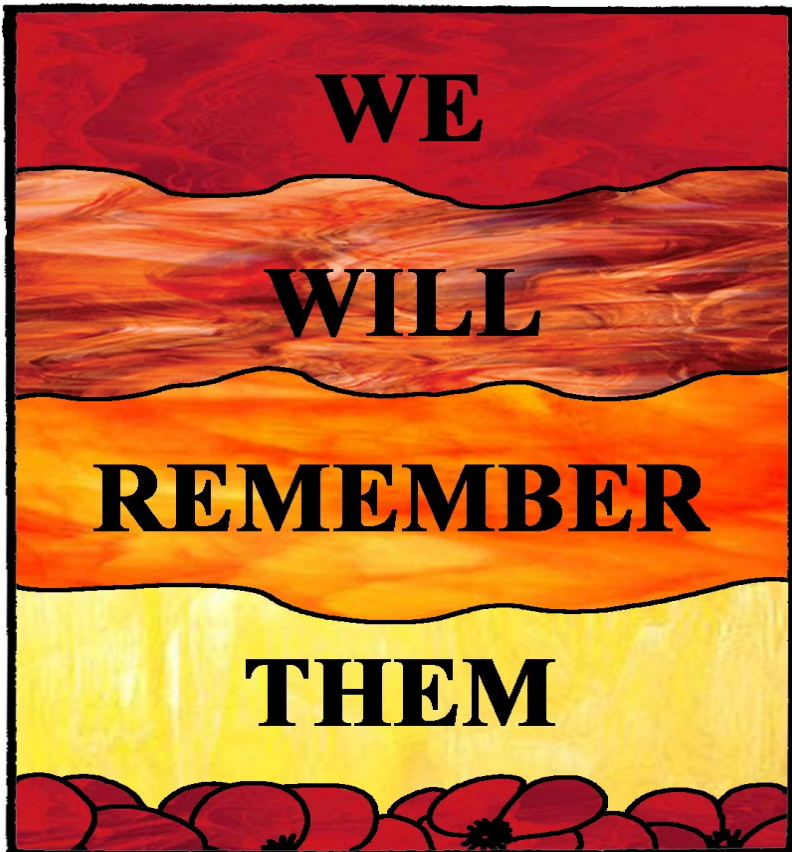




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 145 ~ November 2020



CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Curate	Mr Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
Church Wardens	Mrs Pamela Rowell Mr Alan Curtis
Parish Secretary	Vacant
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...

Waiting is hard. Waiting when you are unsure of the outcome is even harder. We find ourselves constantly waiting at present. When will a vaccine come? When will life get back to normal? When can I see people the way I used to? Will it be three months, six months or more before some sense of normality? We are unsure of the outcome or the timing.



That is hard. Tiring. Unsettling. It brings us close to giving up at times.

We should not shy away from those feelings. Yes, we must be positive. But we don't need to pretend. In fact I want to encourage you to use those feelings to draw us closer to God this month.

We begin Advent on the 29th November. Advent is a time of waiting. Of patience. Of expectation.

It echoes the experiences of God's people once before. Between the last page of the Old Testament (the book of Malachi) and the first page of the New Testament (the gospel of Matthew) there are four hundred years of history. God's people were back in the land God had promised to them, having been exiled from it for 70 years. But though they were back, with some normality, they were still in exile. Still waiting on God to make good his promises to send his King to bring his kingdom of life.

For four hundred years, God's people waited. Wondering. Hoping. Struggling. Even at times doubting. Will this be over? When? Can things ever be different than this?

Until one day, something did change. God did make good on his promises. Life was enabled to be very different. As an angel announced to a young girl, Mary, that a baby, a king, the God of light, would be born to her.

It is what we prepare to celebrate at Christmas. But I want to encourage us not to rush too quickly to that, without feeling the tension of waiting which led up to that first Christmas. 400 years of hanging on to God in the dark.

This Advent, as we wait for Christmas, and as we wait for a change of events in our current circumstances, let's throw ourselves on the God

APCM 2020

On Sunday 18th October, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place. It was a first for St Paul's, happening online! People joined from different parts of the church family, on computer and the telephone. We are pleased to announce that Pam Rowell will continue as church warden, alongside the newly elected, Alan Curtis. We welcome a new PCC member, Stephen Whittaker, as well as thanking Gordon Barratt as he steps down.

Two major themes arose from Paul's *Vicar's Report*:

Finances

While we give thanks for the Lord's financial provision during lockdown, the current pandemic has thrown a spotlight on our finances. There is encouragement that regular giving increased in 2019 including newer people often coming with an expectation of giving. However, the reality was raised that our regular giving only meets our church running costs. It does not enable us to pay our Parish Share, the contribution we make to the Diocese, which covers the ministry we receive back.

The desire and plan to reduce our financial dependence on the Fundraising Shop was expressed last year. First, because the biblical principle is that the local church, not the community, is responsible for financing its ministry. Secondly, reliance on the Fundraising Shop makes us extremely vulnerable if that income were interrupted. Thirdly, the financial support we receive comes through a significant amount of time and effort on behalf of those involved, and with staff and volunteers serving on our behalf in difficult conditions at this time.

It was highlighted that our regular giving as a church is the area which we must address. Christian giving is always a response to the generosity of God, the knowledge of his faithfulness, and an increasing desire to invest ourselves in something which lasts.

It was recognised that for many, the current times mean we may be experiencing financial uncertainty. For others income is fixed and we are already giving in a generous and sacrificial way. It was fully understood that some may not be in a position to give in an increased way. In fact, circumstances may mean it needs to be the opposite. God understands and so do we.

A Day to Remember

The Ordination of the

Reverend Kyle Mulholland

27th September 2020

(You can watch the service on YouTube at
<http://bit.ly/3ofZLB4>)



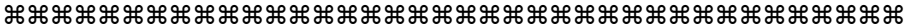


Raise Donations for St. Paul's Church, Ansdell and Fairhaven whenever you shop online

How does it work?

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 online stores to choose from and it doesn't cost you any more than the price of your purchases!

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Safeguarding

Many of you will have seen the recently published report from The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (LLCSA) regarding the Church of England's safeguarding record. We want to re-assure you that at St Paul's Church we take safeguarding very seriously. You can view all of our safeguarding information at:-

<https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/safeguarding.html>

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others please seek advice from the Parish or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.



Who's Who

Peter and Karen Buckley

Can you tell us a little bit about yourselves?

Peter - born in Coventry but moved to St Annes as a child. Went to Clifton Primary and then King Edwards. Began work at Guardian Royal Exchange in Lytham as an IT programmer. Music has always been a huge part of Peter's life and getting involved in the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs Orchestra led to a number of years playing drums in the Royal Albert Hall and around the country. Peter met Karen at the youth fellowship group at Church Road Methodist Church. They have been married for 34 years and have two grown up children who live locally. Peter's career at GRE came to an end in 2004 when he was made redundant, he turned his attention to music teaching and took over as conductor of Fylde Sinfonia. Peter followed Karen into politics in 2013 when he stood as a Lancashire County Councillor for St Annes North. He is now Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services.

Karen - born in St Annes War Memorial hospital, she went to Heyhouses Primary School and then Queen Mary's. She left school as soon as she could and, after getting married to Peter and starting a family, returned to education to pursue a career as a Solicitor and studied for her degree at home. Politics was also of interest and Karen became a local councillor in 2007, stood for Parliament in Hyndburn in 2010 and spent some time working for Paul Maynard MP in Blackpool North and Cleveleys. Karen is now a Senior Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire and Leader of Fylde Council.

Apart from your time at St Paul's, what do you like to do in your spare time?

Peter likes his killer sudoku puzzles. **Karen** likes crime dramas.

How are you involved at St Paul's?

Before lockdown we were both involved in the music group and miss it very much.

You are both involved in politics. How does your faith shape (or is challenged by) that involvement?

Being involved in local politics is simply a way to give back to your community and to do the best you can and that is shaped by our faith. It is challenging when good motives are treated with suspicion, distrust or disdain but this seems to come with the territory.

What is the best thing about being a Christian for you?

Peter - promise of salvation. **Karen** - being part of a community of believers

Jam Sales 2020



Thanks to the warm-hearted support of St. Paul's parishioners I have been able to raise a record sum of £500 for three charities through making and selling around 125 jars and five varieties of jam this autumn.

The money this year is being shared between Blackpool Victoria NHS Trust, Brian House Children's Hospice and the St. Luke's Leprosy Hospital in southern India.

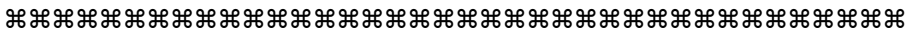
As soon as I began inviting people to make a purchase, I realised just how keen everyone was to support my endeavours and help the three charities which have all been having a difficult time during the pandemic.

Delivering the jam to people's homes was a popular innovation and doorstep chats have been welcomed, as well as the new opportunity to pay by bank transfer. All the jam was sold within a fortnight!

I was especially pleased that supporters saved their jam jars at home and that Paul Bye allowed me to advertise the jams to parishioners by means of his weekly notices – another example of the top-class communications Paul and his team have established and maintained over the past six months.

My thanks to everyone for their support – stay safe and be strong at this testing time.

Julian Wilde



St. Paul's Fundraising Shop (Woodlands Road)



COVID-19 Opening Times

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

New volunteers are always welcome.

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

Please note that donations are being accepted Monday to Saturday, between 10am – 12noon and 1pm - 4pm.

**Join us to
remember**

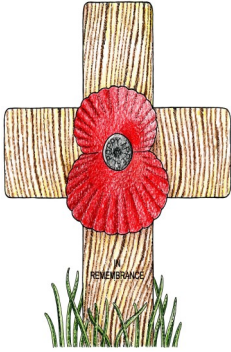


**OPEN
CHURCH**

10AM-4PM
WEDNESDAY
11TH NOVEMBER

**An opportunity to be still,
to reflect, and pray on
Remembrance Day**

Thanking God for the Past as We Look to the Future



November is an emotional month. It begins with **All Saints Day** (November 1st) when we thank God for all the Saints who have gone before us. The next day is **All Souls**, (November 2nd), traditionally called the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed or the Day of the Dead. Many Christian denominations mark this with a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died.

A few days later, on **Armistice Day**, (November 11th) the nation comes together to remember and give thanks to God for all those who sacrificed their lives while serving the country in the armed forces. Armistice Day was first observed at 11am on 11 November 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War a year earlier. This happened at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. The first official Armistice Day commemoration was held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and this was followed by a peace parade for which the Cenotaph memorial was created in Whitehall and today is at the centre of the nation's commemorations.

During the Second World War, most of the Commonwealth of Nations agreed to change the name from Armistice to Remembrance and so include those who died during that war. In more recent times, servicemen and women killed or injured in other conflicts since the Second World War have also been included. The services are held at parish churches and local memorials on the closest Sunday to Armistice Day (November 8th). However, this year, for the first time since 1919, these services will probably not be taking place in the usual ways because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As November starts with a series of acts of remembrance to thank God for all those who have gone before us, it concludes with the excitement of **Advent Sunday** (November 29th) when Christians begin looking forward to celebrating the coming into the world of Christ.

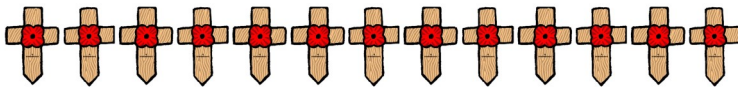
Advent Sunday marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Christian Church, a year that we hope and pray will enable the world to come to terms with Covid-19 and enable us all not only to rebuild our local communities, but make our churches stronger and more relevant to the new world we will be serving.



A Prayer for All Time?

This wartime prayer is taken from the 'Field Service Book of the British Army'.

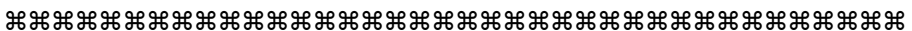
Almighty God, in you alone we find safety and peace. We commend to your gracious keeping all the men and women who serve in the Navy, the Army or the Air Force, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Defend them day by day by your heavenly power; and help them to know that they can never pass beyond the reach of your care. Keep alive in them and in us your vision of that peace which alone we must seek and serve; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Bob Peters, Editor of the Ideas Forum, adds his own reflection:

"When I read (the above prayer), I thought that while it is ideal for Remembrance it could easily be adapted for the present crisis facing our world ...

Almighty God, in you alone we find safety and peace. We commend to your gracious keeping all the men and women who are working at the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Defend them day by day by your heavenly power; and help them to know that they can never pass beyond the reach of your care. Keep alive in them and in us your vision of that peace which alone we must seek and serve; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



November brings us Remembrance Day...

War does not determine who is right – only who is left.

(probably) Bertrand Russell

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

News from



More than 17,000 Online Services or Events Provided by Church of England Parishes

More than 17,000 online services and events are being provided by Church of England churches following the introduction of the lockdown and restrictions on public worship earlier this year, according to a new report published on Monday 12th October 2020.

Figures from the Church of England's A Church Near You website which allows people to search for church services and events, show that more than 17,000 online services or events are now listed, including Sunday Communion services, Bible studies and morning or night prayer. Many of these services take place regularly and this figure represents a snapshot of the likely total number.

The statistics do not include the Church of England's national online weekly services broadcast on Sundays and shared on Facebook and YouTube. There have been nearly three million views of the national online services and posts about the weekly broadcasts have been seen 23.6 million times. Contributors have included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Duke of Cambridge and Pope Francis. The national online services are being watched by a wide range of ages and around one in five people viewing go to church infrequently or not at all.

Other figures in the report show that official Church of England apps from Church House Publishing – the most popular being Daily Prayer, or the Daily Office of morning, evening and night prayer - have been used more than seven million times so far this year. Church of England social media posts have been seen 86 million times so far.

The growth in online services has been helped by the Church of England stepping up its digital training programme for congregations. More than 4,200 vicars and local church leaders have taken part in remote digital training courses so far this year.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "At a time when many have felt isolated and fearful, Church of England parishes and clergy have broadcast thousands of online church services and events, seeking to bring comfort and hope to their communities. We know that tens of thousands of those tuning in will never have had contact with their local Church of England parish before and may never have heard the Christian message. Their welcome presence is a sign of the great hunger we all have for spiritual meaning in our lives."

A Prayer as I Put on My Mask

by Richard Bott

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth -
let it be "an outward sign
of an inward grace" -
a tangible and visible way
of living love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.



Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.



Holy Spirit,
As the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully -
and full of care -
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth
be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.
In your Name and
in that love,
I pray.

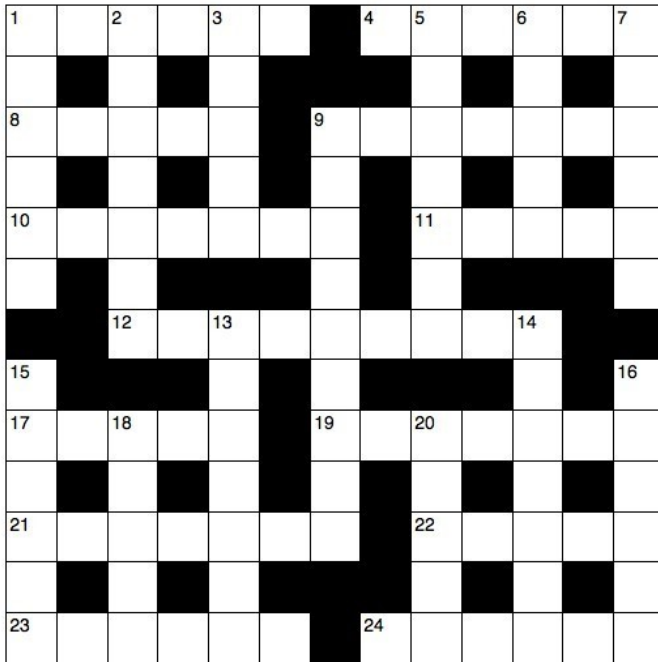


May it be so.
May it be so.

Editor: This prayer was posted to the Northumbria Community Facebook page and has been used with the permission of the author.

NOVEMBER 2020 CROSSWORD

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



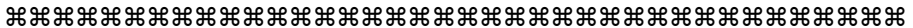
Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)

- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)



Remembrance Day



**Crossword Solution
October 2020**

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



parish pump
www.parishpump.co.uk

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'.



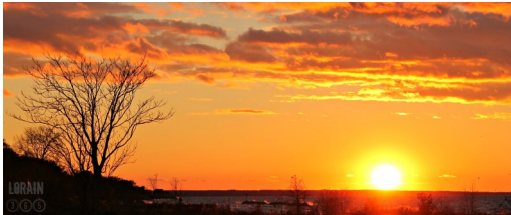
Time for a Smile

The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

Prayer

A little girl attempted the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is your name. Amen."



Rooms

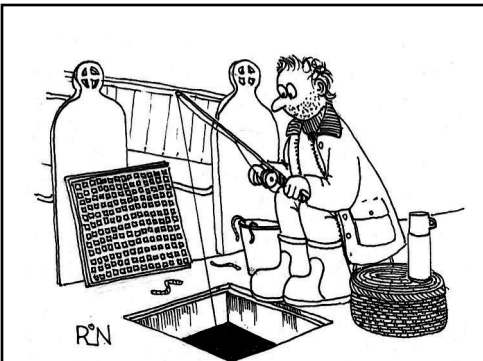
When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."



Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"

"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."



Quarantining in church had its drawbacks. Two days in, the biscuits were gone and Rupert was hungry.

Fire in church

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

A sad reflection of the times ... maybe?



...at the going down of the sun we would have remembered them—but some rotten scrap metal thief has stolen the brass plaque with the names on!!

NOVEMBER



Don't worry

A little boy was told that he should try and be good, and that he could ask God for help with this. So he prayed: "Lord, please make me good, if you can. But if you can't, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

Champagne

My husband and I were delighted the day we finally bought our first house. After years of renting, it was wonderful to own our own home. Our minister even gave us a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion. But in the hustle and bustle of getting moved in, his champagne was put in a cupboard and forgotten.

Months later, we held a Baptism party for our third child. Wine flowed until, running short, we suddenly remembered the housewarming gift of champagne. So, in front of our guests, I opened the attached card from the minister and read it aloud: "Dave, take good care of it – this one is really yours!"

And finally

“He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more” (Isaiah 2:4)

