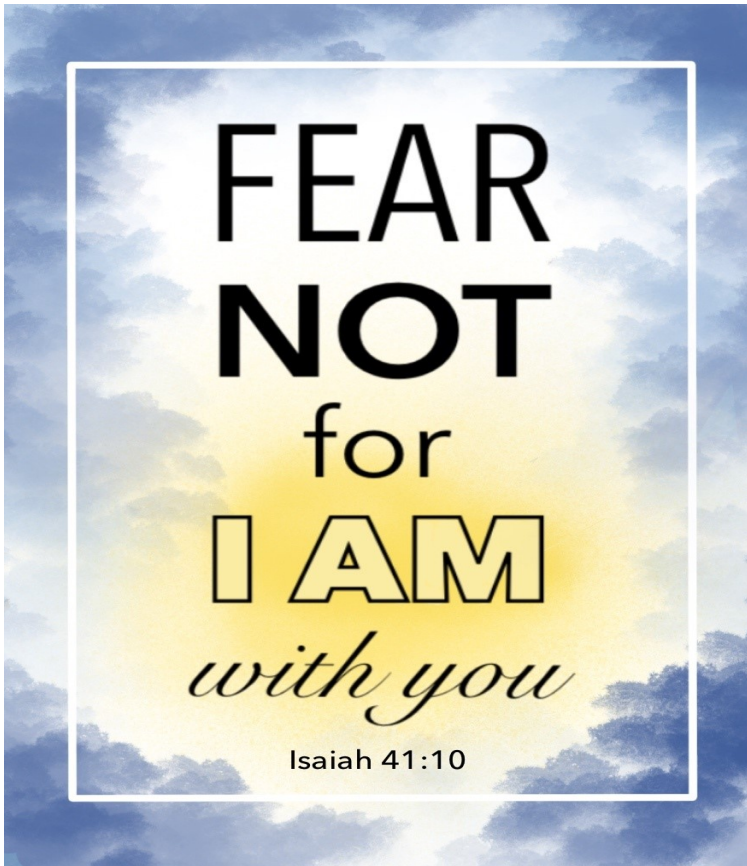




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven  
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

# PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 139 ~ May 2020





# Letter from the vicarage...



There is no doubting that it has brought people together.

That is the national movement for people to go out each Thursday at 8pm and 'Clap for our Carers'. Designed as a way to tangibly express our gratitude to our caring professions giving so much on our behalf, it has also been a means of connecting people.

We have waved to more of our neighbours – at a very safe distance of course – in the past few weeks than we have done in the past four years! In the midst of lockdown and isolation, wonderfully people are being connected. Both to others locally and as part of a greater movement.

There is something in that, which, whether clapping in public is our thing or not, moves us – the opportunity to be part of something greater which is doing something in the world.

The last day of May will take us to Pentecost – Whit Sunday. A day when Christians remember God's gift of the Spirit enabling the preaching of Jesus' word and so the birth of Jesus' church.

But in a sense, that great new beginning began in lockdown. All the disciples were together in one place. Waiting. Unsure. A minority sect under threat of persecution.

Then God the Father kept his promise. He gave his Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, to come on this people. Lockdown was over. Within moments, the disciples far from being fearful, were outside making known the wonders of God.

The crowd that gathered to hear them was diverse. Luke records in Acts 2 at least 15 different people groups were present. All speaking different languages – fractured from each other. Yet by the Spirit, the disciples were enabled to proclaim what Jesus has done in those different languages. The nations are being reconnected in that moment – not by all being made to speak one language – but by hearing the message of Jesus in their own.



It is the undoing of what happened at the Tower of Babel. The people of the world joined forces against God, and so he scattered them. The division of languages, fractures in communities, and isolation are in one sense ripples of that great act which we experience today.

Wonderfully movements come which bring us closer together for a time. World movements form to unite us – the United Nations, for example. But ultimately they are time bound, and they only reconnect us so far.

But the day of Pentecost sees different races, background, languages, cultures united in one moment – around the message that Jesus is Lord.

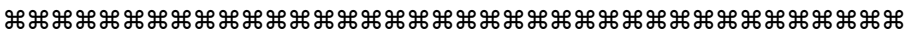
The church which is born that day is to be for the world a sign of what God is doing – of reconnecting people, bridging divides and difference, breaking down isolation and suspicion – in the people he has brought together under Jesus.

Only Jesus can ultimately connect us with other people and build our communities into strong ones – because only he can reconnect us back to God again when we turn and trust him. In that process where Jesus becomes the centre of my focus, and the centre of yours, so the differences we have with each other pale into insignificance. We are joined as one, part of a movement which has run for 2000 years and has changed the world.

So let's rejoice at new found connections through initiatives like 'Clap for our Carers' – I mean really rejoice. Let's enjoy the new sense of community it has been bringing. But let's see that the real and only hope for true, lasting, reconnected community is found in Jesus. Let's be a church which reflects that to the world, and acts to reconnect others to God, and to each other.

Best wishes

*Paul*



## *Ladies' Lunch*

Unfortunately, due to current circumstances, which are beyond our control, the Ladies' Lunches have been suspended until further notice.

## **Important Church Updates**

You can't have missed the huge changes we have experienced recently and their impacts on churches.

The Church of England has helpfully reminded us:

***'The Church continues to be alive and active,  
but our buildings must close.***

*We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.*

*Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.*

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your mind and with all your strength . . .  
Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment  
greater than these."*

*To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.*

That is important to heed. But at the same time it doesn't stop us being church! We just need to be church in a different way.

### **Services, Resources, Prayers**

If you are online go to <https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/> for online recordings and different resources to help you and any young people you know.

If you are not online, please don't feel left out! If you would like a weekly service order and sermon transcript posted out, please call 734562.

### **Prayer Groups**

Would you like to pray with others – online or by telephone? If so get in touch with Paul on 734562, or email vicar.stpaulsaf@gmail.com.

### **Are you in need?**

If you are in need, or know someone in need, please call 734562 and we will seek to help you as we are able.

# Who's Who?

## *Kyle and Amy Mulholland*

### Can you tell us a little bit about yourselves?

**Kyle:** I'm Kyle. I grew up in a single-parent family with no church background. I became a Christian at university, and was eager to learn more about God. After that, I worked in churches. I married Amy three years ago, and we have a daughter, Hannah, who is 15 months.

**Amy:** I'm Amy, wife to Kyle and mum to Hannah. I previously worked as a Speech and Language Therapist with adults with neurological conditions. I became a Christian when I was 18 through the witness of a Christian friend at university.

### What things do you like to get up to as a family for fun?

We loved to go swimming as a three at the local swimming baths - before the lockdown! We also still enjoy God's creation by going for walks nearby.

### What have you been doing in London?

**Kyle:** I've been studying theology and pastoral ministry in preparation for ordination in the Church of England.

**Amy:** I did a Master's degree in Speech and Language Therapy research when we first arrived here. We then became parents to Hannah, a huge blessing. I have recently done a bit of part-time speech therapy work from home.

### Where have you lived before London?

**Kyle:** I grew up in Coventry, and have lived in Bristol, Lancashire and Cheshire.

**Amy:** I grew up in Bournemouth, went to university in Reading, then lived in Lancashire and Cheshire. I'm looking forward to living by the sea again albeit a little bit further North than Bournemouth!





# *Lockdown Reflections*

*by Kyle Mulholland*

We have yet to meet most of you. But we have something in common already: we're all experiencing lockdown.

Lockdown has been a challenge for our family, as I'm sure it has been for you. As I write, we're a month in, and we have at least three more weeks to go. When will this be over? What will life be like when it's over?

We have of course been distressed by news of deaths and illnesses linked to the virus.

As a family, we face uncertainties. Our house, our move, my ordination - we can't predict what will happen, or when.

My visual impairment makes social distancing particularly painful. People interact socially through facial expressions and body language; I can't make these things out well from a distance, or on a screen.

My wife Amy leaves the College site where we live once a week to buy food. Queues outside supermarkets, plastic gloves, face masks: all these make things feel uneasy and tense.

Even our little Hannah, who at 15 months isn't aware of the situation, is affected: she can't meet to play with her friend Nathaniel, who was born at the same time. Moreover, Hannah's grandparents are heartbroken not to be able to visit.

My own grandmother is lonely at home. We have family members who work for the NHS. We likely won't be able to say goodbye to our church before we leave. We remain healthy, but the lockdown hasn't been without its trials for us - as I'm sure for you.

The Bible says that God is "the God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3). St Paul, who faced many trials in his own life, was very aware of God's comfort. God comforts Christians not only by bringing their trials to an end, but also by blessing them while those trials are still going on.

We have found this to be true. Even as things have been difficult, we have also experienced God's comfort and blessing. Our church has been a blessing through its online content. Our families and friends have been a blessing through conversations over the phone. In fact, with less going on, people seem to be better at picking up the phone!

My College commitments have been reduced. This has meant I've had





# *Jam, Daffodils and Rupert Bear*

My thanks to all St. Paul's parishioners who are continuing to save empty jam jars for my late summer jam-making. I especially appreciate that you are keeping them safely at home at present, rather than putting them in the box at the parish hall.



I have had some pleasing comments from those who purchased tete a tete daffodils and hyacinths this spring and I am expecting to be able to plant next year's bulbs, as usual, in early September. Thanks for everyone's support for both these projects – all the profits go to St. Luke's Leprosy Hospital in southern India.

Readers will be pleased to hear that I have recently been able to raise £4500 for the Manchester NHS Trust by running a mile near home dressed as Rupert Bear, as part of a team of seven friends in different parts of the country. It has been a remarkable (and hot) experience ! Thanks to all the St. Paul's people who provided donations in cash or on line via my justgiving page which is still open.

It's the first time in my life I have organised an event of any sort which has met with no criticism or adverse comments – a clear indication of just how much people are valuing the work of the NHS in this present situation.

*Julian Wilde*



# Christian Aid Week ~ 10-16th May

*Under the current circumstance, house to house and other face to face events cannot go ahead this Christian Aid Week.*

As the coronavirus outbreak threatens the health of our neighbours near and far. We must quickly respond together to help the most vulnerable.

Coronavirus has shown us that our futures are bound more tightly together than ever before. Now it is spreading across the world's poorest countries, putting people living in poverty at great risk. These people are already facing a lack of water, food and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV.

As coronavirus infection rates speed up, they will feel the impacts of the virus deeply. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

## **Christian Aid's response**

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

- We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- We are providing essential soap, water and handwashing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.
- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

## **Where we are responding**

In Bangladesh, we are helping Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded camps understand the risks and take precautions by sharing hygiene messages in their local languages and offering handwashing sessions.

In Nigeria, we are working to ensure safe distributions of food can continue for displaced people living in camps.

## **How we can donate**

Online cash donations: <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk>

Telephone: 020 7523 2269

By post: Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL



# *An Uncomfortable (but needed) Article*

This is an article which feels strange, even unpleasant, to write. However, I feel it is an important one. Our current crisis has brought many matters to the forefront of our minds which in others times we might not have wanted, or needed, to think about. One such issue is death, and our wishes surrounding it. We pray that the Lord would spare each of us during this crisis. However, if it is not now, we know that one day it will be a reality for each of us.

A recent BBC article quotes Dr Rachel Clarke, author and palliative care specialist, saying *"The great temptation when you are scared, and of course, we are all scared, is to try to close your mind to your worst fears...Why would anyone want to contemplate their own mortality right now when everyone could be threatened? But it is precisely that uncertainty that makes this the most important time for advanced care planning."*

I find that incredibly helpful to hear our doctors calling for us to consider these matters. As a minister, I long to help us think about them from a wider perspective too.

This is not an exhaustive list, but I offer some areas which I encourage us each to reflect on, and importantly discuss with those who are closest to us. Especially with those who may be responsible for making decisions on our behalf, should the worst happen.

## **What would I like to happen should I become very ill?**

This is a discussion about what would matter to you if you became so sick that you may die. It is important to talk to the appropriate health care professionals about this, especially in the current situation. We must be aware that the current crisis may impact on the ability to have our wishes carried out. Also for those in hospital or nursing homes general visits are not possible. If we are receiving end of life care, those who can see us is greatly limited.

However, that does not mean we can't discuss our wishes and make them known.

Dr Clarke is quoted as saying, it can be as simple as discussing, *"Are you the kind of person who would want to go to hospital, to intensive care or would you want to stay at home?"*

While supporting those with terminal illness specifically, the *Marie Curie* charity suggests the following questions. They may be helpful in a range of situations:

- How would you like to be looked after?
- Where would you like to be looked after in the future and in your final days?
- Are there any spiritual or religious beliefs you would like taken into account?
- Who would you like to spend time with?
- Who should your doctors or nurses talk to if you become unable to make decisions?
- Do you want to appoint someone to make decisions on your behalf if you're unable to make them (lasting Power of Attorney)?
- How you would like practical matters dealt with, such as the care of a pet?
- Do you have any thoughts about what you would like to happen to your body after you die?<sup>2</sup>

There will be other matters that could be important to talk about. For example, do you wish to be resuscitated or not, should your medical treatment require it? Do you wish to donate organs or not, should you die? Again these are conversations to be had with loved ones, as well as health care professionals, such as your GP.

*Marie Curie* have a booklet which helpfully works through these questions in more depth, with further resources.

## **What would you like to happen with your money, property and possessions?**

If you have not written a will, it can be an important act to carry out. It can offer peace of mind, knowing you have made decisions for yourself, as well as a means of serving those who are left behind who will have to manage your estate. Should you wish, it can be a way too of supporting causes dear to you beyond your own lifetime.

For information from the government, you can go to: <https://www.gov.uk/make-will>

Will Aid is an organisation which links people with local solicitors to enable them to make a basic will for free, with the encouragement for the person having the will written to give a donation to charity. To find out more, go to: <https://www.willaid.org.uk/>

## What would you like in your funeral?

*The current situation* - In the current crisis, we need to be aware that there are significant changes to how funerals are taking place. No services are taking place in church buildings, but only at a graveside, or in a crematorium chapel. They are simpler services. They are subject to social distancing measures, limited in numbers (Lytham Crematorium is limited to 10 people), and only for close family. The current Church of England guidance defines this as *'only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way (this is true also for burial of ashes). No wake or gathering should be held following the funeral, and this should be scheduled for a later date.'* Recent government advice does not define 'close family', and there are variations between local authorities as to how this is being worked out.

This is all to highlight that the current situation is extremely painful. It means many who might otherwise have been at a funeral cannot presently attend, for a variety of reasons. It also means our plans for our funeral service may not be able to be fulfilled completely.

For those unable to attend a funeral, the Church of England has a number of resources, including a brief service which can be carried out at home to help mourners. We will need to find ways to support each other in grief at this time, and should you experience any bereavement please do not hesitate to be in touch with myself.

The charity, Cruse, also has some help for those experiencing grief in the current situation - <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief>

I am encouraging families to consider, if it would be helpful to them, having a memorial or thanksgiving service at a later date after the crisis. This would enable more people to attend. It may be possible to include more the person's wishes at this service.

*Your funeral* - However, that does not mean that you cannot be considering thoughts you have for your funeral now. This can be especially helpful if your wider family are not Christian, and you have particular aspects linked to your faith you wish to include. It can also be an act of service, to help family or others who are having to make decisions at a time of grief. It is important to remember that a minister may not be able to include all your wishes, and that a funeral service is a Christian act of worship.

Some questions you might like to consider are:

- Are there any Bible readings which are important to me that I would like included?
- Would I like hymns or singing? What hymns would they be?
- Are there any other aspects or prayers special to me?
- Would I like the service in a church building, or elsewhere?
- Are there personal words about your own faith in Jesus you would like shared?
- Would I like to be buried or cremated?

Again, please discuss and share these with those closest to you so they are aware, write them down and tell someone were they are written. Please do feel free to speak to myself as you consider, or after you have written it. That is often very helpful.

## **Being ready**

It is right, in fact it is loving, to have our affairs in state. However, there is one area in which this is most vital. That is our relationship with Jesus. For we could have all these other areas worked through, but if we don't have this one – then will miss out for eternity. I say these words not to upset or cajole, but to love. There is a heaven. There is a hell. Jesus, the most loving man who ever lived, spoke of this. He warned you and I that our actions by nature – of living with ourselves in charge, and breaking God's rules – leave us facing God's eternal judgement. Death brings us to that place.

But God the Father, Son and Spirit have moved heaven and earth, that you and I might have a different future. One of forgiveness, life, close relationship with God for eternity, life in a new creation, knowing an existence of no more tears and pain. They offer it to you. They long to share it with you. But we must come to Jesus for it.

This security beyond death does not come by being a nice person, raising money for charity, having been looked up to by others in life, having looked after our family, worked hard, been baptised or gone to church. It could never do. It comes only through Jesus. This is received by –

*Turning* – a decisive turn away from living with myself in charge, to seeking to live with Jesus in charge from now on.

*Trusting* – a relying on Jesus alone to forgive us, restore our relationship with God and bring us safely through death.





# *A Small Selection of Prayers to Use During the Coronavirus Pandemic*

*These prayers can be found on the Church of England website at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources> They have been especially written by Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference.*

## ***Give us strength***

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

## ***Be our hope***

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through Him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***For those who are ill***

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.

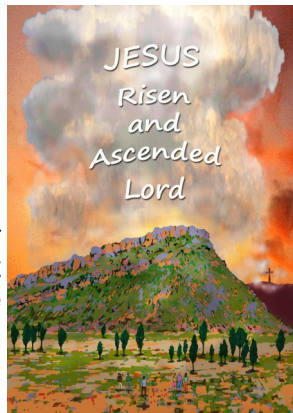
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***For hospital staff and medical researchers***

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

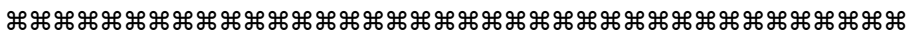


## *May 21<sup>st</sup> - Ascension Day:*



During the 40 days between Easter and Ascension Day, the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. 'Then He left them and was taken up into heaven. He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day.



## *May 31<sup>st</sup> - Pentecost in Jerusalem*

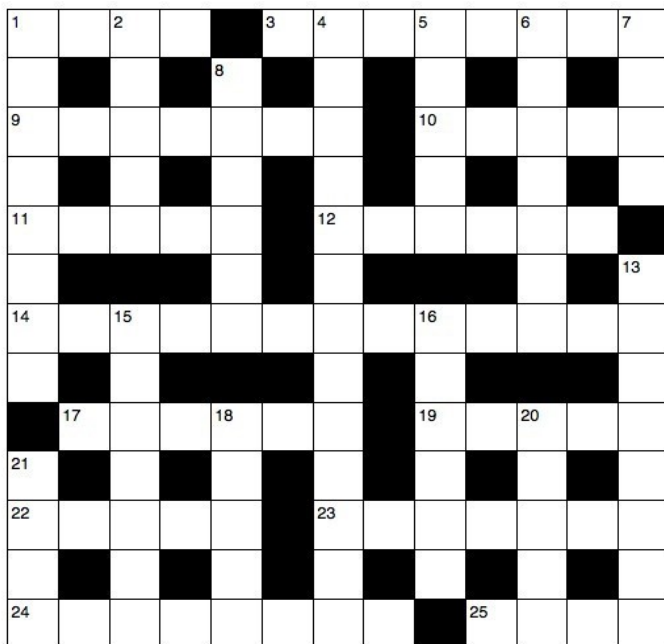
On the first morning of Pentecost, a small group of people, who were followers of Jesus, had gathered in one small room within the great city of Jerusalem. They were praying because there was nothing else for them to do. Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited – on Him, and for Him. They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth.

That very same day, the gospel was preached to the thousands of visitors in Jerusalem, who had gathered to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Firstfruits, causing many to commit their lives to following the Lord Jesus. And within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: to Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta.; and to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.



# MAY 2020 CROSSWORD

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



## Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)

24 Rule of sovereign (8)

25 Test (anag.) (4)

**Down**

1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)

2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)

4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)

5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)

6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)

7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)

8 Minister of religion (6)

13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)

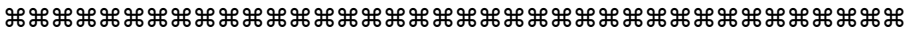
15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)

16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)

18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)

20 Establish by law (5)

21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)



**Crossword Solution ~ April 2020**

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



Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website and the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum"



# Time for a Smile

## Why Jesus walked on water

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. "Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it would not have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."



## A translation of a poster found in a church in France

When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving away.



*Our church warden is not letting people into the church just now.*

## Growing Up

Children have clearly started to develop when they stop asking where they came from and are not keen to tell you where they are going.

## Baby sitting

We encouraged our 18-year-old daughter to find a job to help pay for her college education. One day she came home with five applications, and later that evening we read them. Under 'Previous Employment', she listed 'Baby sitting'. And under 'Reason for Leaving' she wrote, 'They came home'.

## Unwanted Telephone Calls

Do you sometimes get pestered by unwanted telephone calls from people who want to either sell you something or get you to take part in a survey? If you see a number on your phone you don't recognise, try answering the phone with, "Hello, thanks for ringing. You're on the air now!" Most of them will hang up.

## Opportunities?!

A country conference centre which was much used by church groups had as its motto, "There are no problems here, only opportunities." A minister booked it for a weekend retreat with a group from his church. The day arrived and they all signed in and were shown to their rooms. A few minutes later the minister returned to the reception desk and said he had a problem. The receptionist responded with a smile and said, "Sir we don't have problems here, only opportunities." The minister said, "Call it what you like, but there's already a woman in my room."



*The twins had been doing  
Messy Church at home.*

## Tithing

Two friends were discussing the vicar's sermon on tithing. "Times are difficult," said one, "but it seems an important subject and I suppose we should follow what he said." His friend commented, "I wonder, though, how far you can take this tithing business. For instance, in this time of shortages, if I managed to buy thirty toilet rolls, would I be expected to give three to the church?"



## Meow

"What is your kitty's name, James?" asked the visitor. "Ben Hur," said James. "That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?" "Well, we just called him Ben - until he had kittens."



# COME HOLY SPIRIT

FILL  
OUR  
HEARTS

AND KINDLE  
IN US  
THE FIRE  
OF YOUR LOVE

