



THE WORD

Editor: Stuart Baker: stjohnbirkdale@gmail.com



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

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

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

ISSUE No. 235

JULY 2022

OUR CHURCH



We are already one year into the Interregnum. Our PCC has now prepared our Parish Profile in which they have indicated what we are looking for in a new Vicar. It has been sent to the Archdeacon and we hope that during the summer months the PCC, the Patrons, the Area Dean and the Archdeacon will meet so that the job description of a new Vicar can be agreed and the recruitment process can begin.

Then we shall set out on the journey to find a priest who will want to come to our church and who will be a good fit in this parish.

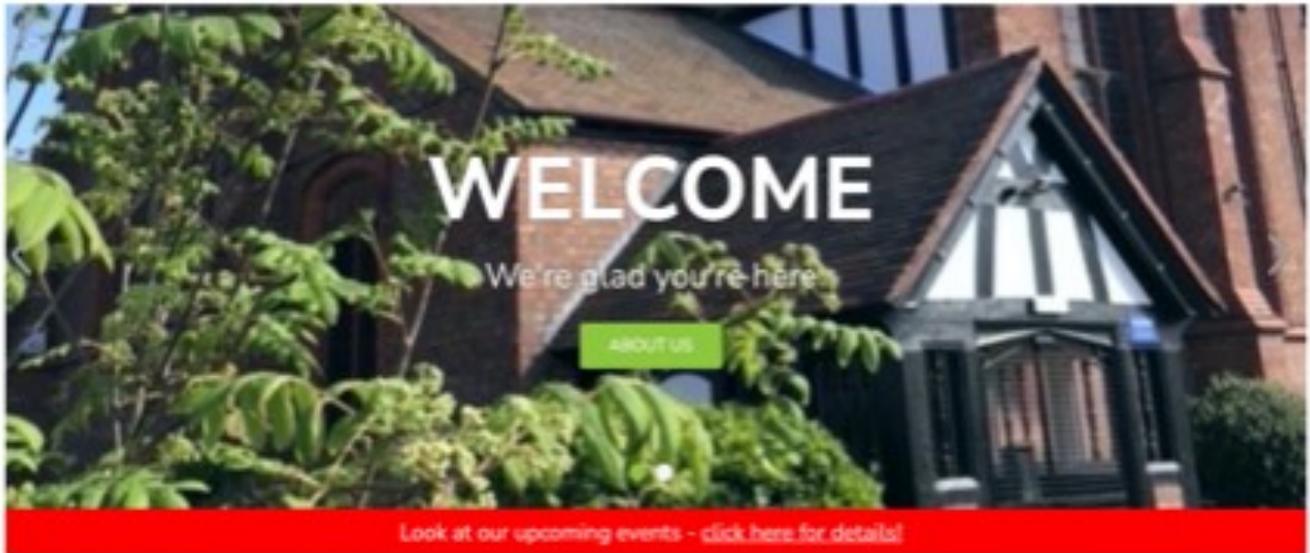
Our readers probably do not know how much time and prayerful effort has gone into the process up to now. The PCC has held many meetings, some of which have lasted several hours, to prepare the Parish Profile. Members of the PCC deserve thanks from our congregation and parishioners.

A new website for our church is now up and running! For many years John Dyson has been the administrator of our church's website and he is thanked for having kept it going and for monitoring the incoming emails. But technology has moved on and the particular website platform which we used was becoming somewhat old-fashioned. Sally Wright has worked hard and created a new website using a service provider called HUBB Church. It gives us the opportunity to present the church in a new way. Readers are recommended to visit the website: <http://www.stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk> You will be impressed!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To Reverend Ben Dyer who was ordained at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 18th June. We wish him a long and happy ministry.

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



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**

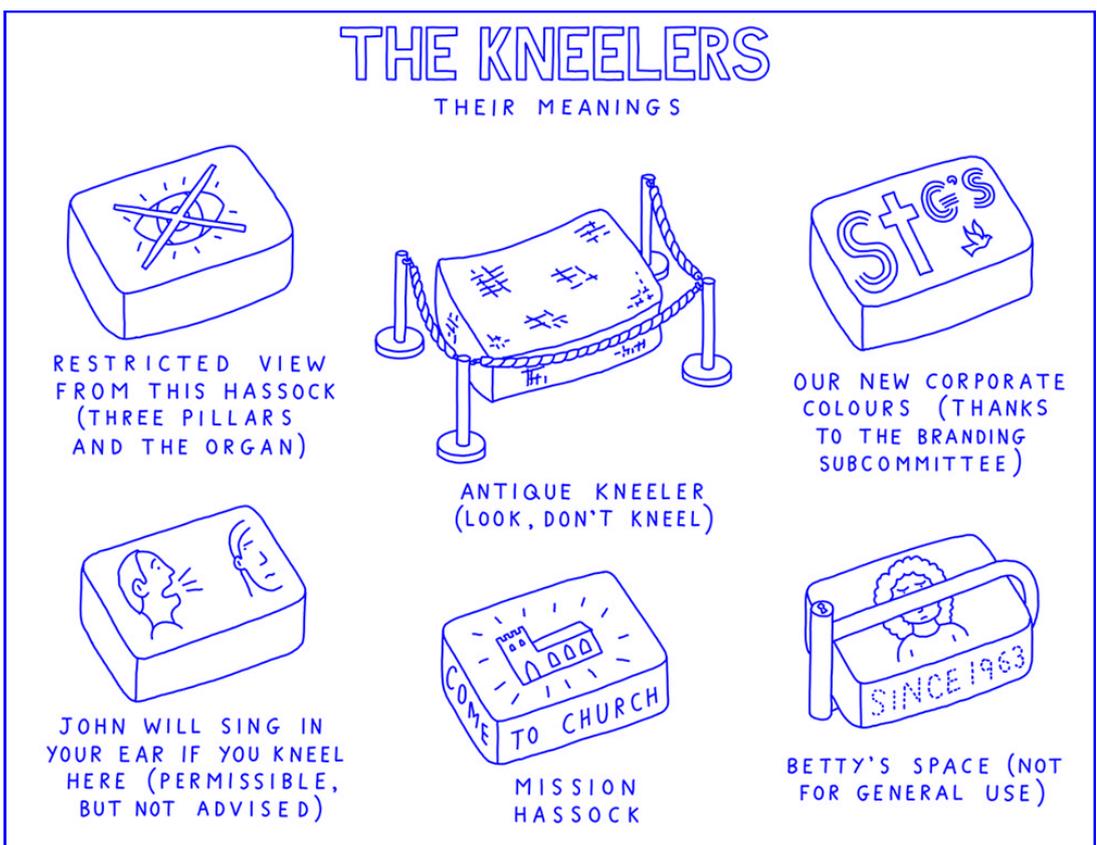
WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

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

OUR NEW SERIES OF SUNDAY SERMONS

Our new series started on Sunday 26th June based on five separate **"One Things"** which are to be found in the Bible. Christine's sermon was **One Thing I ask** (Psalm 27, 4-6), addressing the key thing needed to navigate through the rough seas of life. In July the talks will be:

- 3rd July, Roy: **One thing you lack** (Mark 10, 17-22)
- 10th July, Tim: **One thing is necessary** (Luke 10, 38-42)
- 17th July, Clive: **One thing I know** (John 9, 13-25)
- 24th July, Christine: **One thing I do** (Philippians 3, 12-14)



In view of her sterling work in renovating the church kneelers **THE WORD** dedicates this cartoon to Sally Wright.

Next month we shall look for a cartoon about curtain tiebacks! Ed.

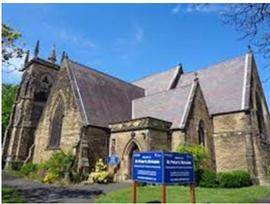
Dates for your Diary



St John's Film Nights

The next film will be shown on **Friday 29th July**. It will be the highly acclaimed **"The Book Thief"** starring Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson. It is not a true story but it is based against a background of real events. It is about a girl who was adopted as a child and who transformed the lives of those around her during World War II when she befriended a Jewish boy who was hiding from Hitler's army. Please let Christine know if you will attend (560518). Tea, coffee, homemade cakes are provided. £5.

See page 5 for a full list of Film Nights.



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

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



St John's Strawberry Tea in the garden at

34 Oxford Road on **Saturday 16th July** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. We hope that you will join us and support this summer event. In order to know how many we are catering for this will be by ticket only. Please contact Christine Baker for further information or for tickets. Price £5 (£1 for under 16s). Weather permitting, there will be some games in the garden and there may even be prizes!



St Peter's: Traditional Worship on summer evenings "Before the Ending of the Day".

In an anxious and uncertain age the service of Evensong continues to offer space and quietness for prayer, music and reflection. It is appreciated by people of all ages and reflects a pattern of worship that goes back centuries. There will be traditional readings, psalms and hymns and there will be a short address at each service which will be led by Revd Philip Caton and Canon Dr Rod Garner. Light refreshments will be available after each service. Contact rgcfgarner@gmail.com
10th July at 6.30pm: Psalm 62 ~ Waiting on God in Prayer.
24th July at 6.30pm: Singing the Lord's Song in a strange land.

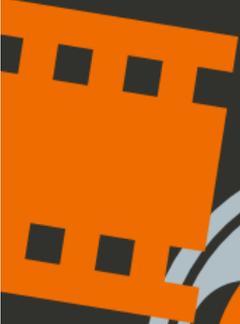
**Making Donations to St John's
through online banking**

The church's bank details are:

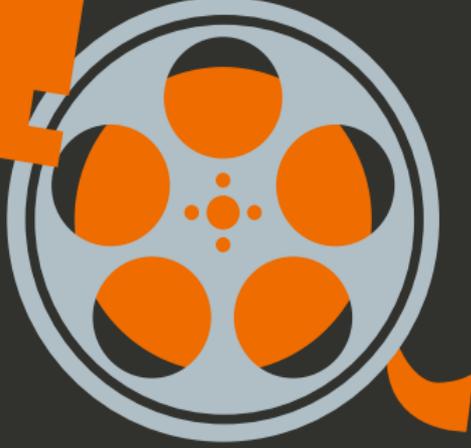
**Account name: Parochial Church
Council of St John's Parish (Birkdale)**

Sort Code: 60-20-11

Account Number: 86882120



St John's Presents



FILM NIGHTS

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

29 July – The book thief

30 September – Miss Potter

28 October – Secretariat

25 November – Blind Side



For further details contact
Christine 07821 982477

Nigerian Water Project

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

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

Members of our church have very generously donated £904 towards this project and this will go a long way to funding the work. The funds will be forwarded to where they are needed in Nigeria in the near future, and if anyone would like to add anything more to the total please give it to one of the wardens (Stuart and Clive) or to the treasurer (sylvia) as soon as possible.



If anyone would like to know more about the area where this work will be carried out, or the Christian community which the project will benefit, please speak to Roy Doran.



Thursday Evening Prayers

The next prayer meetings by **zoom** and telephone will be at 7.30pm on 7th July and 21st July.

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

SOUTHPORT ORCHESTRA: THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE CONCERT

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

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

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

Including:

Gershwin By George! (a medley of some well known tunes by George Gershwin)

The Way You Look Tonight (Jerome Kern)

Pomp and Circumstance Military March No 4 (Edward Elgar. This is NOT Land of Hope and Glory).

Berceuse and Finale from The Firebird Suite (Igor Stravinsky)

Little Serenade (Ernest Tomlinson)

Youth of Britain March, The Princess Elizabeth (Eric Coates)

Coronation Scot (Vivian Ellis)

The Westminster Waltz (Robert Farnon)

Variations on a Shaker Melody, from Appalachian Spring (Aaron Copland)

Chanson de Matin (Edward Elgar)

Main Theme from The Big Country (Jerome Moross)

Prelude, 49th Parallel (Ralph Vaughan Williams)

Bugler's Holiday (Leroy Anderson)

Four Scottish Dances (Malcolm Arnold)



Worship on the
Third Sunday after
Trinity

SUNDAY 3rd JULY

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

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

Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

One Thing You Lack

The Reading: Mark 10: 17-22

- ¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
- ¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.
- ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.'"
- ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."
- ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
- ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

SUNDAY 3rd JULY at St James' Church: Sunday@7

THE THREE BIRKDALE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

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

The service will be led by Lucy Wright and the talk will be given by Rev. Ben Dyer. The topic will be based on John chapter 3, a character called Diotrephes and the danger of being first.

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

Worship on the
Fourth Sunday
after Trinity

SUNDAY 10th JULY

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

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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

One Thing is Necessary

The Reading: Luke 10: 38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,

42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."



Worship on the Fifth
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 17th JULY

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

Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

One Thing I Know

The Reading: John 9: 13-25

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.

15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

17 Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

18 They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents.

19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind.

21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself."

22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Midweek Book of Common
Prayer Communion Service

WEDNESDAY 20th JULY

10.30am service IN CHURCH

Worship on the Sixth
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 24th JULY
10.30am service IN CHURCH
and via zoom & phone.

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

One Thing I Do

The Reading: Philippians 3: 12-14

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Worship on the
Seventh Sunday
after Trinity

SUNDAY 31st JULY
10.45am service
AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

Please note that on this day there will not be a service at St John's.

The PCCs of St John's, St James' and St Peter's have agreed that during 2022 in each month in which there is a fifth Sunday the three churches will join together for a morning service. In May it was held at St James'. In July it will be at St Peter's. In October it will be at St John's.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hearing the Word by telephone

If you would like to hear a recording of the Sunday morning talks telephone **0151-329-2184** at any hour of the day or night.
The calls are **free**. Each talk lasts about 15 minutes and is available for a week.
Each recording becomes available during the afternoon of the Sunday on which it is given.

Growth Groups

On 11th July the PCC will consider a proposal by Sally and Tim Wright to start a regular pattern of Growth Groups at their home in Hartley Crescent in September with the aim of meeting with other Christians to explore the Bible and to find out and learn more together. It is proposed that these meetings will be held on a fortnightly basis. Reading and discussing the Bible is essential if the Good News of the Gospel is to grow in Birkdale.



Running alongside this will be Growth Groups for Young Adults which will be run by Lucy and Alex.

Watch this space! Details will be given in the August issue of **THE WORD**.

NEW: St John's Young Adults

St John's socials

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

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

June Friday 24th. 6pm
Beach rounders and food

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

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

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

St John's Young Adults

On Friday 24th June the new Young Adults group planned to play rounders on the beach but decided against it because of rain, and instead they repaired to Hartley Crescent and had a party there. Revising their plans quickly seems to have been a piece of cake!



Lucy and Alex were joined by another 16 young Christians from Southport and Lucy says "It was really good fun and everyone seemed to really enjoy it which was great! We invited some of the young adults from St Simon's and it was like everyone had known each other for years which was so nice".



Lucy's next plan is to contact young adults from all the churches in Southport and to build on the progress that she and Alex have already made. The next event planned is a day trip to the Lake District on 9th July. Let's hope that the weather is kind to them.



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

On Why Our Church Is Safe From Vandals

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in renditions of 'Shine Jesus, Shine' and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying 'Thieves will be forgiven', although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening I hope your forgiveness still operates. Especially as they also stole your favourite guitar.

Last year, we had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the church's 400-year-old oak door to get in. Shame about that. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the 19th century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn't even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into – although as far as I can remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of Civilisation As We Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on the premises, and a few even speculated about the possibility of having strategically placed land mines about the place. Mrs Beaufort offered to lend us her fierce Pekingese, and Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

JULY 10TH

NATIONAL DON'T STEP ON A BEE DAY

Bees need our help. And we need their help.

Not only do bees help provide honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.



You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>

SEA SUNDAY



Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.

There are several Christian organisations who work with seafarers, and who need your support in their chaplaincy work. They include:

Mission to Seafarers, <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/>

Apostleship of the Sea, <http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/>

Sailors' Society, <https://www.sailors-society.org/> They offer resources for Sea Sunday on their websites.

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



Saturday 18 June 2-4pm

Saturday 16 July 2-4pm

Friday 23 September @ 7pm

Friday 14 October @ 7pm

Friday 18 November @ 7pm

Friday 2 December @ 6pm

Saturday 3 December 10-3

Jubilee Summer Fair

Strawberry Tea

Harvest Supper

Thai Food Night

**An evening with Lady Dodd -
40 Years with Ken Dodd**

**Christmas Tree Festival &
Market at St John's**

Sylvia Kent writes:

What can I say?! Although we weren't blessed with the best of June weather as we donned our coats and jumpers, I think I can safely say that we had a very enjoyable afternoon of social friendship and fun, while raising over £500 - which, all things considered, was incredible. Without your support, this would not have been possible, and so I must say a huge thank you to all who supported the event, either with your donations towards the stalls, or by coming along on the day.

My grateful thanks most certainly go out to the stalwarts who came and helped on Saturday morning to put up the bunting (which looked lovely blowing in the wind!) and setting up all the tables ready for the afternoon.

Finally, as always, without all the hard work and dedication of the Team, none of this would have been possible, and so I could not finish without expressing my sincere appreciation and thanks to them all in making our Summer Fair once again a success. **THANK YOU!!**

Sylvia

ROYAL SUMMER FAIR

18th JUNE



More than 400 Hundred Years of the King James Bible

400 years ago, the best-selling book in history was published – the ‘King James’ or ‘Authorised’ version of the Bible. It wasn’t the first English Bible – in fact there were two officially ‘authorised’ translations published in 1539 and 1568. The 1611 Bible, though it was commissioned by the King, was never actually ‘Authorised’ in any official way – only by the strength of public popularity.

One sign of its popularity and quality is that while from 1534-1611 there were eight published translations of the Bible into English, after the King James Version was published, the next significant English-language Bible didn’t appear until the Revised version was published in 1885 – 274 years later!

Many writers, Christian and atheist, have celebrated this anniversary, as the King James Bible is one of the greatest influences on our language. It’s given us lots of familiar phrases, and when it’s read aloud well it still has tremendous power and dignity. Some very traditional churches still insist on using it as the only ‘proper’ Bible, though most recognise that it’s no longer appropriate for everyday use. That’s not just because the language is old-fashioned; it’s more to do with the fact that some words have changed their meaning in the last 400 years, and also that since 1611 we’ve discovered earlier and better manuscripts of the Bible in the original Hebrew and Greek, so that we now know there are a few places where the text which was translated in 1611 isn’t what was originally written.

But that leaves us with the question of why this book was and still is so important.

Less than a century earlier it had been dangerous even to own a Bible in English, let alone to print one! The Bible was considered such a dangerous document that only those authorised by the church and educated in Latin were allowed to read it for themselves. Everyone else had to rely on what the local priest told them the Bible said.

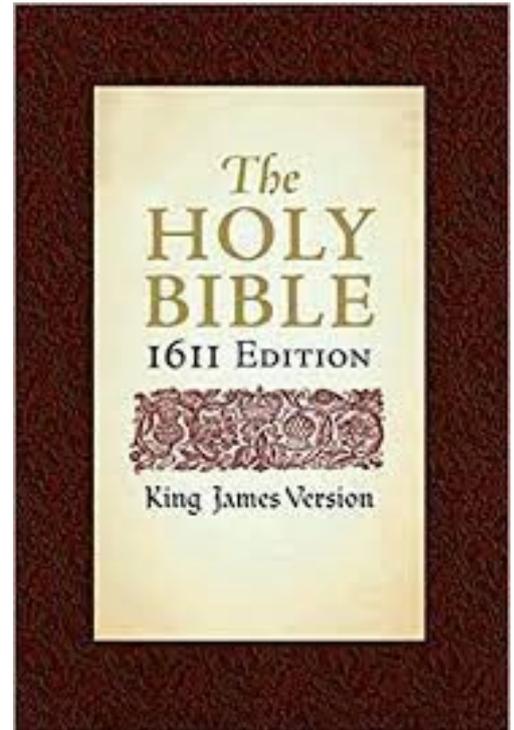
Archbishop Cranmer (who wrote that other pillar of English Christianity, the *Book of Common Prayer*) and the other reformers who led the split of the Church of England from Rome believed it was vital to freedom and healthy Christian faith that people should be able to read God’s word for themselves, and made sure that Bibles in English were available in every church, with the doors open all day so they could be consulted by anyone.

The King James Version was an attempt to revise the work of earlier scholars, checking it for accuracy against the Greek and Hebrew texts then available and making the language as simple as possible. Part of the power of the book is that the editors deliberately used short words in everyday use whenever possible. They described their aim as being “*to deliver God’s book unto God’s people in a tongue which they could understand.*” That simplicity gives it a lasting beauty, but also makes it ironic that many people prefer it to good modern versions because it’s ‘more dignified’. I suspect that the editors would have been furious!

Today we have more different translations of the Bible than ever before. There were none in 274 years after 1611, but I know of 24 from the last 50 years alone. They all try to strike different balances of accuracy, readability and dignity. We’re so used to being able to read the Bible for ourselves that we can easily take it for granted. But imagine being one of the first generation allowed to do so – queuing up to look something up in the Bible chained to a desk in church, or carrying a precious Bible of your own, hot from the press.

Why not take some time this year to read one of the gospels, first in a good modern translation (we use the *New Revised Standard Version* in Church) and then in the King James version. Appreciate both for what they are, and listen to God in words ancient and modern.

The Rev’d Nick Watson



From Our Own Correspondent

Sheila Matthews writes:

We were able to get over to Ilkley today (21st June) in time for Doris's birthday. We had a tour of her retirement complex, which is really lovely, far better than many a holiday apartment we've had. She's walking quite well with a stick though still waiting for physio. Covid has not treated her kindly. It's good that she's near her daughter who, it turns out, is a former parishioner of our assistant priest, who moved here from Menston a couple of months before we did. Small world!



Doris and Sheila enjoying a rare moment of this summer's sunshine

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU IS IMPORTANT TO US

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WHAT THE SIGNS TELL US by John M. Shakespeare

Semiotics is concerned with the study of signs and the relationship between the signifier (the sign itself), and the signified.



Weather signs are some of the most significant to be seen in their context, particularly for farmers and fishermen. To pay attention to being able to plant or reap at suitable times will affect a farmer's income. The state of the conditions at sea may also be a matter of life or death for some trawlers. For holiday makers weather forecasts may be decisive in choosing a destination and value for money. Fluctuations in the jet stream and gulfstream and the linked isobar movement are all forms of signifiers giving signs to weather forecasters. However forecasters don't always get it right, as in the memorable case of Michael Fish, who dismissed a caller's question about an incoming hurricane, which actually turned out to be devastatingly true!

A cause of great anxiety to most people is their health condition which we are all constantly being made aware of by the media. We are given semiotic signals about health conditions that are indicators of illness or symptoms relating to our general fitness. The NHS pays out millions in compensation every year to patients who have been misdiagnosed. Fortunately in most cases the diagnoses are proved right and many of our lives are saved or prolonged by identification of the right signifiers. An old proverb tells us that, "The best doctors are Dr Diet, Dr Quiet and Dr Merryman".

In our dealings with other people Signs given out play a crucial part in our attitudes and judgement. In circumstances of a judgemental interrogation or a job interview or perhaps a blind date, reading the signs can be crucial. C. S Peirce (1839-1914), was an American philosopher, logician, mathematician and scientist. He is credited with more or less inventing the term "Semiotics" e.g. he quoted that spots on the body, or the cloud formation in the sky, were signifiers of conditions that we should be aware of.

In every supermarket shop we see the foods and materials that we are going to buy, signified by illustrations on their packaging.

Colours are also signs for many things we identify with. The most obvious, red, signifies danger and nowadays green suggests conservation and goodness.

The Bible does much of its teachings by identifying for us signs that signify good or evil. To quote Thessalonians (Ch 5 verse 19), "Do not quench the spirit, do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test them all, hold onto what is good, reject every kind of evil".

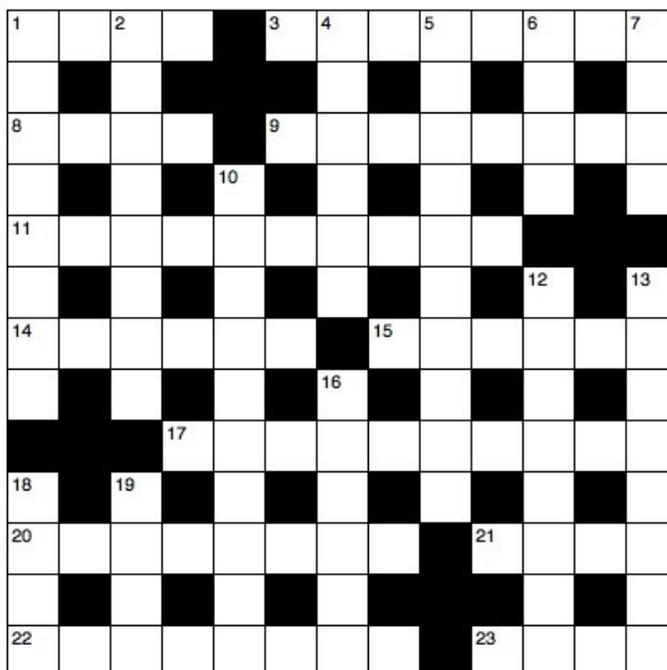
Financial signs are of importance to us all whether rich or poor. The Government's forecast of inflation is something that will have some financial effect on all of us. One way or another pensioners and shoppers need to track the signs of price rises and falls in order to try and remain solvent.

The danger of scammers fooling us into unwise financial dealings are important false signs that we need to watch out for e.g. when Financial Institutions and Governmental Departments "request" our financial details, they need to be checked out thoroughly, before we take any potentially disastrous action.

To end on a conundrum, "What we think we see is often not in fact, what is there to be seen". So Beware!

W CROSS R D

Solution on page 22



Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
 11 Resentment (Ephesians 4:31)(10)
 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
 23 'As the — pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)

- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

A letter has been received from International Aid Trust in which they say that support for their Ukraine Appeal has been overwhelming and has been tremendously encouraging for their teams in the UK and in Ukraine. Huge amounts of food, medical supplies, toiletries, clothing, bedding, generators and other vital equipment have been donated. They appreciate the support which has been given financially and by standing with them in prayer.



250 tons of aid have been transported. In addition, some supplies and three extra vehicles have been purchased at the borders of Ukraine. This enables the workers to deliver aid to the most vulnerable, traumatised and needy people. Tears of joy have been shed when people are given this vital aid. IAT has delivered thousands of loaves to people who had not seen bread in weeks.

IAT workers are daily on the streets of beleaguered cities and other hard-hit areas, risking their lives, delivering food and essentials and giving pastoral support despite the dangers to themselves. They drive hundreds of miles each day bringing relief to the worst hit areas.

IAT asks us all to pray with them for an end to this dreadful war, and for protection and strength of the IAT workers in Ukraine.

The need for aid has not gone away. If parishioners wish to give dried or tinned foodstuffs or toiletries please bring them to St John's on Sundays and they will be taken to IAT.

Sea Sunday

10th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers and fishermen worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. Support is given by three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).

July	Harsh
Sea	Working
Sunday	Environments
Remember	Piracy
Pray	Shipwreck
Give	Hundreds
Thanks	Global
Merchant	Port
Seafarers	Chaplains
Daily	Hospitality
Shops	Friendship
Economy	Practical
Afloat	

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E R J O C B T A O P C R S A O
C S P U S K A S R R N D Y S D
C F N R L R I G K F C A T G A
Y R S Y S Y E M P N H H I N E
S E W M C L G R Y O A F L I A
B B L A C I T C A R P H A K F
V M S H V A I T S F L R T R L
H E S E A D R H E I A P I O O
I M U N P T W C A O I E P W A
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A R D H U N D R E D S H O P S
L L A B O L G Y S E M R H L R
E I Y M E R C H A N T O O K H
M N Y C A R I P A R S I M R N
K C E R W P I H S P P S M S J
    
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In our Book of Remembrance in July

1st	David Smith, 2005
5th	Selena Clare, 1965
7th	Denis Haslam, 1983
9th	Leslie Holme, 1974
	Tom Ball, 1994
10th	Sarah Shaw, 1969
11th	George Close, 1978
15th	Alan Burton, 1999

16th	Colin Johnson, 1979
	James Turner, 1986
19th	Geoffrey Sanders, 1994
20th	Frank Pacey, 1969
27th	Thelma Karran, 2010
28th	John Kent, 1995
30th	Robert Hind, 1960
	Jimmy Beaumont, 2001
31st	Rosemary Quinton, 1998

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

GOD in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at the 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. (Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

Enter My Rest

At this time of the year we are planning and looking forward to holidays, that welcome break away from the pressures and responsibilities of daily life and work. The book of Genesis opens with a glorious account of God's work of creation and tells us that even God rested on the 7th day.

We all need to find that balance of work and rest, of activity and slowing down in our lives. And we are not always good at that because our world seems to be in the fast lane. We rush everywhere, we rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone around us is rushing.



This month's painting, 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, a 19th century French artist, portrays two peasants at work. They don't seem to be rushing, but Millet has certainly portrayed the hard toil of their work, digging in the earth from sunrise to sunset to eke out a living. Millet was the son of a farm labourer and many of his paintings convey the severe realism of peasant life. We can sympathise with the couple working on the land, and our eyes focus on them as they dominate the canvas.

But in the corner under the shade of a tree there is a donkey and a sleeping child. The donkey knows only too well the reality of toil and work, but here he is resting, enjoying the peace and the shade. Andy Merrifield, an American philosopher, has just published an account of his travels with a donkey, Gribouille. As they journey together, the donkey teaches him the value of patience, the importance of going slowly through the world, and the preciousness of tender friendship between humans and animals. They are all caught up in the little donkey in this painting.

The man and woman in the foreground may reflect our own lives with the duties, the expectations and the demands called of us at work. Take time to focus on the donkey, enjoying his rest. Take time this summer to find relaxation and recreation on holiday. The world may carry on spinning around us, but use that holiday to stand apart and enter into the rest that God enjoyed after His work of creation.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Third member of the Trinity.

What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (part 2)

Somebody once defined a football match as '22 people on the field desperately in need of rest, watched by 50 thousand people in the stands, desperately in need of exercise! It reminds us that church is not a spectator sport! The Holy Spirit equips us to serve God in the Church and daily life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are variously described as *spiritual gifts* (1 Cor. 12:1) or *grace gifts* (1 Cor. 1:7), the latter word being used in modern Greek for a birthday present! They are love gifts from God that we cannot earn or deserve, that are open to everybody. Note what Paul says, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:7):

'to each one': the gifts are available to every Christian. Everyone will have a different 'gift-mix', with their own particular contribution to offer.

'the manifestation of the Spirit': the gifts of the Spirit enable an invisible God to be real and visible.

As we exercise the gifts that God has given to us, in our speech or service, people will be able to say, 'God is at work here!'

'for the common good': the aim of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom of God. They are not intended to meet our own needs or reputation, but simply to serve and encourage others.

With the gifts given by God, we are able to fulfil His purposes in His world. Paul urges us to 'eagerly desire' the gifts that God has for us (1 Cor. 12:31). How true is this for me? Any present that we are given needs unwrapping before we can enjoy it. Are we doing this with our spiritual gifts?



the elderberries gardening club.

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

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

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

God in the Sciences

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

Wonder and Worship: Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest

It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK



PHOTO: RUTH BANCEWICZ

Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.

I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for – thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of creation?

Farewell Father Timothy Farthing

(This article uses material from, and is based upon, an obituary which appeared in The Times newspaper on 27th June 2022)

Some of our readers may not have heard the sad news of the death at 90 years of age of Frank Williams who appeared as Father Timothy Farthing in 39 televised episodes of *Dad's Army* together with 14 radio episodes, the stage show and a film adaptation.



He had not watched any of the first two series of *Dad's Army* when he reported for duty to film the BBC sitcom's third series in 1969. He was to appear in a single episode, the first to be broadcast in colour, playing the slightly camp but tetchy Reverend Timothy Farthing. "It was a nice job, but I thought it was only ever going to be a one-off engagement" he said.

He also reprised his priestly role in the 2016 film starring Bill Nighy and Michael Gambon.

The Rev Farthing had a love of bell-ringing and enjoyed a drink or two, as was evidenced in his regularly thwarted attempts to order large glasses of whisky at the expense of his colleagues. Yet his main dramatic function was to engage in perpetual bickering with Arthur Lowe's bluff Captain Mainwaring, who was apt to commandeer the vicar's office and church hall in Walmington-on-Sea for his Home Guard platoon.

Most viewers adored his petulant character, though not all. He recalled one correspondent objecting to the episode *All is Safely Gathered In* (1972), in which everyone gets drunk at the harvest festival service, "asking how I could call myself a Christian". He also received requests from couples who, believing he was a genuine clergyman, asked him to officiate at their nuptials. "I suppose the role did typecast me," he said. "I appeared in one episode of *Hi-de-Hi!* as a vicar and then in *You Rang, M'Lord?* I was promoted to a bishop." He also played an archdeacon in a BBC adaptation of *Vanity Fair*.

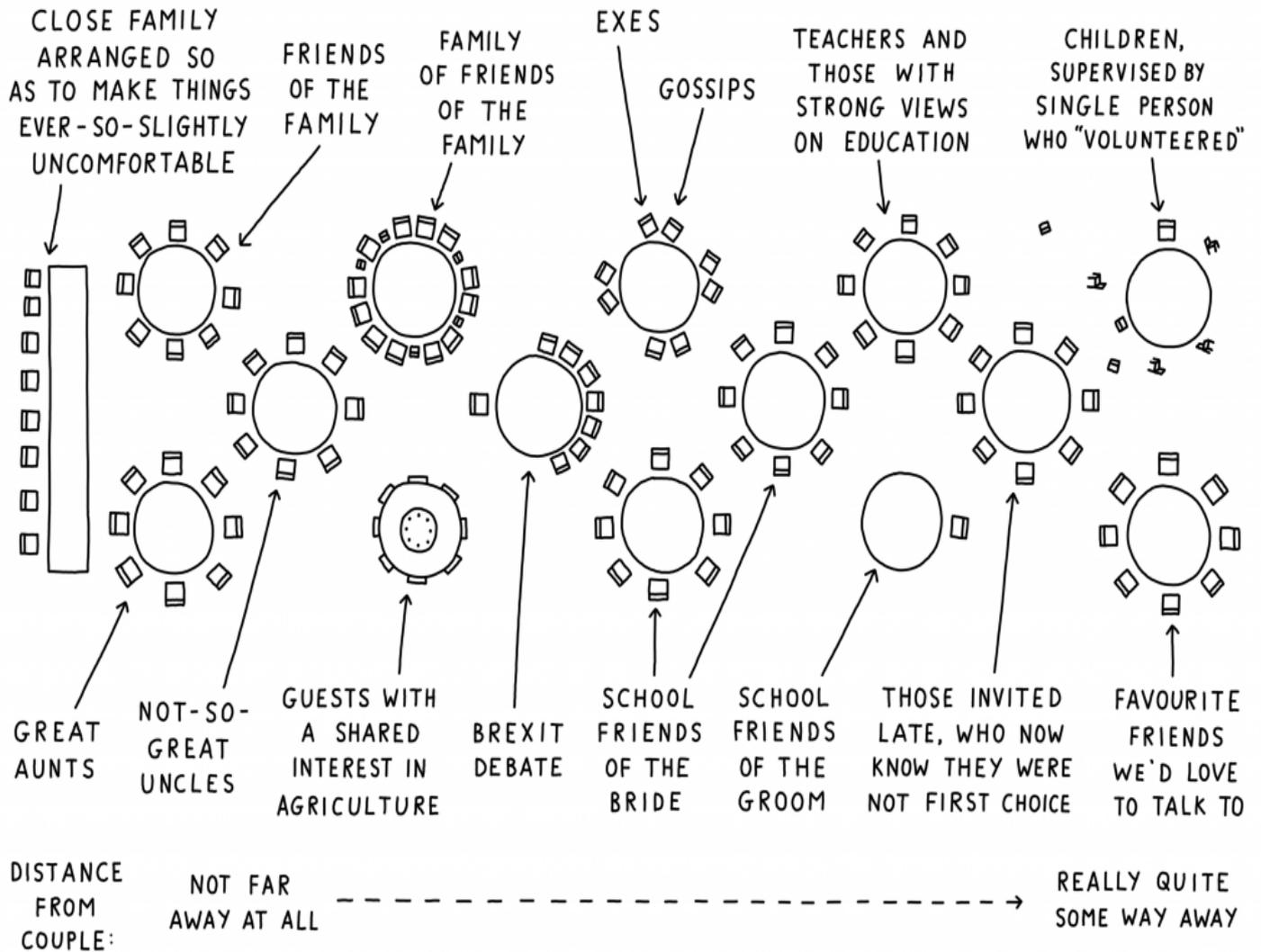
The irony was that Williams, who gradually shifted from the evangelical outlook of his childhood to the Anglo-Catholic wing of the church, had once considered a priestly vocation. He was a member of All Saints, Margaret Street in Fitzrovia, and from 1985 to 2000 represented the London diocese on the General Synod.

Williams got many requests for signed photos, including one from the police. "They are looking for a particular criminal and the only description they have is he looks like the vicar in *Dad's Army*," his agent told him. "They want your photograph to issue to all their officers." Williams never heard whether they caught the felon, but admitted to wondering for weeks afterwards if he would be suddenly jumped on and arrested.

All the other character actors in *Dad's Army* have passed away with the exception of Ian Lavender (76) who played the "stupid boy" Private Frank Pike. Ian Lavender was not stupid at all but regularly did *The Times* crossword.

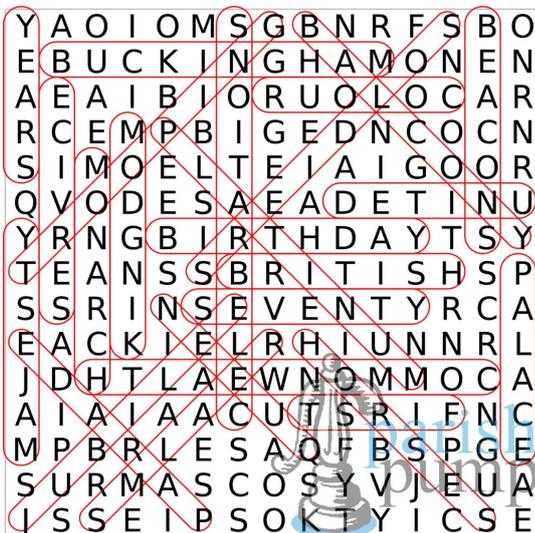
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This 30ft "Rambling Rector" rose was planted in the grounds of St Mildred's, in Tenterden, Kent, in the 1980s and has grown so big that it now obscures the view of the church. The Rev Canon Lindsay Hammond climbed a ladder for a closer look.

NB. Our readers will be pleased to know that we have a Health and Safety Policy at St John's and this would not happen. We don't have a 30 foot rose!

But we do have gardens which are very well cared for by David Wall and which now have been made much more attractive after some extensive work was carried out as a gift to the church from Judith Foster in memory of her late mother.

Some old plants in the front border have been removed and have been replaced with a variety of new shrubs and flowering plants. It is a vast improvement.

THANK YOU Judith!!



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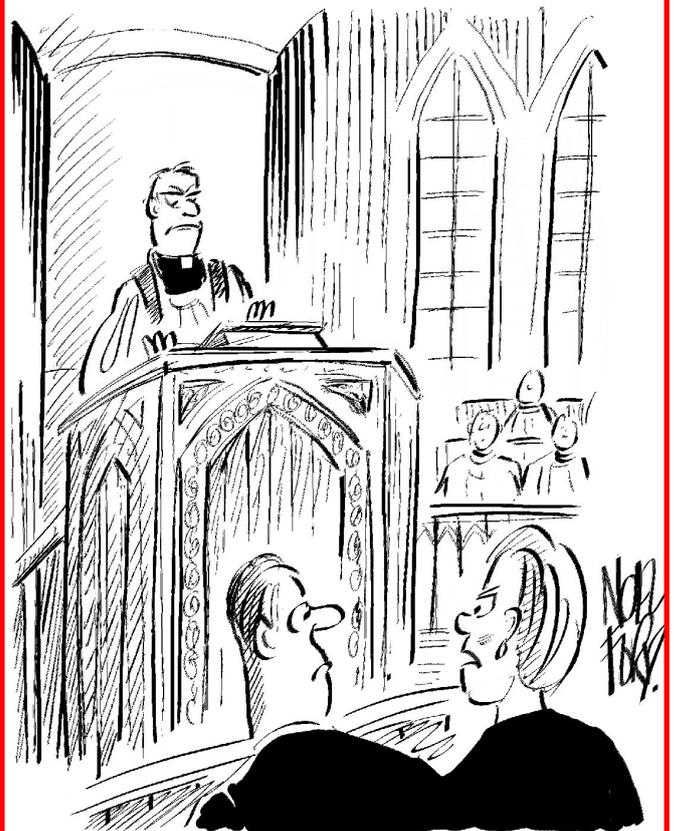
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Tuesdays : O.A.P rates by Diane



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the "Christians Awake" tune!

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

To Stuart Harris on 2nd July
Sylvia Musgrove on 29th July

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

The Last Laughs

Advertising terms explained

NEW – Different colour from previous design.

ALL NEW – Parts are not interchangeable with previous design.

EXCLUSIVE – Imported product from goodness knows where.

UNMATCHED – Not quite as good as the competition.

FOOLPROOF OPERATION – No provision for adjustments.

ADVANCED DESIGN – The advertising agency doesn't understand it.

IT'S HERE AT LAST – Rush job. Nobody knew it was coming.

FIELD TESTED – Manufacturer lacks on-site test equipment.

HIGH ACCURACY – Unit on which all parts actually fit.

FUTURISTIC – We have no idea why it looks the way it does.

REDESIGNED – Previous flaws fixed – we hope.

DIRECT SALES ONLY – Factory had a big argument with distributor.

YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT – We finally got one to work.

BREAKTHROUGH – We finally figured out a use for it.

MAINTENANCE FREE – Impossible to fix.

MEETS ALL STANDARDS – Ours, not yours.

SOLID-STATE – Don't drop it on your foot.

HIGH RELIABILITY – We made it work long enough to ship it.



The Vicar's sermons seemed to be getting shorter

The Golf Addict

Golf is so popular because it is the best game in the world at which to be bad. They say golf is like life, but don't believe them, it's much more complicated than that.

Golf is a lot of walking, broken up by disappointment and bad arithmetic. Golf can be described as an endless series of tragedies obscured by an occasional miracle.

They call it golf because all of the other four-letter words were taken. Golf combines two favourite British pastimes: taking long walks and hitting things with a stick.