



Ryburn

BENEFICE

May  
2021

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

# Connected

Pentecost

The Fruit of the Spirit  
is  
Love JOY Peace  
Patience  
Kindness Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
and Self-control

Galatians 5: verse 22

# Church Contacts

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Organist	Bill Ellis		

## St Mary's Community Centre

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## St Peter's Community Centre, Sowerby HX6 1HB

Bookings	Ken Cuttle	01422 836487	kencuttle@aol.com
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## Church Services

**Sunday worship services in our Churches have now resumed, subject to the usual Covid-19 restrictions regarding the wearing of a mask; observing social distancing; handwashing on entering and leaving the building etc.**

Revd Jeanette will be on sabbatical **from 5th April to 16th July**. During this time the church wardens will be the primary contacts in their respective churches. Please hold Revd Jeanette, Julie and Dylan in your prayers during this time, and also those who are kindly helping out by leading our services during this period.

Don't forget to look us up on the web & Facebook  
[www.ryburnbenefice.org](http://www.ryburnbenefice.org)



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

Vicar: Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371  
[jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org)

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*The PCC meeting is to be held on Monday, 10th May, 2021 in St. Peter's Church at 7.30 p.m.*

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## Interesting Quotes

*Blessed are the peacemakers; they will never be unemployed. – Anon*

*With the exception of world unrest, nothing breaks out in more places than an old garden hose. – Anon*

*Laughter is God's sunshine. – Anon*

*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her Reflected Faith series on the freedom that May brings....*

Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month:

Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads?

I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

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"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"

# Hello God ...

*Editor: Colin Hammacott praises the wonderful everyday blessing that anyone of us can give.*

Be kind to each other

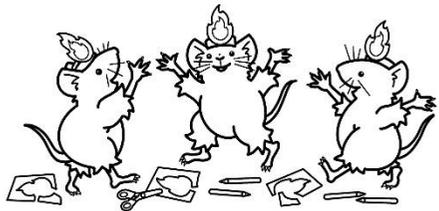
*'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'* (Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk. The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem:

## A Brighter Tomorrow

There is much we can do just to brighten  
This world of all take and no  
give,  
There's a great deal that we can  
contribute  
Through the everyday lives that  
we live.



By supporting one's elderly neighbours  
Or through lending a hand in some way  
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers  
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours  
In the service of those most in need  
It's all about setting a standard  
And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others  
And help and aid folks in distress  
It's the care and assistance we offer  
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple  
The rewards plain for all men to see  
'As you did all of this to my brother  
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'

*By Colin Hammacott.*

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## **Mea Culpa**

A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.

*Editor: Tony Horsfall considers what happens when you have no courage left.*

## Being brave?

Some time ago I was helping my grandson George into his car seat in the back of my car, when I accidentally banged his head. He started to cry. 'Come on, George, be brave,' I said.

'But I don't *want* to be brave,' he objected.

I guess we all know that feeling. Sometimes life is hard, and we know we have a need for courage, but somehow, we just don't want to be brave. We would rather give in, surrender to the difficulties, and wallow in self-pity.

The Bible seems to constantly exhort us to be brave, to be strong, to take heart, to be courageous. And life during a pandemic certainly calls for us to make a courageous response. But occasionally we may feel overwhelmed and ready to give in or give up.

Perhaps you are reading this at just such a moment. Maybe this comes as a message to you from God so that you do not lose heart. He knows you, and He sees your situation. And He speaks to encourage you, as He did to the church at Philadelphia: 'I know that you have little strength' (Revelation 3:8).

He is the compassionate and understanding God who draws alongside us, to give strength to the weary and power to the weak (Isaiah 40:29). You don't have to do anything, simply turn to Him in your need and ask for help.

You will discover, as the apostle Paul did, that when you are weak, then you are strong. His power will be demonstrated through your weakness. You can do whatever is required of you because He will give you strength.

## What's On in Norland ...:

Jenny Longbottom asks if anyone is interested in joining this quiz online event run by Christian Aid:



"The last year has shown us how important it is to come together as a community and have some fun together. That's why **Quiztian Aid** is back on **Saturday 8 May at 7pm** and we can't wait to see you there!

The quiz was a smash hit last year raising almost £7000. This year's quiz is hosted by Death in Paradise stars, Tobi and Prisca Bakare with special guest hosts including Rhidian Brook, Kate Bottley, Kris Marshall and Rowan Williams.

**Sign up now and invite your friends, family or church to join and help us transform lives in Kenya."**

More information about the event is to be found on the Christian Aid website or by typing in:

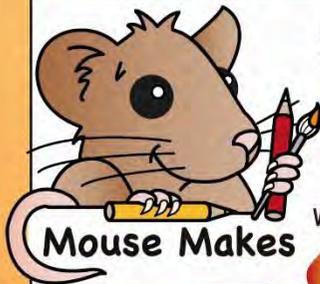
hello@christian-aid.org

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### **Sportsmanlike**

*During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes.*

*"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."*



# Mouse Makes

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit  
**VSEIL**  
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us to  
**WKNO**  
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit  
**HCTSEEA**  
us about God.

The Holy Spirit  
**KPESSA**  
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit  
**PHLSE**  
us to tell others  
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us when we  
**AYPR**



On the day of **PENTECOST**  
the disciples were gathered  
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?  
*Acts 2:2*

What did they see?  
*Acts 2:3*

What filled them?  
*Acts 2:4*



How did they speak?  
*Acts 2:4*



What did the crowd hear?  
*Acts 2:6*



Which countries  
had they come from?  
*Acts 2:9*

What was  
their reaction?  
*Acts 2:12-13*



Who explained  
what was  
happening?  
What did he say?  
*Acts 2:14-36*



How many  
people were  
baptised  
that day?  
*Acts 2:41*



Change each letter to the  
letter before it in the  
alphabet and see what  
the **Holy Spirit**  
produces in us:

KPZ  
IVNJMJUZ  
TFMG DPOUSPM  
GBJUIGVMOFTT  
LJOEOFTT  
QBUJFODF  
QFBDF  
MPWF  
HPPEOFTT  
*Galatians 5:22*

What is the work of the  
**Holy Spirit**? What does He do?  
Fill in the missing letters.

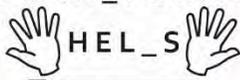


TEAC\_ES  
COMF\_RTS  
REVEA\_S



IN\_OU  
☹️ 😐 😊

TRAN\_FORMS  
HEL\_S



GU\_DES

GENEWS  
CONV\_CTS  
SANC\_IFIES

If you are interested in downloading your own bible-based activities for children, try a visit to: [www.MouseMakesStudio.etsy.com](http://www.MouseMakesStudio.etsy.com)

**Mouse Makes Studio**

Downloadable, printable  
**Bible based activity pages**  
for children

Find us at:  
[www.MouseMakesStudio.etsy.com](http://www.MouseMakesStudio.etsy.com)

Contact us at:  
[debdesigns@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:debdesigns@hotmail.co.uk)

For you or your church group

Colour, cut, glue, make, learn, play and praise

A picture to colour in...



The  
Tale of the  
**TWO  
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO  
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH  
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON  
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE  
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



THE OTHER BUILDER  
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE  
BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND  
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE  
STORM CAME...



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND  
THE RAIN FELL...



...AND THE HOUSE ON  
THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE  
ROCK STOOD FIRM.



JESUS EXPLAINED -  
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE  
A FIRM FOUNDATION.

## Crossword clues (May 21)

### Across

**1** Sense of right and wrong (1 *Corinthians 8:7*) (10)

**7** Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)

**8** 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John 17:10*) (5)

**10** Smarten (*Acts 9:34*) (4)

**11** Hold back (*Job 9:13*) (8)

**13** Member of the Society of Friends (6)

**15** At ague (anag.) (6)

**17** Citizen of the Greek capital (8)

**18** So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)

**21** Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)

**22** Empowers (*Philippians 3:21*) (7)

**23** Imposing (*1 Samuel 9:2*) (10)

### Down

**1** Healed (*Luke 7:21*) (5)

**2** Central space in a church (4)

**3** Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)

**4** Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus 2:12*) (8)

**5** Bravery (*Acts 4:13*) (7)

**6** It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts 16:26*) (10)

**9** Transgression (*Psalms 36:1*) (10)

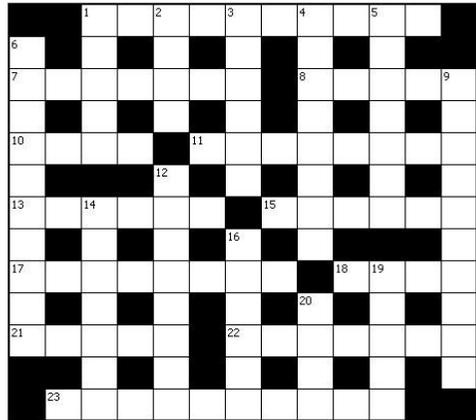
**12** Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)

**14** Same hit (anag.) (7)

**16** 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis 1:2*) (6)

**19** Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)

**20** Cab (4)



## **Church of England backs VaccinAid campaign to ‘Give the World a Shot’ to help defeat Covid-19**

The Church of England is supporting the ‘VaccinAid’ campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.

Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is encouraging people and congregations both to donate, and also to spread the word in their community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus’s command to love our neighbour.

VaccinAid is being supported by other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS. Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities – including parishes – can sign-up to fundraise together.

Local churches are being encouraged to join the campaign, with resources available to download for free on the AChurchNearYou.com Resource Hub to share on social media, newsletters or notice boards. The recently launched campaign has been developed in just a few weeks following a meeting convened by Archbishop Justin with faith leaders, Government and NGOs to discuss how people in the UK could do something practical in response to the real sense of gratitude they have felt as they and their loved-ones receive their vaccines.

Archbishop Justin said: “The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound impact on people here and around the world, but vaccines offer the hope of a brighter future. I’m delighted that churches and other faith groups in the UK are supporting the VaccinAid campaign.

“There is no better way to show our deep gratitude for the gifts of science and medicine than making sure vulnerable people around the world are also given a shot.

For more information on the campaign go to [www.vaccinaid.org](http://www.vaccinaid.org) to donate or begin fundraising.

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*Editor: The Ven John Barton considers the arrival of the people from Hong Kong.*

## **Foreigners?**

Among the estimated 130,000 people from Hong Kong who are making their way to the UK, there are bound to be thousands of Christians. What kind of reception will they get from the churches here?

We shudder when reminded of the cold shoulder shown to the 500 Jamaicans who disembarked the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 1948, and others who followed. They came in response to a recruitment drive by London Transport and the NHS. Many were practising Anglicans, so naturally they made their way to English parish churches. Many were told they didn't belong there.

St Paul's nightmare about the Church had become a reality, with the eye saying to the hand, "I don't need you." (1 Corinthians 12.21) As a result, the Church of England missed out on the faith, experience, and witness of brother and sister believers from the Caribbean.

Hong Kong citizens who hold British National Overseas passports can now apply for a work visa, enabling them to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for permanent UK citizenship. They will bring a wealth of knowledge with them, including the experience of living under an increasingly repressive regime.

This is our chance to learn from past errors and to turn hostility into hospitality. We will soon discover that we have at least as much to receive as we have to give. UK society has already been enriched by immigrants, especially those who belong to ethnic minorities in this country, but are in the majority, worldwide. The NHS alone would collapse without them.

In Bible times, Christians who were from Jewish backgrounds found it hard to believe the Church could accommodate foreigners. First there was a division between Hebrew-speakers and Greek-speakers. An even bigger row followed, when new Christians in other countries were regarded as sub-standard. Then St Peter had a visionary experience which contradicted his narrow upbringing. This is how he summarised it:

"I now realise it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to." (Acts 10.34)

Chinese? African? Caribbean? European? British? The real Church will accommodate all of them and then look for others to welcome.

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### **What did I do with the car?**

As I left a meeting at our church, I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought – I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.

With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call, and told my wife that the car had been stolen. There was a little gasp. "You did not *have the car*. I dropped you off. Remember?" My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick – I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here. They think I've stolen the car..."

## 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.*

### **Finding Expression – and God’s Response – in Lament**

The question of suffering comes up regularly in discussions about science and faith. I once visited a school to speak to some of the older teenagers. One of the pupils had sadly passed away from cancer a few weeks before and his classmates asked, “How God could let this happen?” Of course, these young people’s questions about where God was in this situation were important. But the chaplain also gently reminded the class that their friend’s family were Christians, and that they were finding that their experience of loss had brought them even closer to God than before.

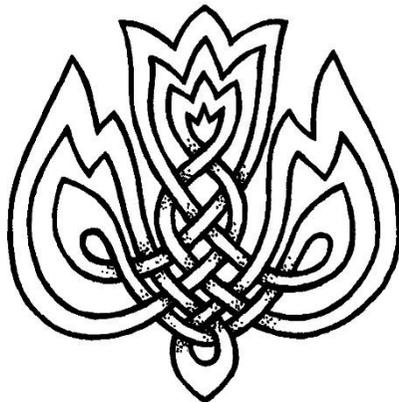
One way that grief can bring us near to God is when we share it with Him, telling Him exactly how we feel. The biblical writers had no scruples about expressing themselves to God, giving vent to emotions we often hold back in a church context. As my colleague Roger Abbott has written in his book on *‘Unanswered’ Prayer*, “Let us not confuse reverence with spiritual prudishness. Perhaps honesty, the way it feels, is precisely what God is waiting to hear from us.”



About one third of the Psalms express some form of grief. The book of Job is a series of responses to one man's suffering as he loses his children, property and health in quick succession. Lamentations is also one long outpouring of sadness at what happened to Israel under the Babylonians. Some of the prophets, especially Jeremiah, also express their pain at these sorts of events – which reflect something of God's own feelings at the suffering of His people.

Most of these biblical authors would have had access to Scriptures that encouraged them to turn to God whatever the circumstances. Emboldened by their knowledge of His character and promises, these divinely inspired writers even express their anger to God about the things He lets happen, or complain that He seems to act unfairly or ignore them in their plight. Not only do these people let out all their feelings without fear of reprisal, but they also clearly expect a helpful answer. Some record a resolution to their troubles – often simply because God speaks to and comforts them, enabling them to keep going.

The biblical writers demonstrated that God can handle pretty much anything – anger, blame, bitterness – if we are actively looking to Him for help. As Pete Greig of the 24-7 prayer movement has written, “pain that is not expressed can never be transformed”.



*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' by Holman Hunt.*

*The painting hangs in the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Liverpool. You can view it at:*

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William\\_Holman\\_Hunt\\_-\\_May\\_Morning\\_on\\_Magdalen\\_Tower.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Holman_Hunt_-_May_Morning_on_Magdalen_Tower.jpg)

**I wish you a joyful May**



When Van Gogh painted 'The Raising of Lazarus', he turned to Rembrandt for inspiration. But in place of the figure of Jesus, he painted a warm, glowing sun, radiant in the sky, and shining out to bring renewal of life to Lazarus and his sisters.

From time immemorial people have placed the sun at the centre of life and worship. As Christianity grew and spread, it took over ceremonies and practices associated with that belief, but then

moved the focus from the sun above to the Son, Jesus, on the earth below.

We can see that in the traditions and worship of Christmas and Easter. In May we celebrate the goodness and fruitfulness of nature brought by the sun with Maypole dancing, the crowning of the May Queen, and games and sports, just as the Romans went dancing in the fields at this time, rejoicing in the gifts of Flora, the goddess of nature. In May the druids would greet the sun in the sky as they gathered on a high place.

That custom persisted for several centuries, particularly at Magdalen College in Oxford. In 1840 Dr John Bloxam revived the ceremony. Holman Hunt, one of that group of artists known as the Pre-Raphaelites, visited Oxford in 1851 and so enjoyed the Christmas festivities that he decided to honour the college life in one of his paintings. That decision took many years to reach the canvas: his painting of 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' is one of his last complete works in 1890.

We can easily identify the choristers gathered to greet the rising sun in music and song. Amid the clouds and blue sky above, the birds are flying and the floor where the choir stand is bedecked with flowers. It is a glorious celebration of the fruitfulness of May and the summer: God's creation bringing so many gifts. The president of the college is the man with the dark beard at the right of the painting, and Dr Bloxam is beside him.

But there is an unusual character there also, at the side of the painting – a Parsee, an ancient worshipper of the sun from Persia, perhaps representing not just those who look to the light of the sun, but are also searching for the light of truth. The young chorister in the middle looking out at us holds a lily, the symbol of Mary, the mother of God's Son.

## May 2021 Crossword Solution

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

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### The puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."



## **New book helps mark Christian Aid's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

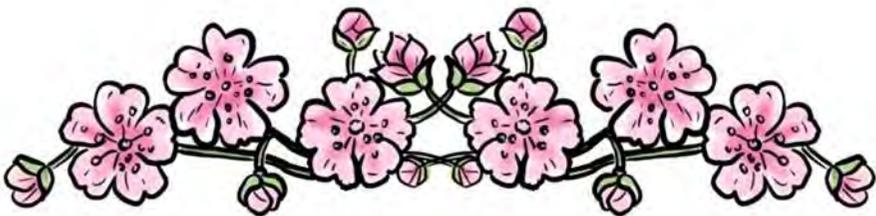
Christian leaders, activists, writers and theologians world-wide have written prayers for a new book to celebrate Christian Aid's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World* includes prayers on climate injustice, Black Lives Matter, violence against women, discrimination against Dalits in India, the coronavirus pandemic, from extreme poverty in Burundi, and inequality in Myanmar.

Christian Aid's work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since then, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support, while speaking out against injustice.

Christian Aid helped during the Biafra war, advised Martin Luther King during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, campaigned to make poverty history in the 2000s, and is now fighting climate injustice in countries around the world.

*Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World* from:  
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope>



## And Finally....

### How to stay safe this Spring

Avoid riding in automobiles. They are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay home. 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking on streets or pavements. 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water. 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, above all else, *avoid hospitals*.

### **BUT:**

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

A Bible study is safe, too. In fact, the percentage of deaths that occur during Bible study is not even .001%...

So, attend church, and read your Bible – ***IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!***

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