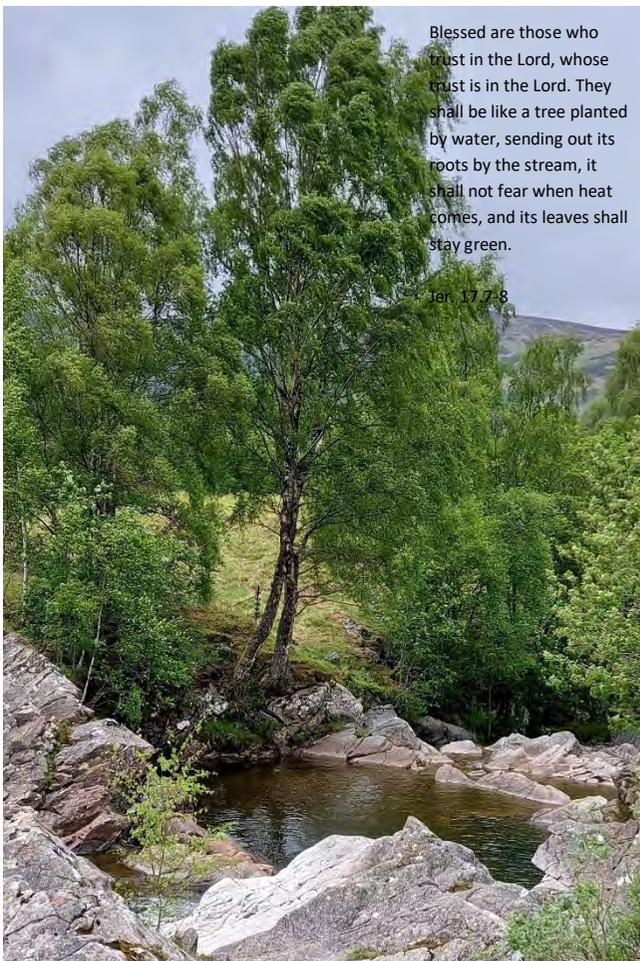




Ryburn
BENEFICE

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

Connected



Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream, it shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green.

Jer. 17:7-8

Church Contacts

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Retired Priest & Magazine Editor	Revd Lesley Ennis		lesleyennis@hotmail.co.uk

St Mary's, Cottonstones

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	Miriam Asquith	01422 822534	miriam.asquith@hotmail.com
Verger	Contact Jim Skelsey		
Organist	Bill Ellis		

St Mary's Community Centre

Bookings	Jim Skelsey	01422822936	skelseyfamily@aol.com
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St Luke's, Norland

Churchwardens	Jen Hallos	01422 832700	Jenhallos2@gmail.com
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St Peter 's Sowerby

Churchwardens	Ken Cuttle	01422 836487	kencuttle@aol.com
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Verger	Contact Ken Cuttle		
Organist	Richard Barnes	01422 346215	

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 resumed, subject to the latest Covid-19 recommendations 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.

Date for the diary at Sowerby:

Sowerby Parish PCC meeting on 26th July, 2021 in St. Peter's Church at 7.30 p.m.

Don't forget to look us up on the web & Facebook

www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

Vicar: Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371

jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org

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Interesting Quotes

There is a way of winning by losing, a way of victory in defeat which we are going to discover. – *Laurens van der Post*

To belittle is to be little. – *Anon*

From the pulpit ...

As we all hesitate to look forward to the Summer, there seems a lot of uncertainty about. There is anxiety about holidays, about mixing socially, and about the Olympics; about Wimbledon and Football; Schools and Universities; Theatre going and other Arts, and about whether people should be allowed to sing in Church or do this, that or the other. Then there are all the decisions that need to be made by Governments, and other leaders, in education, in hospitals... Over it all looms the threat to the world of climate change - and so we go on.

Recently, I was struck by a comment Her Majesty the Queen made when meeting the Prime Minister face to face again, as Covid-19 restrictions were eased. Concerning one of her hapless ministers, her first reaction was one of compassion – ‘poor man’. If I were caught out in some indiscretion or failing, or if the world was united in condemnation against me, I would hope that someone somewhere would react that compassionately for me and pray for good to come out of things, despite everything.

Some circumstances are truly tragic and people have the right to feel let down and aggrieved and for those responsible to be made accountable for their actions – but we are only human, and we fail and fall short of other’s hopes and expectations all the time. Somehow in all of this there must be opportunities for changes to be made for the better, yet at the same time, allowing for people to be fallible – because we all are. As we each negotiate the knife-edge of living lives of integrity but recognising our own limitations, let us not give up in praying for one another, and especially for those in government. May we keep trusting in the God who holds us all in his hands and who only knows completely the rights and wrongs of any situation. Its hard sometimes to trust in God’s plan for our lives, but we know deep in our hearts that God alone is capable of bringing about new beginnings, new life and options out of seemingly impossible situations.

Despite everything, and in and through it all, and trusting in the saving love of Jesus, may you each have a blessed, restful and anxiety-free Summer for as much as you are able. Lesley E.

Hello God ...

The Difference

So often
I can't wear the right clothes,
Speak the right words,
Fit the right mould,
Be the shape people want me
to be,
Expect me to be,
Demand that I am,
To conform.

But you Lord
Accept me,
Release me,
Make it possible to be me,
Perfectly free
In Your service,
Open for You
To transform.

By Daphne Kitching

When we feel shaken

(Lk 10:42)

Faithful Father,
When we feel shaken by the events of the past; when we don't know quite how to go forward; when our confidence in what we thought we could control is undermined; remind us that one thing is needed – to sit at your feet and listen to You.

You are our security. You will never fail those who belong to You through faith in Your Son, Jesus.

As we take time to listen to You, Lord, and to meditate on Your Holy Spirit-inspired Word, may we know Your peace – and Your good plans for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Reaching Out

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember the work of your disciples who served You faithfully during the early days of the Church. They went out among the people, who were often hostile, and spoke of their faith. They also encouraged others by their written testimonies. Together, they spread the word of Your teaching and of the joy of serving You, regardless of their own fate and well-being.

We ask You to help us today to continue Your work by witness and example. May we continue to draw comfort and inspiration from Your teaching, and so acknowledge and confess our faith wherever we go and to those we meet.

By Terence Trimmer



Sharing the Notices while keeping a social distance was proving tricky.

Down Memory Lane....

Jenny Continues the story of St. Luke's Church ...

In 2006 the Diocese of Wakefield offered the people of Norland the chance to become a Parish Church functioning independently of Christ Church Sowerby Bridge.

This would be a big opportunity but also a big responsibility. However, at a meeting of the congregation and village members held in February of that year, there were sufficient members present with a positive attitude to give support for the PCC in Christ Church Sowerby Bridge for them to feel confident enough to relinquish the reins which they held over Norland.

The setting up of a parish church is a legal process which takes a long time and it even has to be approved by Her Majesty the Queen!

St. Luke's Church was authorised to get organizational structures in place for the first 12 months. Subsequently a group of people met to steer the church through these early months. After a year, when the parish was legally constituted, a Parochial Church Council was appointed with elected officers and members of the congregation. The progress was monitored for the next 3 years when decisions about its long-term future were made in the light of this progress.

On May 1st 2006 St Luke's became a Parish Church in its own right and on Sunday July 9th 2006 Canon Betty Pedley became Priest in charge. This was 155 years almost to the day after the then Bishop of Wakefield had blessed the church since he was unable to attend the official opening in March of that year due to illness.

In 2007 work was started to install a kitchen and toilet which was necessary as the public toilets across the road had been closed.

Millennium Celebrations

In 1999 Bishop Nigel, the Bishop of Wakefield visited every Church, church school, every prison, hospital, residential home and many Hospices in the

diocese and presented a candle to each one commissioning" Christ Our Light" to celebrate the year 2000

He urged every church to engage with their community in celebrating the millennium and as a consequence, letters were delivered throughout the village explaining the plans to form the Norland Millennium Committee comprising representatives from all community groups. An open meeting was held on January 25th 1999 and lots of events were subsequently arranged.

He came to Norland church on July 25th,1999 and approximately 40 people attended the service. At this time the church committee had made the decision to create a Garden of Remembrance for the interment of ashes since the graveyard had very few spaces left and Bishop Nigel went to inspect the proposed area and prayed over it, promising to come back later in the year when it was finished.

The Garden of Remembrance was completed and Bishop Nigel came to dedicate it on Saturday September 3rd after a service held in church at 6pm.

A central Memorial Stone was designed by Celia Kilner and a Book of Remembrance, to be kept in church was donated by Charles Clarke and family.

The Norland Millennium Committee provided a seat near the Garden and also funded a cabinet for the Book of Remembrance

Jacob Tooby gave advice about and planted shrubs to complete the Garden.

Peter Rollison and family also provided a seat in memory of his wife which was placed in a different area of the graveyard.

Jenny Longbottom

Sky at night

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

Deanery Synod Feedback

The following is information from the Deanery Synod Meeting that was held on Zoom last night. (22nd June). It is something for us to be thinking about during the Summer:

July 11th at 4pm

Songs of Praise at Halifax Minster with a Brass Band and Choir.

This will be held outside, bring your own refreshments (and an umbrella if it is raining)

Robin Gamble encourages us to come out of Lockdown with a positive attitude. Think of Psalm 85:

Ps 85 (CEB) LORD, you've been kind to your land;
you've changed Jacob's circumstances for the better.
²You've forgiven your people's wrongdoing;
you've covered all their sins.
³You've stopped being furious;
you've turned away from your burning anger.
⁴You, the God who can save us, restore us!
Stop being angry with us!
⁵Will you be mad at us forever?
Will you prolong your anger from one generation to the next?
⁶Won't you bring us back to life again
so that your people can rejoice in you?
⁷Show us your faithful love, LORD!
Give us your salvation!
⁸Let me hear what the LORD God says,
because he speaks peace to his people and to his faithful ones.
Don't let them return to foolish ways.

⁹ God's salvation is very close to those who honour him
so that his glory can live in our land.

¹⁰ Faithful love and truth have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed.

¹¹ Truth springs up from the ground;
righteousness gazes down from heaven.

¹² Yes, the LORD gives what is good,
and our land yields its produce.

¹³ Righteousness walks before God,
making a road for his steps.

A Harvest time suggestion:

At Harvest time have a "Thanksgiving for the end of Lockdown", or stage a "Back to Church Sunday" and invite people who haven't been able, to come to church.

Think "Out of Lockdown into Growth"

Jenny Longbottom (Deanery Synod Rep.)



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

Down Memory Lane at St Peter's

S. Peter's Church, Sowerby Parish Magazine.

Monthly

OCTOBER, 1942.

Free

WORSHIP.

Eucharist.

Every Sunday, 8-9 a.m.
1st and last Sundays, 10-30
Third Sundays, 9-30 a.m.
Tues. 9-10, Wed., Fri., 7-9



WORSHIP.

Matins.

2nd and 3rd Sundays, 10-30
4th of Five Sundays, 10-30

Evensong.

Every Sunday, 3-15 or 6-30

Children's Church and Sunday School, every Sunday at 2-4.
Private Communion on First Tuesdays, 10-0-11-30.
Thanksgiving and Baptism by arrangement.

The Vicar may be seen after any Service in the vestry or at the Vicarage. Phone 81661. He will gladly visit any one asking his presence for any reason.

Vicar: REV. C. E. G. GLASCODINE, B.A., Sowerby Vicarage, Triangle, Nr. Halifax.

Wardens: Capt. H. R. Holdsworth, 48 Heath Crescent Ha. 5643.
Mr. Arthur Binn, 20 Dean Lane, Sowerby.

Church Council Secretary: Mr. Paul Carter, Triangle School House.

Treasurer: Mr. G. N. Holroyd, 27 Tibbottson Avenue, Beechwood.

Magazine Treasurer: Mr. F. Hollas, Sowerby School House.

Organist and Choirmaster: Mr. A. Nicholl, A.R.C.O., Netherlea, Woodlands.

Deputy and Sec.: Mr. A. Sutcliffe, Willow Houses, Rochdale Rd.

Servers' Secretary: Mr. R. Fawcett and Mr. A. Sutcliffe.

Bellringers' Leader: Mr. George Briggs, 21 Tibbottson Avenue.

Temporary Verger: Mr. H. Mitchell, 48 S. Peter's Avenue, B'wood.

Sexton: Mr. George Cheetham, Mill Bank, Triangle. Tel. 892101.

DAY SCHOOLS.

Chairman of Managers: The Vicar. Treasurer: Mr. A. Binn.

Sowerby School Headmaster: Mr. F. F. Hollas. Tel. 81199.

Triangle School Headmaster: Mr. P. Carter. Tel. 81691.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH and SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Secretary: Mr. F. Hartley. Treas.: Mr. P. Hollas.

Deputy: Mr. W. Brown.

Primary Supt.: Miss E. Howarth. Organist: Mr. A. Sutcliffe.

MOTHERS' UNION.

E.M.: Mrs. Glascodine. Sec.: Mrs. Hollas. Treas.: Mrs. Hellwell.

CHURCH INSTITUTE.

Sec.: Mr. F. Hartley. Treas.: Mr. T. N. Hollowell & Mr. H. Lush.

G.F.S.: Mrs. Glascodine. Sec.: Miss Howarth.

G.W.S.: Miss D. Norton. Brownies: Miss I. Harrison.

C.L.B.: Mr. R. Fawcett, Mr. H. Robinson. The Vicar.

Fawcett, Greenwood & Co., Printers

There are some interesting items to discover in this old copy of St Peter's Magazine that has come to light, including this children's item:

S PETER'S, SOWERBY.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

Dear Children, "The Poplars," Sowerby, Crumlsday.
Thank you for the fan mail. As you see we've flitted again. Our new home is very high up; it has two doors (one for use and the other for swank) which is a bit draughty, but very superior. The Magpies live next tree; they never say anything but "Cheek, Cheek," which is not sociable but very refined.

It's all since the girls have gone to Halifax Higher and Higher School. They said we ought to climb in the world. They've now started plucking their eyebrows and putting red paint on their beaks and nails; so they can't wash up, and I have to. They've even rubbed it on father's chest to make him look like a Robin, and they want to stop him talking broad.

None of the children ever go to Church now. The boys spend Singday morning in the pavilion. It's a pity because they were so happy in the choir, and we all used to have a whistle together in the evening. I don't know! We never dared do that. My father only had to lift a feather, and we all flew.

Father misses his old pals. This morning he was having a drink in the Churchyard bath and he caught sight of his chest in the water, and he's most upset. He's sitting on a twig outside now, mumbling to himself: "They call this 'The Poplars.' It seems to me that since we came here we're getting more and more un-poplar." He will joke, but he's not happy.

Never mind. I'm getting dinner for him—a lovely Slug Pie, with blackberries to follow.

Bye-bye Chicks, Dolefully yours, Mary Blackbird.
P.S.—That cat has nearly had our Louee.

WELL REMEMBERED GIFTS

There are gifts and Gifts. Good Jewellery and Plate can always be counted the best evidence of Real Goodwill. For Dependable, Serviceable and Satisfactory Goods the House of Murgatroyd & Horsfall stands Pre-eminent.

Murgatroyd & Horsfall,

Jewellers & Silversmiths,

4, CORN MARKET, HALIFAX.

Tel. 2909.

N. B.

Harry Haigh, The Post Office, Sowerby

Tel. 813571 Sowerby Bridge.



Following lockdown restrictions over the first term of this year the CICS workers are now back in schools, either online or visiting the buildings. Mentoring and participation in after-school groups has resumed in 2 High Schools.

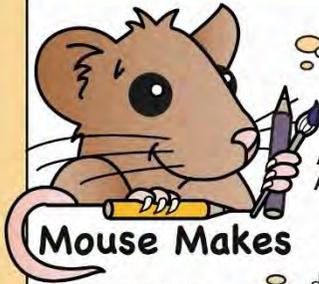
We have supported several church communities to deliver It's Your Move books to those about to transition from Primary to High School. Some of those delivering were able to lead assemblies as well.

As schools reopened after May Spring Bank a tragic accidental death of a 13 year old pupil saw the CICS workers in Brighouse High having the privilege of supporting young people and staff in the school. In his short years on earth Tomi Solomon made a difference to many and lived life to the full. Tomi was a Christian and from a strong Christian family. On Friday (18th June) his friends at the school and from Bradford City Football Academy were part of a celebration of his life. We are so grateful for the way our workers stepped in and stepped up and were able to and continue to help and support many of those affected.



CICS Trustees and Workers are now looking to the future as we plan for life after lockdowns and bubbles and continue to seek opportunity to offer the unique support and input into more High Schools in Calderdale.

The team in Todmorden pull together a Tod Bible Tale each week which is used in Primary School classes. You can view these on the [CICS Calderdale YouTube channel](#). Our thanks to the amazing team of volunteers led by our worker Nancy for pulling these together each week.



Mouse Makes



Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37

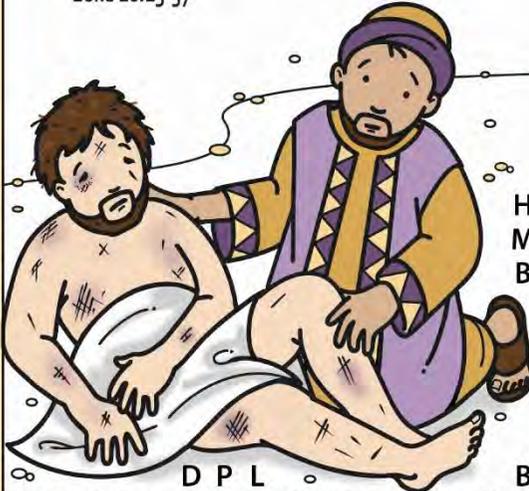
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



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

W A S L O I L D S A M A R I T A N O O E E O A P
P R I E S T A O A M A G O O D C N I N N T U L A
G O D O I G C W W I N E A T A K W J O U R N E Y
E N T D E N A R I I D T W O P O U R E D M

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICHO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO

Canon Paul Hardingham considers our call to befriend people in need.

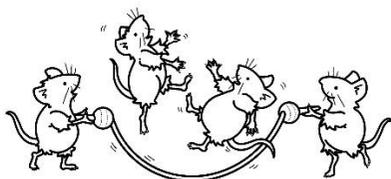
The Good Samaritan – a story for our times

This month we are looking at the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). This familiar story tells of a man who is mugged on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho and rescued by a Samaritan. Jesus tells it in response to a lawyer's question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" When Jesus calls for a life of total love towards God and neighbour, the lawyer comes back with the question: 'who is my neighbour?' (29).

The plight of the man and the indifference of the priest and Levite would have horrified Jesus' hearers. They assumed that the hero of the story would be a Jew! However, Jesus presents the Samaritan, a sworn enemy of the Jews, as a model of integrity and an example to follow: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers...Go and do likewise." (36,7). The challenge of the story is that often our neighbours can be our worst enemies, yet these are the very people we are called to love as ourselves.

Of course, we can all think of people to whom we are called to be a Samaritan in our lives: those we try to avoid and don't want to get alongside. If we are honest, we know that we don't have it in us to love as Jesus says here. We all need somebody who will be our Good Samaritan, to rescue us and enable us to love others as ourselves. Jesus is that Good Samaritan for us.

"By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour." (Tim Keller).





Christian Aid launches emergency Global Hunger Appeal

Christian Aid has launched an **emergency appeal** as more than 30 million people in 20 countries are teetering on the brink of famine. Immediate humanitarian assistance is needed to help prevent escalating numbers of deaths.

The Covid health pandemic, climate crisis, and continued conflict has exacerbated hunger and food insecurity in 20 countries. Countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria (in the North East) and Afghanistan are particularly affected.

James Wani, Christian Aid's South Sudan Country Director, based in Juba, said: "Floods, drought, conflict and Covid-19 have joined forces to deliver devastation and fuel the food crisis in South Sudan - the combined result is the destruction of crops, livelihoods, houses and dwellings, while roads have become impassable, markets have stopped, supply chains have been crippled, and food prices have soared.

"I am gravely concerned about the scale of hunger we are witnessing, now escalating well beyond that formally reported in December, claiming the lives of the most vulnerable, particularly those displaced and already in dire need

Salome Ntububa, Christian Aid's Head of Global Humanitarian Response, said: "The numbers we are seeing in some of the countries where we work are alarming and they are only getting worse. Covid has obviously had a massive impact on health systems, people's ability

to earn a living or grow food, and lockdowns are collapsing economies. On top of this, UK aid cuts have meant vital funding from crucial lifesaving programmes has been pulled, leaving the most vulnerable to fend for themselves in the middle of a pandemic.”

Christian Aid and its local partner organisations in South Sudan, have been responding in the worst-affected areas by providing emergency cash distributions to enable people to buy food, fishing equipment, seeds and tools as well as delivering much needed hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns to help in the fight against Covid.

With funds from the appeal, Christian Aid plans to expand its response with increased food and cash distributions, and nutritional support – especially to children under five and pregnant or lactating women, as well as access to water for drinking and for agriculture and livestock, and livelihood support including setting up women’s groups with initial capital to start-up businesses.



The deadliest factor which stymies efforts to halt the worsening food insecurity in, for example, Afghanistan and South Sudan, is continued violence and armed conflict. Despite the peace agreement in 2018, intercommunal fighting continues in parts of the country, and delays in implementation of the peace agreement are exacerbating hunger.

To give to the appeal and help communities in the worst-affected countries including South Sudan, please visit

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/global-hunger-emergency-appeal>

To Colour in ...

LOOKING FOR
DIRECTION?

GOD SAID:

I WILL INSTRUCT
YOU & TEACH
YOU IN THE
WAY YOU
SHOULD GO

PSALM 32:8



Available as posters up to A0 size from cpo.org.uk
For more resources visit cpo.org.uk or call us on 01903 263354

Pilgrimage routes to explore in the North

A 'Santiago of the North' has been launched, encouraging people to walk ancient pilgrimage routes to Durham dating back more than 1,000 years.

Around 30 churches in the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle are part of four revived pilgrimage routes starting from villages and towns in the region, re-creating the routes taken by pilgrims to Durham Cathedral.

'The Way of Learning, The Way of Life, The Way of Light and The Way of Love,' allows pilgrims to walk from 27 to 45 miles while exploring places of historical and religious significance.

Modern-day pilgrims can visit churches and historical monuments, museums and galleries on the route, including shrines and places associated with Saints Cuthbert, Bede, Hilda, Helen, Wilfrid, Oswald, Aidan and Godric.

Further pilgrimage routes *The Angels Way* (30 miles) and the *Way of the Sea* (62 miles) link Lindisfarne and Durham, the two most important pilgrimage centres in the region.

Northern Saints Trail Coordinator David Pott says: "There is a 21st-Century revival in pilgrimage – only 2,500 people walked the Camino to Santiago in 1985, but there were 347,538 pilgrims recorded in 2019."

"Pilgrimages are attracting people who are not necessarily of strong Christian faith but who want to explore more."

Things they say There will be a procession in the grounds of the monastery next Sunday afternoon. If it rains in the afternoon, the procession will take place in the morning ...

Saints you may not have heard of ...

7th July St Willibald – the first ever Anglo-Saxon travel writer

Where do you go on your summer travels? If you enjoy including a Christian element to your trips, such as making a pilgrimage, or visiting places rich in Christian history, then St. Willibald (d. 876) is the saint for you this month. He was one of the most widely travelled Anglo-Saxons of his time.

Willibald began life in Wessex, becoming a monk at Bishops Waltham (Hants). But he obviously had the curiosity that besets all keen travellers – what is it like over there...just over the next hill, round the next corner? And so Willibald set out... for Rome, Cyprus, Syria and above all, Palestine. It was an amazing achievement, just to survive such journeys back in the early 8th century.

In Palestine, Willibald made his way round all the Holy Places associated with Jesus, as well as the numerous communities of monks and hermits living there. On his eventual return to Europe, Willibald decided to tell his story. He dictated an account of all his travels to a long-suffering nun, Hugeburc, who wrote it up under the title of *Hodoeporicon* – the first ever travel book to be written by an Anglo-Saxon

After a long stay in Constantinople, the year 730 found Willibald back in Rome, where he settled at the monastery at Monte Cassino. Under his reforming influence, the monastery began to prosper. That got Willibald 'noticed', and soon Boniface asked Pope Gregory III to send him on to Germany, where Willibald was made bishop of Echstatt. Here he founded a monastery that became an important centre for the diffusion and development of monasticism. After 45 years as Bishop at Echstatt, Willibald died in c. 786. His relics remain there till this day.



The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS.



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

India's Coronavirus crisis: urgent support needed

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain's joint Emergency Coronavirus Appeal are providing essential support to vulnerable communities in India.

The country, home to 1.3 billion people, is currently in the grips of a deadly wave of Covid-19. Hospitals are unable to cope with the ever-increasing number of cases, oxygen supplies are scarce, and the situation threatens to overwhelm the country's health systems.

Since April 2020, All We Can has supported more than two million people in the pandemic through the Emergency Coronavirus Appeal, and the work of its long-term partners. The Methodist family has also responded to the ongoing pandemic through grants given by the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund partner church Covid-19 responses.

If you can help, please go to the Emergency Coronavirus Appeal at <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/coronavirus/>

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Jo White considers the need for listening

Reflected Faith Series: The Spaces Between

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they

actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

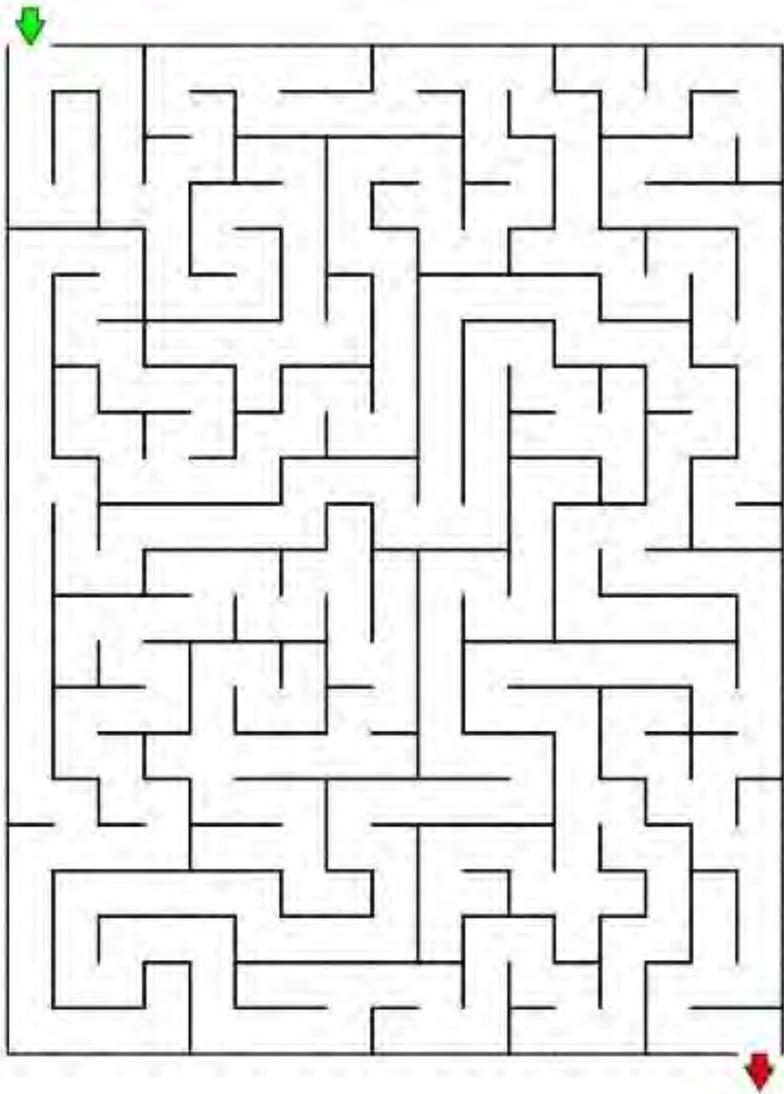
Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

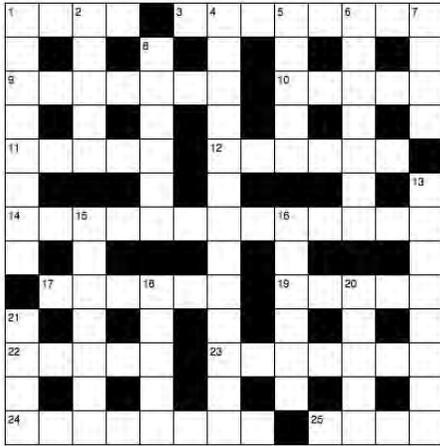
Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.



Puzzle Pages for the Summer ...



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			5		9		1	
5			6					
1		4				2		9
					2			7
	5		7		8			
7				1		9	2	
6								



Crossword clues (Summer 2021) ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in

solution' (7)

- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)

- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 ‘Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things’ (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 ‘One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ’ (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

(Puzzle solutions found on page 36)

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – a celebration of faith & service – save the date!

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year. This is an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book for us to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a ‘70 Acts of Service’ community challenge for us to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations in our area, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE’s executive director said, “Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

“It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God’s Holy Spirit.”

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

The beautifully illustrated souvenir book to be published for the celebrations uses rarely seen prayers, which the Queen prayed in preparation for the Coronation, and highlights how God has answered those prayers over the past seven decades.

The 'Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Faith & Service' will build on the successful partnership facilitated by HOPE Together, which enabled local churches to bring their communities together for the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Over the next year HOPE will provide churches across the country with all the resources and ideas they need to run a great all-age community event that will celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

We can plan to get our church involved, invite our community to the party, and round off the weekend with a special guest celebration service for Pentecost.

Find out more at hopetogether.org.uk/jubilee

Bishop challenges the BBC on its religious broadcasting

A Church of England bishop has recently called on the BBC to be more imaginative in its religious broadcasting.

The Bishop of Ripon, Helen-Ann Hartley, urged the BBC to go beyond 'preaching to the converted' to producing documentaries and dramas that challenge and inform people's world views.

Writing in a recent edition of Radio Times, Bishop Hartley noted that the BBC is promising 'more content than ever before' but added:

"If most of it fails to get beyond the 'God slot' normally reserved for 'Songs of Praise', what's the point, beyond keeping the faithful happy?"

Bishop Hartley chairs the respected Sandford St Martin Trust, which "promotes thought-provoking, distinctive programming that deals with religion, ethics and spirituality." By running annual awards, the Trust "promotes excellent broadcasting about all faiths, from major networks, independents and online sources, at local and national level."

In the hard-hitting article, she asked "Where are the documentaries that challenge us to rethink the world we live in? Or the dramas that ask us to re-imagine the human relationships? Instead of congratulating itself on producing more content than ever, I wonder if it's time for the BBC to ask just what *is the point of religion on the telly*, or the radio for that matter?"

Bishop Hartley described the BBC as focusing unduly on ritual "because that's what the BBC thinks religious people do or are interested in."

She said "I'm far more motivated by programmes that explore the big questions in life. You can't really understand the world and what motivates people if you're not able to interpret or understand religion."

Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley issued a strong challenge to the BBC to up its game on what the Corporation describes as 'religious broadcasting.'

She does so from an influential position, as the Sandford St Martin Trust has long championed insightful, imaginative programmes that go beyond stereotypes and superficialities to depict the role played by faith in the lives of millions of people.

Bishop Hartley makes clear in the article "I don't just want to watch a multi-platform worship service at Easter. I'd like to ask hard questions and explore what the answers might be."

She applauded the Channel 4 drama series, 'It's a Sin' set in the AIDs crisis of the 1980s, commenting "Drama can shine a light on how generations have faced issues and challenges, many of which resonate with our current pandemic crisis.

"We all have world views, the question is how much these help us understand one another, and the things that motivate us. That's what great TV like 'It's a Sin' can do.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E

Ivy on your house is not really so bad after all

So says the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

In an effort to restore the plant's reputation, the RHS has been showcasing the species at its flagship garden in Wisley, Surrey. It hopes to set a new trend, and to get people to stop seeing ivy as 'the enemy.'

At Wisley you can now see 390 varieties of ivy, with a vast array of leaf shapes, sizes and colours. The RHS wants people to see that ivy can be an attractive and even eco-friendly addition to your home.

RHS experts say that ivy is a 'super plant' that not only has insulating benefits, but also offers habitats for a variety of wildlife, as well as being a food source for birds and pollinators during months of the year when there is very little else for them to eat.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/press/releases/New-research-shows-ivy-is-the-most-effective-plant>

Promise and Fulfilment

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. It now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. You can see a copy of the painting at:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edward_Hicks_-_Peaceable_Kingdom.jpg

When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the



Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:

'The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' (Isaiah 11:6,9)

That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month's painting, 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of 'nature red in tooth and claw' here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. 'Follow the Inner Light' and Isaiah's prophecy can be

fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God's peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.

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.

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views



It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that “science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, ‘Why am I here?’”

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. “I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I’m not saying that I have any proof, but I’m saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him.”

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that “studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore.”

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. “Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you’re studying the works of God.” Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper. Quotes from videos on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org



And Finally....

- Holiday: an all-expense tour
- Holiday: something you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer.
- The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight before you appear in a swimsuit, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.
- Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?
- *Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?* (A question for anyone holidaying in the Lake District or Wales.)
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the 'terminal'?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes when he had the chance?
- I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

Puzzle Solutions Summer 2021

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6	1	3	2	9	4	7	8	5

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