

Diocese of Chester [Parish of Stockport and Brinnington]

Contract us at: *St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office*
St Andrew's Community Church, Hall Street, Stockport, SK1 4DA.

Telephone: 0161 429 6564 Mobile: 07421 000123 (Sue)

Stockport Parish Church [St Mary's in the Marketplace]
Churchgate, Stockport, SK1 1YG

Telephone: 0161 480 1815
Website: stmarysinthemarketplace.com
Email: st.marysstockport@gmail.com
Facebook: *Stockport Parish Church - St Marys*

St Thomas' Church, Stockport, Holt Street, Stockport, SK1 3PY.

Telephone: 0161 429 9524
Website: st.thomasstockport.org.uk
Email: info@stthomasstockport.org.uk
Facebook: *St Thomas' Church Stockport*

St Luke's, Northumberland Road, Brinnington, SK5 8LS

Telephone: 0161 406 8160 Mobile: 07711 355064 (Linda)
Website: stlukesbrinnington.co.uk
Facebook: *St Luke's Brinnington*

RECTOR: *Rev Lynne Cullens*
St Mary's Rectory, 24 Gorse Mount Street, Stockport, SK1 4DU
Telephone: 0161 477 1938 Email: lynne.cullens@gmail.com



August

2020

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

St Mary - St Thomas - St Luke





Welcome to our August edition of the parish news sheet/magazine.

In no way is a spike in Covid cases within our area a good start to the month, with the return of some restrictions as to what we should or shouldn't do. Where we can and can't go – including who we

allow into our homes and gardens. Please keep an eye on our websites and Facebook pages as to any changes we may need to make to our plans and use of church premises. For the time being, at least, all our present arrangements remain in place – but guidelines given to us could change.

Since restrictions were starting to be lifted we have opened St Mary's for private prayer and put our toe in the water opening for public worship on a Sunday morning, with the intention to extending church opening to St Thomas' Church and St Luke's (Brinnington) during August, as soon as we can put all the necessary arrangements in place.

Reopening our premises is not an easy task to ensure the safety of everyone who attends. Quite rightly there are many hoops to jump through, risk assessments to undertake and tasks to perform before the doors can open. The provision of hand washing facilities, implementation of steps to ensure social distancing, cleaning schedules etc. and keeping a record of those attending for "track and trace" purposes.

We know many of you and looking forward to returning to church - if you haven't already attended St Mary's – and you are most welcome when our doors are open, but expect a few changes to have taken place in preparation for re-opening and in the way services are

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*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bids't me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, tho tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes – to come to Jesus Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come ‘just as I am.’

conducted. We also appreciate that some may still feel anxious with the upturn in spread of Covic-19 and may wish to delay their return a little longer, which is quite understandable especially at these uncertain times, but our on-line “Stockport Parish Pew Tube” services will continue.

It’s a different world at the moment, still avoiding contact with people outside our households or bubbles or whatever we are allowed to have, and more frequently now being required to use face coverings or masks.

Whatever you are doing or decide to go (or not as the case might be)

Stay well and stay safe...

The beach below is empty, no problem with social distancing here, but if you are going away - and perhaps visiting the seaside – or just staying at home - do enjoy the summer holiday season. Roggie Dog and I will be taking a break during August (at home or away) so we’re not producing an August-Extra edition of our magazine. We look forward to being back with you in September.



With Best Wishes Sue

All in the month of August

It was:

250 years ago, on 22nd August 1770 that British explorer Captain James Cook discovered eastern Australia, named it New South Wales, and claimed it for Britain. **150 years ago, on 4th August 1870 that the British Red Cross Society was founded.** 125 years ago, on 10th August 1895 that the Proms (Promenade Concerts) began in London [see article]. **100 years ago, on 21st August 1920 that Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was son of the author A. A. Milne, and he appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories. (Died 1996.) [see article].** 90 years ago, from 16th to 23rd August 1930 that the first British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games) were held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. **80 years ago, on 13th August 1940 that the main phase of the Battle of Britain began. The German Luftwaffe launched raids on RAF airfields and radar installations. On 29th August Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force in a famous House of Commons speech, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."** 75 years ago, on 6th August 1945 that the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. The centre of the city was totally destroyed, and 80,000 people were killed immediately. A further 60,000 died by the end of the year. It was the first city in history to be hit by a nuclear weapon. **Also 75 years ago, on 9th August 1945 that the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki, Japan. 40,000 people died immediately and about 33,000 more by the end of the year. It was the second (and last) city to experience a nuclear attack.** 70 years ago, on 15th August 1950 that Princess Anne,

HYMN: The story behind ... JUST AS I AM

The hymn 'Just As I Am' must be one of the most famous in the world. It has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over, just for starters! Yet it was not written by a professional who was 'aiming' at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. *Did* she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So, she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: "Come just as you are." The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was – and He would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

Psalm 40 – desperation to security

Canon Paul Hardingham on a much-loved Psalm

'I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.' (Psalm 40:1).

'Dear God, I pray for patience, and I want it now!' Most of us can identify with this prayer, especially as we face an uncertain future. Psalm 40:1-3 describes how David waited *patiently* on God (lit: *'I waited, waited for the Lord.'*). Do we also intensively wait on God?

David speaks of falling into a deep, dark well and sinking deep into the sludge: *'a slimy pit of mud and mire'*. This expresses his desperate helplessness that threatened to take his life. We don't know what David was going through, but in our current situation we can easily identify with him. David cried out to God, who answered his prayer: *'He lifted me out of the slimy pit, he set my feet on a rock'*. There is a world of difference between quicksand and rock, as God lifts us from desperation to security. Waiting on God is not inactivity, but it means engaging in service to God and others, as we discern His will and accept His wisdom and timing. In response, David offers praise to God: *'He put a new song in my mouth. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.'* His song is an expression of gratitude and trust in God, who can deliver us from every sort of pit and mire. People of praise never take their life for granted and they are credible witnesses to others, with a personal story of faith to tell.

'Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud.' Whatever our current circumstances, we can confidently turn to God alone for help, as our loving heavenly Father.

the Princess Royal, was born. She is the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. **60 years ago, on 8th August 1960 that the pop song *Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini* by Brian Hyland became a worldwide hit. The record had been released in June.** 40 years ago, on 14th August 1980 that Lech Walesa led a strike by shipyard workers in Gdansk, Poland, to protest against the dismissal of a trade union activist. On 30th August the striking workers won the right to establish independent trade unions. This led to the formation of the Solidarity movement. **30 years ago, from 2nd August 1990 to 28th February 1991 the Gulf War took place.** On 2nd August Iraq invaded Kuwait. The United Nations Security Council then ordered a global trade embargo against Iraq. On 7th August the USA launched Operation Desert Shield, and then Operation Desert Storm, to prevent Iraq from invading Saudi Arabia. Coalition victory. **20 years ago, on 5th August 2000 that Sir Alec Guinness, British stage and film actor (*The Bridge on the River Kwai, Lawrence of Arabia, Doctor Zhivago, A Passage to India, Star Wars, etc*) died.** 15 years ago, from 23rd to 31st August, Hurricane Katrina hit the Bahamas, Cuba and the southern US states. New Orleans was badly affected when the levee system failed, and 80% of the city was under water for weeks. Florida and Mississippi were also badly hit. More than 1,800 people died. It was the costliest natural disaster in US history. **10 years ago, on 5th August 2010 a cave-in at the San Jose copper and gold mine near Copiapo in northern Chile trapped 33 workers 700 metres underground. An international rescue operation was launched, and they were brought to the surface on 13th October after being trapped for 69 days. Around one billion people watched the rescue on TV.**

The beach on the front cover is empty – colour in here and enjoy fun at the seaside.



Launch of new 'Climate Sunday'

A new campaign, Climate Sunday, has been launched by a coalition of churches and charities, as part of a call for action on climate change.

From next month, 6th September, churches throughout the UK will be encouraged to have a Sunday dedicated to the theme of climate change. This could be held at any time in the next 12 months.

The scheme was recently launched on World Environment Day, by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It supported charities that range from CAFOD to Christian Aid, from Operation Noah to Tearfund.

The campaign Climate Sunday will offer free resources to encourage churches to hold a climate-focused service, to make a commitment as a community to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in the long term, or to join with other churches and groups before the 26th UN climate-change conference (COP26) in November, in urging the Government to do more about climate change.

The campaign will conclude on 5th September 2021 with a national Climate Sunday event to pray for action on global warming.

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, the C of E's lead bishop on environmental issues, said: "Although our focus has been shifted from climate changes in recent months by the challenges of responding to Covid-19, the climate crisis has not gone away.

"Climate Sunday will be a brilliant resource to help Church of England parishes understand and respond to the climate crisis."

Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

Face masks – do we or do we not ...



Should I wear a face covering in a church building?

Face coverings are now mandatory on public transport, in shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres, takeaways, banks, building societies, post offices and transport hubs such as stations and airports. Of course you can't wear a face covering and drink a cuppa at the same time, so if a shop, takeaway or supermarket has a cafe or seating area then those eating or drinking there can remove their face covering in that area, but must put it back on once leaving their seat. There are exceptions of course and areas where masks and face coverings are still not mandatory but generally speaking people are encouraged to wear face coverings in any enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a place of worship.

The Church of England strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

Parable: The Strength of a Seed

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

At this time of year we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own. The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth. What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow. The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points,

of the monument or memorial itself, recognising the rights of descendants as well as the artefacts as heritage assets.

“Although these decisions will be taken locally, dioceses and national bodies like the Church Buildings Council have a part to play in facilitating those conversations and we have been offering advice and support to churches as they confront the complex challenges of the past and the reality of the present.

“In doing so, we must seek to confront and understand the past whilst recognising the reality of how it impacts people living today.”

Mary Sumner – founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of “faith, charm and sympathy” – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal ‘mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George

“While it is not possible to provide a single answer, which could apply to all circumstances and which would satisfy all legitimate viewpoints, we must be as one in acknowledging the real and justified anger of those who believe monuments in churches and elsewhere must be reviewed.

“Key to determining what should be done in each context is the creation of a dialogue within communities. This must be open and honest, and acknowledge that there are monuments in our churches and cathedrals to individuals and events whose destructive impact is still being felt by people living in the UK today.

“Meaningful dialogue needs to engage with this reality, recognise that these voices have often not been listened to in the past, and make decisions that allow these unjust experiences to form a recognised part of both the history and future of our churches.

“The local and national church should play a leading role by helping to lead and facilitate the conversation, not purely as a discussion around historical monuments, but also how we, as a broad and diverse society, value and represent people of all ethnicities and backgrounds.

“As the Archbishop of Canterbury has said, we can only forgive the actions of the past when we have justice in the present, and statues and memorials need to be seen in both the context of the past and the present.

“Dialogue alone is not sufficient. It must have real outcomes. These may include re-interpretation, or in gaining permission for the alteration or removal of monuments. The outcome and possible follow-up action will be different in each case, and will depend on the particulars

and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

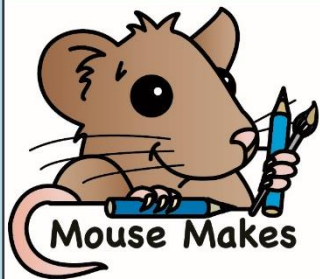
Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

In the Diocese of Chester the bishop has made special provision extending the time for holding annual meetings of parishioners to choose churchwardens and annual parochial church meetings (APCMs) to 31 October 2020.

The Parish of Stockport and Brinnington will hold the PM & APCM on **Sunday, 18th October at St Mary's in the Marketplace at 1pm**

Nomination papers for the Churchwardens (x6 – 2 from each church) and elected PCC members (x4 in total) and membership to the Deanery Synod (x3 in total) will be made available in due course.

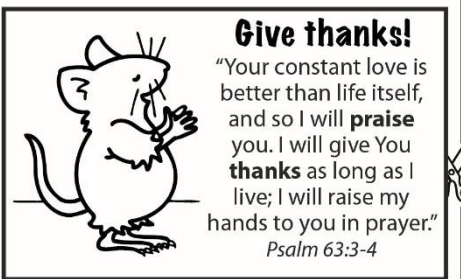
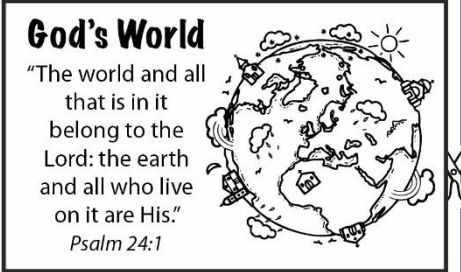
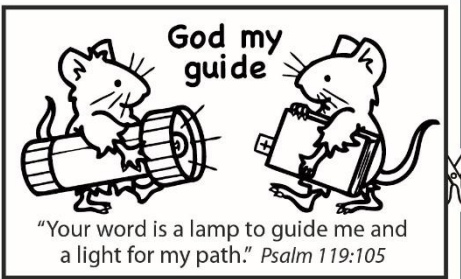
Our Electoral Roll Officer has already prepared the new Electoral Roll under our original timetable for the ACPM, but was prevented from displaying it due to lockdown. Arrangements will be made for this list to be displayed in all premises (as they open during August) allowing for amendments to be made up to the 20th September. Formal notice of the MP and APCM will be given mid September.



The **PSALMS** are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.
"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you: I will praise you for ever and ever."
 Psalm 145:1-2



"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."
 Psalm 19:1



Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.

Update on church and cathedral monuments

The Church of England has more than 16,000 churches and 42 cathedrals, almost all of which are home to memorials and monuments to individuals from a period spanning more than a thousand years.

A recent statement put out by the Church of England explains: "Monuments and memorials tell us a lot, not just about individuals, but about who and what was valued by the society that put them up.

"What we value and seek to memorialise now is not the same as it was in any other historical period. A prominent memorial in a church in some cases is a mark of the esteem in which the person was held in their community and beyond. In others, it will reflect a donation given to the church at the time by an individual or family – or a combination of the two. In addition to this there are millions of gravestones in churchyards.

"The events of the past weeks in response to the tragic death of George Floyd have brought into focus the question of monuments to individuals who have participated in systemic and targeted discrimination or exploitation based on race."

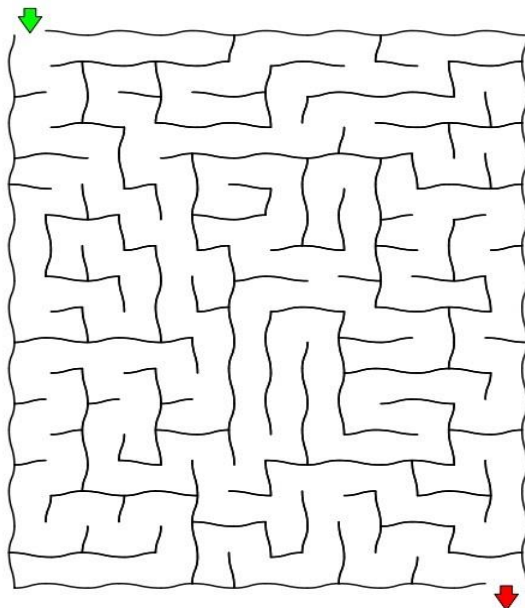
The Church of England's Director of Church Buildings and Cathedrals, Becky Clark, says: "Action is being taken by parishes and cathedrals across England to consider monuments which have links to slave trading or the exploitation of people. Some churches have previously acknowledged and exposed this legacy, but many are just beginning this work in response to the spotlight shone on these questions by the Black Lives Matter movement.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 – 19 – invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

Maze



Roggie Dog

Has anyone booked a hairdressing appointment yet? Cut and blow, highlights perhaps – please note my colours are completely natural and I am supposed to be growing my hair into a traditional “Yorkshire Terrier” style!



One thing I haven't had a problem with over lockdown is getting my hair washed and dried.

Now I would have been quite happy not to have had it done quite as often as I did - but Mummy says we must wash our hands regularly - in my case that is ALL of me .





I am still missing my desk at St Mary's and seeing my friends. Maybe one day things will return to real normal and I will be able to return, but for now at least I'm ready for church at home and best of all I have Mummy with me.

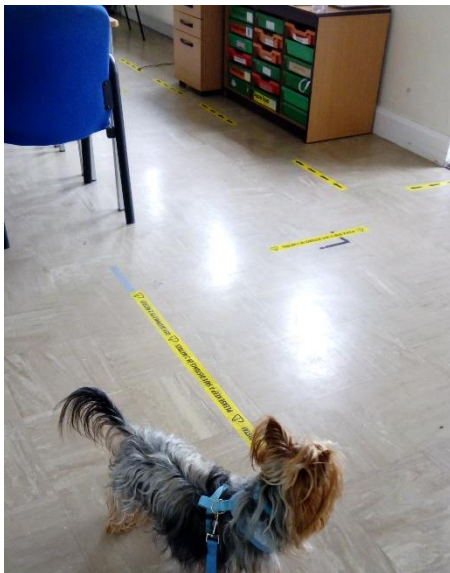
We have returned to the parish office, which was very exciting, but you would have thought that Mummy would have told me that I didn't have to stand at



the distance tape waiting to be moved on - when I was in the hall on my own and only going to look out of the front door.

Take care everyone

Love
Roggie X



The Transfiguration – a glimpse of glory

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was – immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Eternity in the human heart

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the times of our lives.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The 60s hit *'Turn! Turn! Turn!'* by the Byrds is based on verses in this chapter: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'* The different seasons of life are not random, for God is in control and His timing is perfect: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time.'* The verse goes on to say that God *'has also set eternity in the human heart.'* This means that we all have an in-built sense that there's more to life than what we can see, as we search for meaning in life. However, we can fill our lives with other things: career, pleasure, shopping and relationships. While good in themselves, these things can never ultimately satisfy. It is only a relationship with God through Jesus that truly satisfies. How does this challenge us?

Firstly, we are to live for God in all that we do, knowing that it all counts for eternity. This includes helping others find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for eternity. Secondly, we accept that there is lots in the current *'season'* where it's difficult to know what God is doing: *'no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* However, we do know that everything has consequences for eternity. Finally, how can we be more aware of eternity every day? Spending time with God in worship and prayer will bring us the true pleasure that belongs to eternity.

'You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.' (St Augustine).



When Christ stood in Trafalgar Square

by Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former Director of Communications with the CofE.

I'm not a big fan of statues – but my favourite was the life-sized figure of Christ that stood in London's Trafalgar Square during the Millennium celebrations. It stood on the square's previously-empty fourth plinth, going almost unnoticed among the surrounding grand statues and with Nelson's Column towering above it.

The statue, called *Ecce Homo* (Behold the Man), was built by conceptual artist Mark Wallinger and erected in 1999. He explained: "I consciously made Him life-size. We are made in God's image, and He was made in our image.

"So for the statue to stand in contrast to the overgrown relics of empire was definitely part of the plan." The figure was made of white marble resin, and depicted Christ standing before the multitude with His head slightly bowed.

I found the statue of Christ deeply moving and kept returning to Trafalgar Square to stand and gaze at it. Because to me, the statue declared Christ's vulnerability. It stood as a reminder that the God of all creation came to earth as a man and lived among us. He gave up His life so that we might have salvation. There, with London's traffic rushing by, pigeons coming in to land, and tourists snapping photographs of each other, Christ stood unobtrusively. Standing, you could say, at the door of our consciousness, and asking to be let in.

In a BBC interview at the time, the artist said that he wanted the statue to be an antidote to the “spiritually empty celebration” then taking place at the Millennium Dome in Greenwich.

It certainly had a deep effect on me. In April 2017, the statue of Christ was placed on the steps of St Paul’s Cathedral during Easter. Again, I watched as tourists passed by not noticing the figure. It was a modern-day parable in marble resin.

When the Apostle Paul took a stroll around Athens, he spotted the various altars and statues to the Greek gods. He found an altar ‘To an Unknown God’ and declared that this was “the God who made the world and everything in it” who had made Himself known in Jesus Christ.

Just as Mark Wallinger took possession of the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square for Jesus Christ – the reason for the Millennium celebrations – so Paul claimed the ‘unknown God’ altar in Athens for the Christian gospel.

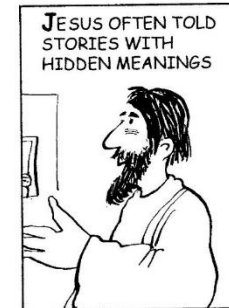
The Bible has always been wary of putting people on pedestals. It shows us all sides of the people it describes, warts and all.

It tells us that Moses was a murderer, that David was an adulterer that Paul persecuted the first Christians and that Peter denied Christ.

But all of us have feet of clay, and few of us deserve to be memorialised for centuries in stone or marble. Rather, we are gently encouraged to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Maybe that’s the best way to make our mark in history.

The doctor and the ill person



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



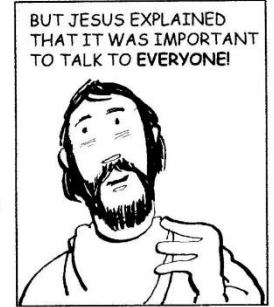
ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.



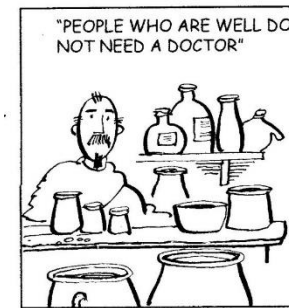
JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!



BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!



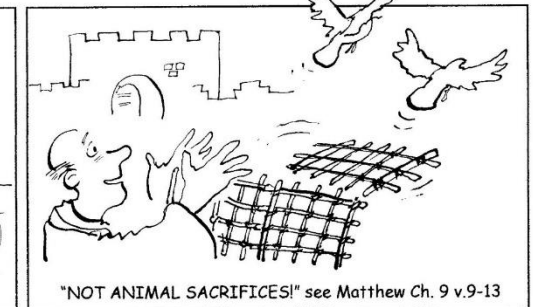
"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"



"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13

"The world and all
that is in it belong



to the Lord, the
earth and all who
live on it are His."

Psalm 24:1

When tourists get lost

Have you ever got into trouble while abroad? The true story is told of a group of tourists who went to Israel some years ago and arrived in Jerusalem very eager to see the sites of the old city.

Four members of the group were so engrossed in taking pictures of each other by the Wailing Wall that they ignored the summons from the tour group leader to go back to the bus. A little while later, they realised that they were all on their own in Jerusalem. That's when their problems started.

The four tourists decided to head back to their hotel. But no one could remember the exact name of the hotel. So, they hailed a taxi, and asked it to drive around Jerusalem looking for the hotel. An hour or so later, the driver gave up and demanded payment.

That's when they discovered that they did not have enough money to pay the driver.

So the driver took them to the police, who demanded some identification. That's when the four tourists remembered that they had left their passports in the hotel safe...

Some hours later, the tour guide tracked down the missing tourists. They greeted her with tears of relief as she provided the police with their passports, paid their debt, and prepared to lead them safely back to their hotel. The police gave some parting advice to the tourists: "From now on, you stay close to your friend!"

Stay close to your friend. It's good advice for all of us. If your life is going in the wrong direction, if you have run up debts of wrong-doing, if you feel lost and alone, you need to take action. You need to stop going on like this. Turn around and go in another direction. The Bible calls this action of 'stopping and turning around' repentance.

Repentance is when you stop one direction, and you *turn* to God. For the good news is that there *is* a heavenly tour guide on whom we can all call. Only God can save us from the mess we are in. He sent us His Son to forgive us our sins, to provide us with an identity, and, if we walk with Him, lead us safely through life. As the Bible says: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ ou

Sudoku

5					2			8
	8	3	1			9		4
9			8			1	5	
			9				8	3
	6	9	7	4	8	5	2	
8	1				6			
	9	2			4			6
6		4			9	2	1	
1			6					5

THE WAY I SEE IT: What have you missed most during lockdown?

Canon David Winter is feeling very solitary just now...

It's a good question, because it is about the things that make us tick. When I examined my list, I found obvious things – going to church, live sport on TV, meeting up with friends for a coffee or a beer.

But as I thought more deeply about it, I realised that what I missed most was TOUCH. For nearly four months I have not touched another human being!

That is an astonishing deprivation. When a baby is born, its first experiences are all of touch. The strong hands of the midwife, mother's excited and loving embrace, tiny hands reaching out to feel mummy's face. We touch our way into life.

And then it goes on. Holding hands with friends, being hugged by grandma, your first serious kiss, and perhaps a last tearful one at the end of a much-loved life.

We greet each other with a holy kiss, the Bible says. And why not?

Sight, smell, hearing and touch. Four senses. And I think lockdown has taught me that the greatest of these is touch!

Junk is something you throw away about three weeks before you need it.

Still love your neighbours?

One side-effect of lockdown has been seeing more of our neighbours – which of course can be very nice indeed. But if those neighbours constantly play loud music or hold smoky barbecues, it can be tiresome. And just wait until they invest the latest craze: a big bubbling hot tub for their garden.

The craze seems to have started when we realised that summer holidays were not happening this year. Sales of garden Jacuzzis went up 490 per cent on eBay, and at Argos almost every style was sold out. On Amazon, hot tubs feature on the ‘most wished for’ list.

But now social media is buzzing with complaints about neighbours who flout lockdown advice with ‘hot-tub parties’, and neighbours who are inconsiderate when emptying their hot tub – sending a flood of water over into your garden.

Please, please, stop buying compost with peat in it

So says the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The large-scale removal of peat from bog “is destroying one of our most precious wildlife habitats. It takes centuries for a peat bog to form with its special wildlife – modern machinery destroys it in days.”

Getting to know next door

This time last year, how well did you know your neighbours? Around one in five of us have since admitted that we had never even spoken to them.



What a difference a pandemic makes. Now twice as many of us have talked to our neighbours in the past week as compared with last year. A further one in three of us have also done something to help a neighbour. This works out to 33 million people having talked to a neighbour in the past week, and 15 million of them even helping one during lockdown.

Seven in 10 of us also said that people in our area are now more likely to stop for a chat, and three quarters of us want their new-found friendliness to continue.

The survey was commissioned for the Big Lunch, a National Lottery-supported initiative from the Eden Project.

Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even if you wish they were.

Whatever happened to Christopher Robin?

For those of us who loved Winnie-the-Pooh.... By Tim Lenton

One hundred years ago this month, on 21st August 1920, Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was the only son of the author A. A. Milne and appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories and verses – a role he enjoyed at first but later found difficult to handle.

The characters in Winnie the Pooh were based on his own soft toys or items purchased later. The setting was inspired by Ashdown Forest in East Sussex: his family owned nearby Cotchford Farm and spent weekends and holidays there.

His relationship with his nanny, Olive 'Nou' Brockwell, was close and continued into adult life, but when he went to boarding school near Guildford in 1930 he was bullied because his father's work was well known: one poem, *Vespers*, brought him "toe-curling, fist-clenching, lip-biting embarrassment".

He married a cousin, Lesley de Sélincourt, in 1948 and opened a bookshop in Dartmouth. He was close to his father but not to his mother, Daphne, who did not see him during the last 15 years of her life.

Milne had one child, Clare, who had cerebral palsy. He himself had myasthenia gravis in his later years and died in 1996; he was described by one newspaper as a 'dedicated atheist'.

125 years of the Proms in London

Tim Lenton looks back on the start of a national treasure.... The photo is from Wiki Commons.



It was 125 years ago this month, on 10th August 1895, that the Proms (Promenade Concerts) began in London.

In fact, the *idea* of promenade concerts went back to 1838, referring to outside concerts during which the audience could walk about – but in the form introduced by Robert Newman at Queen's Hall in Langham Place, London, the promenaders were standing members of the audience, and this usage has persisted. Henry Wood – also a talented organist – was the original conductor, and his name became firmly attached to the annual series of concerts. He was knighted in 1911. The concerts have been sponsored by the BBC since 1927, except for 1940 and 1941, when there was fear of bombing, and in fact Queen's Hall was bombed in 1941, with the concerts moving to their current home at the much larger Royal Albert Hall. The Proms have now become a huge summer musical festival lasting for eight weeks and with many innovations. The Last Night in particular has become a traditional feature of British life and celebration of Britishness. The Proms have been described by Czech conductor Jiří Bělohlávek as "the world's largest and most democratic musical festival". *In the current coronavirus crisis, the Proms will continue, but in a much-changed form – "not as we know them, but as we need them", say the organisers.*

Support your local charity shops

Are you feeling the financial squeeze just now, but still enjoy shopping? Why not visit some of your local charity shops?

Never have charity shops needed you so much. Coronavirus has meant a huge drop in donations, and many charities face huge financial shortfalls.

The good news is that charity shops are well worth visiting this summer. Vast amounts of clothes and household items were donated following the lockdown this Spring. Grounded at home, people decided to declutter and clear-out!

The result is that, as a spokeswoman for Oxfam says: "People can expect to find some really great treasures to buy."

It should be very safe to shop, for as Julie Byard of Cancer Research UK, explains, the charity shops put all donated items into isolation before putting them on the shelves. She adds: "We're grateful for all donations and to everyone who volunteers and shops with us."

The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!
No longer 'locked down'!
The people stroll out in the sun
The majestic trees
Sway in the light breeze
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!
We can walk in the park!
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!
We can chat to our friends
As our loneliness ends
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues
Which cease to amuse
But things are no longer so black!
As they sing in that song –
You miss what is gone,
But it's great when at last it comes back!

By Nigel Beeton

New Task Force to ensure action over racism in the Church of England

A new commission is to be set up to drive forward 'bold changes' to ensure racial equality in the Church of England, following a series of reports and recommendations, it was recently announced. The House of Bishops voted to back the creation of the Archbishops' Racism Action Commission. It will start work early next year, in order to implement 'significant cultural and structural' change within the Church of England on race. The commission would also monitor progress in implementing change. Preparatory work ahead of the launch of the commission will be carried out by a Task Force, the House of Bishops said, as part of a 'zero tolerance' approach to tackling racism within the Church. The bishops said they wanted to make clear that swift action was needed to ensure change after a series of reports on racial justice and equality in the Church of England, including recommendations on action to combat racism. In spite of previous reports and apologies for racism within the Church of England, there has been "insufficient" progress towards racial justice, equality and inclusion, the bishops said. "For the Church to be a credible voice in calling for change across the world, we must now ensure that apologies and lament are accompanied by swift actions leading to real change," the bishops noted. The announcement comes after the General Synod voted in February to apologise for racism experienced by black and minority ethnic people in the Church of England since the arrival of the Windrush Generation. Speaking to the General Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said there was "no doubt" that the Church of England was still "deeply institutionally racist".

In a recent vote, the bishops of the Church of England also backed reiterating an apology issued in 2006 by the General Synod for the Church of England's role in the slave trade.

the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

Answers:

Transfiguration; Jesus; mountain; Tabor; Hermon; Caesarea; Philippi; high; shine; face; cloud; transformed; white; dazzling; Elijah; Moses; dwelling; mankind; Law; Prophets; Peter; James; John; fear; glory

Carers who are over 70

Many people over 70 in this country are becoming desperate. They have been the sole carers for their loved one since lockdown, and they are struggling. In order to cope, large numbers of them have turned to antidepressants.

The figures are eye-watering: during the pandemic this Spring, more than 1.4 million people aged over 70 were sole carers for someone who was sick, disabled and often also over 70. A reduction in support from paid carers made the situation even worse.

In a poll commissioned by Carers UK, 70 per cent of these unpaid carers said that the negative impact of caring on their own physical and mental health was one of the biggest challenges they faced.

The Transfiguration

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

August is a quiet month as far as the Church calendar is concerned, except that during the 11th century, some church fathers slipped in an important day - the Transfiguration of Jesus, when His disciples were given just a glimpse of His future glory (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9).

Jesus took Peter, James and John, his

closest disciples, up a high mountain. This is often identified as either Mount Tabor (there is a great church up there today), or one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which overlook Caesarea Philippi. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His disciples. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples, and a divine Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on

a	n	y	o	n	e	h	p	a	i	n	z	m
d	a	p	e	o	p	l	e	m	s	v	l	e
h	e	u	b	c	e	o	n	a	h	k	d	s
o	o	s	t	h	a	j	z	l	s	e	e	
u	b	c	e	h	q	f	i	e	w	e	k	d
s	l	e	a	r	o	t	r	d	d	r	d	x
e	o	n	l	p	v	r	p	i	d	v	o	j
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t	r	i	c	k	y	l	e	a	d	e	r	s
h	r	o	m	a	n	s	z	d	u	l	v	m
q	i	n	v	a	d	e	d	x	o	m	g	k

Romans
 loves
 pain
 healed
 asked
 leaders
 people
 anyone

Jesus
 help
 invaded
 friends
 understand
 amazed
 servant
 tricky

faith
 believed
 centurion
 authority
 house
 deserves
 Capernaum
 Israel

What shall we cook today? How about fish dishes...

Smoked Mackerel/Kipper Pate

starter / snack lunch or supper

2 smoked Mackerel or cooked Kipper fillets
5 oz sour cream or yoghurt
4 oz cottage cheese
juice of lemon salt/pepper/nutmeg (seasoning)
Garnish: Lemon , watercress and olives

Skin fish, remove bones and flake
Put in liquidiser or processor, add cheese, cream and lemon juice –
blend until smooth
Taste and adjust seasoning – add more juice if necessary
Serve garnished with a touch of Cayenne pepper, lemon quarters,
watercress and olives

Simple fish bake (2 portions)

5oz any white fish	1-2 tsp lemon juice
4oz prawns	2 tsp chopped chives
2 tsp chopped parsley	seasoning
2 sliced tomatoes	2 tbsp milk

Line dish with foil, place in fish and sprinkle with juice.
Place prawns on the top of the fish, add herbs and seasoning
Cover with tomato slices and add milk
Draw foil up over and seal
Bake 190 degrees c for 20 mins.

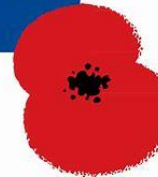
75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War.



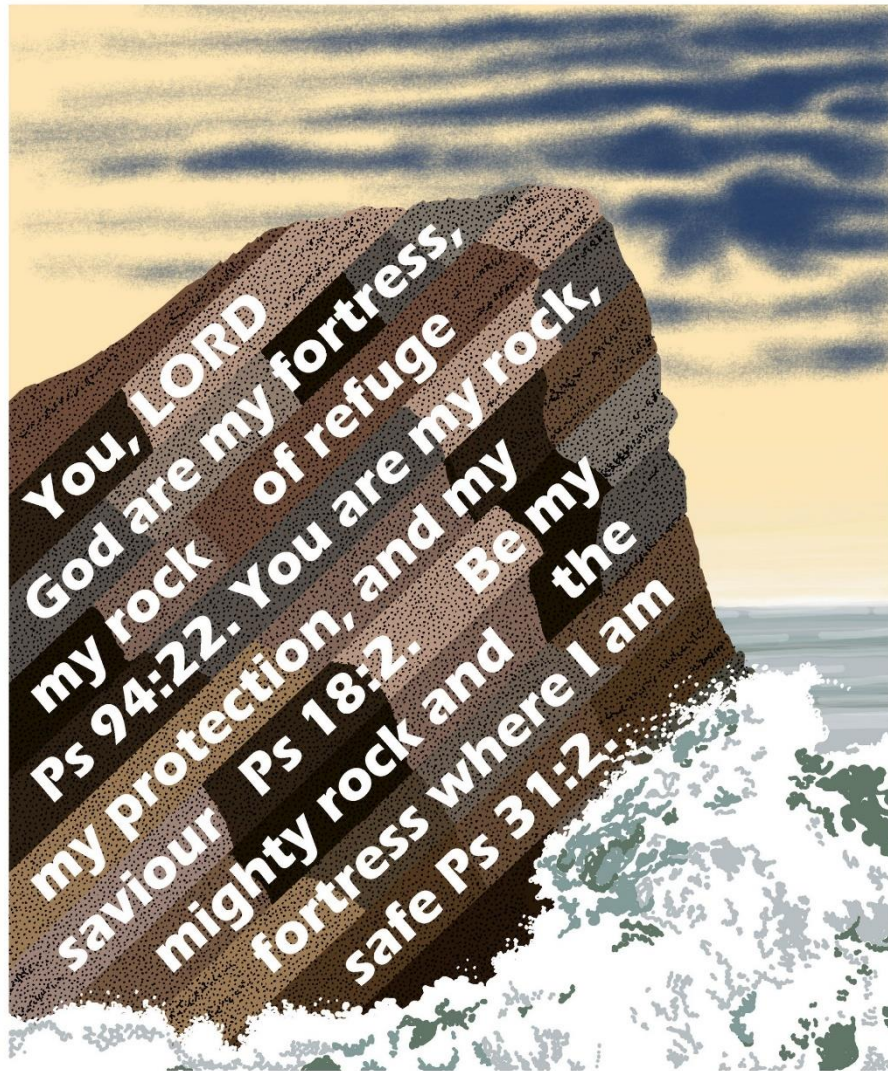
Whilst VE Day (Victory in Europe) marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in bitter fighting in the Far East.

Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War.

Fighting in the Asia-Pacific took place from Hawaii to North East India. Britain and the Commonwealth's principle fighting force, the Fourteenth Army, was one of the most diverse in history – more than 40 languages were spoken, and all the world's major religions represented. The descendants of many of the Commonwealth veterans of that army are today part of multicultural communities around the world, a lasting legacy to the success and comradeship of those who fought in the Asia-Pacific.



This year we remember the contribution of all Commonwealth and Allied Forces, without whom victory and the freedoms and way of life we enjoy today would not have been possible.



Poached Trout with Green Sauce (serves 6)

***This sauce goes well with any type of fish, poached, grilled or fried.
Good as a starter or dip with large prawns.***

6 Trout (cleaned – or fillets if preferred) or any number required
1 ½ level tsp salt 3 pieces fresh parsley
2 tbsp lemon juice 1 oz onion slices
1 bay leaf 6 peppercorns

Sauce: ¼ pint double cream (whipped)
2 level tbsp. parsley (chopped) 1 bunch watercress (chopped)
2 gherkins (chopped) 1 tbsp capers (chopped) – optional
garlic –optional ¼ pint real mayonnaise
salt/pepper juice ½ lemon

Garnish: lemon slices and parsley

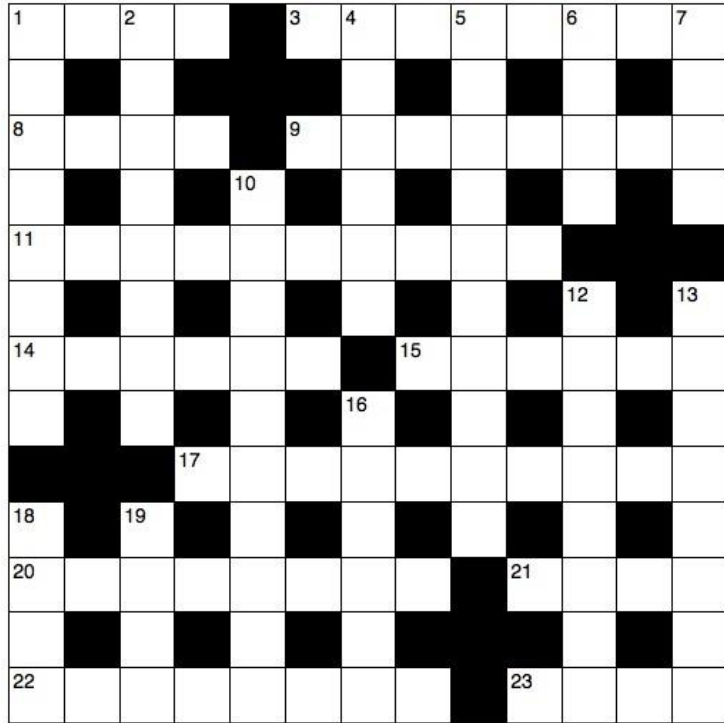
Heat oven 180 degrees C (Gas 4)

Place fish in a shallow buttered dish, cover with cold water and add salt, parsley, juice, onion, bay leaf and peppercorns
Cover dish with foil and cook 20 mins / Leave to cool in water
Lift out fish and drain / place on serving dish

Sauce – prepare and combine all ingredients – season to taste with salt, pepper and juice. Put into suitable bowl or tureen.

Serve fish garnished with lemon slices and parsley / serve sauce separately.

Accompany with young vegetables or choice or salad of choice



Crossword August 2020

Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

3 See 1
Across

8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of

faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)

9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)

11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)

14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)

15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)

17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)

20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)

21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)

22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)

23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)

2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)

4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)

5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)

6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)

7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)

10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)

12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)

13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)

16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)

18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)

19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)