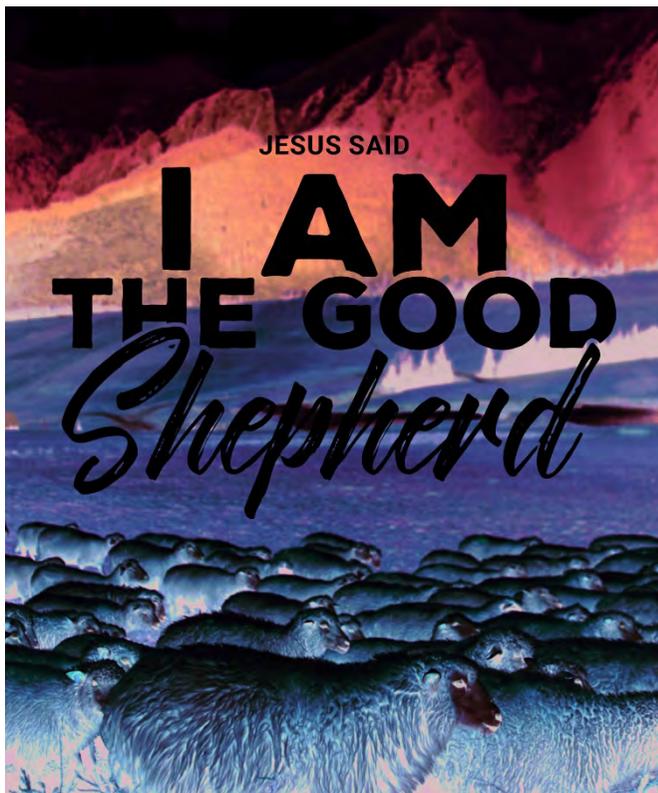




Ryburn
BENEFICE

February
Magazine
2020

Connected



The Ryburn Benefice Churches:

St Luke's Norland, St Mary's Cottonstones, St Peter's Sowerby

Revd Jeanette writes ...

Hello there....

February is almost upon us as I write this letter for the front of our church magazine. At the time of writing...Brexit day (31st January) is still 10 days away. Who knows if it will actually happen? President Trump's impeachment trial has just begun...who knows what will happen there? Prince Harry and Meghan have just decided to 'quit' royal duties for a new life in Canada....who knows how that will pan out?

As I write, there is no doubt that we are living in uncertain times, globally, nationally and for some of us, personally. Uncertain times can prove stressful, unsettling and anxiety provoking. It seems that everything we thought to be true is being undermined, even truth itself with the advent of 'fake news'. In today's world, I often think of Pilate's words to Jesus; 'What is truth?' When in fact, truth was standing right in front of him.

Of course, February is synonymous with St Valentine's day, when we celebrate love. The days are starting to lengthen again, which give us renewed hope and it is also the shortest month of the year.

Thousands of years ago, love was born into uncertain times through the birth of a baby in a stable in Bethlehem. Emmanuel, God with us. Coming to experience what it means to be human in all our messiness, our frailty and our uncertainty.

The start of February marks an end to our Christmas celebrations as we celebrate 'Candlemas'. This is when

we remember Jesus being presented in the temple as a baby, and old Simeon and Anna recognising him as the Messiah, the One sent to save us all. They both recognise 'truth' when they see it, for the wisdom of age is on their side.

We all need some sure ground to stand on in uncertain times. We need the hope that what we are going through is for a reason, and that ultimately, we will make it through a choppy sea to a safe harbour. We need something to believe in.

In thousands of years, the world hasn't changed much. We still suffer conflict and violence, we still struggle to live together in peace and harmony, we still have people who are poor and hungry because of the greed of others. Surely, there has to be a better way?!

Jesus came to show us that better way, to show us how to turn our swords into plough shares and our spears into pruning hooks. He came with a radical agenda...the way of love. Perhaps one day, we will realise the truth of his radical way of being; of loving both our neighbours and our enemies, treating all we meet with respect and equity & the realisation that we are all connected under God & all have a part to play in the unfolding drama of life.

My prayer is that each and every one of you may have a sense of God's light and love surrounding you and empowering you as we move into this new decade. May it be a time of coming together in love and moving forward positively.

God bless you all x **Revd Jeanette**

The Regular Church Calendar

Sunday

- 10.00am Holy Communion St Peter's
In It Together Worship 2nd Sunday in the month
- 11.30am Holy Communion St Mary's (1st Sunday of the month only)
- 3.30pm Holy Communion St Luke's
In It Together Worship 4th Sunday in the month

Monday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Luke's

Tuesday

- 9.00am Mother and Toddlers' group (term time) at St Luke's.
- 12 noon Lunch Club St Luke's, 1st Tuesday in the month

Wednesday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Mary's

Thursday

- 9am Mother and Toddlers group (term time) at St Luke's.
- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Peter's
- 10.15am Holy Communion White Windows, 2nd Thursday in the month
- 12 noon Lunch Club St Peter's Centre 1st Thursday in the month

Saturday

- 9.30am Prayer Breakfast St Peter's, 1st Saturday in the month
- 3-5 pm Messy Church, 4th Saturday in the month

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

www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

*For details of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communion,
Holy Unction, and Confession, please contact the Vicar:*

*Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371
jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org*

**Weekly groups at St. Peter's
Community Centre which is just
across the road from St. Peter's
Church. Formerly the village school,
the entrance is via the old school
yard.....**



Community Café

Monday – 9.15am-noon. Term time.

**Join us for inexpensive bacon butties, omelettes, home made
cakes. Children's play table. Free housing benefit advice available.**

Facebook: The Cafe St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby.

Tai Chi

**Monday – 1pm-2pm,
beginners' class 2.15pm-3.15pm.
Weekly.**

Fresh Dance Ltd

**Mon 6-7pm The Yester Years
8-9pm Fresh Dance**

Ryburn Art Club

**Tuesday - 10am-12.30pm.
Term time.**

Brownies and Guides

**Tuesday - 6.30pm-9pm
for girls aged between 7 and 14 years.
Term time.**

'Love Science' for under 5s.

**Wed 11-12am.
Science for under 5's with their adult**

Fresh Dance Ltd

Wed 1-2pm

A.L.L. Dance the Yester Years

Wed 2-3pm

A.L.L. Dance the Musicals

Pay as you go £5 per session



Boxercise

Wed 6.30-7.30pm

Family Exercise through boxing

Lunch Club

Thursday – Noon-1.30pm

first Thursday of each month.

Slimming World

Thursday evenings 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Tracey is your Slimming World representative.

Stay and Play

Friday – 9am-10.30am

A free (although donations appreciated), messy play group for parents and toddlers. Sensible parenting advice given if asked for

Community Café

Saturday – 9.15am-1pm.

We will be open every Saturday except for special events.

Join us for inexpensive bacon butties, soup, home made cakes.

Children's play table. Free housing benefit advice available.

Facebook: The Cafe St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby.

Messy Church

4th Saturday of month - 3-5 pm

Sowerby Bricks

1st Saturday of month – 2-4pm

Fresh Dance

is a very popular class that has fantastic songs and moves from the 80s, 90s to present day. It's an easy to follow class which combines verbal and non-verbal instructions. This class welcomes all from beginners to advance. It's a non-competitive, friendly environment where you can feel welcome even if you're coming to class on your own. It's 'your body, your workout' motto means you go at your own pace and can set your own goals and it provides a full body workout in a fun way. Variations are given if people come from a none or dance background, although no previous experience is required as options are demonstrated.

A.L.L. Dance the Yester Years

is another popular class that brings a great workout to moves and music from yester year. It's easy to follow: learn a routine or two in this fun, friendly environment. No previous dance experience required. Variation of moves that can be differentiated and developed to suit all levels and needs, is given in all classes. This class helps work on memory development through learning and retaining moves to match lyrics. Various dance techniques are in all classes. This class is welcome to all, to go at your own pace while getting a full workout without even knowing you're exercising.

A.L.L. Dance the Musicals

Is the newest addition to the Fresh Dance Family but in keeping with the format I, this class is a brilliant feel good class with moves and music from Broadway and the West End Musicals from Fame to Fosse and many, many more. It's been already getting great feedback from attendees and is growing in numbers in a short time. Easy to follow while creating a positive environment for all to achieve a great full body workout, working on memory development through learning and retaining choreography. Variation of moves that can be differentiated and developed to suit all levels and needs is given in all classes. Various dance techniques are in all classes.

Classes taught by a qualified teacher with over 25 years teaching expertise.

Fully Insured, DBS, BA and QTS **All classes are only £5**

The venues are fully Wheelchair accessible and everyone of all abilities are welcome to all the classes. Able and differently able are completely included in all the classes. To book please use: **Go team up Fresh Dance Limited.**

Event to note in February:

Sunday 4th February

Revd Ian's Licensing as Priest-in-Charge at St Thomas, Greetland

Shrove Tuesday 25th February

Ash Wednesday 26th February

Details of events later



"Pancake party?" said Simon,
"What Pancake Party?"

News from Sowerby



Sowerby Bricks

**A group for Lego builders of
all ages.**

**The 1st Saturday of every month,
beginning on 1st February 2020,
St Peter's Community Centre, Sowerby,
2 until 4pm.**

**Come along and bring any Lego project
you are working on to build alongside
other people who 'love the Brick'.**

**There will be models to look at & bricks
for free-style building. All are welcome.**

**Children must be accompanied
by an adult.**





The 4th Saturday of every month,

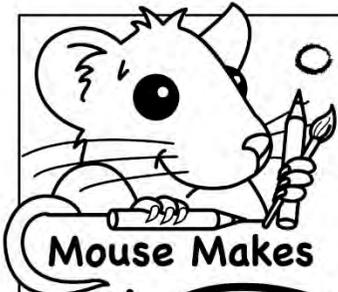
St Peter's Community Centre, Sowerby

Next meeting : Saturday 22nd Feb 2020

3-5pm

Inclusive fun and worship for all people of every generation...not just for children!

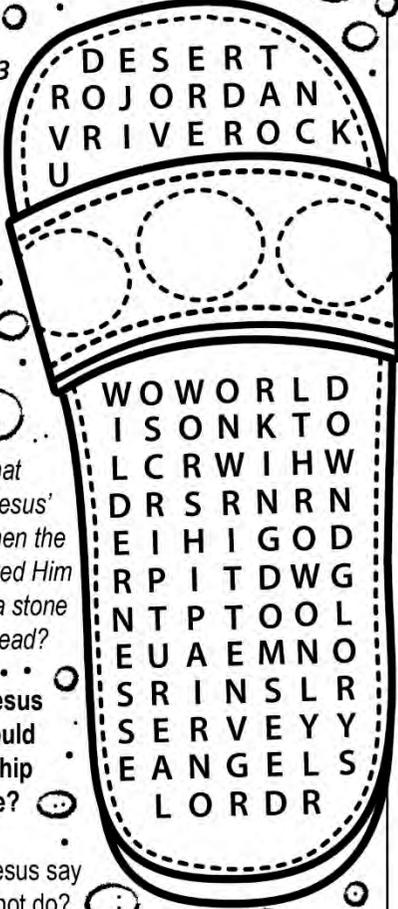
Come along to spend time together; get creative; offer worship & share a meal together



After Jesus was baptised He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days where he was tempted by the devil.

READ the story in Luke 4:1-13

Mouse Makes



What was Jesus' reply when the devil asked Him to turn a stone into bread?

Who did Jesus say He would only worship and serve?

What did Jesus say you must not do?

Can you find these words in the word search?

- JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • LED
- HOLY SPIRIT • WILDERNESS • DESERT • TEMPTATIONS
- DEVIL • FORTY • DAYS • HUNGRY • ROCK • STONE
- BREAD • WRITTEN • SCRIPTURE • ALL • KINGDOMS • WORLD • GLORY
- WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • ONLY • JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • HIGH • IF • SON
- JUMP • THROW • DOWN • ANGELS • HOLD • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

STRONG ROOM

ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!

OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.

JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

The event poster is set against a background image of a church building, overlaid with a dark grey semi-transparent rectangle. At the top left of the rectangle is the CICS logo (an oval with the CICS text and church icon). At the top right is the 'hys' logo (an oval with a red top half and black bottom half, containing the white text 'hys'). The main text is centered and reads '2020 VISION CONCERT' in large white letters, with 'with HALIFAX YOUNG SINGERS' in smaller white letters to the right. Below this, the venue information is listed: 'Christ Church Pellon', '5 Church Lane', 'Halifax', and 'HX2 0EF'. At the bottom left, the ticket prices are 'Adults £8 | Concessions £6'. At the bottom right, the date and time are 'Sunday 02 February' and '3pm', with '02' and '3pm' in a significantly larger font size.

2020 VISION CONCERT with HALIFAX YOUNG SINGERS

Christ Church Pellon
5 Church Lane
Halifax
HX2 0EF

Adults £8 | Concessions £6

Sunday
02
February
3pm

Hello God

Rabbula of Edessa was a leading figure in the 5th century Syrian Church who translated the New Testament into his native tongue. He wrote this prayer for penitents to use.

Have Pity on Me

You are rich, Lord, in grace and mercy, willing to cleanse all sinners from their guilt. Cleanse me with hyssop, have pity on me. In your mercy spare me, as you spared the publican and the prodigal son. You take the sinfulness from sinners, O Christ, and when we repent you make us welcome beside you. Redeemer of the human race, in your mercy, have pity on me.

My sins have bowed me to the ground... I could not have done more to achieve my own ruin if I had rushed over a precipice. Who but you can restore me to the beauty in which your created me? Who but you can remake me in the image of yourself? In your mercy, Lord, deliver me; have pity on me... Grant me the dew of your grace, Lord. Forgive my sins. But above all, may the glory belong to you.

Nigel Beeton writes: *Sometimes we can be terribly careless with our family and our loved ones. On Valentine's Day, it is worth reflecting upon the trust placed in us by both God and our partner when we are entrusted with the priceless gift of another person's love:*

A Treasured Heart

A pearl beyond all human measure
Your heart is such a golden treasure
Too valuable to tell!
Through times of toil and of leisure
Times of sorrow and of pleasure
I shall guard it well!
Love and trust, once they are woken
Are more than just a heart-shaped token
This gift from God above

Not a treasure to be broken
By careless deeds or phrases spoken
This precious gift of love!
Love is patient, love is kind
Love leaves selfishness behind
Forgiving from the start
Truthful, trusting, never blind
Such are the beauties I can find
If I just guard your heart!

The Three protect thee

The God of life to encompass thee,
Loving Christ encompass lovingly,
The Holy Ghost encompasser be
Cherishing, aid, enfolding to send,
To defend.



The Three be about thy head to stand,
And the Three be about thy breast,
The Three about thy body at hand
For each day, for each night of rest,
The Trinity compassing strong
Thy life long.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

Adam and Eve

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

Anxious and Lonely? Come to Church!

Young people who go to Church are less likely to struggle with anxiety than those who do not go to church (22% compared to 33%.) Fewer church goers are also lonely and isolated (16% compared to 31 %) In a survey almost one third of all young people reported feeling sad or depressed; this was compared with 18 per cent among young practising Christians.

The survey is published in *The Connected Generation*, commissioned by the Barna Group in partnership with World Vision. The full report can be seen at theconnectedgeneration.com.

Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers self-discipline during Lent.

Lent Fasting

This month sees the start of Lent, the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but it plays an important part in the Christian life. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and He taught His disciples to fast (i.e. not *if* but *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

Why Fast?

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to humbly focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

How can I fast?

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain from food for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', or giving more time to prayer and Bible study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).

Love in action!

The writer Gary Chapman describes the 5 'love languages' as words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred 'language of love'?

With the approach of St Valentines' Day, let's ask: what is God's love language? *'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'* (1 John 3:18). God's love is expressed in the word *agape*, which is exclusively found in the New Testament. Greek has a number of words for love e.g. empathetic, friendship or sexual, but *agape* is defined uniquely by Jesus. *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16) It provides the model for how we should love others.

Agape love is self-giving: it is ready to put the other person first, just as Jesus gave His life for us on the cross by dying in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service to others?

Agape love takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it? Do we have eyes of compassion to see the needs around us and a heart to reach out to them?

Agape love is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of what time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied *'lots and lots and lots!'* They then asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *'I love you this much'*, as they nailed Him to a cross.

Love, actually?

"Hello, I am a millionaire and part-time army officer, and spend my time at my numerous houses and yachts throughout the world. Even though we have never met, I am in love with you. I would like to meet you, and share my paradise with you, but first I need you to send me £500 to pay the air fare.

"I have also just sent you a present of jewellery worth thousands. All you have to do is to send me the customs tax on it. I also feel so sad because my beloved cat is ill, and I need to pay a vet bill of \$1000. I will send you her photo, as I can see from your online pages that you love animals. God bless you."

Spot anything fishy? Well of course you do. But lots of people get taken in, and they can lose thousands of pounds in scams like this. Dating websites offer you contact with lots of people who are looking for someone special. But - they also offer you contact with lots of people who are looking to defraud or damage you.

So, if you are using a dating website to look for romance this month, here are some guidelines to keep yourself safe:

1. Use only a reputable, well-known dating website. It should have a section which spells out how they deal with fraud, and also a clear policy on how they ensure clients' safety
2. If you have 'met' someone online who interests you, still keep to the safety provided by the dating website. DO NOT message or email them off of the site. Meet them first, and even then, keep your contact details private for the first few meetings. If they are genuine, they will understand and agree with your caution.
3. NEVER send money to someone whom you do not know. Ignore their stories about dying mothers needing medicine, cruel landlords

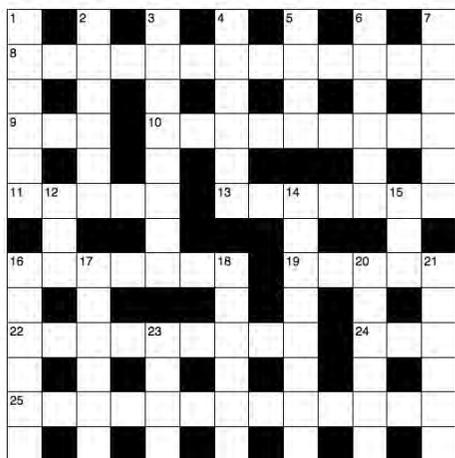
about to evict them, and pets suffering for lack of a vet. In fact, someone wanting to borrow money early on in a relationship is a sure sign that something IS very wrong!

4. Learn to spot the signs of fraud. In the above letter the person claims to be wealthy, and in the army: which will explain long periods when he does not keep in touch. He is rich but wants your money! In fact, he has looked online, found out what you like, and is using it to manipulate you into doing something for him.

5. Google yourself. Find out just how much personal information about you is out there. It may come as a shock!

February 2020 Crossword

(Answers on page 24)



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy,

to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)

25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Love in a bag

I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day, and he said he had bought her a belt and a bag. When I commented that I am sure she would appreciate them, he agreed: "Yes, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

Lot's wife

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving,' he said, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

Psalm 23 Garden coming to RHS Chelsea

The Bible Society has announced that “We’re absolutely thrilled to be working with award-winning garden designer Sarah Eberle, to bring Psalm 23 to life at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2020!”

The Psalm 23 Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2020, designed by Sarah Eberle, will offer visitors the chance “to stop, reflect, and feel refreshed”.

The Bible Society said: “This powerful psalm, with its visual imagery of green pastures, still waters and the valley of the shadow of death, just cries out to be turned into a garden.

“We hope you’ll love it. And after the Chelsea Flower Show, the garden will find a permanent home at the Winchester Hospice in Hampshire, where it will be a blessing to patients and families.”

The Bible Society says it is also hoping that people will “join us in creating community gardens across the country inspired by the Psalm 23 Garden. You can do this outside your office, in your school grounds, or in your churchyard. Let’s get gardening!”

You can follow the project on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and join us on the road to Chelsea.

Why Elijah did that...

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times over. “Now,” said the teacher, “can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?”

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, “I know! I know!” she said, “To make the gravy!”

And Finally.....

What are angels like?

Try asking school children that question, and you'll get some imaginative replies! Like these....

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. – *Sara, aged 6*

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter. – *Jared, aged 8*

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. – *Anthony, aged 9*

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. – *Kate, aged 9*

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it. – *Vicky, aged 8*

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 following month's edition is 15th of the preceding 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.