



Ryburn
BENEFICE

Connected

March 2021

The Churches of:
St Luke's Norland,
St Peter's Sowerby
St Mary's Cottonstones,

do
justice
to love
kindness
and
walk
humbly
with
your God

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6: verse 8

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Church Services suspended until further notice

Sunday worship services in our Churches are suspended as we observe the latest lockdown measures.

Those wishing to use the building for a time of private prayer, please contact one of the following people for access:

St Mary's Cottonstones: Mr Jim Skelsey 01422 822 936; 07719 897 467

St Luke's Norland: Mrs. Lynne Wheale 07415 683 221 or Mrs. Jennifer Hallos 07769 688 395

St Peter's Sowerby: Mr Ken Cuttle 07824 886 847

Those wishing to book a wedding or funeral please contact the Vicar for further details.

Thank you.

A prayer for all those affected by the Coronavirus

Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Don't forget to look us up on the web:

www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

*For Funerals, and other matters
please contact the Vicar:*

Vicar: Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371

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Coronavirus near Easter: still a good time to pause, pray and remember

When the UK death toll for coronavirus recently reached 100,000, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued a call to the nation. They asked everyone to pause and remember the victims of Covid-19 in their prayers each day. The victims and their families were ‘known to God and cherished by God’.

As of Tuesday 16th February, 297 deaths from Covid-19 were recorded in Calderdale.

Perhaps, as we approach Easter, we should consider stopping again and remembering again the terrible cost of the pandemic.

In their open letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell had insisted that death does not have “the last word”, and the Christian faith promises that one day “every tear will be wiped away”.

God, they wrote, knows grief and suffering and “shares in the weight of our sadness”.

Turning to the wider impact of the pandemic, the loneliness, anxiety and economic hardship, they then invited people to “cast their fears on God”.

The archbishops said: “We write to you in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering Himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.”

“Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in His resurrection. Death doesn’t have the last word. In God’s kingdom, every tear will be wiped away.

“Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us.”

It is expected that the Church of England will hold services of remembrance for those who have died and thanksgiving for all those who have cared for them when it is possible to do so.

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham looks back on the year that changed the world.

'One Year On'

It was just over a year ago that the WHO discussed the coronavirus that was starting to spread around the world. None of us could have foreseen the devastating effect on our world, with over 80 million people infected and nearly two million deaths. How has the pandemic challenged our faith, as we look back over the last year?

Firstly, it has forced us to face up to the **reality of our situation**. We cannot underestimate the health, social and economic effects of the virus on our lives, churches and communities. We have learned how to do church online, but the future shape of church life is uncertain!

As the apostle Paul writes: *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus'* (2 Cor 4:8-10).

The pandemic has challenged so much of what we take for granted, but also demonstrated that God is alongside to help us in these circumstances.

Secondly, alongside the fear and uncertainty of this year, we have also learned to find **new faith and hope in Jesus**. The experience of Jesus' death and His resurrection provides a pattern for us in facing the future: *'so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.'* (2 Cor 4:10-12).

During the season of Lent, as we anticipate the events at Easter, it's good to focus on the promise of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider our present struggles, are we ready to surrender them to Jesus? May the hope of Easter Day take us forward into the coming year.

Hello God ...

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



JESUS

If I could package faith into one parcel
And collect all hope into a single can –
If I could roll all love into one heart-ball
And commoditise it in a living man
I'd already have a fully detailed label
Prepared before the world itself began

–
And it would have one name –
And that name – JESUS –
At the centre of God's universal plan
To take the world along the course
God's surge of love provoked
Till wholeness flows through everything
With God's Spirit of life unyoked.



by Sam Doubtfire

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham offers the following for Lent...

Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have

responded to Him. As the psalmist says, *'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night'* (Ps 63:6).

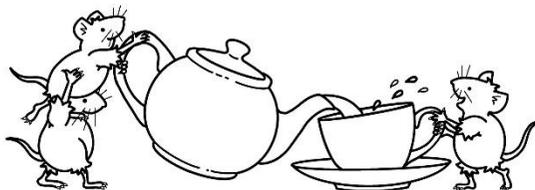
What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!



Norland Church – did you know that ...



The building of St Luke's Church in 1866 was instigated by the Revd John Ellison who was the vicar of Christ Church Sowerby Bridge and he was also the vicar of St Luke's until 1877. At this time when the church became a Parish in its own right, the Revd Charles Livermore was

appointed as vicar.

A vicarage was built in 1883, also instigated by the Rev John Ellison and Charles Livermore lived there with his wife Rose and 4 children for 23 years until 1906.

They were a very musical family; Rose played the harmonium in church and the children wrote and produced their own concerts.

Charles died in 1916 and is buried in the churchyard along with his wife Rose and their daughter who died in infancy.

The next vicar was the Revd William Christopher Bell, a bachelor and a very artistic man who lived in the 4 bedroomed Vicarage with just a housekeeper for 16 years until his retirement in 1922. He was said to be heartbroken at the loss of parish status at that time, having appealed to the Monarch to keep it, and he died not long afterwards.

In 1923 the church was again amalgamated with Christ Church.

The War Cross was designed by the Revd Bell and built from Norland stone. It incorporates the pattern of label stop ends from several old houses in the township of Norland, one of them still visible at Fallingworth Hall. The War Cross was erected at Pinfold Green and unveiled on Saturday July 17th 1920.

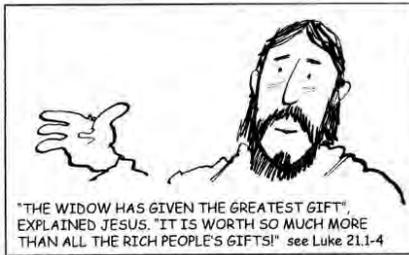
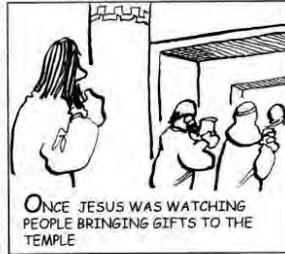
Norland Vicarage was sold in 1937 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and at some point, renamed The Gables. It became a tearoom initially, then a tearoom with accommodation and in 1949 it was

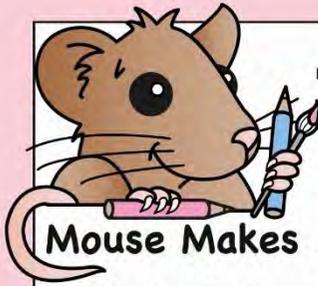
registered as a residential home with 8 bedrooms. It continued to be a care home until 2001 and was then purchased by a local developer, extended to provide 12 apartments and renamed Grange Manor. The first occupants arrived in October 2005.

Jenny Longbottom.

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The Widow's little coins





Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL

Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH

Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL

Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN

Genesis 29:32

GAD

Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:20

OBED

Matthew 1:5

ISAAC

Genesis 21:3

Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON

1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN

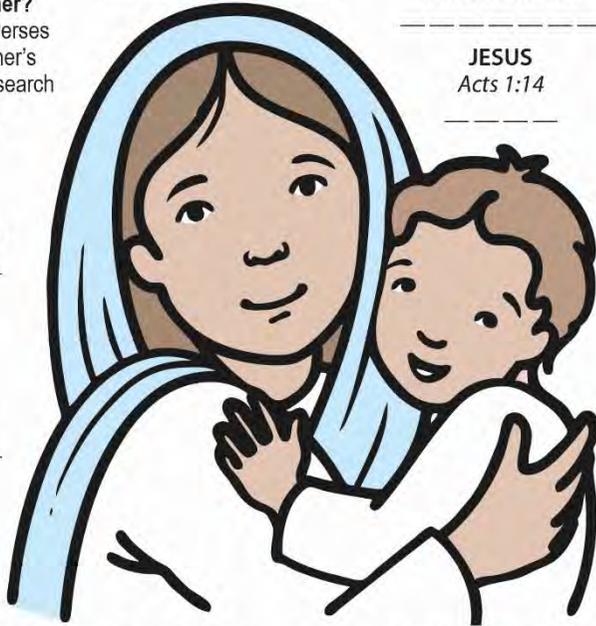
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB

Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS

Acts 1:14



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

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

To Print out and Colour ...



C



The trustees of CICS would like to send warm wishes to our friends in the parish of Sowerby. We are so concerned about our

schools, pupils and all the staff at this strange time and assure you of our love and prayers, those of you physically in school and the many of you having to work and study at home. As the vaccine is rolled out, we have hope for a brighter future.

Our 4 workers normally only spend a few hours a week with CICS as they have other part time jobs. Nancy White is an Associate Priest and Tutor, Chris Mason is a Methodist Youth Worker, Sarah Stone a Pastor and Sophie Tinker a Pastor's Wife. Since schools have not been generally open to outside visitors, we have had the workers on and off furlough but they have all been incredibly busy. They have been home schooling their own children, zooming other young people they are working with, taking a mentee into school who was finding it difficult to get through the door, going into a high school to support the pastoral staff, organising volunteers to support schools and delivering assemblies and lessons to go into homes.

We are particularly thrilled at the work Nancy has been doing with weekly Bible story assemblies, (similar to 'Open the Book') – the team members have appreciated a purpose during lock down and become really proficient with their presentation.

CICS has a vision to become more integrated into the life of High Schools, modelling the way we work currently in two Calderdale Schools. This will be a mix of offering mentoring, support for the staff team, linking with the feeder schools especially around 'It's Your Move', offering lessons and assemblies, and employing a full-time worker. This is on hold at the moment but we will continue conversations around this once we are in a better position after lockdowns.

Rosemary Wright

How are clergy and lay people coping with lockdown? Here is their chance to make an official report....

Covid-19 & Church-21 Survey

If we have learnt anything since last March it is that, with Covid-19, nothing stands still. Just when you think you have worked out what's going on, another twist in the saga seems to plunge you back to square one. Has Lockdown 2021 simply returned us full circle, or are we in a different place now from last March? Since then, a lot has changed, and we have also learnt great deal. What is different this time is that vaccines offer a genuine hope that there will be a better future somewhere down the road. So now seems a good time to take stock and look ahead.

Last year we ran a very successful survey during the first lockdown, and you can read about some of the results on our webpage:

<https://www.yorks.j.ac.uk/coronavirus-church-and-you/> We would now like to get a sense of how clergy and lay people are coping with the current lockdown. We have created a survey that builds on our experience of the last survey and which should enable us to both assess how things have changed and find out what people think as they look forward to a post-pandemic future for the Church.

The *Covid-19 & Church-21* survey is your opportunity to be part of this crucial research project. It will take about 20 minutes of your time, which will enable you to give a thorough picture of your experiences and opinions. This is an online survey, which we estimate it will take you about 20 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to click boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words.





The survey can be completed on mobile phones (point your camera at the QR code), or it can be accessed using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y4fqgrzq>

You might need to update your browser if you have an older version because our online platform only works on those with sufficient security.

Please forward this link to any churches or churchgoers you feel might want to take part in the survey and support this research. We should have some initial results within a few weeks and will make these available as widely as we can.

*The Revd Professor Andrew Village,
York St John University a.village@yorks.ac.uk
The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis,
Visiting Professor York St John University*



*Kevin took himself off to his
study to pray for peace*

High Days and Holy Days you may not have heard of...

9th March: Savio, the youngster who found God

A number of years ago the hit film *Slumdog Millionaire* touched millions of people with its story of a youngster triumphing against all the odds. Dominic Savio did the same thing. In fact, he is a good patron 'child saint' for children today who struggle to get anywhere in life.

Savio (1842 – 57) was born into a poor family in Riva, near Turin. There were 10 children. The father was a blacksmith, the mother a seamstress. Somehow, they managed school fees, and when Dominic was 12, he was sent to the famous school of John Bosco at Turin.

A strict Roman Catholic school wasn't exactly the set for 'Who wants to be a Millionaire', but Savio loved it. He responded with enthusiasm to the wise and moderate spiritual guidance of Bosco, and began to grow. He was soon widely loved for his cheerfulness and friendliness to all. He was respected by fellow students for his mature, sound advice. Behind it all lay the key: Savio had discovered God for himself, and had responded with all his heart: one story of him tells how he was rapt in prayer for six hours continuously.

Sadly, Dominic Savio contracted tuberculosis. He accepted his disease with dignity and composure. He did not fear death – his deep and radiant faith assured him that something far better lay beyond.

Savio died aged only 15. He had never been a millionaire; his riches lay in his faith in Jesus Christ. The memory of this lovable lad lived on, so deeply had he touched the hearts of the people who knew him. Over 100 years later he was still remembered – and made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

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Bend

I got a package envelope in the mail the other day that had written on the front, 'Photographs: Do Not Bend. Underneath the postman had written: "Oh yes they do."

PALM SUNDAY (28th March this year)

Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

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Your daily walk should be a sacred ritual

Under lockdown, millions of us who rarely walked around our immediate locality are now well acquainted with every nearby driveway, every crack in the pavement, and every pothole in the road. We have developed views on our neighbours' gardens, on their oddly coloured garage doors, and on their dogs, children and cars. If we go out at the same time every day, we may even be saying hello to the same people we don't know every day.

For many of us, that daily walk has become the high point of our day. After all, it is one of the few liberties we have left. Some of us go early, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet. Some of us go midday, to at least see other people, even if we can't talk to them. Others of us opt for dusk, the dark comfort of a street with lit houses and stars in the sky.

Whatever time you most enjoy, make sure you do make the time to go for your walk. Your mental and physical fitness can only improve!

Movement over mind?

Exercise can be just as effective as mindfulness when it comes to reducing your stress and anxiety. Such is the conclusion of a recent study at Cambridge University.

Mindfulness is a form of meditation which involves focussing your thoughts and sensations, and it has become popular in recent years. But now Cambridge University experts say that it should not be assumed that meditation will always have a positive impact. Instead, people can reap mental benefits from physical exercise.

As one doctor said: “The main message here is, don’t assume mindfulness will work. We have much more evidence for the mental and physical benefits of physical exercise.”

Last year it was found that people who exercised for 30 to 60 minutes at a time, for two to six hours a week, recorded the fewest days of poor mental health per month.

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This 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.

What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, and vaccinations and better weather may make handling the pandemic a little easier. On the other hand, marking a year from the start of the first UK lockdown will be painful for some, especially as many of us are likely to be experiencing restrictions or ongoing hardships for quite some time. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

Getting outside

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying creation can also help us connect with God.

Looking outside

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

Lament and praise

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

Journaling

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

Acts of kindness

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

Gratitude

Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

Laugh, sing, make music, dance

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.

Why not contact a lonely neighbour?



The public have been urged to write letters to their lonely neighbours, as the Government has announced a £7.5million cash injection for community-boosting activities.

It is hoped that people will “reach out virtually and help combat loneliness”, says Robert Jenrick, the Communities Secretary. This could be done either by “picking up the phone or writing a letter.”

He urges, “Let’s all do what we can to connect with our older neighbours, in a Covid-secure way, so they feel less alone and know how valuable they are to their communities at this time.”

The charity Age UK has said it reckons there to be about 1.4million older people in England who are “chronically lonely.”

Stress and depression for home-schooling parents

Parents are under enormous pressure just now, as they seek to juggle the demands of work, home-schooling, and of meeting their children's emotional needs.

A recent Oxford University study has found that parents of primary school-aged children between 5 and 10 years old are suffering high levels of stress because they are concerned about their children's behaviour, and their emotional and social development.

On the other hand, parents of secondary school children, aged 11 or older, report more symptoms of depression. More than four in ten of such parents report deep concern about their children's education and future career opportunities.

An easy way for fathers to feel closer to their children

When fathers work with their children on puzzles, it helps them grow closer, because their brains 'synchronise'. This leads them to being more 'psychologically in tune' with each other.

A study at the University of Essex said that "the synchronising of brain activity is interesting, because we knew it happened between mothers and children, but didn't know if the same was true with fathers.

"This is important for two reasons. It shows that men *are* biologically wired to provide off-spring care; and second, dads are increasingly being recognised as care-givers and attachment figures to their children."

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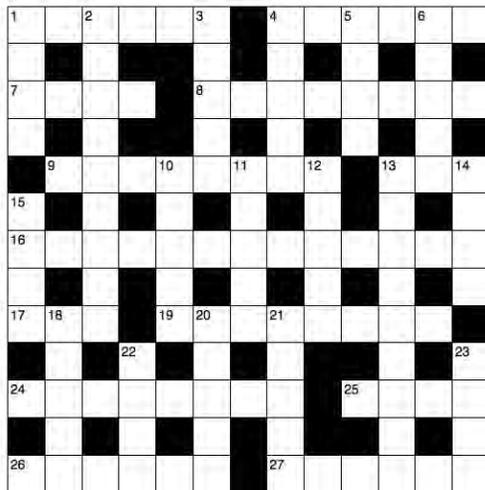
Little old lady seeks handsome young man

An advert appeared in a student newspaper of a university: "Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student – especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D." It was signed: "his mother."

March crossword 2021

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)



- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
25 The Venerable —, eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
3 Gospel leaflet (5)
4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
6 To put forth (5)
10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)

15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)

18 'When I —, I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)

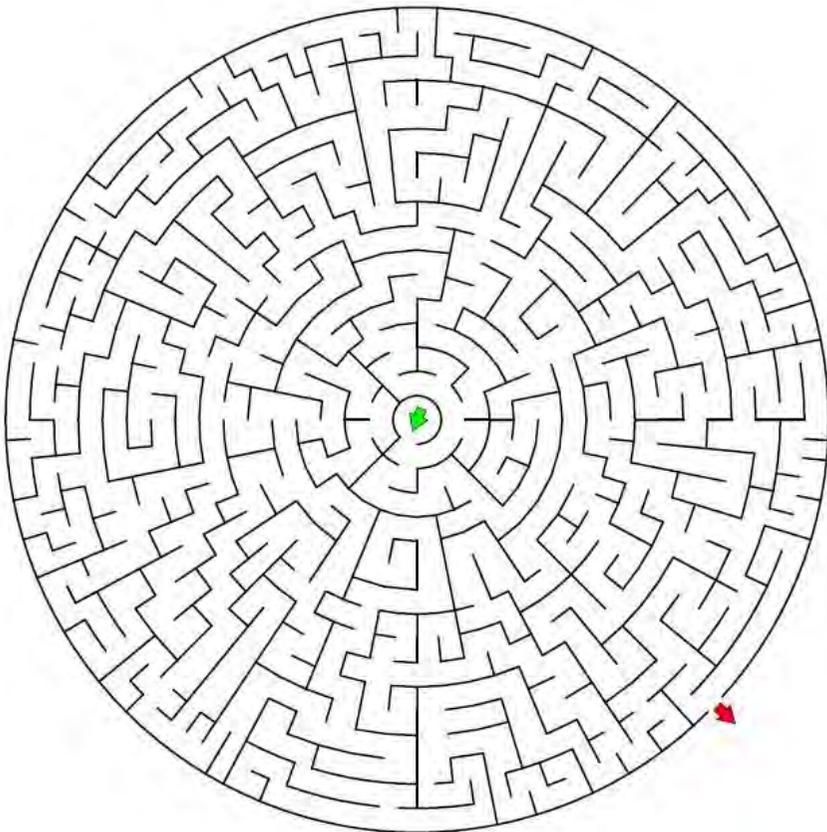
20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)

21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)

22 Does (anag.) (4)

23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

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The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'Ecce Ancilla Domini' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. It hangs in the Tate Gallery. Our image is from [Sailko, via Wikimedia Commons](#)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord

'Ecce Ancilla Domini' (Behold the handmaid of the Lord) is the title of this month's painting of the Annunciation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We shall hear those words in the Gospel for this feast on 25th March, when Mary responds to Gabriel's message that she is to be the mother of our Saviour.

It is a scene that has inspired artists throughout the history of Christianity. Over those years certain traditions emerged: in many paintings Mary was often shown at prayer, dressed in blue, in a room that was filled with elaborate furnishings of the period, all opening out onto the wider world.

Rossetti's painting of 1850 is very different. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and as both a poet and a painter, he soon became its recognised leader. But the work of the Brotherhood was not without its critics. When Rossetti's painting was exhibited, it was dismissed as 'absurd, affected, ill-drawn, insipid, crotchety and puerile' because it was such a contrast to the more



traditional portrayals of this scene in Luke's Gospel.

Here there is a claustrophobic feel to the painting. Mary and Gabriel fill the tiny, cell-like room. There is a window, but it does not open out to scenery and nature: just a solitary tree. Rossetti called '*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' his 'white picture.' That is the colour that dominates: the robes of Mary and the angel, the stones of the floor, the paint on the walls, the flowers that Gabriel offers. Blue, the traditional colour for Mary, is relegated to the screen behind and the sky outside. Other colours are provided by the yellow flames of Gabriel's feet and the tapestry in the foreground on which Mary has embroidered lilies. These flowers, like the whiteness, are symbols of purity.

The model for Mary was Christina, his sister, the author of 'In the bleak mid-winter', and in portraying her, Rossetti has captured the adolescent vulnerability of Mary. A small dove linking the two characters is a sign of God's spirit coming to bring new life to this young girl. How does she respond? What is the expression on her face? Does she see the adult world of responsibility and motherhood opening up before her? Is it anxiety or wonder or awe? Or are all of these responses captured in her expression?

The stillness of the scene, the whiteness of the room – they are like a blank canvas on which God can paint His Gospel, His Good New of life and hope. Just as it opened up a new world for Mary, so the Gospel can open up a new world for all of us. We may respond with anxiety and worry, or with wonder and awe to that invitation. Or those feelings may be transformed into trust and service like Mary in Luke's Gospel: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.'

#####

March 2021 Crossword Solution

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

The Ebenezer Food Bank – latest update (January)

We are feeling the impact of COVID-19 at The Gathering Place. We have always been there for the most vulnerable but now, more people suddenly fall into that category and need our help.

Last weekend at Ebenezer, we handed out:

Total Parcels: 162

Adults in Families: 193

Children in Families: 127

Total Individuals: 220

Our Food Bank is open for clients on:

Fridays: Family Food Bank (with 1 or more children): 10am - 12pm

Saturday: Food Bank: 10am - 12pm

We are open for food donations:

Thursday and Fridays - 9am - 12pm

The Homeless Shelter

We opened The Gathering Place as a 24/7 Homeless Hub in March. We have gone from running a small Winter Shelter from 7pm - 9am to running a 24/7 COVID-19 Hub. We have two support workers on during operation and always have clients in.

Last week at The Gathering Place, we helped out:

5 Clients Accommodated

With 9 beds on average filled over the week.

The Free Café

At the Free Cafe, we are open every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

12.30pm - 1.30pm - supplying hot food at the door.

Last week at The Gathering Place, we gave out:

62 meals from our door

102 meals made for our Shelter residents

For more details find us on Facebook or at:

<https://tiltify.com/christians-together-calderdale>



Food Bank Shopping List

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF DONATING, THIS IS WHAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE MOST:

- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Meals
- Tuna
- Tea
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Toilet Rolls
- Long-Life Milk
- Pasta Pots
- Super Noodles
- Sandwich Spread
- Pasta Sauce

Please drop off Thursday or Friday 10-11am at New Ebenezer, St James Road, Halifax HX1 1YS.

For larger deliveries contact:
fdsi@christianstogether.org.uk

Money Donations

PLEASE VISIT:
[HTTPS://GATHERING.LINK/DONATE](https://gathering.link/donate)



And Finally....

// What do you give a man who has everything?

Antibiotics.

// A bishop, invited to dinner at a large country house, was surprised not to be offered anything but water to drink, and eventually appealed to his very beautiful hostess: "Do you think I might have a drop of wine?"

The lady threw up her hands in horror and replied; "Bishop, I am so sorry! I thought you were Chair of the Church of England Temperance Society."

"Not at all," said the bishop, adding "but I am Chair of the Anti-Porn campaign."

"Oh!" came the reply. "I knew there was something I could not offer you."

// A bus station is where a bus stop. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a workstation...

// Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

// If you think the problem is bad now, just wait until we have solved it. (Arthur Kasse)

//Two choir members recently got married. They met by chants.

// Being popular on Facebook is like sitting at the cool table in the cafeteria of a mental hospital.

// When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

If you have enjoyed reading our magazine, and would like to advertise the activities of your group or business in our next edition, please contact the editor, Revd. Lesley Ennis tel 01422 832747, or email your request to lesleyennis@hotmail.co.uk

For voluntary organizations there will be no charge. For commercial organizations, £2 per issue or £10 per year, for a quarter page insert.

All articles are accepted subject to Sowerby PCC editorial policy.

Cut off date for items for the next issue is 15th of the next month.

If you would like to receive future editions (in PDF format) direct to your email box, please email the editor with your details, which will be used solely for this purpose only.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to all our magazine contributors, and also to the contributors of the website Parishpump.co.uk, for kindly allowing us to use some of their material.