



THE WORD

MAGAZINE OF ST JOHN'S BIRKDALE

GOD CENTRED, RELATIONSHIP DRIVEN AND LIFE TRANSFORMING

JUNE 2026 ISSUE 282

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Vicar's Message* 3
- *What's On* 4 - 7
- *Our Church Services* 8 - 9
- *Cartmel Priory Visit* 12 - 13
- *Queenscourt Hospice* 26 - 27
- *Revelation Revealed* 29

John 1:1 & 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*

St John's Church, St John's Road, Birkdale, PR8 4JP
Vicar: Rev. Jennie Hardy Charity number 1128171

HELP TO SAVE OUR HOSPICE

There is probably not anyone in Southport who does not know someone or a family who have been helped in their hours of need by Queenscourt Hospice.

In this issue of THE WORD we include a double-page feature on the current financial plight of Queenscourt (pages 26-27). We make no apology for including their plea which we hope will be sympathetically read. The nation is living through difficult times with a spiralling cost of living and perhaps less money to spare for charities. Not everyone may be able to give financial support to Queenscourt Hospice but we can all give some practical support by forwarding their copy of THE WORD to as many people as they know in the Southport area, and spreading the word, in the hope of raising awareness amongst the local population. Services at the Hospice are already being cut back and unless it receives a major boost in its funding there is a real risk that in the next few years it may have to close.

If you can help our Hospice in any way, please do so. Stuart Baker

ST JOHN'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM was held in church on Sunday 17th May. 38 members of St John's attended in person and two more watched on zoom.

Clive Morris was elected again as our Churchwarden; he and Anthony Guy and Colin Jackson were elected as our Deanery Synod representatives; Sylvia Kent, David Halsall, Carl Davey, Anthony Guy and Stuart Baker will serve on the PCC. Jonathan Lawson accepted the office of Independent Examiner of our accounts. The meeting received reports from the PCC Secretary (Christine Baker), the PCC Treasurer (given by Sylvia Kent), Clive Morris (on the Fabric of the church, and the Deanery Synod), Stuart Harris (Electoral Roll Officer) and the Vicar.

We now have 56 people on the Electoral Roll of whom 36 live in the parish and 20 outside.

The Vicar's report recounted the many ways in which St John's has provided pastoral and spiritual ministry and has made a real contribution to social and community life in our parish and she thanked all who have helped in so many different ways to keep St John's as a vibrant and focused place of worship. We can look forward to the year ahead with confidence that we shall have a busy time serving the Lord.

WHO'S WHAT AT ST. JOHN'S

Vicar:	Rev. Jennie Hardy (07872 400718)	Girl Guides:	Mrs. Janette Law (565951)
Clergy (retired):	Rev. Roy Doran (572387)	St. John's Brownies:	Mrs. Helen Jones and
Reader:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)	Brownie Guiders:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
Churchwarden:	Clive Morris (564206)	St. John's Rainbows:	Mrs. Lesley Scott
PCC Treasurer:	Mrs. Amanda Potts (07530 950100)	Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside (07732 993025)
PCC Secretary:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)	Magazine Editor:	Stuart Baker (560518)
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)	Design and artwork:	Ian Bennett MBKS
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris (564206)	Magazine Printer:	Mrs. Christine Baker (560518)
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris (563789)	Buildings Inspector:	David Halsall (07790 822343)
Deanery Synod Reps:	Clive Morris (564206) Colin Jackson (07713567099) Anthony Guy	Verger:	Anthony Guy
Lead Safeguarding Officer & Recruiter	Stuart Baker (560518)	Eco Champions:	Mrs. Elizabeth Rothwell and Duncan Rothwell (564192)
Transport Officer:	Mrs. Jean Morris (564206)	Leadership Team:	Rev. Jennie Hardy Rev. Roy Doran Mrs. Christine Baker Clive Morris
Church of England Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent (564071)	Contacts & information:	
Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton (564737)	Editor's email:	stjohnbirkdaletheword@gmail.com
		Church email:	info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk
		Website:	https://www.stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR:

Who is God?

Dear Readers,

Have you ever questioned who God is?

At St John's as we have been progressing through Easter, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday we have been asking exactly that. We are looking at God as one God, with three parts – God in His entirety as well as thinking about who God is specifically as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

When Moses asked God who He was by name in Exodus 3:14 God's answer was "Ehyeh asher Ehyeh," "I AM WHO I AM".

God is often described as the supreme being, the Creator, and ruler of the universe. He is characterised by attributes such as omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence, meaning that He is all-powerful, all-knowing and present everywhere.

Thinking of God in these terms is all very interesting "a priori", as an independent of experience way of knowing or thinking about God through our intellect but how might we know God empirically "a posteriori" by experiencing Him? How can we experience God as Christians or even as people who may perhaps be exploring and asking these kinds of philosophical questions?

We're currently in the middle of an Alpha course at St John's. Each week's



Rev'd Jennie Hardy

**'....all-powerful,
all-knowing and
present
everywhere....'**

teaching is focussed on providing knowledge and historical facts about Christianity. But then comes the Holy Spirit Day. Although this day continues to have a teaching element to it, there is a strong emphasis on having an experience of God. This is often the turning point for many as they encounter God for themselves in an unexpected yet very real way.

Many people long to have such an encounter, while some people really would prefer not to experience this

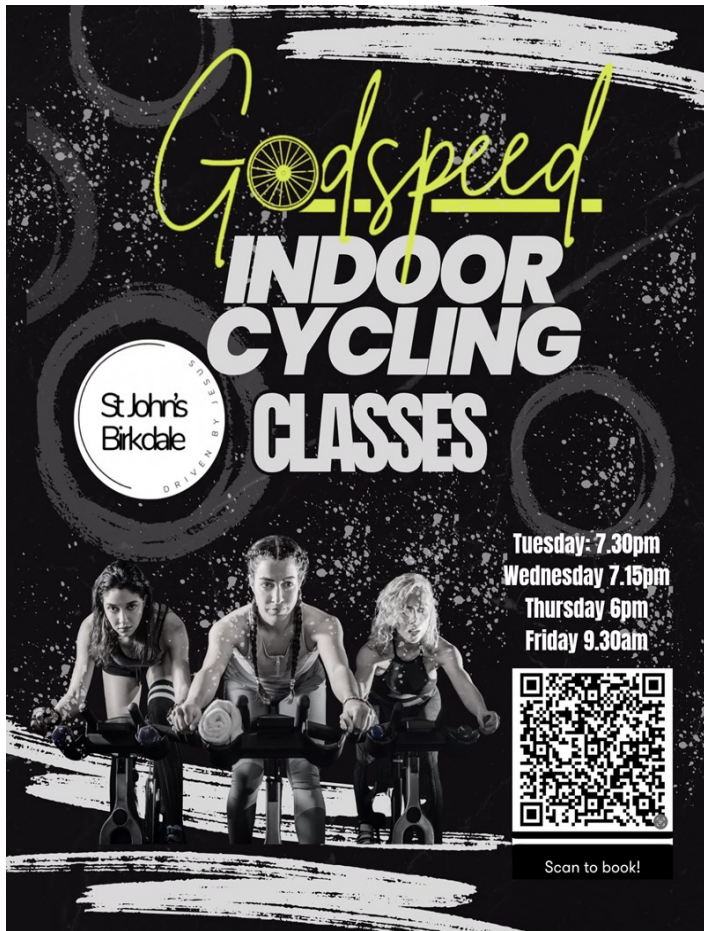
and yet do. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going (John 3:8). Just as we see and experience the effects of wind, though it remains invisible is like how we experience the Holy Spirit. It can be a physical feeling or overwhelmingly emotional, while at other times, experienced as a deep peace and calm.

The Holy Spirit can empower and encourage and gives literal gifts for us to use (see 1 Corinthians 12). In an age where our own personal identity is questioned constantly, asking who is God can seem to pale in the face of the question of who am I? But our identity is found in God. The one who created us in His image. We were created to know ourselves within our knowing of God and the Holy Spirit is God with us, by His Spirit and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Cor 3:17).

So, I encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to come to you, so that you can have an encounter with God today, or every day. I often talk to the Holy Spirit in prayer, sometimes I even ask what clothes I should wear for the day, so if any of you question my wardrobe decisions, you can deduce that I forgot to ask that day! God is with us; I pray that you know this by the power of His Spirit today and every day.

Blessings,
Rev Jennie xxx

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S



Godspeed
INDOOR CYCLING CLASSES

St John's Birkdale

Tuesday: 7.30pm
Wednesday 7.15pm
Thursday 6pm
Friday 9.30am

Scan to book!

3rd Monday of the month
7.30pm

St John's Birkdale

DRIVEN BY

❤️

Growth

DISCIPLESHIP
EXPLORED

@ Stuart & Christines
food. fellowship. fun.

info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk



St John's Birkdale

DRIVEN BY

❤️

Pray Together

1st & 3rd THURSDAY @ 7.30pm
on Zoom
Meeting ID: 83550743780
Passcode:
7ehHEK

June 4th & 18th.

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.



ST JOHN'S BIRKDALE **FILM NIGHTS**
CHURCH HALL, ST JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE PR8 4JP

2026 PROGRAMME

16 TH JANUARY	FILM TITLES ARE DISPLAYED ON THE CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS
20 TH FEBRUARY	
27 TH MARCH	
17 TH APRIL	
29 TH MAY	
26 TH JUNE	
24 TH JULY	

ATTENDANCE IS COMPLETELY FREE
A DONATION OF NOT LESS THAN £5 TO COVER REFRESHMENTS APPRECIATED
6:30PM REFRESHMENTS | 7:00PM SCREENING | BOOK WITH CHRISTINE 01704 560518

WHAT'S COMING TO ST. JOHN'S



ST JOHN'S

Messy Church

FOR FAMILIES

FOOD - CRAFTS - SINGING - DANCING

TUE 23RD JUNE
3.30PM - 5.30PM

ST JOHN'S HALL, ST JOHN'S ROAD, PR8 4JP

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

[INFO@STJOHNSBIRKDALE.CO.UK](mailto:info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk)



TICKETS £8

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

STRAWBERRY TEA

INCLUDES LIVE MUSIC

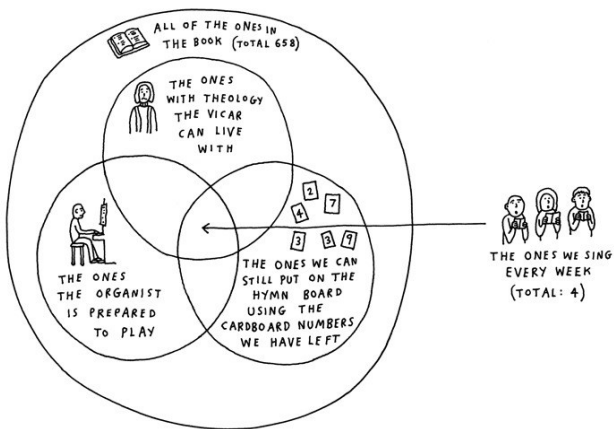
4 JULY
STARTS AT 14:00

HOSTED BY THE BAKERS AT
34 OXFORD ROAD

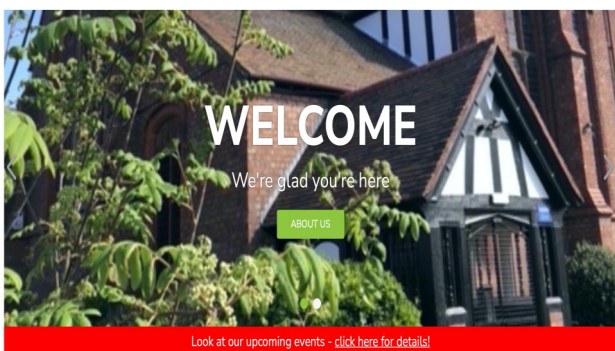
For more information
info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk

PRE-PURCHASE OF TICKETS IS ESSENTIAL SO WE CAN KNOW HOW MANY TO CATER FOR

CHOOSING THE HYMNS



CartoonChurch.com



Visit our website

stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk

St John's New Choir

It's been a very long time since we have had a church choir, and in recent years we have been without a resident organist. We have become reliant on pre-recorded songs with which we can join in. At our APCM Natalie Audoire proposed a future activity for our Sunday worship:

TO START BUILDING A CHOIR

slowly but surely so that we can raise the roof with our worship!

We are hopeful that this will grow over time but is very much a work in progress, so any ideas welcome. Our thoughts are to start small and gather confidence and momentum.

Initially, we would look to learn one or more of the weekly hymns in advance of the following week and lead the congregation up at the front. In time, we could build this by perhaps learning a song monthly to perform for the congregation. Then, onwards, who knows? Maybe get the kids involved with singing or percussion from time to time!

If you are interested in singing and/or if you play an instrument and want to get involved that way, please contact Natalie Audoire, Clive Morris or Reverend Jennie in the first instance and let us know.

WHAT'S COMING TO ST. JOHN'S

SUMMER FAIR SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 11am to 3pm

With the Christmas Fair now behind us, the team are working hard towards our upcoming Summer Fair, and we look forward to it being another successful event. Please make a note in your diary and bring as many friends and family as possible to support and enjoy our event.

There will be an assortment of stalls consisting of a bottle stall, books, good as new bric-a-brac, raffle, merchandise from our Godspeed Spin class, 3D printed toys, Elsie's Story gifts, hand-made children's jewellery, paintings and plants, and so there will be plenty of choice if you are looking for a gift for someone or just a treat for yourself. Shop till you drop, then why not enjoy a refreshing cuppa and sandwich or a delicious home-made cake in our café.

As always, we are very much aware of the many requests made on you all in these difficult times, but we would be very grateful for your generous donations for the raffle i.e. any kind of toiletries, tins of food or bottles. A box will be available at the back of church from Sunday 3rd June for your contributions.

Also please don't forget any full or empty wine bottles (with a screw top) for our bottle stall, which can be left in the box marked "bottles" at the back of church, along with any unwanted bottle bags.

Many thanks. Sylvia Kent

STOP PRESS!

For the bric-a-brac stall Jean and Clive Morris would be glad to receive items of pottery, glass and similar. They can be brought to church and left on the rear side pews.

We do not require any books, toiletries or clothing - think more Antiques Roadshow! Anything valuable will be greatly accepted.



SYLVIA'S FINAL REMINDER

We are very fortunate to be starting the month of June with some beautiful sunshine, let's pray that our Summer Fair will also be blessed on the 20th.

Please come along and support this event, while being able to spend some time in fellowship with one another as well as buying a selection of gifts etc from one of the many stalls. Then of course, why not enjoy a cuppa with a sandwich or homemade cake.



As well as children's activities, there will also be **donkey rides** and a bouncy castle, and not forgetting the adults who will be able to "have a go" on a spin bike if you haven't already tried them in one of our Godspeed classes!

With your support we hope to make this a successful event. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

WHAT'S ON WEDNESDAYS

MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

1st Wednesday at 10.30am



There will be a Midweek traditional Communion service at 10.30am in church on **Wednesday 3rd June**.

On 3rd June the service will be followed by Brunch.

There will NOT be a midweek service on 17th June because the funeral service for John Whiteside will be held on that day.

St John's Birkdale
SOUL BY DRIVEN BY

JOIN OUR KNIT & KNATTER GROUP

The 4th Wednesday, monthly
2:30pm
In the vicar's vestry

Refreshments provided

Fee: Just £1

Contact: info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk
Call: Christine on: 01704 560518

St John's Birkdale
SOUL BY DRIVEN BY

*2nd & 4th Wednesdays
2pm*

God's Word

STUDY
GROUP

@ the small hall, St John's
Church PR8 4JP
revroydoran@btinternet.com

Where are you going

Begin your **Alpha** journey here

**On Wednesday
evenings in the
church hall**

#TryAlpha | alpha.org.au

Alpha

St John's Birkdale
6th May 7:30pm
10 week course

You're invited



CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

**MIDWEEK TRADITIONAL
COMMUNION SERVICE**
Followed by Brunch in the
small hall



WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE
10.30am
IN CHURCH

**Worship on the First Sunday after
Trinity**

SUNDAY 7th JUNE

8.30am Holy Communion in church only

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

Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity

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

The subject of Jennie's talks:

Holy Spirit of God

The Text: Romans 8: 9-17 NIV

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is

not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**Worship on the Second Sunday
after Trinity**

SUNDAY 14th JUNE

8.30am Holy Communion in church only

**10.30am Service of Praise & Prayer in church
and via zoom and phone**

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity

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

The subject of Clive's talks:

Three Marks of a Thankful Christian

The Text: Colossians 1: 1-14 NIV

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on

our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

**Worship on the Third Sunday
after Trinity**

Fathers' Day

SUNDAY 21st JUNE

8.30am Holy Communion in church only

**10.30am Service of Praise & Prayer in church
and via zoom and phone**

Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

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

The subject of Roy's talks:

The Text: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-19 NIV

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage

Three Things To Include In Thanksgiving

the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.

**Worship on the Fourth Sunday
after Trinity**

SUNDAY 28th JUNE

8.30am Holy Communion in church only

**10.30am Service of Praise & Prayer in church
and via zoom and phone**

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The subject of Christine's talks:

**Three Things That Keep Us From
Being Thankful**

The Text: Luke 17: 11-19 NIV

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."



"One Said Thank You"

Created by, and published with the kind permission of, artist Steve Thomason.



The Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James the-Least-of-All, for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained... by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness.

On the Struggle for Life in the Rectory

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat *in*. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness – to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



From Our Own
Correspondent

Doris Brookfield on holiday last week in Wales. On June 23rd I will celebrate my 93rd Birthday. I read all your messages each week, I still go to St John's, but in Ben Rhydding not Birkdale, which will always be home to me. Adele took me away last week to Wales, it was a nice break for 5 days. We

couldn't book any accommodation near Southport for the Open golf, so we gave up coming, but Bob will be there watching on his favourite green. I'll watch on TV. Your congregation is growing so much, you must be doing something good. I still believe with all my heart God is always there for you, all you have to do is pray.

THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON LAW

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

CHANGE

But I do not want you to think that I am urging simply that we turn the clock back. Far from it! As I have tried to explain in my book *The Discipline of Law*, much of our law needs updating. As I wrote there in 1979: "The principles of law laid down by the Judges in the 19th century-however suited to social conditions of that time-are not suited to the social necessities and social opinion of the 20th century. They should be moulded and shaped to meet the needs and opinions of today."

That moulding and shaping cannot be left to Parliament alone. Only too often it is swayed by the political views of the party in power without reference to any moral basis. In all this lawyers have a special part to play. They can and do exert great influence in Parliament, in the Courts of law, in arbitrations and indeed in all places where people meet to discuss. We must all the time and in every way do all we can to bear

witness to the eternal and unchanging truths of our Christian faith.

CONCLUSION

This brings me to the end. And what does it all come to Surely this, that if we seek truth and justice, we cannot find it by argument and debate, nor by reading and thinking, but only (as our forefathers said) by the maintenance of true religion and virtue.

Religion concerns the spirit in man whereby he is able to recognise what is truth and what is justice: whereas law is only the application, however, imperfectly, of truth and justice in our everyday affairs.

If religion perishes in the land, truth and justice will also. We have already strayed too far from the faith of our fathers. Let us return to it, for it is the only thing that can save us.

Denning

1 May, 1989

Published by The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship and reproduced here with their kind permission.



*Lord Denning,
drawn by Sallon*

Water/Wine Bottle Stall

At the **Summer Fair on June 20th** we shall have a Water/Wine Bottle Stall, but to make this possible we need your help.

Please can you donate the following:

- Full bottles of wine—any type
- Empty screw-top wine bottles with the screw tops on
- Bottle bags

There will be boxes at the back of church for these items.

Thank you in advance for your help.



Golf

Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."

Caddie: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."

The Priory Church of St. Mary and St. Michael, Cartmel

*Janet and Ian commence a
Four churches in four days trip*

Having spent a couple of decades working overseas, since returning home on a permanent basis we have been able to explore our own country again. Like others of our generation (!) we have become creatures of habit and several destinations have become regular haunts, the Lake District Peninsula particularly becoming a firm favourite at least once each year and sometimes more.

Recently, following our visit to Carlisle Cathedral for sung evensong (THE WORD, MAY, 2026), our usual base in Flookburgh for a week gave us access to a wide swathe of the western Lake District and hopes for mid-week services at four charismatic churches across the peninsula. Churches in Cartmel, Dalton-in-Furness, Hawkshead and Bowness areas are as different as the towns and villages in which they are located, all with fascinating histories and metaphorically just up the M6.

Our first visit is always to Cartmel, a lovely quaint village overlooked by the rather grandiose Cartmel Priory. Historically known as Kirkby-in-Cartmel and taking its name from the Cartmel Peninsula, the area has had numerous name changes including the Furness Peninsular and more recently the Lake District Peninsula.

On our now regular breaks in the area since Covid, this little village and its Priory have become something of a magnet for us, with a new feature revealed on each visit, or at least, one that's new to us. The priory is of course always the main attraction but outside of the Christian community, Cartmel's fame stretches far and wide for its sticky toffee pudding and horse racing circuit, and if you pardon the pun, both add a special flavour to any visit.

As with most British towns and villages these days, town centre car parking in Cartmel is on a limited time basis which isn't actually sufficient. Far better to ignore town square parking and drive straight through, following signage for the village hall car park. On our first visit that's exactly what we did, although mesmerised by the town pinnacle and fish slabs, quaint little cottages and shops as we passed, and seeing cars parked right in front of us we managed to miss the village hall on our left completely.



Driving on over a little stream and over the race track we parked on the racecourse car park instead.

Although there are no mid-week services at Cartmel Priory (more correctly titled the Priory Church of St. Mary and St. Michael), we were still keen to experience the aura of this majestic building and to share a prayer, the walk back through the village to the priory being quite short. The first surprise is in the churchyard where the priory entrance isn't at the west end of the building but through a carved Norman arch in the centre of the south, or right hand long wall. Once inside, main pews, chancel and side chapel are to the right, with the remaining area to the left typically an open space bounded by pillars and columns. With lockdown in place on our first visit, that area was filled with chairs the then regulation two metres apart but on this visit the area was again empty. The chairs are now stored in the South Transept where the blocked up remains of an old doorway can still be seen. In time gone by the monks would have entered the priory through that door from their dormitory but in the 1400's the dormitory was moved to the north side of the church and a new door made in the North Transept for night access.

Strolling back through the village it is easy to see why Cartmel, with its two Michelin Starred restaurants and numerous cafes and pubs, has become a foodie destination. But if, like us, you like to sample the local delicacies on a more realistic budget, beware! Leaving the square through the former monastic gatehouse on our first visit we ordered Cartmel sticky toffee pudding at the Cavendish Arms and were charged £7 each for a tiny cube of cake smaller than a fudge brownie. So forewarned for this visit we bought a pack of two big portions from Farmfoods Southport store for less than £1 each and took them with us. Job done.

If you do visit Cartmel, don't ignore the side streets where there are numerous links to the past, with historic footbridges and willow trees over the Clogger Beck, the River Eea to the west and the fascinating history of this little town can be gained from the many signs at key points.

Returning to the car park across the racecourse is a unique experience. Although dating back to the 19th century, the racecourse became a National Hunt course after the Second World War, attracting professionals in the 1960's and going from strength to strength since.





Godspeed

All clipped in and ready for the off,
the Rev. begins, it's no time to scoff,
Rolling out on wheels of steel
We sense this ride might just feel

Like going nowhere far too fast,
For as long as our little legs can last.
Our doubting limbs begin to burn,
But still the fixed wheels have to turn,

But we trust in her, she knows the way,
She'll keep us to the path (we pray).
At this pace some fear they might meet
Their maker before the final beat,

Still clad in Lycra and soaked
in sweat, Panting madly
but what the heck,

The road to heaven is never smooth,
Our fitness we are here to prove.

Our Spinning Jenny leads the course,
A holy, whirling, tour de force,
A vestry turned to torture track,
With no easy glide, nor drifting back.

It's an uphill struggle, a downhill run,
A pain filled hour, do they call this fun,
But the flock that follows struggles on,
Grouped in St John's spinning peloton.

All we pray for now is the strength
To sprint that final, dreadful length;
When comes that cry to rise and fly,
Cheeks aflame, blood pressure high,

With wind behind and the Lord for pace,
We face the final fearsome chase,
We cry "Godspeed" and for our glory won
We pedal on and pedal on

With the Rev. as guide, we strain but laugh,
Along Salvation's narrow path.

By Jeff Bee

In the event of Medical Emergency at St John's

**We have three trained
First Aiders:**
**Revd. Jennie, Janette
Law and Jayne
Parkinson.**

If none 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 recommend that
worshippers and other
visitors to our church
should carry a mobile
phone with them.

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. 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 June
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.

COLOURFUL CLERGYMEN

This month we delve further into the bizarre life and eccentricities of **Reverend George Harvest**, Rector of Thames Ditton in the 18th century, who was dubbed "An Absent Man, Parson and Comedian" and was surely the most forgetful man of the cloth.

His reveries and distractions were so frequent that not a day passed but he committed some egregious mistake. A friend and he were walking together in the Temple gardens one evening. Harvest picked up a small pebble of so odd a shape that he said he would present it later to Lord Bute. After they had walked some time, his friend asked him what time it was, to which, pulling out his pocket-watch, he answered that they had seven minutes to spare. To his friend's astonishment, he then cast his watch away into the Thames, and, with great sedateness in his looks, put the pebble he had found before into his pocket.

Such was his absence and distraction, that he frequently used to forget the prayer days, and walk into his church with his gun upon his arm, to see what could have assembled the people there. Whenever he slept, he used commonly to pervert the use of every utensil: he would wash his mouth and hands in the chamber pot, wipe himself with the sheets, and not unfrequently go into bed between the sheets with his boots on.

Once, when he was playing backgammon, he poured out a full glass of wine, and it being his turn to throw, having the box in one hand and the glass in the other, and being extremely thirsty, and unwilling to lose time, he swallowed down both the dice, and at the same time threw his wine into the backgammon box.

His ideas were so confused sometimes that he performed actions equal to those done by the effect of somnambulism. Once, perceiving a friend and his wife in an upper room at the house at Ember Court, he, in the way of a joke only, locked them in and put the key in his pocket; when soon after being called down about some business, he forgot what he had done by the time he came to the foot of the stairs, went out with the key in his pocket, and it was nearly dark before the two prisoners could be set at liberty. Another time, in one of his absent fits, he mistook his friend's house and went into another, the

door of which happened to stand open, and no servant being in the way, he rambled all over the house until coming into a middle room where there was an old lady ill in bed. He stumbled over the night stool and threw a clotheshorse down. It might not have ended there had not the frightened patient made a noise at his intrusion, which brought up the servants. Surprisingly, the old lady was taken with such an immoderate fit of laughter at his confusion, that she recovered from her illness and lived many years afterwards to thank Doctor Harvest for his lucky mistake.

Having to preach before the clergy at a Visitation, he had provided himself with three sermons for the purpose, which he had in his pocket: some wags got possession of them, mixed the pages, and sewed them all up as one. Harvest began his sermon, and soon lost the thread of his discourse; he grew confused, but still he persisted and went on until the clergy, the churchwardens and the congregation left. He would not have ended had not the sexton and beadle admonished him that all the pews were empty, for they declared to his reverence, "they were all gone out."

Perhaps his worst pastoral moment came when he was asked to explain the constellations of the night sky to Lady Onslow. "Midway through Harvest's explanation, the noble lady suddenly felt a warm and damp sensation at her feet; Harvest, pressed by a call of nature, had taken advantage of the cover afforded by the darkness of the night and begun to relieve himself while continuing his astronomical lecture. Unfortunately for Lady Onslow, Harvest had mixed up his left and right and, while he thought he was surreptitiously urinating away from her (itself a less than ideal situation) he was, in fact, detailing the wonders of the Plough while passing water down her leg." [Butler-Gallie]

After his death in Thames Ditton in 1789, a contemporary author was surely correct when he described Harvest as a divine whose character was of such a singular composition that we shall scarcely find its equal. Whether it was twice missing his marriage, pointing a pistol at his parishioners or relieving himself on a peeress, Harvest was unlike any other cleric the Church of England has ever seen.

Stuart Baker

Sources: 18th century pamphlet printed by J Mitchell of Newcastle on Tyne; Rev. Fergus Butler-Gallie 'Field Guide to the English Clergy.'

GOD IN THE ARTS

Church buildings might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation. The Revd Michael Burgess considers the significance of the church monuments.

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – Church Monuments

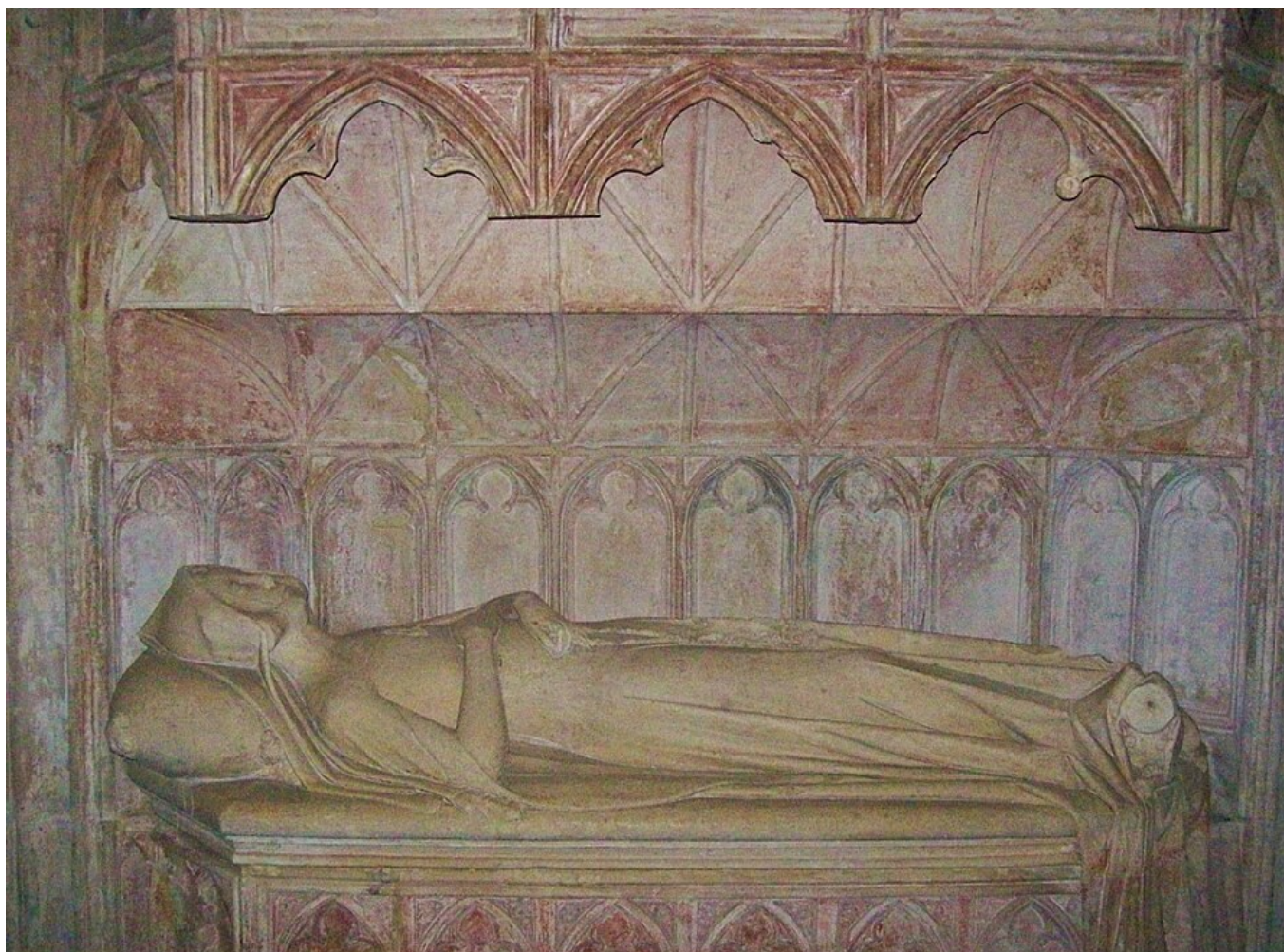
This month as we continue our walk through the church building, we focus on monuments. George Herbert has a poem on this theme which contrasts the body we see represented in marble, but now consigned to dust, with the soul released to perform its eternal devotions. Such monuments are often a reminder of the frailty of life and the certainty of death, symbolised by an hourglass or a skull or classical urns.

In St Cuby's Church, Duloe in Cornwall there is a fine slate memorial of an Elizabethan lady, Anna Coffyn, depicted in a richly embroidered dress with gloves and a prayer book, ready for church. Underneath are the skull and crossbones, a *memento mori*, a

reminder that death has visited even this elegant lady. That sign of death can come as a shock to us when we are committed so much to living and getting the most out of life today. Death intrudes violently into the world we would like.

But in St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle in Herefordshire, there is a monument (see the photograph, below) that tells us something of the serenity of death. It is the effigy of Blanche Mortimer, who died in 1347. The church is filled with superb monuments, but this one has its own distinct and moving beauty. The carving of her dress shows buttoned sleeves and a wimple, while one hand holds a rosary. She impresses us with her loveliness, even in the midst of her death.

Leonardo da Vinci wrote, 'While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.' As we dedicate ourselves to God in this life, we can trust with Blanche Mortimer in the 14th century that His will is for us to be with Him forever. This life is not just our preparation for death: it is our schooling for heaven, and life in heaven means life with God.



Photograph from St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle. Credit: Poliphilo, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

AESOP'S FABLES

Stuart Baker revisits these ancient stories in search of the morals or truisms which they contained. This month he looks at

The Ass in the Lion's Skin

An Ass once found a Lion's skin which the hunters had left out in the sun to dry. He put it on and went towards his native village. All fled at his approach, both men and animals, and he was a proud Ass that day. In his delight he lifted up his voice and brayed, but then every one knew him, and his owner came up and gave him a sound cudgelling for the fright he had caused. And shortly afterwards a Fox came up to him and said: "Ah, I knew you by your voice."

The moral:

Fine clothes may disguise, but silly words will disclose a fool.



More Blankets by our Knitters and Knatterers



Our K&Ks meet on the 4th Wednesday each month at 2.30pm.

Do come and join us as we make more blankets to keep us warm in church when the autumn comes.



Death is Not the End

A poem by Penny Candlin

Death is not the end but the beginning
Death to self and alive to Christ
Leaving the old self of greed and corruption
Living the new life of giving and sharing
Reading of the scriptures and proclaiming
the goodness of God
Shining with gratitude for all God has done
Becoming beacons of love and hope in a
troubled broken world
Seeking out the stranger to walk beside
them
Looking out for moments of thankfulness
Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide.

CHURCH HALL NEWS

After many years of service the gas-fired water geyser in the church hall kitchen reached the end of its life and for a few weeks we have been without hot water for the kitchen sink. In the last week of May we have replaced it with a new, energy efficient Ariston heater which produces a good flow of hot (actually **very** hot) water. It is a great improvement.

Work is underway to smarten the appearance of the main hall by stripping off the loose and flaking paint from the radiators and repainting them. This is a time-consuming and not very pleasant job and we thank Anthony Guy (below, left) and Martin Rimmer (below, right) for what they have done.

It is very encouraging that we now have a number of men who are willing to use their skills and give their time to do work of this sort to maintain our church hall. There are always jobs to be done and we are fortunate to have some more willing hands.



Plan ahead and you could get peace of mind



Choice Funeral Plans from just £1,895

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.

WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 30

Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth – June 26th

Mary - the virgin mother of Jesus. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her Son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts, just before Pentecost.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in history. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

MARY
VIRGIN
MOTHER
ELIZABETH
PREGNANT

ORDINARY
WORLD
HISTORY
GREAT
EVENT

FAMILY
JERUSALEM
WEDDING
CANA
WINE

BELOVED
DISCIPLES
DYING
CROSS
KEEPING

UNIQUE
PLACE
CENTURIES
CHURCH
BLESSED

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

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Colossians

By Canon Paul Hardingham

This month we return to look at the books of the New Testament. Many today are asking: 'How does Jesus uniquely reveal God to us? This question lies at the heart of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossae was a fruit of his three years ministry in Ephesus (52-55 AD). Paul went on to write this letter while in a Roman prison around 61 AD.

Paul was dealing with gnostic false teachers who denied that Jesus was fully God and man. They taught that enlightenment could be reached through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.

Paul attacked this false teaching by focusing on the supremacy of Christ: 'in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority' (2:9-10).

He affirms that Jesus is:

- Lord of all Creation, who sustains everything. As the exact representation of

God, He is first-born over all creation (1:15-17) and there is no place for worshipping angels or any other power (2:18).

- Head of the Church (1:18), to whom the Colossians should submit (2:6, 7) and not be seduced by vain speculations (1:16-18).
- Supreme Saviour (3:11), who has defeated all spiritual powers on the cross (2:15), allowing them to share in the power of His resurrection (2:20). All are adopted into His family and so there are no special qualifications needed to experience God's favour (2:8-20).

In chapters 3&4 Paul demonstrates the practical implications for the Christian's daily life. We are challenged to abandon the old life and cultivate our new life in Christ (3:5-4:6). If we maintain Jesus as our Lord, He will prove truly sufficient for all our needs.

In religion the people of Colosse were lax, worshipping angels. Of them, Michael was the chief, and the protecting saint of the city. It is said that once he appeared to the people, saving the city in time of a flood. It was this belief in angels which called forth Paul's epistle (Colossians 2:18).

Do you want to rent a space?

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

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BIRKDALE



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.

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

Large Hall

- 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.

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

W CROSS R D

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV. Reproduced by permission of BRF and John Capon.

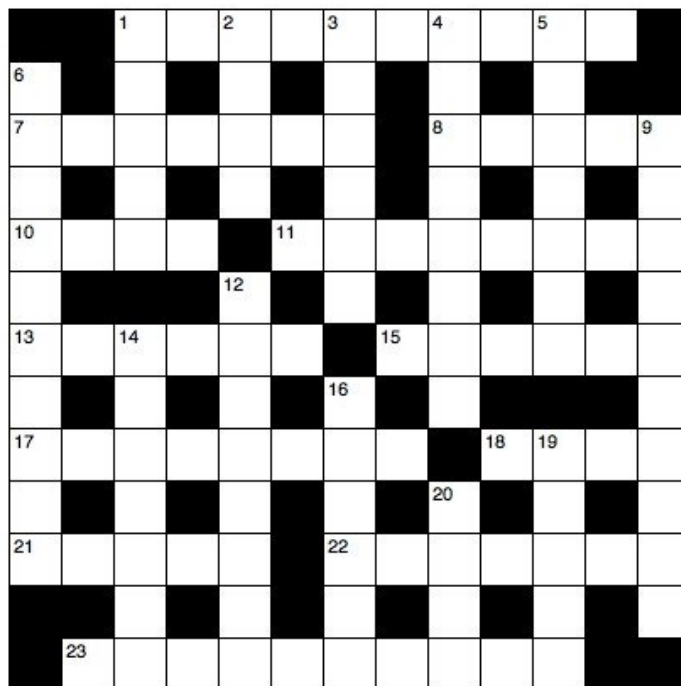
Solution below

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2Corinthians4:8) (4)
 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8) (8)
 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)
 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)



- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
 14 A return (anag.) (7)
 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

In our Book of Remembrance In June

- 1st Gertrude Edmondson, 1974
 Miriam Rigby, 2005
 2nd Mary Moore, 1987
 4th George Williams, 1985
 6th Robert Hall, 1986
 Roy Maguire, 1992
 7th Ann Beeley, 1984
 8th Stephen Tasker, 1977
 9th Elsie Bredow, 1973
 Maureen Burton, 2009
 10th Ethel Marshall, 1969
 Edna Marriner, 2002
 11th Harry Lea, 1983
 Jean Beeley, 2012

- 16th Montague Hare, 1999
 17th Jeane Smith, 2022
 18th Reginald Hughes, 2008
 19th Ernest Gorton, 1967
 20th Norman Hamer, 1988
 24th Marion Coop, 2004

If any of our readers wish to have the name of a deceased relative inscribed in the Book of Remembrance please contact Stuart Baker on 01704 560518

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
 ACROSS: 1, World, 2, Crib, 3, Entomb, 4, National, 5, Started, 6, Whispering, 9, Harvesters, 12, Imprison, 14, Centaur, 16, Unload, 19, Evils, 20, Give.
 DOWN: 1, Tent, 2, Grass, 22, Olivier, 23, Wrongdoers, 18, Ignorant, 17, Saddle, 15, Encamp, 13, Impositor, 11, Side, 10, Teach, 8, Harpist, 7, Wickedness, 6, Teach, 5, Side, 4, Impositor, 3, Impositor, 2, Impositor, 1, Impositor.



GARDENERS' CORNER

By Tina Lloyd

June gardening celebrates lush growth, beauty and warmth of the season....

In June, the weather is improving in leaps and bounds, there is still lots to keep on top of, but this is when all the hard work starts to pay off. Happy Gardening.

At-a-glance- check list

Water & deadhead plants regularly
Remove perennial weeds
Remove suckers from roses

Lawns

Mow regularly
Feed the grass with liquid lawn feed if it needs a quick green boost
Water any new lawn or re-laid patches of turf

Trees, Shrubs & Climbers

Propagate shrubs and roses by taking softwood cuttings
Keep on top of training & tying-in of rambling roses
Also, keep on top of tying-in clematis flowers
Dig up tulip & hyacinth bulbs when the foliage dies back, store in a cool dark place ready to replant again in the autumn
Keep deadheading many perennials to keep them producing more blooms
Plant out summer bedding plants but keep them watered in dry spells
Also, keep any newly planted perennials watered in dry spells
Bring out any planted containers or hanging baskets
Feed containers weekly

Vegetables & Herbs

Continue planting out greenhouse grown frost tender vegetables outside
Continue to sow seeds of lettuce, radish, carrots, peas, French & runner beans plus lots more
Harvest last of the asparagus

Under cover

Continue to pot up rooted cuttings
Take cuttings from tender perennials (e.g. fuchsias & pelargoniums)
Keep pinching side shoots of tomatoes

Key Plants Blooming in June

Lupin (perennial). A wonderful old traditional cottage garden favourite. Tall, dramatic flower spikes in a variety of colours: a quintessential June border plant. When the flower spikes fade and turn brown, cut them back to the base of the plant, then give the plant a feed with a liquid tomato food (see dilution Instructions). This will encourage further flower spikes through the summer. Autumn or spring, cut down & clear away any old dying foliage ready for the new season's growth.

Peonie (Herbaceous perennial)

Oh!... the beauty & glory of peonies, their season for flowering is relatively short, but what an impact they give to any garden border, known for large & fragrant blooms late spring & early summer.

Two beautiful varieties are one 'Sarah Berhardt' award winning peony with fragrant double, rose-pink flowers blooming early summer. Grows to roughly 90cm-1m tall with sturdy stems. Thrives in full sun or partial shade. Cut foliage back to ground level in the autumn.



Second, 'Bowl of Beauty' is a stunning variety. Highly fragrant large cerise-pink outer petals surrounding a centre of creamy-yellow. Flowers from June to July. Height & care as above.



Philadelphus Shrub (mock orange). This is a beautiful and very fragrant shrub for the garden. Famous for Intense citrus scented white flowers in profusion. Thrives in full sun Or light shade. Pruning: If it gets too large for the space, prune Immediately after flowering in summer, cutting back flowered stems to a strong & healthy bud.

Other plants in their prime

Cotoneaster	Deutzia
Sambucus	Acanthus
Ajuga	Astilbe
Centaurea	Delphinium.
Hardy geraniums.	Napeta. Thalictrum.
Veronica.	Varieties of roses.

REFLECTED FAITH— THE CREED (PART 2)

Rev. Dr. Jo White continues her series on aspects of Christianity

Last month we considered where the Creed is placed within the service. This month let's think about what is in the Creed (s).

It's important to know that the earliest known Creed, which is still substantially used today was first found in a letter from around AD 341. This is known today as the Apostles' Creed because it is widely thought to have been originally written by the Apostles themselves.

Every phrase in it can be noted as derived directly from biblical texts and it is the compilation that has taken so much thought and discussion until we arrive at the versions we use in churches today.

Because the Creed succinctly includes everything Christians believe, it unites us all in those truths; whichever Christian denomination you choose to worship within.

So, establishing wording that expresses the faith of all Christians has been the challenge. Protestants sometimes wonder at the phrase, 'the holy catholic Church' being included, but the word 'catholic' here has the meaning of 'universal' rather than denominational.

We are ALL united in our basic faith. This is what makes us Christians and distinguishes us from other 'churches', whether they have the name of Jesus in their title or not.

Only Churches which acknowledge and include one of the recognised creeds can join the international organisation of 'Churches Together'. Essentially, this is a sure way to know that you are at a Christian service.

In more recent years the Church has authorized several Affirmations of Faith which contain the key tenets of faith but are shorter and, if you like, simpler to understand.

The Creed has to be universally accepted within established churches and deviations from the texts are not permitted.

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Our series looks at the Seven Deadly Sins, a list compiled by Pope Gregory 1 in AD 590 to describe the nature of sin. This month Canon Paul Hardingham considers

GLUTTONY

'They're called deadly because they lead to the death of the soul.' (Richard Newhauser). This month we are looking at *Gluttony*. Which food do we find hardest to resist?

It is reported that 66% of adults in the UK are overweight or obese. Gluttony is indulgence to excess, usually involving food, but can also include drinking, screen time, shopping etc.

Paul warns us about the dangers of gluttony when he refers to those whose minds are set on earthly things: *'their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.'* (Philippians 3:19). Our struggle with gluttony is often the outward sign of a spiritual hunger for acceptance, love, or self-worth. This desire for satisfaction cannot be satisfied by food alone.

How can we overcome gluttony?

Glorify God with your body: 'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the

Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?' (1 Corinthians 6:19). Paul reminds us that our bodies belong to God; as temples of the Holy Spirit, we should use them to glorify God.

While we have freedom in the things we consume, we are also called to honour God in our actions.

Exercise self-control: 'live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.' (Galatians 5:16). Paul goes on to list self-control as one of the Fruits of the Spirit (5:23). As we examine ourselves and identify those areas where we lack self-control, we can entrust them to God, asking for the strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome gluttony.

We recognise that true satisfaction is only found in a desire for God alone: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



GLUTTONY
(OVERINDULGENCE, ETC)

THE GOOD AND BAD KINGS OF ENGLAND...

By Dennis Davis

This month Dennis has researched the life of

Stephen Of Blois

King of England 1135-1154

When King Henry I died, having lost his only legitimate son in the White Ship disaster, he named his daughter Matilda, the only other legitimate member of his family, to be his successor. He forced the Barons to support her, but they wanted a man to rule them and were not happy with a woman ruling. Stephen's mother was the daughter of William the 1st and her son Stephen who had been born at Dover had been brought up at King Henry's court. As Henry's nephew he rose to some prominence. He was well mannered, wealthy and well liked by all his peers. He was modest and a pious, easy going leader. His father, who had died on the 2nd Crusade, had been suspected of cowardice during the 1st crusade and this may have caused Stephen to make rash decisions in later life.

When Stephen landed in England he claimed the throne. The leading Barons and Bishops welcomed him, but Robert Earl of Gloucester who was Matilda's half brother took up arms on her behalf.

Matilda had been married to Henry 5th, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, but he died and she later married Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou, who supported Stephen's claim. He also invaded Normandy. Also, the Scots invaded the north of England which Stephen had to reclaim. At the same time the Welsh had to be pacified and Stephen had no resources to take back Normandy. Geoffrey of Anjou gave it to his son Eustace to rule.

Stephen lost the support of the Church when he had a bishop arrested. Matilda took advantage of this and invaded. In a foolish gesture Stephen met her and escorted her to Bristol where she took over the west of England. Civil war known as "The Anarchy" ensued. This dragged on for many years with no conclusive victory to either side. Stephen had been captured at the battle of Lincoln. He was later exchanged for Robert of Gloucester who had been captured in an earlier Battle.

When Matilda went up to London for her coronation, her arrogance towards the local population provoked a rebellion and she was forced to leave for Oxford from where she was again forced to flee uncrowned.

Matilda's eldest son Henry mounted a small scale invasion using mercenaries but it failed as he did not have the money to pay them. He invaded again 6 years later; in 1153 the two sides faced each other at Wallingford where they discussed ending the war. They met again at Winchester and ratified peace called "the Treaty of Winchester." Stephen recognised Henry as his adopted son and agreed that after his death Henry would be successor to the throne. (Stephen's eldest son had died)

Stephen died following some stomach condition and was buried at Faversham Abbey and Henry the 2nd came to the throne.

Editor's note: in mediaeval times sanitation was almost unknown. King Stephen, who most historians think of as a bad king because he snatched the throne from King Henry 1's daughter and declared successor Matilda, and plunged the nation into a 15 years' civil war as Dennis has described, owed both his life and his death to severe stomach illness.

He had been aboard The White Ship before it set sail for England and would have been on it when it sank in the English Channel. But, according to the mediaeval historian Orderic Vitalis, shortly before the ship left the harbour he disembarked because of a severe stomach upset and his life was spared.

As a King he was not known for being cruel or incompetent but as one who lacked authority and was ineffective as a ruler. Many Englishmen and women and children died needlessly because of his battles with his nobles and his own family. Treachery and double-dealing were as commonplace as stomach upsets, and life on the throne (not a euphemism for the effects of poor sanitation) became an almost endless succession of battles for King Stephen, fighting foreign pretenders, his own family, various noblemen and, in common with many of his royal ancestors and successors, the powerful Catholic church. In "1066 And All That" the authors concluded that **Stephen was a Bad King** (but that Matilda was worse!)

THE REASON WHY

By John M. Shakespeare

What is meant by Reason, can be defined as a justification or motive for taking a particular action. The power of the mind to think, form opinions and judgement, and to reach an acceptable conclusion is based on both knowledge and experience. We gather our knowledge through the media, our learning coming from creditable authorities, such as books and teachers. Our own experiences then confirm or question this knowledge, which can sometimes lead to confusion in identifying our Reason.

David Hume (1711-1776), a Scottish philosopher, proposed that Reason was a slave to our passions. "What Reason we aver, by passion is undone", the saying goes. Emotions such as love or hate, or drives such as hunger and thirst are very powerful, and can be persuasive in driving our actions against our beliefs, or our reason. Many a case that goes to litigation uses pleas of emotional motivation as a reason for a particular action taken.

Any method of reaching a conclusion from a choice of options may be called a process of reasoning. If a conclusion is reached and action taken then this would indicate a practical way of reaching a reason that has been acted upon. When we act for a reason, there is usually an identifiable cause that prompted the action taken. Actions may be taken for a variety of reasons, some may be emotional reactions, others may be taken on advice given, or be based on previous experience. The reason may not always be apparent!

In my schooldays I was lucky enough to have an inspirational English teacher. He introduced me to the poetry of Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892), especially "The Charge of the Light Brigade". An extract of three lines from this poem have always lived with me: "Theirs not to make reply, theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do or die". The sense of discipline that is demonstrated here, I believe, is the reason why our armed forces have fought with distinction in so many wars, matching my own experience of active service in the Army.

It is seen by some Christians that there is a conflict between reason and faith. I believe that if we show that we have good reason for our faith, and express our beliefs in a positive

way through our actions, our faith will be seen as justified.

To quote (1 Peter Ch 3 verses 14-16), "But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone, who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence".

Reason can sometimes be seen to be contradictory in solutions offered e.g. "If many hands make light work, how can too many cooks spoil the broth".

It can be argued that we behave the way we do, is in order to fit in, rather than be different, though this does not always apply. To quote Nancy Astor (1879-1964), "One reason I don't take a drink, is because I wish to know when I am having a good time". The only conclusion I can draw from this short study of Reason, is that it is a multifarious animal?

This is the 100th article which John Shakespeare has submitted and which we have been pleased to publish in the pages of THE WORD. We thank and congratulate him for this remarkable feat of productivity. Don't put your pen away yet John!



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

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

SAVE QUEENSCOURT'S SERVICES

By Dr Karen Groves MBE

An ambulance pulls up outside the door. A trolley emerges, and on it sits a hunched man holding his side with one hand and an oxygen mask with the other. His hastily packed bag lies at his feet and his wife and children scurry across the car park to follow him as he is wheeled into the building. His anxious face, and the lines of worry borne by his family, tell the story of the crisis which has been building to culminate in this moment.

A couple of hours later there is laughter coming from a bedspace around which a more relaxed family sit watching the man who means so much to them. The oxygen mask, no longer needed, has been dropped onto his bedcover, and his hand, no longer needed to hold his hurting side, is playing cards with his youngest daughter, whilst he can now breathe sufficiently well to hold court for all around him as all are doing that very British thing of drinking tea!

This scenario repeatedly happens in Queenscourt Hospice and all the places where Queenscourt provides services (patients' homes, hospital and care homes) for people with serious and life limiting illness of all kinds (not just cancer). The key ingredients are skilled professional staff and volunteers who know the landscape of illness and what to expect, who listen to really understand what it is like for all involved, who are able to make immediate changes and suggestions to make people feel more comfortable and confident, who can work across boundaries and with other teams of professionals to ensure continuity of care.

Queenscourt is a well established hospice charity providing Specialist Palliative Care to seriously ill people and those important to them, across Southport, Formby and West Lancashire (240,000 population), not only in Queenscourt itself (as inpatients or outpatients) but in our hospitals, care homes and most of all in people's own homes (where is where most people want to be) reaching over 1900 patients each year.

Queenscourt also educates local health and social care professionals, teachers, clergy and many others (for 25 years) to ensure that wherever the patient and family are cared for, the standard of palliative and end of life care is the best it can possibly be. All Queenscourt's services are free of charge to those who need them, whether that be advice & care for patients, families, children and the bereaved, or

offering advice and support to doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and carers.

Queenscourt receives just 24% running costs from the NHS: the majority **76%** is raised from local people whom this hospice serves. This has been the case since Queenscourt began over 35 years ago and has become much more difficult recently regardless of valiant fundraising efforts. The costs of running Queenscourt increase e.g. staff, energy & supplies costs, whilst income is precarious and unpredictable e.g. legacy income has dropped from £1.25 million to £0.25 million per year. Despite good governance systems and meeting all regulatory requirements, like other UK hospices **75%** of whom are already running a deficit this year, and **60%** of whom are already cutting services, Queenscourt's services, are currently at risk.

Queenscourt is about living and living life to the full to the very end of life - no matter how long or short that might be. Troublesome symptoms, fears and concerns, and not knowing what to expect can distract from the more important things in life - love, relationships, family, enjoyment, meaning and purpose. Having skilled and knowledgeable professionals & volunteers, who know the terrain and can walk alongside on the journey, makes all the difference in the world.

Palliative Care has always focused on care of the patient **and** those important to them. This may be attending to family members' concerns and worries in their own homes, looking after the practical needs of families when patients are in Queenscourt, supporting children facing loss of a parent or other relative, and listening to the bereaved struggling to come to terms with the loss of someone they love.

Without something changing soon, services will have to be reduced and staff made redundant. If that does not happen, then Queenscourt could be forced to close within 18 months and no-one would want to go back to a situation where specialist palliative care services are unavailable for this local area - the alternatives are unthinkable.

Yet Saving Queenscourt's Services is possible. If just 8,000 people in the area made a regular weekly gift of £5 (the cost of a coffee and cake) Queenscourt's services could be saved for those who will need them in the future.

Dr Karen Groves MBE was the founder of Queenscourt Hospice which opened in 1991.

Save Queenscourt's Services



For the cost of a weekly coffee,
why not donate just £5 a week
to help save your local hospice

queenscourt.org.uk/donate



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.

RE-JOINING THE CHOIR: WHY PEOPLE ARE THE HELPERS, NOT PRIESTS, OF CREATION

Urbanisation has taken us away from the rest of Creation, often reducing it in our eyes to a resource that we draw on when we feel like it, or need it. But Jesus said the stones would start praising Him if people didn't (Luke 19:40), and in the Psalms and Job, all of Creation is praising God.

There is no hint here that people are needed to enable Creation's praise to happen. The singing is metaphorical, but it draws attention to fact that all creatures praise God by being themselves. They don't only praise with their 'voices', but with everything else they do as well: eating, running, hopping, grooming, reproducing, and so on (which is a reminder to us that our whole lives can be an act of praise to God).

Our isolation from Creation's praise can add to our sense that the whole world revolves around us and our needs. In reality, Creation

is God-centred and 'His name alone is exalted' (Psalm 148:13). The value of Creation for God is not necessarily linked to its value for us – it is of value to God because He made it, He cares for it, and it praises Him.

Genesis 1:28 says that we must "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground". To rule wisely we need to get hold of the fact that, although we have a special responsibility, we are creatures alongside all the other creatures.

One way to ground ourselves in this idea is to re-join the choir and worship God together with every other living and non-living thing on earth.

Rather than being needed to help Creation praise God, we can actually rely on it to help us in our worship. Sharing God's delight in Creation, we can learn to delight in God. In return, the best thing we can do is to let living things recover their full fruitfulness as much as possible so they can praise God fully.

We are called to a life of humble service, taking care of each other and everything else on this planet. In this way, we can choose to see other creatures as they are, pointing our attention away from themselves towards God – until we are caught up in their praise of Him.

JACOB: THE MAN WHO ENCOUNTERED THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Lester Amann considers the man who is our 'spiritual father'...

Have you ever had a dramatic turning point in your life? Was there an incident, a meeting or something you saw or read which profoundly changed you? The Old Testament character Jacob had a dream, which changed his life.

One night, in the region of Luz, a Canaanite city, Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder, on which were angels, linking earth with heaven. The dream revealed to him that God is continually connected with this world. When Jacob woke up, he knew he was in a special place. He became a changed man and changed the place name from Luz to Bethel, which means House of God. Many years later Jacob changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Bethel became a holy place.

How might we define a holy place? We could say it's a place where God has touched earth with something of heaven e.g. with a miracle or a vision. Venues such as Lourdes (France), Lindisfarne (England), St Peter's in Rome or Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre are considered Holy Places. The Garden of Gethsemane was a special place for Jesus.

Jacob certainly wasn't faultless or impeccable. His encounter with God didn't completely change the way he behaved, but it gave him a fresh perspective on life and where he fitted into God's plans. Like Jacob we too may encounter God at a particular time and grow slowly with God and His plans for us. God doesn't wait until we are perfect before He can use us. Sometimes we too may need a Holy Place to make or to return to, to help us remember we are in God's hands.

REVELATION REVEALED



The vision from God as imagined by Jacqui Parkinson

Last month we looked at John's letter to the Christian community in Pergamum. This month we shall look at what he wrote to the Christians in **Thyatira**.

To start with, where and what was Thyatira?

As you can see from the map below it is between Pergamum and Sardis. It was on a very busy road

which was an important trade route. Thyatira was a prosperous commercial and textile trading city. It was also known for manufacturing bronze, brass and pottery goods. It was the town associated with Lydia, the seller of purple fabric, who (as we read in Acts 16:14) was converted to Christianity by Paul.

There was a Christian community in Thyatira but unlike in some other towns and areas the Christians were not persecuted there. However, the Christians faced a serious problem resulting from the difference between their way of life and the lifestyle of the other people in that city.

In Thyatira there were many trade guilds at the heart of the commercial and manufacturing life of the city. Guild members held common meals, and worshiped their gods in temples, offered meat to their idols and not infrequently became drunk and indulged in immoral behaviour. This was anathema to the Christians,

A member of the Christian community, a woman whose name has become a synonym for morally unrestrained behaviour, Jezebel, sought a compromise between the Christians and the guild members in the interests of business and commercial prosperity. As we all know, Christians cannot serve both God and Mammon. And so this attempt to ride two horses at the same time, to indulge in the immoral pleasures of life whilst professing Christian morality, was potentially very damaging

to the emerging Christian church. Like many compromises it may have seemed to be convenient but it was unprincipled and it would neither please nor deceive God. This is not unlike Aesop's fable of the Ass in the Lion's skin (see page 17: you can put on a disguise but your words will give you away). It was against this background that the letter to the Christians in Thyatira was written. It was the longest of the seven letters to the Churches of Asia.

The letter opens with praise for their love, loyalty and steadfast endurance. But it continues with an admonishment for their failure to curtail the bad influence of Jezebel. The letter described her as a woman who called herself a prophetess whose leading was teaching others to indulge in fornication and eating meat which had been offered to idols. These sins were described as the depths of Satan. It continued with a blood-curdling threat that if she did not repent of her ways and cease fornication she and her fellow fornicators would be cast into a bed of sickness and her children would be slain. For those who were not followers of Jezebel's immorality the letter urged them to continue steadfastly in their ways. The letter concluded with two promises to the faithful:

- That God would give them authority over the nations, meaning that they would share in His kingdom;
- They would receive the Morning Star which has been interpreted as a deep and intimate relationship with the risen Christ and the dawn of eternal life after a period of spiritual darkness.

In the July edition we shall look at the letter to the Christians in Sardis.



Stuart Baker

Sources include William Barclay "The Daily Study Bible" The Revelation of John

Diary Note:

The exhibition "Threads Through the Bible" will move to Chester Cathedral and will be displayed from 9th June to 26th June. It would be an excellent day out, and for those who have Merseyrail passes you can travel there and back for free!

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).

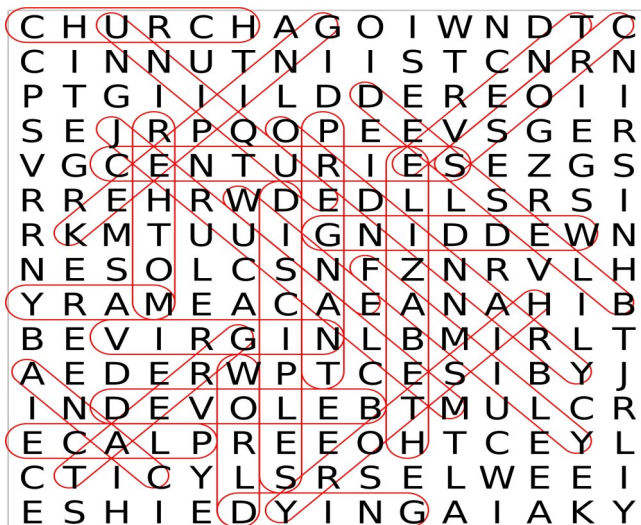


**214, Liverpool Road
Birkdale
Southport
Telephone: 565059**

**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



RELAX, UNWIND, AND PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY IN OUR WELCOMING, CREATIVE STUDIO. FROM LITTLE HANDS TO CROWN-UP GATHERINGS, EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

**QUALITY TIME WITH
FRIENDS & FAMILY**

**RAINY DAY ACTIVITY
MAKE YOUR OWN
GIFTS**

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

**SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS**

DATE NIGHT

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10-3
Wednesday	10-4
Thursday	10-4
Friday	10-5
Saturday	10-4
Sunday	Closed

**BOOK NOW
CALL 07802 458711**

FIND US AT 14 MOORGATE, ORMSKIRK, L39 4RY



WHAT'S ON IN OUR NEIGHBOURING CHURCHES

Social Events at St James' Birkdale (Lulworth Road)



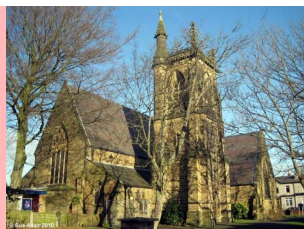
First Tuesday of each month:

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.

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



Sunday 14th June

Open Day & Garden. 2pm. Tea, coffee and cakes £5.

Saturday 22nd August

Family Fun Day 1pm-4pm. Fabulous healthy, homegrown outdoor plant stall. Tea, coffee & cakes. Free entrance.

Saturday 26th September

The Wanderers- cabaret style concert. 7pm. £10, includes a light supper.

Friday 23rd October

Phil Shotton. Dafe Society Trio. 1920's style Jazz. 7pm. £10, includes a glass of red or white wine.

Saturday 21st November

Quiz, 3pm in the hall. Tea, coffee & biscuits. £5.

Saturday 5th December

The Wanderers Barn Dance in the church. 7pm, includes a light supper. £10.

Friday 11th December

Christmas Bingo. 1pm-3pm in the hall.

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
in partnership with Sefton Council

St Peter's Open Day

St Peter's Rd Birkdale

**14th June
1.30 - 4pm**

- Quiet Garden
- Meet the Goats
- Plant Stall
- Book Stall
- Children's trail
- £5 inc refreshment



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**:

Identification Number: 812 3403 0688 Password: 201823

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

Telephone number: 0203 481 5240

Meeting Identification Number: 812 3403 0688

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

Password: 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**:

Identification Number: 835 5074 3780 Password: 7ehHEK

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

Telephone number: 0203 481 5240

Meeting Identification Number: 835 5074 3780.

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

Password: 7ehHEK. 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?...

65 years ago, from 4th June to 9th November, the Berlin Crisis of 1961 took place. It led to Berlin being partitioned into East Berlin and West Berlin, and the erection of the Berlin Wall on 13th August.

Also 65 years ago, on 6th June, Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychologist, died. Founder of analytical psychology.

50 years ago, from 23rd June to 27th August, the 1976 British Isles Heat Wave took place. One of the hottest and driest summers on record, it dried up rivers and evaporated reservoirs.

Domestic water supplies were rationed, and public standpipes were installed in some areas. September and October both saw very heavy rainfall.

40 years ago, on 22nd June 1986, the 'Hand of God' goal took place during the quarter-final of the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico City. Argentine football player Diego Maradona scored a goal against England using his hand, which the referee mistakenly thought was his head, and allowed the goal. England was knocked out of the World Cup as a result, and Argentina won it.

30 years ago, on 4th June 1996, the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway.

Also 30 years ago, on 15th June 1996, the centre of Manchester was devastated by an IRA bomb. 200 people were injured and the city centre had to be redeveloped because of the immense amount of damage.

20 years ago, on 18th June 2006, American bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori became the first woman to be elected as a primate in the Anglican Communion. She became the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church from November 2006 until 2015.

10 years ago, on 3rd June 2016, Muhammad Ali, American world heavyweight boxer, died. He was regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time.

Also 10 years ago, on 16th June 2016, Jo Cox, Labour MP for Batley and Spen, was murdered by a far-right extremist. She was 41.

Also 10 years ago, on 23rd June 2016, the UK European Union (EU) membership referendum was held. 52 per cent of voters voted to leave the EU, and 48 per cent voted to remain. The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020.

Church Hall Users

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

Friday

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

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

Contact: Christine Baker 01704 560518.

Life, Death, the Universe and Everything

It was in the garden when man first met
His Creator God and walked with Him.
The pleasures of Eden were his to enjoy
The genesis of man who was then without sin.
To make him complete God took Adam's rib
Forming Eve to be by his side,
But the devil appeared in the form of a snake
Offering fruit that they should have declined.
Paradise lost, they were sent from that place,
They had disobeyed God and death entered in,

No longer to walk in the cool of the day
And enjoy all the pleasures that God could
bring.

But God's in control of all He has made,
Our world and beyond and mysteries untold,
There are more things in heaven and earth
than we know
To be revealed as time ends and eternity
unfolds.

By Megan Carter

Trooping the Colour

A National occasion in crimson and black
No button misplaced; no harness is slack.
The rhythmic precision of mass marching feet.
The pulse of the nation and heritage meet!
The beat of the drums, the sound of the band
The parade is exquisitely, perfectly planned.
The long months of training, hard effort
applied

Build up to this moment of national pride!
The horses and soldiers all form up in ranks
The audience watching can't help but gives
thanks!

For those standing tall out there on the sand
Prepared to give all for our King and our land.
By Nigel Beeton

[Every June the Monarch's 'official' birthday is marked by a military parade in London, Trooping the Colour. It originated as a way of making sure that troops recognised their standard flag – the colour – so that they could rally to it in a battle. This year it takes place on 13th June.]

£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





To Stuart Baker on 1st June
Jan Ball on 15th June
Howard Taylor on 16th June
Keith Trencher on 16th June
Doris Brookfield on 23rd June
Jonathan Lawson on 26th June

And congratulations to Rev
Jennie on 26th June on the
second anniversary of
her being licensed as
the Vicar of St John's



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



"Don't panic, dear. He missed the APCM and doesn't know that Clive has been re-elected as our churchwarden!"

The Last Laughs



...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

A WORD in your ear

While most church publications are only a few pages long and very much in the style of a newsletter, as Helen Jacobs once said, *the successful publisher is one that can guess ahead, not the one that imitates the past.*

With more than 30 pages, THE WORD is very much a magazine and forward looking updates made by the editor over the last year include the new cover design and ambitious page layouts that have now reached an advanced stage.

Hard copy printed editions of THE WORD follow the accepted 'facing pages' magazine layout but recipients of digital recipients have so far continued to receive their copies as single pages.

Whilst our PDF files are cross platform and THE WORD will continue to be readable on smartphones for the foreseeable future, we do not recommend that option and urge you to use larger screens where possible.

As THE WORD moves forward, there are likely to be more multi-page features for potentially a vastly more impressive read than either viewing single pages on a phone or even on larger screens can deliver.

When opening PDF files there are viewing options. Selecting the double page option and viewing on tablets (held horizontally), or on lap-top and desktop computers with decent sized monitors, will give you by far the best reading experience.





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