



THE WORD

Editor: Stuart Baker: stjohnbirkdaletheword@gmail.com



THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE. PR8 4JP
Charity Number 1128171
Vicar: Rev. Jennie Hardy

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. 273

SEPTEMBER 2025

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

God Centred, Relationship Driven and Life Transforming



Autumn is the time of year when we harvest the growth of the summer months and prepare for the cold and dark days of winter. But at St John's we shall have a lot of green shoots of new growth during the autumn. There's much to look out for.

First, starting on **Sunday 14th September** we shall return to having two services on Sunday mornings. Our current 10.30 service will continue in its present form, and in addition there will be a **traditional Holy Communion service at 8.30am**. The Sunday sermon will be given, and will be the same, at both services,

On **7th September** our Sunday sermons will start a new series "*Shaped by Grace*". The bible readings relevant to this series of talks in September can be found on pages 7 and 8 of this issue.

And on **24th September** Clive and Jean Morris will start a new Home Growth Group which will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month at their home. Contact Clive or Jean for details.

Last Spring St John's hosted an **Alpha course** which was quite well attended over the period of 11 weeks. Jennie will run another Alpha course this Autumn, on a smaller scale. She will need some help and our readers are invited to offer to assist Jennie if they are able to do so.

In addition to all of this, Roy will recommence his twice monthly Bible Study group after a summer break, and Christine and Stuart will continue their Home Group at which we can explore the Big Story of the Bible.

In this issue:

We include an article about the history of The Keswick Convention which celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. We are also pleased to include an article written by Carl Davey who went to the Convention this summer with Denise and found it to be uplifting, enlightening and of such enjoyment that they returned to it more than once. His account of what he and Denise experienced is a wonderful testament to the power of the Convention. It is held every year and our readers may like to think if they can make an opportunity to go to it.

Take Your Partner by the hand...

Yee Ha! On 19th September St John's will hold a Country and Western Evening at 7pm in the church hall. No need to bring your horse or hoe, but dig out that cowboy hat and a checked shirt and come for some fun and a meal (the menu will include sausages and beans). And, ladies, don't just Stand by Your Man: shove him into the line dancing!

And finally, many thanks to Ian Bennett who has very helpfully put the photographs of the recent SPACE days into an attractive format (pp12-13).

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES TO OR ABOUT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT US
BY EMAIL info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk OR PHONE THE VICAR: 07872 400718

Dear readers of **THE WORD**

As we enter into the new school term, which for many signifies the start of a new year, I was hoping to write to you about some really inspiring, encouraging and uplifting topic. However, after praying for some weeks

about what to write for this edition of **THE WORD**, the only word I felt the Lord repeatedly gave me in response was – disappointment! Certainly not an uplifting topic!

I was surprised to find two books on my shelves, with ‘Disappointment’ in the title: “Disappointed with Jesus” (Gavin Calver) and “Disappointment with God” (Philip Yancey). I’m not sure if anyone has ever been specifically disappointed with the Holy Spirit, I would think not but who knows?

So it seems that this is not such a bizarre topic to write on, I’m not the first to do it!

If we are honest with ourselves, can we recognise that at times we have felt disappointment with God? I really don’t like to admit it, because I wholeheartedly believe that God is all loving, powerful and good, but in the midst of and in the aftermath of painful events in my life, I have felt disappointed. I have joined a chorus of voices asking, “why, God?”

Again, I’m not the first and I’m sure not the last. The Prophet Elijah reached a point in His life where he was so disheartened and disappointed, even after having a victory in battle that he cried “I have had enough, Lord, take my life” in 1 Kings 19:4. God did not condemn Elijah for these thoughts and words, but He provided comfort.

Job is another biblical person who asked ‘why?’ “Why has God given me life only to send me such suffering now, why do you hide your face, God and consider me your enemy?” Job chapter 31 is an example of a person who loves God deeply but is questioning, why, God?

We come to God at different stages in life, but when we truly experience His love for us, it is quite overwhelming. God heals us, restores us and then He calls us and sends us. He blesses us that we might bring blessing to the world, through Him. When we read the stories of people like Job, Elijah, Joseph and his dreams, and many others throughout the New and Old Testaments, we see that all of them felt confused and in some way questioned God at one time or another.

One of the wisest poems ever written is found in Ecclesiastes 3. In verses 10 - 11 it says, ‘I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.’



‘No one can fathom what God has done’ is likely to be one of the reasons that when we are disappointed we look to God and ask ‘why God?’ It’s unfathomable! His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9) and beyond our understanding (Philippians 4:7). But our faith in the goodness of God can produce great hope, even in times of suffering (Romans 5:3-5).

As seen in a couple of the biblical characters I’ve mentioned, people who follow God often have it hard. We can get our expectations mixed up at times when we come to God and expect all goodness, love and light; we get that, but we also experience the hardships that all our predecessors have experienced before us, “there is nothing new under the sun” that we experience. If we read the Bible carefully, we see that God never promised us an easy life or that life per se will continue in its current form. He has promised us eternal life in Heaven, the Bible tells us that these bodies will pass away and we will have new bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44), yet a lot of the disappointment in God that I have personally witnessed has been at the loss of life of loved ones. Of course, that gut wrenching feeling of loss is so great it can tempt us at times to turn from God when at those most painful times of our life, we should be turning to Him.

Another group of people who I have known who have turned away from God have done so not because of anything they perceive God to have done, or not done but because of people in the church.

I’m sure there are times when all of us have been disappointed with someone who is part of the church, whether a minister or a member of the laity, I know I have! I have despaired and I am pretty sure at times God does too. But does He despair of the same person as me, or at me?

We are all messy, normal people and we all come from such a variety of backgrounds to make up the church, it will never be easy to be part of such an expansive group of people and yet Jesus tells us that we will be known for our love for one another, and as 1 Corinthians 13 tells us about love amongst other things is that love does not give up.

So, let’s not give up on God and let’s not give up on each other. Though at times we may experience disappointment, why not take it to God instead of turning away from Him? I’ve found that it’s okay to be disappointed at times, and taking our disappointment to God in prayer strengthens our relationship with Him and gives us strength to maintain relationships with others in His church, and by doing so, we are a witness to God’s love to the world.

The world is big at the moment on ‘cancel culture’ but we have overcome the world in Christ Jesus (John 16:33 & 1 John 5:4) I pray that you can stick with God and each other throughout any disappointments you may face.

With love, Jennie xx

WHO'S WHAT AT ST. JOHN'S

Vicar:	Rev. Jennie Hardy (07872 400718)
Priest (retired):	Rev. Roy Doran (572387)
Reader:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)
Churchwarden:	Clive Morris (564206)
PCC Treasurer:	Mrs. Amanda Potts (07530 950100)
PCC Secretary:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris (564206)
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris (563789)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Clive Morris (564206) Stuart Baker (560518)
Lead Safeguarding Officer & Recruiter	Stuart Baker (560518)

Transport Officer:	Mrs. Jean Morris (564206)
Church of England Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)
Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton (564737)
Girl Guides	Mrs. Janette Law (565951)
St. John's Brownies:	Mrs. Helen Jones and Mrs. Lesley Scott
Brownie Guiders:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
St. John's Rainbows:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside (07732 993025)
Magazine Editor:	Stuart Baker (560518)
Magazine Printer:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)
Buildings Inspector:	David Halsall (07790 822343)
Eco Champions:	Mrs. Elizabeth Rothwell and Duncan Rothwell (564192)

Parish Register

Holy Baptisms

Sunday 3rd August Freddie Ware
Libby-Mae Jenkins

Libby-Mae and Freddie are pictured, below, with
Freddie's father Simon.



Sunday 24th August Arabella Mae Rigby

Arabella is pictured with her parents Nathan
and Jodie.



They are all welcomed into the family of
Christ.

Making Donations to our church 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

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S



Pray Together

Thursday @ 7.30pm
on Zoom
Meeting ID: 83550743780
Passcode:
7ehHEK

The prayer meetings are on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays each month** and last half an hour. This month they will be on **4th & 18th September**. If there is anything which readers would like to be included in the prayers please contact Jennie Hardy, Roy Doran, Christine Baker or Clive Morris. Do join us if you can. See page **28** for details about logging in on zoom by computer or by telephone.

GODSPEED

INDOOR CYCLING CLASSES

TUESDAY 7.30PM
THURSDAY 6PM
FRIDAY 9.30AM



Scan to book!



STJOHNSBIRKDALE.CO.UK

UPCOMING EVENTS

14 JUNE SUMMER FAIR 10AM - 3PM	12 JULY STRAWBERRY TEA 3PM - 5PM	19 SEPTEMBER COUNTRY & WESTERN NIGHT 7PM	26 OCTOBER HARVEST CELEBRATION 12PM	15 NOVEMBER COLOUR PARTY 7PM
---	---	---	--	---

5 - 6 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL & FAIR



Jolly Tots

Every Friday in term time
 1pm - 2.30pm

For tots, babies & bumps
 St John's Hall, St John's Road, PR8 4JP

Connect with other parents
 and bring your little one for
 nursery rhymes, dancing, play,
 stories and more.



CONTACT
info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk
stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk
 07905875944

WHAT ELSE IS ON AT ST. JOHN'S

St John's Birkdale
JOIN US FOR A
COUNTRY & WESTERN EVENING
FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
7PM
TICKETS £10
INCLUDES "CHOW"
BRING YOUR OWN 'ALE'
& A GLASS
For tickets:
info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk
07905875944



Do you enjoy knitting/
crocheting?

Do you like to meet with
friends for a chat and a
cuppa?

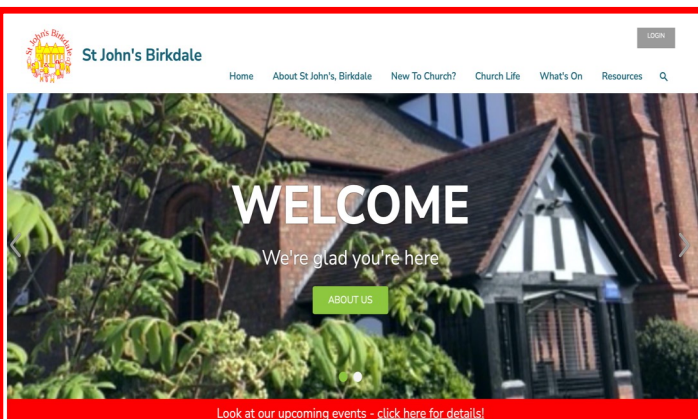
If so, then why not come
along to

Knit and Knatter

It'll be starting on **Wednesday
24th September in the vestry at
2.30pm** for a couple of hours,
and the cost is **only £1**.
It will then meet every fourth
Wednesday.

If you can't knit or crochet
but would like to learn, come
along.

If you can already knit or
crochet then maybe you'd like
to join with others making
blanket squares to create rugs
to go in church for extra
warmth.



Visit our 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

WHAT'S ON WEDNESDAYS AT ST JOHN'S

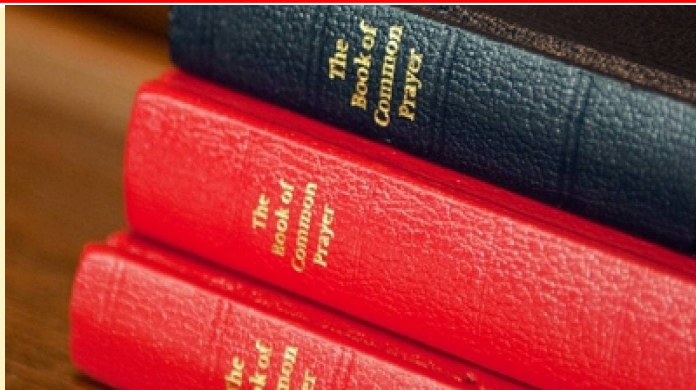
WEDNESDAYS 3rd & 17th SEPTEMBER

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

There will be a Midweek traditional Communion service at 10.30am in church on [Wednesdays 3rd and 17th September](#).

On 3rd September the service will be followed by Brunch: do stay and enjoy fellowship and a bite to eat.

On 17th September the service will be followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.



2nd & 4th Wednesdays
2pm

God's
Word

STUDY
GROUP

@ the small hall, St John's
Church PR8 4JP

revroydoran@btinternet.com



2nd & 4th Wednesdays
7.30pm

Growth

HOME
GROUP

@ Cive & Queen Jeans

food. fellowship. fun.

NEW
STARTING ON 24TH SEPTEMBER

info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk

Miscellaneous observations on life

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. – Anita Koddick

If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes. – Anon

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. – Lionel Kauffman

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. – FP Jones

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

MIDWEEK TRADITIONAL COMMUNION SERVICE

Brunch will be served
after the service



WEDNESDAY
3rd SEPTEMBER
10.30am
IN CHURCH

Worship on the Twelfth

Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

HOLY COMMUNION & BAPTISM

**10.30am in church and via zoom and
phone**

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The subject of Roy's talk:

A Call to Commitment

The Text: Romans 12: 1-8 NIV

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Worship on the Thirteenth

Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

8.30am Holy Communion in church only

**10.30am Service of the Word in church
and via zoom and phone**

Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The subject of Jennie's talks:

Graceful Giving

The Text: Romans 5: 1-11 NIV

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

MIDWEEK TRADITIONAL COMMUNION SERVICE

Tea, coffee and biscuits will
be served after the service



**WEDNESDAY
17th SEPTEMBER**

**10.30am
IN CHURCH**

Worship on the Fourteenth
Sunday after Trinity

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

**8.30am Holy Communion in church
only**

**10.30am Service of the Word in church
and via zoom and phone**

Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The subject of Christine's talks:

Truth for Life

The Text: Romans 12: 9-16 NIV

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Worship on the Fifteenth Sunday
after Trinity

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

**8.30am Holy Communion in church
only**

**10.30am Service of the Word in
church and via zoom and phone**

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The subject of Clive's talks:

No Retaliation

The Text: Romans 12: 17-21 NIV

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head". 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

St John's Birkdale
DRIVEN BY JESUS

Give to Church

Give cash, use the card reader
at the back of church or
give regularly and most
efficiently through the
Parish Giving Scheme



Scan to learn more

St John's Birkdale
DRIVEN BY JESUS

FILM NIGHTS

September 12th
October 10th
November 21st
December 12th

Contact Christine: 01704 560518
Start: 6.30pm with hot drinks & Cake
For which we charge £5

St John's Hall, PR8 4JP

Our copyright licence does not permit us to advertise the titles of the films outside our church or by publications. A list of films will be displayed on the noticeboards in the church, and details can be requested from Christine.

St John's Birkdale
DRIVEN BY JESUS

Monday, 15th September
at 7.30pm

Growth

HOME GROUP

The Bible Course
Explore the BIG story
@ 34 Oxford Road PR8 2EQ
christinebaker178@outlook.com

St John's Birkdale
DRIVEN BY JESUS

Got Questions?

Is there more to life than this?
Does God exist?
What happens next?

Join the adventure

From
Wednesday
24th
September
7.30pm

St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, PR8 4JP

Alpha.org
#TryAlpha

Alpha



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

On Hymns Ancient and More Ancient

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

So, your church does not bother with hymnbooks but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am not bothered, as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.

In my - fortunately limited - experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse, but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

When we decided to move from *Hymns More Ancient* to *Hymns Slightly Less Ancient* some years ago, our Sunday attempts to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' threatened to get lost in the noise of battle.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command, the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymnbook might even offer hymns written in the last 50 years. At this, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village (and church).

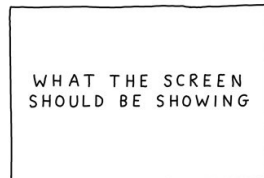
Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. But there was still a crisis to come: her young (and radical) niece decided to add a note in the front of every copy. It suggested that if the page for the hymn you wanted was missing, then you could share with the person sitting next to you. Of course, no one has done that yet; it would be an experience almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

And so, we struggle on with our *Hymns More Ancient*, whenever we can find the words. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

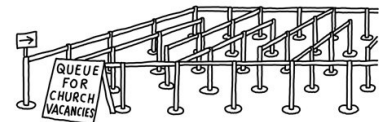
THE SCREEN



THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THAT THE SCREEN IS SHOWING WHAT THE SCREEN SHOULD BE SHOWING



THE PEOPLE WHO ARE QUIETLY DISAPPOINTED WHEN THE SCREEN DOES NOT SHOW WHAT THE SCREEN SHOULD BE SHOWING



THE PLACE THESE PEOPLE COULD VOLUNTEER IF THEY THINK THEY COULD DO A BETTER JOB AT MAKING THE SCREEN SHOW WHAT THE SCREEN SHOULD BE SHOWING

ARTS, CRAFTS AND . . . OF COURSE, CAKES

SPACE activities on Tuesday afternoons continued during August with lots of creative things to do.

August 5th was a Cooking day, and there were lots of cakes and sweet treats. Maybe not quite Masterchef, but definitely a good Bake Off!

Seventeen children and their parents had a great time cooking and playing games.

On 12th August there was a chance for children and adults to be very creative and to really “Get Arty.”

As you can see from the pictures, the spirit of Vincent Van Gogh inspired some excellent Sunflowers.





Other activities during August included weaving (with thanks to the wool gatherers and donators) and even more cookery.

This is all wonderful outreach by Jennie, Nicola, Sally, Wendy, Julie, Deborah, Caroline and Keith. St John's has such a lot to offer to the people of Birkdale and it is a pleasure to see how many children and their parents are coming and sharing in activities in a quiet space.

In September we shall again be doing more pottery painting.



150 years of the Keswick Convention

Keswick Convention was established in 1875, and from the beginning its aim was to help those wanting to know God better and to live godly Christian lives.

That remains true today. The event has developed over the years and is known for many other things as well – a commitment to mission, seeing Christians from different denominations working together, a continued emphasis on the exposition of scripture that is applied to people's lives, year round teaching and training opportunities and many Keswick Fellowship events around the country and indeed the world.

The first Convention was organised by Canon Thomas Harford-Battersby, and his friend Robert Wilson. Harford-Battersby was Vicar of St John's Church in Keswick, and he chose to hold the first event in a tent erected on his lawn. He had attended a Christian conference in Oxford, and found it life changing. "Christ was revealed to me so powerfully and sweetly as the present Saviour in His all sufficiency." And later he added: "I found He was all I wanted: I shall never forget it... How it humbled me and what peace it brought." Three or four hundred people attended, and within a few years, Christians from all over the world were making an annual pilgrimage to the little Lake District town, to hear the best Bible teachers that were available. The Keswick Convention now runs a year-round Christian teaching ministry and attracts 15,000 to its annual three-week summer convention.

Some highlights along the way:

1875 - first convention, in St John's vicarage garden in Keswick.

1901 - the first marquee was erected on the Skiddaw Street site.

1969 - the second week of convention was started, aimed more at families

1997 - the Rawsley Hall in Keswick was bought, to extend youth ministry

2001 - the third week of the convention was launched

2015 - the Pencil Mill in Keswick was acquired, and it is now an integrated home for the Convention.

Many missionary societies and theological colleges owe their roots to the Keswick Convention: Hudson Taylor of China and Amy Carmichael of India had close ties with Keswick.

In recent times, speakers have included some

of the best-known preachers in the evangelical world: John Stott, Donald English, George Duncan, David Coffey, and Anne Graham Lotz.

Perhaps one of the most famous speakers to have addressed the Convention was Billy Graham who spoke to an audience of about 15,000 at the centenary celebrations in 1975. He opened by briefly reviewing how the world had been in 1875, politically, economically, and spiritually. It had been a time of increasing secularism and materialism, but yet there was at that time an explosion of missionary activity in different parts of the world and a growing hunger in many people for spiritual things. He confidently expressed the opinion that in 1975 there was a deep and growing spiritual hunger in millions of people, and that "...if God's people will but seize the hour, the last part of the 20th century could be one of the greatest periods of spreading the Gospel in the history of the Christian Church."

Today many Keswick teaching events are held around the world: in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, North America, India, Jamaica and Japan. The Convention's motto remains – 'All One in Christ Jesus'.

You can find a wealth of material (all FREE) including Bible readings, Keswick Lectures, and Evening Talks at: <https://keswickministries.org>



1875

2025



I Found Jesus

By Carl Davey

I have been attending church, listening, praying, singing etc since I met Denise when we were both 17 years old.

Moving on to about 5 years ago, I started to see the numbers 111 or 11:11 it seemed everywhere I looked, on the clock, TV, Mileage on Cars etc. 111 or 11:11 would always appear to me, sometimes several times a day. I suddenly thought maybe God is trying to tell me something, so I prayed as to what this 111 or 11:11 meant? Was God trying to guide me in a particular direction?

I have recently participated in the Alpha Course, Soul Food and Christine's and Stuart's Bible Study and I felt something was starting to develop in me but I couldn't explain what? Then Denise and I attended the Methodist Church a number of weeks ago where Reverend Ernie Grimshaw, during the service talked about a book by Bear Grylls '**The Greatest Story Ever Told**'. I knew of Bear Grylls but why was he telling this story about Jesus?

Denise and I both bought a book each because we couldn't wait to read it! The book opened my eyes to Jesus, written completely with factual events, I felt that I could have been there alongside Jesus at that time, it was an absolutely fascinating read for me.

The week after Denise and I were holidaying in Keswick in the Lakes. When we arrived we parked where the only parking space was, we couldn't get over how busy Keswick was. We took a slightly different route into town passing St John's Church. We noticed a banner with a timetable on which showed all the sessions that were going to be on at the Keswick Convention. We had no idea it was on. We have been to the Keswick Convention before but a good few years ago, when it was much smaller. A lovely couple that were also looking at the timetable told us that because of the large attendance it was now held in a huge marquee and the Keswick Convention had now bought the Keswick Pencil Factory where different sessions were being held. We were amazed and pleased to hear about its growth. We thought as we were in Keswick we would go along.

As we walked down the main High Street it was extremely busy, swelling Keswick's population by an extra 15,000 people being

expected over the 3 weeks. I could feel the excitement by just looking at people's faces. From the moment I walked in the Convention my life changed, the atmosphere within the grounds and giant marquee was breathtaking. The reader was Andy Gemmill and his talk was on James 1 : 1-21. We got there for 11am and this was the 1st day of the 1st week - our timing had been absolutely perfect!

There were prayers in between the readings and a Christian Band and Singers, there were events taking place all over the grounds. Next to the main marquee was another large tent with refreshments and probably the largest Christian Book Selection I have ever seen. We purchased several books each.

Personally I was just feeling that God was answering all the prayers I had asked, I felt alive and wanted to just get to know so much more. The songs we sung had touched me so much, the power, the passion, of so many people together, it was overwhelming, it actually brought tears to my eyes. I enjoyed it so much, I just needed more, so we went back the following days. I felt that it was absolutely wonderful and that I had been totally guided. I feel now, after all these years that I have found Jesus and asked him to come into my life. I have read all my new books and I have since bought a new NIV Bible which I continue to read daily together with a prayer book. I cannot explain what has happened to me but I feel that I am on a journey and it feels amazing.

Please, if you get the chance, visit the Keswick Convention. It is the oldest Convention of its kind in the world and has been running for the past 150 Years! It is well worth a visit. Personally, I think all these events and messages have been guiding me to the place I feel I am at today. I feel transformed and it's fabulous, it's only now that I have found what I have been looking for all this time and I am excited.

Denise looked up the meaning of 111 or 11:11 and although the interpretation is not rooted in biblical scripture it is often associated with themes of awakenings and new beginnings..... How true that has been for me.

This article was inspired by Carl's attendance at the Keswick Convention. If any of our readers would like to share with us how they came to faith or how their faith has been strengthened, please contact the Editor who will be pleased to include your personal testimony in a future issue of **THE WORD**.

In the event of Medical Emergency at St John's:

We have two trained First Aiders: Rev Jennie, and Janette Law.

If neither of them is available there are two points of contact: Clive Morris and Stuart Baker. They are not trained First Aiders but if they are available they can be contacted and they will contact the emergency services if necessary or give access to the First Aid kit which is kept in the church hall kitchen.

We have a Defibrillator machine. This is in the entrance lobby in the church hall next to the door which opens into the corridor leading to the church.

Instructions for use of the Defibrillator are contained in the machine.

We recommend that worshippers and other visitors to our church should carry a mobile phone with them. We do **not** have a payphone in the church or hall.



The Canterbury Tales



Stuart Baker revisits some of these stories in search of their moral lessons. This month he looks at another of Chaucer's stories. A Franklin in 14th Century England was a wealthy Landowner who was not of noble birth.

The Franklin's Tale

Arveragus, a noble, prosperous, and courageous knight, married a beautiful young maiden, Dorigen, and they vowed that they would always respect each other. Sometime after the wedding, the knight went to England and was absent for two years. While her husband was away, Dorigen wept, fasted and lamented his absence. In her grief, she often sat on the shore, looking at the bare rocks near the shore, where so many lives had been lost, and became apprehensive for her own husband's safety. One day, Dorigen joined friends at a picnic where a dance was staged. At the dance was a handsome and wealthy young man, Aurelius, who had secretly admired Dorigen for two years. Aurelius revealed his love, but Dorigen spurned his advances. Aurelius became so despondent that Dorigen, trying to raise him from his despair, jokingly said that she would agree to his love and embraces if he

removed all the rocks from the coast of Brittany. The task was impossible. Aurelius returned home, despondent, and was cared for by his brother.

Aurelius remained sick for two years. Finally, his brother came upon a way to solve the dilemma. He remembered a student who claimed to have deciphered the secret codes of magic found in rare books. Aurelius went to the student-magician and promised payment of £1,000 if his magic cleared the coast of rocks. The student-magician agreed, and the deed was performed. Aurelius then asked Dorigen to keep her promise. Dorigen, horrified and contemplating suicide, thought at length of twenty-one women, most of whom had taken their lives rather than disgrace themselves.

Meanwhile, Arveragus returned and found his wife prostrate with grief. Dorigen told him the story of her bargain, and he said she must keep her promise, even though it sorely grieved him. Dorigen presented herself to Aurelius. However, when Aurelius learned of Arveragus' nobility and sacrifice, he could not force himself to possess Dorigen and sent the relieved lady back to her husband. Then Aurelius gathered all his gold together, but he discovered that he could pay only half of what he owed the student-magician. When the student-magician learned that Dorigen was relieved of her part of the bargain, the student-magician cancelled Aurelius' entire debt.

The moral lessons of this tale:

- 1. True nobility lies in generosity, honour and selflessness. It is not inherited through birth but reflects moral character by showing mercy, keeping promises and putting others before oneself.**
- 2. Keeping one's word is a serious moral duty even if it involves personal pain.**

Plan ahead and you could get peace of mind



Choice Funeral Plans from just £1,795

With our Choice Funeral Plans you could get peace of mind for you and your family.

Record your personal wishes and pay for professional Funeral Director Services in advance, which could otherwise change in the future.

To discuss our different plans or to request a brochure visit your local branch, call us or go to howardsfuneraldirectors.co.uk/choice

A life well remembered lives on

Southport

☎ 01704 500 086

Ainsdale

☎ 01704 577 786



T&Cs apply. Howard's Funeral Directors is a trading name of Funeral Partners which distribute Choice Funeral Plans, which are provided by Alternative Planning Company Limited (APCL). Funeral Partners is an appointed representative of APCL. APCL is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority with firm reference number 965282. Both APCL and Funeral Partners are part of the Funeral Partners Group. The price of an Unattended Cremation Plan is £1,795. The equivalent price for an unattended funeral purchased today at Howard's Funeral Directors is £1,775 (exc. doctor's fees). These prices are correct as of Jan 2024. APCL incurs costs in order to provide this Funeral Plan to you. APCL typically retains around £475 of the price you pay for each Funeral Plan to cover our costs.

Do you want to rent a space?

CHURCH & HALL AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR CONCERTS, PARTIES, MEETINGS...

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BIRKDALE



Large Hall

Are you looking to hire a space for a regular group activity or for a family celebration such as a children's birthday party? Our halls are ideal.

We have both a large hall and a small meeting room available for hire for an hourly charge. A professional standard kitchen is also available.

If you would like to make a booking for any of our rooms in the church hall please contact Jean Morris - phone 01704 564206.

- Dimensions - 55ft x 33ft (16.76m x 10m)
 - Equipped with chairs and tables
 - Theatre style capacity for up to 100
 - Ideal for parties, concerts, clubs, meetings
- Regular or one-off events

Kitchen

- Fully equipped, professional kitchen including cooker, heated cupboard and dishwasher.

Small Meeting Room

- Dimensions - 30ft x 15ft (9.1m x 4.57m)
 - Equipped with chairs and tables
 - TV monitor screen
- Ideal for meetings and small gatherings

Church

The church can accommodate 250 and can be available by arrangement for concerts by musical and choral groups. **If you would like to enquire about using the church please contact Clive Morris - phone 01704 564206.**

The Nicene Creed: The Ascended and Returning Jesus

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the present and future ministry of Jesus.

'On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures': Jesus' resurrection is central to the Christian Faith, for as Paul says, without it *'our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'* (1 Cor 15:14). The Resurrection demonstrates the triumph of Jesus over sin and death, as well as recognising the breaking in of the new creation and Jesus as Lord over creation. The Creed affirms that it also fulfils the promises of Scripture, as Jesus explains on the Road to Emmaus: *'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.'* (Luke 24:27).

'He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father': In the Creed, the Ascension is given equal weight to the Cross and Resurrection, as Jesus is restored to the place of honour alongside His Father. With Christ seated on the throne, there is now *a man* on the throne who is also God the Son. In His absence on earth, Jesus sends His Spirit to live in believers, *'Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.'* (Acts 2:33). He remembers His people, *'because He always lives to intercede for them'* (Hebrews 7:25).

'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end': Jesus will return in judgement as *'the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.'* (Acts 10:42). God will put all things right, punishing all evil and establishing His full reign over everything. In contrast to human judgment, which is always partial and subject to error, this final judgment will be utterly true and right, because God knows our hearts completely.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Book Review

We Believe – Exploring the Nicene Creed

Various authors, Church House Publishing, £3.99

Here you can join with believers around the world in celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, one of the most enduring statements of Christian faith.

We Believe offers 24 daily Bible readings and reflections to help you pray and reflect on the Nicene Creed's timeless truths. Taking each line of the Creed in turn, it provides a short Bible reading, a reflection, a question to help you grow in faith, and a prayer, drawing you deeper into the Creed's meaning and significance for your life.

Whether you have been reciting the Creed for many years – or are exploring Christian faith for the very first time – this beautifully illustrated booklet will offer you new insight and inspiration.



PATIENCE

A poem by Penny Candlin

In a world of instant, be patient
Wait for God to speak, be patient
Allow God to show you, be patient
See God in the delicate petals of a flower, be patient
As the colours fade, be patient
When time ticks by, be patient
When nothing seems to get done, be patient
Do not rush, be patient
Bear humbly with each other, be patient
We wait patiently for what we cannot see, be patient
A thousand years is but a day in God's eyes, be patient
Remember our timing is impatient God's timing is perfect, be patient
Little by little God will reveal his purpose, be patient
As a flower takes time to grow first the seed then the shoot and then the leaves, be patient
When things don't go your way, be patient
Be patient, for you do not know the day or hour that God will come, be patient.

St John's Prayers for those in need

We believe in the power of prayer and we are eager to include as many people who currently need prayer in our twice monthly prayer meetings and on the screen on a Sunday. We aim to keep the prayer list current and to receive regular updates on people who need longer term prayer so that we can pray meaningfully at the zoom prayer meeting.



Names will be on the list for a month at a time, so the lists will be refreshed at the beginning of each calendar month.

If you would like to be on the list for October **please let Rev. Jennie know** with a current update of why you would like prayer so that we can use that information on a Thursday.

If you would like to add someone else to the list, provided you have asked their permission, then pass their name, and any other information on why they would like prayer, to Jennie.

How to watch a movie filmed in Southport for free

Back in the March issue of *The Word* we carried a story about the locally filmed feature film *Down & Out*, which had been awarded Official Selection status in the northern UK edition of the prestigious international Lift-Off film festival series. Directed by Ian Bennett, the film then achieved second place in the 'peoples choice' category, voted for by viewers worldwide and beaten by only two votes.

Although originally planned to join OMF's other movies on the Amazon owned PVD broadcast streaming platform, which requires viewers to pay a fee, the decision was later taken to make *Down & Out* free to stream, widening the reach of this dynamic window on the world of homeless and rough sleepers.

Although this is not a documentary but a powerful narrative drama, its storyline is based on real events. From domestic arguments to evictions and even a death, *Down & Out* doesn't shy away from the unpalatable. And if free streaming was something of a gamble, the proof of that particular pudding is now clear.



In streaming terms, high profile short clips just a few minutes long are often said to 'go viral' with millions of views, while feature films with longer runtimes usually struggle to reach a few hundred. 'Our target was to get the film seen by four or five hundred people by the end of the year' director Ian Bennett told us. However, only released to stream as recently as 25th August,

just four weeks later *Down & Out* had been viewed a phenomenal 8000 times

Allowing for the movie's length of 73 minutes, you can view for free by going to the web site and locating *Down & Out* in the filmography, where there is a direct link to stream.

———— www.omf-film.co.uk ————

An Introduction to Books in the New Testament: Corinthians 2

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series exploring books in The Bible.

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor. 5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3-4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9, 12-13).

To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).

To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14-7:1).

To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).

To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chs. 8-9).

To deal with the opposition (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3, 10).

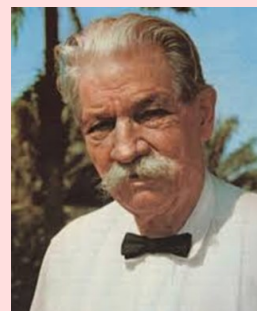
In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials.

A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul *suffered too much* to be a Spirit-filled apostle.

Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: *'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'* (2 Cor 12:9).

Remembering Albert Schweitzer by Tim Lenton

Sixty years ago, on 4th September 1965, Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. He was winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.



Schweitzer was a devout Christian with a passionate allegiance to Jesus. His key philosophy was "reverence for life": no-one, he felt, should harm or destroy life unless it was absolutely necessary. It was this philosophy that gained him the Nobel Peace Prize, and led him in later life to campaign against nuclear weapons.

He was born in 1875 in Alsace, where his father was a Lutheran-Evangelical pastor, and he made an impression first in the world of music, becoming a musical scholar and organist, as well as dedicating himself to the restoration and study of historic pipe organs.

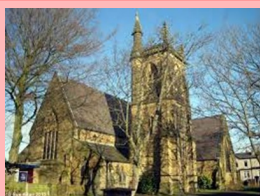
In 1903 he became Principal of the Theological College of Saint Thomas, from which he had graduated. In 1906 he published his key work, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, which was published in English in 1910.

Schweitzer made a proposal in 1912 to work at his own expense as a physician in the Paris Missionary Society's mission at Lambaréné on the Ogooué river, in what is now Gabon, in Africa, then a French colony. He would not go before a committee to have his doctrine examined, but met committee members individually and was eventually accepted, raising his own funding partly through concerts. His wife, Helene, served as an anaesthetist for surgical operations.

There was some criticism much later of the informal, spartan arrangements (patients living on the hospital grounds during treatment, for instance), but his biographer – also a volunteer surgeon – pointed out that surgical survival rates were as high as in many fully equipped western hospitals.

Schweitzer died at Lambaréné, his grave marked by a cross he made himself.

Social Events Coming Soon at St Peter's Birkdale (St Peter's Road)



27th September: Barn Dance

13th December: Alistair Lee (professional singer)

For more details about these events please contact stpetersbirkdale@hotmail.com

Social Events Coming Soon at St James' Birkdale (Lulworth Road)



First Tuesday of each month:

Games Afternoon in the church hall. 1.00pm for lunch (pre-book at St James' church office 01704 564907 the week before) or 1.30-3.00pm for games.

Third Sunday of each month: Afternoon Tea in Welcome Area 2.30-4.00pm. Open to anyone who would like some company along with tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

Saturday 29th November: Murder Mystery event (evening). More details to follow.

W CROSS R D

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV. Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

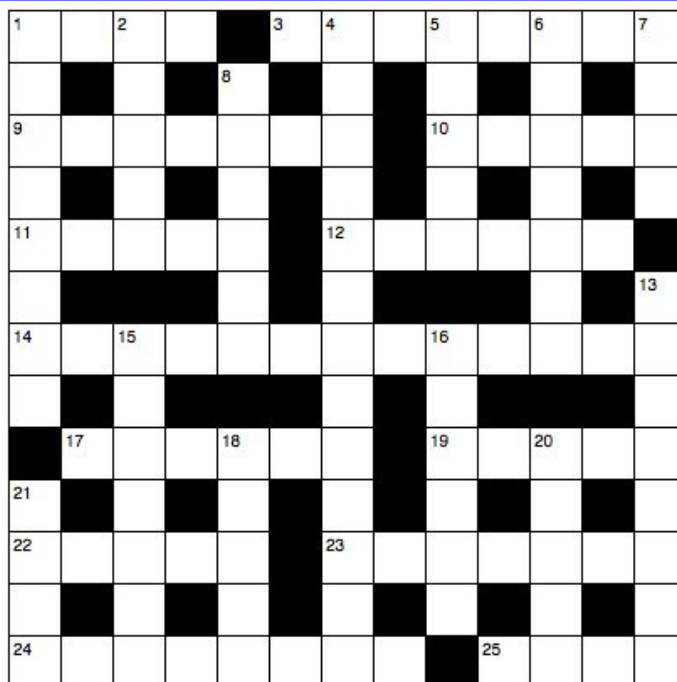
Solution below

Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)



- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

In our Book of Remembrance In September

- 3rd William Halsall, 1945
 6th Douglas Whitehill, 2008
 Eileen Jones, 2020
 10th Kathleen Hewetson, 1987
 Alan Burdon, 2004
 12th Audrey Moss, 2023
 14th Alice Lloyd, 2000
 15th Doris Perry, 1992
 17th Annie Stoker, 2001
 18th Harry Jones, 1975
 21st Barbara Carr, 2022

- 22nd May Johnson, 1981
 26th Margaret Ball, 1984
 Arthur Bredow, 1955
 27th Amy Madden, 2020
 28th William Welch, 1984
 29th John Taylor, 1993
 Margery Abbott, 2007
 30th Viola Marriner, 1978
 Norman Isherwood, 2011

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1, Also, 3, Offering, 9, The Magi, 10, Rules, 11, Soper, 12, Help me, 14, Isaac and Jacob, 17, Scorch, 19, In man, 22, Loads, 23, Inertia, 24, Vicinity, 25, Belt.
 DOWN: 1, Artistic, 2, Sleep, 4, Faith in Christ, 5, Enrol, 6, Islamic, 7, Gasp, 8, Fabric, 13, Abundant, 15, Archaic, 16, Jailer, 18, Resin, 20, Mitre, 21, Slav.

God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess surveys great works of sacred art.

'He gave us eyes to see them'
William Holman Hunt's
"Scapegoat."

14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet cord – a reminder that 'though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.'

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt's famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. This village was founded by Lord Leverhulme in 1889 for the workers in his soap factory. It consists of gabled houses and Elizabethan style cottages which nestle side by side around the impressive domed art gallery containing a wealth of paintings and sculptures.

Work on 'The Scapegoat' began in 1854 and was completed two years later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.

Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in



Jerusalem. He described the scene as a 'beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.' In the distance are the hills of Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: 'The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.'

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: 'He was despised and rejected by others.' A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the new covenant who takes away the sin of the world.

Your choice

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Knock knock

What do you get when you cross an atheist with a Jehovah's Witness?
Someone who knocks at your door for no apparent reason.

THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON LAW

Reflections of Lord Denning, one of the foremost English Judges of the twentieth century.

“THE BASIS OF CIVIL WRONGS”

Lord Denning suggested that the common law of England was moulded by judges who had been brought up in the Christian faith, and that the precepts of religion, consciously or unconsciously, had been their guide in the administration of justice. He explained:

Perhaps the best illustration of this is the law of this country about civil wrongs. At one time the ruling principle (derived from Roman law) was that a person was not liable to pay damages unless he had been guilty of some fault, such as some negligence, some invasion on another's property, or the like. The underlying justification for this rule was that damages were a deterrent. If he was made to pay damages, he was not so likely to commit the same fault again. But those who put forward this view always had great difficulty in explaining why a master should be liable to pay damages for his servant's fault. Nowadays (save for rare exceptions) damages are not regarded as a deterrent or punishment, but rather as compensation for harm done. If you love your neighbour, you will take care not to injure him. And if perchance you should by your negligence (or even by the negligence of your servants) do him some damage, you will wish to compensate him. If you do not do so, the law will require you to do what you ought to have done willingly, but it will not go further and punish you.

It will not exact anything in the nature of vengeance or retribution. If proof of this were needed, it is to be found in the fact that you can insure yourself against any damages you have to pay.

This means that the law does not insist on the compensation coming from your own pocket. It is sufficient if your insurance company pays. It is obvious that, when you have covered your liability by insurance, the award of damages has no punitive or deterrent effect on you. It is compensation for the injured party and nothing else. Once this is appreciated, you can understand why a master should pay compensation for his servant's fault. The servant is doing the master's business and the master should be answerable for the servant's act as if it were his own. A noteworthy illustration of the modern approach is to be found in the case of a guest of a Brighton Hotel who got annoyed with the manager and made a brutal assault on him. He was taken before the Criminal Courts and found to be insane. He could not therefore be said to be at fault, but nevertheless he was ordered by a civil court to pay compensation to the injured manager.

Lord Denning's use of the terms “master” and “servant” are now seen as somewhat archaic. In more modern parlance, substitute “employer” and “employee.”

Copyright in Lord Denning's book is owned by the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship whom we thank for their kind permission in allowing us to publish extracts from it.



Lord Denning,
drawn by Sallon

THE MILK

WHAT TO DO IF IT RUNS OUT



DOWN THE AISLE

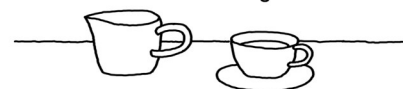


BACK FROM THE SHOP

SEE WHETHER SOMEONE
CAN BEAT THE PROCESSION



USE ILLEGAL MILK



RATION SUPPLIES



GO BACK TO
THE SOURCE



PRESENT 'NO MILK'
AS A FEATURE



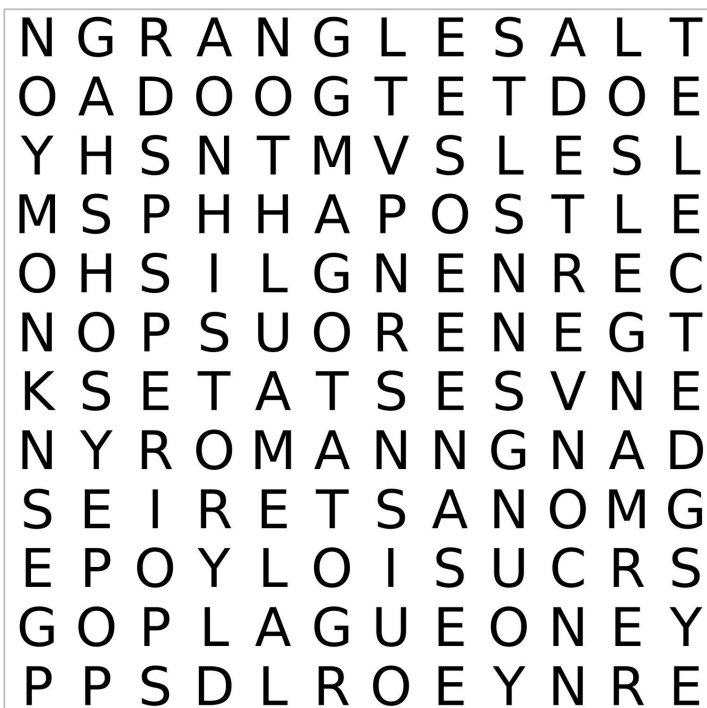
USE A NON-DAIRY
ALTERNATIVE

WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 26

On 3rd September, we meet St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.



GREGORY
HISTORY
SON
ROMAN

SENATOR
CONVERTED
YOUNG
ESTATES

MONASTERIES
GENEROUS
POOR
MONK

ENGLISH
SLAVES
ANGELS
ANGLES

PLAGUE
POPE
APOSTLE
ELECTED

Doing It Ourselves

At St John's we are fortunate to have a small team of volunteers who now clean the church on a rota basis. This amusing cartoon does not reflect their efforts but is included to arrest the attention of our readers with humour. And anyway, we don't have any loose carpets and our vestry is full of exercise bikes! It is very good of them to have offered to help to keep our church clean (it is much better now than when we paid a firm of cleaners to do it) and the saving of church funds is significant. **Can YOU help, occasionally?** If so, please contact Christine (560518). The rota could accommodate you!

As mentioned in the August edition there are other jobs which need to be done from time to time. One of them is tidying the church

grounds. The grass is cut occasionally (thanks to generous donations), but the borders and the shrubs all need attention and there is a lot of weed growth in the areas behind the church hall which were totally cleared of weeds a few years ago when the areas were levelled and covered with limestone chippings.

Many of our readers probably do much or all of their own gardening at home. If any readers feel that they would like to, and are able to, help with occasional tidying of the church grounds please do not wait to be asked. Come and do it when you can, or contact Stuart (560518). It's great to do these jobs in company with others, so let's see if we can have an occasional Garden Party to keep the grounds looking neat.

Stuart



God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Big perspective, big questions

It was three years ago this summer that the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when 'astronaut' is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge.

Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth's atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It's the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed 'the overview effect'. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the



fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a 'self-transcendent experience'.

Some people claim to have a 'nothing but science' approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn't answer them. It's important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or

theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

This article has been reproduced, with permission, from <https://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/connectingwithculture/>



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had disturbed nothing in the vestry

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.



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).



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

**HAIRDRESSING
FOR ALL
THE FAMILY**

Tuesdays : O.A.P rates by Diane

WORD SEARCH solution



J. E. ALVEY

VERMIN AND INSECT CONTROL



Domestic and Industrial Contracts

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

**13 VICARAGE LANE,
BANKS. PR9 8ES**

Tel: 01704 213025

www.jalveypestcontrol.co.uk

Reflecting Faith by Rev. Dr. Jo White First Impressions

This series has recently been looking at the opening and closing words of most church services.

They usually go something like this:

(In) The Lord be with you. And also with you.

(Out) Go in the light and peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

This month let's consider what's pretty much the very next thing we generally do / say at the start of the service.

We acknowledge how great God is: the recognition of His power and might, His goodness and mercy as well as His ability to give us never-ending love. This makes us realise how 'little' we are and how we have not been as loving and forgiving to others – and indeed to ourselves – as we could have been.

This is sometimes called the 'Prayer of Humble Access'.

In a way it mirrors the prodigal son when he returned to his father. The son had demanded his inheritance NOW and then rushed off to have a good time in all the 'usual' ways, followed by poverty and having to work in the lowliest of jobs just to keep alive. Eventually he realised that even the pigs in his father's house lived better than he did – so he decided to humble himself and return home. He did not expect to go back to his previous standing, but rather to beg forgiveness and ask to be a servant.

It's the ending of this story that is so exciting. The prodigal's father was told of his wayward son's approach, and everyone was expecting him to turn his son away. Instead he rushed out to meet and greet him. Not waiting for an apology or a begging word, the father covered him in rich clothes, holding his (no doubt) smelly body close and just loving him.

And spiritually that is what God does to each of us, as we come deliberately and consciously into His presence and turn to Him. He holds us close and forgives us.

SUCCESS IS RELATIVE

by John M. Shakespeare

What may seem a success for some, to others will seem hardly to be so. Achievement is relative to whatever the result of the actions undertaken was meant to bring. A favourable development, or a creditable outcome, may qualify as a success to the instigator of an action in their own eyes, if they get what they wanted.

In the words of William Shakespeare (1564-1616), from his play "Troilus and Cressida" we learn:

"Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing:
That she belov'd knows nought that knows nought this: men prize the thing ungained more than it is."

This is a love story of the Trojan wars, sentiments equally true today. What we do in this world is often the result of circumstance and or temperament. Be you a physician, a plumber, a lawyer or a labourer, you can take pride in doing a job well, it is all in the state of mind. To quote Proverbs (Ch 28 verse 6):

"Better to be poor and walk in integrity, than to be crooked in one's ways, even though rich".

I believe that the twin powers of Hope and Faith, will bring you all the success you need!

Socrates (470-399 BC), had a firm belief in the basic principles of what is right and wrong, in terms of both behaviour and thinking. He believed that to live a life of virtue involved knowledge of ethics, in order to be able to reach one's full potential and be a success. Someone who does not know virtue, (the virtue principle), cannot lead a good life, whilst one who knows virtue, can lead a good and happy life.

Aristotle (384-322 BC), championed that the aim of life is to realise it to its fullest. He despised those of us with undue humility, but did not embrace boastfulness. He wrote that virtue is a disposition that involves a deliberate purpose or choice of action, that is based on reason.

In the Bible Jesus tells his disciples of the sort of discipline and belief needed of them, for their success in taking up the cross. Matthew (Ch 16 verses 25 and 26):

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world, but forfeit their life. Or what will they give in return for their life".

To briefly quote T.S. Eliot (1888-1965), an American born British poet, "Success is relative, it is what we can make of the mess we have made of things". All of us from time to time, will make mistakes in what we do or say.

This is a time when we need Philippians (Ch 4 verse 8), "Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things".

What we see as success will depend on what we see as having a set of worthwhile values. Wealth, and/or status in society, may be seen as measures of success, but how do these measure up to having a loving family or people that we can rely on as good friends.

So how am I to live a worthwhile life? For many it will involve religious or ethical standards, and it is meeting such standards that I see as being a success!

What are my conclusions with regard to what amounts to success? It is a difficult one, since it varies according to what we wish to achieve. We need a compass to guide us, as every sea lover knows. In order to succeed we must know what we are aiming for, some believe that prayer can help us at such times.

I finish with the proverbial words of wisdom, "He who would enjoy the fruit of his labours, must be capable of climbing the tree".

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

To join the **weekly Sunday morning services at 10.30am** by **ZOOM**:

The Identification Number every Sunday will be: 812 3403 0688

The Password every Sunday will be: 201823

To join the **weekly Sunday morning services at 10.30am** by **TELEPHONE**:

The telephone number you must ring is: 0203 481 5240

The Meeting Identification Number every Sunday will be: 812 3403 0688

When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)

The Password every Sunday will be: 201823.

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: 835 5074 3780

The Password every Thursday will be: 7ehHEK

To join the **twice-monthly Thursday evening prayers** at 7.30pm by **TELEPHONE**:

The telephone number you must ring is: 0203 481 5240

The Meeting Identification Number every Thursday will be: 835 5074 3780.

When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)

The Password every Thursday will be 7ehHEK. **SUBJECT TO BEING CHANGED.**

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 Rev. Jennie for any further details you require.

Was it really that long ago?...

70 years ago, on 4th September 1955 Kenneth Kendall became the first newsreader to appear on screen in the UK, reading the *BBC Television News*.

Also 70 years ago, on 21st September 1955 Britain annexed Rockall, an uninhabited granite islet in the North Atlantic, to prevent the Soviet Union from placing surveillance equipment there to spy on Britain's secret nuclear missile tests.

Also 70 years ago, on 22nd September 1955 Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

Also 70 years ago, 26th September 1955 Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.

60 years ago, on 4th September 1965 Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. Winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

40 years ago, on 9th to 11th September 1985 the Handsworth Riots took place in Birmingham. Unemployment and racial tensions fuelled a mass riot following the arrest of a man in a café and a police raid on a public house. 45 shops were looted and burned, and at least two people killed. Several more riots occurred across England that autumn.

30 years ago, on 3rd September 1995 the online auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb). The first item sold was a broken laser pointer.

20 years ago, on 12th September 2005 the evacuation of all Israeli security forces and Israeli civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip was completed. Israel had occupied the Gaza Strip for 38 years.

15 years ago, on 19th September 2010 the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was finally sealed after gushing oil for almost five months. It was the biggest marine oil spill in history. In 2016 BP agreed to pay fines of \$20.8 billion – the largest corporate settlement in US history. BP also paid more than \$65 billion in clean-up costs.

10 years ago, on 24th September 2015 the Mina stampede took place. More than 2,000 people were killed in a crush and stampede during the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Church Hall Users

Tuesday

3.00pm – 5.30pm **SPACE Pottery Painting**

7.30pm **Godspeed**

Wednesday

10.30 – 12 noon 2nd Wednesday of the month only.

Elderberries Gardening Club

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

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

elderberriesgardening@gmail.com

Thursday

1.00pm to 2.00pm: **Balance Classes for the Elderly.**

Contact: ageingwellmerseyside@outlook.com.

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

6.00pm **Godspeed**

Friday

9.30am **Godspeed**

1.00pm–2.30pm **Jolly Tots for tots, babies and bumps**

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.

Warm Space

Struggling with the cost of living? Feeling lonely?
Looking for a quiet, safe place to gather your thoughts?

Or, just need a friendly chat over a hot drink?

**EVERY
THURSDAY
10am - 4pm**

The Stationmaster's House,
2 Liverpool Road, Birkdale. PR8 4AR

**Birkdale
Community Hub & Library
At the Station Master's House**



**FULLY
ACCESSIBLE**

With disabled access, a
large accessible lift and
disabled toilet with
baby changing
facilities.

A warm welcome guaranteed by
our friendly hosts at our 'enhanced'
warm space, community hub and
library. We offer free tea, coffee
and biscuits as well as
newspapers, puzzle books,
activities and occasional guest
speakers alongside other services.
FREE WI-FI and computer access.

**Sefton
Warm Spaces**

a space for community
and warmth in Sefton

Next to you and lonely

(Matthew 25:40)

Cups of tea and people,
People who do and who know.
People with purposeful expressions,
Their eyes searching beyond her, through her,
The invisible one.
She's next to you and she's lonely.
Smiles and one-way conversations,
With thoughts and eyes elsewhere,
Never noticing the masks of brightness
Hiding hurting children,
The tired ones,
Who are next to you and lonely.
And the makers of the cups of tea,
The knowers and the doers,
Those who smile and seem to have so much.
They too wear masks that hide their crying,
The *together* ones
Sit next to you and are lonely.

By Daphne Kitching

1825 – 200 years of the train

The engine, all clanky
and smoky
The passengers
standing in trucks
A journey both shaky and choky
But a new age of travel was struck.
The railways spread out like spiders
Till covering all of our Isles
In general delighting their riders
Who normally got there with smiles.
So many long years of reaching
Our goals with whistles and toots
Till along came a daft man called 'Beeching'
Who cut it all back to its roots.

Today it's the roads that are choking
Car drivers are hooting – in vain.
Doc Beeching might think I am joking
But they're building new railways again!
By Nigel Beeton



£130 for our church: Home Insurance offer from Ecclesiastical Insurance Company

Take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical – one of the UK's most trusted home insurance providers and a Which? "Best Buy" – and Ecclesiastical will donate £130 to our church.

For a price quotation ring 0345 777 3322

 **ecclesiastical**



To:

Diane Rothwell on 2nd September
Phyllis Stuart on 12th September
Alf Quinton on 18th September



To:

Stuart and Christine Baker on 20th September

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

The Last Laughs

The Art of heckling... and responding

Former Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson was asked from the floor: "Why is it Mr Wilson that whenever anyone asks you a question you always answer with another one?" The wily, quick-witted Wilson instantly replied: "Why shouldn't I?"

At an election meeting in Kilmarnock in the 1960s in which Willie Ross, the secretary of state for Scotland, was speaking. he thundered that he had "railwayman's blood in my veins". The reply from the floor was: "Aye, and steam coming out your mouth."

Hecklers don't always better the politician. At a campaign meeting in 1947 someone asked the former MP Harold Nicolson if the "Tories had always trampled on the faces of the poor". He replied that this was untrue but agreed that "Conservatives have not always been careful where they placed their feet".

But surely one of the best responses by a politician to a heckler goes to Sir Robert Menzies, prime minister of Australia, 1939-41 and 1949-66. When a woman shouted, "I wouldn't vote for you if you were the archangel Gabriel", he replied: "If I were the archangel Gabriel, I'm afraid you would not be in my constituency."

More exam howlers from The Times "Letters to the Editor" pages

Former teacher and examiner Geoffrey Bellamy once opened a Religious Studies paper to find it blank, save for one answer which read: "God told Moses to come forth, he came fifth and won a teapot."

Other students were more confident but no less inaccurate. A favourite was:

"Ludwig van Tchaikovsky was born at 21 years of age".

Andrew Whiffin recalls a history exam which read "Martin Luther first comes to the eye of the historian in 1517, when he nailed his 95 faeces to the church of Wittenberg". He was at least impressed by the candidate's spelling

Asked at his prep school to name a Russian composer, Peter Ustinov wrote "Rimsky-Korsakov". It was marked wrong, as apparently the "correct answer" was Tchaikovsky. Ustinov argued his case. Having looked it up, the teacher conceded defeat, but nevertheless upbraided Ustinov, in front of the entire school, for "showing off".

The husband of Sue Roberts taught in Ghana and once set an exam about the 5th-century pretender Perkin Warbeck; he was amused to read one answer which began "When Perkin Warbeck landed at London Airport".

Finally, Bernard Kingston once got wind of a history paper where the candidate wrote of Ferdinand Magellan being "the first man to circumcise the world with a 40-foot clipper."

Praying for the wrong things

The famous golfer, Henry Longhurst, once warned that "if you call on God to improve the results of a shot whilst the ball is still in motion you are using an outside agency and subject to the appropriate penalties under the rules of golf." Of course, as all golfers know, you should never castigate a moving ball: wait to see where it lands, you could be lucky!

Coming out of church, the wife asked her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?" Her husband looked vague. "And that dress Mrs Hansen was wearing," she continued, "Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper costume for a mother of two." Her husband looked blank. "Oh, for heaven's sake," snapped his wife. "A lot of good it does you to go to church!"

A vicar, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the vicar asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply. "But," said the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?" "Because" the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."



Low Impact Exercise Classes

Liverpool Road Methodist Church Fridays

10:15am – 11am Low Impact Dance Fitness – £4.00

A mixture of aerobics and dance to help you have fun and lose your tum!

Good music and lots of laughs.

Ideal if you are first on the dance floor or have two left feet – if you're having fun you're doing it right!!

11:05am – 11:35am Balance Improver – £3.00

Using a variety of proven balance techniques to help improve your balance, confidence and coordination.

These can be done seated, standing whilst holding on or unsupported if you're feeling like showing off!

11:45am – 12:15pm Seated Dance Exercise – £3.00

Using a mixture of exercise and dance moves – to a background of sing along tracks to help you have fun and keep moving.

Ideal for those who find a standing session uncomfortable

Beginners Very Welcome

Work at your own Pace

For more information please call Kaz Parkinson on 07540 369942.

Or come along and try us out – first session free



MASSAM & MARSHALL

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



Our Services

- ✓ 24 hour professional service
- ✓ Bereavement Support
- ✓ Stonemasonry
- ✓ Funeral Plans

Why Choose Us?

We're a professional, Local, family run business dedicated to supporting our community when you need it most

Contact us

Southport and Birkdale
01704 549222

Parbold - 01257 462222

Scarisbrick - 01704 321234

Covering all surrounding areas

www.massamandmarshall.co.uk

Funerals@massamandmarshall.co.uk