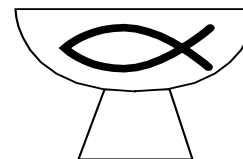
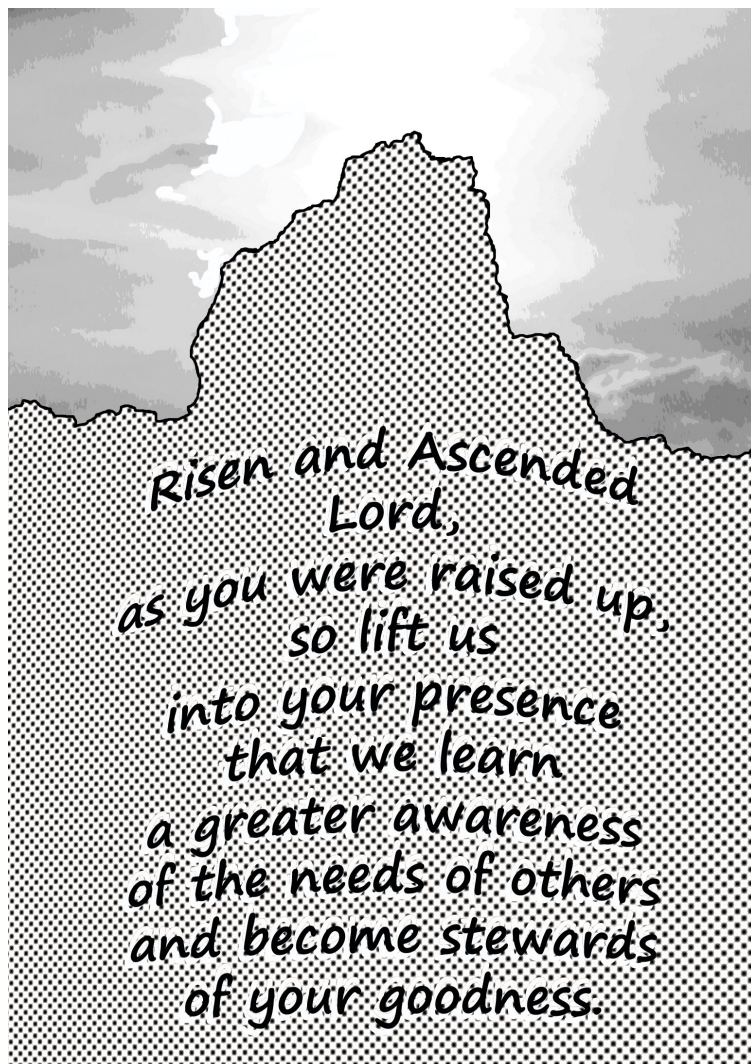


May 2022

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



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 Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
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): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07388 832233
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Scott Lamb Friday
Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

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

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

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

The Rector Writes:

I hope that as you read this month's magazine, you are enjoying some wonderful Easter celebrations.

When we lived in Newham, in east London, there was a popular story about the local council. One year, to save money, councillors had invested in an all-purpose "Season's Greetings" banner for the High Street. The only problem was that in an area as multi-cultural as Newham, there were so many festivals and celebrations belonging to the different faiths that the banner stayed up for the whole year, confusing everyone. This month, in Slough, we will be aware that as we celebrate Easter our Muslim neighbours are keeping Ramadan and preparing for Eid al-Fitr. If you heard fireworks on Maundy Thursday, they were probably for Vaisakhi, the Sikh new year. Our Hindu friends celebrated Holi as we settled into Lent. The abundance of celebrations around us remind us of just what a gift and privilege it is to live in such a diverse and faith-filled place. I am still enjoying introducing myself as the Rector of the most religious town in Britain.

At a recent meeting to discuss community resilience, Fr Alistair pointed out to those gathered just how many initiatives in Slough rely on a particular faith group or on believers working together. It was a good foundation for the discussions that followed since in terms of community development any strategy that disregarded Slough's religious character would miss our unique selling point. It would also fail to tap into the bank of goodwill, energy and resources held in faith communities - Slough's spiritual and cultural capital.

In Newham, one fellow priest often asked the question: "I wonder what God is doing in jumbling up so many nationalities and faiths in one place, he hasn't done anything quite like this before? We must be pretty special." As we celebrate our faith and share in the joy of our neighbours, let us remember just how significant, blessed and rich our town is, in God's eyes.

With love,

Fr Scott

MAY SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

Mon 2nd	10.30am	Opening of "Herschel 200" Exhibition in church - open daily until 14th May, Monday - Saturday 10.30am - 4.00pm, last entry 3.45pm (SL)
Tue 3rd	2.30pm	"Mulling it Over" - see page 20 for details (SM - note change of venue)
	8.00pm	St Peter's DCC Meeting (SP)
Fri 6th	7.30pm	"Herschel 200" talk by Ron Lewin, with Q&A (SL)
Mon 9th	7.30pm	St Laurence's DCC Meeting (SL)
Tue 10th	7.30pm	St Mary's DCC Meeting (SM)
Mon 16th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SP)
Sun 22nd	12.45pm	Tuts-mania Church Lunch (SL) - sign up in church or call 01753 532425

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the June issue by **Sunday 15th May** at the latest!

Dave

St Mary's News

As I am writing this we are still in Holy Week and looking towards to our Easter Services and hoping we are able to meet with friends who have drifted away over the last two years. The Walk of Witness has changed format this year and has moved from Good Friday to Holy Saturday, but as in previous years it will end in St Marys for refreshments.

Just before the end of term, we were delighted to welcome 170 children and 120 parents from St Mary's school back to church. Years 1, 2 and 3 told the stories of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with enthusiastic singing, storytelling and thoughtful prayers through their eyes.

It was very encouraging this week to receive a request from South and East Berks Young Ringers to visit and ring our bells and hope maybe they may be encouraged to join with our ringers on a more regular basis

Our Mother/carer and Toddler group, *Start the Week*, continues to flourish and we offer a large space and plenty of toys for children from round the world who have their home in Slough. If you have a spare couple of hours on a Monday morning please come and help. Many of the young mums are far from home without family support and welcome a chat and a cup of coffee.

We still have an ongoing problem in the churchyard but Father Scott, Derek and I are in regular contact with SHOC, Outreach and the police. It does seem we are having some progress. The police are increasing their patrols and have asked that we all report any anti-social behaviour and inappropriate activities to them. Please ring 101 if you can help.

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

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

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

These free art classes are held in St Mary's, every Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and are open to all.

St Laurence's News

The astronomer William Herschel, who is buried in St Laurence Church, Upton, Slough, is known for many things. He discovered Uranus, the first previously unknown planet identified since ancient times, he built the world's largest telescope, measuring 40ft, and he discovered infrared, among many other achievements. An exhibition to mark the bicentenary of his death will be held at St Laurence's Church from Monday 2nd to Saturday 14th May.

The exhibition will be open Monday to Saturday from 10.30am to 4.00pm and will include themed displays on the lives and achievements of William and his sister and fellow astronomer Caroline Herschel.

The fortnight will include a talk by astronomy enthusiast Ron Lewin, who used to live in Slough and knew the last of the Herschels to live in their original home, Observatory House, in Windsor Road, Slough. The talk will be held on May 6th from 7.30pm and include a question-and-answer session. Entrance is free but donations to church funds are welcome.

Parking is available in Herschel Park (not Saturdays) and Upton Court Park.

Richard Emerson

St Laurence's Church
(Upton Court Road, Slough SL3 7LS)

Presents . . .

"HERSCHEL 200"

*Bi-centenary of
William Herschel's death*

2nd - 14th May 2022 Open daily

10.30am - 4.00pm (Mon - Sat)

*Themed exhibition displays,
films, talks, music*

*Friday 6th May 7.30pm -
"The Herschels, telescopes and more"
Presentation by Ron Lewin*

*Entrance free, but donations towards
church funds most welcome*

*Parking: Upton Court Road Car Park or
Herschel Park (not Saturday)*

www.saint-laurence.com

St Peter's News

At the time of writing St Peter's is planning to host an Iftar on 23rd April. This is the meal which marks the end of the Ramadan fast for the day at sunset. We hosted the event a few years ago. The meal is organised by the local Muslim community, whilst we provide the venue in our grounds, and, of course, join with the celebration.

The first DCC meeting of the new council will be on Tuesday 3rd May. Finance and fund raising will be important items, as will be ideas to encourage more people through our doors to join us for worship.

Margaret

Love Feast

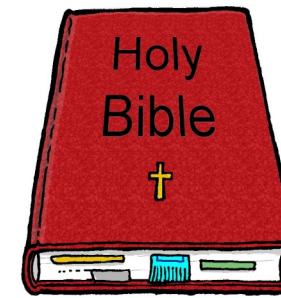
The Love Feast is an annual custom held each year in a large barn on a farm in remote Derbyshire. It's just a simple Methodist service with hymns, using water and fruitcake instead of the usual communion wine and wafers. The floor is covered with straw to make it as poor as possible. It's held to commemorate the nonconformist tradition in these parts.

Alice Sanders

Nature threatened by dog poo

These days, it is unthinkable to leave your dog's waste on the pavement when in town. But in the countryside, too many of us still think it is okay to let our pets foul an area of natural countryside. Now a recent study has found that this can be especially harmful to nature reserves.

The problem is that dog waste contains high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, which can damage many species of plants. As one scientist explains: "In many nature reserves, the management is specifically directed towards lowering soil nutrients levels, to enhance plant and animal biodiversity. Our findings suggest that the currently neglected inputs of dogs in nature reserves could delay restoration goals." The findings were published in the journal *Ecological Solutions and Evidence*.



Understanding the Bible

The Bible is a popular book, with five billion copies sold worldwide every year, as well as a uniquely precious book. At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible, *'the most precious thing this world affords'*.

The Bible isn't simply one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author - God Himself!

As the Word of God, it is the primary way by which God speaks to us. *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and is a *manual for life*, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit, who helps us to apply its words to our lives: *'But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth'* John 16:13.

The Bible can also be described as a *love letter* from God, as it deepens our relationship with Him. Jesus said: *'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life'* (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better. Like a signpost, the Bible points us to the person of Jesus.

Canon Paul Hardingham



THE CENTRAL SLOUGH JUBILEE
CELEBRATION: 5TH JUNE 2022

12-4pm

Saint Mary's Churchyard: SL1 1PJ

Bring a picnic, enjoy the (free) entertainment,
meet your neighbours, celebrate our community



War in Ukraine: Diocese in Europe and USPG launch Ukraine emergency appeal

The Church of England Diocese in Europe and USPG, the mission agency, have launched an emergency appeal to get aid to people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war.

The appeal is for urgent help NOW, but the work will go on for many months.

The Church of England's Bishop in Europe, the Rt Revd Robert Innes says: "War is horrible. It injures, destroys, and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe.

"The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others.

"Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help."

USPG's General Secretary, the Revd Duncan Dormor, adds: "Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine. We have launched this appeal in partnership with the Diocese in Europe to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and support church responses to the current crisis."

To donate to the Ukraine emergency appeal, visit <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com>

War in Ukraine: Advice for parishes on helping refugees

The Church of England has published a 'toolkit' of resources for parishes seeking to help refugees and evacuees from Ukraine in the wake of the Russian invasion of the country.

The material, available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/>

community-action/war-ukraine-responding brings together advice on how churches can welcome people arriving from Ukraine through giving, longer-term practical support such as community sponsorship, prayer and advocacy, as well as links to other sources of information including safeguarding.

In a foreword to the toolkit, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, say that The Church calls on “all people of goodwill to join in prayer for the people of Ukraine and to work practically to support them in their hour of need.”

They continue: “We have been inspired by the warm response from churches and community groups. We hope that in this toolkit there will be some useful answers.

“In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God’s gift of peace, work for God’s justice, and know God’s reconciliation and love.”

The toolkit includes a brief guide to what is happening in Ukraine and the humanitarian response, together with details of organisations and appeals.

It also contains information on how parishes and individuals can take action to support those arriving both through the family visa scheme and the humanitarian sponsor scheme, advocacy and prayer and theological resources for churches.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today,
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons,
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Where did Jesus go at the Ascension?

In Salvador Dali’s picture of Jesus’ ascension all you can see are his feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question ‘*where did Jesus go?*’ Peter says Jesus ‘*has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand*’ (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father’s side.

At Pentecost Peter said that Jesus is ‘*exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... “The Lord said to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand”*’ (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus’ position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven, i.e., eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God’s provision for our lives.

When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he points out, ‘*I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.*’ (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! We are called to trust him daily.

The Bible also tells us that ‘*Christ Jesus who died is interceding for us*’ (Romans 8:34, c.f. Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don’t know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side!

The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God, and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

‘Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the One who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.’ (Tom Wright).

Christ's Legacy

There was no mourning when Christ's resurrection appearances came to an end. After the final occasion we are told the disciples 'worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy'.

They had already experienced the onset of grief caused by His death, intensified because of the dreadful manner of it and the consequent crushing of their hopes. Then, with feelings combining bewilderment with elation, they were confronted by Christ alive and had to rethink everything they had understood until then about the certainty of death.

They became convinced that the Crucifixion and Resurrection signposted a new beginning, not an ending, and that it gave fresh purpose to humanity, past, present and future.

Why was Christ's final departure met by joy rather than gloom? Here are some reasons, which we might think of as His legacies.

First, He had said that He was going to prepare a place for His followers. It's worth pondering John Chapter 14, to see why Jesus' disciples were so confident after His Ascension.

Second, He taught them His departure was, actually, for their *benefit*. Only in this way would the 'Advocate' come. 'Advocate' is one translation of a word meaning 'called alongside' and is a description of the Holy Spirit's work in and for humanity, then and now.

Third, Christ continues to campaign for the human cause, though now out of sight. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews puts it bluntly: "He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Paul writes something similar in his letter to the Romans. It means that Jesus prays for us nonstop, so when we pray it's like treading on a moving walkway taking us in the right direction.

Fourth, He came to show us what the unseen God is like. When one of His trainees asked, "Lord, show us the Father", the reply was, "Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know Me? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father". So, the more we contemplate Jesus, the closer we get to the unseen God.

The Ven John Barton



On the perils of the church picnic

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

A Spring parish picnic is always a good idea – although you must bear some details in mind. First, whatever date you choose will turn out be the wettest of the year. English picnics are invariably eaten under umbrellas while wearing Wellingtons and the sort of determinedly cheerful look that defies anyone to admit they would rather be home in front of the fire.

Second, no matter how early in the year, wasps will emerge from hibernation in huge numbers, and terrorise Mrs Hornby with the picnic baskets. And thirdly, someone will bring along their (hungry) dog. Last time Colonel Psmith's spaniel outdid herself: she leapt up, head butted a piece of Madeira cake out of Mrs Horngirdle's hand - and ate the lot – before even a crumb could touch the ground. A good piece of field work, that.

Half-way through the afternoon, some over-excited member of the party will decide to arrange a game of rounders. (Mr Poppinjay tried this one year, as in his youth he had been athletic. Fortunately, the ambulance got there quickly, and the ankle healed well.) Then the mothers who join in will completely ignore the ball sailing past them, while they discuss some burning topic of Mother's Union gossip.

In the meantime, the young choir members, who were the reason for arranging the game in the first place, will have drifted off to the lake to throw stones at the ducks while no one is looking.

For our annual picnic, I use my own car, making sure it is so full of clerical robes and church magazines that no one else can fit in. Throughout the day, I keep returning to it to make sure no one has broken in to steal the Communion wine – and taking the opportunity to catch up on the cricket scores. By the middle of the afternoon, I usually remember that some urgent duty, such as blessing a traction engine, demands my departure.

The rest of the party, by now soaked, cold and knowing the coach to take them home is still several hours off, only wish they had such demanding work to tear them away.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"

Humility

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floriensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

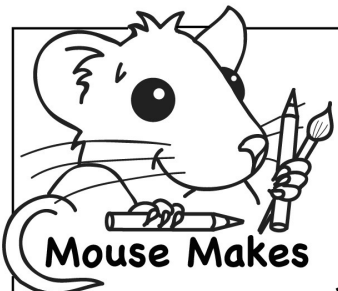
As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around, but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

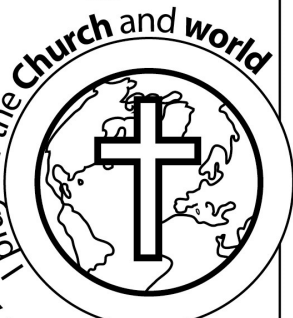
Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

CHILDREN'S PAGE



"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever" Psalm 136:1



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray:
Our _____
in _____
hallowed be your _____
your _____
come, your _____ be done, on _____ as it is in _____.
Give us this day our daily _____.
And _____
us our _____,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And _____
us not into temptation, but _____
us from the _____ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13 to fill in the words.

The Tale of the Widow and the Judge

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT A PROUD JUDGE...

THE WIDOW NEEDED HELP FROM THE JUDGE.

...AND A POOR WIDOW

JUDGE

KNOCK! KNOCK!

BUT HE WAS FAR TOO PROUD AND BUSY TO LISTEN

BUT THE WIDOW WOULD NOT GIVE UP

BANG! BANG!! KNOCK! KNOCK!

PLEASE COME AND SORT OUT MY LEGAL PROBLEMS

AT LAST THE JUDGE GAVE IN - AND WENT TO HELP THE WOMAN

I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU KEPT PESTERING ME!

JESUS EXPLAINED - 'GOD IS MUCH KINDER THAN THE JUDGE - WE DON'T HAVE TO PESTER GOD...'

...HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS WITHOUT OUR NAGGING HIM!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...

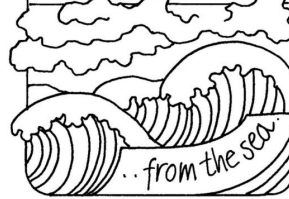
When God first made the universe it was empty and shapeless. God said...

Let there be light!



God separated the light and dark.

On the next day, God separated the sky...

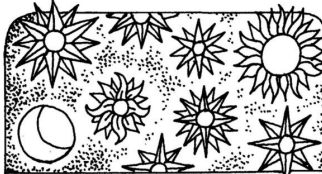


.. from the sea.

On the third day God separated the sea...



.. from the dry land. Then He made plants of all kinds grow on the land.



On the fourth day God made lights shine in the sky for day and night.



On the fifth day God filled the sea with all sorts of fish, and the sky with all sorts of birds.



On the sixth day God made all kinds of animals...



and then He made people, men and women.

God told the people ...
Take care of all I have made.



God saw that everything He had made was very good.

On the seventh day God rested...



and so did everyone else!

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Regd. Charity 249723

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

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

oOo

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier, open to all. (St Laurence's Church)

Useful number: Julie James 01753 532425

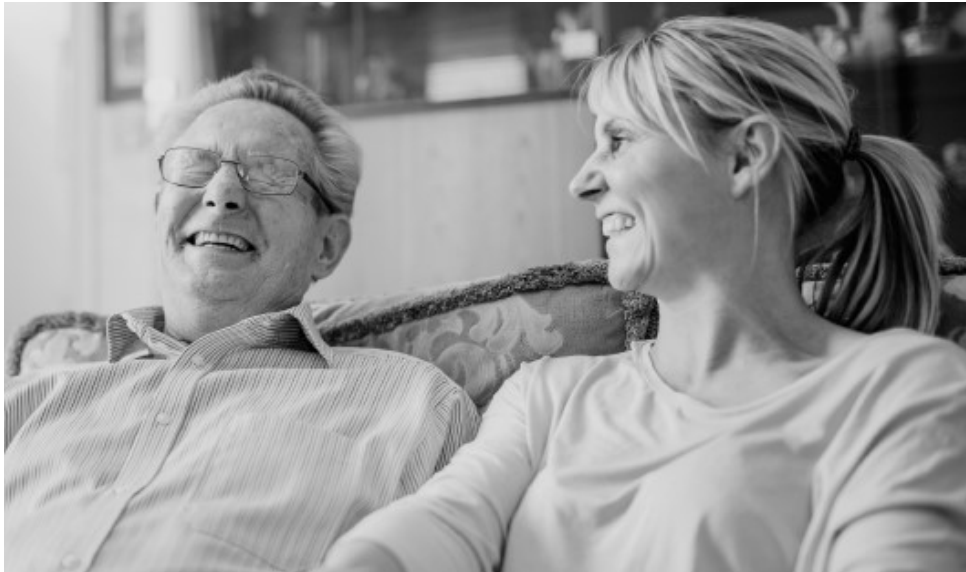
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SERVICES IN THE PARISH

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday:	9.30am	Family Eucharist with children's groups.
	6.00pm	Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)
Tuesday:	10.00am	Eucharist
Wednesday:	12.30pm	Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday:	11.00am	Family Eucharist with children's group.
Thursday:	10.00am	Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday:	9.30am	Family Eucharist with children's groups.
Wednesday:	9.30am	Holy Communion

Websites:

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

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

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