

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

St Mary

Stockport Parish Church

St Thomas

St Luke



July 2021



Welcome to our parish news sheet.

I suppose it came as no great surprise when it was announced that there was to be a delay in lifting the remaining Covid restrictions, particularly in England, following the news of increasing numbers of people catching the Delta variant of the virus.

However disappointing it might be, best to be cautious, even if things again have to be cancelled and re-scheduled. Perhaps fortunate that for the most part we weren't planning on re-opening/re-starting many of our activities until later in the year anyway.

We are however preparing for restrictions lifting and starting to open our doors to more services and events, so do keep an eye on our web-site(s), facebook page(s) and Twitter account(s) for updates.

Baptisms are back on the agenda from July, with several arranged and more in the pipeline, and we have weddings booked too and banns to read.

We welcome back to St Mary's the "Stockport Prayer Breakfast" praying specifically for rebuilding and renewal of both Church and community after the pandemic and look forward to Marie's ordination as priest to be re-arranged locally as she was unfortunately unable to attend Chester Cathedral in June.

Perhaps life is beginning to look more normal after all!



I wonder how many of you are taking a holiday abroad—red, amber or green it's difficult to know what to do.



Staycations sound like a plan to me - but whatever you are doing have the best time you possibly can— enjoy yourself and stay safe—even if you are at home with your deckchair and a good book!



Appointment of Bishops

The Venerable Julie Conalty, currently Archbishop of Tonbridge will be the next Bishop of Birkenhead, and the Rev Canon Sam Corley, Rector of Leeds Minster, will be the next Bishop of Stockport.

The appointments complete the new episcopal team in the Diocese of Chester. Julie and Sam will be consecrated bishops on 19th July at York Minster.



The Venerable Julie Conalty studied for a Biblical Studies degree in Sheffield. Upon her graduation, women couldn't train to become priests so Julie found work running a homeless shelter, trained as a social worker and began a career in the

Probation Service. Eventually, she was accepted for ordination training and was ordained deacon in 1999 and priest in 2000. Her training parish was in Southwark Diocese and she was initially a self-supporting minister while continuing her secular work. Subsequently, she worked for the Youth Justice Board before becoming the national manager of a resettlement project and then a Local Authority manager for Specialist Youth Services. She also founded a consultancy partnership and somewhere amidst all of that found the time to study Applied Theology. In 2010, Julie transferred to Stipendiary Ministry and in 2012 she became vicar of Christ Church, Erith in the Diocese of Rochester. She also served as the Bishop's Advisor for the Ministry of Ordained Women was made an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral in 2016. Julie was appointed as Archdeacon of Tonbridge in September 2017. Julie is married to Simon and they have two grown-up sons.

The Revd Canon Sam Corley was licensed as Rector of Leeds in 2015. He is the former Precentor of Bradford Cathedral, a role he took up in 2011. He was also Senior Chaplain to the University of Bradford and Faith Advisor to the Lord Mayor of Bradford. Sam read theology at the University of



Durham and taught history in Surrey before training for the ministry at St John's College Nottingham. In 2004 he was ordained in the Diocese of Blackburn, where he became a parish priest and Assistant Diocesan Missioner. Sam says he's comfortable in a wide range of worship contexts - including leading worship for 2000 scouts in a cowshed at the Great Yorkshire Showground. Since 2009 Sam has been a Bishops' Advisor and Panel Secretary for Bishops' Advisory Panels - the national process by which candidates are selected for ordination. More recently he has been an Executive Member and Director of the Association of English Cathedrals and has delivered training in governance for clergy and laypeople who are new to their roles in leading Cathedrals. Sam is married to Claire, who is herself in ordained ministry within the Church of England, and they have three children. Having spent much of his childhood working on a farm, Sam also has a deep love of the countryside and nature.

Both recently visited Stockport as part of tour around the Diocese with Bishop Mark.

This included a welcomed by the Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Adrian Nottingham, at a local family owned brewery, and ending with prayers at St George's Church, Stockport.

This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!



A cheque for £278.00 is on its way to Christian Aid being the amount collected at our three churches during Christian Aid Week.

Many thanks once again to all who contributed either in cash or separately on-line

[Civic Service]

Change of plan... The church service at St Mary's for the new Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Adrian Nottingham, will no longer be held on Sunday, 11th July, but will be held later in the year.



Notification of PCC Meetings

The next meeting of the Parochial Church Council for the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington is scheduled for 14th July 2021

Future meetings:

2021: 16th Sept / 19th Nov

2022: 10th Jan / 8th Mar / 6th April

Meeting of Parishioners and Annual
Parochial Church Meeting
(Sunday, 24th April)

Canon Paul Hardingham considers our call to befriend people in need.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

This familiar story tells of a man who is mugged on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho and rescued by a Samaritan. Jesus tells it in response to a lawyer's question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" When Jesus calls for a life of total love towards God and neighbour, the lawyer comes back with the question: 'who is my neighbour?' (29).

The plight of the man and the indifference of the priest and Levite would have horrified Jesus' hearers. They assumed that the hero of the story would be a Jew! However, Jesus presents the Samaritan, a sworn enemy of the Jews, as a model of integrity and an example to follow: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?...Go and do likewise." (36,7). The challenge of the story is that often our neighbours can be our worst enemies, yet these are the very people we are called to love as ourselves.

Of course, we can all think of people to whom we are called to be a Samaritan in our lives: those we try to avoid and don't want to get alongside. If we are honest, we know that we don't have it in us to love as Jesus says here. We all need somebody who will be our Good Samaritan, to rescue us and enable us to love others as ourselves. Jesus is that Good Samaritan for us.

"By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need – regardless of race, politics, class, and religion – is your neighbour." (Tim Keller).



The first NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day takes place on **Monday, 5th July 2021** with a series of events involving every aspect of society and raising money for two excellent causes – NHS Charities Together, which supports 250 hospitals and their charitable trusts, and the National Care Association, representing 1.6 million workers caring for some of society's frailest citizens.



July 5th 1948 was an historic moment in our country's history. It was the day our pioneering National Health Service (NHS) was born, bringing free healthcare to everyone.

Treasured ever since, but never more so since March 2020 when the Coronavirus pandemic gripped the UK and utterly changed all our lives.

We were suddenly at war with a ruthless, invisible enemy and on the front line were our NHS doctors, nurses and paramedics, plus platoons of critical workers keeping our shops open and stocked, our streets safe and our essential services running.

Now we have the chance to show our gratitude to all NHS and front line staff with an annual day of thanks, and remembrance of those who lost their lives because of this dreadful disease.





**Sailors' Society—
one of the largest and
most comprehensive
seafarers' support
charities in the world.**

**We all rely on seafarers; seafarers
rely on us.**

An international, non-denominational Christian maritime charity, founded more than 200 years ago with the mission of helping destitute seafarers in London's docks.

Today, the Society is still committed to caring for the world's 1.6 million seafarers and their communities, of all faiths and none, through chaplaincy, education and the relief of poverty and distress.

11th July 2021

SEAFARERS NEED YOUR PRAYERS

Seafarers are in great need of your prayers this year. During the coronavirus pandemic, they've felt more isolated and have been called upon to make more painful sacrifices than ever before.

The UN has called their situation a "humanitarian crisis". In an extreme version of lockdown, at the height of the crisis some 400,000 seafarers were stranded at sea long after their contracts ended, as covid restrictions prevented them from travelling home to their loved ones. Many of these are still waiting to go home.

Seafarers have helped all of us cope during this difficult year. Thanks to them, our fears about running out of the essentials at the start of the pandemic were short-lived. They refilled our empty supermarket shelves, and put an end to panic buying.

The second Sunday in July, is when we come together across the globe to celebrate the role seafarers play in our daily lives. To thank them for the hardships they face and the sacrifices they have been forced to endure due to the Covid lockdowns



Many of you have in the past kindly knitted goods for The Mission to Seafarers.

Although their distribution centre had to close due to Covid restrictions— as winter approaches very much required will once again be: woollen hats, mufflers, balaclavas & fingerless mittens. Patterns available at: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/at-church/knitting>.

You can send your knitted gifts direct to:

Freepost RUAT-JRGK-YXEB

The Mission to Seafarers
Flying Angel Cellar Club,
53 Mill Dam,
South Shields,
Tyne and Wear,



As we prepare for our parish **Climate Sunday on 8th August**, let us pray this collect:

Glorious God, The whole of creation proclaims your marvellous work:

Increase in us a capacity to wonder and delight in it,

That heaven's praise may echo in our hearts

And our lives be spent as good stewards of the earth,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

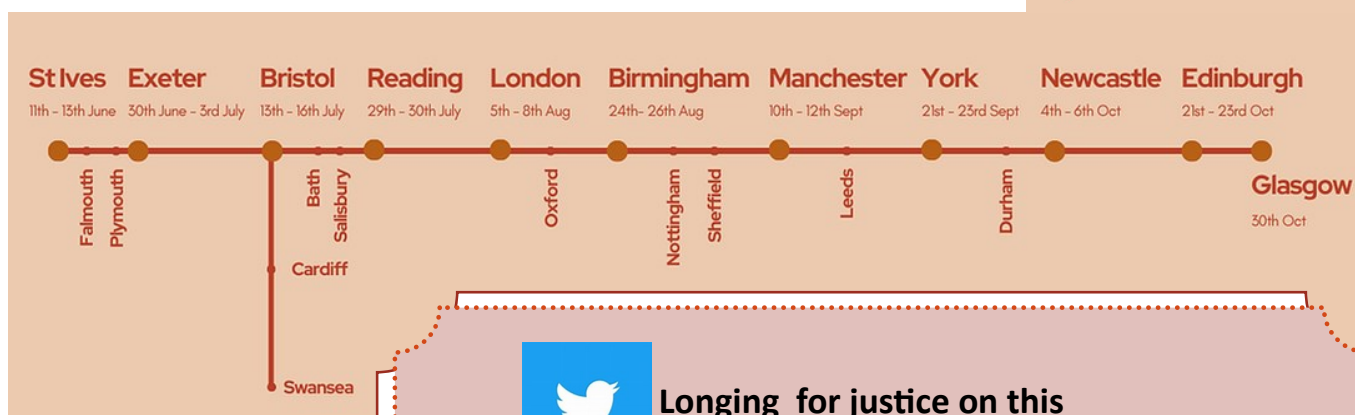
Amen

At our services on 8th August we will be encouraged to make a commitment to greater action to address climate change in our churches and communities. We are also asked to use our voices to tell politicians we want a cleaner, greener, fairer future at the heart of plans agreed during COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow from 1-12 November 2021)



Meanwhile, the Young Christian Climate Network relay is on its way from the G7 in St Ives to COP26 in Glasgow. They have crossed the border from Cornwall to Devon!!

This is the route they are taking—for more information login to <https://www.yccn.uk>



**Longing for justice on this
#RelaytoCOP26**

“ No country should be pushed further into debt because of climate change. Without UK gov't action to achieve a finance deal, climate-induced inequality will only increase “

Pat Hamilton
Environmental Officer

Let's talk food waste and how we can reduce it.

You do your weekly shop, encouraged to eat fresh fruit and veg but what do you do to keep your lovely produce fresh for longer? Do your berries turn mouldy almost overnight, your carrots either dry up or turn black, cabbage leaves turn yellow, lemons go hard as rocks? Well mine do! Clearly I'm storing things incorrectly—time to review the situation and make some changes.



Did you know that to give your berries a hot bath—strawberries, raspberries and blueberries - will stop fuzzy fungus? Immerse and swish your fruit in their plastic basket in a container of hot water— 125 degrees for 30 seconds. Thermotherapy (the technical term for this procedure) kills off mold spores and keeps your berries fresher for longer. After bathing spread on a towel to allow the berries to breathe and then store. OR alternatively, wash in a mix of vinegar and water (1:3 ratio) to disinfect against mold—rinse in water and dry.

Tomatoes are best kept out of the fridge—put in a bowl lined with a paper towel—with the stems at the top. They can be left at room temperature avoiding direct sunlight or near a heat source.

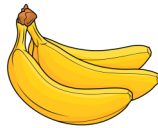


Apples can go in a drawer in the fridge away from other fruit and veg—cover with a damp piece of kitchen roll.

Grapes—drawer of the fridge in original packaging—perforated to allow air flow.



Citrus fruit—especially lemons and limes—harden at room temperature (not a good look for the G&T) so best left in the fridge. Although for drinks I slice and freeze—save space in the freezer and the need to store ice cubes.

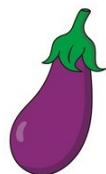


Now what about bananas—do they go in or out of the fridge? Well ripened bananas can be refrigerated—the skins may well go discoloured but the contents are prevented (due to the cold) from ripening further. If they lurk in the fruit bowl of course they can cause other fruit to ripen quicker than you may have wanted them to. Best eat the bananas or make a banoffee pie!

Carrots—I have a lot of trouble with carrots but seems recommended to keep in a paper bag in the fridge.



Cucumbers—if whole they may be left at room temperature (away from bananas and tomatoes) but once cut they should go in the fridge.



Aubergine - room temperature out of direct sun light.

Mushrooms—in their original packaging in the fridge



Butternut squash—cool dark place—once diced in an airtight container in the fridge.



Asparagus—trim the bungle and hold with a rubber band. Stand in a jar with an inch or two of water covering the ends. Cover loosely and store in the fridge.



Potatoes—need to breathe—leave in a cardboard box or paper bag in a cool dark place. Never fridge.

Onions—keep in their skins and store in a cool dark place away from the potatoes. Potatoes give off a gas that ripens onions.



I could continue, but like my fridge I have run out of space!



High Days and Holy Days—As saints days rarely change from year to year most have been written about at some time or another—but from time to time we do get a new one - Henry Venn of the CMS joins a long list of names for July:

NEW 1st July Henry Venn of the CMS

1 st July	Theobald	2 nd July	John Francis Regis	3 rd July	St Thomas the Apostle
4 th July	Elizabeth of Portugal	6 th July	Thomas More	7 th July	Boisil of Melrose
7 th July	Willibald	11 th July	Benedict	14 th July	Camillus de Lellis
15th July	St Swithun (or Swithin)	16 th July	St Helier	19 th July	St Macrina the Younger—
22 nd July	St Mary Magdalene	25 th July	St James	25th July	St Christopher
27th July	The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus				
29 th July	St Olaf	30 th July	William Wilberforce Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson		
31st July	St Joseph of Arimathea				

those marked in bold feature in this publication

HENRY VENN of the CMS



1st July

Most Christians in the UK have heard of the Church Mission Society or CMS. Far fewer have heard of the Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father, the rector of Clapham, founded CMS in 1799, and who himself became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century.

Not that Henry Venn ever became a missionary himself; after Cambridge he served his curacy at St Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and then an incumbency at Drypool in Hull, before becoming vicar of St Johns, Holloway in 1834. But Henry Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the Church Mission Society. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission.

For Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first began work on CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people. When he died in 1873, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After his resignation from St Johns Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS.

He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established eight or nine bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made.

Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. In fact, Venn wrote with enthusiasm on this "euthanasia of missions," meaning that missionaries were only ever meant to be temporary, and not permanent.

All in all, Henry Venn's exposition on the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions was so powerful that much of it was later adopted by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

But alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament, especially the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1873, when he was 76, Venn died at his home in Mortlake, Surrey. He is buried in the churchyard.

St Thomas the Apostle

3rd July

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe – unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears – but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God"(John 20.26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event – the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras.

St Swithun (or Swithin)

15th July

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain na mair*

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, proving that a nap is good for you **27th July**

Do you tend to avoid conflict? When you feel stressed, do you crave sleep? Then the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus would be good patron saints for you. But – you may find it hard to copy their successful method of avoiding trouble!

Legend has it that The Seven Sleepers were third century Christians who lived in Ephesus during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Decius. When things got very bad, the Seven Sleepers decided to 'go to ground'. Literally. They found a cave on the outskirts of the city and walled themselves in. The story goes that then God simply put them to sleep. 200 years later they woke up and peeped out of the cave again. Things had changed: Ephesus had converted to Christianity. Unfortunately, the Seven Sleepers did not get much time to enjoy the new freedoms, because within a short time they all died – of extreme old age.

The story was popularised in the 6th century by Gregory of Tours and Jacob of Sarugh, who venerated the Seven Sleepers as saints. But it was challenged by Baronius and many scholars since. It is sometimes called a Christianised pagan or Jewish legend akin to Rip Van Winkle. A possible moral for anyone today is that when you find yourself in a storm of conflict, you don't have to fight all the battles yourself. You can indeed seek refuge in God. He may not put you to sleep for 200 years, but He will be a safe hiding place for your soul.

William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson **30th July**

During the 18th century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The Church of England remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson – three very different but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a ‘moral steam-engine’. He travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ship captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equiano (1745 – 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.

William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-Upon-Hull, and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and well-connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.

St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus **31st July**

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark’s gospel describes him as having been ‘waiting for the kingdom of God’ for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone – Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history – and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn’t stay very long!

Pilgrimage routes to explore in the North

A 'Santiago of the North' has been launched, encouraging people to walk ancient pilgrimage routes to Durham dating back more than 1,000 years.

Around 30 churches in the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle are part of four revived pilgrimage routes starting from villages and towns in the region, re-creating the routes taken by pilgrims to Durham Cathedral.

'The Way of Learning, The Way of Life, The Way of Light and The Way of Love,' allows pilgrims to walk from 27 to 45 miles while exploring places of historical and religious significance.

Modern-day pilgrims can visit churches and historical monuments, museums and galleries on the route, including shrines and places associated with Saints Cuthbert, Bede, Hilda, Helen, Wilfrid, Oswald, Aidan and Godric.

Further pilgrimage routes *The Angels Way* (30 miles) and the *Way of the Sea* (62 miles) link Lindisfarne and Durham, the two most important pilgrimage centres in the region.

Northern Saints Trail Coordinator David Pott says: "There is a 21st-Century revival in pilgrimage – only 2,500 people walked the Camino to Santiago in 1985, but there were 347,538 pilgrims recorded in 2019."

"Pilgrimages are attracting people who are not necessarily of strong Christian faith but who want to explore more."

How about this one:

Cuddy's Corse – Chester-le-Street to Durham Cathedral – 8 miles, 1 day.

The pilgrimage route follows a riverside path from Chester-le-Street, then field edges up to Great Lumley, to the riverside Finchale Priory, home of the great 12-century pilgrim and hermit, St Godric.

From Finchale the path passes by Frankland prison, and on to the riverside at Durham with views of the castle and cathedral.

The river Wear is crossed by the ancient Framwellgate bridge, and then walk the medieval Silver street to the market square and Sadler street to Palace green, surrounded by the Castle, university and the Cathedral, where there is a pilgrimage gallery, countless holy treasures, and remains of three great spiritual beings – Saint Cuthbert, Saint Oswald and the Venerable Bede – are buried.

OR for a longer stay in the North—the Northern Saints Trails also offer several routes to Durham Cathedral.



For Pilgrim
Routes see:



In Autumn 2021

Luke Jerram's
stellar
display, **Museum of the Moon**,
lands at Durham Cathedral.



How climate change could affect your cup of tea

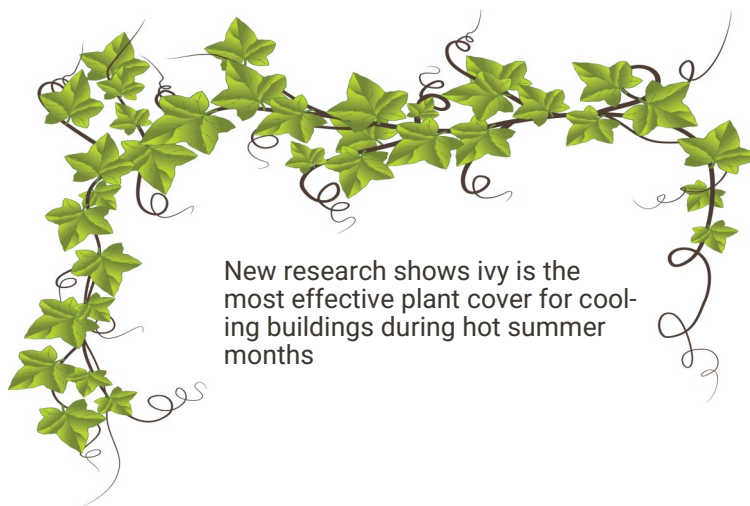
Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future.

It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well.

Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."



New research shows ivy is the most effective plant cover for cooling buildings during hot summer months

Ivy on your house is not really so bad after all

So says the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

In an effort to restore the plant's reputation, the RHS has been showcasing the species at its flagship garden in Wisley, Surrey. It hopes to set a new trend, and to get people to stop seeing ivy as 'the enemy.'

At Wisley you can now see 390 varieties of ivy, with a vast array of leaf shapes, sizes and colours. The RHS wants people to see that ivy can be an attractive and even eco-friendly addition to your home.

RHS experts say that ivy is a 'super plant' that not only has insulating benefits, but also offers habitats for a variety of wildlife, as well as being a food source for birds and pollinators during months of the year when there is very little else for them to eat.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/press/releases/New-research-shows-ivy-is-the-most-effective-plant>



It was:

> 100 years ago, on 1st July 1921 that the Chinese Communist Party was founded.

> Also 100 years ago, on 10th July 1921 that Belfast's Bloody Sunday took place. Protestant loyalists attacked Catholic enclaves and set fire to homes and businesses, sparking rioting and gun battles. At least 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured. 2,000 people were left homeless.

> Also 100 years ago, on 30th July 1921 that the hormone insulin was discovered by Frederick Banting and Charles Best at the University of Toronto.

> 80 years ago, on 19th July 1941 that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his 'V for Victory' campaign.

> 75 years ago, on 22nd July 1946 that the King David Hotel bombing took place in Jerusalem. The Irgun (a militant right-wing Zionist group) bombed the hotel which housed the British administrative headquarters for Palestine. 91 people were killed.

> 60 years ago, on 1st July 1961 that Diana, Princess of Wales, was born. (Killed in a

Guidance on contested heritage

The Church of England has published guidance for parishes and cathedrals amid concerns over memorials with links to slavery and other contested heritage.

The new guidance enables churches and cathedrals to consider the history of the buildings and congregations, and to engage with everyone in their community to understand how physical artefacts may impact their mission and worship.

Tik Tok—not “tick tock” as in a clock ticking or “Tic Tac” as in the hand-signals used by bookmakers or those small sweets— **now we have the Tik Tok app downloadable to our mobile phones.**

Many of you will no doubt have a social media account of some form—maybe Facebook or you may have a Twitter account or you may just enjoy watching YouTube videos - but what about Tik Tok?

Perhaps more popular by the under 25s, although technically users should be over the age of 13 to use it. Use WHAT you may be wondering... **TikTok is a social media app that allows users to create and share short video clips with other users.**

Whatever the ups and downs of yet another media platform to think about - one positive use can be seen as to how one vicar's TikTok (meant for seven teenagers) reached 1.7 million.

What began as an amusing way to keep up with the seven teenagers in her congregation is now serious outreach for the Revd Anne Beverley of Christ Church in Wesham, Lancashire.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck, the first lockdown brought with it a need to stay in touch with the teenagers in her congregation, so Revd Anne Beverley filmed on the social media platform, TikTok – but she did not expect what happened next.

In three days, her video on her TikTok account @ChristChurchWesham was seen not just by the seven local teenagers, but by 1.7 million people around the world.

“We just sat at home watching the numbers go up every time we refreshed our phones,” said Revd Beverley, “it was ridiculous.”

Today, five or six videos are posted each week, which range from dances and singing, to short sermons while walking the dog. The church has more than 66,000 followers and receives around a thousand comments and questions about God each week.

100 years of the Chinese Communists

Tim Lenton

One hundred years ago, on 1st July 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded. It had its roots in the Russian Revolution of 1917 and at first worked with the Chinese Nationalists. But the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, turned violently against them in 1927 and for a while the Communists, under Mao Zedong and others, went underground, turning to rural areas for recruits.

The Nationalists were stronger, however, and in 1934 Mao and his followers undertook the Long March northwards in order to survive.

After that, and despite many internal power struggles, the party grew quickly – assisted by its resistance to the Japanese invasion – and drove the Nationalist Government out and into Taiwan in 1949, following the Chinese Civil War. The People's Republic of China was formed on 1st October that year.

Today the CCP has more than 85 million members and is a monolithic and monopolistic entity dominating all aspects of Chinese life. Although Article 36 of the Chinese Constitution insists that citizens “enjoy freedom of religious belief”, in May this year a decree was issued requiring all religious leaders to support the Communist Party: links to foreign organisations, such as church organisations and missionary societies, often led to persecution.

Remembering Princess Diana

Tim Lenton

Lady Diana Spencer – later Princess of Wales – was born 60 years ago, on 1st July 1961 at Sandringham in Norfolk. Twenty years later, on 29th July 1981, she married Prince Charles at St Paul's Cathedral in London. She died in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

Diana was not an academic child, but concentrated on art, music and sport. She was widely admired for her beauty and style, and during her time as Princess of Wales achieved a great deal in her charity work, particularly in the unexpected areas of AIDS and landmines. Partly because of this she was believed to have strong Christian beliefs, but this is not something she spoke about, though a special episode of *Songs of Praise* on the BBC saw it as the motive for her charity work.

Her marriage to Charles suffered because of their obvious incompatibility and their affairs. They separated in 1992 and divorced in 1996. Their two sons, William and Harry, suffered as a result and have reacted in markedly different ways.

Diana was the first Englishwoman for more than 300 years to marry the heir to the throne. She was also the first royal bride to have a paying job before her engagement.

> Also 60 years ago, on 2nd July 1961, that Ernest Hemingway, American novelist and short story writer, died. Winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. Best known for *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. (Suicide)

> 40 years ago, on 4th July 1981, that the Toxteth riots broke out in Liverpool.

> Also 40 years ago, on 17th July 1981 that the Humber Bridge, linking Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, was officially opened. It was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge at that time.

A tribute to Dolly the Sheep

The first cloned mammal – Dolly the sheep – was born 25 years ago, on 5th July 1996, at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh.

The news was generally greeted with either direct opposition or considerable suspicion. Richard McCormick, a Jesuit priest and professor of Christian ethics at the University of Notre Dame, voiced the feelings of many when he said: “I can’t think of a morally acceptable reason to clone a human being” – a view echoed by the scientist who produced Dolly as an accidental by-product of other work.

As it turned out, making cloned mammals was highly inefficient: Dolly was the only lamb that survived to adulthood from 277 attempts. But fears that Dolly would be unhealthy and unable to reproduce proved ill-founded. She bred with a Welsh Mountain ram to produce six healthy lambs.



Twitter marks its 15th birthday

Tim Lenton

It was 15 years ago, on 15th July 2006, that Twitter, the American micro-blogging social network, was launched. The first tweet – or short message – had been sent internally in March that year and was recently sold for over £2 million.

The service was originally known as twttr (by analogy with the photo site flickr) because the domain name twitter.com was already in use. But this was eventually purchased. Jack Dorsey, the originator, said that the word twitter meant “a short burst of inconsequential information”, which he regarded as perfect for what they were intending.

Fears of a human cloning programme have so far not been realised, although gene-edited human babies were produced in 2018 by Chinese scientist He Jankui, who was subsequently jailed with two colleagues for “illegal medical practice”.

One legacy of the Dolly experiment was the birth of stem-cell research. Dolly died prematurely in 2003 from a form of lung cancer common in sheep. Her body is on display in the National Museum of Scotland.

> Also 40 years ago, on 29th July 1981 that the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer took place at St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

> 25 years ago, on 5th July 1996 that the first cloned mammal was born. Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. (Died 2003)

> 15 years ago, on 15th July 2006 that Twitter, the micro-blogging social network, was launched.

> 10 years ago, on 23rd July 2011 that Amy Winehouse, British soul/R&B/jazz singer and songwriter died. (Alcohol poisoning, aged 27)

The messages – tweets – were originally limited to 140 characters, but the limit was doubled in late 2017. Audio and visual tweets have now been introduced, which are normally limited to 140 seconds.

There are reckoned to be more than 330 million monthly active users, but the vast majority of tweets are sent by a small minority.

Many churches use Twitter to reach members who cannot attend, using #hashtags to link with them. The Church of England, not surprisingly, has provided guidance for this.

Nigel Beeton writes: Many years ago, when I was a teenager (and dinosaurs ruled the earth) there was a New Zealand couple who produced a series of little songs based entirely upon scripture called 'Scripture in Song' and many of them have stayed with me across the decades. I particularly remember a line from Psalm 98: 'His right hand and His holy arm / Have won for Him the victory. Thanks, David and Dale, for an enduring memory!

Sing to the Lord

Sing to the Lord a song of praise
Sing of the wonders that we see
His right hand and His holy arm
Have won for Him the victory

He has revealed His salvation
Deliv'rance He has truly shown
Before all nations of the world
His mighty acts have been made known.

His faithful love, of limits free
Is seen unto the end of earth,
All peoples see His salvation
And all can sing with joy and mirth.

Make songs for God with human voice
With trumpets and the mighty horn
Sing praises to our God and king
To sunset from the break of dawn.

O let the rivers clap their hands
The hills ring out before the Lord
For lo, He judges righteously
His justice seen throughout the world!

By Nigel Beeton

Remember Me

St Paul's launches fundraising campaign for memorial

St Paul's Cathedral has launched a campaign in partnership with the Daily Mail to raise £2.3m to build a physical memorial in St Paul's Cathedral for those who died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be the first build of its kind at St Paul's for nearly 150 years and is part of the 'Remember Me' project, an online book of remembrance launched last year. More than 7,300 names of those who have died as a result of the pandemic have been entered into the book. The campaign will install the online memorial book at a permanent site within St Paul's as well as on the internet. People entering the Cathedral by the new Equal Access Ramp will be able to go through the memorial into a tranquil space and take time to remember the many individuals who have died as a result of the pandemic.

The memorial will be a portico in the North Transept on the site of an earlier porch destroyed by a bomb in 1941. Oliver Caroe, the Cathedral's Surveyor to the Fabric, who has designed the memorial, lost his mother during the pandemic.



Prioritising

Martha cooked
But Mary looked
And sat at the Master's feet,
It's a story of old
But we are told
It's where man and God can meet.

So much to do
But think it through
There's a place for you and me,
To spend time with the Lord
And be found in His word
It's where we are meant to be.

So find a place
To seek His face
Where the Lord Himself is found
With a God who cares
Hears all our prayers
The place where grace abounds.

By Megan Carter



Together again—looking forward to days out during the holidays

What will you miss about lockdown?

More than half of us admit that we will miss some aspects of the Covid-19 restrictions, especially spending more time at home with our family, and appreciating the quieter roads.

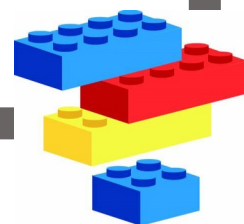
A recent study by King's College London and Ipsos Mori found that around one third of us feel the past year has been similar or better than normal, while 54 per cent of us say that we will miss some of the changes.

Three in ten of us feel closer to our immediate family than we did before the pandemic, while just one in six of us say that we have grown further apart. One in five of us say that our finances are better because of the pandemic.

Overall, it seems that while the public would rather the pandemic hadn't happened, that doesn't mean it's been all bad for everyone, or that people see it as deeply affecting their future lives.

Coming to St Mary's July—September!

Landmarks of Stockport Summer Challenge



Why your dog may be in danger

Dog thefts across the UK soared last year. The problem is now so serious that the government is to set up a pet theft taskforce to fight the organised crime gangs involved.

The taskforce will include officials from the Environment Department (Defra), the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the police. There will also be input from animal welfare experts.

Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, said: "Having callous thieves steal a much-loved pet is heart-breaking for families, and is a cruel crime." Stealing a pet is already a criminal offence, with the offender facing up to seven years in prison.

The police strongly advise pet owners never to leave their pet unattended in public, to vary their walking routines, and to take basic security steps at home, such as checking locks on doors and garden gates.

Did you know...?
When it's 22°C / 72°F outside
the temperature inside a car
can reach 47°C / 117°F within
60 minutes.

July



Dogs die in cars every year!
Even with the windows open
your car can turn into an oven
in minutes - don't let your best
friend be inside...

£9 million funding package for mission to students and young people

Tens of thousands of students and young people who may never have been to church before are to be reached by the Church of England with the message of the Christian faith as part of a £9 million funding programme for mission projects across the country, it was recently announced.

Church of England parishes are to form new congregations aimed at reaching young adults and students in Leeds and Huddersfield in West Yorkshire, Blackburn in Lancashire and coastal areas of Paignton in Devon and Brighton and Hove in east Sussex.

A series of grants to help fund the projects has been awarded as part of the Church of England's programme of Renewal and Reform.

The Church of England's National Youth Evangelism Officer, Jimmy Dale, welcomed the investment in work with students and young people.

He said: "It is so exciting to see the church engaging with students and young people in a way that historically, we have often fallen short. Young people, the 'Generation Z' of 11 - to-25-year-olds, have faced enormous challenges as a result of the pandemic. They have struggled not just socially and financially but educationally and with regards to mental health. The message of the good news of Jesus Christ offers this generation a real beacon of hope."

HYMN: The story behind

‘Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken’

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

restore


A weekly space for quiet and reflection

20 minutes of music, Bible readings, prayers and silence

No participation required - just come along and find a little peace

St. Mary's in the Marketplace,
Stockport

Thursdays at 12pm



PROMISE AND FULFILMENT

Revd Michael Burgess

'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks.
Hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington

When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:

'The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' (Isaiah 11:6,9)

That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month's painting, 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of 'nature red in tooth and claw' here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is



being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. 'Follow the Inner Light' and Isaiah's prophecy can be fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God's peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, - Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.— writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

The photograph is off Pixabay.



It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, 'Why am I here?'"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the

world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos

on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

Exploring the Big Questions:
scientists and theologians share their views



Hello Roggie here— time to enjoy the warmer weather? But sometimes it can be too much... Excuse me panting away but it was really quite warm even indoors at my work table.

I have quite a long tongue you know—it is very useful for all sorts of things, using as a ladle for scooping water out of my bowl (or the bird dish outside when Mummy isn't looking), it helps to keep me cool, it is a conveyor of food (I tend to remove my dinner from the bowl and eat off the carpet bit by bit - so there is quite a lot of work involved in this messy (as Mummy would say) style of eating. My tongue registers taste—it knows to remove and not eat anything that resembles a carrot. It is a texture sensor, a grooming aid and my licks are my kisses, especially for Mummy.

I am beginning to wonder what July will bring as it looks to me as if you humans are still having problems with the Covid virus. Mummy explained to me that there has been a delay in lifting restrictions and that cases had been increasing in the North West.

I've had a bit of bad news too, my sponsor dog Cookie (Guide Dogs for the Blind) has picked up some sort of parasite and although is responding to medication and a special diet may no longer be able to continue her training as a guide dog. It now looks as if Cookie will become a companion dog. I think that I could call myself



one of those on my CV—although I do have specific tasks to perform as well as to keep Mummy company. I have guard duties (look out for cats, birds and window cleaners), laundry duties (pinch the towels and help change the bed) and I am the church dog at St M's. In fact I insisted the other Sunday on going down to church on a service day. It was a service of Morning Prayer, but just as I was about to bark the responses in the wrong place I was taken outside—which is what I wanted in the first place of course — and it was such a nice day, but Ruby Dog and her friend didn't want to play. I was happy sniffing around in the grave yard and "people watching" it was really busy around the market hall and there were lots of humans to keep an eye on.

Humans do such strange things! Like going up lamp posts...

I nearly missed all the excitement the other morning which started while Mummy and I were both still asleep upstairs.

We both woke up and heard a lot of banging outside, so we drew the curtains back an inch or two to see what was happening —on the hope it wasn't the window cleaner looking in on us!

Our favourite street light in all the world - that big orange/yellow light that had guarded our bedroom window every night for longer than I have known was being changed.

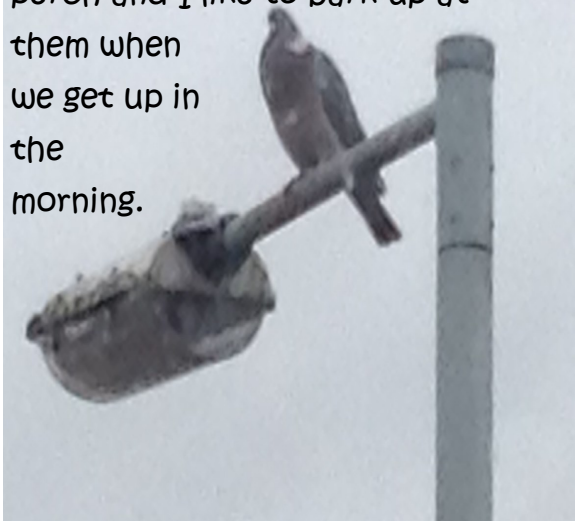
AND what of my Bird friends... well they don't really mind Sodium or LED they are happy with any perch going!

A five- year plan for Stockport Council to change over 33,000 lights to energy efficient and more environmentally friendly lighting

and it was our turn to change over Mummy and I were there to see it. We watched as the old street light was taken down, a little sad really as I used to pretend it was the sun shining through the curtains as it had such a bright and friendly yellow glow—and I know Mummy liked it too shining bright outside our bedroom every night—like a comforting “night light”. White LED just isn't the same but better for the planet Mummy says.

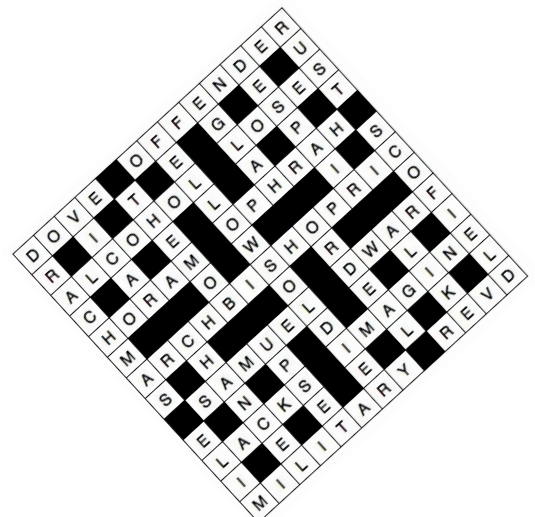


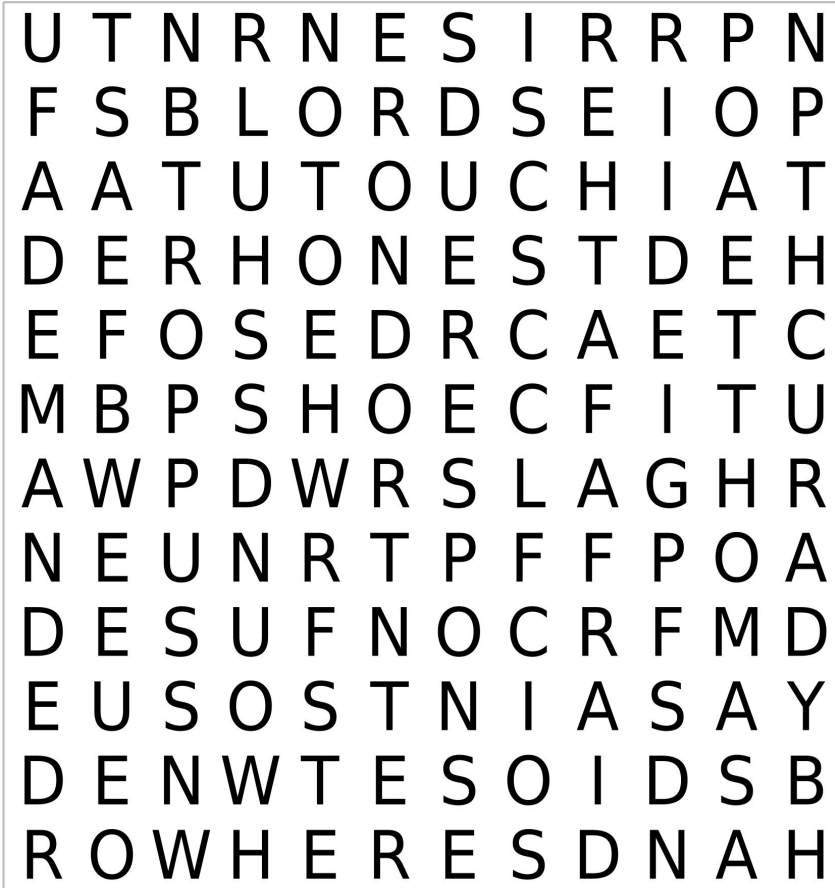
I suspect that the resident birds were a little concerned to start with - they had made rather a mess up there—still it is their perch and I like to bark up at them when we get up in the morning.



So this is it—our new LED (light emitting diode) street light so now I pretend it is the moon shining outside our window and of course the birdies are back every morning ready to mess up the new light fitting and for me to bark at.







Thomas	Saint	Doubt	Faith
Feast	Honest	Confused	Father
Afraid	Where	Resurrection	Baffled
Demanded	Risen	See	Support
Touch	Wounds	Hands	Feet
Response	Worship	Lord	My
God			

Wordsearch clues and answers

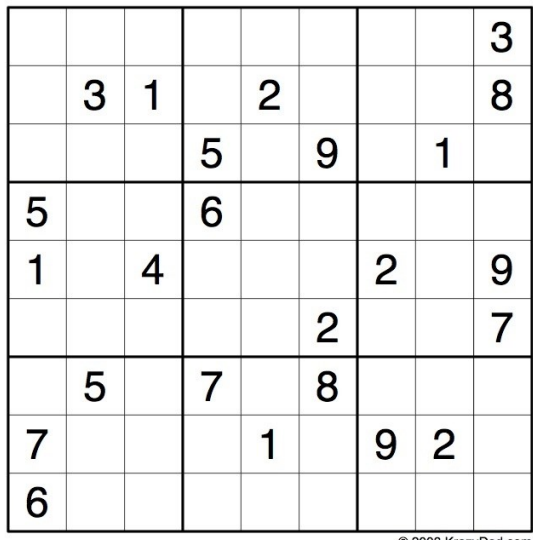
Doubting Thomas

If you have ever doubted aspects of your Christian faith, St Thomas is the saint for you. His feast day is on 3rd July.

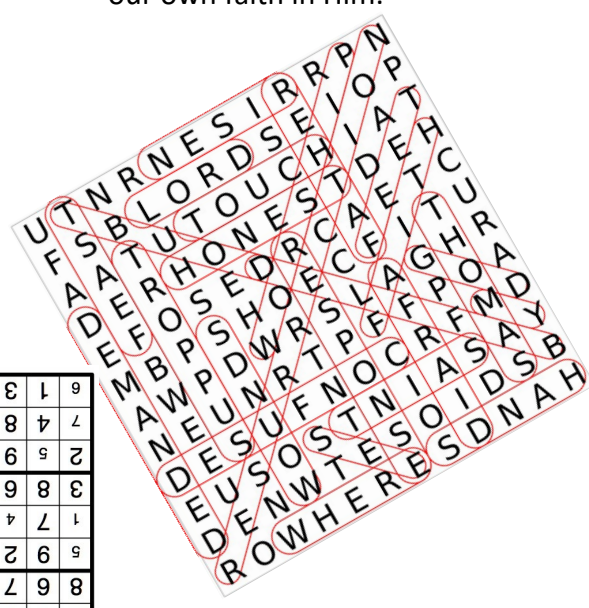
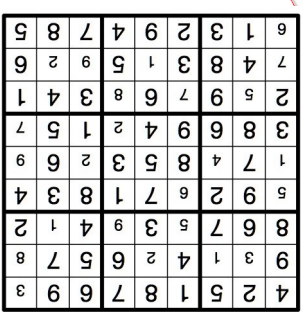
Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, was deeply devoted, but also very honest whenever he got confused. When Jesus spoke of going to his Father (John 14), Thomas was not afraid to ask Him where His Father was. As for the Resurrection, that really baffled Thomas. He demanded to see the risen Jesus for himself - and touch the wounds in His hands and feet. When Jesus appeared, Thomas' immediate response was one of worship: "My Lord and my God" (John 20).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of us down the centuries who also sometimes doubt Jesus. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, we can find support for our own faith in Him.

Sudoku



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

palace
killed
Nathan
David
disobeyed
dinner
drunk
message

Uriah
soldies
beautiful
married
fighting
wife
asked
Joab

widow
note
trouble
commander
Bathsheba
forgiven
letter
home

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Samuel 11: 1-12: 25

Kings normally led their armies to battles but David had sent his army with his commander, Joab, to fight the Ammonites.

David was strolling on his palace roof when he saw a beautiful woman.



She is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.



Later, Bathsheba sent a message to King David.

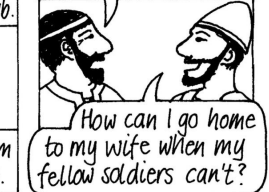
I'm pregnant!
B x

David tried to cover up what he had done. He sent a note to Joab.

Send Uriah to me now.
D

When Uriah came, David sent him to his home, but he didn't go.

Why didn't you go home?



David had Uriah stay to dinner and got him drunk.



So David wrote a letter to Joab

Put Uriah at the front of the fighting where he will be killed.
D

He gave it to Uriah to give to Joab.



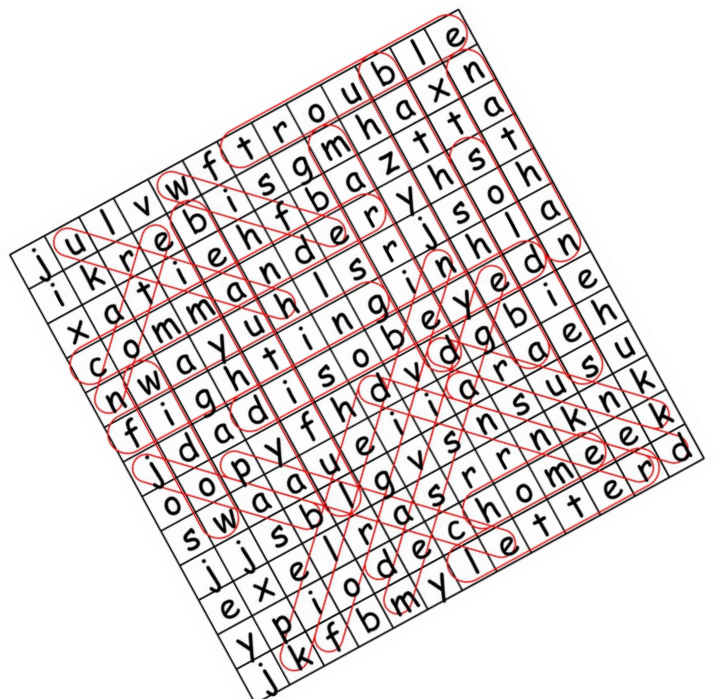
Bathsheba was now a widow and David married her.

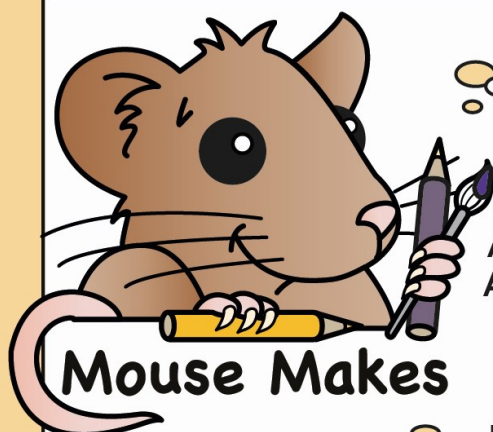


But God was angry and He sent Nathan the prophet to David.



You took Uriah's wife and then you murdered him by having him killed.





Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

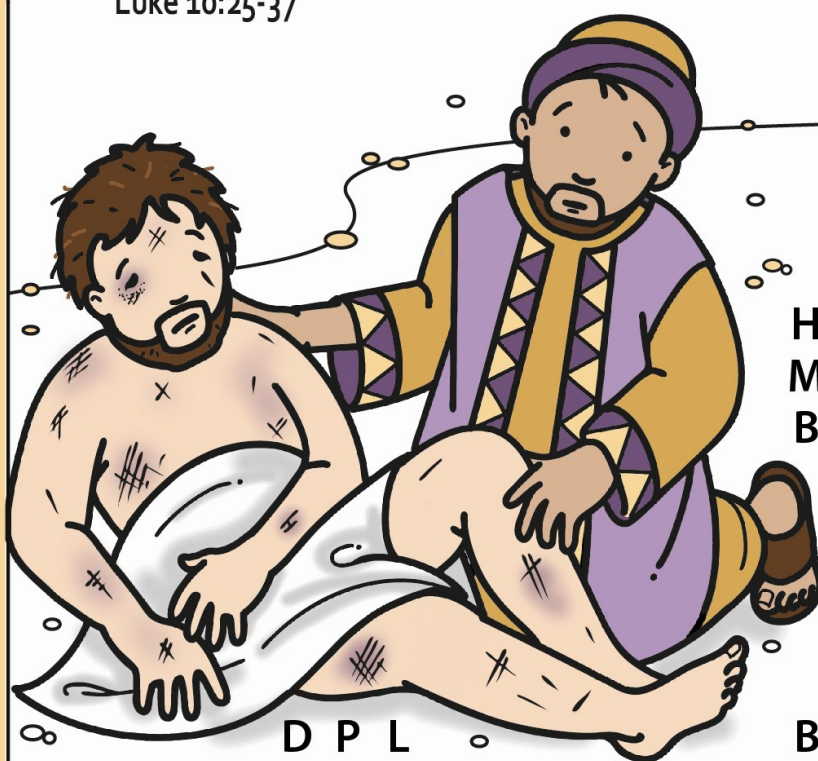
A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?"
and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.

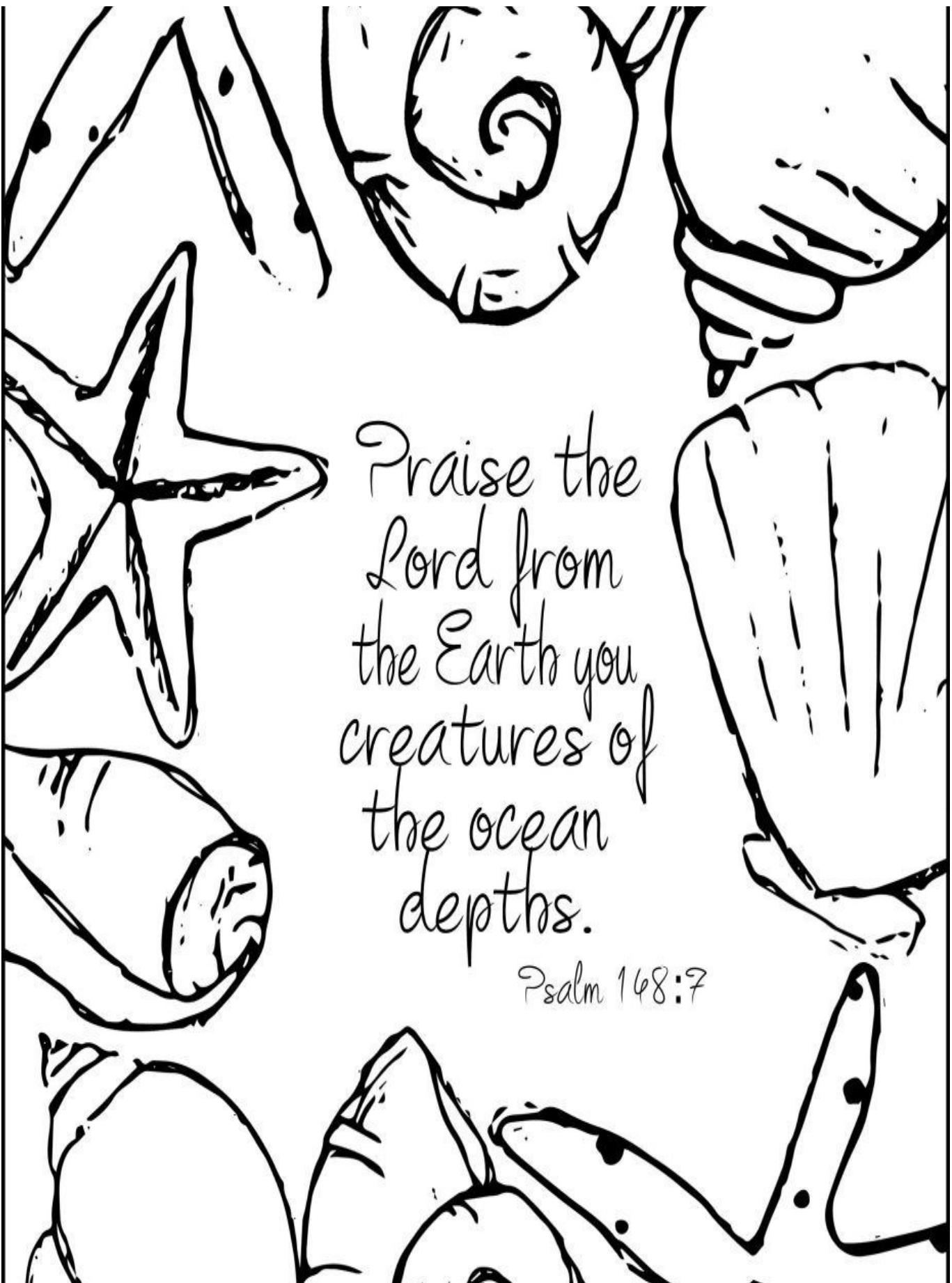
The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



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

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICHO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO



Praise the
Lord from
the Earth you
creatures of
the ocean
depths.

Psalm 148:7



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