenth  
Sunday after Trinity

**SUNDAY 13th AUGUST**  
**10.30am service IN CHURCH**  
**and via zoom & phone.**

## Collect for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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  
Christine's Talk:**

**Wisdom**

## The Reading: James ch.1 vv.5-8

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Sixty years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The civil rights rally was attended by about 200,000 supporters, including many A-list film celebrities released temporarily by their studios.



His words influenced the Federal government to take more direct action to create racial equality, in for instance the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

King had been advised not to use the Dream format at Washington. He had used the idea before, and his adviser, the Revd Wyatt Tee Walker, described it as "hackneyed and trite". The idea was to use a new speech with the theme "normalcy never again". But King was prompted by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson to re-use the Dream idea, and he went ahead with it, much to Walker's dismay. But it had a huge impact and is now regarded as perhaps one of the most influential speeches in American history.

Martin Luther King Jr, born in 1929, was an American Baptist minister who became one of the most prominent leaders in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination, apparently by James Earl Ray, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The autopsy revealed that although he was only 39 years old, King "had the heart of a 60-year-old". He had said shortly before being shot that he was not afraid of dying.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1964, King had won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance.

Worship on the Eleventh  
Sunday after Trinity

**SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST**  
**10.30am service IN CHURCH**

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

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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  
Lucy's talk:**

**Love for the Lord**

### **The Reading: John ch.21 vv. 1-17**

1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way.

2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No."

6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.

14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."



Worship on the Twelfth  
Sunday after Trinity

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

## Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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:**

**Love for Others**

## The Reading: Matthew ch.22 vv.34-40

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



Christian Aid has been working "around the clock" with its partners in Ukraine to make sure fresh water supplies are reaching survivors, after the Nova Kakhovka dam was recently destroyed. It is also providing humanitarian supplies to people who are displaced across, or who had to leave, the affected areas of southern Ukraine.

Iryna Dobrohorska, Christian Aid's Ukraine Response Director, said: "The scale of the challenge is huge, especially with the danger of coming under artillery fire."

In its efforts to respond, Christian Aid has renewed its emergency appeal for Ukraine. Funds will go to the charity's partners in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the full impact of the destruction of the dam is still to be assessed. The UN fears it could be an environmental as well as humanitarian disaster.

More details at: [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals). **And See page 10 for information.**



## UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

**The destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam has displaced thousands of people. We urgently need your prayers, financial donations and donations of aid, so that our teams in Ukraine can help those in need.**



### Practical Aid Priorities List

**Food:** Pasta, rice, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned veg, flour, cooking oil, salt, biscuits (with 1 year's best before date).

**Medical:** First aid kits, plasters, bandages, dressings, gauze, surgical gloves, antiseptic creams, paracetamol, ibuprofen, Calpol etc.

**Toiletries:** Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, flannels, shampoo, sanitary towels, nappies, incontinence pads.

**Clothing and Footwear:** for all ages.

**Financial donations can be made through the 'Donate' page on our website [www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk](http://www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk). For further information please contact the office tel: 01772 611000 Email: [office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk)**

Charity Registration No. 1086597

### The need continues ... please help

Leave your donations in the church porch any Sunday between 9.45-11.45am and we will get them to the local drop off point.

Don't take donations directly to the warehouse.

*Please note we can only accept the smaller items from the list*



*Thank You*





**CHURCHES together in BIRKDALE**

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# **PRAAYER TIME**

**Meeting 1st Monday of the Month @ 10.30am**

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**4 September - St John's Church hall**

**2 October - Liverpool Road  
Methodist Church**

**6 November - 66 Hartley Crescent**

**4 December - 32 Hartley Crescent**

**Please join us to pray for our  
churches, community and  
our future together**

## The Transfiguration

In August the church calendar commemorates the Transfiguration. The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. It may have been Mount Tabor, or else one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon.

Suddenly, Jesus is transfigured. His face shone, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared, and a bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. A voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Moses represented the Law, and Elijah the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But now the Law and the Prophets have found their fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. The written Word and the spoken Word have handed over to the Living Word.

Transfiguration

Jesus

Mountain

Tabor

Hermon

High

Shine

Face

Written

Living

Cloud

Transformed

White

Dazzling

Elijah

Moses

Dwelling

Mankind

Law

Prophets

Peter

James

John

Fear

Glory



Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P. (As Soon As Possible)? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives. Yet there is another way to think of A.S.A.P, a way which might help us deal with those difficult times in our daily lives.

When there's work to do, and deadlines to meet, and your colleagues are rushing around, here's what you can do to help: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer*. When your worries mount up and you don't know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer*.

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So – call Him! A.S.A.P.!

## How well do you know Lancashire?

(This quiz has been submitted by Judith Foster and it is published with the kind permission of Southport U3A and the editor of its newsletter, Ian Homewood, to whom we express our thanks).

Answers on page 25

- 1 Camilla Cabello, Pierce Brosnan and James Corden were in Blackpool recently, filming for which Disney remake?  
a) Sleeping Beauty b) Mulan c) Cinderella d) Beauty and the Beast
- 2 **In which Lancashire town was the Cooperative movement founded?**
- 3 What is used to top a Lancashire Hotpot?
- 4 **Which Lancashire city was the first in the UK to open a KFC?**  
a) **Preston** b) Lancaster
- 5 Which Mill in Lancashire was featured in the Oscar-winning film, 'The King's Speech'?  
a) Queen Street Mill b) Helmshore Mills
- 6 **Preston is home to Europe's largest what?**  
a) **Roundabout** b) **Bus Station** c) **Train station**
- 7 How long is the stretch of the infamous Blackpool Illuminations?  
a) 5.5 miles b) 6.2 miles c) 4.8 miles
- 8 **If you were to paint Blackpool Tower, it would take roughly 7 years True or False**
- 9 The 'Lancashire Rose' was originally pink, but changed to red in 1832  
True or False
- 10 **Which TV phenomenon was filmed at Hoghton tower last year?**  
a) **Peaky Blinders** b) **The Crown** c) **Sherlock** d) **Luther**
- 11 Yvette Fielding, presenter of Most Haunted, claimed this location was the scariest place she'd ever filmed - can you guess the location?  
a) Lancaster Castle b) Samlesbury Hall c) Winter Gardens, Morecambe  
d) Pendle Hill
- 12 **In Lancashire, what is Christmas cake often eaten with?**
- 13 What type of dancing was performed by the Eight Lancashire Lads, a troupe Charlie Chaplin joined before he was twelve?
- 14 **Blackpool opened the world's first electric street tramway True or False**
- 15 Which infamous event took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, in 1819, when cavalry charged into a large crowd?



## A Blast from the Past

*Sheila Matthews, now living in Yorkshire, recently sent an email to the Editor which may be of interest to those with long memories of St John's:*

I wonder if those at St John's with memories as long as or longer than ours might be interested in an update. Keith and I went to choral evensong at York Minster yesterday. With the cathedral choir on holiday, their place was taken by the choir of St Mary's episcopal cathedral, Glasgow. Their choirmaster is **Frikki Walker**, who was organist at St John's when I arrived (in 1980). He was an 'A' level student of Keith's at KGV but got his choir and organ training and much more from Holy Trinity.

We barely recognised Frikki, but had a good chat. He's been at St Mary's for 27 years and starting to think about retirement. That really makes us feel old! St Mary's have a good website and even a choir newsletter for anyone who might be interested in following them. They've done recordings and broadcast on the radio. Well worth a listen, and great to see how well things have turned out for Frikki.

Sheila

*Editor's footnote (with acknowledgments to St Mary's Cathedral website):*

Frikki Walker is one of Scotland's busiest and most experienced Choral Conductors.

He has been Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, since 1996, and under his leadership the choir has more than doubled in size, and now includes a section for young choristers aged 7-16.

Frikki has recorded four CDs with the choir, and the choir have now featured on over 50 Radio and TV programmes including, Daily Service and Morning Worship on BBC Radio 4, Sunday Half-hour on Radio 2, and a wide variety of special programmes on BBC Radios 2, 4, Scotland and the World Service. St Mary's Cathedral Choir have also appeared many times on BBC Television's "Songs of Praise".



An accomplished organist, Frikki has given recitals in parish churches, concert halls and Cathedrals, all over Britain and beyond, including such venues as the Caird Hall in Dundee, St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Chester Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where he has played more than fifty recitals in the daily organ concerts' series there. He has also played in Salzburg, Holland, and in major churches in his home country, Iceland.

As a composer, he has written a huge range of choral music and many arrangements, some of which are published, and several of which have been broadcast on Radio and TV, and sung and played in schools, churches and cathedrals all over the world. His "Camerata Carols" have twice featured in the RSNOC Christmas Concerts.

*It is recorded in St John's parish magazines which have kindly been lent to the Editor by Val Warren that Frikki Walker was our organist between March and December 1980.*

*As Bruce Forsyth might have said: "Didn't he do well!"*

## Reflections, by Doris Brookfield

I sat by my pond and watched the ripples on the water, so calming with the light beneath constantly changing. One minute dark and murky, the next clear and bright. So tranquil and calming, I felt my eyes closing and I fell asleep.

I floated in my sleep, then I was dreaming of days gone by when I was young. So many thoughts drifting through my head, of the life I have had, and the people I had met along the way, and places I had been to.

Just like my pond, so many reflections changing constantly drifting through my mind, some dark while others where bright.

My head felt like it was drowning in my dreams. How long I slept, I do not know, but I woke up feeling cold. Then suddenly the sun came out from behind a cloud and I was warm again. My pond was full of light and the ripples cleared and I could see deep inside. Just like my mind, taking me back in time when my life was carefree and full of hope.

I smiled to myself at my reflection in the water, an old lady was looking at me. How did I get to be so old? But just like the pond, we all constantly change with time. I was reaching my final years and I felt happy. It was time to reflect on the 90 years I had lived, with life changing as the years pass by.

So I sat up and moved indoors as the clouds had chased the sun away and I felt cold. Time now to move on and face my final years, no matter what lies ahead, whatever dark or bright days lie ahead for me.

### **Unmarried couples are almost three times more likely to have split by the time their child turns 14 than those who married before the birth, a study has found.**

Sixty per cent of couples who cohabited but never married had separated by the time their first child turned 14, compared with 21 per cent of those who had married before the birth, according to the Marriage Foundation report. The proportion rose to 32 per cent of couples who married after the birth.

The researchers found that 46 per cent of 14-year-olds in the study were not living with both natural parents. A similar figure was found in a review for the Children's Commissioner last year. The Marriage Foundation report tracked 4,476 mothers with children born between 2000 and 2002, from the Millennium Cohort Study.

Researchers found that by the age of three, 26 per cent of children were not living with both natural parents, rising to 46 per cent at the age of 14.

Among the 54 per cent of children who were still living with both natural parents at 14, some 84 per cent lived with parents who were married.

Harry Benson, research director of the Marriage Foundation, said: "Marriage provides relationship clarity, and encourages good things like sacrifice and forgiveness. "This is why couples who have tied the knot tend to be more stable and more likely to weather the challenges following that life throws at them ... why marriage accounts for lower levels of family breakdown than other less stable forms of relationship. No wonder a huge majority of couples who are still together by the time their children become teenagers are married."

Benson said that the report challenged the government to do more to support marriage. The Marriage Foundation think tank seeks to improve public understanding of marriage and to reduce the numbers of people drawn into the family justice system.

(Source: *The Times newspaper*, 24th July 2023)

# REVIVE INTERNATIONAL

## RESTORING LIVES, RENEWING HOPE

### Revive Foster Care Service

The biggest challenge we face as we develop our fostering service is recruiting foster families. Up until a couple of years ago almost no one in our city knew what fostering was. Since we started a service Revive has tirelessly been raising awareness about fostering as the first step towards recruiting families. Over the years we have been all over the place! Churches, universities, local government and social services meetings to name a few and we have always maintained a steady flow of content on our social media platforms.

Over the past couple of months, we have increased our focus on raising awareness in order to recruit families. We have spoken at church services, parent teacher meetings at local schools, been on the Radio and on the TV twice! And we will continue to do everything we can to see the most vulnerable children in our city placed in brilliant foster families! **Please pray** that as we plant seed, God would water them and we would see more and more families interested in becoming foster carers.

### Community Market

We have lots of things going on with the market too! Exciting news to start; that a few of the ladies that had started going along to Agua Viva church through the connection with the market were baptised a few weeks ago! We praise God for this, and pray that He will continue to work through the market to enable people to find out more about Jesus.

**Thank you as ever for all your support.**

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.**



Ladies from the market getting baptised



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## Strawberry Tea

On Saturday 8th July St John's held an afternoon Strawberry Tea. It was to have been in the back garden at Christine and Stuart's house but the weather forecast for the afternoon was so unfavourable that a late decision was made to relocate it to the church gardens which would give easy access to the church hall in the event of rain.

Nearly fifty people attended, including members of St John's and some very welcome friends and guests from other Birkdale churches.



These pictures show how it was and how it might have been! We were quite lucky, in the end. The rain held off for a couple of hours and it was not necessary to seek shelter in the hall. Christine and Stuart thank everyone who helped to set the tables, move furniture, serve the tea and then clear away. Despite the ominous weather we all enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.







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

## On why it is so hard to read

The Rectory,  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your suggestion that every month at clergy meetings someone should review a book of theology they have been reading was bound to be greeted with uneasy resistance. It would mean that the majority would have to start *opening* books, rather than just occasionally dusting them. Possessing books does not necessarily imply that they are ever read.

Your high church colleagues will only read the Racing News, low church members the Railway Review, liberals the Knitting Weekly and those with tendencies towards non-conformism, the Vegetarian Times. Clerical studies may be lined with books, but they are largely for effect – and to hide damp patches on the wallpaper. Anything with hard covers will have been bought with the best of intentions – but somehow the vicarage lawn or the church hall drains will have taken precedence. And from what I know of your colleague over at St Crispin's, the only books he will buy will be to colour in.

I do try to keep up with my reading, but sleep mercifully intervenes after the first 10 minutes. On those days when I sit by my study window, so passers-by can see me deeply occupied in intellectual activity, it is most useful that my large tome on the letters of Eusebius can easily conceal an Agatha Christie inside it.

I confess that I was once gloriously put down when I tried to impress one of our blue stockings by mentioning a new edition of a Dostoevsky novel. She replied: "I have never read Dostoevsky in translation." It only confirmed my suspicions that she had worked as a Russian spy in earlier years.

I was hugely impressed when, during the bitter cold of last winter, the Earl of Stowe, whose library would comfortably contain one of our cathedrals, told me he was slowly getting through its contents of tens of thousands of volumes. It was only some time later that I discovered he meant he threw the occasional one on the fire, when he was running low on wood.

No, my dear Darren, the only literary activities that will spark interest will be crosswords for the majority, or diocesan reports for the truly dedicated – with weighty tomes being used as door stops.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

**"Slavery was legal. Marginalization of women was legal. Colonial exploitation was legal. That something has become law does not make it good or right. A dark day for our nation as our hostility to the refugees becomes legal."**

***John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool, Twitter, 18 July***



## Local Landmarks: The Palace Hotel

*(This article is included with the kind permission of its author, Henry James. It has been published in "Birkdale Buzz", a community magazine sponsored by Birkdale Community Hub and Library. We are very grateful to Henry and to Birkdale Buzz for permitting us to print this interesting insight into local history. When it was published in Birkdale Buzz it contained an image of the ground plan of the Palace Hotel which we have not been able to reproduce with clarity, so with Henry's permission we include in its place an old photograph showing the hotel which some of our readers may remember. Ed)*

In the last issue of the Birkdale Buzz we looked at the village's former libraries, and in this edition, we turn our attention to another lost Birkdale landmark - The Palace Hotel.

The hotel opened in 1866, costing £60,000 to build (equivalent to over £9 million today) with 75 bedrooms and a huge ballroom. It was situated in 20 acres off Weld Road, between Westcliffe Road and Palace Road. At one stage it had hydropathic facilities to compare with the nearby Smedley Hydro and from 1884 it had its own train station on the Cheshire Lines extension.

Manchester merchants funded the construction of the building to provide a destination for businessmen. Families coming for a holiday in the resort were less attracted to the hotel, finding it rather isolated from the town.



The venue was given to the American Red Cross in 1942 and Clark Gable came to Southport in 1943 to film a documentary called "Combat America", which showed how injured American soldiers were looked after. It was partly filmed at the Palace Hotel and can be viewed on YouTube.

A few years later the Palace Hotel hosted another famous American: Frank Sinatra who stayed while performing at the Liverpool Empire in 1953. During another stay at the hotel when Sinatra was doing a season at Blackpool he called for a taxi and was picked up by Ginger McCain, the Red Rum trainer. Sinatra wanted to be driven to somewhere that sold a hairbrush. The everyday life of a star!

Towards the end of its life in 1961 the Palace was in the news for being the scene of a murder. More happily, the hotel was the base for the Hungary football team competing in the 1966 World Cup, and the Norman Wisdom film "What's Good for the Goose" was filmed there in 1968/69, using several well-known amateur actors from the Southport area.

The final owners of the Palace were unable to restore the hotel's fortunes and the company went into liquidation in 1967. The building was demolished in 1969 after a period of strange events such as lifts working without power and reports of ghosts.

Today all that remains of the Palace Hotel is the Fishermen's Rest pub, which was originally the hotel's Coach House.

### Henry James

#### **Footnotes:**

*Henry refers to the film "What's Good for the Goose." One of the local thespians who appeared in the film was a very well-known local figure, Thelma Falls-Hand, who played the role of a bank clerk.*

*The Fishermen's Rest is named in tribute to the local fishermen who gave their lives serving as volunteer lifeboatmen. The building was used as a temporary mortuary for the bodies of 14 Southport lifeboatmen who drowned in the lifeboats disaster on 9 December 1886, when the sailing ship Mexico was driven aground near Southport by a storm. The bodies were viewed there by the jury of the hastily convened coroner's inquiry which was held at the Palace Hotel.*

## GOD in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'The Golden Fish' by Paul Klee (in the Hamburger Kunsthalle, image provided by Wikimedia Commons )

A few years ago, I was sponsored by the Mothers' Union in my diocese to go 'swimming with sharks' at the Blue Planet Aquarium near Chester. The prospect seemed daunting, but it proved to be a magical, memorable experience. When I went down into the water, it was like entering a new world – somehow both alien and attractive at the same time. Manta rays swam lazily by, and small fish gathered at my feet, inquisitive and waiting to be massaged by falling stones from my hand. The magic of that water-world is caught vividly in this month's painting, 'The Golden Fish' by Paul Klee.

Paul Klee was a Swiss painter who lived in Germany until he was expelled in 1933. He died seven years later, but in his lifetime produced some 9,000 works of art, each one displaying inventiveness and versatility. 'The Golden Fish,' painted in 1925, portrays a unique creature gliding serenely through its underwater kingdom. The gold scales, the red fins and the powerful eye provide a sharp contrast to the deep blue sea where other smaller fish are swimming to the edges of the canvas.

Is the artist showing us that secret, mysterious world that lies beneath the surface of the water, or is it simply an aquarium in his own house? Whichever it is, he is introducing us to a world that we, who live on the solid land beneath our feet, take for granted.

Seven tenths of our world is water, and our planet is really one gigantic aquarium. We can travel to the coasts of our island and see the great sea stretching out before us. It may bring to mind sandcastles and summer holidays, or a boat trip when the choppy waves made us feel queasy, or the memory of pirate stories about galleons and treasure, or the squawk of seagulls over our heads.



Here in this painting, Paul Klee is telling us something of the nobility and wonder of this primeval element.

The opening pages of Scripture introduce us to the great waters of Creation, when the wind of God swept over the face of the deep, and separated the seas from the dry land. On the fifth day God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,' and God saw that it was good.

Rupert Brooke in his poem, 'Heaven,' imagines that world of fishes and sea creatures pondering what is beyond this element of water, just as we on land ponder the future of our world.

*'Somewhere, beyond Space and Time,  
Is wetter water, slimier slime!  
And there (they trust) there  
swimmeth  
One Who swam ere rivers were  
begun,  
Immense, of fishy form and mind,  
Squamous, omnipotent and kind.  
And under that Almighty Fin  
The littlest fish may enter in...  
And in that Heaven of all their wish,  
There shall be no more land, say fish.'*

Poet and painter invite us to ponder the majestic glory of this element of sea and ocean which is part of God's good creation. In it we glimpse something of the wonder of life it contains and find ourselves echoing the psalmist in Psalm 104: 'Here is the immeasurable sea in which move creatures beyond number. Countless are the things thou hast made, O Lord. Thou hast made all by thy wisdom.'

# W CROSS R D

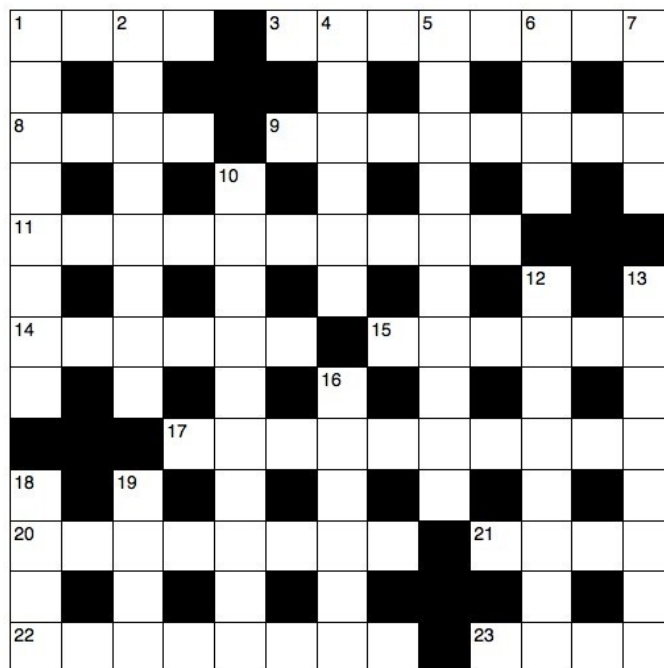
*Solution on page 25*

## Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)  
 3 See 1 Across  
 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)  
 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)  
 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)  
 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)  
 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)  
 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)  
 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)  
 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)  
 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)  
 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

## Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)  
 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)  
 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)  
 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)



- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)  
 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)  
 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)  
 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)  
 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)  
 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)  
 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — —, and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)  
 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

## In our Book of Remembrance in August

- 2nd Elizabeth Jackson, 1960  
 3rd Albert Wright, 1972  
 4th Ernest Wright, 1966  
 Robert Randles, 1999  
 6th Betty Hartwell, 2021  
 7th Betty Duffield, 2013  
 8th Joan Tait, 1993  
 9th Louisa Short, 2002  
 10th May Evans, 1996  
 11th Thomas Macfarlin, 1980  
 Anne Hall, 1997

- 13th Cecele Welch, 2010  
 15th Elizabeth Livesley, 1979  
 Henry Baker, 2007  
 17th James Foster, 1985  
 19th Joan Horrocks, 1990  
 24th Agnes Thomas, 1990  
 26th Richard Livesley, 1967  
 27th Eunice Wall, 1987

***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 used to believe that God was our judge. A God who knew all the secrets of our hearts. A God who loved us nonetheless. We don't believe in this God anymore. We believe in Rupert Murdoch. And it's not been a happy swap."

*Giles Fraser, priest and writer, UnHerd, 13 July*



Canon Paul Hardingham continues his new series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith. It will run throughout this year.

## Spiritual Disciplines – Rest

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28).

Today, the spiritual discipline of rest is a challenging one. We are pressured to cram more and more activities into fewer hours. This has been described as 'hurry sickness' and is an enemy of our spiritual life. August is a month for resting, and so is a good time to look at this discipline.

God instituted the discipline of rest in the creation of the world. He created everything in six days and rested on the seventh (Gen 2:3). He instituted the Sabbath, a weekly day of rest (Lev 23:3). However, it is helpful to draw a distinction between *busyness* and being *hurried*. Busyness is an outward condition, while hurry is about our inner state, resulting from too many competing priorities. Jesus was often busy but never hurried! What questions should we be asking about getting more rest?

### *Balancing Rest and Work:*

What is a helpful rhythm of work and rest in our lives? How can we take seriously the Sabbath principle of having one day a week to rest and not work? How might we use our time differently eg taking a long walk or having an unhurried conversation with a friend?

### *Using Our Leisure Time Creatively:*

When we actually take a break we often end up simply watching TV, surfing the net, shopping unnecessarily or eating when we are not hungry! Can we choose leisure activities that really refresh us? It's not a case of more leisure time, but using the time we have more creatively.

'The solution to an over busy life is not more time. It's to slow down and simplify our lives around what really matters.' (The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: John Mark Comer).



"But I said you'd be happy to lead a House Group this autumn"



**FRIDAY**

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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.

### Field Preaching

King Philip of Spain issued an Edict banning all Churches other than the Roman Catholic Church. In some areas the reformers outnumbered the Catholics by 5/6 to 1. In Flanders the Reformers met in encampments. The preaching was peaceful and all marched home peaceably. This spread throughout the Walloon Provinces and then to the Northern Netherlands. These preachings were attended by not only the Calvinists but also by Lutherans and Anabaptists although Calvinists were the most numerous and enthusiastic; it is said that the Lutherans were the richest. As the field preaching spread Count Louis of Nassau remarked it would be a hard nut to crack, and much turmoil lay ahead.

In the meantime his brother, The Prince of Orange, was doing the work that the Duchess should have been doing as he was still regarded as the only man who could control the rising tide of rebellion; however he did not have the sympathy of the people. The Duchess had sent a false report to King Philip stating that the Prince was intending to take over the whole territory, when in fact the Prince was still loyal to Philip.

In Brabant it was stated that the High Sheriff of Brabant was collecting troops to put down the field preaching, thus undoing the work the Prince had done to maintain peace. The Reformers' reply to this came two days later, with up to 25,000 (many armed) attending a field preaching. A stranger in the crowd started to challenge the preacher who was an ordinary humble man with no

scriptural training and was no match for his antagonist, who turned out to be a distinguished Dr of Divinity. The congregation attacked this so called Knight Errant of the Church who was arrested and imprisoned for his own safety; he was then driven out of the City after being severely rebuked by the Prince. The Regent, once again playing false, blamed the Reformers and threatened invasion by Spain. The Prince replied that it was the conduct of the Government that was at fault not the Reformers. Louis of Nassau said he was ready to fight any foreign army but would not kill his own people. The Regent was furious at this.

One city said to have the Noblest and Richest Temple in the world held a Church pageant. This took place with thousands standing by. Soon a mob of agitators began to scoff and shout, "Mayen, Mayen, (Mary, Mary), your hour has come." They attacked this magnificent Church, destroying statues, pictures, ornaments, organs, chalices of silver and gold. Pearls and rubies lay scattered in heaps, vestments and every Crucifix and Catholic symbol were destroyed. This started an orgy of destruction of 60 Churches over 2 days. It was only property and contents that were destroyed but not one person was abused, except for one looter who was caught and hung by the Reformers.

Convents and monasteries were then attacked and prisoners released. One was a monk who had been imprisoned for over ten years. A small company of peasants stood to defend themselves and attacked the marauders killing between 500 and 600 persons; their bodies were thrown in the river.

These riots proved to be disastrous for the Reformers who thought they had made a great victory. The Prince of Orange deplored the riots. The Regent was terrified and wanted to flee; Philip went into a rage declaring. "It shall cost them dear, I swear it.

*To be continued.*

## 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.*

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leaved campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.



What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**ACROSS:** 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

**DOWN:** 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.

### HOW WELL DO YOU

### KNOW LANCASHIRE?

- 1 c) Cinderella
- 2 **Rochdale**
- 3 Sliced Potatoes
- 4 **a)Preston**
- 5 a) Queen Street Mill
- 6 **b) Bus Station**
- 7 b) 6.2 miles
- 8 **True**

### ANSWERS

- 9 False
- 10 **a) Peaky Blinders**
- 11 d) Pendle Hill
- 12 **Cheese**
- 13 Clog dancing
- 14 **True**
- 15 The Peterloo Massacre



## Making Donations to St John's through online banking

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## 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](mailto:elderberriesgardening@gmail.com) or call Shelley Lewis-Lavender on [01704 560690](tel:01704560690).

## Welcome Spaces

Following on from Warmer Spaces, the Stationmaster's House will be open as a Welcome Space where people can gather for free in a safe, welcoming place to connect with others and enjoy a hot drink and a warm welcome.



**We will be open every Thursday from 10am - 4pm as a Welcome Space.**

Birkdale Community Hub & Library,  
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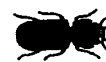
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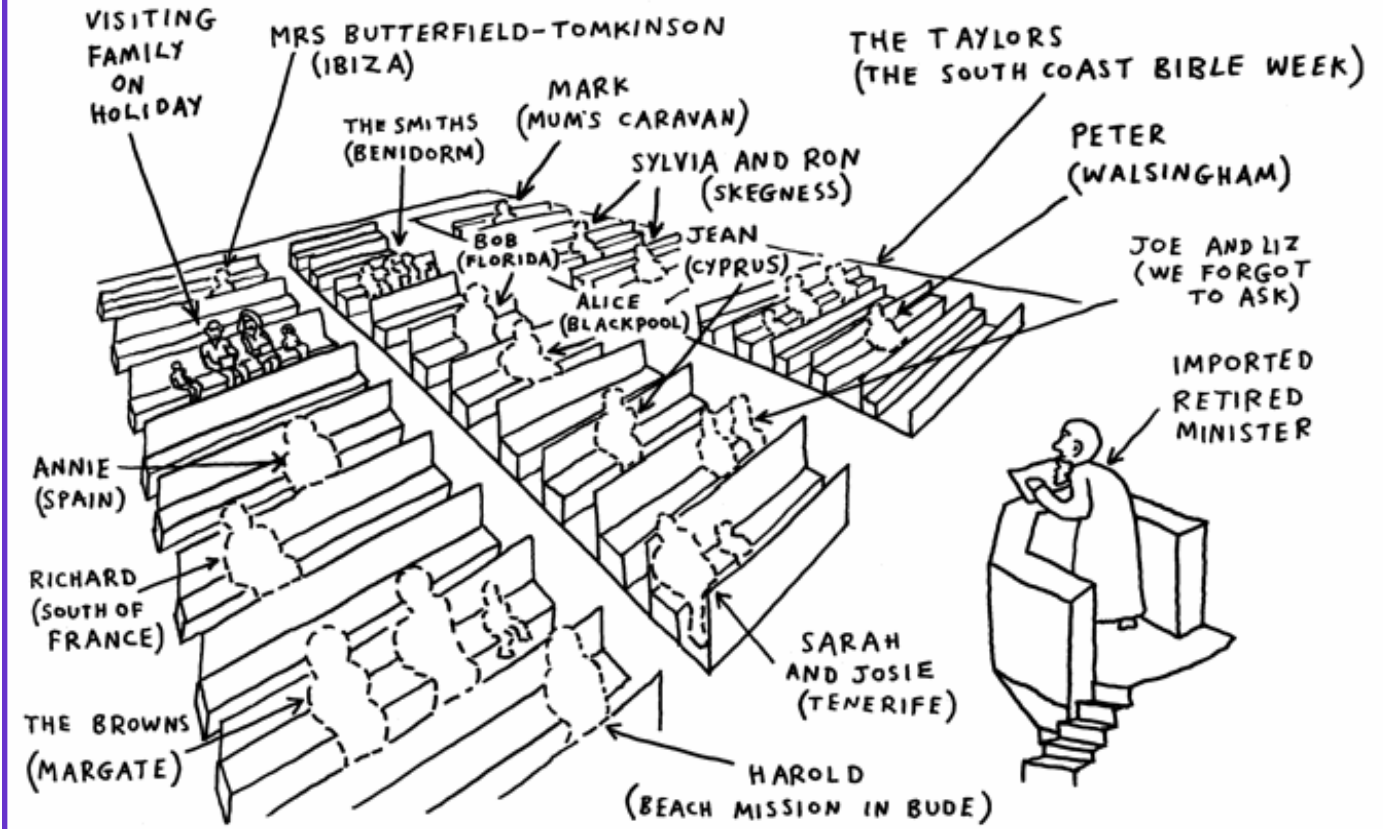
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## JUST AND FAIR

by John M. Shakespeare

A principal worry of all civilisations is how just and fair is the system of justice which is organised within their working society. With the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the British Government was on its guard against any forms of sedition reaching England. Accordingly a series of laws purporting to enforce justice were passed:

1. People were forbidden to possess firearms.
2. Private forms of military training were to cease.
3. Meetings for presenting petitions were to be limited to the parish concerned.
4. JP's were given the right to search anywhere for seditious or blasphemous writings.
5. JP's were allowed to try some cases in what became known as "Instant Trials" which had previously been dealt with by a judge and jury.
6. Stamp Duty on newspapers was extended to the printing of pamphlets and political leaflets.

Discipline is, as we remember from our school days, part of the process of Justice and Fairness. The Bible expresses this thought in Hebrews (Ch 12 verses 7-8), which states, "Endure the hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children, for what children are not disciplined by their fathers? If you are not disciplined, and everyone undergoes discipline, then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all".

In 1823, when Sir Robert Peel was the Home Secretary, Parliament abolished the mandatory death penalty for offences other than treason and murder (although it remained as a discretionary penalty for quite a large number of offences until 1861). In 1829 Peel founded the Metropolitan Police Force for London. This style of policing spread to all other cities in Britain by 1857. Being unarmed and under the control of civil magistrates they could not be used to tyrannise the poor.

The pillory was abolished in 1837, and

public executions by hanging finally came to an end in 1868.

What is meant by "Fair Justice" for all may be expressed in Ephesians (Ch 4 verses 25-28), "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. In your anger do not sin, do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need".

Peter F. Strawson (1919-2006), was an English philosopher, born in London and educated at St. John's College Oxford. He argued that the constant discrepancies between blame and praise are the basic attitudes to have towards human relationships. A somewhat controversial view in relation to criminal behaviour, however, is thought to be the part played by a criminal's genes and the part played by the environment they are brought up in. It could be argued that to hold criminals accountable, after being brought up in questionable circumstances is both unfair and unjust.

John Rawls (1921-2002), an American moral and political philosopher, wrote in "A theory of Justice" how it is possible, in his view, to reconcile social justice with a liberal capitalist democracy. His definition of justice embraced the principle of fairness in the sharing of rights, resources and social positions of the population being governed. He believed in the foundation of national institutions, that would ensure impartiality and justice.

To fight major crime and criminals throughout the United Kingdom we now have the National Crime Agency, our own version of the FBI in the United States.

Law was summed up by Cicero (106-43 BC), who said, 'The good of the people is the chief Law'. This, I think, is a worthy mantra on which to finish!



## 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.

## Remembering Ralph Vaughan Williams

It was 65 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1958, that the British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams died. Among his most famous compositions are *The Lark Ascending*, *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* and *A Sea Symphony*.

Despite increasing deafness, brought on by exposure to gunfire when he served in the Second World War, Vaughan Williams was still composing into his 80s. He died, aged 85, the night before recording sessions began on his Ninth Symphony.

The son of a vicar, the composer – himself an agnostic, although he edited the English Hymnal in 1904 and wrote several hymn tunes – was born in Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, and was related to Charles Darwin and to the potter Josiah Wedgwood. He played violin and piano and was a keen collector of folk songs, the tunes of which he included in many of his compositions.

Vaughan Williams was married twice: first to Adeline Fisher and after her death in 1951 to the poet Ursula Wood, who was an occasional collaborator on his compositions. He was also a lifelong friend of the composer Gustav Holst. *The Lark Ascending* – probably Vaughan Williams' most famous piece – was written in 1914, but its premiere was delayed by the First World War. It was eventually given in 1921 by the violinist Marie Hall – for whom Vaughan Williams had written it.

His ashes are interred in Westminster Abbey. His work was almost unique in the variety of music types he employed. It included nine symphonies, concertos for piano, violin, oboe and tuba, five operas, chamber, ballet and film music and songs and song cycles – among other things.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@connectedvoices.co.uk) or for more information visit the website

[www.connectedvoices.co.uk](http://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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:johngaffney3@icloud.com)

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

To Linda Caton on 3rd August  
David Jones on 5th August  
Diane Barrington Moss on 9th August  
Grace Wilkinson on 13th August  
Abbie Holden on 14th August  
Sylvia Kent on 14th August  
Christine Baker on 17th August

Congratulations!

To Roy Doran who was ordained on 30th June 38 years ago and has completed **40 years** of ministry (including 2 years training and 7 years at St John's)



To John and Ann Shakespeare who will celebrate their **Diamond Wedding Anniversary** on 10th August



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

## The Last Laughs



Church Mice.

## Gallows humour

Three men were sent to the guillotine. The first, a priest, listed the good he had done and called upon God to save him. The blade stopped just above his neck and he was released. The second, a doctor, also listed the good he had done and called upon God to save him. The blade stopped just above his neck and he too was released. The third, an engineer, looked up as he was led to the guillotine and said to the executioner "I think I can see what the problem is."

## Best position for effective prayer

Three ministers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one minister. "No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." "You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry," he blurted out, "but the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."



Barry was not pleased with the decision to sell the Rectory





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