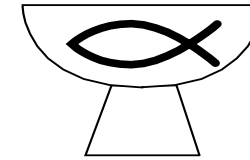


September 2022

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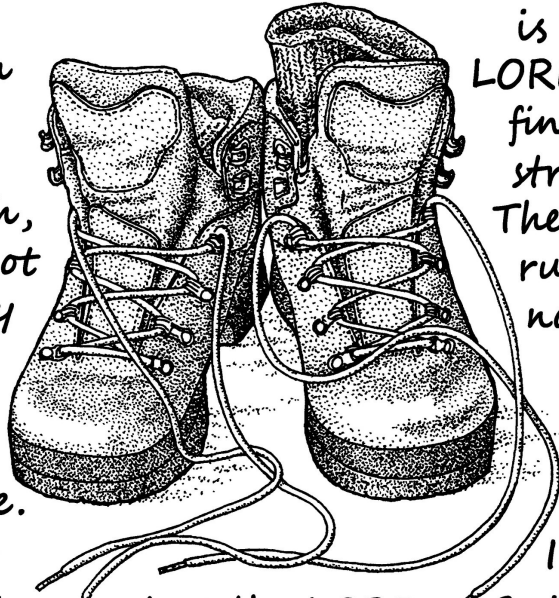
Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News



St Mary St Laurence St Peter

What does the LORD God want from you? To respect Him, walk in all His ways, and love and serve Him. Deut 10:12-13

Even though I walk through valleys as dark as death, I will not fear any danger, because You are with me. Ps 23:4



Those whose hope is in the LORD will find new strength. They will run and not tire, walk and not faint. Is 40:31

This is what the LORD God says, "Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the old paths, the good roads. Walk in them and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

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): Allan James	01753 532425
District Churchwarden (SL):	
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07388 832233
District Churchwarden (SP): Frank Gerrish	07970 537572
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651

Clergy days off:

Revd Scott Lamb Friday
Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

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Web-sites:

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

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

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

The Rector Writes:

Dear Friends,

Part of me would love to be a good gardener but in practice this is an aspiration that has never been fulfilled. I have often arrived at a new Rectory aware of how fortunate I am to have a garden and full of resolve to cultivate my little bit of ground. I imagine myself eating freshly popped peas, harvesting herbs for cooking, and generally relaxing in a verdant, sweet-scented space. Sadly, whether through lack of skill or lack of time, I never seem to get past the "keeping on top of things" stage and it is a good growing season when I haven't actually been taken to court by my neighbours. However, this time Slough is going to be different!

Or at least that's what I thought. With some help I made a good start, tidying the beds, cutting the grass, and planting some seeds but then along came the driest first half-year on record. Instead of a lush oasis, the garden looks like savannah and all my horticultural effort has gone into trying to keep the bushes alive while the grass withers and the trees shed their leaves. I think part of the appeal of gardening is that it connects us our basic calling as human beings to be stewards of God's creation. In a garden we see the goodness of the earth, the beauty of nature and we cooperate with God in nurturing life and growth. Or that is how it should be.

This summer we have only to glance out of the window to see how poor our human stewardship of the earth really is. This season gardening has meant struggling to protect and sustain life rather than enjoying a relaxing hobby. I suspect that this year will mark a similar shift in our wider treatment of the earth. This is the year for climate-change scepticism to vanish and for us to become more decisively focussed on care and survival. This is the moment to act with determination to save our planet.

With love

Father Scott

SEPTEMBER SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Sat 3 rd	12noon	Autumn Special Concert (SM)
Sun 4 th	10.00am	St Mary's Patronal Festival: Joint Parish Eucharist (SM) - No morning services at SL or SP and no Evensong at SM
Tue 6 th	2.30pm	"Mulling it Over" - Bible Study, prayer, chat and a cuppa (SM)
Fri 9 th to Sun 18 th		Heritage Open Days at SL (check website for details)
Sat 10 th	10.00am 2.30pm	Bucks Historic Churches "Ride & Stride" (church open until 6.00pm) (SL) "Old & New Friends Uni-Tea" - all welcome. Donations to St Laurence's Church & Bucks Historic Churches Trust (SL)
Sun 11 th	3.00pm	Heritage Open Day (church open until 5.00pm) (SL)
Fri 16 th	7.30pm	"Stardust Concert" - Herschel Stars Choir (SL)
Sun 18 th	3.00pm	Heritage Open Day (church open until 5.00pm) (SL)
Fri 30 th	7.30pm	"Stardust Concert" - Herschel Stars Choir (SL)

CANCELLED!

Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd September: "Herschel 200 – 8 Comets"

Coming Soon.....in October

Sat 1 st	TBC	National Astronomy Day – check website for details (SL)
Fri 7 th	7.30pm	Film: "William Herschel and the Universe", with guest appearance by the director, George Sibley (SL)

St Mary's News

After a very quiet August we are now looking forward to the coming months and church life returning to normal. We have already been asked to book dates for carol concerts and by then our talk about heat and drought will be a distant memory and our concerns will be keeping the building warm.

St Mary's Patronal festival is being celebrated on Sunday 4th September as a joint parish service at 10.00 am. We hope we can celebrate as a parish on this important day.

On Saturday 3rd September Malcolm Stowell will be playing for an "Autumn Special" Organ Concert at 12noon. Please pass on the message. We are hoping to reach out to all the regular concert-goers who used to attend regularly before Covid arrived.

A "Christmas Special Sparkle" concert will take place on Saturday 3rd December: more details to follow.

Jean

"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.

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the October issue by **Sunday 11th September** at the latest!

Dave

St Laurence's News

September features the continuation of the Caroline Herschel light sculpture by Lynda Laird in the church, full details of which are available on the website. There is also a programme of other "Herschel 200" events, as well as Heritage Open Days. (see page 4 for details). Volunteers are needed to help out in church on some of the days, so please do sign up if you can help.

Dave

Herschel 200: Caroline Herschel

"An Imperfect Account of a Comet"

A light sculpture exhibition by Lynda Laird

Thursday 25th August – Sunday 2nd October

Check www.saint-laurence.com for opening times

Your toddler and your smartphone

When parents of toddlers often browse social media, they risk damaging the development of their child.

A recent study has found that when mothers are on their smartphones, they talk to their toddlers only a quarter as much, give few opportunities for the child to practise conversation with them, provide a slower response to the child's explicit bids, and even sometimes ignore the child when the child really needs help.

As mother-child interactions determine the child's future linguistic development, vocabulary and self-confidence, the study concluded that the use of smartphones by mothers can have "an adverse impact on the foundation of child development," which in turn may have "far-reaching" consequences.

St Peter's News

August has been a quiet month at St Peter's; we did not have a liturgy on 7th August, though there was a good turnout of St Peter's people for the joint service at St Laurence's, a number of whom stayed behind to enjoy lunch. September sees another parish service, which I hope we will support. Our dedication festival will be marked quietly as well, at the Wednesday morning service on 7th September. However, although things have been quiet, a lot has been happening behind the scenes...

Fr Alistair

Gardening could save your life – but only if you really get stuck in

A recent study has found that just an hour a week of digging and shovelling could be enough to cut your risk of dying. Such 'muscle strengthening exercises' has been found linked to a 10-20 % lower risk of death from all causes.

The study, recently published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, also found that if you combine that hour a week of strength-training with regular aerobic exercise, you may even reduce your overall risk of an early death by as much as 40%.

So brisk walking and cycling are great – but add in a bit of muscle building, too. Sadly, the growth in online shopping means we are not even carrying our shopping bags home from the supermarket as much as we used to do.

What houseplants can do for cars

Common houseplants are your friend if your home or office is near a busy road.

A recent study has found that where houseplants are placed in a poorly ventilated room, they can suck up the nitrogen dioxide from traffic emissions by up to 20 per cent. The researchers at the University of Birmingham used peace lilies, corn plants and fern arums with good results.

Nitrogen dioxide is produced when fuel is burned, and so is present in car emissions. It can damage the respiratory system, making people more vulnerable to infections, lung disease, heart disease and asthma.

Synod votes to condemn Russian invasion

Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine was recently condemned by the General Synod in a debate where members heard of the suffering and terror experienced by ordinary Ukrainians because of the conflict.

Members backed a call for prayer for an end to the war in Ukraine and for parishes and dioceses to work towards providing long term refuge and hospitality for people fleeing the war.

The Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, said: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes an act of evil that cannot go unchallenged. Ukraine has a legitimate right to self-defence and a right to seek assistance from others in doing so.

"The Government and the wider international community must stand with Ukraine and provide financial, humanitarian, military, and diplomatic support as part of its broader efforts to uphold international law.

"Yet, as the MOD suggested, such support cannot realistically be unlimited, and this war cannot be waged without restraint. The focus of our efforts must be bringing this conflict to an end in a way that respects Ukraine's independent sovereign status."

Archbishop meets head of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently welcomed the head of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epifaniy, to Lambeth Palace.

"We heard the most heart-breaking stories of atrocities against civilians and against Orthodox clergy in occupied territory, yet amidst it all the Patriarch spoke of love for all, especially enemies," he said.

"Of course, like all Ukrainians, he feels passionately about the terrors and horrors visited on his country, the lies told and the remorseless fear and attack, but the passion is not showing itself in hatred, nor is it showing itself in weakness, but in faith and determination and a plea for support for the church in its humanitarian work and for Ukraine. Let us give that support as a church as best we can."

So far, the appeal organised by USPG and the Diocese in Europe has raised more than £300,000 for humanitarian work in Ukraine and amongst Ukrainian refugees.

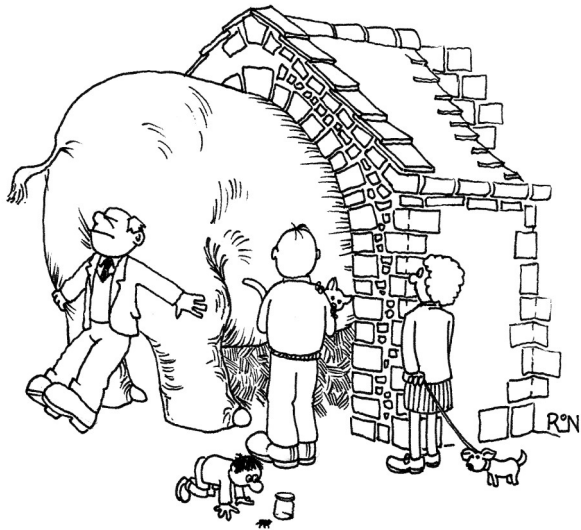
Protecting freedom of religion or belief protects everyone, says Archbishop

Restrictions on freedom of worship often go hand-in-hand with other forms of repression including against women and minorities, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has warned government ministers from around the world.

He recently told a recent global summit on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) that: “When people are free to worship and express themselves, faiths work with others to bring flourishing: they answer the needs of development and reconciliation, and bring grassroots community transformations that are the golden hope of the soft power of diplomats and development NGOs.”

On the other hand, “We know that, when freedoms of expression and worship are restricted, other freedoms and opportunities are limited too,” he said. “Women, minorities, many other people miss out.”

The archbishop also cautioned against marginalising freedom of religion. “When national leaders pursue freedom of religion and belief, they have an opportunity to bring a wealth of wisdom around the table, harnessed to the common good,” he said.



*Eventually they decided to hold the
pets' service outdoors*

General Synod welcomes £3.6bn investment in mission and ministry

The Church of England's General Synod recently welcomed the Church Commissioners' and Archbishops' Council's long-term spending plans.

The Archbishop of York said that the plans, which cover £3.6bn over the next nine years, amounted to the Church “putting our money where our missional mouth is.”

The spending would “underpin transformation towards being a ‘Simpler, Humbler and Bolder’ Church.” Money will be invested in local ministry as part of diocesan strategies.

Priorities for the spending include £190m to help the Church of England transition to net zero, £20m on work to promote Racial Justice and £400m over the next three years towards achieving the outcomes and priorities that flow from the Church's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s.

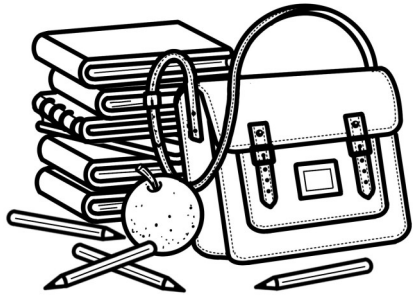
The Archbishop of York said: “We will be simpler, more responsive to dioceses and more accountable about how we distribute money across the whole eco-system of the Church - rural and urban, all church traditions, with the single purpose of making Christ known and building God's kingdom in the world.”

St Bartholomew's Bun Day

Sandwich is a town in Kent where they have a Bun Race each August. The legend has it that in August 1217 the town received a lot of money from a sea battle just off their coast. They used it to build a church called St Bartholomew's Chapel and a hospital for 16 men and women to live in.

St Bartholomew's Day is celebrated annually and has a race for children to represent the pilgrims who travelled to holy sites. The children are given a bun each at the end of the race and the adults a St Bartholomew's very, very hard biscuit with the town's coat of arms pressed into it. The "hospital" is still used as an almshouse for 16 elderly people.

Alice Sanders



Back to School

September is that time of year when we get back to school after the summer break, along with our other routines. As disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference as disciples in our school and workplace, family and friends. As Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17).

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to share God's love with the people around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, as a response to God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *'Who are you?'* He replied, *'I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.'* If we were asked the same question I wonder what we would say. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September represents going back to school with Jesus, to learn how we can live for Him.

Canon Paul Hardingham

Don't miss the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest annual fundraising event, held to support people living with cancer. People all over the UK either host or attend a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan.

The official date is Friday 30th September, but a coffee morning to support Macmillan can be held at any time. From a group in the garden, sharing a coffee over a screen or a takeaway cake and cuppa, you can hold yours however you like.

Last year, 2021, Macmillan raised over £11 million and hopes to top that this year.

Find out more at: <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk>



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

Big perspective, big questions

This summer the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when ‘astronaut’ is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth’s atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It’s the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed ‘the overview effect’. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a ‘self-transcendent experience’.

Some people claim to have a ‘nothing but science’ approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn’t answer them. It’s important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

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<https://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/connectingwithculture/>*

Dr Ruth Bancewicz



Et In Arcadia Ego

There’s a frightful great fountain too, in front of the steps, all rocks and sort of carved animals. You never saw such a thing. Yes, Hooper, I did. I’ve been here before.

Thus Evelyn Waugh concluded the Prologue to his much-loved novel before plunging the reader back into the early 1920s when Charles Ryder first met Sebastian Flyte in Oxford which, “in those days, was still a city of aquatint.” Castle Howard in Yorkshire may or may not have been Waugh’s primary source of inspiration for the depiction of Brideshead, but the house was used in the extremely popular television adaptation of the novel and, some years later, in the rather disappointing cinema-film version of the same. My wife and I had always wanted to explore the place and recently we had an opportunity to do so. Unlike in Charles Ryder’s reply to Hooper, we had not been here before, so for us it was by way of a Visit rather than a Revisit.

The opportunity was not especially part of a post-pandemic staycation, but given the bleakness of the news across the world and in Britain in recent months we wanted to be reminded that beauty and peace can still be sought, found, and enjoyed. However, like most Christians, we felt a certain sense of guilt in enjoying that beauty and peace whilst we knew that other people across the world are suffering as much as they are, especially in places like Ukraine. Were we espousing the aesthetic intent of the ostrich? Do we all feel the need to do so at certain times of our life?

The first main section of Waugh’s “Brideshead Revisited” after the Prologue is entitled “Et In Arcadia Ego”. The title takes its name from a very famous painting (sometimes known as “The Arcadian Shepherds”) by the seventeenth century French artist, Nicolas Poussin, who was born in Les Andelys in Normandy (we have pitched our tent in the campsite there on the banks of the Seine many times). His painting, accomplished in 1638-40, depicts a group of rustic shepherds in classical garb in an idyllic pastoral landscape. They have

found in this paradisiacal setting a tomb. The Latin of the title permits two very different possible interpretations.

Waugh's interpretation implies, "I too have known (been in) Paradise," where the subject is the speaker who is remembering golden days of youth. The other interpretation sets the discovered tomb, representing Death, as the subject, where Death says to us, "Even in Paradise I am to be found." To the Christian, contemplating either pre-fall Eden or post-Resurrection eternity, that concept is quite a challenge. How are we to face up to it?

Many years ago I was the minister of a large church on the south coast of Devon where the church stewards were clearing out a long-ignored storeroom. "What do you want us to do with this?" said a steward, handing me a very large wooden crucifix – not a thing that you would normally find in a Methodist church! Apparently, it had belonged to a previous minister who had Weslo-Catholic leanings, who had left it with them either by mistake, as a gift, or as a challenge. I told them to screw it to the wall above the doorway that led out of the vestry and into the main body of the church, so that it would be the last thing that a preacher saw before he began to conduct an act of worship. It would remind him (or her) of the price that had to be paid to allow them to do that.

Christians constantly live with the beauty of Galilee and the darkness of Gethsemane and Calvary. That is the way that this life is. I know nothing of the beauty, the art, and the culture of the people of Ukraine, except that these things exist and the people there treasure them. They treasure their families, their homes, their towns, their villages, and their churches, and Putin and his evil designs and methods are seeking to destroy them all. Film reports from Ukraine on the television put me in mind of the sheer wanton destruction of Sauron and Saruman in Tolkien's "The Lord of The Rings". We have to help the people of Ukraine in any way we can, because if we value our things of beauty, our culture and our civilization, then we must value theirs and, if we cannot help the Ukrainian people to save those things, then we must help them eventually to rebuild them.

The rather sick irony of the situation is that Putin claims that one of the purposes of his war is to rid Ukraine of the evil of western liberal culture that has destroyed traditional values (as he sees them). I am not sure how genocide perpetrated by the Russian military squares with traditional values in any culture, but over the last decade in the west we have come to speak of "culture wars". Do we understand what they are, or how we may respond to them?

Where we pitch our tent on that particular battlefield will depend upon whether we believe in the existence of God and, if we do, whether we believe that he has revealed a code of values to the generations down the centuries. It will also

depend upon the degree of authority that we ascribe to religious scriptures, or whether we think that human reason and individual desires and liberties are to be the prime determining factors in our life's decisions and, paradoxically, in our contemporary interpretation of the scriptures if we give them any value at all.

A further persistent question for the Christian is: "If God wants us to work together to build a heaven on earth, inspired by the example of his Son, why doesn't he give us a bit more help to defeat evil?" The conventional answer is that the highest point of creation would be if God's creatures would, by their own free will, turn to him and follow his ways and his wishes. Once God gives human beings free will, the gift is total. He cannot arbitrarily intervene to change things if human beings choose the alleged "wrong" or evil options. Just as a woman cannot be "slightly" pregnant (either she is or she isn't), so free will is entirely free or it is not free will at all.

Et in arcadia ego? It is an interesting question. Poussin completed his painting as the horror that was the Thirty Years War was raging across Europe. Waugh wrote "Brideshead Revisited" during the war in which six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Surely the most blessed time in human history was the thirty-odd years when the Son of God himself walked this earth and yet that period ended in human beings committing deicide.

Much great poetry came out of the First World War, but if you want to retain a vision of what God's world could be, rather than the horror that it often is at the hands of man, then you might seek that vision in Edward Thomas' "Adlestrop"...

*And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.*

Set "all the birds of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire" against Wilfred Owen's "monstrous anger of the guns" and take heart from the comparison. Remember the distraught and grieving woman in a garden one Sunday morning meeting somebody whom she thought was a gardener, or those travellers on the Emmaus Road inviting a stranger into supper with them, and then finding out to their total surprise what the supper actually signified – and portended.

*You never saw such a thing.
Yes, Hooper, I did. I've been here before.*

Revd Philip J Morse (submitted by Fr Alistair)

Thoughts on biblical government

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 1 Peter 2:13-14

Most politicians, whether at local or national level, want to do the best for society. However, on occasions things can go wrong! Sometimes very badly.

Unhappy with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's efforts at the start of the Second World War, the Conservative backbencher Leo Amery delivered a speech to the House of Commons attacking Chamberlain's half-hearted defence of Norway when it was invaded by Hitler. Amery quoted another great parliamentarian,

"This is what Cromwell said to the Long Parliament when he thought it was no longer fit to conduct the affairs of the nation: 'You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go.'"

Sometimes we can feel like that, and that we deserve better.

In our country religion and politics do not mix. "We don't do God," Alastair Campbell is reputed to have said when the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was asked about his faith. Yet the Bible tells us to respect and pray for people in authority. The verses from 1 Peter are amazing, as they were written when the authorities were persecuting Christians.

Democracy is not mentioned in the Bible at all. Winston Churchill once said that: "democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others that have been tried."

Democracy exists to prevent misuse of authority. We should expect high standards in public life. Perhaps the church should pray more often for people in authority and for people actively involved in politics.

David Pickup



On how to save electricity in church

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your church certainly seems to have taken to the idea of green electricity with a vengeance. To have covered the whole of your roof with solar panels was a brave move, and it makes quite a sight – especially when the sun catches them, dazzling motorists on the by-pass and causing multiple pile-ups. I pity the local pigeons, who try to land on it and then do a gentle glissade into the gutters.

I know there have been objections to your proposal to erect a wind turbine in your car park – although no one could claim that it spoils the aesthetic appearance of your church. Nothing, my dear Darren, could do that.

May I humbly offer you some further suggestions for reducing your electricity consumption? If you cut your sermons by half, then everyone could go home 20 minutes earlier. Similarly, if you only sang each chorus once instead of your customary 17 times, that should cut your service times in half. And why have lighting so good that everyone can see everyone else? That is the last thing our own congregation ever want to do.

I raised the issue at our last church council meeting, but having only recently gone on to electricity, there seemed little enthusiasm for yet more change. Major Hastings still fondly remembers our old acetylene plant in the churchyard, destroyed during one Mattins when the verger was unaware of the gas leak and lit up a cigarette. We still occasionally find pieces of his cassock when mowing the grass.

Mr Prentice, with a slightly malicious gleam, suggested building a treadmill, to be worked by the Young Farmers – which would also keep them out of the pub while Evensong was taking place. I couldn't help feeling that our Ladies Group would have far more determination to keep the thing rotating – probably providing enough energy to light the entire County. I was tempted to suggest we invite the vicar from our adjoining parish, St Agatha's, to preach every Sunday, as that would fill our church with more than enough hot air.

I finally stopped all further discussion on the subject when a solar panel consultant arrived at the Rectory and began his sales pitch with the phrase: "I've come to convert you".

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

The hidden danger of gum disease

This will encourage you to brush your teeth: it seems that gum disease can increase your risk of developing mental health problems and other illnesses by more than a third.

So say some researchers at the University of Birmingham, following a recent study of more than 64,000 patients with a history of gum disease. It was found that patients had a higher likelihood of developing depression, anxiety, autoimmune conditions such as arthritis, Type 1 diabetes or psoriasis, a skin condition. They were also found to be more likely to have heart or blood problems or Type 2 diabetes.

One doctor pointed out that, sadly, "poor oral health is extremely common, both here in the UK and globally." And, "when oral ill-health progresses, it can lead to a substantially reduced quality of life."

The study, one of the largest of its kind, was published in *The BMJ*.

'England's Rose'

This month marks 25 years since the funeral of Princess Diana on 6th September 1997. Prince William has described how his mother's death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. *'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.'* (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as *one like us*: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

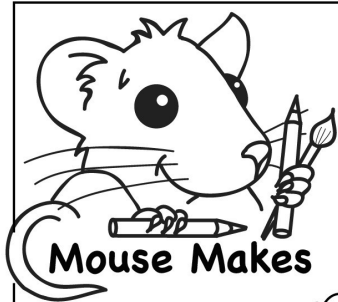
There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in His purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint!

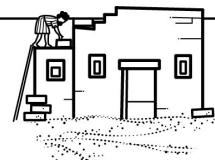
'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.' (Princess Diana).

Canon Paul Hardingham

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the _____ blew.
Matthew 7:25



_____ man.
On what did he build his house?
Matthew 7:24

_____ man.
On what did he build his house?
Matthew 7:26

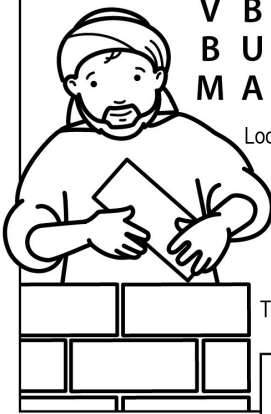
Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49

What happened to the houses?
Read Matthew 7:25 and 27

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



What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?
Read Matthew 7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

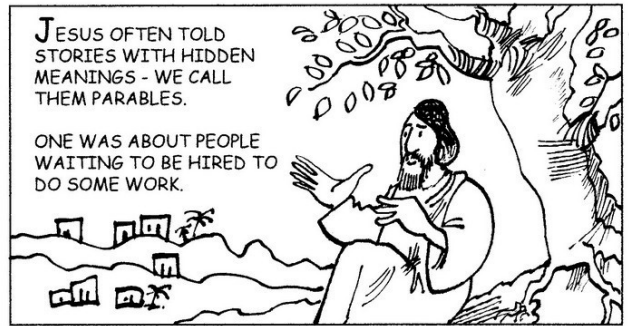
JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word
FOUNDATIONS



Sep22 © deborah noble

The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.



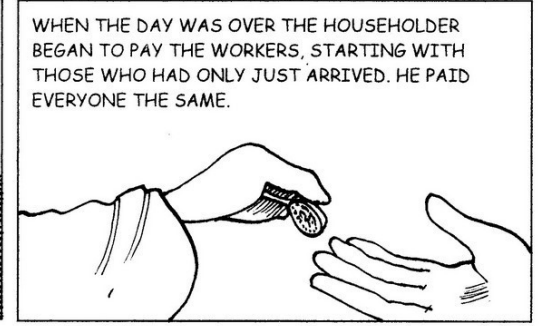
A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



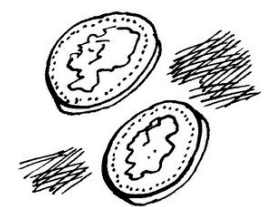
HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



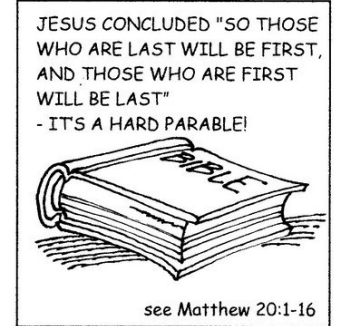
WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.



THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.



BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.



JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!

see Matthew 20:1-16

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13: 3-8, Mk 4: 1-9, Lk 8: 4-8

Crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path

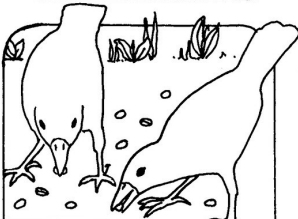


Some fell among thorn plants and



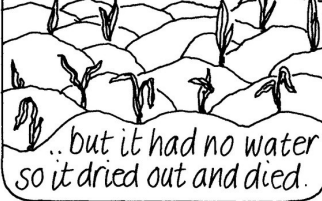
and some on to rocks.

some fell on good soil.



The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...



.. but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move onto another 'best thing.'

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it,



and that makes all the difference!

Be social

If you go to church and/or volunteer for local good causes, the good that you do to others will come back to you. A recent study has found that having a rich social life can help older people retain normal brain functions, and slow down any onset of dementia.

The research, done at the University of Utah, was recently presented to an Alzheimer's UK Research Conference in Brighton.

Be kind to hedgehogs

The latest State of Britain's Hedgehogs report warns that between 30% and 75% of the UK's population of hedgehogs has been lost in rural areas in the last two decades. The largest falls are in the eastern half of England.

However, there is some evidence that in our towns and cities, a more stable population may be establishing itself, thanks to the constant help from considerate gardeners and animal-lovers. If you have a garden, and would like to help hedgehogs this coming winter, please visit: <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/animals/hedgehogs/garden>

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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>