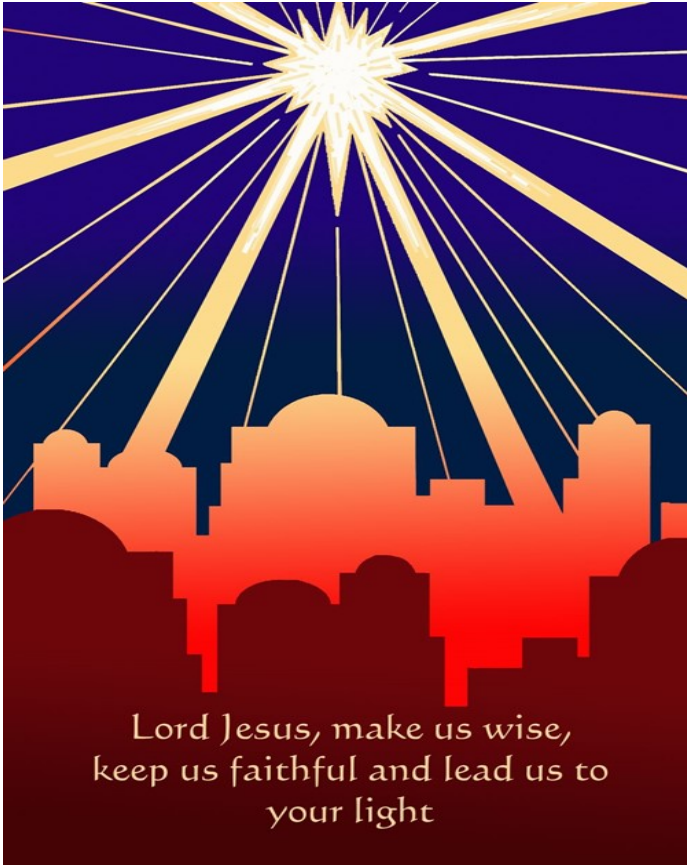




St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 147 ~ January 2021



Lord Jesus, make us wise,
keep us faithful and lead us to
your light

Church Officers

Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Curate	The Rev 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



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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...

If you make New Year's resolutions, I wonder what they might be for 2021? For me, one is to get back into running regularly. In the last few months that pattern has become non-existent, so here goes for January!



Many people make New Year resolutions – to cut down on alcohol, eat healthier, go to bed earlier, or get back into reading. Personally, while there is nothing which commands it in the Bible, I think there is something refreshing to begin a New Year with an aim.

Resolutions recognise that there are things about us which aren't quite right. Things which could be better. Be it our weight, our blood pressure or our sleeping habits. For many, New Year is a time to take stock and think what needs to change.

Yet so often we only go so far in our reflections. We think about our bodies (not a bad thing at all) or perhaps little aspects of our character. But we don't often go deeper into our life and being. We only go so far in our solutions – usually amounting to us trying harder in some way.

But what about if alongside the healthier lifestyle or new beneficial habits, something deeper needed to change in our individual lives? In our corporate lives as communities? Something which can't be fixed with a 12 week plan, or a bit more will power.

Our current times point us in that direction.

CS Lewis, the writer of the Narnia books, once wrote in *The Problem of Pain*:

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

God uses the trials, sufferings, and struggles of life to wake us up to see things are not all okay. When life is simple and easy, we tend to think everything around us is ok. We don't really ask the big questions in life. We don't ponder eternal matters. It is as if we are deaf with how things really are.

So deaf that sometimes God needs to shout louder to get out attention. In Lewis' words, that is one thing that suffering does – it is God rousing us to see things need to change.

Our present times are so painful on all sorts of levels. We feel vulnerable in a way most of us have never done. But what if in this time we were being led to see that something needs to change? What if God was seeking to turn this difficulty to something gloriously beneficial in our lives? Using it to wake us to see our problem and his wonderful solution.

Something deeper needs to change in all of us. Deeper than our weight or addictions. It is our very being, which left to itself runs from God, and seeks to run things in place of God. It shows itself in some of the negative patterns in our lives, communities and nations. A resolution will not fix that. But wonderfully God can.

Our current times should wake us to that reality. They stop us thinking there isn't a problem, or that we can fix it.

We access God's wonderful solution through repentance. By recognising the problem before God, turning from it back to him. It sounds negative – but it is the most life-giving act. For *'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.'* (Psalm 34:18). It is in that place we find God close, and ever present to help.

So by all means make a New Year resolution in 2021 (and ask me how the running is going!). But don't stop there. As we feel the pain of our present time, hear the voice of our loving creator shouting to you – to us. Make the one change which is needed above all else – returning afresh to the Lord our God.

'Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.' (Lamentations (3:40)

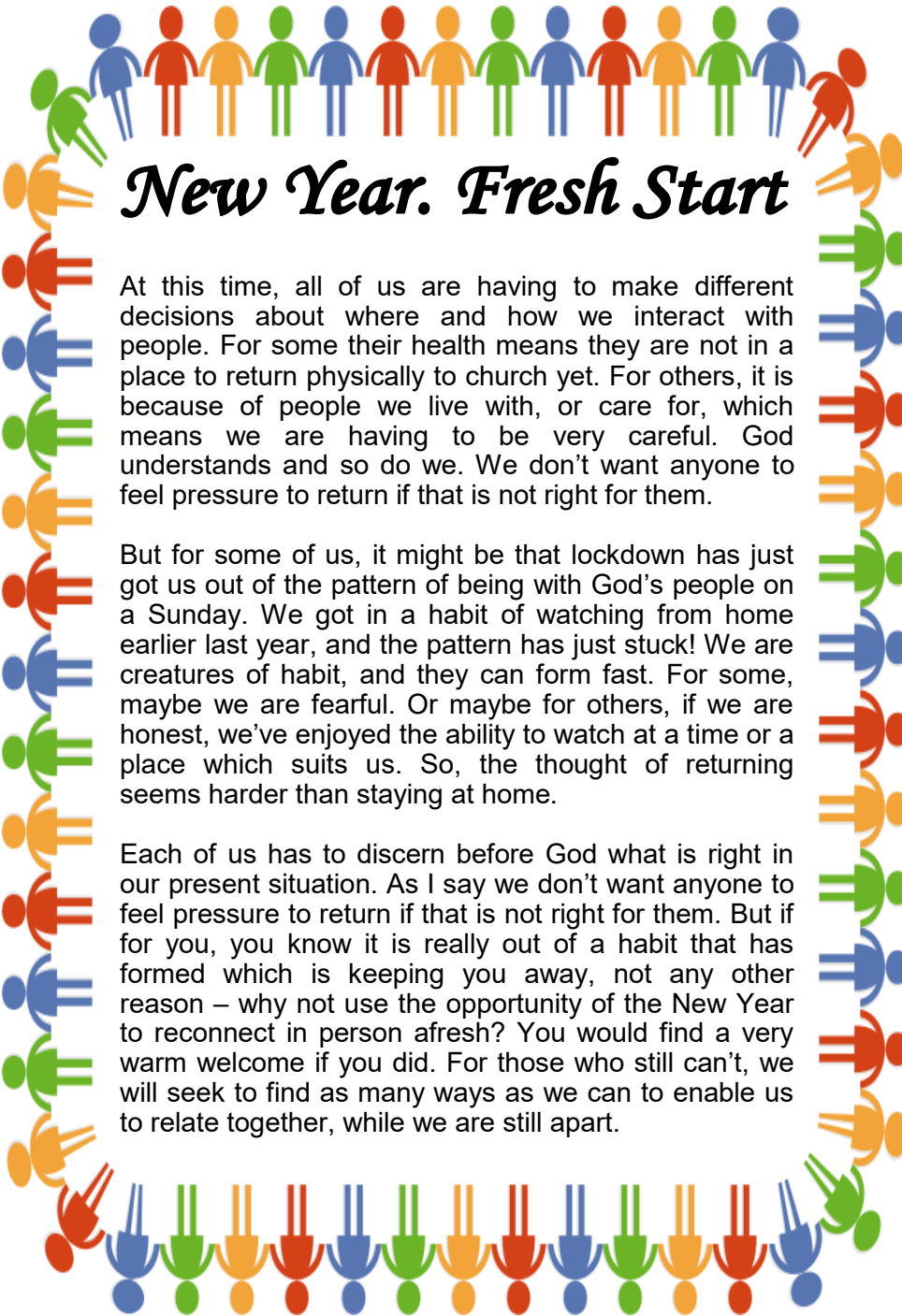
Paul



ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY PNE

If you have an article for inclusion in the February PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by **Friday 15th January.**

Thank you. *Janet Kimber*



New Year. Fresh Start

At this time, all of us are having to make different decisions about where and how we interact with people. For some their health means they are not in a place to return physically to church yet. For others, it is because of people we live with, or care for, which means we are having to be very careful. God understands and so do we. We don't want anyone to feel pressure to return if that is not right for them.

But for some of us, it might be that lockdown has just got us out of the pattern of being with God's people on a Sunday. We got in a habit of watching from home earlier last year, and the pattern has just stuck! We are creatures of habit, and they can form fast. For some, maybe we are fearful. Or maybe for others, if we are honest, we've enjoyed the ability to watch at a time or a place which suits us. So, the thought of returning seems harder than staying at home.

Each of us has to discern before God what is right in our present situation. As I say we don't want anyone to feel pressure to return if that is not right for them. But if for you, you know it is really out of a habit that has formed which is keeping you away, not any other reason – why not use the opportunity of the New Year to reconnect in person afresh? You would find a very warm welcome if you did. For those who still can't, we will seek to find as many ways as we can to enable us to relate together, while we are still apart.

Dig Deeper – A Great New Year's Resolution

Dig Deeper – a great New Year's resolution

The Bible - Just a book for children? Too confusing? Wouldn't know where to start? Not sure I have the time? It may be that you connect with some of those reasons why adults have often never read the Bible.

And yet if the Bible is what it claims to be, then there can be no more important book! Imagine having a letter from the Queen and never reading it. The Bible is a love letter to us from the King of Kings. Why not make 2021 the year to begin to read it for yourself? But how?

Start small

Don't be too adventurous to begin. Take a small number of verses – maybe one story in a gospel – and a manageable time – maybe just 5-10mins. You can always build up, but you are more likely to sustain it.

Make a time

Like all things in life – it will only happen if we make time for it. Why not set aside some minutes when you get up? Or at the end of the day?

Ask for help

God hasn't just given us the Bible, he promises to help us as we read it. It isn't simply a text book to teach us things, but it's designed to change us! Begin each time with a simple prayer to God asking for his help to understand what you are reading and to live out what it means.

Start at the beginning (of the New Testament)

A wise lady once sang 'Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start.' With the Bible, the most accessible place to begin is one of the gospels (the eyewitness account of Jesus' life). Mark's gospel is the shortest. Jesus is the heart of the Bible's message and as we understand him the other parts begin to come into focus.

Get help

It can be hard sometimes knowing what parts of the Bible are about. Don't be discouraged. In part, the more we get to know the Bible, the more we understand the parts. But there are also some great things out there to help you. On our website we upload free Bible reading notes to help you as you read. Or why not come to St Paul's and ask your questions!

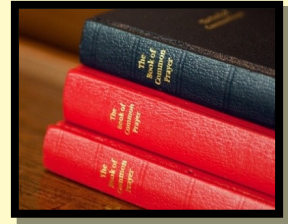
Ask good questions

As you read ask...What is happening in this part? What has it come before or after? Are there tricky words or ideas I need help with? What does it teach me about God? How does it encourage me to trust Jesus? Are there things to change because of it? What can I give thanks for?

But what if you are not a 'reader'? There are some great audio Bibles to buy, such as the New International Version recorded by David Suchet (Poirot fame!) which means you can listen along to it being read for you.

Happy digging in 2021!

Mid-Week Book of Common Prayer Service of Hbly Communion



From CofE website

Wednesdays fortnightly – 10am
6th and 20th January
No need to book



**Raise Donations for St. Paul's Church,
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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!

Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsansdell>

Safeguarding

St Paul's Church takes 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.



St Paul's Jigsaw Library

What is a jigsaw library?

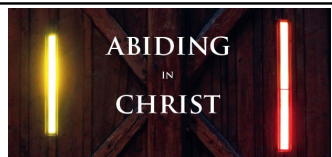
Like a normal library, you can borrow from us. But instead of books, it is jigsaws! We have a whole range including some larger sized piece jigsaws for those who struggle to hold smaller pieces, and dementia friendly jigsaws too. Once you have joined the library, and requested puzzles you can take out 2 puzzles for a month at a time. When you have requested a puzzle and they are in stock, they can be picked up or dropped off on a Wednesday between 9am and 11am from the St Paul's Parish Hall. Or if you are unable to travel to do that, we can seek to deliver and collect them from your door in a Covid-safe manner.



How can I join the library or request to borrow puzzles?

To join the library, email us on stpaulsjigsaws@gmail.com or call and leave a message on 01253 732939. Someone will be in touch with you to send you an application form. You can also go to our website to download the form. The current catalogue of puzzles can be found on our website, or a paper copy can be sent upon request when you apply. Best of all, it is free!

Coming Up in January ...



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>



World Leprosy Day - 30th January

It is not just Covid-19 that makes other people want to avoid us. Up to three million people worldwide are living with leprosy, a disease that can separate sufferers from their loved ones for years. Every two minutes, someone is newly diagnosed with leprosy and millions of people suffer crippling deformities.

Leprosy Mission was founded to help defeat this terrible disease, and to transform the lives of its victims. Today this established Christian charity is active in 34 countries across the world. Leprosy Mission works closely with governments, local communities, partner health organisations, the World Health Organisation, local NGOs, local churches, and Christian partners. And – you can help - by praying or making a donation, or even by considering working with Leprosy Mission. Visit <https://www.leprosymission.org/get-involved>



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

Holocaust Memorial Day calls for 'light in the darkness' of today

It was 25 years ago this month, on 27th January 1996, that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in 2021 is **'Be the light in the darkness'**. The aim is to encourage people to "reflect on the depths to which humanity can sink, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide."

HMD is encouraging people to heed the 'Be the light in the darkness' theme as a call to action. "The utterly unprecedented times through which we are living currently are showing the very best of which humanity is capable but also - in some of the abuse and conspiracy theories being spread on social media - the much darker side of our world as well.

"We can all stand in solidarity. We can choose to **'be the light in the darkness'** in a variety of ways and places – at home, in public, and online."

More at: www.hmd.org.uk

Also in January ...

January 1st ~ The Naming of Jesus

Eight days after his birth, Mary and Joseph take Jesus up to the temple to be presented before the Lord, which was in keeping with the Jewish custom.

January 6th ~ The Epiphany

The Wise Men visit the young child, Jesus, in Bethlehem bringing with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On entering the house,
★ they saw the child
with Mary his mother
and they knelt down
and paid him homage.
Then, opening
their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh.

Matthew 2, verse 12

Where Do We Go From Here?

Lester Amann considers the visit of the Wise Men.

Perhaps this was a question the Wise Men asked after seeing the infant Jesus. They had come from a distant land to Jerusalem. They had followed a star and expected to see a royal child. Now in Bethlehem, they saw things differently. No doubt, Mary and Joseph shared with these men their recent experiences and knew God was with them. Now the Magi had to have eyes of faith to recognise that this child was God in the flesh.

On 6th January many churches will celebrate Epiphany. On this day we remember the Eastern Men bringing their gifts to Jesus. The word 'epiphany' describes their 'revelation' or 'insight' that this was no ordinary baby. Who could they tell? Not King Herod. They had a dream warning them to return home a different way.

Their return to familiar surroundings was going to be different. They couldn't be silent about what they had experienced. Their lives were now changed. On returning home they faced new circumstances and challenges.

Doesn't this sound a bit familiar to us today? The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Where do we go from here? We have celebrated our Lord's birth, but now we are returning to our previous activities. The festive break is over, and we are returning to changed, very difficult circumstances.

We go into a New Year that is so different from this time last year. While we might be downcast with all the upsets around us, there is one thing that has not changed.

It is almighty God! He is our rock. We can look to Him in this world of confusion and uncertainty. Perhaps, from now on, we shall be worshipping and serving Him in different ways. So, with the challenges that lie ahead, let's continually seek His guidance.



*Trust in the Lord with
all your heart and
lean not on your own
understanding....and
He will make your
paths straight.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)*

A Couple of Prayers for the Beginning of 2021

A Prayer for New Year 2021



Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of a New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic. The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare - because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have - that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity - if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We **will** be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be.

You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



We offer a COVID-safe welcome for all at St. Paul's.

A New Year's Resolution-Prayer - Following in His Footsteps

Almighty eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)



HAPPY NEW YEAR

(An acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells out the title of the poem)

Heaven's gift of another year
As the old departs and the new is born,
Plans for a future and a hope
Preparing us for each new dawn.

Yesterday has gone forever,
New days and ventures lie ahead,
Even darkness turns to light
When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit
Ever mindful that He's there,
As we live our lives before Him
Rejoicing in His loving care.

By Megan Carter

Looking Forward to 2021

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in His way.

Psalm 37:23

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:6

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

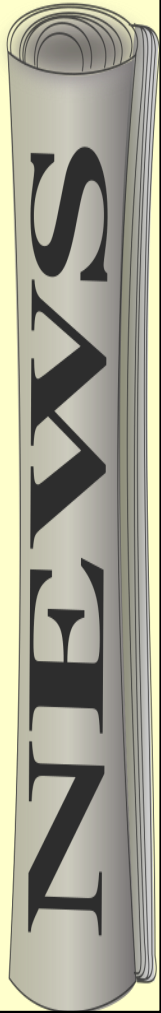
Corrie ten Boom

In His love He clothes us, enfolds us and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw He is everything that is good.

Julian of Norwich



The Lord God says, "Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the eternal paths, where the good way is; walk in it and you will find rest for your souls." Jer 6:16



*If Biblical Events Were Being Covered
by Today's Media...*

On the Red Sea Crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE

Enforcement Officials Killed While Pursuing Unruly Mob

On the Prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS ACTIVIST INTO FRENZY

400 Killed In Unprovoked Attack

On the Birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS EJECTED FROM SHELTER

Animal Rights Advocates Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On the Feeding the 5,000:

LAY PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On Healing the 10 Lepers:

QUACK PREYS ON TERMINALLY ILL

Authorities Investigating Use of Non-traditional
Medical Procedure

On Raising Lazarus from the Dead:

ITINERANT PREACHER RAISES STINK

Will Now Being Contested by Lawyers of Heirs



A Limerick for 2021

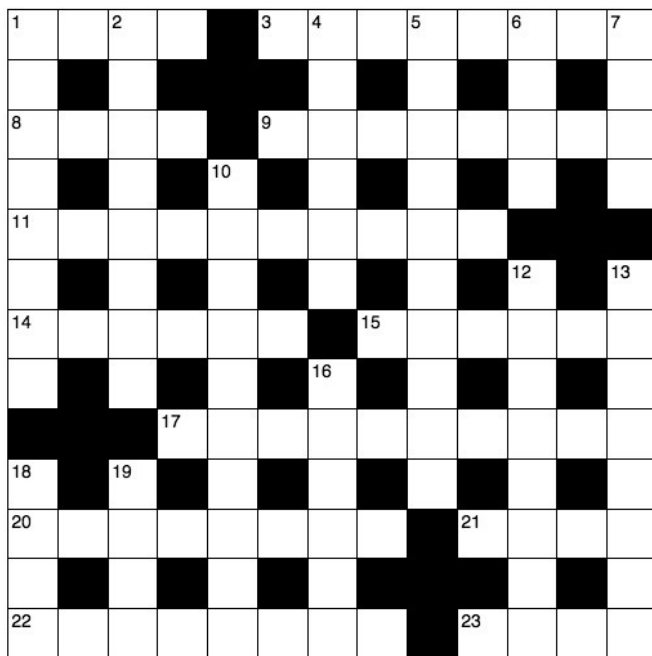
At the passing of time I'm aghast
Another New Year coming fast!
Can it be that much worse
Or more of a curse
Than this horrible year that has passed?

By Nigel Beeton



JANUARY 2021 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



Crossword Solution December 2020

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



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'.



St. Paul's Fundraising Shop (Woodlands Road)



COVID-19 Opening Times

- Monday 10am – 1pm
- Tuesday 10am – 1pm
- Wednesday 10am – 1pm
- Thursday 1pm – 4pm
- Friday 10am – 1pm
- 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.

Time for a Smile

Church

My grandson, Justin, watched a live streaming service with his dad one Sunday morning. His mum wanted to know how it went. He said, "The music was nice, but the commercial was too long."

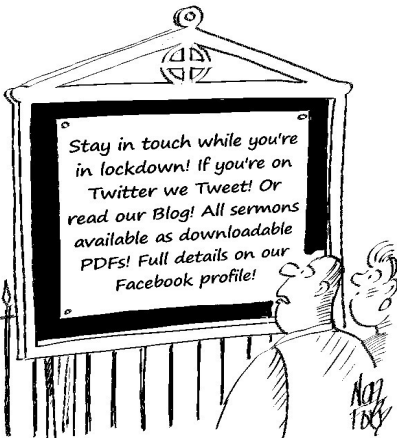


Numbers

When the minister announced the first hymn on Zoom, "Ten thousand times ten thousand!" the little boy turned anxiously to his father. "Does he want us to work that out?"

Response

The mother of a lively youngster was struggling to get him into his pyjamas one night. "Jamie, lift up your arms!" she said. To which the child promptly replied: "We lift them up unto the Lord!"



"... and we used to grumble about not understanding archaic church language!"

Not Comfortable

The vicar was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."

Order

Happy to visit his local pub before it closed again, a man found himself near two nuns. Eager to talk to anyone after weeks in Tier 3, he ventured: "What is your order?" (Meaning their religious community.)

The nuns happily replied: "Sausage and chips."

Fire?

The team at the local fire station had assembled to hear their training officer discuss the behaviours of various kinds of fire. He began: "You pull up to a house and notice puffs of smoke coming from the eaves. But the windows are blackened out and there is little or no visible flame. What does this tell you?" he asked.

Hoping the men recognised signs of a possible 'back draft', a condition very dangerous to fire fighters, he heard instead: "It tells me I've got the right house."

Editor: Below is a play on words from Matthew 22:14. (King James Version "Many are called but few are chosen.")

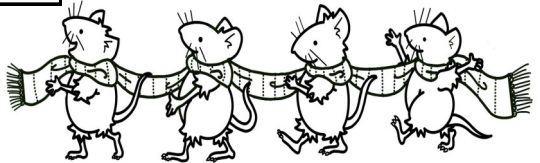
Sign in an Old Church Porch to Reassure Visitors:

In this church many are cold, but few are frozen.



Choir

Two choir members recently got married. They met by chants.



... Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!



The Cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

And finally



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)