

Volume 24
Issue 6

75p

June 2024



The Rock

**The Church Magazine for the
Aune Valley Benefice of
Churchstow, Loddiswell, South Milton,
Thurlestone with Buckland & Bantham & Woodleigh**

Aune Valley Benefice Business

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The Rock

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Benefice Services

SUNDAY JUNE 30TH	8/8.30am	Benefice Holy Communion (CW) (said) To be confirmed	<i>TH</i>
	10.30am	Benefice Pet Service	<i>CH</i>

The Benefice Online

The Sunday Service on YouTube continues, led by members of the Ministry Team with readings and intercessions recorded by Benefice members and recorded hymns to which you can sing along. This service enables those unable to come to church to have the chance of "attending" a Benefice Sunday Service. It has 40+ hits from across the Benefice and beyond each week. The link for the service each week can be found at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html Please contact Liz Webb (see below) if you could offer to record a reading or intercessions.

Service of Prayer and Meditation by Zoom - **Tuesday June 4th 5.00 p.m.** led by Nell Stamp. Please contact on keithsteer50@btinternet.com for the Zoom link.

Monthly Benefice Breakfast

Saturday June 8th 9.00am Venue to be confirmed

Please contact Mike or Siân Hodges for more information.

Mike Hodges (561124)

WordWise

Do you love baking? WordWise needs more cake makers. Could you make a cake for the coffee shop just once every 8 weeks? If you can help, please contact May Crimp on 01548 842361 or leave your name and telephone contact for her attention in Wordwise (01548 856571) Your help would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

Also urgently needed are volunteers to serve in the shop for one half-day (3 hours) each week, either 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. or 1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Training (not onerous) would be given by one of the volunteers. Please ring WordWise (01548 856571) and one of the Trustees will be able to give you more information.

Kingsbridge Foodbank

Congratulations to Kingsbridge Foodbank for being awarded a South Hams Community Organisation Award by the District Council for 'making a real difference in its community'

Pray Your Part: Get involved with the General Election

In the run-up to the General Election and the campaign period, the Church of England is inviting everyone to join them in praying for the nation and playing your part as citizens and voters. The Church of England has created an accompanying *Pray Your Part* daily election reflection, which will be available for three weeks in the run up to the Election Day on the July 4th. This will be available as a booklet, in audio form for smart speakers, through social media and via email. You can sign up to receive the reflections via email at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/topics/pray-your-part-general-election-2024>



The next edition of the Rock will be published on **Sunday June 30th**

Copy deadline for the July edition of The Rock is **Monday June 17th**

General items to the editor: Liz Webb. Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, TQ7 3AG, e-mail: mewebbsite@btinternet.com

Parochial items to your Parish Magazine Contact (see Benefice Directory page 16)

It would be appreciated if copy could be e-mailed if possible.

Annual subscription £8.50 contact: Woodleigh: *Vacancy*; Thurlestone: Liz Webb (560090); South Milton: Cherry Bell (560526); Loddiswell: *Vacancy*; Churchstow: Sally Cridland (856940)

Annual postal subscription, £25.50, contact Liz Webb (560090). (Cheques made payable to PCC Thurlestone)

The Rock is also available on cassette for the visually impaired - contact Jan Turner (560354)

Advertising: Annual subscription £48 for '8.9cm x 8cm' or '18cm x 4cm' box. A single month advertisement may also be possible for one off events at **£8** for '18cm x 4cm'. Contact Elizabeth Webb (560090/mewebbsite@btinternet.com).



We hope you may join us for the Benefice online Service, especially if you are unable to attend a service in your church

A SUNDAY SERVICE ON YOUTUBE

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html



A Reader Reflects

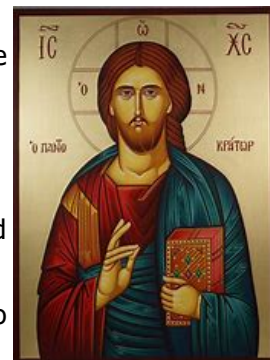
'Fingers crossed' Haven't we all said it at some time. It's such a common symbol of hope that the National Lottery uses it and there is an emoji if we want to respond hopefully to a text or email.

Hope to win the lottery; hope that our grand daughter will get good A level results; hope that the slugs won't eat our lettuces...

This symbol, however, has Christian origins.

We see it often in icons.

- **The crossed fingers symbolise the dual nature of Christ** – both human and divine – and our hope in him.
- **The image reminds us too of the Holy Trinity.** The thumb joins with the other two fingers to symbolise this.



Priests sometimes have their fingers in this position when they are giving a blessing – watch carefully.

The sign of the cross, in a blessing, is Trinitarian as well. The priest's hand goes up – pointing to God the Father above, then down, indicating God the Son who lived amongst us, the hand then moves from left to right and back again symbolising the Holy Spirit who moves amongst us.

Making the Sign of the Cross personally, when the hand goes up to the forehead, down to the abdomen and then left to right across the chest, is more common in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. Many Anglicans, however, do make this sign, typically at the words 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' and before receiving Holy Communion.

Such gestures don't have to be confined to church. Sometimes, if I'm in a tricky conversation (and one can't really pray and talk at the same time) I make the hand gesture and it helps me to remember that God is with me. My Presbyterian grandmother would be horrified!

Nell.

Please help us to support our community by making a standing order

kingsbridgefoodbank



We are helping approximately 500 individual people every week in Kingsbridge and its 25 outlying parishes, spending between £10 - £15 per head on weekly deliveries.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of our wonderfully big-hearted community and our volunteers.

We are always most grateful for all donations of food and/or money, no matter how big or small, but to help assure our monthly income please consider making a Standing Order



Bank Account Name: Kingsbridge Area Foodbank

Account No. 17928860 Sort Code: 77-09-24

We need your ongoing support to help those in need.

Thank you!

Thurlestone Telegraph



Sunday Services at All Saints' Church, Thurlestone unless shown otherwise

JUNE 2ND	1st Sunday after Trinity	11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	
JUNE 9TH	2nd Sunday after Trinity	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)	(NOTE TIME)
		11.10 a.m. Morning Worship	
JUNE 16TH	3rd Sunday after Trinity	11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	
JUNE 23RD	4th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP)	(NOTE TIME)
		11.10 a.m. Morning Worship	
JUNE 30TH	5th Sunday after Trinity	8/8.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion (said) (CW) (to be confirmed)	
		11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	
JULY 7TH	6th Sunday after Trinity	11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	

Midweek Services

WEDNESDAYS JUNE 12TH & 26TH, JULY 3RD	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
THURSDAY JUNE 6TH & JULY 4TH	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham

For variations and more information please see the Church Notice Boards & www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services
The website can also be accessed by scanning the QR code on the right below



Sunday Morning Worship Services

led by the Ministry Team and Retired Clergy

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html



Please scan the QR codes:

← To make a donation to All Saints' Church, Thurlestone
or
to visit the website for more information about the church →



Annual Church Meetings

At the recent Annual Church Meetings Mike Hodges and Liz Webb were re-elected as Church Wardens and Eric Candy and Judy Pearce were elected to the PCC. In the absence of anyone offering to take on the role of Treasurer, Martin Webb agreed to continue until the end of the year, hopefully working with his successor. Please do consider whether you or someone you know could take over this role.

Church Fête

Please note that there is an error in the name of the person who is kindly organising the cake stall at the Fête. It should be Hilary Rustad (714588). Also Martyn Grose is no longer a contact for the Bottle Stall or Christine Dunne for collection of children's toys or second hand items. I apologise for the errors.

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

CHURCH MEETING ROOM

Donations to monthly charity & church funds



Disabled access - Wheelchair available

More information on <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-events-diary.html>

Grand Summer Draw - Tickets £1 each

Draw to take place at the Church Fête on Saturday July 20th
 Tickets available from **Peter Hirst (560544)**, at the Fête or from
Thurlestone & Bantham Shops, Hotel, Church Meeting Room

Star Prize: 2 NIGHTS DINNER, B & B FOR 2 : THURLESTONE or MULLION COVE HOTEL

Other Prizes: Round of Golf for 4: **THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB**
 3 Course Sunday Lunch for 4: **COTTAGE HOTEL** ~ Afternoon Tea for 2: **HARBOUR HOTEL**
 Dinner for 2: **OYSTER SHACK** ~ Devon Cream Tea for 2: **AVON MILL GARDEN CENTRE**
 Bantham Annual Car Park Ticket: **BANTHAM ESTATE** ~ Afternoon Tea for 2: **SOUTH SANDS HOTEL**
 Handmade Wooden Ash Bowl donated by **MARK FAIRBRASS** ~ Food Hamper: **TESCO & MORRISON**
 £20 Voucher: **THURLESTONE VILLAGE STORES** ~ £60 Voucher: **ST AUSTELL BREWERY**
 Meal for 4: **ROCKBOX** ~ Family Round Trip Voucher: **SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY**
 Sunday Lunch for 4: **SLOOP INN, BANTHAM** ~ Bouquet of Flowers: **STUDIO FLOWERS, CHURCHSTOW**
 Devon Rum Tasting for 2: **DEVON RUM, SALCOMBE** ~
 2 Course Meal for 2: **VILLAGE INN, THURLESTONE**

We thank all our SPONSORS for their generosity in supplying this year's prizes

*Proceeds from Fête & Raffle in aid of
 New Sound System and General Church Repairs*



Church Flowers & Cleaning

Could you help with the flower arrangements in church? We urgently need more people to come forward to join the Flower Rota. Please contact June Martin (714434) or Joan Booth (561537), if you think you might be able to help. They will be very willing to give you some tuition, if necessary. All expenses can be reimbursed.

We also need more people to help clean a section of the church and also the meeting room on a regular basis. In particular, the Chipmans, who have cleaned the church porch regularly for years, are no longer able to continue. In the Summer when the birds are nesting, it needs to be cleaned before weddings or Sunday services but less often at other times. Perhaps a group of people could take this on. Please contact Liz Webb as soon as possible, if you would be willing to help in any way.

Liz

Services at Loddiswell



Services at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell unless shown otherwise

JUNE 2ND	1st Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
JUNE 9TH	2nd Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
JUNE 16TH	3rd Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
JUNE 23RD	4th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (to be confirmed)
JUNE 30TH	5th Sunday after Trinity	8/8.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion (said) (CW) (to be confirmed)
		10.30 a.m. Benefice Pet Service at Churchstow
JULY 7TH	6th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship

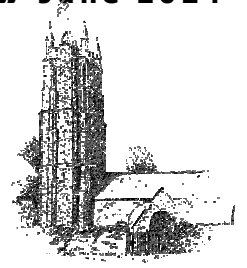
The church is open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

Woodleigh

Currently St Mary the Virgin, Woodleigh is not open for services or private prayer

South Milton Grapevine



Services at All Saints, South Milton unless shown otherwise

EVERY FRIDAY		4.30 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel	
JUNE 2ND	1st Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	(Ven Douglas Dettmer)
JUNE 9TH	2nd Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship	(Peter Gornall)
JUNE 16TH	3rd Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	(Revd Colin Snell)
JUNE 23RD	4th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Sunday Morning Together	(Jan Turner)
JUNE 30TH	5th Sunday after Trinity	8/8.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion (said) (CW) (to be confirmed)	
		10.30 a.m. Benefice Pet Service at Churchstow	(Nell Stamp)
JULY 7TH	6th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)	

The church is open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

The Spring Bank Holiday has been lovely for everyone. The weather has been kind, and beach goers have had every condition in their favour. Wind for the windsurfers, waves for those who like to chase them up and down the beach (happy memories of my younger days!) low tides for exploring our lovely rock pools, and even a 'By the wind sailor' or two (let me know if you don't know what they are.) Let's hope they all get home safely, driving carefully in our narrow lanes.

Reports from meetings held since our last notes:-

May 10th APCM Most of the PCC were there, Peter Rixon (CW) chaired it. One member of the public attended! Very disappointing really, but all was well and the business proceeded as required.

May 15th Coffee Break was devoted to Christian Aid. All our donated monies:- £272 has been sent to CA for them to use in their attempts to make life better for those in what we call the 3rd World. Just clean water and access to help with births and illnesses will make such a difference.

May 25th PCC Luncheon at the Golf Club was, as ever, a success, the food was superb, service superb and we all had a good time. Peter and Bettina organised a 'lottery' game, which was enjoyed by all, the Raffle was extensive as usual with many happy winners. Pre-dinner drinks were very welcome and the tables were arranged so that everyone could find their seat without any problems.

The Church bank is looking wonderful with an extensive array of wild flowers, some just arrived, others were encouraged by Geoff Bell and John Richardson who have planted them in appropriate places. Many thanks to the chaps for their efforts.

The churchyard has been cut by the Council but lots of flowers and other wild plants are flowering their hearts out, lovely to see.

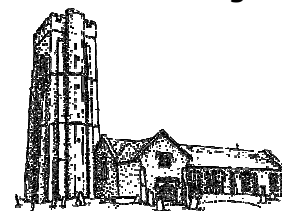
We were able to say goodbye to Jonathan Munday on May 20th, there were many friends and relatives in church to support the family, and we all send our prayers and sympathy to all his family.

Take care in our lanes, whether walking or driving or riding a bike, the hedges are quite 'bristly' so keep clear, or squeeze in safely.

For anyone who is unwell, or due to have surgery, we send our best wishes for successful outcomes and a return to normality very soon.

Yours with luv,
Jan Turner

Churchstow Chimes



Sunday Services at St Mary the Virgin, Churchstow unless shown otherwise

JUNE 2ND	1st Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
JUNE 9TH	2nd Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Parish Communion (BCP)
JUNE 16TH	3rd Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
JUNE 23RD	4th Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Parish Communion (CW) (to be confirmed)
JUNE 30TH	5th Sunday after Trinity	8/8.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion (said) (CW) (to be confirmed)
		10.30 a.m. Benefice Pet Service at Churchstow
JULY 7TH	6th Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

The church is open from 9.00 a.m. until 4.15 p.m. See page 2 for information of online services

Plant Sale

The plant sale held in the Church Hall on Saturday May 4th was well supported and raised £447.20 for Church funds. Many thanks to all involved.

Open Garden at Highwell

On Sunday May 12th, the lovely gardens at Highwell, (just behind the Church) were open to the public in aid of St Luke's hospice in Plymouth. Over 300 people viewed the gardens and enjoyed tea's on the lawn, Greg and Clare very kindly expressed a wish that some of the proceeds from the tea's and cakes were to go to the Church, many people commented on the lovely gardens and the quality of the cakes! Over £2,800 was raised of which £500 went towards the upkeep of the Church and the remainder went to St. Luke's.

Cream Teas in the Church Hall

Once again Cream tea's will be held in the Church Hall on certain Saturday afternoons during the summer, all 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

The dates are: **June 8th and 22nd** **July 13th and 27th** **August 10th and 24th.**

Church Fete

The annual Church Fête will be held on **Saturday August 17th** at Whitehall Manor.

Church Fete Meeting: Tuesday June 11th 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

Having notched up 25 years of organising the Church Fete, it has been agreed that more help is needed with the organising and running of the Fete. It is not wise to rely on just a few (even more so just one) person to organise such an important fundraising and social event.

So please consider if you can give up a few hours on the afternoon of Saturday August 17th, and also in the days leading up to the fete, maybe you can have a word with friends and neighbours and come up with some fresh idea's for the Fete.

Please come along to the meeting, and encourage others to join you. Together we can make it an afternoon to remember and raise much needed funds towards the upkeep of our lovely Medieval Church Building. I would very much appreciate your support.

For more information please call John Woodley on 857916 or email on johnwoodley2@gmail.com.

JRW

Activities & Events in the Church Hall



Whist Drive
EVERY SATURDAY
7.00 P.M.
£3 in aid of Church Hall
Contact John Woodley on 857916



Soup & Puds
THURSDAY
JUNE 20TH
12 NOON
£6 in aid of Church Funds
Contact Phyllis on 858836



Coffee Break
THURSDAY
JUNE 6TH
10.30 A.M.
- NOON
Proceeds in aid of Church Hall



Diocesan News



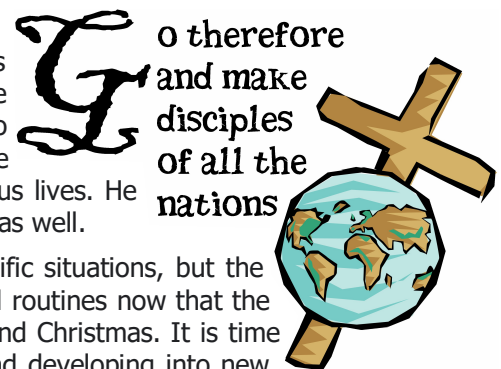
Reflection

'And he said to them: "Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."'
 (Mark 16:15)

The ascension of Jesus has taken place; forty days after the Easter celebrations, we have celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Easter liturgical season of Eastertide is now complete. We now pass into, what is known as, Ordinary time, where vestments and hangings are changed to green.

Green is a sign of life in nature and as such it represents growth, life, and hope. Renewed with the Holy Spirit, it is a time to develop, grow in faith, and encourage others to do so. Like the new shoots we see in nature at this time of year, we pray for new shoots of faith.

I think it is unfortunate that this period of renewal and growth is referred to as "ordinary". It should be anything but ordinary. As the risen Christ left his disciples at the Ascension, he ordered them to go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation. He didn't tell them to carry on as they were or to go back to their previous lives. He commanded them to go out, to bring new life and his message is for us as well.




How we will be doing that will be different for each of us in our specific situations, but the command is there. This is not a time for us to drop back into our usual routines now that the Eastertide celebrations are over and rest until we prepare for Advent and Christmas. It is time for us to be energised, just as creation around us is springing forth and developing into new life. It's a time for us to be inspired to bring love and hope into our troubled world, hard though that may be at times. But we have the knowledge, through Jesus Christ, that we are supported by the unconditional love of God. So, are we going to be withered dried up stalks or inspired by the Holy Spirit to be bright vigorous new green shoots of faith?

Rev'd Canon Cate Edmonds, Canon Steward, Exeter Cathedral

General Election: Message from our Archbishops

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York are urging people to set time aside to reflect during this campaign period and pray for both our nation and our world. Commenting after the General Election was announced last Thursday, they said "The coming General Election is a critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future by electing those who will make decisions affecting generations to come. It is a time for us all – people of all faiths and of none - to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to be.





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Open: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Christian Books, Bibles, Cards, Gifts, DVDs & CDs

You can also enjoy Tea, Coffee, Cakes & Fellowship

More Volunteers urgently needed

If you could make a cake every 8 weeks,
 please contact May Crimp on 01548 842361

wordwisekingsbridge@outlook.com

www.wordwisekingsbridge.co.uk

Charity No. 1098305

"We are facing epic challenges both in our country and our world: from questions of war and peace to poverty and injustice, and the very future of the Earth God has given us. Faced with such huge questions, our instinct as Christians is to turn to God in prayer and so we want to put prayer at the very heart of this campaign. We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but to pray for our nation and our world. And we want to invite everyone to think about how we all can play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens. See page 2 for more information.



"We would add a plea that no matter how big the issues at stake over the next few weeks, this will be a time marked by respect for one another, for good grace and a commitment to truth and integrity. It is our prayer that, even in the heat of the debate, we will treat each other with respect and kindness."

Read the full news story at <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/general-election-2024-invitation-pray-nation>.

More information about Christians and the General Election can be found at <https://vimeo.com/951056158> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf-QD-2s9S4&t=73s>. Christians in Politics and the Bible Society have created a free booklet for individuals and churches who want to explore what influence the Bible should or could have in our lives during the General Election season. It is available at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-us/our-work/england-and-wales/britain-and-the-bible/>

The Hiding Place: The Corrie Ten Boom Story

Thursday 13 June 7:30-10pm at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Torquay, TQ2 5NQ

Seen by over 20,000 people across the country, this production is back on the road!

The Hiding Place is the story of Corrie Ten Boom, a Christian woman who lived in Haarlem, Holland during World War II, and her family. Corrie saw the horrific threat the Nazis posed to the Jewish people and decided that she couldn't just sit back and do nothing. With the help of an Underground regime, her family's faith and a man called Fred, Corrie was able to create a safe place for Jewish people to hide in her family's home. But what could the Ten Booms do when they were arrested?



The Hiding Place will have you in hysterics one minute and in tears the next as the cast of Oddments Theatre Company take you through the victories and defeats of Corrie's mission. This is a story of faith in the darkest of places and hope where darkness and fear enslaved and destroyed thousands of lives.

Tickets can be booked at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/unleashedtheatrecompany/oddments-theatre-company-presents-the-hiding-place/e-jdkyjo>

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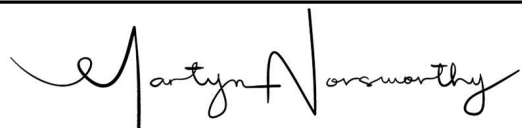
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The Bible Matters

The Euros 24



A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives.

As we build up our *godly muscles*, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?



Canon Paul Hardingham

The Book of Ruth

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (chapter 1). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (chapter 2).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (chapter 3). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (chapter 4).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. *'Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning'* (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story.' (Eugene Peterson).

Canon Paul Hardingham

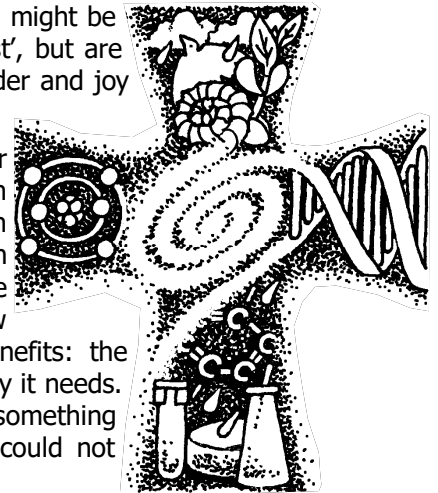


God in the Sciences

Wonders of the Living World

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like 'your genetic blueprint' or 'survival of the fittest', but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase 'The Snuggle for Existence' as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These 'mitochondria', as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.



'The Map of Life' is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms' family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That's not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there's an overarching physical law we don't yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

God in the Arts

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Johannes S Bach

'Surprised by Joy' is the title C S Lewis gave to his spiritual autobiography. To him, joy meant not just the name of the woman he eventually married, but also an awareness of God's glory and goodness. It was something that, like Wordsworth, he experienced in childhood, and later in his thirties when his faith was relit. That experience of joy Jesus shared with His disciples at the Last Supper: it is a word that permeates chapters 16 and 17 of St John's Gospel.

And it is a word that lies at the heart of the music of J S Bach. Whenever he set Freude, the German word for joy, his music rises to a new level of movement and excitement. The joy is there, not just as a word set to music, but as the heart and life of all his compositions. Almost a thousand works with many for church worship: two Passions, three oratorios, six motets, a Magnificat, a great mass setting, nearly 200 church cantatas, 143 chorale preludes for organ, and dozens of other works – and that is just the music we have, for much has been lost.



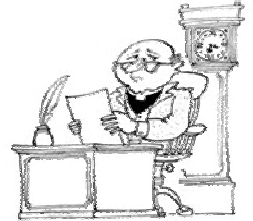
When Bach moved to Leipzig in 1723, he had the task as choirmaster of composing cantatas for each Sunday of the year for five years, as well as looking after the choir, teaching, and tending his own family. And all with a reduced salary and social status, dreary living conditions, and a choir that was ill-fed and badly housed. The miracle is that he produced work of such beauty and wonder and grace. There is a logic and a technical precision behind his music, but also a living pulse. One moment he can reach into the depths of the soul as it faces the realities of sin, death and judgment. The next, it is ecstasy and joy at the birth and resurrection of Christ.

Revd Michael Burgess

St James the Least of All

On the impossibility of keeping silence in church

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Your remark that you rather liked the silence we keep before starting Services gave me pause for thought. I suppose all things are relative. I know that the noise your congregation makes before worship resembles a packed stand on the football terraces any Saturday afternoon, but the days seem long-gone when I could expect our congregation to sit in real silence for ten minutes.

There's the sound of the treasurer counting the previous day's jumble sale takings, of the ladies at the back asking each other when the fish van will next come round, and of Major Hastings's deafening whisper as he comments on some women's choice of hats. Add to this the weekly competition between the organist and the bell ringers to see who can make the most noise, the roar from the choir vestry as they all complain they don't like my choice of hymns and the sound of books, umbrellas and collection money being dropped. I sometimes suspect that an informal rota is arranged whereby people volunteer to drop heavy objects in rotation, thus maintaining a constant clatter, for which no single person can be held responsible.

There is also the weekly ritual when the verger – always waiting until the church is full – goes round each microphone, giving them a bash and bellowing "Testing, testing" and relishing the echo as it bounces off the walls.

The only time the noise level drops significantly is if the congregation see Miss Simpson sidle up to me to have one of her confidential little chats about someone in the village. Everyone knows that her information will provide more than enough to keep gossip flourishing for the following week.

Equally, periods of silence during Services are rarely welcomed; some find them threatening, but the majority simply assume it means I have lost my place. I gave up after one occasion when, on announcing we would say the Lord's Prayer and then leaving a time of silence for recollection, a choirman leaned over to me and whispered helpfully: "It begins 'Our Father'

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8						9					
10							11				
		12		13					14		
15											16
17		18				19		20			
21							22				
23							24				

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

Answers:

DOWN: 1. Attach, 2. Biretta, 3. Sided, 5. Compete, 6. Owned, 7. Lustre, 9. Falsehood, 13. Ostrich, 14. Talents, 15. Farmer, 16. Asleep, 18. Early, 20. Alley,

ACROSS: 1. Ambush, 4. School, 8. Tired, 9. Famines, 10. Citadel, 11. Endor, 12. Atonement, 17. Avert, 19. Oracles, 21. Married, 22. Lance, 23. Rhythm, 24. Hyssop

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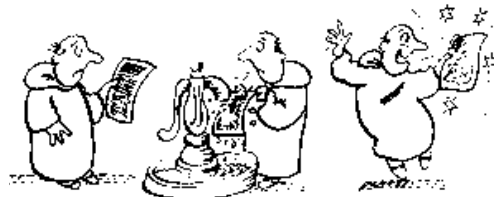
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Parish



Pump

The Chief Purpose of Man

How clever man is, he has conquered the skies,
Reached for the stars and stepped onto the moon,
But he still does not know why he is here
Or what is the purpose, or why he was born.

And did it all start with one big bang
As stars and galaxies burst into space?
Or was it the hand of a mighty Creator
Who lovingly fashioned this wondrous place?

Into this world God planted a garden
And placed man there to enjoy its delights,
But he soon disobeyed and sin entered in,
And so, man was banished and thrust from God's sight.

How gracious God is, He has reached out again
To reconcile man and bring him back home,
Sin's debt has been paid by the death of His Son,
To know God as Father is why man was born.

Megan Carter

*It is the eightieth anniversary of
the D-Day landings on 6th June*

A Distant Grave

A distant grave, a foreign land
Kept neatly, with respect
Though not at all what they'd have planned
Yet what they did accept.

These youthful lads were wrenched from home -
No one of them was old -
Joined thousands of their fellow men
Fought up a beach, named 'Gold'.

And some survived, though many died
Some fought their way through France
And, though quite likely terrified
To Holland they advanced.



Planted in the love of the Father

Planted in the love of the Father
You can grow, dear one,
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit
His fruit you'll show,
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,
And the thorns threaten,
And the storms around life's garden blow -
Your roots will hold,
And hold secure,

Because you're planted in the love of the Father,
Daphne Kitching

D•DAY80

Then 'Market Garden' – a quaint name
For brutal deeds of war;
But no-one heard those troops complain
In darkest forty-four.

And yet more soldiers met their fate
Their lives cut short too soon;
As shells fell close, to detonate
In war's demonic tune.

And so they lay, so far from home
So far from kith and kin.
But they, with fallen comrades showed
The way to fight and win.

Nigel Beeton

Lost in translation

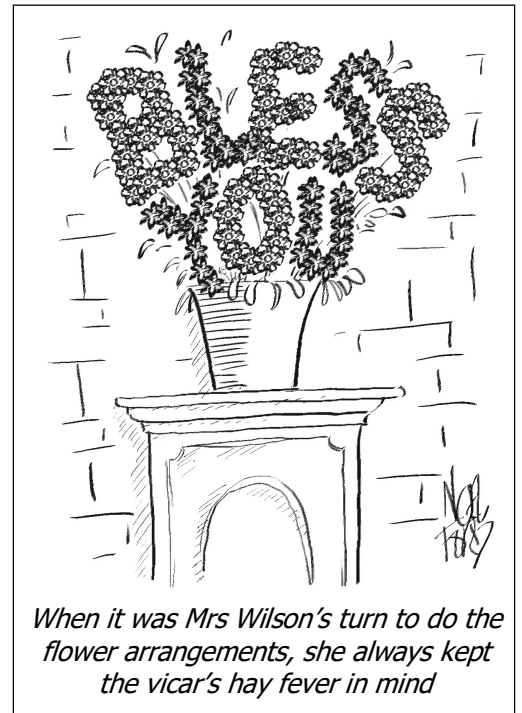
A certain vicar had a kindly, pastoral heart. He often wrote little notes to any parishioners in distress, assuring them of his prayers. Then came the day he heard that one of his favourite old ladies in the church had been injured in a bad fall. The vicar felt so much sympathy that he wanted to add a note of pastoral affection. He thought of the little postscript that his young niece always added to her emails to him, which he took as a sign of her affection, and decided to add that to this note.

It read: "Dear Mrs Gantry, I am told that you fell down the stairs, broke both legs, and may be in hospital for some weeks. This is just to assure you that you are much in my thoughts." Then he added the postscript: LOL.

Techie trouble

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind



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

With Petertide ordinations in mind...

First friend: 'It took me forty years to discover I had not the gifts for Holy Orders.'

Second friend: 'Goodness, whatever did you do when you found out?'

First friend: 'It was too late to do anything. By then I was a bishop!'

Advice to young clergy on preaching

'Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.'

Dressing

'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

Advice

A minister's advice to a deacon about to be ordained: "Remember: the longer the spoke, the greater the tyre."

Keep it short

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion...."

Notices outside a church:

- Worn out? Come in for a Service!
- This church is not just four weddings and a funeral.

Park

A journey of a thousand miles begins with trying to find a place to park your car near the church.

Grace

The graduation banquet was about to begin when the master of ceremonies was informed that the invited clergyman would not be able to attend. He quickly asked the main speaker to give the blessing. The speaker nodded, rose, bowed his head and in all sincerity, said: "There being no clergyman present, let us thank God."



Shirley caught the flower ladies red-handed, dealing trugs

Aune Valley Benefice Directory

RECTOR: Currently there is a vacancy, please contact a churchwarden concerning parish matters

ADMINISTRATOR: During the vacancy please contact Elizabeth Webb 560090 thurallsaints@btinternet.com for general enquires, including weddings, baptisms and funerals

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS: Peter Gornall Furzey Orchard, Thurlestone TQ7 3NS 560333, Pam Latimer pam@pamlatimer.plus.com 559038, Nell Stamp nellstamp@btinternet.com 07742 612983

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	<i>Vacancy</i>	Michael Hodges 561124	<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	Tristan Bertie 550592
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	<i>Vacancy</i>	Martin Webb 560090	Janet Turner 560354	<i>Vacancy</i>	George Seager Berry 559354
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DEANERY SYNOD:	<i>Vacancy</i>	Siân Hodges 561124	Eve Gilkes 560973	<i>Vacancy</i>	Gilly Bertie 550592
OTHER PCC MEMBERS:	L. Graham	E.Candy, A Durden, G.Durden, P.Gornall, J.Pearce, G.Scott	G.Day, T.Gilkes	M.Bennett, S.Came, M.Carter, S.Harvey, K.Hudson, H.Hudson	T.Hurrell, L.Johnson, R.Martin, J.Martin, N.Stamp
ORGANISTS:		John Kingsley-Smith 560400	Evelyn Grant 560620	Hilary Hudson 550004	
FLOWERS:	<i>Vacancy</i>	June Martin 714434 Joan Booth 561537 Wendy Gornall 560333	Gaynor Day 561112	Joy Harvey 550279	Judy Martin 852428
MAGAZINE CONTACTS:	<i>Vacancy</i>	Elizabeth Webb 560090 mewebbsite@btinternet.com	Peter Rixon 288592 peterrixon@hotmail.com	Susan Freeman 550437 susananddavid47@gmail.com	John Woodley 857916 johnwoodley2@gmail.com

GROUPS: **Monday Home Group:** Mike Hodges 561124 **Wednesday House Group:** Pam Latimer 559038 **Celtic Zoom Service:** Nell Stamp 07742 612983

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