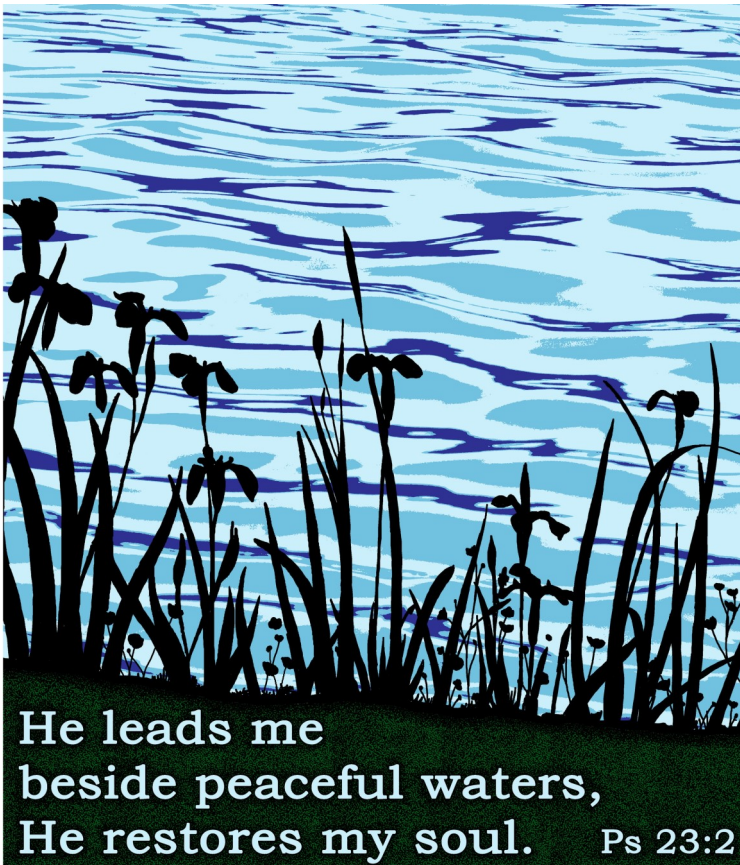




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 141 ~ July 2020



He leads me
beside peaceful waters,
He restores my soul. Ps 23:2

Letter from the vicarage...

'Things feel like they are beginning to get back to normal'. That is the feeling of some in these days, as from the 4th July further restrictions are lifted in England. Pubs, restaurants, holiday parks and cinemas can re-open. And wonderfully churches can too (to an extent). For that we give great thanks.



Of course in reality things will not be normal. We are having to get used to the so-called 'new normal' – distancing, queueing, face coverings and the like. Many still find themselves shielding until the end of this month, and the pain which that carries. Other countries are still sadly on the upward curve of the pandemic. Our own returning to church will be very different from what we have been used to.

Yet even when we do return to 'normal' – feeling more at home in our community, and world – we must not forget the feeling we have had during lockdown. Feelings of dislocation, of being in an alien environment, not quite at home even while stuck at home, and being adrift. For that is the life-long experience of a Christian.

The apostle Peter wrote to Christians through the Roman Empire and called them 'Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles' (1 Peter 2:11)

What are followers of Jesus? We are people of the far country. Jesus our king reigns from his heavenly kingdom. A kingdom we will one day be with him in face to face forever.

That means presently we are not 'home'. We are aliens (not little green men!) But foreigners – people who belong somewhere else.

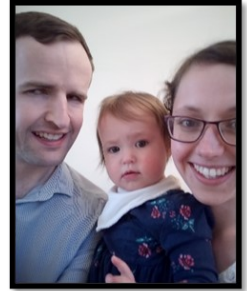
You might have had the experience of being on holiday in a different country, and walking out of the airport. You are met by a different language, signs in words you can't understand, Different ways of life moving around you. You are excited about exploring the country, of course, but you also are unsettled. You don't feel at home.

That is the Christian. We live here, we serve here, we seek to do good to our community and enjoy God's gifts. But this is not home. We are called to live differently, with our eyes on our king, as citizens of a different nation, and so strangers now.

A Warm Welcome to the Mulhollands!

An update on Kyle, Amy and Hannah

In the middle of July, St Paul's will have the joy and privilege of welcoming Kyle, Amy and Hannah Mulholland to be part of us at St Paul's. Kyle will be serving his title as Assistant Curate amongst us in the coming years. We got to know Kyle and Amy a little in our May edition (if you are online you can find this on the St Paul's website.) To my knowledge Kyle is the first curate St Paul's has had for at least 40 years.



Kyle will be initially licensed as a lay worker, enabling him to join the Diocese, and be formally commissioned for his work with us until his ordination. Kyle will be ordained as a deacon for one year, and then next year ordained as a presbyter ('priested').



The Diocese have kindly bought a house on Smithy Lane for the family to live in. July will be about them having time to settle in, and Kyle will begin to serve among us from August.

Welcome

Kyle's Story

As soon as I began to explore the Christian faith in 2012, I found myself hungry to know as much as possible about God, the Bible, and the Christian faith. I became a believer at the age of 22, while studying in Bristol. I then went to work for a church in Padiham near Burnley in a junior capacity. I saw the role as an opportunity to learn more about God. I even had the opportunity to do some preaching and teaching - so I know something of what it was like for Jesus' disciples when, barely understanding his teaching themselves, they were sent out to preach to the people! (Compare Mark 6:7-13 with Mark 8:14-21).

I was in Padiham from 2013-2015, and God taught me a great deal during that time. While I was at Padiham, I did a one-day-a-week preaching course in Leyland, where I first met Paul Bye.

It was at Padiham, that I first began to consider whether God was calling me into the ordained ministry. I had done some preaching and other ministries: did God want me to devote my whole life to this? My vicar at the time wasn't convinced. He doubted my organisational skills, for one thing. But on a deeper level, he wasn't sure whether my character conformed to the Biblical standard. 1 Timothy 3 sets out the characteristics that a Christian minister should have. Mark, the vicar, didn't think my life matched up to those standards. He was right.

It was hard to hear. At the time I prayed that God would transform my character, not primarily so that I could become a minister, but because I wanted to honour God with my life. I believe that God used various things over the next couple of years to do this. The biggest influence God used to change me, was Amy. Amy and I met in late 2014 and began dating soon after. At that time it became clear to me that I had to seek to live for Jesus 24/7. Like every Christian, I still struggle with sin and temptation; but I'm thankful to God for what he has been doing in me over these last five years. Amy and I married in 2017.

I left Padiham in 2015 and moved to Winsford in Cheshire, where I worked as a lay assistant minister. By that time, Mark was supporting me going into the ordained ministry. Over the next year or so, I prayed that, if it was God's will, God would lead me through the Church of England's process so that I would be recommended for training. But I also prayed that, if this was not what God wanted me to do with my life, he would close the door. God opened the door, and I was recommended for training.

In September 2017 we moved to Oak Hill, a college in North London that trains people for the ordained ministry. The teaching and practical training I have received over the last three years has been excellent. During that time, our daughter Hannah was born, on 13th January 2019.

Ordinands - people training for ordination in the Church of England - typically don't get to choose where they end up. I suppose it reminds us that God is ultimately in control of our lives, and we're not. In 2018, some Christian friends told us they had heard good things about Paul and Ruth Bye from Paul's training incumbent, and were hopeful that the diocese would match me up with Paul. But we had no control over it.

Amy and I prayed that, if it was God's will, he would send us to St Paul's - but it was in God's hands. When, after a complex and in some ways difficult process, the diocese eventually 'phoned to suggest that I consider serving under Paul at St Paul's, I was certain, almost straight away that the Lord was in it. A weekend with the Bye family, and a visit to

the church, confirmed to us that this was where God had been leading us all along. We come to St Paul's in this confidence.

We wanted to visit you all in May, and move in June; and the plan was for me to be ordained on 28th June at St Paul's. But coronavirus and lockdown have meant that everything has been pushed back. I will be licensed as a lay worker in your parish on 27th June - before I even physically arrive! We move into our house on Smithy Lane on 10th July and hope to meet you all in whatever way we can, after that. My ordination will be at the end of September. We are thankful to God for his great love for us in all things, and we are very much looking forward to being with you.



What does it mean to be a Training Parish?

Being a designated a training parish for Kyle is a great privilege and responsibility. As such, St Paul's is to provide a supportive context in which Kyle can be prepared for future gospel ministry. It is an exciting step for the church, having a hand in helping prepare a new generation for gospel ministry. But it is also new for us, so will take some time for everyone to adjust. It will mean a change in my (Paul's) role to enable me complete the required training aspects which are needed to allow a curate to train.

As a training parish, we are to be like the soil in which a seed is planted, and nurtured in its growth.

Good soil in this setting means:

- * Loving and encouraging Kyle, Amy and Hannah;
- * Recognising the curacy is about someone forming, not arriving fully formed (though Kyle comes with experience having served in a number of churches). As such allowing people to try new things and make mistakes, as well as recognising we all have different characteristics, gifts and styles.
- * Freeing Kyle to engage in new things as his training might require, and enabling his IME 4-7 (post ordination training done jointly with other curates) to have priority over parish responsibilities.

Please do be praying for Kyle, Amy and Hannah as they make the move back up north, and adjust to life in a new setting, with new people, at hugely strange and unsettling time in the wider world.

New Archbishop of York to be confirmed



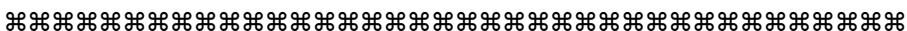
Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month. The service, at 11am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts. A legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music, will be followed by a film marking the start of Bishop

Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world.

"These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online. Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north."

The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.



Sea Sunday 12th July

Sea Sunday is a day set aside by many Christian churches to remember and pray for seafarers and their families around the world; and to give thanks for their lives and work.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



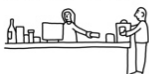
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY- THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



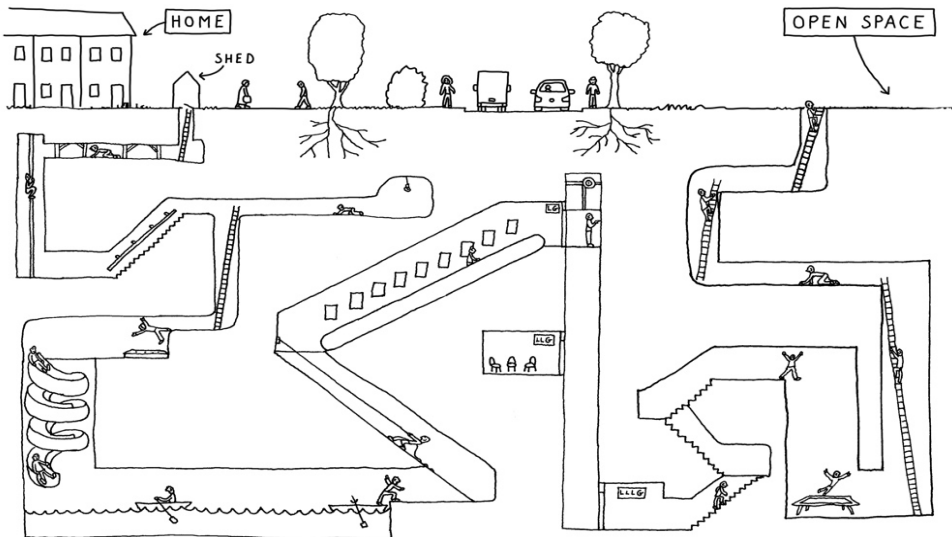
MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

EXERCISE

HOW TO AVOID EVERYONE ELSE



CartoonChurch.com

Editor: We now have a subscription to the Dave Walker website 'CartoonChurch.com'.

JUST A THOUGHT

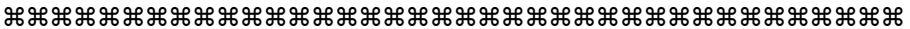
Something to Think About



Have you ever considered praying *for* God instead of *to* God. God, after all, is love; and love suffers. As God's love-inspired creation suffers then so does God suffer. So we should pray for God in His suffering.

OK, maybe by definition it's not possible to pray *for* God. Nevertheless perhaps thinking about it might help us when we pray *to* God. Just a thought.

An Anonymous Parishioner

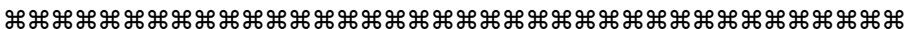


'Safe Spaces' in Boots

Boots has become one of the first high street stores to create 'safe spaces' to help victims of domestic abuse who need help during the coronavirus lockdown.

The pharmacy chain, which is the biggest retailer of its kind in the UK, has opened consultation rooms in its 2,400 high street stores. People who have been unable to seek help while trapped at home with an abusive partner can access these 'safe space' rooms.

There they will find posters providing the phone numbers of the key support services, as well as helplines whom they can call without fear of their abuser eavesdropping on them.



Important Update: Services in Church

St. Paul's PCC is aware that restrictions about meeting for services within the church building have been lifted but at the time of printing, no details have yet been confirmed as to how we will go about that at St. Paul's. We will update you as soon as possible.

ARTICLES FOR THE AUGUST PNE



If you have an article for inclusion in the August PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by **Wednesday 15th July**.

Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Good News! The Church Building has Re-Opened for Private Prayer

The Standing Committee of the PCC are pleased to announce that it has taken the decision to re-open the church building for private prayer. risk assessments have been undertaken and careful thought given as to how to safely and sustainably open the church building for private prayer,

The Church will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9.30am-4pm, commencing Wednesday 24th June.

While we hope this will be a real benefit to congregation members and the community, we also want to make you aware of the important steps which have been put in place to seek to make people as safe as possible. These include removal of common touch objects, separation of pews to allow social distancing, a one way system and a strict cleaning regime.

While the PCC has put in place measures to seek to reduce risk as much as possible, it is impossible to remove all risk or possibility of contamination. Anyone coming to pray privately must be aware that they have a responsibility to assess their own personal risk and enter on that basis. The pews which have been used, as well as common touch surfaces will be cleaned down after each day of opening. It will not be possible to clean them down between users, however.

If you are in the **extremely vulnerable category**, we strongly urge you not to enter the building. If you would like certain matters prayed for, or would like to talk to someone please do not hesitate to ring 01253 734562. If you are in the **vulnerable category**, we ask you to seriously consider the risks to yourself before choosing to enter.

People must not to enter if you have coronavirus symptoms. The safe use of face coverings are encouraged.

Further instructions on social distancing, the one-way system around the building, hand sanitisation will be found on entering the building. There will be a maximum of 8 people in the building at any one time.

We ask that people stagger when they visit (for example if you are a 10.30am Service member please don't all visit at 10.30am on Sunday!) Also we ask that people do not plan to attend the building with others, except those in your household.

The Frailty of Life

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers
some comforting words from Isaiah.*

According to one survey, during the lockdown, a quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service and one in 20 have started praying. While the majority of people who contract Covid-19 survive, it reminds us that we are much more frail and weak than we like to think. As the prophet Isaiah says:

*'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness
is like the flowers of the field.*

*The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.*

*Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers
fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'* (Isaiah 40:6-8).

Isaiah's words really resonate at this time. In more normal times we can avoid facing up to our vulnerability, but this pandemic has forced us to recognise our weakness and fragility.

However, this shouldn't lead us to despair or fear; rather it is an opportunity to worship and praise for His constancy and care. In Peter's first letter he quotes this passage from Isaiah and says,

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed,
but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

(1 Peter 1:23)

Peter contrasts our mortality with the eternal Word of God, which bring us new birth and life through the power of the Spirit. Jesus died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, so that through faith in Him we can know eternal life. We don't need to be afraid of our frailty, for God is a dependable foundation on which to build our lives and face eternity.

*'We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree.
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.'*
(Immortal, invisible, Walter C Smith).

A Poetical Challenge!

Nigel Beeton writes: Shirley, my Mother-in-Law, was 92 on Friday 26th May. She can't walk well, so copying Major Tom's feat of 100 trips around the garden will not be possible, nor even 92, but she set herself a lockdown challenge of reading through the Bible. Facing the book of Numbers, I said that if she'd read the book, I'd write a poem based on a passage from Numbers!

She's now in Deuteronomy, so here's my poem, from Numbers 20:1-13!

Speak, don't Strike!

Now Moses, a prophet of old
Was obedient wise, and quite bold
The Israelites he
Led through the Red Sea
(They generally did as he told.)

To get to that great Promised Land
They had to cross miles of sand
The Desert of Zin
Caused them to grow thin
No water or food was to hand.

The people, at this, then rebelled
At Moses and Aaron they yelled,
"You and your thick head!
"We wish we were dead!
"For drinks and good grub are withheld!"

For Moses, this wasn't that nice;
He turned to the Lord for advice,
"To the rock you must go,
"And tell it to flow,
"And water will come in a trice!"

So Moses went out straight away,
But the people had caused such dismay
That he disobeyed God –
Struck the rock with his rod,
But the water came out anyway.

Said God, (disappointed, of course):
"I told you to SPEAK to that source,
"You won't go, as planned
"To my promised land,
"You should have used words, not brute force!"



By Nigel Beeton

Local is back!

Rev Peter Crumpler considers the effect of coronavirus on our lives.

Odd things have been happening to my world in these past weeks of lockdown.

It's got bigger. I've been speaking regularly via the web with friends in Australia and the United States. Worshippers from Canada and South Africa are taking part in our online church services. Other churches are telling the same stories, with increasing numbers of people logging on.

It's got smaller. Even with the relaxation of regulations, many people are still working from home, home-schooling and mostly exercising within walking or cycling distance from where they live.

It's got faster. Arrangements for a funeral in my family were speeded up, with registration and funeral planning carried out over the phone. A doctor's appointment by telephone significantly cut down waiting time.

It's got slower. Shopping takes longer with queues that people would have complained about before the lockdown. The shops have done a great job to keep the shelves stocked and maintain social distancing.

I've been thinking about what the long-term impact of the Covid-19 lockdown might be. One of the key outcomes is that **local is back**. For decades, we've been hearing about globalization, and how the world is a much more connected place. It is, and the internet has kept many vital businesses running these past weeks. But we've also come to value what's on our doorstep and in our local streets.

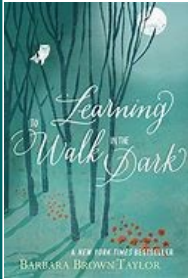
Neighbours have become more important. We're valuing local shops, pubs and restaurants, parks and open spaces. All the people working hard to keep local services going.

Christianity is now a major global religion, with billions of followers around the world. But it began local. It began with Jesus Christ, travelling by foot, preaching and healing around a small area of the middle east. From its local roots, the faith spread around the world.

Today, churches around the world are deeply rooted in their local communities and are seeking to follow Christ's example of love and caring. Each of us is rooted into our family, into our key relationships and into where we live. During this pandemic, each of these has grown in importance.

Some Book Reviews

Learning to Walk in the Dark – because God often shows up at night by Barbara Brown Taylor, Canterbury Press, £12.99

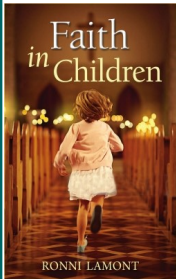


Barbara Brown Taylor explores 'the treasures of darkness' that the Bible speaks about. What can we learn about the ways of God when we cannot see the way ahead, are lost, alone, frightened, not in control or when the world around us seems to have descended into darkness?

Contemporary culture throws many brightly lit distractions at us to divert our attention away from the dark, but Barbara Brown Taylor combines her great grace, sensitivity and insight as a writer and priest with the deep wisdom of the biblical and Christian traditions to discover how God is more present to our vulnerable, open night-time selves than to our pre-occupied daylight selves.



Faith in Children by Ronni Lamont, Monarch, £9.99

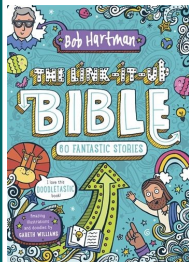


This book offers a window into the process going on inside our children and enables those who work with them to understand what makes a particular child 'tick'. With insights into a range of teaching methods, learning styles and the unique spirituality of children, this book suggests how adults can truly learn from children as they learn from us.

There are also tips for ministers and educators on how this precious teaching and nurturing resource can be sustained and used to work with children in a more effective manner. Through this increasing knowledge and understanding, adults can come closer to understanding children understanding God.



The Link-It-Up Bible by Bob Hartman, SPCK, £9.99

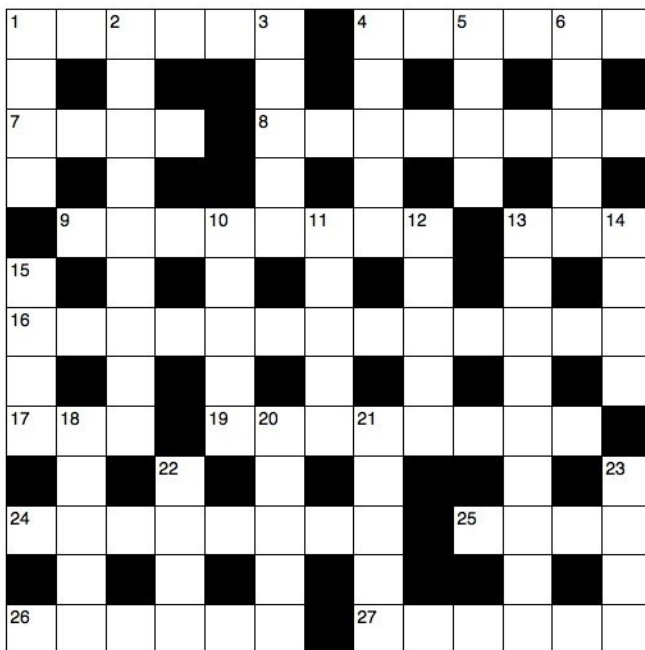


Highly visual and interactive, this book of more than 60 stories, highlights the links between stories and draws attention to the wider themes of the Bible.

With arrows zipping across the page, pull-out text boxes asking the reader questions and illustration elements bringing each story to life, this book sees the whole Bible linked up and connected to show the bigger story at work - and the God behind it all.

JULY 2020 CROSSWORD

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



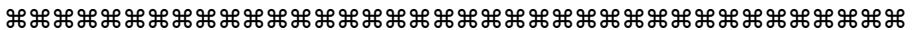
Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)

- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)



Crossword Solution ~ June 2020

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



parish pump
www.parishpump.co.uk

Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump



Member editor 2020

Website and the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum"

Time for a Smile

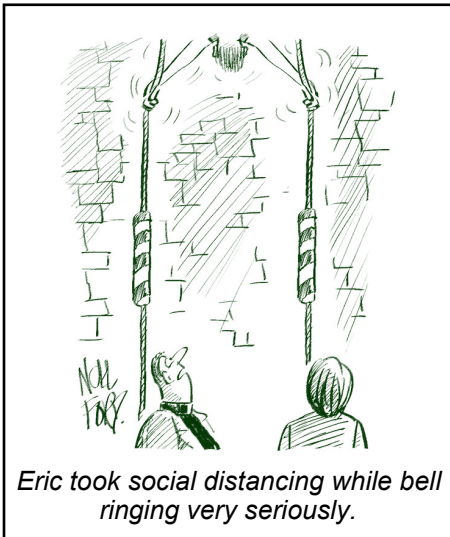
The queue

While waiting in a long queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.

The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."



Eric took social distancing while bell ringing very seriously.

New version of Apostles' Creed

When our church began live streaming its services, our minister was at first a bit nervous. Still, he kept his cool, and you would never have known he was struggling until he reached the Apostles' Creed. Then he firmly announced that Jesus was..."confused by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..."

New style of prayer

Our minister is still getting used to live streaming our church services. Last Sunday he invited us to join him digitally in prayer by saying firmly: "Let's bow our eyes and close our heads."



Lost in translation

Last year, some friends took their six-year-old on a car trip to France. To help pass the time on the way down to the Channel, they encouraged their son to practise his new reading skills by calling out road signs.

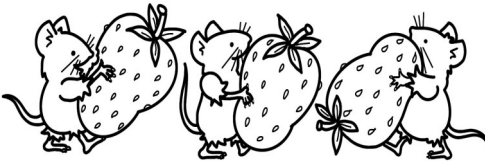
He fell asleep just before they entered France. When he awoke, he saw the French motorway signs and said in a worried tone, "I think I forgot how to read while I was asleep."



They were trying to remember when they had last left the house.

Seen on a Church Notice Board

You'll like it in here – the church is prayer conditioned.



Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

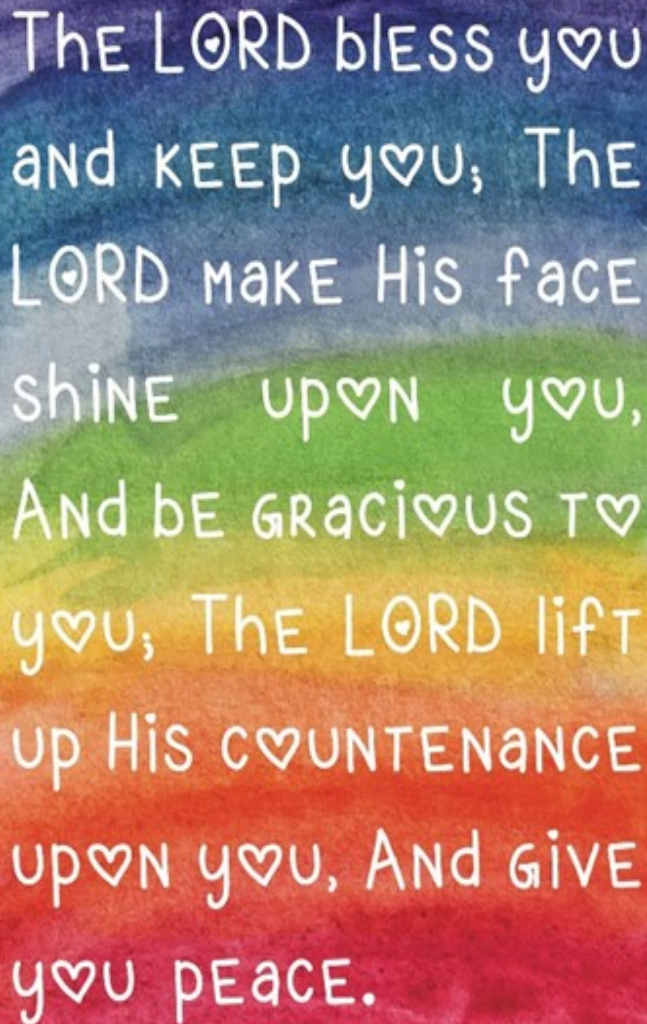
The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.

And finally



THE LORD BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU; THE
LORD MAKE HIS FACE
SHINE UPON YOU,
AND BE GRACIOUS TO
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UP HIS COUNTENANCE
UPON YOU, AND GIVE
YOU PEACE.