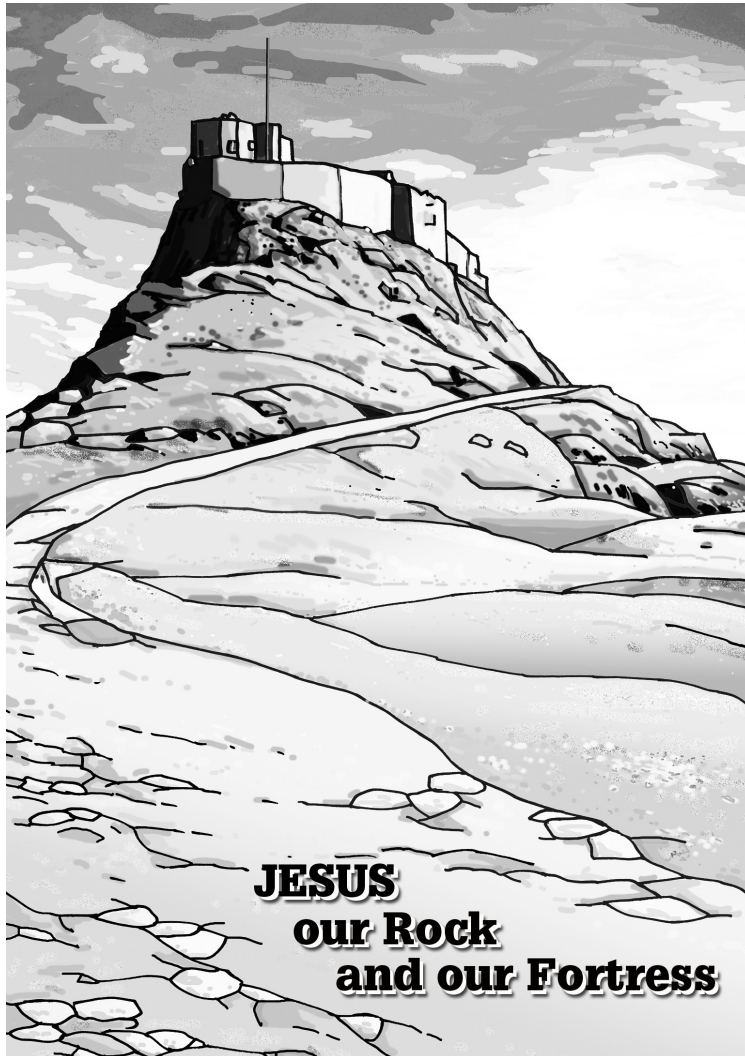


July 2020

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



SERVICES & EVENTS

All services at the three churches in the parish have been cancelled during the time of the coronavirus pandemic.

Keep an eye on church websites for updates or ask a friend to do this for you.



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. *Pope John Paul II*



Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. *Martin Luther*

The Vicar Writes:

At the time of writing this elements of the “lockdown” are lifting. Shops are re-opening soon, restrictions on peoples' lives are slackening. And we have just been told that churches may re-open for private prayer. Of course the fundamental purpose of a church is not private prayer, but public worship, and that seems a way off as yet. The simple fact is that public worship is a potent source of infection!

It is also fair to say that the virus which caused all this has not gone away, and sensible precaution still needs to be shown. I have met with the churchwardens and we have agreed:

- St Mary's will open for private prayer at lunchtime on weekdays. Before this happens, however, it will receive a professional sanitizing clean, to ensure that it is safe. St Mary's is chosen to open first because of its central location, which means that it attracts more “casual” visitors who may choose to pray, meditate, or rest, in a church. By the time you read this it is possible that St Mary's will be open for private prayer, initially on Wednesday lunchtimes.
- St Laurence's will follow, hopefully around the beginning of July, again after a clean, and will open when it would have been open for worship, so that those who are habitual worshippers at St Laurence's can spend time in the building. This will be after a deep clean and some furniture moving.
- St Peter's is currently the site of building works, and so we will not open the church until works are complete. At the time of writing they have hardly started. After the work is complete the church will receive a deep clean prior to re-opening.

We anticipate that it will be possible to maintain social distancing in these settings, though the kitchens and sanitary facilities will remain closed for the present.

Now this brings me on to the most important point of all. These openings will need to be staffed. We need healthy volunteers. Just because you are a St Peter's person, or a St Laurence's person, does not mean that you cannot assist at St Mary's; we are not opening St Mary's first for St Mary's sake, but for the town. In the same way St Mary's people are invited to help at St Laurence's... and so on. We are taking an approach to this as a parish because we believe that all our churches are there for everyone. We can't open all our churches all at once, or all of the time. We are doing what is sensible and feasible, and to do that we need your help. The more help we get, the sooner we can open more churches for longer.

Fr Alistair

25th July: St James the Great, following Him

Jesus, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, ‘Follow me’.

Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing (and in the case of two of them, James and John, leave their poor old father alone in the boat with the hired crew), and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus. Talk about a sudden change of life!

All our understanding of human behaviour tells us that this is not how people normally respond to such a peremptory invitation: no questions, no explanation. Take it or leave it. Just ‘Follow me’.

That however is on a superficial reading of the text. In fact, because we have four Gospels rather than just three, we know from John that one pair of brothers, James and John, and the other two called on the same day, had been disciples of John the Baptist, who had pointed Jesus out to them as the ‘Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’.

Subsequently two of them had sought Him out and spent some time with Him in the Jordan area. This was not quite the instant ‘conversion’ described by Matthew and Mark, though undoubtedly it evoked an instant response.

For many of us on the journey of faith the experience of James and John - and the other two, Peter and Andrew - mirrors our own experience. First, we know about Jesus, perhaps as children at Sunday school, or later as adults. Then we begin to ask questions and look for answers. Finally, there may come a time when we hear His voice, as it were, calling us to accompany Him on a life of love, service and commitment.

For James (whose feast day falls this month) this moment was to turn his whole life upside down. He became a leader of the church in Jerusalem after the resurrection and was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to the sword by Herod Agrippa in 44AD. His brother John, in contrast, lived on as a senior figure in the life of the emerging Church.

For all four who were called by the lake that day, nothing would ever be quite the same again. But then all those who set out to follow Jesus wherever He leads them are usually in for a few surprises.

When does the new Rector get here? ...

It does feel like ages since we said farewell to Andrew and Heather, partly because of the strange situation we are all in, and also because we didn't get to give them a proper farewell do - (we'll rectify that later, when it is possible to all meet up again).

I wanted to explain briefly what has happened so far, and what will happen next.

Although Andrew left at the end of April, his tenure didn't actually end until 31st May, so June 1st was first day on which anything could happen, and on that very day, the formal notices arrived from the Diocese. So the process of finding a new Rector has now officially begun.

However the clergy team and wardens had already met with Gill Lovell, the Diocese Parish Development Officer at the end of March. Gill explained to us what the process would involve and how she will be guiding us through it. Gill is on furlough throughout June, but is attending our virtual PCC meeting in July. After the PCC meeting, there will be more news to share on the next steps we will all be taking.

Meanwhile, please keep in your prayers the next Rector of Upton-cum-Chalvey, who may just be wondering right now where their next step will take them ...

Andrea

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the chance for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Quick as a wink, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

The 30th Year of Saturday Lunchtime Concerts at St Mary's!

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.



St Laurence's Preserves

If you would like to order some St Laurence's jam, marmalade, chutney or other item from the preserves stall, please call Allan on 01753 532425 and he will arrange collection or delivery in line with current Covid-19 regulations.

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the August issue by **Sunday 12th July** at the latest!

Dave

Lockdown in Bethlehem

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll of death and illness around the world. However, the statistics don't always tell the full story.

On the face of it, Palestine has escaped lightly, with only two deaths and under 400 cases at the time of writing; but the economic impact on the people has been devastating.

This is particularly true of the Christian artisans in and around Bethlehem, who make their living carving nativity sets, crosses and other souvenirs from olive wood for sale to tourists and pilgrims. It's a tradition that started early in the 14th century, when the Franciscans first settled in Bethlehem. They brought in Italian wood carvers who taught local people how to make olive wood carvings for pilgrims, and the craft has been handed down within families ever since.

A group of Christian pilgrims from Greece brought Covid-19 to Palestine in late February. The first local cases in Bethlehem were discovered on 5th March, and within 48 hours the city was locked down, with no visitors coming in or out, the churches, mosques, shops and schools all closed.

That may seem an extreme reaction, but Palestine's healthcare system is fragile. If the virus spread through the crowded refugee camps it could be unstoppable.

With no tourists coming in, the artisans have no income. They are growing vegetables in their back gardens to survive. The lockdown was in place until early June, but even then, tourists will not be visiting for months, perhaps a year or more. Their only hope is to sell overseas.

'Made in Bethlehem' is a part-time not-for-profit fair-trade business importing the work of these artisans from two fair-trade wholesalers in Bethlehem. The prices are set to just cover the costs of buying, shipping and selling. Normally the goods are sold at craft markets in the UK, but these too are closed at the moment.

If you would like to help the Christian artisans of Bethlehem, please visit the online shop at Facebook, @MadeInBethlehem or email made.in.bethlehem@gmail.com

Mike Truman

New Archbishop of York to be confirmed

Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month.

The service, at 11am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts. A legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music, will be followed by a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world.

"These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online

Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north."

The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.

The Coronavirus, Church & You Survey

You are invited to take part in this national survey...details below

The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on churches. The lockdown has severely restricted ministry in areas such as pastoral care, fellowship groups, and serving the community. On the other hand, for those with online access, worship has taken on new and creative forms over the last few weeks. Many clergy and ministry teams have risen to the challenge of operating in the virtual environment.

As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold. How well have people coped with the pandemic? Has it

strengthened or weakened their faith? How has it been for clergy and ministry teams trying to work in this new environment? How have those receiving ministry found this novel experience? Will virtual ministry become part of the post-pandemic landscape, and will this be a good move for your church?

We have developed a survey over the last few weeks in discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people which we hope will enable you to record your experience of the pandemic, the ministry you have given or received, and what you think will happen to churches in a post-pandemic world.

In an article to launch the survey in the *Church Times*, the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, wrote: “This survey is an attempt to go beyond anecdote... It will capture evidence of both excitement and fears for the future, of where stress levels have changed, and whether personal faith has weakened or grown.”

This is an online survey, which we estimate it will take you about 20-30 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to tick boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words. Alongside questions about the pandemic and ministry there are sections which ask about you: these are important because they will allow us to see how the lockdown is affecting different sorts of people in different contexts.

The survey can be completed on mobile phones, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers. You can access using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ycsq9fy2>

Please forward this link to any churches or churchgoers you feel might want to take part in the survey and support this research. We should have some initial results within a few weeks and will make these available as widely as we can.

The Revd Professor Andrew Village,
York St John University a.village@yorksja.ac.uk

The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis,
Visiting Professor, York St John University



Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manger”, manglers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won’t be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be

a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



*They were trying to remember
when they had last left the house.*

A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

As I write, volunteers are distributing food to people who have been deprived of their usual ways of earning an income during the lockdown in a Majority World country. I became involved in raising money for this initiative very recently, and saw videos from the first people to receive packages. There were expressions of happiness, hope, quiet sadness, resignation, desperation – most often a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the *potential* for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who received food yesterday were, in the words of the community team leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

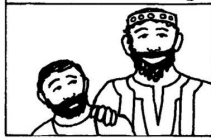
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



David had to go on the run and hide.



One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



God has given you a chance to kill him!

Saul didn't notice.

Then David felt bad.

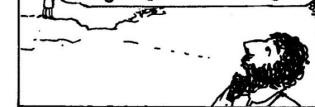


He is God's chosen king. Having the chance to do something doesn't make it right.

David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.

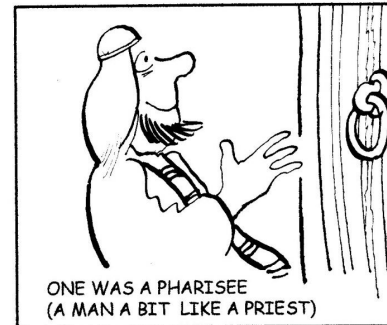


The Tale of the TWO MEN SAYING THEIR PRAYERS

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY



ONE WAS A PHARISEE (A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)

THE OTHER WAS A TAX COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR MAN IN JESUS' DAY!)

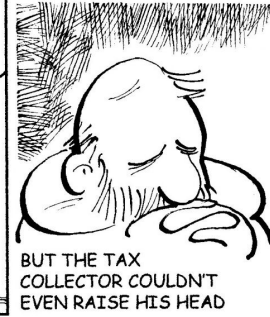
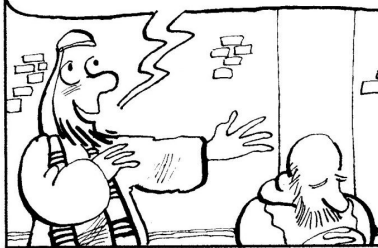


THE PHARISEE BEGAN TO PRAY

WHAT A GREAT CHAP I AM! I NEVER DO ANYTHING WRONG!!



I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF, ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL, LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!



BUT THE TAX COLLECTOR COULDN'T EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD

DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY! PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ALL THE WRONG THINGS I HAVE DONE.



IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR, NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE PRAYERS WERE HEARD!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.



Mouse Makes

FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS

Match the wife to their husband

MARY	BOAZ
SARAH	JACOB
RUTH	ZECHARIAH
REBEKAH	JOSEPH
RACHEL	ABRAHAM
ELIZABETH	ISAAC



WHO AM I?

The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name.

P			L	
				E
I				
		R		

- Wrote 13 New Testament letters
- He wrote the third Gospel
- Mother of John (Luke 1:3)
- Sarah's servant (Genesis 16:21)
- Joseph's mother (Genesis 29:35)
- His wife turned to salt (Genesis 11:31)

			L	
S				
N				

- Paul's friend (2 Corinthians 8:27)
- A brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)
- Ruth's mother-in-law. (Ruth 3:1)

IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent 9 plagues on Egypt... What were they?

Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.

AKNNC
EQNFR
FMZSR
EKHDR
CHRDZRD
OKZFTD
GZHK
KNBTRSR
CZOJMDRR



FIND THE FISH

The Disciples have been fishing and have caught TWO fish the same, can you find them?





Colour in all the shapes with a DOT to find out what Jesus want us to do

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

2020 Theme: “Building with Confidence”

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch.

OR

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm “Mulling It Over”: Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.

The image shows a business card for Jewell Gardens. The top half of the card has a white background with the company name 'JEWELL GARDENS' in a black serif font. A green leaf icon is positioned between the words. Below the name, on a light beige background, are the services 'Soft Landscaping' and 'Garden Maintenance' in a green serif font, with 'and' in a smaller font between them. The contact information 'Telephone: 07478828855' and 'Email: sam.jewellgardens@gmail.com' is in a green sans-serif font. On the right side, there is a green graphic of three stylized leaves. The bottom half of the card has a white background with the text 'Arrange your free consultation now!' in a green serif font.

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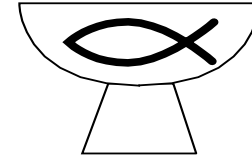
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Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Rob Walker (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden:	
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Albert Lawrance	01753 523222
District Churchwarden (SP): Eddie Ijeomah	01753 857923
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

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<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk/>

www.saint-laurence.com

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk/>