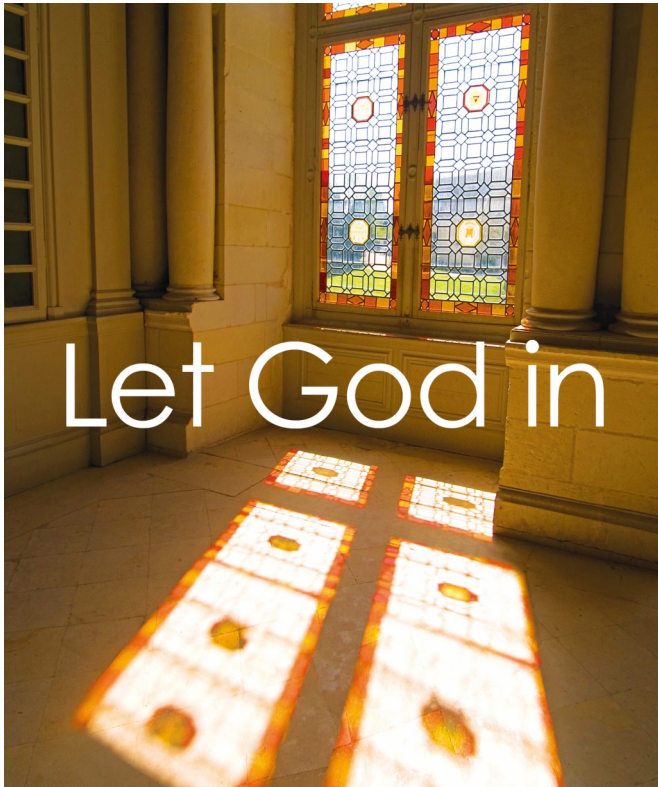




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 135 ~ January 2020



*Is 2020 the year that you let God into your life?
See pages 3, 5 & 20 for encouragement and help.*

Church Contacts and Index

CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar

The Rev Paul Bye

Licensed Lay Minister

Miss Janet Kimber

Church Wardens

Mrs Michele Briers

Mrs Pamela Rowell

Parish Secretary

Mr Alan Curtis

Treasurer

Mrs Loraine Lee

Useful Information

Vicarage: 01253 734562

Parish Office: 01253 732939

Fundraising Shop: 01253 732253

Website:

www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com

E-mail:

stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com

*For a full list of Who's Who as
St Paul's please pick up a list from
the Parish Office, Church or St.
Paul's Fundraising Shop*

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To hire the Church Hall please contact:

Mary and Ian Winterflood

Telephone: 01253 732939
(Parish Office)

E-mail:

mary.winterflood@gmail.com
or stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com

Letter from the vicarage...

I wonder if you have ever felt like an outsider? Being at a party or meeting and everyone else seems to know each other, be connected, or get the joke. Some how you feel on the outside of it. Everyone seems similar, and you feel different.



Tim Burton, the American filmmaker once said:

“If you’ve ever had that feeling of loneliness, of being an outsider, it never quite leaves you. You can be happy or successful or whatever, but that thing still stays within you.”

Honest words from a man who has enjoyed his share of success and happiness.

That might seem a bleak way to begin my letter for the New Year! But I begin there because it connects very closely to the experience of many of us. But it also connects closely to the event which Christians have marked for many hundreds of years, on January 6th – Epiphany. The revealing of Christ to the Gentiles.

You see if there was ever a group of outsiders, it was the Magi. Most likely people who were not Jews – so they were outside God’s people and promises. People from the East – so they were outside God’s land. Likely astrologers – so they were outside God’s ways, which said don’t trust the stars for the future, trust God.

Yet as Matthew records his gospel, who are the first on the scene of the infant Jesus? Who were the first to search this new-born king out? Who were the first to worship him? Magi from the East.

If ever there was a group of outsiders, it was this group.

They come to search for Jesus. But as God hung his star in the sky, long before he had been searching for them.

What did they find as God revealed his King to them? That they could be insiders.

That is the kind of God, God is – a God who extends the bounds of his kingdom to those currently beyond it. Who throws wide his love to those on the edge.



On Thursday 12th December thirteen people from St Paul's joined hundreds more at the Winter Gardens for an interdenominational Carol Service hosted by Bishop Philip. Blackpool Brass Band played to accompany the carols and Chloe Rose Moyle a 2017 X-Factor contestant sang two carols, 'Mary Did You Know' and 'Noel'.

The event was funded by churches from across Blackpool and the Fylde. This enabled all the ticket proceeds to be given to three local charities: Blackpool Food Bank, Blackpool Street Angels and Blackpool Boys and Girls Club.

The well known evangelist Canon J John was the speaker. He is based at St Andrew's Church, Chorleywood and had travelled up from Hertfordshire. His message was for Christians and non Christians alike, explaining the true meaning of Christmas. He focussed on the symbolism of the gifts of the Wise Men - gold for a king, frankincense for prayer and myrrh for a death. The service was also covered by U.C.B. Radio and J John's message was intended to remind us of our need to make heartfelt commitment with Jesus. Many people went forward to renew their faith or take a first step in faith using the following prayer:

*Thank you Jesus for knocking on the door of my life,
I open the door - now.
I invite you in.
Come in by your Holy Spirit.
Cleanse my life.
Set me free from the past.
Illuminate my mind and heart.
Fill me with your presence and peace.
Give me understanding.
Help me to build my life on you.
Thank you for hearing my prayer. Amen.*

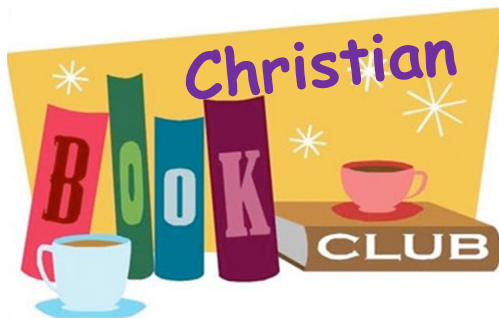
This is a prayer we can use at any time to bring us closer to Jesus. If anyone wants the resources which were on offer these can be obtained through the UCB website.

John and Susan Birbeck

You are invited to:

Kirkham Deanery's Book Club

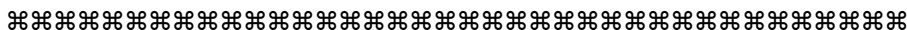
We meet every other month and read a range of fiction and non-fiction Christian books to help us in our journey of faith.



To book your place, find out the dates of the next meeting and which book we are reading, contact Rev Anne Beverley

anne.beverley@btinternet.com

07841 742 022



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

Unusual kindness

18-25 January



www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



*Article removed for
safeguarding purposes.*

My Trip to St. Luke's Leprosy Hospital

Layla Shafiq

Layla Shafiq, my young friend, is in the second year of her medical course at Edinburgh University. This summer she arranged a voluntary work placement at St. Luke's Leprosy Hospital in India, taking with her a donation of £400. Thanks to all those who have provided me with jam jars, donated holly, fruit and apples and purchased jam and spring bulbs. Julian Wilde

On 4th August, my friend Sophie and I flew to the Indian city of Chennai, feeling nervous about what was to come, and not really knowing what to expect.

We knew we would be visiting St Luke's Leprosarium and The SCHAT Boys' Home, but that was pretty much it. Kathy Miller (the founder of the Neem Tree Trust which raises funds in the UK in support of St. Luke's) video-called us and was extremely helpful, explaining many hacks which we would be expected to know, such as the fact that food (even curry) is eaten without cutlery and only with the right hand!



We arrived and took the overnight train to the Leprosarium, which was close to a town called Tirunelveli in the very south of the Tamil Nadu state. The biggest shock was the driving, with all sorts of vehicles and horns, and nobody seeming to be driving in lanes! In Tirunelveli, we were met by the Leprosarium's dentist and the driver, Ravi, who took us out for a traditional Indian breakfast called Idle and Samba, more curry! (But still delicious.)



We arrived at the Leprosarium and met all the nurses and the cook, who all couldn't have been more welcoming or informative. Throughout the placement we got to know some of the nurses quite well and their reasons for dedicating their lives to this job were really inspirational. They took us on the ward rounds and were very informative (when we weren't feeling faint!). Their kindness was unparalleled.

Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by bacteria, which attacks the nerve endings mainly in the body's extremities, causing loss of sensation. This often leads to gangrene, amputation and fingers and toes falling off.

In India, leprosy is often seen to make somebody 'unclean', as this is what's stated in the Bible, and India is a very religious country. This often leads to patients with leprosy being rejected by their families. Additionally,

treatment is not always sought. This is sometimes because people are uneducated around the subject and don't know that their signs/symptoms are of leprosy, or in the case of women, they feel they cannot leave their children to seek treatment. If detected early, leprosy is curable.

Some of the stories of the patients were heart-breaking, yet it was obvious how much the Leprosarium had improved their lives. One of the nurses, Freeda, taught herself to weave baskets on YouTube, and taught the patients this skill as a way of generating income in future. Sometimes patients who leave are given goats as another way of earning money.



We were also taken to the main hospital nearby where we got to scrub up to see some surgery, such as a hip replacement and various eye surgeries, which was amazing.

We were then taken to stay at the SCHAT boys' home for a few days. This is a home for boys who are differently abled, orphaned, or whose families can't afford to support them, and is almost single-handedly funded by The Neem Tree Trust itself, which is just incredible.



The boys were so keen to show us all of their games such as kabaddi (the national game of India – very aggressive!) and some traditional Tamil dancing. We felt very lucky to visit a place filled with so much love and happiness. We were in Tirunelveli for three and a half memorable weeks, before returning home after three days in Mumbai.

We are very grateful to all those who made donations, enabling us to take £400 in cash with us which we changed into Indian rupees for this amazing cause. We decided to give half of the money to the Leprosarium, which will go toward healthcare, and the other half toward the running of the Boys' Home.



The Lord's Prayer and You in 2020

**Somethin
g to Think
About**



I cannot pray 'our'
if I am not in communion with fellow Christians.

I cannot pray 'Father'
if I do not treat Him as such, on a daily basis.

I cannot pray 'Who are in Heaven'
if all my interests are on earthly things.

I cannot pray 'hallowed by thy name'
if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy myself.

I cannot pray 'Thy Kingdom come'
if I don't live as if I am within His kingdom now.

I cannot pray 'Thy Will be Done'
if I am disobedient to His commands.

I cannot pray 'on earth as it is in Heaven' unless I am truly ready to
give my life to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray 'give us this day our daily bread' if I am not also willing
to work for it, and to share with my neighbour in need.

I cannot pray 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us' if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray 'lead us not into temptation' if I deliberately remain
somewhere where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray 'Thine is the Kingdom'
if I live as if the world is my kingdom.

I cannot pray 'Thine is the power and the glory'
if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory.

I cannot pray 'forever and ever'
if all my attention is on daily affairs.

I cannot pray 'Amen', unless I honestly say,
'Cost what it may, this is my prayer.'

Facing Both Ways

by Tony Horsfall

January gets its name from the Roman god Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions, of gates and doorways. Traditionally Janus had two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future. It reminds us that as we start a new year we can look back to the past with gratitude and to the future with expectation.

In his hymn, 'How good is the God we adore', Joseph Hart (1712-1768) speaks about God as our faithful, unchangeable friend and finishes with this beautiful thought: 'We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come.' This seems to be a good pasture to take as we enter 2020.

First, we can look back on the year that is gone and give thanks for all the blessings that we have experienced. Thankfulness is really a choice. None of us will have had a perfect year, and many of us will have had some dark days indeed, but if we look carefully enough, we will see that there were also many wonderful days and golden moments. Let's choose to focus on those and to acknowledge the work of God in our lives. *For what are you grateful as you look back to 2019?*

Second, we can put our faith in God for all that is to come. None of us know the future. We will have our hopes and our dreams, and have made our plans for the year ahead, but no-one can guarantee they will come to pass. There will be surprises for sure, both good (we never expected that!) and bad (I didn't see that coming!). How wonderful then to have a God who knows the future and in whose hands we are safe, no matter what comes to pass. Let's choose to place our trust in Him as 2020 unfolds. *What are you most looking forward to as you peer ahead of you this year?*



The Joys of January!

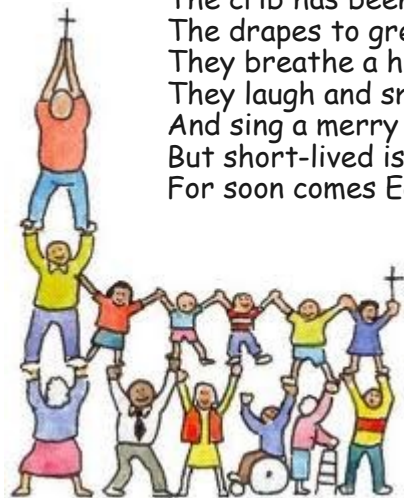
Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay,
They're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season
Of service constantly -
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker
They don't get that much sleep.
The overworked Churchwarden
And their sidespersons team,
Who don't get time for boredom
But only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over;
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure -
For soon comes Easter time!

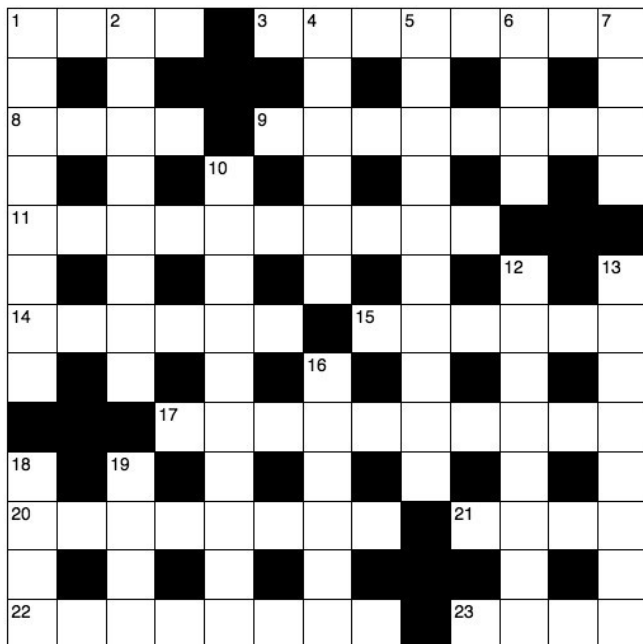
By Nigel Beeton

*P.S. Maybe some of you
could add a verse for the
Organist and the Choir; and
anyone else who works hard
behind the scenes!*



JANUARY 2020 CROSSWORD

(The Bible version used in these crosswords is the NIV.)



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Time for a Smile

The Doctor's Daughter

How wrong you can be! On the way to nursery school, a doctor had left her stethoscope on the rear seat of the car and her little girl picked it up and began playing with it. "That's OK", thought the doctor, "this may be a sign that my daughter will want to follow in my footsteps and be a doctor one day." Then the child held the end piece to her mouth and said, "Welcome to McDonald's, may I take your order please?"

Teenage Music

How not to build a relationship with your daughter: When asked by his teenage daughter what he thought about her latest pop record, he said it reminded him of the time he saw a crash between a truckload of milk cans and a van filled with ducks.



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

Noah

When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For 40 days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park...



... Joshua says he's very sorry - but it's something to do with the recent weapons procurement review.

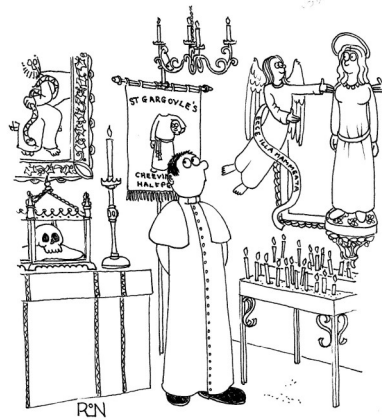
Two Masters

When asked in Junior Church what the Bible means when it says that no man can serve two masters, little Johnny immediately piped up with, "Because you are not allowed to have two wives."

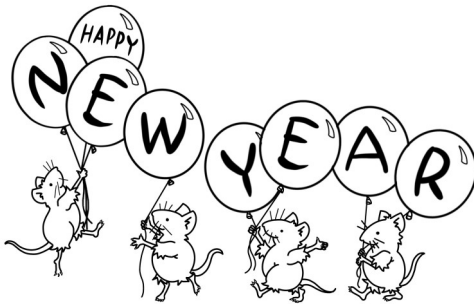
The Boss!?

The rector of a very large church had a feeling that his relationship with his staff had been rather too informal and casual, so he thought he would have some fun by putting a sign on his office door which said "I'm the Boss", hoping this might have some spin-off effect on the staff.

Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said: "Your wife called. She wants her sign back."



When the Christmas decorations came down, the church seemed oddly bare...



Zebra

Little James, aged four, was looking at a picture book. When he came to a picture of a zebra, his mother asked him what animal that might be.

Jimmy thought for a moment and then replied: "That's a horse who has eaten genetically modified corn."

Where Babies Come From

For weeks a six-year old lad kept telling his teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. Then one day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally took the little boy aside one day, and asked: "James, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" James burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mummy ate it!"

Regular Activities at St. Paul's

Day	Time	Activity/Organisation	Place
Monday	9:30am - 2:30pm	Cameo Lunch Club	Church Hall
	7:30 – 8:30pm	Zumba Class	Church Hall
	3:30 -	Youth Group (Dates on weekly sheet)	Church Hall
Wednesday	From 10:30am	Church Coffee Morning	Church Hall
	5:00 - 7:15pm	Rainbows & Brownies (Term-Time only)	Church Hall
	7:30 – 9:00pm	Growth Group (Dates on weekly sheet)	Vicarage
Thursday	6:15 – 7:30pm	Family Service	Church Hall
	8pm — 9pm	Ballroom Dancing	Church Hall
Friday	7:30 - 9:00pm	Guides (Term-Time only)	Church Hall
Saturday	8:00-9:00am	Prayer Breakfast	The Shop

Come and Join Us! Everyone is Welcome!

St. Paul's Fundraising Shop (*Woodlands Road*)



Opening Times

Monday 10am – 4pm
Tuesday 10am – 4pm
Wednesday 10am – 1pm
Thursday 10am – 4pm
Saturday 10am – 4pm

New volunteers are always welcome.

*If you can help in any way please contact
The Parish Office on 01253 732939.*

Parish Information

Church Services

Sunday

8:30am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am Parish Eucharist (CW)
4:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Wednesday

10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday

6:15pm Family Service

(A service for the younger members of our church, including songs, Bible Stories, prayers and activities.)



(BCP ~Book of Common Prayer;
CW ~ Common Worship)

'Parish Surgery'

If you would like to discuss any matter with Paul, the Vicar, you are welcome to attend the following surgery:

Wednesday
9:00-9:30am
at the Parish Office

Youth Group (Years 7-11)

Please watch out for our notices about the Youth Group which meets several times a term after school on Mondays.

Our Other Sunday Services

All Age Worship

takes place at 10:30am on the 3rd Sunday of the month and includes music and teaching for all ages.

Songs of Praise

takes place at 10:30am if there is a 5th Sunday in the month

Weddings, Thanksgivings & Baptisms

Thanksgiving/Baptism

If you're interested in finding out about the possibility of having a thanksgiving service or baptism for your child or yourself, please contact Paul, the Vicar where he can explain the process more, or join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30am.

Weddings

If you wish to arrange a wedding, please contact Paul, the Vicar.

You can contact Paul about these, and other matters by:

- ⇒ telephone on 01253 734562, or
- ⇒ email at vicar.stpaulsaf@gmail.com



Help St Paul's Church, Ansdell & Fairhaven to raise money every time you shop online.

Every time you shop online using the Easy Fundraising website or the Easy Fundraising app, St. Paul's will receive a donation from the online store that you visit. There are more than 3,000 to choose from and it doesn't cost you any more than the price of your purchases!
Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsansdell>



St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

*By God's grace we are a loving family
of wholehearted disciples making more disciples.*

Why not come and join us!

Our worship is varied with something for everyone;
and we always have space to welcome you.

Our services are listed on page 19.

*If you want to know more about Christianity
and faith, then the Christianity Explored
course may well suit your needs.*



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Beginning Monday 6th January – 7.30pm

Fairhaven Vicarage, 83 Clifton Drive, FY8 1BZ

Call Paul, vicar of St Paul's on 734562 for more information

Whether you have been in church for years and wish to be refreshed on the basics, or you have big questions about the Christian faith, join an informal 7-week course exploring the Christian message. All welcome. Feel free to come along to the first one for a 'taster'.