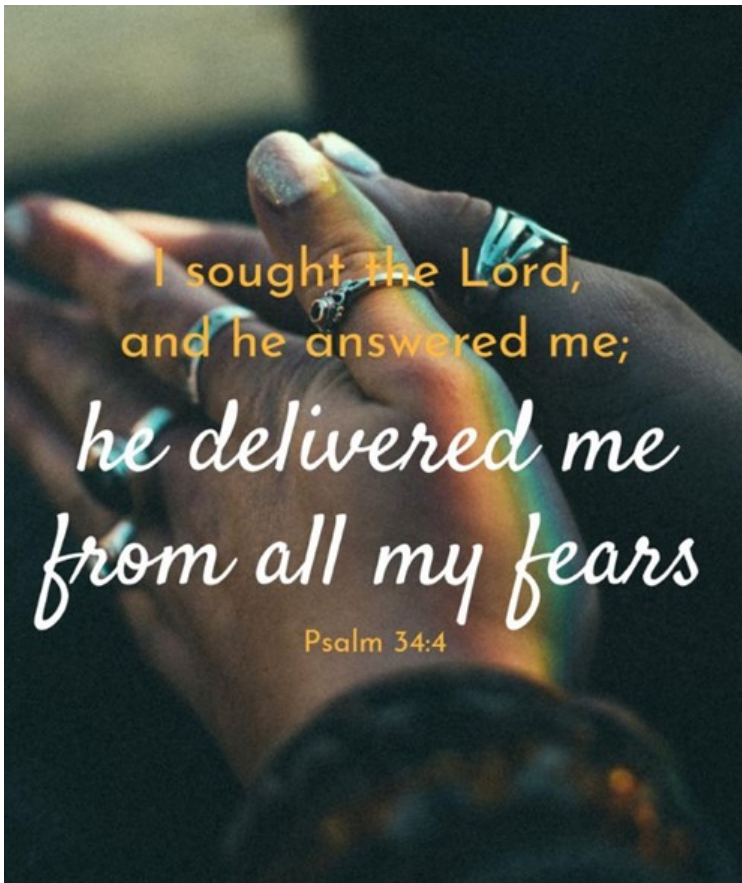




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven  
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

# PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 144 ~ October 2020



I sought the Lord,  
and he answered me;

*he delivered me  
from all my fears*

Psalm 34:4



# Letter from the vicarage...

If there is one emotion surrounding us at this time, it is fear. Whether it is at the national level or in our own personal lives, fear is real and close to many of us. Perhaps it is fear of what this winter might bring, for our health or of isolation. Fear of things changing once again, of what others might think of me, of going out, of missing out, fear of failure, or even fear of fear.



Fear is not necessarily all bad. Some fear is healthy and common sense. It preserves life. In some cases fearlessness can spring from ignorance or arrogance. But fear can also panic us to make impulsive decisions or paralyse us into making no decisions. It can make us to turn in on ourselves and away from others. It can cast a shadow that obscures our view of Jesus. In the media, the government has been accused of acting out of anxiety. But closer to home, I know I have acted out of fear and I suspect you will have too, which is why we need each other's help. It may hit us in different ways – but fear is something many of us will be battling with.

So what hope is there?

When Paul wrote to a younger minister called Timothy, who himself was faced with situations which brought fear, he said:

*'For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline' (2 Timothy 1:7)*

Paul says this to Timothy in light of the ministry he undertakes. However, the same Spirit is given to all Jesus' followers.

The Spirit enables us to push against fear. Because He gives us:-

**Power** – The Spirit leads us to Jesus and the good news about him – the gospel, which is God's power. Power which says if we are trusting Jesus, death is not ultimately something to fear, for Jesus has made a way through it. Power which says to us though you are weak, Jesus' strength is sufficient to help you. Power which says Jesus is with us, which gives us power to move forward and not simply stand still or go backward.

**Love** – The Spirit reminds us of God's unstoppable love. It leads to us to keep showing that love to others. Not to withdraw from our neighbours or our church family, focusing on what is easy or comfortable for me.

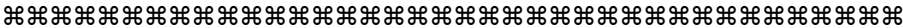
But instead the power to love them in the ways we are able from the different places in which we find ourselves (for we all find ourselves in different situations, and how we love each other will look different too).

**Self-Discipline** - That is hard. It is not always simple. So the Spirit helps us to be disciplined to fight against the temptation to give up or give in. The Spirit helps us to be disciplined in thinking through what is the wise thing to do in any situation. Sometimes that will mean being cautious and careful. The opposite of fear is not carelessness. But sometimes it will mean a step out of our comfort zone trusting God. Disciplined in taking our eyes back to Jesus when fear takes root.

Let's pray for each other that as we all likely battle fear in some way, we would know the Spirit's power, love and discipline at work in our hearts. What we pray for ourselves, pray for our nation – that as they see Jesus, they would find in him a balm against fear.

With love

*Paul*



## *A Prayer for Kyle and Amy*

Heavenly Father, we thank you for calling Kyle to serve as a minister within the church. Strengthen him and grant him perseverance as he seeks to serve you faithfully. We pray for him as he begins his ordained ministry amongst the St. Paul's family. May he feel supported and confident in preaching the truth of the Gospel; and may we grow in love and fellowship as we seek to serve You together.

We pray for Amy as she supports Kyle in his ministry, that she too may feel loved and supported in her faith. Grant that they may find true and lasting friendships within the parish and local community.

Together may we live out the words spoken by Joshua to the Tribes of Israel as they settled into the Promised Land:-

*“Be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Joshua 22:5)*

*Amen.*

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

## Sunday 18th October at 11:00am

Our APCM was postponed earlier this year due to Covid-19. However, it is now required to be carried out by the end of October 2020. Our APCM will take place on Sunday 18th October at 11am. There will be no 11am service that Sunday. The exact form of the meeting is still in planning (if it will be physical or online, or a combination), in part taking into account the ever changing times. More details will follow for those on our Electoral Roll with copies of our Annual Report (2019). The APCM will also be an opportunity to update each other, and to look forward.

At the meeting, we also look to elect a Church Warden, four PCC positions, and two Deanery Synod posts, so please pray for the Lord's hand and leading to raise up the right people to help serve in these important ways.

**A Word of Thanks:** The PCC wish to express their thanks to Michele Briers, who stepped down from her role as Church Warden in July. All her hard work and support, along with Mike's, has been very much appreciated.

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### With Healing in Mind...

The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow spiritually, even while our bodies waste away.

*J I Packer*

God does not witness to the world by taking His people out of suffering, but rather by demonstrating His grace through them in the midst of pain.

*C Samuel Storms*

# *PCC Update*

The PCC is meeting twice in September. Our meetings continue to be online due to our current situation. The Standing Committee and Shop Oversight Committee have also met this month. Here are headlines regarding things discussed at the first meeting, and due to be discussed at the second (taking place after PNE is published):

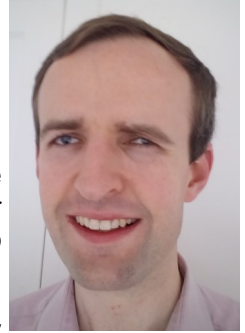
## ***September 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting:***

- ◆ A discussion was had regarding the shorter term and longer term shape of St Paul's services. As a church, we find ourselves at a juncture. We were already beginning to ask 'what shape ought we to be for the future?' Our current times compound that. Our world has changed and it is right to ask how the church ought to change. It is an opportunity which is both exciting and painful.
- ◆ The first two months of physical/ live stream services were reviewed and discussions had regarding ways to increase capacity for those who are able to return. Further work is being carried out before the second PCC to enable firmer shorter terms plans to be formed.
- ◆ A review of each of our services was agreed to help us discern what the Lord might be leading us too in terms of the shape of our longer term future.
- ◆ The Covid19 Secure Risk Assessment for the Parish Hall was accepted, and plans for the return of existing hirers discussed, as well as proposals which hirers had put forward.
- ◆ An update on Fabric was received.

## ***September 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting:***

- ◆ Our shorter term and longer term shape will be discussed further, including initial discussion on the Diocese's new Vision for Children and Young People, which will feed into those reflections.
- ◆ Our Parish Finances will be reviewed to further assess the impact of Covid19, and any decision which need to be made. Diocesan finances will also be discussed.

# *To whom shall we go?*



Prior to my ordination, I was asked to fill in a questionnaire, which would be put up on the diocesan website, alongside the responses of other incoming curates. The questions were intended to serve as a short introduction to each one of us.

Among other things, I was invited to share my favourite Bible verse, and say why that verse stuck out to me.

My favourite Bible verse, to which I very often return, is John 6:68, where Peter, speaking to Jesus, says, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Though Jesus was initially popular, his teaching was controversial. His miracles attracted great crowds, and his healings drew many to him. But after a particularly controversial sermon (John 6), many slink away: even those who had been his loyal followers up until that point deserted Jesus. This seems to be one of the crucial turning points between Jesus' initial popularity and his eventual total rejection. His words divided people, and the majority, in the end, was against him.

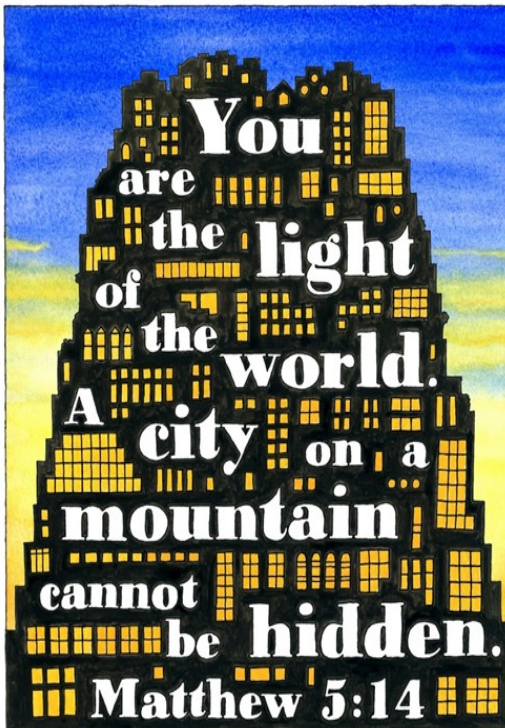
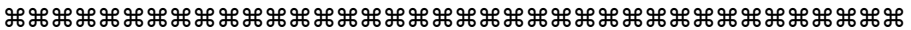
But when Jesus asks the twelve if they also intend to desert him, Peter responds, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." If they ceased to listen to Jesus' words, whose words would they listen to? If they ceased to follow him, whom would they follow instead? Peter knows that, though Jesus' words are hard to swallow sometimes, Jesus is the one with the truth, because Jesus has come from God. Deserting Jesus therefore would be disastrous. Peter knows that from no one except Jesus will he find life-giving truth. It's the same for you and me.

I was once an atheist, and, before I became a Christian, I went from one belief system to another. But I was never satisfied. I'm naturally a sceptic and a questioner. Every way of thinking I had embraced before becoming a Christian, I eventually found to be disastrously flawed. If atheism is true, how did the world begin? If Marx was right, why did all his predictions fail? I could go on. Only when I came to Jesus did I find that, the further I went into Jesus and his teaching, the more morally, intellectually, and spiritually satisfied I became.

But, having a sceptical mind and an atheistic background means I sometimes struggle with doubts about my faith, as many do. Is it all true? Did Jesus truly die and rise again? Am I saved? Is the Word of God accurate in what it says? But when these doubts arise, God never fails to draw me back to himself. God often uses Peter's words to do it: "To whom shall I go?" If not Jesus, then who, or what?

No philosopher or statesman even remotely compares to the wisdom and goodness of Jesus Christ. None can make sense of the world and the way things are - and the way I am! - like Jesus can. We've said this a couple of times in our John series, but it's true: when we get to know Jesus better, we actually get to know ourselves better as well. Nobody else offers that I know that there is no one else to whom I can go. Only Jesus has the words of eternal life.

*by Kyle Mulholland  
(Curate)*



*There is no faith  
without God's Word.  
- John Calvin*

**ARTICLES FOR THE  
NOVEMBER PNE**



If you have an article for inclusion in the November PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by

**Thursday 15th October.**

Thank you.

*Janet Kimber*





**Emmanuel**  
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

## *News from The Diocese*

The Anglican Bishops for the North West of England (incorporating the dioceses of Blackburn, Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sodor and Man) have announced plans to form a brand-new independent theological college in the region. This decision reflects their commitment to the provision of outstanding theological training and formation for lay and ordained leaders and follows a prolonged period of careful discernment, including detailed research by the Rt Rev Graham James and others.

The new independent college, will be known as Emmanuel Theological College and will celebrate the rich breadth of traditions in the Church of England. It will enable both part-time and full-time access for students from a variety of backgrounds, so that all may learn, grow, and flourish together as they are formed in Christ's service.

In response to the needs of the region, the new college will also seek to provide pathways for groups that have previously found it difficult to access training. As the Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Rev David Walker, explains "there are many people who are called by God, but who currently find it hard to access the training they need. My episcopal colleagues and I are determined that this new college will enable people from diverse backgrounds to pursue ministry in the Church of England."



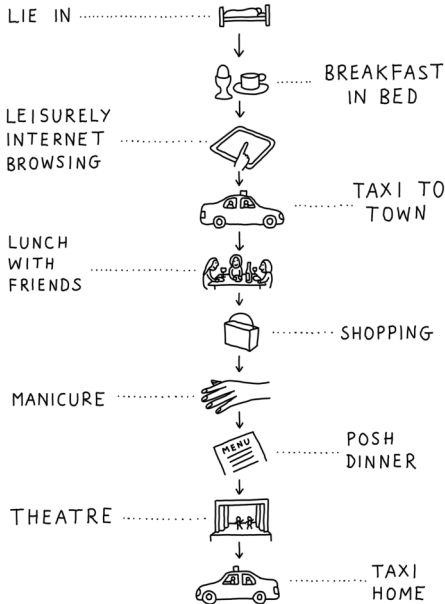
The Rev Dr Michael Leyden (left) has been appointed as the first Dean of Emmanuel Theological College and will be supported by the Bishop of Chester, the Rt Rev Mark Tanner (below right), as Chair-elect of the Emmanuel Theological College Board of Trustees. Together they will be charged with delivering outstanding formational and vocational training for lay and ordained church leaders, in what is expected to be a nationally recognised centre of excellence for theological education. Once it is fully operational, the college is expected to have around 250 students, which will make it one of the largest theological colleges in the country.



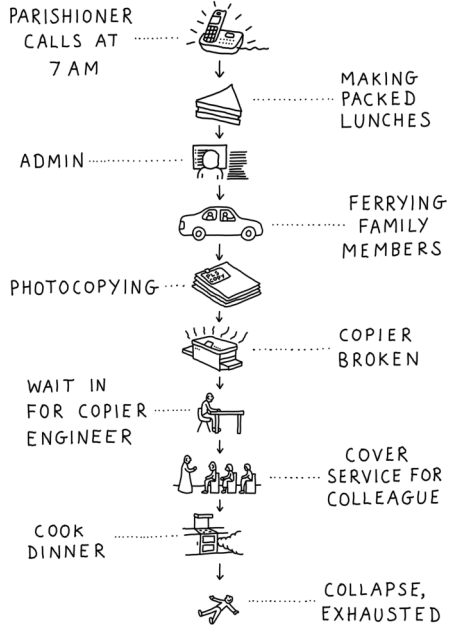
Editor: I wonder if Paul would agree?!

# THE VICAR'S DAY OFF

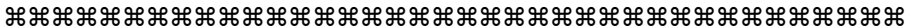
## WHAT PEOPLE THINK HAPPENS



## WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS



CartoonChurch.com



## 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.*

# Understanding the Bible

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the authority of the Bible.



As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: ***why should I read the Bible?***

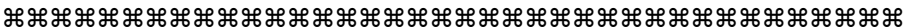
The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different

writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: '*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('*the word of God in the words of men*') and presents itself as a ***manual for life***, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: '*the Spirit will guide you into all truth*' (John 16:13).

However, the Bible could also be described as a ***love letter*** from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said: '*You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me*' (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words '***the most precious thing this world affords***'. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?



**BIBLE SUNDAY ~ 25th October 2020**

## *Oppressed Christians struggling under Covid-19*

Oppression and discrimination against Christians has increased during Covid, says Release International, which has launched an appeal to help Christians suffering during the pandemic. Many Christians have been denied food and relief aid and excluded from support systems during lockdown. They have been abandoned by families because of their faith and refused relief by governments and NGOs. Several countries have stepped up persecution against Christians.

“The situation has got much worse for many Christians during lockdown,” says Release International CEO Paul Robinson.

“Covid-19 is having a devastating impact on the lives of many poor Christians. In places hostile to the faith Christians are experiencing increased hardship. Food is now in short supply. They are unable to work and can’t earn, and support is being withheld because of their faith. Their cries for help are being ignored by local charities who are distributing food packages only to families of other faiths. We can’t afford to delay. These Christians need our help.”

In **Algeria**, many Christians have had to stop work because of the lockdown, and so lost their income. They have been rejected by society and their families as a result of their faith. There is no social security in the country or government support.

In **Pakistan** the situation is especially hard for converts from a Muslim background. The only form of social security is family support, and Muslim families often withdraw support for family members who change their religion.

In Upper **Egypt**, some organisations are allegedly refusing food and support to Christian families. Release partners report: “The authorities are helping Muslims but not Christians. And churches that try to help are being closed by police order.”

In **China**, Release partners say the government is using the pandemic to increase its crackdown against Christians. Campaigns such as the forced demolition of crosses, have been accelerated. Pastors have been rounded up for sharing the gospel and distributing facemasks on the street. The authorities have “totally prohibited” online church services and prayer meetings, as “nothing constituting a religious service is allowed.”

Paul Robinson of Release International says: “Right now, it’s up to us in the family of faith to give them our support.” Partners of Release International are providing food parcels to impoverished Christians in Algeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

If you can help, go to: [www.releaseinternational.org/covid](http://www.releaseinternational.org/covid)

## *A Prayer for Healing*

Heavenly Father,  
We bring to you all those struggling  
with their mental health just now.

We pray:

For everyone who is smiling,  
when inside they're in pain.

For everyone who is saying they're fine,  
when inside they feel drained and empty.

For everyone struggling with fear and worry as the easing of the  
lockdown brings new anxieties.

Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world has  
been stripped back and emptied.

When loved family and friends have been taken by illness,  
Or made distant by lockdown.

Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness.

May you walk with them besides still waters

May you speak to them in a still small voice.

May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them with your  
abundant love and fullness of life.

And may they know that they are loved  
by you for the beautiful unique person  
that they are, created in the image of  
their heavenly creator and loving Lord.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and  
the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*By the Revd Peter Crumpler*

*A Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts,*

*and a former Communications Director for the CofE.*

Pray without  
ceasing



## *Noah and the Ark - 2020 Version*

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, "Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. "Noah", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me Lord", begged Noah "but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

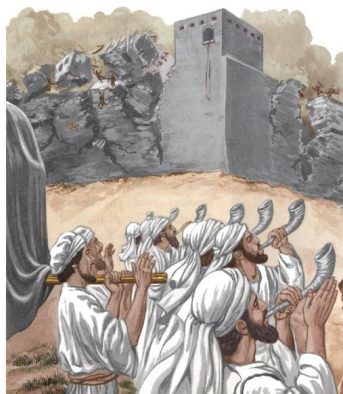
"The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can't build the Ark until they've conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can't use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

"So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. "No need for me to destroy the world after all," observed God. "The government has the matter already in hand."

## Jericho



Jericho had mighty walls –  
A well-defended fort,  
'A year long siege before it falls',  
Or so the soldiers thought.

The gates, of solid oaken wood  
Were closed and barred so tight,  
No-one went in for no-one could,  
And Joshua took fright!

But then he did what wise men do  
And fell down on his knees  
And sought the Lord, in answer who  
Then uttered words like these:

"The city's yours – it's troops and king  
"I'll place them in your hand  
"If you'll just do this simple thing –  
"And do as I have planned."

"For just six days you all must walk  
"Around those walls so strong,  
"The priests and troops, but do not talk –  
"And bring the ark along!"

"On day seven – seven times around  
"Those mighty walls you go  
"And shout this time – make lots of sound!  
"And seven trumpets blow!"

"And you will see, if you do that  
"The city's walls, so tall  
"Will start to crack, and fall down flat  
"And Jericho shall fall!"

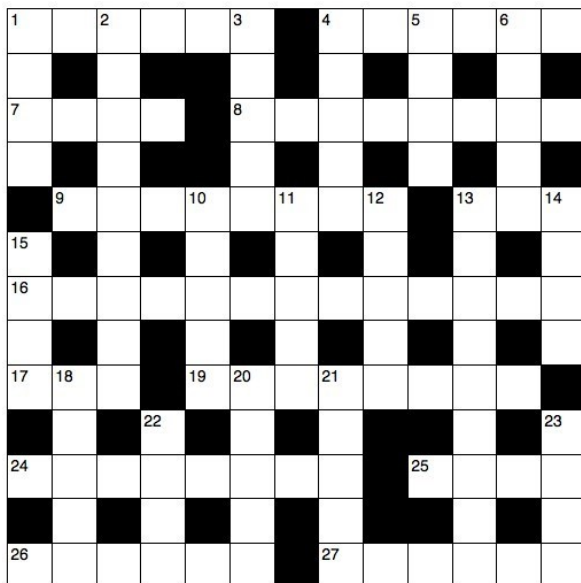
The people did as God had said  
(It is the only way)  
And we must follow where they led  
And *really* learn to pray!

By Nigel Beeton



# OCTOBER 2020 CROSSWORD

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



## Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)





# Time for a Smile

## Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she said: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: "Thou shalt not kill."

## A Spirit Guest?

When new neighbours moved in next door, they held a House Warming party and invited the entire road. My husband and I were glad to go along, as our daughters were both five years old. But next morning I was taken aback when my daughter told me that the mother had taken her into the kitchen and given her 'a spirit guest', which my daughter had really enjoyed. Now she wanted me to get her 'a spirit guest.'

I was wondering how to contact the local vicar for exorcism when I realised that my daughter meant 'asparagus'.



*They knew it was left over from the Harvest Festival, but not what it was, or where...*

## Where?

The police officer asked me where I had been between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I answered "kindergarten."

## Prayer for the sick

I was listening to my new curate pray and I realised one of his phrases didn't come out quite right. He said, "...and Lord, we pray for those who are sick of this church."

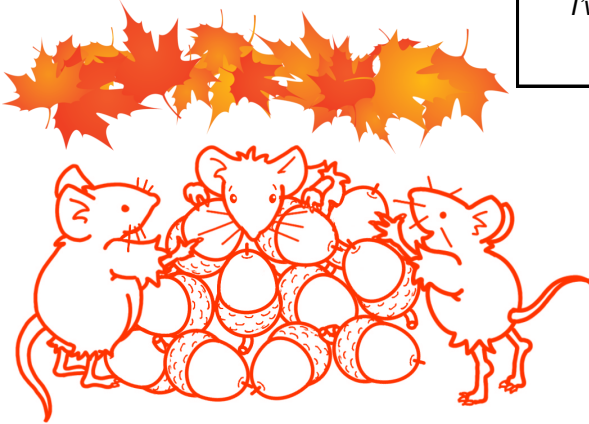
*With Bible Sunday in mind, here's a laugh line that Sally Churches, ACE chair came across ...*

A grandmother showed her granddaughter the special family Bible explaining that it was an old and beautiful King James Version.

The girl had a few questions, but Grandma was completely speechless when she asked, 'So which virgin was the mother of Jesus - the Virgin Mary or the King James virgin?'



*...I've moved with the times - I've now got a solar-powered radio microphone...*



### **New York**

The last time we went to New York, it was incredible. We circled the airport for two hours. What made it so incredible was that we were in a bus. – *Anon*

### **Put it this way...**

- ~ A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- ~ A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
- ~ My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.
- ~ A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
- ~ I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- ~ Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.
- ~ Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
- ~ A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumour.

*And finally ....*

AUTUMN DAYS:  
I MUSTN'T FORGET  
TO SAY A GREAT BIG  
THANK YOU!