



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

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 148 ~ February 2021



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Curate	The Rev Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
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Parish Secretary	Vacant
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Useful Information

Vicarage	01253 734562
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Fundraising Shop:	01253 732253
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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...

In these last few weeks, St Paul's has had the privilege to use a portion of our Outside Support Fund to help some local families with food provision. We trust we will have further opportunities again. Our current times are challenging and devastating on numerous levels. It is a joy to be able to serve in this small way.



As a church, we are currently studying the book of Acts, where the Apostle Paul shares Jesus' teaching:

'Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."' (Acts 20:32-35)

Paul is speaking to Christian leaders who had the task of overseeing churches in Ephesus. Paul knows he will never see them again. These are some of his final words and so carry extra weight.

What is to shape God's people?

God and the word of his grace – The word God has given to us about what he has given to us. News that you and I (and every other person) needs – words about his free, undeserved, lavish love on sinners. News which says God's very heart is to give of himself. Words which tell us that God relates to us out of his generosity, and calls us to live in light of that grace.

*It is more
blessed to
give than
to receive.*

Those words found in the Bible give people an inheritance with God. They are needed to enter the kingdom. Those words are what are needed to keep us going with God through the good and the bad. They strengthen us until we see that kingdom day.

Jesus himself said *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* Jesus makes the Father visible. We see Jesus living out God's nature as he sought to give rather than receive. We see his generosity in the time and attention he gave to people, and the needs he met. Giving even his very life, to enable the way into the kingdom to be opened.

This experience of God's free generosity shaped how Paul went about life. He worked to make the news of God's grace known wherever he could. He exhibited a generosity like his God, not seeking to take from others, or hold on to things for himself. But rather working hard to provide for himself, and to be able to be generous to others, especially the weak.

An experience of God's grace turned Paul inside out.

At this time of separation, uncertainty, financial and personal hardship, it is easy to focus on ourselves, or withdraw into ourselves. It is easy to doubt or question God's goodness. It is easy to be tempted to hang on to things as a means of seeing ourselves through or building a layer of protection. Of course, prudence and wisdom are right and proper.

But even in these times, an experience of God's generosity should lead us to work to see that generosity more widely known, and to move us to reflect our God whose very heart is *'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'* May the word of God's grace continue to shape us into grace-shaped people who make Jesus known and seek to be generous to others, and so know that blessing Jesus promised: *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

Paul



*Life is too short for
us to do everything
we want to do;
but it is long
enough for us to do
everything God
wants us to do.*

**ARTICLES FOR THE
MARCH PNE**



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

Thank you.

Janet Kimber



Who's Who?

Adrienne Kay



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I've always lived in Lytham St Anne's, am a widow of seventeen years and have three married children & eight grandchildren, 11 – 19 years old.

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

When I was younger, teaching was my vocation and passion and much of our family life centred on music & our local church. After early retirement, I retrained as a Christian Counsellor with the Philippi Trust before becoming a church pastoral visitor. After my husband died, I also travelled widely, mainly on my own, exploring and discovering the very diverse way, life around the globe has been and is lived today. I have learned that cultural and language differences are no barrier to connecting with people the world over as long as there is good will, respect for one another & plenty of smiles.

Today, I enjoy my lovely family, the Arts in all its forms, the natural world, the smell of sizzling bacon, warm weather, friendships and communicating generally.

How long have you been at St Paul's and what first brought you here?

Besides always being a member of a church family, I've often spent time visiting other churches in the area. On such a visit to St Paul's early in 2019, I discovered a warm, friendly and sincere worshipping community where the bible teaching was brought to life. It felt nurturing and relevant and I came back for more & never left.

How have you been involved at St Paul's?

I've been part of the Woodlands Welcome, had a first induction into serving refreshments after morning church, made soup for a Lent lunch and then everything stalled & changed because of the corona virus.

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

The best thing about being a Christian is that there is meaning and purpose to my life. Being a Christian is like being invited and accepting an invitation from a special friend on a journey with roadmaps and a highway code. However, there are pit stops, pot holes and empty fuel tanks ... I know them well! But underpinning every aspect of the journey is a love which exceeds understanding and a guiding voice that never fails ... I just need to always remember to tune into the 'satellite navigation!'

'I Have a Dream'

Vision is about looking to the future and discerning under God where something ought to be, or aims to be. For Christians, our vision is always founded on what God has revealed about his purposes for his people. We have no vision other than the one he gives us. But that also needs to be worked out in the different places God has put his people, and in practice will look different for each church in each community.

Over the past months, the Church Council (PCC) and Vision Group have been prayerfully reflecting on our vision – a future picture of where we long to be as a church. This is not about having a snazzy strapline, but a clear and common picture of where we want to be heading as a church. This helps set the framework for discussions over how we might get there, and acts as a measure for decisions which the church takes. More detailed plans can then grow out of the wider vision.

Around 3 years ago, as a church we spent time in vision mornings, PCC meetings and in Sunday sermons thinking about the identity God had given us as a church:

Identity: Our vision flows from our identity:

By God's grace, a loving family of whole hearted disciples, making more disciples.

Out of those four key aspects – founded on God's grace, being a loving family, seeking to grow as wholehearted disciples, and making more disciples – we have sought to form the vision, reflecting each of those areas.

Vision: Under Jesus, we long and aim to be:

- ◆ *An Anglican parish church where God and the good news of his undeserved and generous love in Jesus, is shaping all we do –*
 - ◇ *a welcoming, accessible family of all ages, experiences and backgrounds, which learns, shares and works together;*
 - ◇ *a Bible-centred family growing in Jesus and transformed by his Spirit, whose life demonstrates a generosity in giving; the goodness of Jesus' ways; and serves our community as an expression of the good news.*
 - ◇ *a family growing in number, reaching out beyond ourselves to tell others of Jesus so that they might also receive him as Saviour and Lord.*

It is still a work in progress, and we would love to hear from yourselves about any thoughts or comments you have. This is our vision together, not simply the PCC's.

We hope that this draft vision captures something of your hopes for St Paul's.

As you read it, can I ask you reflect on the following questions?

What excites you about it?

What challenges you (or us as a church) from it?

Are there key things you feel are missing from it?

Do you have any other thoughts?

Please do be in touch to share any reflections with us.

Toddler Group Update:

'St Paul's Tots'

In recent months, there has been discussion and prayer about starting a new evangelistic toddler group at St Paul's. A strange time to start a toddler group, you may be thinking! However, toddler groups are a huge gospel opportunity. Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these' (Matthew 19:14). There will be many pre-school children and their families living in Ansdell who will be unreached with the good news of the Lord Jesus and, with whom, St Paul's does not have contact at present. COVID restrictions have affected little children and their families, as with all spheres of society, and many parents of babies and young children have been very isolated over the last 10 months. Paid-for baby and toddler classes briefly started up again after the summer holidays but came to a grinding halt when the November lockdown hit. However, these classes may not always offer the relational and practical support of a church-led toddler group, nor give an opportunity for young families to hear the gospel.

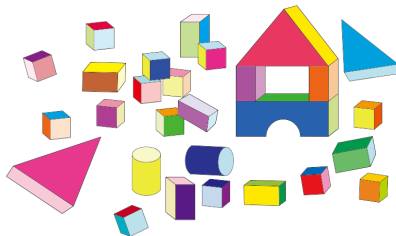
With this in mind, the PCC agreed to starting St Paul's Tots, a baby and toddler group, in mid-January 2021 for 1 hour on a Tuesday morning. In a short space of time, the Lord graciously provided a small team of willing volunteers and unexpected financial provision with which to buy some toys and materials. Plans were in place to make it COVID-secure, including small numbers (8 families to begin with), carefully selected wipeable toys, and social distancing of adults.



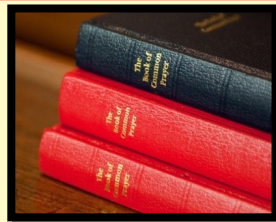
However, the group has not been able to start as planned due to this current lockdown and our spare room is full of lovely toys, bought for the toddler group and ready to be played with! A number of us felt disappointed by this

turn of events but we do not lose heart that in God's timing and for his glory, St Paul's Tots will start. Please do be praying for young families in our community at this time, for their sustaining, when they, like so many others are weary. Please pray God may open a door for us to reach them and make contact with them even from our homes during this lockdown. My husband Kyle, our daughter Hannah (aged 2) and I are hoping to run a short 'St Paul's Tots at Home' singing and Bible story time online (from our kitchen!). Please be praying God will use this for His good purposes and to make St Paul's a visible presence and witness in the community to little children and their families at this time. Thank you so much for praying with and for us already.

Amy Mulholland



Mid-Week Book of Common Prayer Service of Holy Communion



From CofE website

Wednesdays weekly – 10am

Please keep watching your weekly e-mails and printed notice sheets for any changes that occur due to coronavirus restrictions.



Taking a mature look at Valentine's Day

The Revd Peter Crumpler

You do not see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards. They mostly seem to be full of young love, hearts and roses.

Young love is wonderful and beautiful, full of optimism, and plans and hopes for the future.

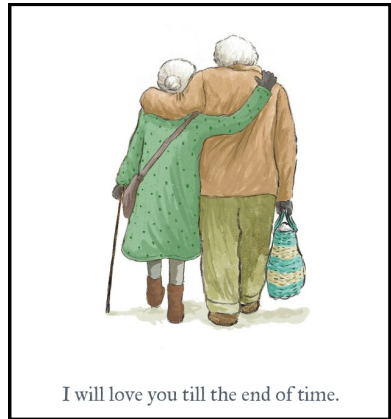
But love in later life is precious too. It is a love that has been forged through years of shared experiences and joy, maybe raising children together, perhaps enjoying grandchildren.

It's a love that's stood the test of time, and deeper, much deeper, than any shop-bought Valentine's Day card can describe.

That long-term love can also be shown by the devoted wife or husband who visits their spouse in a care home each day, gently talking with them when they are, perhaps, deep into dementia. Or sitting for long hours by a hospital bed. Or dutifully caring for them at home.

Love is a marathon, not a sprint. It starts with white lace and promises and grows over the years.

Mature love is about the commitment that spans decades and is seldom shown on the cards on sale in the High Street this Valentine's Day.



(*Helena Mackevych has kindly granted permission to print this rather lovely picture.)

As a priest, when I marry a couple and take them through their wedding vows, I hear them make their lifelong commitment "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part..."

It's so wonderful to see the bride and groom smiling, and enjoying this precious moment, making vows that will, hopefully, span the rest of their lives. I love taking weddings - it's an immense privilege to be part of a couple's special day.

And I find myself pondering what the future will hold for them. I wonder what shape that lifelong commitment will take, as I pray a blessing on their marriage. How much wealth or poverty will come their way? Will it be sickness or health that will accompany them through the years? How will they support each other as the years go by?

'Love is patient. Love is kind.' These are familiar words from the popular wedding reading in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. That patience, that kindness are qualities that can develop over years of marriage.

Just how much patience will be needed in the years ahead cannot usually be known on the wedding day.

So, this year, as I look at the rows of red or pink Valentine's Day

cards on sale in the shops, I shall look out for cards that have a deeper message.

I shall seek out cards that celebrate long-term love. Cards that say something about the joys and challenges of growing older together.

Cards that go beyond hearts and roses to the deeper love that transcends love's first blossoming. I just hope I can find some...

**Helena Mackevych is a professional illustrator based in Sheffield. She has a website, 'Nice Things by Helena' (<https://nicethingsbyhelena.com/>), where she sells all kinds of lovely things, including cards, prints and tea towels.*




Coming Up in February ...

February 2nd: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In accordance with Jewish custom, 40 days after his birth, Mary took Jesus to the Temple to 'present Him to the Lord'.



**February 16th:
Shrove Tuesday**



The making of pancakes is a tradition dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. It was the easiest way for Christians to use up the last of their eggs and fat, before spending Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

**February 17th:
Ash Wednesday**

In some Christian Churches, people will have their forehead marked with the sign of a cross of ashes as an outward sign of repentance before God.



An Unlikely Youth Minister

I wouldn't describe myself as someone who's "in my element" with teenagers and young people. I don't follow trends; I'm not into sport; I don't watch television; I don't listen to contemporary music. But since I became a Christian, I've constantly found myself recruited into the church's youth ministry! And though I took to youth ministry reluctantly at first, I've come to enjoy being with young people; and I've learned to appreciate the opportunity that youth ministry presents: through God's word I get to be involved in preparing young people for life in this world.

I began as a helper at the youth group at St Leonard's Church in Padiham, East Lancashire. Being myself only 23 at the time, I hadn't entirely left behind my own teenage insecurities! When the girls would giggle together, I'd ask myself, "Was it something I said?" It was very off-putting! I didn't feel I could connect or speak meaningfully to the young people, and dreaded these Sunday night meetings. But Isabel, the vicar's wife, whose son Tim was a member of the group, helped me, particularly by showing me how to take an interest in their lives and concerns. So I gradually began to look forward to these conversations, and see them as opportunities to show interest, and to say something about the Lord.

It wasn't until I got to Christ Church, Cockfosters (North London) that I began truly to enjoy and embrace the youth work. I was now at a different stage of life: married with a little one of my own. The church was blessed with a large and lively youth group of 14-18 year olds - mostly boys - which met every Sunday evening after the service for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with games and snacks. I became convinced, through my experience there, that young people don't really care how you dress, or what you're into: what matters to them is that you care about them, and take an interest in them.

I also felt that I had more confidence to ask the young people searching questions, not only in group settings, but also one-to-one. We sought to apply what we'd learned from the Bible to their lives. Being honest, I often found them more open to discussion than some adults are!

I gained a respect for those who professed Christ while still at school: in many ways, they faced a harder time than I did, from their contemporaries, and in some cases even from teachers. Through these temptations and challenges the devil was constantly seeking to lead them away from God: but they wanted to persevere in their faith.

While at Christ Church, I also had the opportunity to learn from Pete, who was a fellow student at the College where I was training for ministry, and who also helped at the youth group. Pete seemed to be an expert at engaging them with studies and questions: this is what I want to be able to do!

When I arrived at St Paul's, Paul Bye invited me to join him, alongside Mary Winterflood, in leading the church youth group. The group meets online at the moment - so I haven't had the opportunity to meet most of the young people in person yet. But I admire their willingness, after a day's schoolwork, to come on Zoom, and be with us for an hour to look at God's word. I asked Paul, at the end of last year, if he would be willing to let me lead them through a series looking at the Apostles' Creed (*I believe in God, the Father almighty... you will probably know it.*) I wanted to give the young people a sense of the *fundamentals* of the Christian faith - what we basically believe. I wanted to show them the *coherence* of our faith - how it all hangs together as a complete worldview. I also think it's important, especially at this stage in their lives, that they see how Christianity *differs from* and *challenges* other ways of thinking, which they encounter through friends and the media. Paul was happy for us to start this series looking at the Creed; and we began in January.

My prayer is that God would increase these opportunities: that we would see more young people showing an interest in God and the Bible, and show us how we can seek young people out to join us. We will make the most of technology, but I very much desire to be with the young people in person, when that becomes an option. I'm pleased to be learning from Paul, and I look forward to seeing how the young people grow over the next few years. I pray that they would make a definite commitment of their lives to the Lord, and put themselves under his protection and care for the rest of their lives. Please join with me in praying these things!

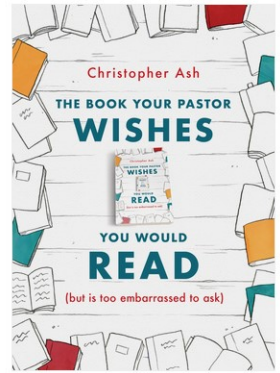
I don't think I'll ever be the most natural, able, or gifted person when it comes to youth ministry: but I'm thankful to the Lord for the experiences he has given me, and I've learned much from serving him in this way.

Kyle Mulholland



A Book Review by Janet Kimber

The Book Your Pastor Wishes You Would Read (but is too embarrassed to ask) by Christopher Ash



A little while ago, I was looking for a book on the Good Book Company website, when a curious title passed across the screen 'The Book Your Pastor Wishes You Would Read (but is too embarrassed to ask)' by Christopher Ash.

Intrigued, I followed the link to look more closely at the book that had piqued my interest.

Here is the description from the website:

What do you think about your pastor? Do you chew over his sermons and wonder if they are clear and helpful? Do you feel he spends enough time with you? In fact, do you ever catch yourself wondering what he does all day?

The truth is, often we think, "What can my pastor do for me?" Far less often do we think, "What can I do for my pastor?"

Seasoned former pastor, Christopher Ash, urges church members to think about pastors not just in terms of what they do – how they lead and pray and preach and teach and so on – but about who they are. He encourages us to remember that pastors are people and to pray for them as they serve us.

Paradoxically, caring for our pastor will be a blessing to us as well as to them, and create a culture of true fellowship in our church family.

That was enough! Purchase made.

It is indeed an intriguing book and I would recommend it to anyone who truly wants to help and care for their pastor. Each chapter challenges us to think about how we can support and work with our pastors in our church's ministry; and concludes with a very helpful prayer.



How to Handle Temptation

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the temptations of Jesus.

"I can resist everything but temptation" (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

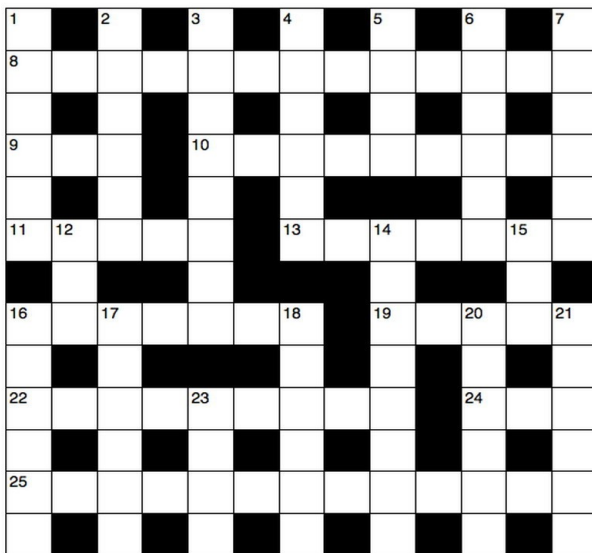
The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.



FEBRUARY 2021 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



Crossword Solution January 2020

C	O	C	K	S	H	A	C	K	L	E	S	
U	H			E	H	O						
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T		S		E		P		E		L	U	
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F		A		N		E			S		N	
C	A	P	I	T	A	L	S		U	S	P	G



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".

Church Editors
Member editor 2021



A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So, if we love the Lord Jesus, we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of Him.

John R W Stott

It is but right that our hearts should be on God, when the heart of God is so much on us.

Richard Baxter

Time for a Smile

Portrait

A primary teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher blinked: "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Pray with Grannie

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

Bishop

An exam for R.E. asked the following question: 'What does a Bishop do?'

Came one answer: 'Move diagonally across the board.'



Seen on a birthday card:

Forget about the past,
You can't change it.

Forget about the future,
You can't predict it.

Forget about the present,
I didn't buy you one.



"Don't worry, I'm not getting COVID - I didn't realise the sign meant a low door..."

Fall down

One way to find out if you're old is to fall in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you're young. If they panic and start running toward you, you're old.

Slow down

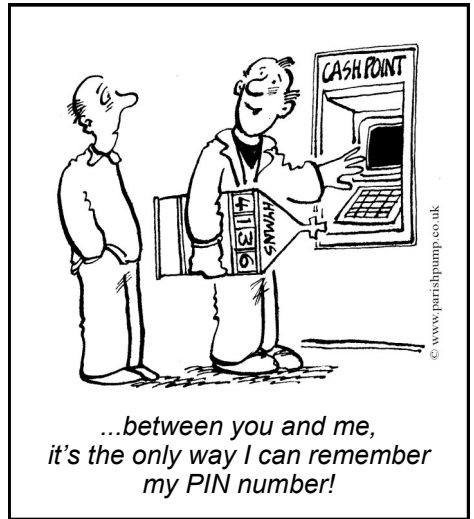
Each Sunday morning our minister was mildly irritated by a member of the congregation who was a fast reader. Finally, announcing the 23rd Psalm, he added:

"And will the lady who is always by 'the still waters' while the rest of us are still in 'green pastures,' please pause until we catch up?"

Disperse them

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

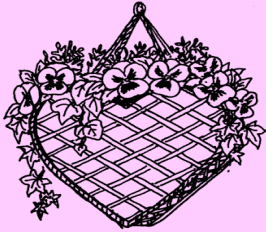
He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.



Collection

A church newsletter announced details of the church creche: 'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'

*February 14th:
St Valentine's Day*

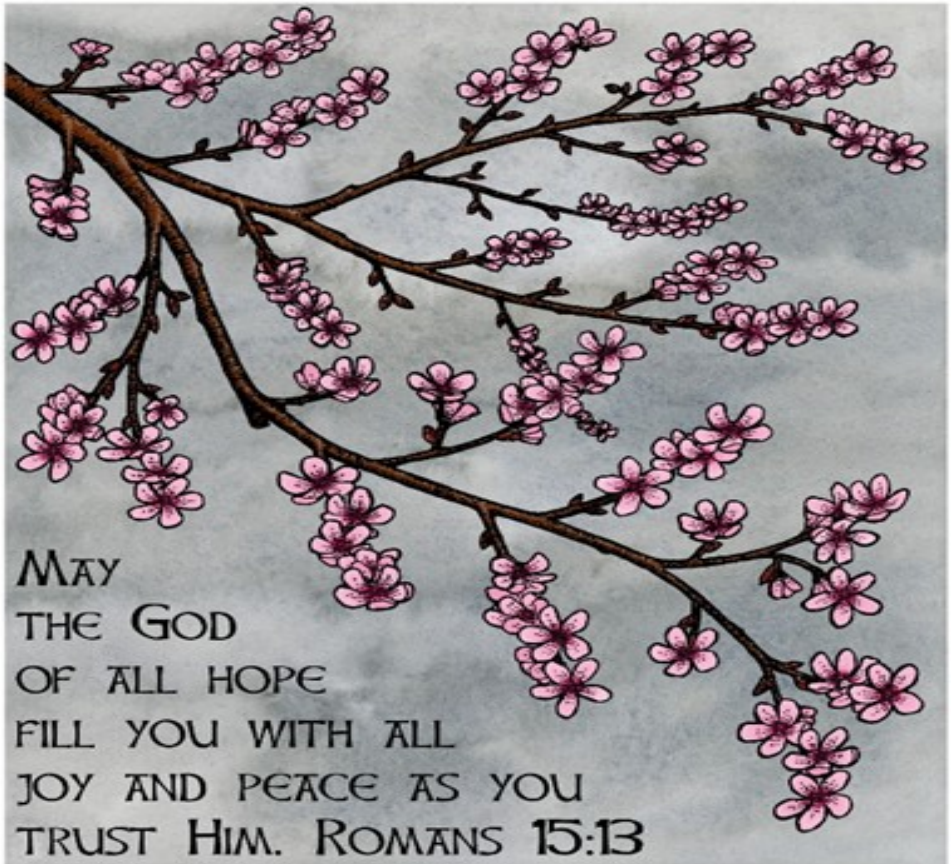


Dressed

During my surgical residency I was called out of a sound sleep to the emergency room. Unshaven and with tousled hair, I showed up with an equally unrepresentable medical student. In A&E we encountered the on-call medical resident and his student, both neatly attired in clean white lab coats. The resident said to his student, "You can always tell the surgeons by their absolute disregard for appearance."

Two evenings later, I was at a banquet when called to A&E for another emergency. I was stitching away, wearing my dinner jacket, when I encountered that same medical resident. He looked at me, then said to his student, "Sure is sensitive to criticism, isn't he?"

And finally



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.