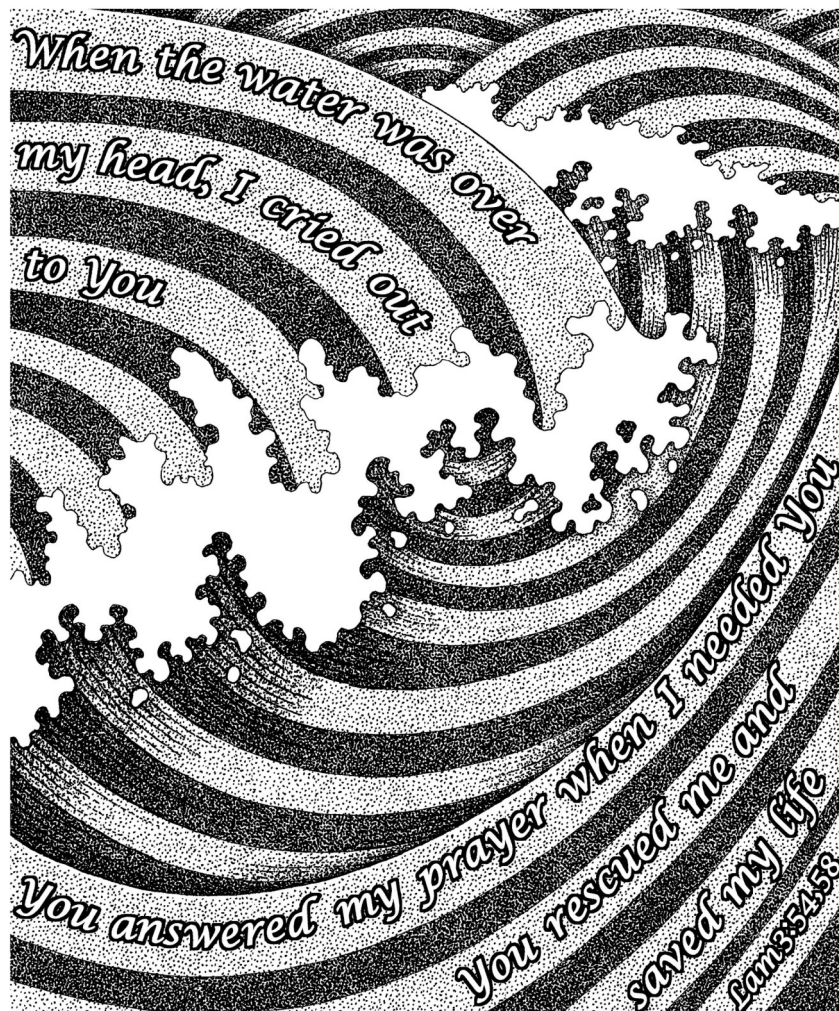
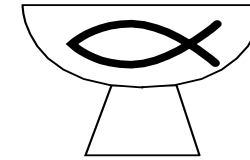


March 2023

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

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:

Dear Friends,

The news that Father Alistair will be moving on to a new post in July has stirred up mixed emotions in us all: sadness at his departure, happiness for him and Eudora and some understandable anxiety about the future.

For Fr Alistair, the move to Barbados is a wonderful opportunity to resume academic teaching and research in a college he knows well. It is exciting that he and Eudora will be able to make this long planned move earlier than they had hoped. Father Alistair's last Sunday with us will be the 2nd July. By chance this is also St Peter's patronal festival, a day when the three churches are due to worship jointly. It all seems right.

So, what happens next? Well, firstly nothing will happen about a replacement Team Vicar until after Fr Alistair has left. Once that has happened the first step is for our PCC to have a conversation with the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee about what sort of appointment can or should be made. This conversation will include financial discussions, as we would expect, but should also range over the whole of our church life and context. This committee will then make a recommendation to the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee who will let us know what kind of post we can appoint to. Once we know what we are looking for we can start the recruitment process of parish profiles, person specifications, and interviews, that some of us are familiar with. So while we cannot be completely sure of the outcome, we do know the process to come.

A period of uncertainty lies ahead but that does not mean that we have to be either passive or paralysed in this situation. We will continue to worship faithfully and regularly and offer our time and gifts in the service of our churches. Growing and active congregations are a sign of health and we all have a part to play to ensure that is the case.

We can continue to plan for the future and we should not stand back from the developments and mission initiatives that we are discussing in all three churches. We will shortly be in our cycle of Parish and District Council meetings and AGMs. If you have ever felt these to be dusty or unimportant, please do not make that mistake this time, but rather make the time to attend and participate. The coming 12 months will be crucial in shaping the future of our churches for years to come.

We will need to be flexible in the coming months especially while we will be running with reduced ministerial resources. If we want to maintain the fullest possible expression of church life then this is really not the time for "but we've always done it this way."

We can decide to really pull together. Our three church model has sometimes been questioned: is it the best pattern for our area? Efficient and generous cooperation between our congregations is one answer to the charge that UCC should be organised differently. Basically, if we want to retain our current model the best thing we can do is to show that it works.

And over all of this work and planning please pray. We ask that God's will be done and that our wills be aligned with his. We can hope for a good outcome, for us, the wider church and, importantly, the people of central Slough whom we serve.

However, all that is for the future. For the moment let's rejoice with Fr Alistair and Eudora in this wonderful gift they have been given. We wish them every happiness.

Fr Scott



Our Lent course this year will run after each mid-week Eucharist (the same session three times each week), using the Oxford Diocese Come and See materials.

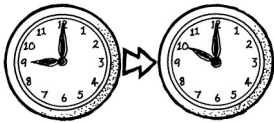
To take part in Come and See, simply sign up for your daily email and watch the short video on Sunday. We will be showing the video after Mass during the week when there will be a chance to compare our thoughts and discuss the issues raised.

See page 14.

MARCH SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Sun 5th	12.45pm	St David's Day Church Lunch. Sign up in church or call 01753 532425. (SL)
Mon 6th	8.00pm	St Peter's DCC Meeting (SP)
Tue 7th	2.30pm	Mulling It Over: Bible study, prayer, chat and a cuppa (SL)
	7.30pm	St Mary's DCC Meeting (SM)
Mon 13th	7.30pm	St Laurence's DCC Meeting (SL)
Sun 19th		Mothering Sunday
Mon 20th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SM)
Sat 25th	12noon	St Peter's Lady Day Bazaar (until 2.30pm) (SP)



Sun 26th	1.00am	British Summer Time begins - clocks forward one hour
	12.15pm	St Laurence's Annual District Church Meeting (SL)

April - Palm Sunday Services

Sun 2nd	9.30am	Procession from SL to SM for
	10.00am	Joint Family Eucharist, followed by APCM
	6.30pm	Evensong (SM)

St Mary's News

No news this month.

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.

St Laurence's News

Our Annual District Church Meeting will follow our Eucharist on Sunday 26th March. It would be good to see some new faces amongst our church officers and committee members. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please have a chat with Allan, Julie or me. Otherwise, please pray for those being put forward.

As Fr Scott has noted in his letter this month, we are entering an important period of change and need to work together as a team, not only within our church family, but also across the whole parish.

Dave

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

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

Dave

St Peter's News

Sunday 12th February was a sad day at St Peter's. Friends of Lynda Bussley joined together with members of the congregations of all three churches to say goodbye to her as she and her husband move to Somerset. Lynda was presented with cards and gifts to recognise her long involvement with the life of St Peter's.

She has been the leader of the junior church, and especially the Sunday school for many years. She has served on the DCC as secretary, the PCC and on the Deanery Synod, and, of course, in the last couple of years as parish warden. She has always been part of the fund-raising team, going out to various local events with sales tables. One of her other concerns is the environment and she has guided us towards becoming an eco-church.

Big shoes to fill. She will be sadly missed for all of these roles and for her friendship. We wish her and John well in their new life.

Our Lady Day Fair will be held on Saturday 25th March from 12noon to 2.30pm. Please join us for this fundraising and social event.

Margaret

Announcement: Fr Alistair Stewart

As most people know, Fr Alistair and Eudora have been planning for some time to return to Barbados. It can now be announced that this will take place this year as Fr Alistair has been appointed senior lecturer in Biblical Studies at Codrington College.

Codrington College prepares priests for the Anglican Province of the West Indies, and also serves as the theology department of the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). Beyond core teaching in New Testament studies, Fr Alistair will also be teaching early Christian studies, historical liturgy, and classical languages. His last Sunday in Slough will be 2nd July, and he will take up his post on 1st August.



Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honored Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: *'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.'* (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their *'mother'* church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, *'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'* (Romans 5:5)

The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again. *'Yes,'* she replied. *'But not the same ones.'*



25th March: Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

The Bible according to children

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pairs.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Church Commissioners publishes full report into historic links to transatlantic chattel slavery and announces new funding commitment of £100m in response to findings

Back in June 2022 it was reported that the Church Commissioners' endowment had historic links to transatlantic chattel slavery. The endowment traces its origins partly to Queen Anne's Bounty, a fund established in 1704.

In response to the findings, the Church Commissioners' Board has committed itself to trying to address some of the past wrongs by investing in a better future.

It is committing £100 million of funding, delivered over the next nine years commencing in 2023, to a programme of investment, research and engagement. This will comprise:

Establishing a new impact investment fund to invest for a better and fairer future for all, particularly for communities affected by historic slavery.

Growth in the impact fund will also enable grant funding for projects focused on improving opportunities for communities adversely impacted by historic slavery.

Further research, including into the Church Commissioners' history, supporting dioceses, cathedrals and parishes to research and address their historic links with slavery.

The Church Commissioners will also continue to use its voice as a responsible investor to address and combat modern slavery and human rights violations.

A new oversight group will be formed during 2023 with significant membership from communities impacted by historic slavery. This group will work with the Church Commissioners on shaping the response.

The Church Commissioners says it "is deeply sorry for its predecessor fund's links with the transatlantic slave trade."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, who is also Chair of the Church Commissioners, said: "I am deeply sorry for these links. It is now time to take action to address our shameful past. Jesus Christ calls us to face our present and future with integrity. It is hard to do this at a time when resources in many parishes are so stretched, but by acting rightly we open ourselves to the blessing of God."

Millions of children starving worldwide

More than 30 million children worldwide are suffering from “acute malnutrition” as the global food crisis persists into 2023.

That’s according to international experts, who say that the 15 countries enduring the worst of the crisis are Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

In 2022 the key driver of food insecurity was massive inflation, which put even staple food such as bread beyond the financial reach of many. In 2023 there are likely to be increased shortages of food, owing to a global fertiliser shortage.

Natural disasters also have a terrible impact. Seven of the worst-affected countries are East African nations that have suffered several years of failed rainy seasons and droughts.

Now the Barnabas Fund has created food.gives – to supply food aid to needy Christians in many lands and meet this desperate, ongoing need. If you would like to help, please visit: <http://food.gives>

Giving the journey

In a remote village in Central America the word got out that one of the missionaries who had served their region for many years was about to return home because of her old age.

The people decided to hold an event of ‘public appreciation’ for her. One very old and very poor man walked for four days to reach the ceremony. He came in over mountainous terrain carrying two coconuts, which was all he had.

The missionary recognised the man as coming from the remote village in the mountains. “Brother,” she said, “I cannot believe that you would walk so far to present me with this gift.”

His response? “Long walk part of gift.”

You’re everywhere and nowhere, baby

That’s where you’re at... When Jeff Beck died in January news reports of his demise referred to him as a guitarist who was both “legendary” and “influential”. To the cognoscenti of the pop scene I guess that he was and would be remembered as a member of both The Yardbirds and The Jeff Beck Group. To the more casual groovy individual (now possessing a bus pass) I suspect that he would be remembered primarily, or only, for “Hi Ho Silver Lining”, a staple of karaoke at wedding receptions and other somewhat lubricated occasions...
You’re everywhere and nowhere, baby / That’s where you’re at...

It was a song that belonged to that strange and really quite short period which stretched from the Summer of Love in ’67, through *Les Événements* in Paris in May ’68, to the moment in December ’69 when a fellow undergraduate turned to me at the end of a lecture and said with grave solemnity: “Do you realize, Phil, that when we come back next term, The Sixties will be over?” It was as though somebody had concluded and said in the light of the death of Leonardo da Vinci or of King Francis I of France: “OK, that’s it chaps. The Renaissance is over. You’ll just have to bear with a bit of Baroque until The Age of Enlightenment begins.”

There was a beguiling mystique about the lyrics. They seemed to make sense at the time, but with the hindsight of half a century you wonder where your head was when you thought that they were great. If you don’t believe me, try to make sense now of the lyrics of Procul Harum’s “Whiter Shade of Pale”, The Small Faces’ “Itchycoo Park”, or even The Beatles’ “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds”.

You’re everywhere and nowhere, baby... The line came back to me many years later. I had just returned home from conducting a Sunday evening service when the telephone called me to a local hospital where an elderly gentleman was dying surrounded by his wife and children. When he finally crossed the narrow stream at 3.00am the next morning we shuffled out into the hospital car park where the dawn was not quite breaking. As requested, I conducted the gentleman’s funeral and visited his widow several times subsequently. Quite unexpectedly, over the most unremarkable tea and biscuits, the lady asked me simply, “Where do the dead go, Mr. Morse?”

They’re everywhere and nowhere, baby... That didn’t quite cut it, under the circumstances. Neither did, “They are with God,” even though according to Christian belief that was bound to be true in some way or other. I always used to tell young lay preachers and ministers: “Preach on the questions you wouldn’t want the members of your congregation to ask you about, because those are the things that they really want your help to think through.”

All the clues to help you to *begin* to answer the question are actually in the New Testament, if you know where to look for them. Jesus says to the woman at the well in Samaria, “God is spirit” (John 4.24) thus suggesting that there are parallel and inter-penetrating realities in the universe between which there is correspondence. When he tells us that we may address God as “Father”, he is clarifying the concept by suggesting that God is not some impersonal power as in the “Star Wars” mantra, “May the Force be with you,” but a very real personal Being. The correspondence between the two realities is made manifest, not only through Jesus’ well-loved promise, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also” (John 14.3), but also in the mysterious events of the Transfiguration and of the Resurrection Appearances.

When Saint Paul tries to answer the question, “Where do the dead go?” it is absolutely fascinating to see the development in his thought and understanding from one epistle to another. In his earliest letter he proposes a very literal, materialistic image: “The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air.” (1 Thessalonians 4.16-17). By the time that he is writing his first letter to Corinth he realizes that an image still bound by materialism and time is inadequate, so he writes his magisterial fifteenth chapter using the metaphor of the seed sown in the ground awaiting God’s transformative power: “Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed...” (1 Corinthians 15.51). There is still an element of time in this metaphor, but when Saint Paul writes his *second* letter to Corinth the time factor has been replaced by immediacy: “We wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life” (2 Corinthians 5.4).

As we journey through Lent towards the great events of Holy Week and Easter, if you think you are confused by elements of the Resurrection Hope or the concept of the Communion of Saints, then be comforted by the fact that they rather blew Saint Paul’s mind too! He did his best to explain them to us as far as he understood them, with the best metaphors that he had to hand, but I suspect that none of us will understand them fully until God brings us to stand upon a further shore in a time of his own choosing.

After Easter, of course, comes Pentecost. *You’re everywhere and nowhere, baby / That’s where you’re at...* Come to think of it, that is not a bad metaphor for Pentecost. The surrealist in me that still remembers fondly the spirit of 1969 rather warms to the vision of the Holy Spirit “going down a bumpy hillside / in (a) hippy hat,” but don’t take that speculative image for gospel, will you?

Revd Philip Morse (submitted by Fr Alistair)



Come and See

Living your best life?

Everybody wants to know how to live their life in the best way possible, and we all need a vision for what it means to be human.

The Beatitudes, the incredible manifesto from Jesus recorded in the Sermon on the Mount, are our guide to living well and a great way of exploring faith... whatever stage of the journey we’re on.

Taking place this Lent, Come and See is a series of daily emails and a short video to watch each Sunday. The emails include a scripture reading, a reflection from the bishop and a daily moment to pause and be encouraged before the busyness of the day begins.

Now in its third year, Come and See is hugely popular, thanks in part to its deceptively simple approach.

Whether you’re exploring faith for the first time or have been coming to church for many years, just five minutes a day using the Come and See materials promises to be life-giving, and life changing.

Come and See is free of charge. Find out more and register online at oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

A bucket of tadpoles: Springtime, curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz

Reflecting faith – what birds can remind us about our faith

There are many depictions of 'creatures' used in decorations in and on our church buildings. Some are beautifully carved in the highly decorated ends of choir stalls. Others can be found on the pew-ends.

Sometimes there are human caricatures, perhaps of people the craftsmen knew in real life – their priest or bishop; or even their foreman!

Sometimes there are carvings of birds, such as the pelican and peacock.

The peacock is known for its magnificent tail feathers, which it displays to both impress and deter aggressors. From the early days of Christianity, the peacock has been used to symbolise eternal life, and so is often seen carved into memorial stones in the churchyard. This is because it renews itself each year, by shedding its old feathers and growing new ones. Of course, this also links to Christ's resurrection, as the peacock is visually reborn and whole again.

The pelican is a less obvious Christian symbol, although quite common in all art forms. It's seen as a symbol of atonement because when observed by naturalists many centuries ago, they misinterpreted the red tip on its long bill.

They saw the pelican started to prune its feathers, and it appeared to them to be ripping open its breast, so as to feed its young with its own blood. This story became symbolic for the Atonement, where Jesus allowed Himself to be pierced so that we may live. And although ornithologists view the red tip differently today, the pelican continues in its representation.

This month: Have a look at what other 'creatures' you can see in a church near you; but also think about what flowers might be most suitable in church for next month – April.

Revd Dr Jo White

Time for some good news?

If you can't bear to watch or read the news, you're not alone.

Newly published research shows that more than seven out of ten news publishers are concerned about increasing levels of 'news avoidance.'

More and more people are turning away from the news because it's just too difficult to take. And that may present an opportunity for Christians to present our life-giving gospel message.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has published its ‘*Journalism, media, and technology trends and predictions 2023*’ report, based on a wide-ranging survey of 303 news leaders in 53 countries. It explores the latest developments in journalism and the priorities for the year ahead.

One area of deep concern was increasing levels of ‘news avoidance’ with 72% of publishers worried about the phenomenon. Many readers and viewers were avoiding news, especially, says the report “around important but often depressing topics like Ukraine and climate change.”

Does this widespread ‘news avoidance’ have any messages for the Church and for Christians generally? Well, maybe two.

The first is for ourselves. How guilty are we of scrolling past bad news on our social media feed, switching off the TV or radio, or pausing a podcast when the subject matter becomes tough to take?

That’s tempting to do, but it’s important for Christians to be aware of events and trends across the globe, to enable us to pray intelligently, and to be able to support organisations and people working to make the world a better place.

The second is about how we present our gospel message. We have ‘good news’ to proclaim, while we are living in a time when people are turning away from news of any kind, seeking instead to look for entertainment and distraction.

In our preaching, in our personal testimonies and in the wide range of ways that we communicate the gospel message of ‘abundant life’ through Jesus Christ, we are called to be positive and upbeat.

In a world that is turning away from bad news, we have good news to offer. Our mission is to present this good news in ways that can catch the attention of a distracted world that’s tired of the gloom and looking for something better.

Revd Peter Crumpler

Bishops propose prayers of God’s blessing for same-sex couples

For the first time, under historic plans recently out-lined, same-sex couples will be able to come to church to give thanks for their civil marriage or civil partnership and receive God’s blessing.

The Bishops of the Church of England have urged all congregations in their care to welcome same-sex couples “unreservedly and joyfully” as they reaffirm their commitment to a “radical new Christian inclusion founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it – based on good, healthy, flourishing relationships, and in a proper 21st Century understanding of being human and of being sexual”.

The proposals, which follow a six-year period of listening, learning and discernment known as *Living in Love and Faith*, will be outlined in a report to the Church’s General Synod, which meets in London from 6th to 9th February (2023).

It will offer the fullest possible pastoral provision without changing the Church’s doctrine of Holy Matrimony for same-sex couples through a range of draft prayers, known as Prayers of Love and Faith, which could be used voluntarily in churches for couples who have marked a significant stage of their relationship such as a civil marriage or civil partnership.

Under the proposals, same-sex couples would still not be able to get married in a Church of England church, but they could have a service in which there would be prayers of dedication, thanksgiving or for God’s blessing on the couple in church following a civil marriage or partnership.

The formal teaching of the Church of England as set out in the canons and authorised liturgies – that Holy Matrimony is between one man and one woman for life – would not change.

The prayers would be voluntary for clergy to use and could be used in different combinations reflecting the theological diversity of the Church.

Alongside the published report the bishops of the Church of England will be publishing a letter in which they apologise to LGBTQI+ people. The letter will also speak honestly about their ongoing disagreements over the possibility of changing the Church’s teaching on marriage itself.

But they will emphasise a clear and strong desire to continue to “walk together” amid their differences.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “I would like to thank all those across the Church of England who have participated in this deeply prayerful and theologically grounded process of discernment over the last six years.

“This response reflects the diversity of views in the Church of England on questions of sexuality, relationships and marriage – I rejoice in that diversity and I welcome this way of reflecting it in the life of our church.

“I am under no illusions that what we are proposing today will appear to go too far for some and not nearly far enough for others, but it is my hope that what we have agreed will be received in a spirit of generosity, seeking the common good.

“Most of all I hope it can offer a way for the Church of England, publicly and unequivocally, to say to all Christians and especially LGBTQI+ people that you are welcome and a valued and precious part of the body of Christ.”

Once the proposals have been debated by Synod, the House of Bishops will refine the prayers and then commend them for use.

Traidcraft goes into administration

Traidcraft PLC – a Christian group that has spent years campaigning for fair trade – has gone into administration.

The stands were familiar to many churchgoers, with almost 3,000 churches in the country selling Traidcraft products at some point in their 40-year history.

The brand cited the coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices as the reasons behind the severe financial difficulties.



On the perils of moving from city to country

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Those parishioners of yours who won millions on the Lottery and moved into this parish have created quite a stir. It was perhaps a little unwise of them to tell everyone the reason why they had become so wealthy. While most of our parishioners also do the Lottery, few would ever admit it in public. (Since your friends arrived, the entire PCC is buying ever more lottery tickets, but from the shop in the NEXT village, to try and keep it secret.)

However, your family still has much to learn about our country ways. Buying the old Dower House was impressive; and spending a small fortune re-stocking the gardens was certainly commendable. But someone should have told them about installing cattle grids. It must have been quite a shock for them to wake up one morning and find the thirty sheep from the neighbouring field had wandered in for breakfast.

Their brand-new purple Ferrari has certainly brightened up the country lanes around here. The noise it makes as it roars up behind you quite quickens the pulse. Mrs Beamish had been suffering with low blood pressure for months; she says she is quite cured now. The Colonel, who is all for the community supporting the church, then asked if the newcomers would drive the bishop around on the day he came to do his tour of the parish. The Colonel thought that an open-topped purple Ferrari would make a great bishop-mobile; and the newcomers were so kind to agree. What a shame that they decided to accomplish the several miles of parish lanes in record time: the bishop barely even saw the several farmers that they nearly ran down. His new nickname in this parish is: The

Purple Peril.

The newcomers have installed security lighting, which is understandable. But now I wonder how much sleep they are getting, as the rabbits, foxes, and badgers who live in their grounds keep it flood-lit for much of the night. Meanwhile, the Colonel is grumbling about the effect of light pollution on his young pheasants in the woods nearby.

But these little inconveniences apart, I am sure they will soon feel at home. I feel confident that by the third generation, they will be properly settled in.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

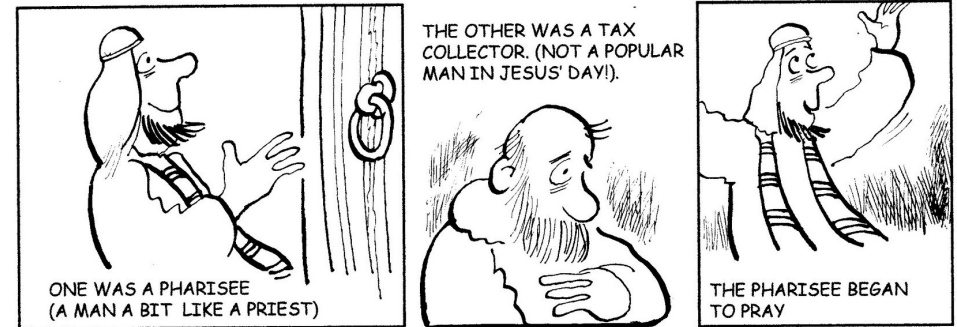
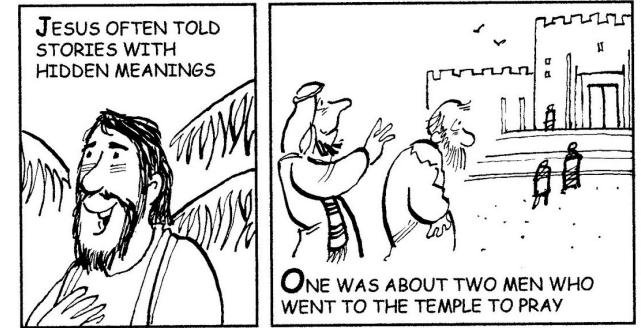
Little Gidding Church

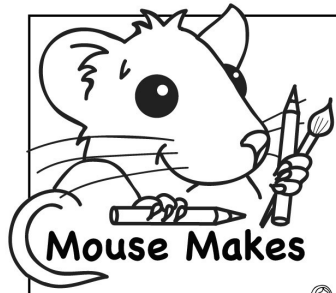
St John's church in Little Gidding is known by the name of Little Gidding Church. It was built in the early 1600's. A wealthy man bought the church and house and had it repaired to be used again. He gave up all his wealth and worldly concerns. The gentleman's name was Nicholas Farr and he was ordained to be the vicar there. When he died he asked to be buried outside of the entrance of the church. I have never seen anything in my life like it! There is a long pathway leading to the church door and right in front of it is a HUGE stone tomb. This means people who attend the church have to squeeze to the left or right to be able to enter into the church! His brother wanted to do the same, so there is a small grave slab somehow squeezed in front of the other one! How on earth a person in a wheelchair gets through I do not know, I guess through the vicar's door, if there is one! He sure wanted to be noticed and not forgotten! I think it's called vanity. The church only holds a handful of people and instead of the pews facing the ordinary way they are long ways down the aisle on both sides.

The poet T S Elliot composed one of his poems here after visiting it. The church is regularly used on Fridays and Sundays and there is an annual Little Gidding Pilgrimage. It starts at 10.30am with a church service and finishes at 5.30pm with lunch in between. There is also another event called the Elliot Festival. They start with a talk on a reading of one of his poems and discussions, plus food.

Alice Sanders

The Tale of the TWO MEN SAYING THEIR PRAYERS





BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

_____ Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

_____ Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

_____ 1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

_____ Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

_____ 2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

_____ Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.

M _____ Matt 1:16

O _____ 2 Tim 1:5

T _____ 1 Kings 1:11

H _____ 1 Sam 1:20

E _____ Gen 34:1

R _____ Gen 30:22



WHO IS MY MOTHER?



- CAIN
- ISAAC
- JESUS
- JACOB
- TIMOTHY
- JOSEPH
- SAMUEL
- JOHN
- ELIZABETH
- HANNAH
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH
- EVE
- MARY
- SARAH
- EUNICE

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search

- REBEKAH
- ELIZABETH
- EUNICE
- RUTH
- MARY
- RACHEL
- LEAH
- ZIPLAH
- MOTHER
- MUM



How many other words can you make from:
MOTHERING SUNDAY



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

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Jn 1:29-34, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-4:13, Mk 1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised-washed in the river Jordan-to say sorry for what they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...

Please baptise me.

No, this is the right way now to complete God's plan

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus and God spoke..

This is my precious son.

No, it should be the other way round.

So John baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.

Jesus then went into the desert for 40 days.

He didn't eat or drink, and at the end was very hungry

Show me you are God's Son by turning this stone into bread.

The Devil came to test him.

The Bible says 'You need more than bread to keep you alive.'

The Devil took him to the highest roof of the temple in Jerusalem.

The Bible says 'Don't try to manipulate God.'

Why don't you jump? God would make sure His angels would catch you

The Devil took Jesus to where he could see the whole world.

Just worship me

Then angels came to care for Jesus

I have power over all this, and I could give it to you.

Go away! Only God is to be worshipped!

Want to lose weight? Cut your calories by 216 a day

According to recent research, even a modest reduction in calorie intake can make a big difference over a sustained period. Or to put it another way, an extra 200 calories a day will make you gain about a stone a year in weight.

Rates of obesity in the UK have doubled over the past 30 years. Two-thirds of us are now overweight or obese, and it is costing the NHS more than £6billion per year.

On a personal level, research has found that making small, incremental changes in your diet are more likely to be successful than dramatic interventions. Examples of small changes for the good might include “reducing your ‘eating window’, cutting out the habit of certain snacks, and having bigger meals less often.” It is estimated that between 20 and 25 per cent of UK calories are eaten as snacks.

The research was carried out by the charity Nesta.

Disclaimer

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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>