



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

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 143 ~ September 2020



CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Licensed Lay Minister (Curate)	Mr Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)	Miss Janet Kimber
Church Warden	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



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>

Letter from the vicarage...

*'All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
for all his love.'*



As we move into September and harvest time, our minds are rightly focused on God's good gifts in creation.

Perhaps, this year more than ever, it is to be recognised as a precious gift from our Father. As we have found ourselves locked down for so many months, nature and outside spaces have become a lifeline. They have provided support physically, emotionally and mentally, as well as the first place we were able to be begin to reconnect with people.

Research by Natural England carried out during lockdown shows how important spending time in nature is for our wellbeing.

In April 2020, urban green spaces - such as parks and playing fields - were the most visited type of green and natural space, with 41% of adults visiting them. The large majority of adults (86%) with access to a private garden or allotment felt that these green spaces were important to them. 87% of adults agreed that 'being in nature makes me happy'. However, in April, over a quarter (26%) also reported that they had not visited any green and natural space.

God is a creator God, creating this planet with wisdom, intricacy, and wonder. He created it not simply as a resource for us to use to survive. But also one which would delight our hearts and minds. It is no surprise that we find life in the world of the God who gives life.

That should lead us to enjoy creation. But also pause to praise our maker.

King David said:

*'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies
proclaim the work of his hands.'* (Psalm 19:1)

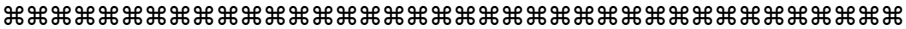
Creation is wonderful. It has been (and continues to be) a source of sustenance for many in these difficult times. If you are able, enjoy it, pause in it, and think on it.

But don't stop there. Let it lead us beyond it. The coastal view, the bracing wind, the deep sunset, the bright sunflower opening and the developing fruit on trees all point us to a Father in heaven who is mighty and generous. One who loves to give good gifts. Who most of all gave his one and only Son to make a way back to him. It leads us to the one who is also rightly worthy of our praise and obedience.

This harvest, let us have all the more reason to be thankful to God for his gifts in creation. Let it spur us to greater delight and following of Jesus.

Every blessing

Paul



Harvest at St Paul's

Sunday 20th Sept will mark Harvest Sunday here at St Paul's. This year, perhaps more than any year, it is right that we pause to thank God for his provision of our daily needs, and to turn our eyes to the needs in God's world.

Both the 10am and 11am service will mark Harvest. If the weather looks good, we may look to hold the 11am service in the church grounds – an opportunity to be closer to God's world (More details will follow). Both will include an opportunity to respond to God's goodness for those who wish. This could be through the donations of dried and packaged goods for the Fylde Foodbank, or through financial donations to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. Last year this raised nearly £24,000.

This year the projects supported by the Appeal are:

The Friends of the Holy Land is a charity working in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in Israel and aims to support Christian communities there which often find themselves living in very difficult circumstances.



tearfund Tearfund is a global charity which seeks to work with local churches and local people to find solutions to poverty and injustice. Any money raised will go into their relief fund, which is currently being used to respond to issues caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

More information on these two projects can be found on our website, including links of how to give online. You are able to Gift Aid the donation if you give this way. If you are at all able to give online, please consider it.

Paper copies of the leaflet including information on how to give by cheque are also available on request. This year, individuals will choose which of the two projects they wish to give to. Cheques can be brought on Harvest Sunday to St Paul's. Please write on the back of the cheque which of the two projects you wish your donation to go towards. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we will not be accepting cash donations for the Appeal this year.

<https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/harvest-appeal.html>

Lancashire COVID-19 Community Support Fund

We are thrilled to announce that St Paul's has been awarded a grant of £4800 to help support our community during this time of crisis.

Our huge thanks go to the Lancashire COVID-19 Community Support Fund and National Emergencies Trust for this generous grant. Through it, we have been able to:

Purchase 5 tablets with internet capability

To be lent to member of the community who would struggle to access online resources in other ways. The first tablet has been lent to a family in a local school to help with internet access and home-school learning. It is aimed that the tablets will be used to help people access the Bereavement Journey course, can be offered to more school families if needed, and support others taking their first trip into the online world.



Purchase of School Books

To help children who would benefit from additional support following this time of home schooling, we have been able to purchase a batch of books to give to a local school for them to give to children who would most benefit from them. We hope to do the same for another school in September,

Bereavement Journey *(Please see page 9 for details)*

In September we are looking to host a 6-week course called the Bereavement Journey, to support people in our local community who are experiencing grief and bereavement. The grant enabled the purchasing of the materials to do this.

Jigsaw Library

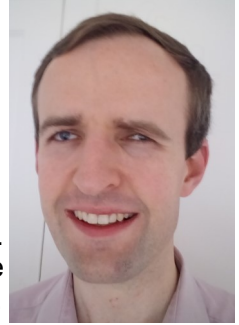
There are plans in progress to set up a jig saw lending library, and the grant has purchased 20 jigsaws (including those suitable for people with dementia or limited ability) It is hoped this will benefit people's mental health, both in our current crisis and beyond.

Colouring Books and Plants

To support people's mental health, we have resources to purchase and distribute in September around 40 colouring books and pencil sets, as well as bedding plants to vulnerable people locally.

Please Consider Fasting With Me The Day Before My Ordination

by Kyle Mulholland
[Licensed Lay Minister (Curate)]



On 23 March, Boris Johnson announced the lockdown. Schools and workplaces were all to be closed, and face-to-face GP appointments would be severely restricted. Churches would not be allowed to meet. Grandparents could no longer hug their grandchildren. I didn't watch the announcement live: but I vividly remember Amy coming up the stairs and telling me the news. I was floored: I slumped in my chair and groaned deeply.

My mind was immediately overwhelmed with innumerable thoughts and questions; and my heart was greatly troubled. That night, I didn't know what to pray. But I came almost immediately under this conviction: "I must fast." Fasting was fresh in my mind, having come up in the last three Bible books I had studied; and so I resolved to fast.

Fasting is the opposite of comfort-eating. Comfort-eating is often an attempt to distract from or cure an inner emptiness, sadness, or pain, by enjoying something pleasurable. But when you fast, you *embrace* and *express* your emptiness, sadness, and pain by experiencing it physically as well as mentally and emotionally. Fasting is a kind of physical prayer: your body says, "Lord, I'm weak; things are not as they should be: Lord, come, fill me, strengthen me, help me."

Amid all the uncertainties of that night, I knew this: things were not as they should be. I fasted for about 36 hours from that Monday evening until early Wednesday morning, eating no food and drinking no water during that time. I then fasted for one whole day every week for I think the next 7 weeks.

Fasting brought alive to me a number of biblical themes, which I could talk about at length. But here is a little summary of what I experienced:

Hunger. Obviously, I felt very hungry. I felt most hungry at teatime, about 5:30pm; and the feeling died down a little after that. (Interestingly, even after a whole day, I don't think I truly experienced thirst.)

Physical weakness. I became more and more weak as the day went on. By the afternoon, I had a strong desire to be horizontal! Hannah, little as she is, felt very heavy to lift and carry.

Mental lowness. It was a "down day:" I felt quite sad. Good things were hard to enjoy. I found it difficult to concentrate, to pray articulately, and to converse for long.

A longing for tomorrow. I more and more wanted the day to be over, and the next day to arrive; because I knew that the next day I would enjoy the things that today I was going without.

When the next day finally came, everything I ate tasted amazing, and my mood was totally uplifted.


With the lovely sunshine, reduced workload, and increased family time of those lockdown months, I could have been fooled into thinking that everything was OK. But fasting constantly reminded me that things were not OK, and that I needed to keep praying for the Lord's help, guidance, and blessing, not only for myself, but also for our country and the wider world.

I bring these things to you, not to look religious (Matthew 6:16-18 warns against that!), but because I want to ask for your help. My ordination is on Sunday 27 September; and I want to ask you to fast with me the day before, Saturday 26 September.

There are various "commissionings" in the book of Acts, where God sets particular people apart for particular works. These events are probably the closest thing to an "ordination" in the infant church. These commissionings, formally done through the laying on of hands, are often preceded by fasting. See, for example, Acts 9:1-22; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:21-23. The fasting functions as a kind of physical prayer; a way of saying, "Lord, without your help we are empty, weak, and powerless: fill us with your Spirit, so that we can do this work." It's right to have this mindset before being set apart for some important task. The Church of England today continues to encourage the practice of fasting before ordination on what are called "ember days."

I will therefore be fasting on Saturday 26 September, the day before my ordination. My sense of helplessness without God has only been heightened by the times we are living in, and by fasting I will be asking for God's enabling help in my ministry. I ask you to fast with me on that day, if you are able, joining me in prayer for his help, and trusting that he rewards those who do this in faith (Matt 6:18). Doing this together will bind us together in the Lord at this crucial time. If you are able to fast for the whole day, half a day, or at least for one meal, I invite you to do so. "Go without" in some way on that day, and pray with me for the Lord's help in the work which we will do together.

I will be very grateful to God for any who join me in doing this.




The Bereavement
Journey

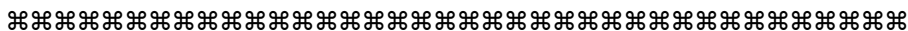
Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss?

St Paul's Church are looking to host a six-session course in September.

To register interest call 01253 732939 or email stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com



thebereavementjourney.org



ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER PNE

If you have an article for inclusion in the September PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by
Tuesday 15th September.

Thank you.

Janet Kimber



What's in Your Hand?

Canon Paul Hardingham considers our personal resources – in light of the pandemic.

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

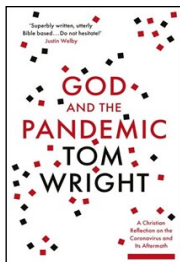
When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, *'What is in your hand?'* (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, *'I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.'* A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!



What has God given you that will help and encourage others?

A Couple of Book Reviews:



God and the Pandemic – a Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath by Tom Wright, SPCK, £7.99

What are we supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis? Some people think they know: “This is a sign of the End,” they say. “It’s all predicted in the book of Revelation.”

Others disagree but are equally clear: “This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease He’s telling us to change.” Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: “It’s the fault of the Chinese, the Government, the World Health Organization...”

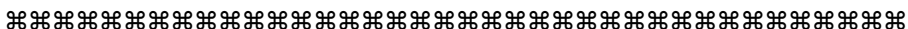
Tom Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he invites you to consider a different way of seeing and responding – a way that draws on the teachings and examples of scripture, and above all on the way of living, thinking and praying revealed to us by Jesus.



Tumbling Sky – Psalm Devotions for Weary Souls by Matt Searles, 10Publishing, £3.99

Gentle and wise, this devotional is balm for bruised souls. It will comfort and enable you to see the love of God afresh.

Honest and wholly Christ-centred, these Psalm devotions shine the light of God’s truth and grace into some of the darkest corners of our emotions. They help us to see the joy we can have even in the midst of pain, giving rich comfort, refreshment and hope to the suffering believer.



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.

The Spirit of Fruitiness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25)

It was quarterly review time for Max, a personal banking manager. He sat opposite his area manager, cup of tea in hand, as shoppers pootled along the High Street below. “So”, the area manager began, “How do you feel things have been going since we last met?”

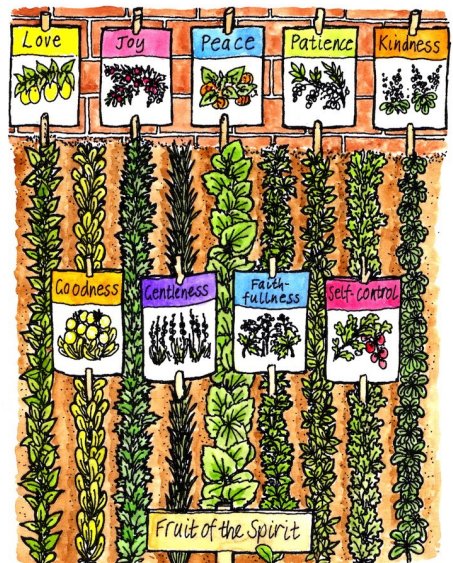
“Pretty good,” answered Max. “I’ve definitely been feeling calmer at work; you know, less stressed... I guess more at peace with myself.”

“I’ve noticed that too,” she responded. “You do seem calmer; less irritable. I’ve not really heard you complain about anything. Can I ask why you think this is?”

That conversation happened just a few months ago, and Max was able to share how he’d recently become a Christian, and what a difference God was making in his life. When God’s Holy Spirit makes Himself at home within us, our lives change. St Paul calls this ‘the fruit of the Spirit’.

Fruit is a great metaphor. The fruit of the Spirit isn’t something we stick onto the outside of our lives, like baubles on a Christmas tree. Rather, it flows out from us, as we soak up the nutrients of God’s Word and His holy presence. We cannot force out this spiritual fruit by tapping into our inner resources or by trying harder. This really is about God changing us, as we ‘keep in step with the Spirit’.

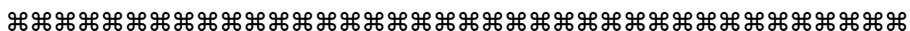
Healthy fruit is a sign of a healthy tree, and it shares its harvest with the surrounding ecosystem: birds, insects, Homo sapiens, and even our mortal enemies, wasps...



Paul has already shown us how sin dehumanises and robs us of life, but the Spirit makes us more like Christ, the most fully alive human of all. And when we are like Him, it's good for everyone.

Fruit brings blessing. It's a manifestation of the life of God's kingdom, bringing the sweetness of His presence to the people and places where it's tasted. In that way, it furthers God's mission. The fruit in our lives is a signpost to the life-giving God.

So today, do not hide your fruit under a bowl! Instead, put it out on the table, that people may taste your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.



Fruit of the Spirit

(Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8)

Opportunities

To ripen your fruit in our lives,
Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in your Spirit,
Know your warmth
And your light,

Allow the segments of
Self-control, gentleness,
Faithfulness, goodness,
Kindness, patience, peace and joy
To be lubricated and sweetened
By love,

Showing the world
Your nature transforming
Our natures,
In the fruit bowl of our lives
In Jesus.

Lord give opportunities
For the hungry to taste
Your ripening fruit in us,
See that you are good
And come to you.

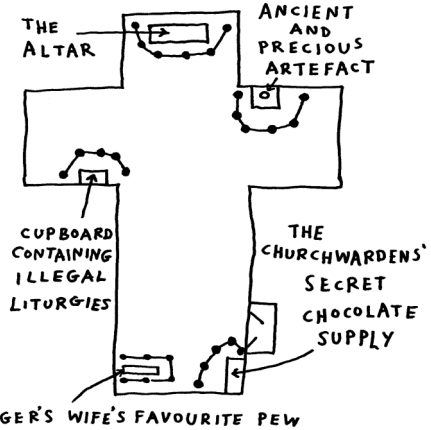
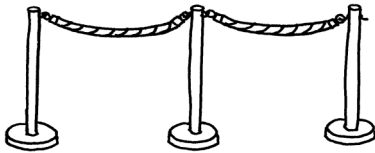
By Daphne Kitching



Editor: Restricted areas in church aren't quite as new as we think!

RESTRICTED AREAS

VISITORS TO A CHURCH ARE GENERALLY ALLOWED TO WANDER AROUND AS THEY PLEASE. HOWEVER, ONE OR TWO AREAS MAY BE ROPED-OFF



CartoonChurch.com

Editor: If only live-streaming were this simple!

THE SOUND DESK OPERATOR

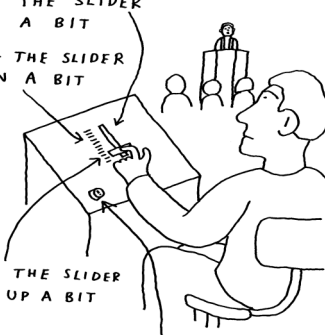
RESPONSIBILITIES

MOVING THE SLIDER UP A BIT

MOVING THE SLIDER DOWN A BIT

MOVING THE SLIDER BACK UP A BIT

EVERY NOW AND THEN PRESSING THE 'SUDDEN UNEXPECTED FEEDBACK' BUTTON



PERKS OF THE JOB

BEING ABLE TO HAVE MINTS DURING THE SERMON

HAVING SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 'WIRES AND CABLES' BOX



CartoonChurch.com

A Timely Thought About Giving

*By John Farrow**

'Riding home after church one Sunday morning, a mother commented, 'The choir was awful this morning.' And the father said, 'I thought the sermon was far too long.' Their cheeky 7-year-old daughter piped up from the back seat, 'You have to admit though, it was a pretty good morning out for a pound.'

Did you smile at the quote above when you read it in a recent Ideas Forum? Sadly, it actually reflects the attitude some people have to church-going and church giving. How did you decide on the amount you currently give to your church each week? When did you last really think about how much you choose to put in the weekly collection envelope, or in the basket, or in the Standing Order? And more importantly, why do you choose to donate anything at all? No-one makes you pay anything to attend church. You are welcome to go every week and no one would demand that you pay even a £1, as the family above did. But think for a moment of all that God provides for us - life, family, friends, health, the riches of nature, music, beauty, art, and even his own Son to die for our sins on the cross and rise again to give us everlasting life. Yes, God gives freely, even abundantly, so isn't it reasonable to ask how should we respond to his generosity?

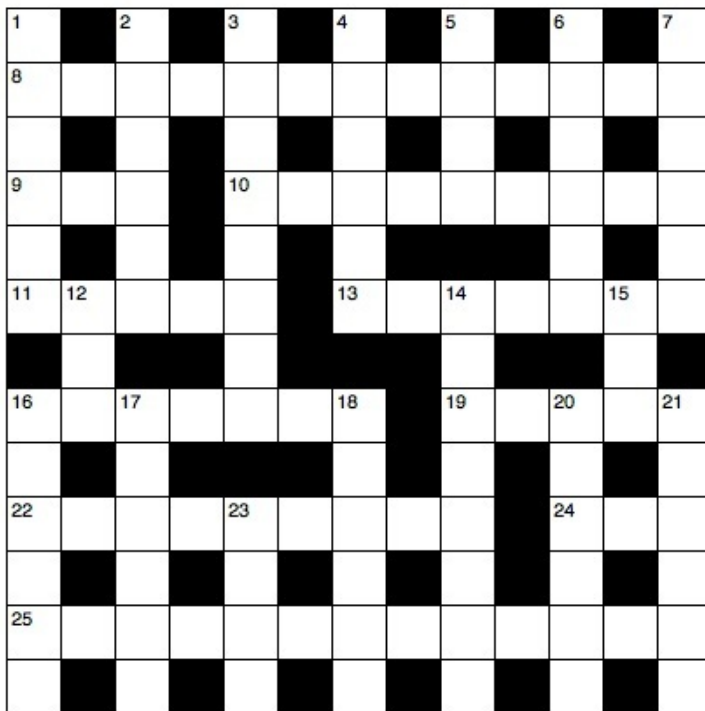
Each church is where it is because, in the past, people have given generously. Many people would see the building as the church, but in reality it is the people who worship in it that are the 'real' church. We are a community gathered in the love of God, seeking to share the good news of that love. Part of our worship is to give thanks to God for all he has done for us. And in response we can give our time, and our skills, but also a regular gift of money. The church needs all of these to function properly. It is often said that people only value what they pay for, so isn't it reasonable for us to think of the value of what God has done for us? Surely, we can't argue with this quote from the Bible: 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' (*Matthew 6:21*)



**Until July 2020, John Farrow was the editor of the 'Ideas Forum' for the Association of Church Editors, from which I have taken many of the articles for the Pews News Extra.*

SEPTEMBER 2020 CROSSWORD

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



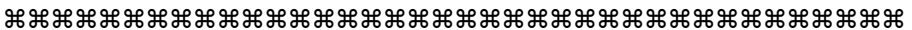
Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)

- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down


- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
 2 See 24 Across
 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)




Crossword Solution ~ August 2020

J	O	H	N		A	N	D	J	A	M	E	S	
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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". We have recently added a subscription with 'Cartoon Church'.



Member editor 2020

Time for a Smile

With Back to School in mind...

School

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

Borrowed

Teacher: We borrowed our numerals from the Arabs, our calendar from the Romans, and our banking from the Italians. Can anyone think of other examples?

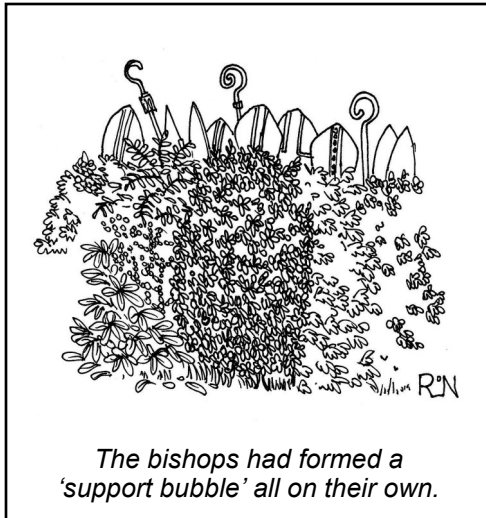
Student: Well, we borrowed our lawnmower from the Smiths, our ladder from the Browns, and our hose from the Jones....

Writing home

A boy was sent by his parents to a school a long distance from home. He had been strictly enjoined to write home regularly and tell them all about himself and his new life. At the end of the first week, his first text arrived: "There are 370 boys here. I wish there were 369."

Essays

A second year student explaining to a first year student how to write essays: "When you take stuff from one writer, it's plagiarism, but when you take it from many writers, it's called research."



Middle class

Young son to father: "Dad, what is the middle class?"

Dad: "The middle class consists of people who are not poor enough to accept charity and not rich enough to donate anything."

Who is where?

A man was very sick. Doctors feared the worst. As he lay at home, he suddenly looked up and said weakly: "Is my wife here?"

His wife replied, "Yes, dear, I'm here, next to you."

The man whispered: "Are my children here?"

"Yes, Daddy, we are all here," said the children.

"Are my brother and sister also here?"

And they say, "Yes, we are all here..."

The man sat up and cried, "Then why in the world is the light on in the kitchen?"



HARVEST

As Party Conference season begins and the US Presidential election draws closer:

Decide

Politician to aide:
"About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

Are Politicians the Oldest Profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"

And finally

