

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 151 ~ May 2021



Galatians 3:14

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Letter from the Vicarage...

'Have you seen the change in them?' That is a conversation which is happening quite frequently at present. Having been apart for so long, when we do get to see each other again, children have shot up, hair styles have changed, weight has been lost (or gained!) Sadly some have even greatly aged or deteriorated in health.



But no change we see at present is as great as the change that took place in the first followers of Jesus. The 'before' picture is of a loyal group of followers (for the most part) who don't always understand what Jesus said, fearfully huddled together in a locked room after Jesus died. But by less than two months later they had headed into the world confidently making Jesus known, even willing to die for their faith. A church of a handful had become a church of thousands. That is a change!

But what accounts for that change?

Two events this month give part of the answer. The first Easter those disciples met the risen Jesus face to face. That changed everything.

But then forty days later, marked on Ascension Day (May 13th), they also saw with their own eyes Jesus ascend and enter God's heavenly kingdom – taking his throne as God's universal king. Just a little while after, marked at Pentecost or Whit Sunday (May 23rd), these ordinary, working men began to make Jesus known to huge crowds, stand up to the religious establishment, and begin to transform the world in Jesus' name.

When it comes to Christianity, its reality and historicity, you don't just have to account for the evidence surrounding Jesus. But also what one person has called the 'logic of history' – the change which took place in men who went from 'weak to world changers.' Willing to die for what they had witnessed.

Witnessing Jesus ascended and ruling at the Ascension. Witnessing and empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

If you want to discount Christianity, you have to account for the change in the early followers of Jesus too. What else caused such a change, other that they encountered this all for real? People follow, preach and even die for things which they believe to be true. Sometimes with tragic effect. But no-one dies for something they have made up.

If you are also a follower of Jesus, then this month, let that reliability, that 'logic of history' be something which gives us confidence to make him known as well.

Join us on Ascension Day to mark Jesus ascended and reigning. And join us through *Thy Kingdom Come* as we ask God to do the same work in us as those first disciples – to equip us to make Jesus known.

With best wishes

Paul

The Ascension

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:6-11)

(Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica. Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday May 23rd at 11.30am

In person in the Church Building or on Zoom for those unable to join in person

If you would count yourself as a part of St Paul's, join us for this important opportunity as a church. We will take time to look back in thanksgiving for the past year, to appoint key roles for the coming year, and to consider important news and matters for our church going forward.

If you count yourself as part of our church family, but are not on our Electoral Roll, why not consider joining? The Electoral Roll is a way of expressing being part of the church, and enable you to vote at the APCM. To find out more, including grounds for eligibility, please speak to Paul, Kyle or Ron Lyon our Electoral Roll Officer.

You can join it at any time, but the official revision window will be from Sunday 25th April to Wednesday 5th May inclusive.

ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE PNE



If you have an article for inclusion in the June PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by Monday 10th May.

Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Generous - overflowing with the generosity of God

Consider for a moment all the things you have – the things which give you life, which sustain you, and which bring joy. Think about the skills, gifts and opportunities that you have. Those have all come to you from the hand of an indescribably generous God, who just loves to give to you and to me.

Then think about Jesus who comes as the grace-gift of the Father who loves the world so much he gave the most precious thing to us – his Son. An indescribable gift who brings us the riches of heaven as we trust in him.

Generous is a defining mark of our great God.

But what does it look like to reflect our God in the world? How does his generosity shape my heart and desires? How does it relate to how I relate to those in need, to my church and its needs, to how I spend or give my money?

Those are some vital questions we are going to begin to explore in an exciting new series called 'Generous.' They are not easy questions. Sometimes they unsettle us. Sometimes they are things we think we've heard before. Or maybe they are questions which have always confused us. Maybe they are things we would want to grow in but have never known how.

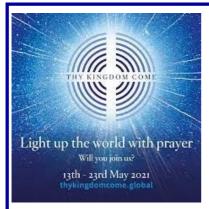
We would ask as many as possible to join us in person as we look at two chapters from the Bible -2 Corinthians 8-9. Join us in person, or if that is not possible, join us online as we learn together. As part of the series we will hear from real-life stories as to how God's generosity has shaped their life. We aim to get really practical as well with some tips and ideas as to what Christian giving might mean for ourselves.

This series comes at a time when there are real financial needs as a church. The continuing pandemic has had significant and concerning impacts on our finances. These are ones which together we need to address. Please look out for an information leaflet coming soon which explains more about this. Please join us at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where we will spend time unpacking those.

However, this series is so much more than just about our church's financial needs. This is about knowing our God. It is about us enjoying him as he is. It is about reflecting our generous God, and knowing the freedom which comes from that. It is about all of us being helped to move forward a step from where we currently are to journey into the grace of giving. Will you join us on this journey over the next month? We would love you to.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)



Thy Kingdom Come May 13th – May 23rd

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the

Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

We are encouraged to ask for the Holy Spirit to help us be witnesses to Jesus Christ and to pray for others to discover that living faith in Jesus. What a great and needed thing to pray for!

Just before his ascension, Jesus promised his disciples

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

That task is ours still. Jesus calls us to share Christ where we are. But the promise is the same – God's Spirit will help us!

So, consider joining us for one or more of the following, where we will be praying for all or part of these events:

Thursday 13th May

7.30pm - Ascension Day Communion

Monday 17th May

9.30am - Morning Prayer

Wednesday 19th May

10am - Mid-Week Communion

Thursday 20th May

4pm - Outdoor singing with a short service

Pentecost

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers how the Holy Spirit can change our lives

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?



God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her.
The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers
beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).



Some Light-Hearted Fun!







Your Vicar and Church Wardens!
(Sorry Kyle, I couldn't find an appropriate one for you!)





The See Magazine

In his letter of February 5, Bishop Julian wrote to parishes saying ...

As we know, this pandemic has hastened the demise of some things which we used to do and the diocese has not been exempt from this.

I wanted to share with you all that The See Magazine will no longer be published.

This is for a number of reasons, including diminished uptake and increasing cost to the diocese. Attempts to increase advertising revenue were sadly unsuccessful.

The Parish Update will now be sent out fortnightly and will contain many of the news and interest stories which you will have been used to in The See Magazine. This will be sent directly to inboxes fortnightly and will carry advice on how to use the material in Parish Update itself and also the diocesan website to best populate your local communications and magazines.

We remain grateful to Ronnie Semley (Diocesan Communications Manager) for enabling good communication internally and externally.

Be Kind to Each Other

Colin Hammacott praises the wonderful everyday blessing that anyone of us can give.

'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.' (Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk. The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem:

A Brighter Tomorrow

There is much we can do just to brighten This world of all take and no give, There's a great deal that we can contribute Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours Or through lending a hand in some way It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours In the service of those most in need It's all about setting a standard And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others And help and aid folks in distress It's the care and assistance we offer That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple The rewards plain for all men to see 'As you did all of this to my brother Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'

By Colin Hammacott



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.

St. Paul's Fundraising Shop has re-opened. We're ready for your custom and donations. New volunteers are always very welcome.

Remembering HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh (1921 - 2021)





"File:Royal Standard of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.svg" by Own work is licensed with CC BY-SA 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0

A Tribute to the Passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

by Mary Winterflood

Since the sad passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh I have been reflecting on the tremendous impact his legacy of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has had, not just on so many young people – up to 6.7 million to date, but also on the lives of many adults and volunteers with the Scheme.



Neither Ian nor I were able to gain a Duke of Edinburgh's Award as it was not available at the schools we attended, as was true for many of the D of E leaders. We have however been fully involved in the Award Scheme for over forty years and found it a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. We have been able to combine our interest in the outdoors and walking with enabling many young people to do the same. It has always given us great pleasure to see pupils presented with their Award, especially those who find the expedition section a challenge. Completing all four sections: skill, volunteering,

physical recreation and an expedition as well as a residential at Gold level can be a daunting prospect for some, but it gives a tremendous feeling of satisfaction of a job well done. We have been privileged to attend many Gold Award presentations at St James' Palace, Holyrood and in



recent times at Buckingham Palace as there are so many Gold Awards issued, and have seen the Duke on all those occasions. But it wasn't until 2007 that we were formally introduced to him when as the Award manager at KEQMS, I was substituted for the Wales' goalkeeper and presented 200 Gold certificates to participants from the North-West. Our memories of the Duke are his genuine interest and respect for all the young people's achievements and his friendly but professional manner with which he put everyone at their ease, especially the young people receiving their awards. Another highlight was an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace when I was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's New Year's Honours' list of 2016 for services to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Lancashire.

We continue to help with the Scheme at AKS, not only for the personal enjoyment it brings, but also because we believe in the wide range of qualities that the Award inspires, from team-work and leadership skills through to tenacity and the desire to succeed, all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities. By completing the different



activities of skill, volunteering, physical recreation and an expedition the students learn about themselves and how to cope in challenging and at times stressful situations. During lockdown the Award introduced Certificates of has Achievement for those who have completed their skill, volunteering and physical recreation and we hope that expeditions will run soon, so young people can gain their full Award.

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The national Church of England website has an online condolence book available on the homepage: www.churchofengland.org.

Meanwhile you can also sign the online condolence book on The Royal Family website: www.royal.uk

Pause for Thought - Radio 2

HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster

If there were a word to sum up the His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh - for me, it would be 'sacrifice'. Although he lived to the ripe old age of 99 so many aspects of his life were cut short.

His childhood cut short. His family fled Greece when he was just a year old, when his uncle, the King of Greece, was forced to abdicate.

As a husband and father, the privacy of his young family was cut short by the unexpected death of the Queen's father, King George VI in 1952.

As a distinguished Naval officer, who served in the Second World War, his career was cut short so he could fulfil duties as the Queen's Consort.

Unusually for a man of his generation, he sacrificed his career and the limelight to enable his wife, HM The Queen to take the lead. In the words of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge: he 'totally put his personal career aside to support her, he never took the limelight, never overstepped the mark".

He touched many lives – including my own. My love for the outdoors and hiking was born through taking up the challenge of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award as a 14-year-old schoolgirl.

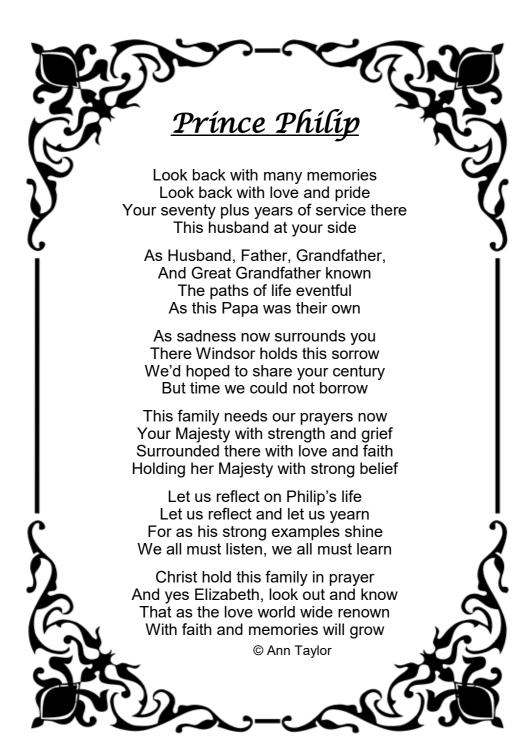
On her golden wedding anniversary in 1997, HM The Queen said of her husband: "He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years."

Prince Philip has served as one of the stalwarts of our nation and Commonwealth for over 70 years. The longest serving Royal Consort in British history.

In her annual Christmas messages, HM The Queen often speaks of her faith in Jesus Christ as her rock in the storms.

The Bible says: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Prince Philip lived a life of sacrifice. As a Christian, my hope is that through faith in the incredible sacrifice of Jesus, a life sacrificed to death itself, that death does not need to have the last word. We can meet again. We have a stalwart for our nation for many years to come."



Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping - FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Prayers and Poems

The Travellers

They travelled together sad and forlorn With all of their dreams shattered and torn, It started so well, their hopes were high Never to guess that He would die.

The Man joined the two as they walked along, He asked why their faces were sad and long, 'Have you not heard' disbelieving they cried 'How the One we followed was crucified?'

Opening the scriptures He began to unfold How the Christ should suffer as written of old, It was not a disaster, but all of God's plan That one should come as Redeemer of man.

They listened enraptured as slowly they saw The purpose of God revealed in the Law The Prophets and Psalms, it's all about Him The One who should come and rescue from sin.

O that eyes should be opened and scripture made plain, To see Christ in its pages again and again, That just like the travellers I too should see The Master, the Saviour dying for me.

By Megan Carter

Ascension

To complete Your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, You ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way You showed that You are Lord of all, and are the fulfilment of all creation. Thus from that moment every human and every living creature should bow at Your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we can see that all creation proclaims Your greatness.



A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153). He was the main inspiration of the Cistercian Order of Monks.

A Prayer for Pentecost

Loving Father God, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit;

Your Spirit who knows no restrictions or barriers;

Your Spirit who can reach us and be with us and in us, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances;

Your Spirit who comforts and heals and empowers us to live with confidence that, ultimately, all shall be well;

Your Spirit who connects us, through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Because of Jesus' victory over death we have hope and life forever. Thank you, loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



100 years of the British Legion

by Tim Lenton

One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the

war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

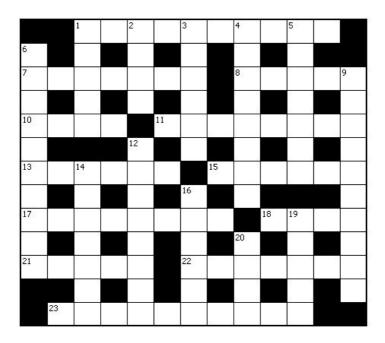
Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

MAY 2021 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
- **7** Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)
- 8 'All I have is —, and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5)
- **10** Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
- **11** Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- **15** At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- **18** So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)
- **21** Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

- **1** Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive (6)
- **4** Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
- **5** Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- **9** Transgression (*Psalm 36:1*) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- **14** Same hit (anag.) (7)
- **16** 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the ' (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- **19** Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. (5)
- **20** Cab (4)

Some Thought-Provoking Quotes

Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade Him to move things our way, but an exercise by which we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to move ourselves His way.

Leonard Ravenshill

If you wish to know God, you must know His Word.

C H Spurgeon

Freedom comes by filling your mind with God's thoughts.

Erwin Lutzer





Time for a Smile

What did I do with the car?

As I left a meeting at our church, I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought – I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.

With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call: "Darling," I began (I always call her 'darling' at moments like this). "Darling, I have left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a little gasp. "You did not *have the car*. I dropped you off. Remember?"

My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick – I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here thinking I've stolen our car..."



RN

There didn't seem to be anyone in.

Anaesthetic

As the manager of our hospital's cricket team, I was responsible for sorting out the equipment for the games.

One day as I walked through the surgery department carrying a bat that belonged to one of the surgeons, I passed several patients and their families in a waiting area. I heard one man say to his wife, "Look, darling, here comes your anaesthetist."

Coronavirus – Warning About Vaccine

This happened recently and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend had his second doze of vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home.

He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses....



The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in the dark.





Gift?

I asked my mother if I was a gifted child. She said I must be, because they certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

Fear

The only thing to fear is fear itself... and spiders.





The Puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

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.