



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

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 152 ~ June 2021

**I AM THE
WAY, THE
TRUTH
AND THE
LIFE.**

John 14:6

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Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Curate	The Rev Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
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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!

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Letter from the Vicarage...

Journeying Together

There is a need to rebuild. Be that nationally, as communities, and as a church. For over a year, while we give thanks for the Lord's goodness and provision, there has also been a paucity of physical interactions, normality and a complete change to our Christian worship.



Between now and the summer (and beyond) as a church we are seeking to walk a journey of rebuilding together. In this pandemic we have operated in a certain way in society and church, and that has almost become normal. Much has flowed from good desires. But we have also learnt to be wary of each other, even to fear each other. Heading on a journey in the other direction is not going to be easy. It will mean overcoming barriers which will have formed in our actions, and potentially in our hearts.

This journey will more likely be in stages rather than a 100m dash, with steps in the direction of our intended goal. But nonetheless it will need to be deliberate too. For without committing to the journey we will probably not head in the new direction.

It will be a journey which all of us might find ourselves at different stages on, or travelling at different paces. As a church we want to recognise that. For some the idea of being back physically in church, or interacting in a more open way might at this point fill you with angst. For others we will feel pain and frustration of where we currently are, longing for the journey to be completed soon.

A verse I shared a while ago in Pews News Extra comes back to mind, and I wonder if it is helpful to us again in these times. Paul writes:

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

God gives us himself in these days – as a congregation, and as individuals – in the person of his Spirit. He gives his help as we journey together.

His Spirit does not make us timid. This last year might have done so. There might have been some understandable reasons beneath that. We might have found ourselves more anxious than ever before. But with his Spirit's help we will make this journey, overcoming timidity and fear.

Risk is something which will always be present in life. If you read Kyle's article in April's magazine you will have been reminded that many core Christian practices do not easily fit with a 'germ free' culture. While rightly seeking to care for each other and be wise, the Christian life is also one which lives with appropriate risk, not overwhelmed by it, because of the benefits to us and others of our life and worship.

It might feel like a huge thing the first time we have coffee together again, or in time share the peace in a physical way. It might seem like another world to share in the common cup at Holy Communion once more, or sit normally in church. For some we will easily walk the journey to living these things again. For others it might feel like a mountain to climb. The important thing is that wherever we find ourselves, and whatever pace we are at, to make a step forward with the Spirit's help, and then the next. Those steps might look different for each. But together to make them empowered by the Spirit.

It is why we are seeking to put in place some stepping stones between now and the summer to set a journey direction including the beginning of receiving bread and wine by simultaneous administration, exploring ways to begin coffee again, making opportunities to be together as a whole congregation, to move to recombine the morning service, to re-start

Sunday Club and the like. These won't be final stops on the journey in some cases but they are steps in that direction.

Yet the Spirit who gives power, also gives love and self-discipline. Recognising that we may be journeying at different paces, we will seek to provide ways to engage together but which gives space for different people. For example, receiving by simultaneous administration will be encouraged – a way to receive both bread and wine as Jesus gave us, but not compulsory. When coffee returns, looking (weather permitting) to have inside and outside options so people can be together where they feel most comfortable.

It will mean loving each other at this time – being encouraged by the boldness of those who journey more quickly, and also supporting those who are journeying at a different pace from ourselves.

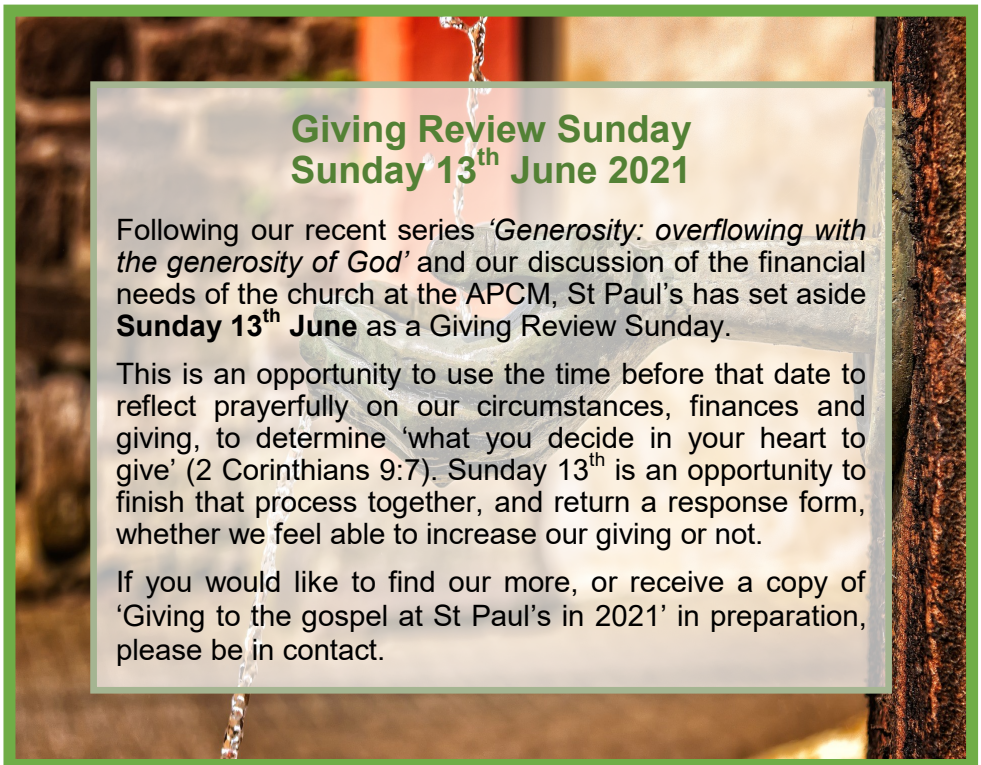
One particular plea at this time is that if this last year has become one where you have fallen out of the pattern of being at church in person – not because of medical reasons, vulnerabilities or the like – but really because it has become normal not to be there – can I lovingly encourage you to think about making this the time to return? It will only get harder the longer our time apart goes on, and you will receive a joyful welcome, I promise. If there are ways in which we can help you in that, please be in touch, we would love to talk it through.

Please pray that we would know the truth of God’s word as we seek to journey forward together.

‘For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.’ 2 Timothy 1:7

With love

Paul



Giving Review Sunday Sunday 13th June 2021

Following our recent series *‘Generosity: overflowing with the generosity of God’* and our discussion of the financial needs of the church at the APCM, St Paul’s has set aside **Sunday 13th June** as a Giving Review Sunday.

This is an opportunity to use the time before that date to reflect prayerfully on our circumstances, finances and giving, to determine ‘what you decide in your heart to give’ (2 Corinthians 9:7). Sunday 13th is an opportunity to finish that process together, and return a response form, whether we feel able to increase our giving or not.

If you would like to find out more, or receive a copy of *‘Giving to the gospel at St Paul’s in 2021’* in preparation, please be in contact.

Who's Who?

David and Jill Maddock



'Like poles repel; unlike poles attract' — a law of physics which characterized our initial meeting. A cheeky Lancashire Lass met a reserved Devonian vicar-in-training at a conference of the League of Prayer at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in 1960. Clearly God had a purpose in our meeting - north meets south — and, as the following 2 years revealed He intended us to serve Him together. Pouring rain and a gale heralded our wedding day in August 1962.

David's ministry, first as a curate at Bispham Parish Church, allowed Jill to continue teaching the Reception Class at Westcliff Infant School before the birth of our first daughter December 1963. In July 1965, in response to what we believed to be God's call, we sailed to Canada on the first leg of a journey which was to take us to Payne Bay on the Ungava coast to minister to Eskimo people in the area. We were to be the first resident minister and wife. Many challenges faced us, learning the language, getting to know the people and their culture and, not least of all, to build a house. No igloo but a 3 bedroomed property of timber and cladding —the only thing David had made in woodwork before was a cutlery drawer! God enabled us to rise to these challenges

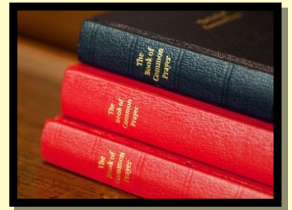
Unaccountably, humanly speaking, our Arctic ministry was cut short when Jill was flown out as a medical emergency and spent 8 weeks in a Canadian Hospital. Eventually we were reunited as a family (we had a second daughter by this time) and, without explanation, God opened doors for ministry in East Anglia, Sussex, a return to Bispham as Rector and finally to Cornwall where we retired in 2002.

The door opened to us to avail ourselves of the 'Supported Living' provision by the Church of England Pensions' Board here in Lytham in 2019 —so here we are! What a thrill to find, barely a mile up the road, a Church with a Bible-based ministry with Christ at the centre feeding heart and mind, and people who welcomed even us. As we are 'heading for the last round-up' ministry is limited but we sing in the choir and take our turn in leading prayers in worship. We hope to attend the Prayer Meeting when life is on a more normal footing.

We share a common love for Church music in all its forms and for Bible Study. Jill used to play 'cello and enjoyed being part of Concert Orchestras. David collects stamps and from time to time keeps up his study of Biblical Hebrew. We both enjoy reading good books of different kinds and walking as much as we can. Gardening in a limited way is also something Jill enjoys. However, our greatest desire is to be those God can use to bless, help and encourage others in the way He sees best. In our individual and shared lives we have experienced 'the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' — the worst being the tragic death of our younger daughter in 1989. However, we have learnt that God is in control even when it doesn't look like it and He will see us through to the end. Praise Him!



**Mid-Week
Book of Common Prayer
Service of Hbly 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.

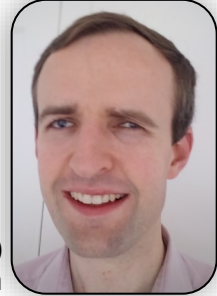


*Saturday 12th June
The Official 95th Birthday of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*



Pledges and Prayer of a Priest-To-Be

by Kyle Mulholland



On 3 July I will be ordained priest (or presbyter) at Blackburn Cathedral. I approach the day with great trepidation: and I ask you to pray for me as the day draws near.

I often turn in my mind, as I think toward my ordination, to the exchange between Peter and the Lord Jesus Christ on the night before the crucifixion. Peter, the zealous and confident disciple, says to the Lord, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!" Jesus, knowing better, says, "Will you lay down your life for my sake? Very truly I tell you, that the cock shall not crow, until you have denied me three times" (cf John 13:37-38). I find this exchange very sobering, and very relevant.

Peter genuinely wanted to follow his Lord, even to death, even to the cross. Peter also believed that he would do so, if it came to it. But Peter couldn't; and Jesus knew it. Peter one day would die for his Lord; but not yet. Only after the coming of the Holy Spirit would Peter have sufficient strength to confess Jesus no matter what.

I see myself in Peter here. I have a true and great desire to follow my Lord Jesus Christ. I know that Jesus promises that those who follow him will face hardship, suffering, and rejection. I know that I will have to choose between these things on the one hand, and denying the Lord, as Peter did, on the other. I want to own the Lord no matter what. But even if this is what I desire with my whole heart, I will fail, unless I am enabled by the Spirit of God. Peter's pledge was a good one: but on its own, it wasn't enough. So it is with me.

Therefore, as I set down these resolutions, I am greatly in need of your prayers; so that the Lord before whom I make them will also empower me to keep them when temptation comes.

My first pledge, concerning the Scriptures

Lord Jesus Christ, I pledge before you, to submit myself wholly to your word; to diligently seek to know what is taught in it; to change my thinking and actions when they are not in accordance with it; to hold to the truth of your word no matter how strongly or cleverly it is opposed or distorted in the world or in the church; and to be willing to suffer for upholding what your word upholds, and condemning what your word condemns.

My second pledge, concerning my personal and family life

Lord Jesus Christ, I pledge before you, to honour you in my words and conduct, both public and private; to obey all lawful authorities that you have set over me; to be faithful to my wife Amy as long as we both shall live; to raise my daughter Hannah, and any other children that it may please you to give us, to love and fear you; to use my money, time, property, and gifts, as you direct; to seek to bring my wider family to know you; and to repent when I fail.

My third pledge, concerning my ministry as a priest

Lord Jesus Christ, I pledge before you, to preach your word faithfully; to pray diligently; to administer your sacraments according to your revealed pattern and will; to love your people, care for them, forgive them, and seek their forgiveness; to go where you send me; and not to compromise or act against conscience under pressure.

My Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, I make these resolutions and pledges before you. But you know that I have no power at all within myself to do these things that I have pledged: if I attempt to do them in my own strength, I will fail, and dishonour you, and disqualify myself, and become useless. Therefore, Lord, I earnestly beseech you to grant to me the grace of your Holy Spirit, so that I may fulfil these pledges that I have made, glorify you in this ministry, remain faithful to you all my days, and be a blessing to many. I ask this for your name's sake. Amen.



Can you help?

Do you know someone who can help?

The Rainbow and Brownie units who use our hall, and with whom we have had a relationship for many years are in need of help. To enable them to be able to restart in September, they need more helpers.

Are you able to lend a hand or do you know anyone who could? Both units need help, in particular the Rainbows. No experience is required, they just need adults in the hall to assist with craft activities, games, singing etc. These will have already been planned and resourced. Even occasional help will be gratefully received.

If you would like to know more, or know anyone who might be interested, please be in contact and we can put you in touch with the

Rainbow and Brownie
leaders directly.



**St Paul's
Tots**

St Paul's Tots is a new toddler
group for **0-3s** from
St Paul's Church.

With toys, songs, crafts and
Bible stories.

We meet on Tuesday mornings:-

10am - 11am for Toddlers &

11:15am - 12:15pm for Babies under 12 months

St. Paul's Church Hall, Lake Road North,
Lytham St. Annes, FY8 1BZ

£1. To request a place, go to:
stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots

*Peter** (Mt 26:71-75, John 21:15-18)

I don't know the man.
I don't know Him.
I don't know Him.

But I did.
From the moment I turned to Him,
That day by the Sea,
I knew Him,
Knew He was the Lord.

I so wanted to serve Him,
Speak for Him,
Follow Him,
Fish for Him
Live and give my life for Him
No matter what.

He is the Lord
And I let Him down
Again and again and again.
I go on letting Him down.

But Jesus,
Who knows the best and worst of me,
Who knows how I rush in and blurt out,
Mix and mess things,
Fail and fall asleep,
Who feels the agony of the denied one,
Understands the agony of the one who denies.

He is the Lord
And He forgives
Again and again and again.
He goes on forgiving.

Feed my lambs,
Take care of my sheep
Feed my sheep.

By Daphne Kitching

*(*St. Peter's Day is on 29th June.)*

*It may not be an ancient church but I wonder
what thoughts pass through your mind
as you sit in the pews at St. Paul's?*

The Ancient Church

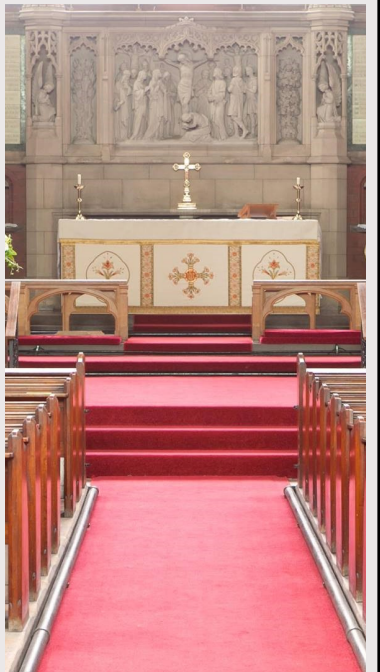
Sometimes I sit within my pew
And gaze upon an ancient view
Of stones, which, set by mason's line
Have stood through centuries of time;
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright
Have told their wondrous tales of light
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years
God's servants preached to faithful ears;
The lectern and its Bible read
Aloud to both the quick and dead;
The feet, which down that aisle have trod
To worship everlasting God;
The angels, as they downward gaze
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries
As they gathered to baptize,
Songs of love and celebrations
In marriages and confirmations,
Songs of sadness and of loss
Sung before the Saviour's cross.
So many lives have come, then flown
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how
Such history should guide me now?
Such faithful worship through the years
May move me to shed humble tears.
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear
I know I'm just a tenant here
And in one way they are my guide –
They keep me free from pompous pride!

By Nigel Beeton



*The following poem was read during the
Funeral Service of Eileen Barratt, Gordon's sister.*

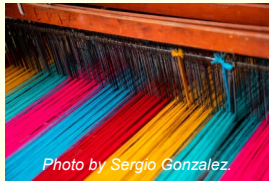


Photo by Sergio Gonzalez.



Photo by Chris Curry.

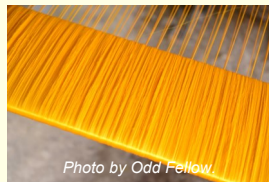


Photo by Odd Fellow.



Photo by VE Jose G. Ortega Castro.

The Divine Weaver

Man's life is laid in a loom of time
To a pattern he does not see.
While the Weaver works and the shuttles fly
till the end of eternity.

Some shuttles are filled with silver threads
And some with threads of gold;
While often but the darker hue
Is all that they may hold.
But the weaver watches with skilful eye
Each shuttle fly to and fro,
And sees the pattern so deftly wrought
As the loom works sure and slow.

God surely planned that pattern
Each thread - the dark and the fair -
Was chosen by his master skill
And placed in the web with care.
He only knows the beauty
And guides the shuttles which hold
The threads so unattractive,
As well as the threads of gold.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the pattern
And explain the reason why
The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skilful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern he had planned.

Author Unknown

All photographs copied from Unsplash.

Prayer for Encouragement in June

Father,

At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you - and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us.

Help us to be en-couraged!

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



St. Paul's Fundraising Shop has re-opened.

We're ready for your custom and donations.

New volunteers are always very welcome.

Barnabas the Encourager

Feast Day ~ 11th June

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the value of encouraging others.

This month we remember the life of St Barnabas. His real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he is known by his nickname 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he 'saw *the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is still crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond and will we strengthen people to move beyond their

own comfort zones to help those in need?

Be prepared to ask the following questions:

'Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?' and 'How can we be encouragers to others?'



India - Engulfed by a Tsunami of Grief

Covid-19 has been overwhelming India in recent weeks, bringing its health services and institutions to their knees. Hospitals have run out of oxygen, medical staff cannot help the queues of desperate patients, and bodies are piling up as people die in vast numbers.

The Indian Christian community, like their compatriots, have also been suffering. Reports speak of many church leaders contracting the virus and some even dying. Their congregations, also sick and dying, are left without pastoral care.

Indian Christians report that more than 50-60 senior church leaders have died. One pastor said: "in the last seven days we have lost four pastors to Covid19." Another organisation lost three missionaries within a week. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg.

The lockdown is causing severe suffering to the poorest, the day-labourers, who now have no work and no income. Barnabas Fund is working with Indian Christian leaders to provide assistance, both food and medical help, for our brothers and sisters. If you would like to help support them, please go to:

<https://barnabasfund.org>



What Do You Think Will Happen After Covid?



You can take your choice: a recent survey has found that a third of us think that society may *never* go back to the old ways, a third of us think we will go back to *exactly* as we were before, and a third of us think that we will be *keener than ever* to stay together.

The Together Coalition, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been working for the past year on a piece of research to track just what has happened to communities during lockdown.

The new research has found that "people feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbours and community. ...We found a clear public appetite for a society in which we are more connected to each other, and the community spirit of 2020 is kept alive."

It also found that around 12.4million people have volunteered during the pandemic, 4.6million of them for the first time. And 75 per cent of those volunteers would be happy to do so again.

FATHER'S DAY



Sunday 20th June

In the UK, USA and Canada, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. It is a fairly recent addition to the calendar year.

The seeds for Father's Day were sown back in 1909 in Spokane, Washington. A woman named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. However, Sonora Louise knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised her, along with her five siblings after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave her the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

She set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Although Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. So, the first Father's Day in Spokane was celebrated on 19th June, 1910.

Gradually, people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living.

During World War II, advertisers grabbed an opportunity to use Father's Day to promote the troops out on the field; and by the time the war was over, Father's Day was a national institution.

Richard Nixon finally declared Father's Day as a national holiday in 1972 when he signed it into law in the middle of his re-election campaign. BY this stage, the UK was already celebrating Father's Day after following America's example. Now it's the day that we all know!



Photo by Juliane Lieberann on Unsplash

Grace - God's Kindness Towards Us

The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle considers the power of God's grace.

The word 'grace' is one of the most important words found in the New Testament. It means God's loving disposition towards us as sinners. God's 'grace' is almost another word for God's love. This grace is the foundation of our salvation. So Paul can say that 'we are justified freely by His grace' (Romans 3:24); 'where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more' (Romans 5:20); 'by grace you are saved through faith' (Ephesians 2:8).

But the word 'grace' is also used in another way in the New Testament. It means the godly character being reproduced in Christians; Christ living in His people by His Spirit and making them like Himself – gracious.

Luke records that as Jesus grew up 'the grace of God was upon Him' (2:40), and that the people wondered at the 'gracious words' that He spoke (4:22). John says that Jesus was 'full of grace and truth' (1:14). The most common benediction bestowed on Christians in the letters of the New Testament is 'the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ' (eg Romans 16:20; 1 Cor. 16:23).

From this understanding of grace comes the reminder and the exhortation that all of us as Christians are 'to grow in grace' (2 Peter 3:18). Our lives should manifest the grace of God in love and compassion and kindness.

But grace is not something we can achieve on our own. True grace is only found in close communion with our Lord Jesus Christ.



“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
2 Corinthians 12:9



Jesus said:

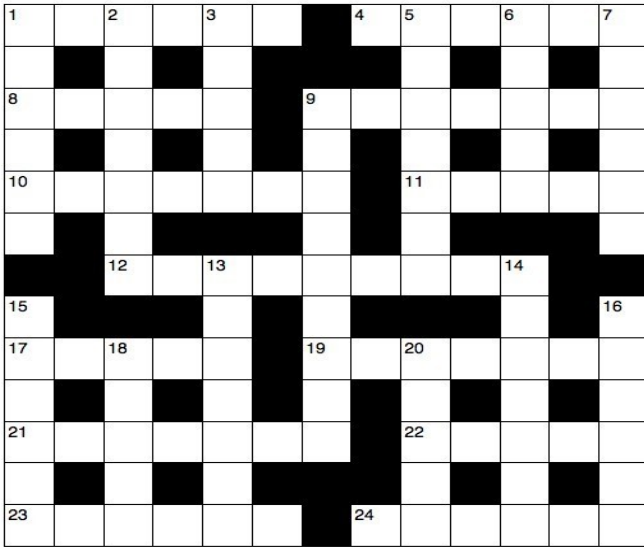
**I AM
THE VINE
YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES**

**The one who remains in me
- and I in him - bears much fruit,
because apart from me
you can accomplish nothing.**

John 15:5

JUNE 2021 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)

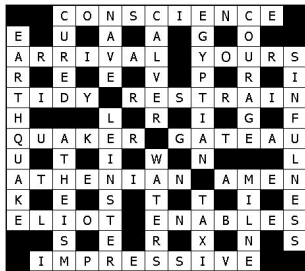
24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



Crossword Solution May 2021



parish pump
www.paritypump.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".



ARTICLES FOR THE JULY PNE

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

Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Time for a Smile

Neighbourhood Watch

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

Out to graze

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?"

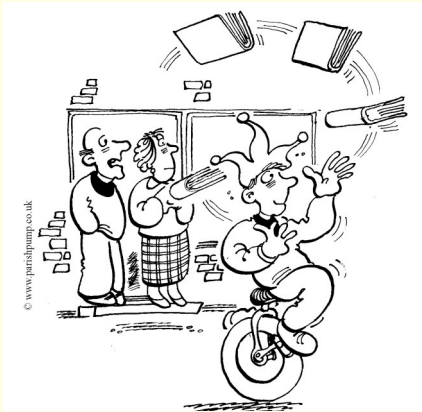
A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"



Friend?

Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. "Are you a friend of the groom?" he ventured.

"Certainly not," she said indignantly. "I'm the bride's mother."



...I think I must have missed that module when I was at theological college!

Curate

As the enthusiastic curate was preparing to move on to his first church as a vicar, a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the church. He replied: "People here didn't know what sin was until I came."

Belief

Our elderly vicar was very devout, but sometimes lost his place during the service. One Sunday as we reached the Creed there was a long silence, so the curate went across to him and gently touched his arm. "I believe in God," she whispered. The vicar smiled back happily. "Oh so do I, so do I!"



Thankful

A minister said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says a prayer over you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practice.

Old and alone and needing help...

An old Italian priest lived alone. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was so hard. A member of his church, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. So the old priest wrote a letter to his parishioner and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. I remember you in my prayers! Fr Louis

A few days later he received a letter from his parishioner.

Dear Fr Louis, whatever you do, don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Thanks for your prayers. Vinnie

At 4 am the next morning, the local police arrived and dug up the entire area, without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old priest and left. That same day the old priest received another letter.

Dear Fr Louis, You can go ahead and plant your tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Vinnie

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.