

St Mark's Parish Magazine

August 2020



Church pictured is Eashing Chapel
at the Rural Life Living Museum, Farnham

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Your Views & Contributions

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Through Lockdown and on...

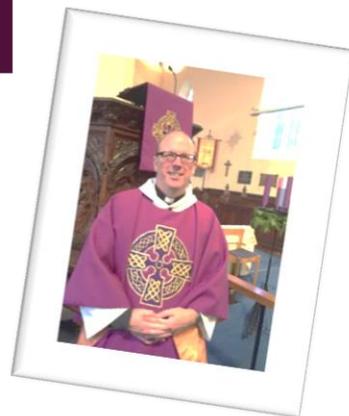
'And remember', Jesus tells us, 'I am with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 28.20). What words could be better, more needed and more relevant for today than those? During the extended time of lockdown, and even as restrictions are gradually lifted, many people have been feeling more isolated and more cut off from their own communities, including church communities. People have felt perhaps as if they were alone, as if Jesus was not with them, as if they have been forgotten. As churches begin to open, much is being written about how we should do this, what it means, and whether we can ever 'return to normal'. I think we can most probably never 'return to normal' because so much has changed and we have to adjust to new restrictions and new demands in order to keep ourselves and others safe.

Recently the Bishop of Norwich commented: 'During lockdown I sense that Church of England communities have asked less "Will you come to this?" "Will you buy that?", and more "How can we help?" "What do you need?" "Can we pray for you?" ' And goes on to say that 'far from being absent we have been more present serving our neighbours'. Then began an online argument about the delicate balance between the church worrying about falling numbers and how to pay its bills (the first two questions), or whether it could at the same time serve its communities faithfully (the next three). And perhaps the balance has changed even as lockdown has eased. We have needed to make a much more conscious effort to keep in touch with each other.

At St Mark's we have benefitted from online services which can be accessed at any time (we cannot now be late for church!) We have seen each other, we have checked how we all were doing, and this is a precious part of our work and life together. Jesus promises to be with us always. That's not necessarily a promise to always be on our side. Sometimes we need to make a move to something new and different. This is our time now, this is the Church's time. This is your time and my time, to look towards something new and different, collecting and taking with us the best of the past traditions, and adding innovations.

In the Jewish tradition there is a collection of ethical teachings, Pirkei Avot [Sayings of the Fathers] and in one of which the rabbi says: 'It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are you free to desist from it'. (Pirkei Avot 2.16) I had those words in mind as the ending to this letter even before I began it. I hear those words as an invitation to truthfulness, authenticity, honesty, and integrity and creativity. They hold a vision of our work before us. I trust those words will lead me, and all of us, as we open up the church, as we take our tentative steps towards collective worship in whatever its 'new' form, to a life worthy of Jesus.

With every blessing.



Holiday Time

It's holiday time, though this year many of us will not be going away. So, I thought I might write about a holiday.

I can almost hear the groans. There is nothing quite so boring as other people's holidays and here there will not even be photos. Not a good idea then. So, I shall confine myself to just a few incidents.

Some years ago now, following retirement, we decided to take an extended holiday in Canada and the US, driving down the West Coast from Vancouver to San Diego. We stayed in Vancouver with my dig friend from University days one Dr Julian Davies. He is two years older than me but today he is still the oldest working professor in the western world. He now works a reduced day from 8am till 6pm but he still travels from home to his lab by bike. He took us to Columbia University to see his new Chemistry and Biology block. This consists of two parallel, huge five story blocks with a road between them covered over by an atrium. In the past it would have been a complete university but now it was only a small part of the whole.

Julian showed us round, very proud of the many laboratories some of which work under his guidance. At the entrance to one lecture theatre he asked me to switch the lights on, "they're by the swing doors". I fumbled in the darkness and located a small lever which I pulled down. No light came on, but after a short interval bells began to ring all round me.

Julian grasped a wall phone but was unable to stop either the noise or the growing ant like exit of literally hundreds of people down into the atrium and out of the large doors at either end. The same was happening to the exterior of the block. I made myself as inconspicuous as possible though I felt that guilt was leaching out through my body language.

The university fire engines arrived unwinding hoses and officers rushed to find the seat of the expected fire. Thousands of people milled round in a green space between further buildings. I became even smaller.

That evening at supper Julian said, "you have no idea how many experiments you ruined this morning!" I decided not to mention that to have unprotected fire alarms with students around not to mention the elderly, was asking for trouble.

We drove the length of the Rockies. I will not attempt to describe the beauty and majesty of those inspiring mountains and majestic waterfalls. But we also saw many square miles of dead trees. Warmer winters meant that the grubs which feed on them

were no longer under control. So they feasted on and killed those majestic trees. These trees are now still being brought to this country where they are fed as complete trunks into power stations.

Then we said our goodbyes to Julian and his wife Dottie and set off on our journey for San Diego on the Mexican border using Route One, a traditional road which runs along the coast. The scenery was varied and magnificent. We visited Mount Washington and at a viewpoint in the morning remarked on a pink strip across the horizon. At our elbow a loud American voice pronounced, "that, sir is the emblem of our national air pollution. You will see it from many of our cities".

Motel life is interesting. American travellers leave early though often after a large breakfast perhaps to last them all day. Correspondingly they tend to stop early about 4.00pm. So, if you are a foreigner arriving after a long day you are likely to find your motel full. This happened several times to us and we were obliged to go down market to get a bed which I have to say were always comfortable. Most motels have air conditioning as standard but we prefer our windows open so we always ask for that. Once they understood from our accent that we were Limes there was always the understanding smile reserved for lunatics. Well, what would you do if dealing with a lunatic? But we seemed always to be treated as a bit special. Nevertheless opening windows were a scarcity.

Some days later we left the highway temporarily for a view of the Pacific and stumbled over what seemed to be an ideal motel. It was two storey with excellent views of the coast from upstairs. The stairs were on the outside. Inside there was a double bedroom, a comfortable lounge, bathroom, small kitchen, and opening windows! After our evening meal we settled down to enjoy the fading light of a mellow evening certain in our expectations of a quiet night.

And so it began. Late in the evening, however, there was a thumping up the stairs and a loud knock on our neighbour's door. Shortly after someone left noisily down the stairs. This repeated itself at about fifteen to thirty minute intervals. At 2.30am I had had more than enough. In my befuddled state, clad only in pyjama bottoms, I hammered on their door and when it opened launched into my purposeful speech. I may have got out two sentences when I realised that the man I was speaking to was at least six inches taller than me with substantial biceps and very broad shoulders. I could also see three or four other huge men reclining on the bed and in chairs. Awake now, I began to lose height. I toned down what I was saying. However, the giant replied with the utmost courtesy in excellent, dare I say it, educated American assuring me that he was so very sorry and that it would not recur. I retired without further argument.

The same noise continued through the night at similar intervals. In the morning the decision to reverse our intention to stay a couple of days was an easy one. At breakfast we met an elderly lady and having found that she was a permanent resident, we described our experience during the night. At first she would not believe we had

knocked on that door. Then, reflecting that we were English, she told us never to do that again. These, she said, were clearly drug dealers not selling to the street but to intermediaries. She said the motel had been raided a few weeks earlier and there had been a gun fight before several arrests were made. In future we should maintain a very low profile.

We visited Hurst Castle, a twenties monstrosity used in the interwar years to entertain famous film stars and the like. Do you recall Patty Hurst? On the coast there we watched, fascinated as pelicans dived into a shoal of fish, then as they threw up their heads to swallow, the sea gulls would dive and steal the fish from their mouths.

At another seaside town we spoke with a volunteer fireman enjoying two days off from fighting a fire out of control near the mountains. In that direction the sky was black. He was clearing out his lungs. Even then, a good twenty five years ago, he understood the connection between such fires and the warming Earth.

At one point we diverted inland for nearly a day to see the famous Yosemite Park. It proved to be one of the most beautiful wild places we have ever visited . That evening we deposited the food we had with us in huge steel lockers with padlocks before we were allowed to use the flimsy tents set out in lines. This was to discourage nightly visits from hungry bears. When asleep it's not everyone who wants a bear hug.

Finally, we arrived at Los Angeles, or more accurately Garden City, which was where an aunt of Chris lived. We stayed there for some days and one night were awakened by the rocking of the house and a veritable firework display from the many pylons. Chris was fascinated but once I had checked that we could, if necessary, get out of the window, I went back to sleep. The news next day was that there had been the largest earth tremor for many years but fortunately the epicentre was out of town and only a motorway and its bridge had been destroyed! I contemplated that we had nearly missed this unusual movement of the San Andreas Fault.

The Crystal Cathedral is a huge building made entirely of glass. The waving trees seem to enter the building. In addition to the cathedral is a large eight story office block from which its many social, caring activities are managed. Having viewed the area we ended up at its cemetery which has rooms reserved for the rich and famous when they die. We were then entertained by a piece of pure Los Angeles.

We were looking at the cemetery when suddenly there was a huge noise in the sky and a helicopter appeared overhead. It was then joined by two others. The first one rose high in the sky, the others moving below in a circle. Then we could hear the approach of many noisy sirens. Into the car park drove a huge red sports car, closely followed by five black and white police cars which formed a circle round the red car almost like covered wagons. Out of the cars pored a dozen or more police, guns drawn. Hollywood is not far away.

Then a megaphone blared out and very, very slowly a large, Mexican looking man unwound himself from the sports car. He lent over his car as instructed and spread his legs and arms. The police closed in as brittle as toy soldiers till one of them had checked the Mexican for guns. With nothing found he was cuffed and there was a sudden relaxation of tension. The guns went away.

That Sunday we attended a service in the Crystal Cathedral which was plush in furnishings and packed with hundreds of worshippers. There was an orchestra and a huge choir. The singing was incredible. The sermon was a testimony by an athlete who attributed his achievements to support from the Father. The last time I had heard such a testimony was in Delhi, only on that occasion it was a businessman who attributed his success to the Almighty.

Los Angeles also has a coloured strip always on its horizon above the hills, only this time it is a mustard yellow. It is nevertheless caused by pollution.

When we left for the airport for home the six lane motorway, and there are many of them, was completely gridlocked apart from an empty fast lane and only three or four cars used it whilst it took us over a half hour to cover a half mile. We could miss our plane. So I moved into that fast lane and soon we were at the airport with no problem. I enquired about the fast lane. I was told it is policed by cameras and was strictly reserved for cars with two people.

Happy Days

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News from the Church of England

Lockdown initiative set to continue as a shining example of missionary in action

An initiative set up by two vicars in a former coal-mining town in Staffordshire has been such a success at bringing hope and connection to thousands of people, it is going to continue after lockdown.

This truly community-based initiative which has brought together the town council, supermarkets, the foodbank, local business and organisations. The aim is to help those who have struggled in lockdown by providing; food in the form of cooked meals, food parcels and collecting shopping, as well as fetching prescriptions and offering a listening ear to whoever needs it.

The initiative has recruited 100 DBS-checked volunteers and with grants and fund-raising will continue to recruit people on short term contracts to continue the initiative.

The Burntwood Be a Friend (BBAF) initiative was the brainchild of Rev'd Richard Westwood and Rev'd Matt Wallace who've said;

"BBAF has made a big difference to our community's ability to find support and help when needed," say Richard and Matt. "Although the pandemic has stretched us in unexpected ways, it has been amongst the most vibrant missional work we've ever been involved with. We hope BBAF may help as an example of love in action for the wider mission of the church going forward."

Article taken directly from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/stories-and-features/community-project-bringing-hope-thousands-set-continue-after>

Environmental News

What is so bad about Palm Oil?

I was sitting down eating an apple with almond butter when my son asked me 'mummy, why does your jar have a picture of an Orangutan on it?'. My little 4-year old is full of questions and I try my hardest to answer them in a simple way. 'Well darling, because no Orangutan's were hurt in the making of mummy's food'.

Luckily, that satisfied him for a short time, long enough for me to finish my snack and coffee, but it started my curiosity.

So why is there an Orangutan on my jar?

To advertise that the ingredients do not include Palm Oil, a substance which has been the centre of much controversy in the environmental community.

What is so bad about Palm Oil?

Palm Oil production is very high because it is used in many products such as chocolate, shampoo, bread and lipstick. It is cheap to make and grows easily but it is produced in Malaysia and Indonesia and large amounts of rainforest are cleared to make way for the large Palm Oil plantations.

This destroys the homes of endangered

species such as Orangutans, Tigers and Rhinos who live in these areas, in fact there are 193 species classified as critically endangered which are impacted by Palm Oil production. And large amounts of deforestation and the burning of wood to clear the space, adversely affects climate change.



Deforestation in Indonesia, making way for a new Palm Oil plantation.

What can you do to help?

It is actually very difficult to avoid Palm Oil and because companies know people maybe put off their products, they label it as vegetable oil so you don't always know it is there. The best way to help is to lobby the biggest offenders and try to avoid them if possible, although this can be tough as they are well known household names such as Nestle, Unilever, Kelloggs, Colgate-Palmolive and PepsiCo to name but a few. In fact, according to Greenpeace the top Palm Oil supplier which supply to the world's biggest brands has destroyed an area twice the size of Singapore in just 3 years.

Having reviewed the list provided by the Ethical Consumer, I was shocked and saddened that many of my favourite brands are on the list.

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/palm-oil/brands-companies-use-palm-oil>

The Ethical Consumer also has a list of the top brands which are Palm Oil free or using sustainable Palm Oil to help start making the switch where possible. The more environmentally conscious we are, the great the demand, the sooner the big companies will respond.

Resources used to create this article:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/palm-oil-environment-orangutans-indonesia-rainforests-iceland-christmas-advert-a8631896.html>

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org>

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/18485/greenpeace-investigation-wilmar-brands-palm-oil-deforestation-indonesia/>

A sign to see and understand?

In my darker moments it's hard not to see the Coronavirus as a given sign. Of course, it isn't, but stay with me for a moment.

For many years the major official projected risk recognised widely by governments has not been a nuclear war, an East West war, or even oil running out but the likelihood of a pandemic. This was generally accepted and here over a billion pounds was spent on protective equipment. But then nothing was done for many years though annually the risk of a pandemic did not diminish. Instead we concerned ourselves with international self-interest, wealth creation and legislating on a mass of trivia, when we should have been looking to our children's future.

The virus may have been due to human behaviour of a medieval nature, including so-called health cures, incompatible with modern science, in a small part of the world. The virus had jumped from wild animals to humans and spread rapidly.

This was recognised, but of course it could never happen here. Here, in this context, were many countries mainly in the West. Delay was the order of the day because things like pandemic were not on government agendas. When reality dawned, science was centred on a very different type of 'flu pandemic. Herd immunity might be the answer. The old reaction of self-preservation through isolation was surely not appropriate to our modern scientific civilisation. Besides, that would interfere with personal freedom and the economy. Many plane loads of people, including some from affected areas, were dumped at airports and released into the environment because this is our normal way of life. Until very late, countries failed to follow the lead of those who had recently considered similar experiences and used either total lock down or test and trace. Common sense came late.

As for protection, the years of neglect meant that most of that one billion pounds invested in protective equipment here was wasted. Nations competed for what was available. That is our normal way of life. Instead, the economic effects of staying at home was the concern of western governments and only enlightened chancellors recognised that old concepts of central government financing had to change.

How might the virus be a warning sign, and of what?

The parallels are that the pandemic was forecast but governments ignored the scientific forecast. So we did for many years also with global warming. When the threat was recognised the concern was with the economic effects, so we were slow off the mark. Given the size and seriousness of the threat the same is very true of global warming. Even in the last thirty years, after the threat was well advertised worldwide, instead of

controls, the release of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere has really taken off. In both threats we have undervalued or ignored scientific advice.

When action was contemplated it conflicted with our normal values and government responsibilities, principally the economic position of the country. We did not know what to do with the pandemic. We cannot face the consequences of responding positively to climate change.

In both cases, eventually denial changed to acceptance of the risk but it was always something to happen tomorrow, or not to us. The fires are in Australia, the tornadoes in the US floods are in Japan. Not here.

Businesses have pressed the case for early reopening, just as most businesses have resisted the actual reduction in their carbon emissions. Those which have failed to recognise either the urgency or the seriousness of the situation. This seems to be the position of most governments of the world, and it took the legal profession to point out that some present government policies are incompatible with their formal acceptance of climate change. The habit is to go on as before. Now most governments are rightly concerned with economic recovery from the pandemic, but few are attempting to make financial support conditional on moving away from the use of carbon and the emission of carbon gasses.

So, the parallels between our responses to the risk of pandemic and climate change are striking. But there are differences too. For example, though the risk of pandemic was always high but unknown to the public, the coming of severe climate change has for some time been certain and widely known. There should be no excuses.

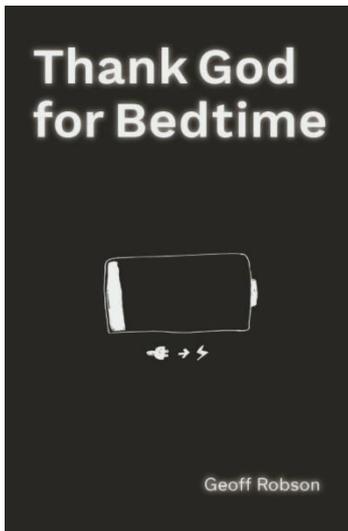
The old concept of a spiral of economic recession was that the drop in demand and unemployment, made the less efficient forms of production go to the wall. Only the efficient, who could bear lower prices, survived. Slow recovery of demand then meant investment in more efficient ways of production and better competitive companies reduced imports and stimulated exports. Recession was an opportunity for change and had served a purpose in terms of economic efficiency. Simply to return the economy to its previous less efficient level only encouraged in cheaper imports and reduced our competitiveness in the export industries.

What should the coming recession result in? Well, in addition to its traditional function of improving economic efficiency which is doubly needed with BREXIT, we clearly need to address the non-economic real costs of carbon release and other greenhouse gasses. What is the point of recovering only to make our environment uninhabitable? To do so is to play out in the more serious area of climate change, all the mistakes made in not listening to science or preparing for a virus.

The pandemic has brought a new realisation of the needs of our neighbours and neighbours have responded. It has brought recognition of the value and commitment of our health services. It has brought the understanding that we need to act together

for mutual protection, though this has waned somewhat with the reassertion of economic needs. These things show that concerted action is possible to meet climate change. We can all work together and with effect, but that requires enlightened leadership. That is what governments should be elected for.

Book Review



This month we review: Thank God for Bedtime

In this book Geoff Robson offers the Theology of Sleep, if you've ever wondered what God thinks about sleep, and why it matters, this book gives you an insight.

We all need sleep but sometimes we struggle to balance the need with the other things in our life; if you have ever stayed up late to watch a TV programme or got up very early to go fishing or watch a sunrise, you'll understand.

The book review below has been provided by a Good Reads reader.

A theology book about sleep?

Really now?!

Are you serious?!

And if there is such, why should I care or even pick up that book?

We just don't think much about sleep because we just do it.

But if you think about it, sleeping is something we all do. And does the Bible said whatever you do, do it for the Lord. That certainly includes sleep.

Picking this book to read and review is out of curiosity. Sure there is also a book about sleep and I have a audiobook on rest by David Murray, but being specific with the topic about sleep will be a walk in a park for me. However, *Thank God for Bedtime* isn't just about putting your head on a pillow at night. It's making most of God by sleeping and beyond it.

In this accessible volume, Geoff Robson shows us how important sleep not for us but for God. If you think there is nothing to talk about sleep biblically then you got it wrong. Finding rest through sleep is more than being unconscious for a few hours but it's deeper implications of it in how to view God. The Christian life is surprisingly plenty things to do but we shouldn't take sleep out of the equation. Robson address sleeping, our lack of it and oversleeping that affects us believers in dealing with God and our

neighbours that we should love. It also has its takes on social media, productivity and laziness to name a few, which are integral in understanding why we or we don't push the snooze button. However, Geoff Robson is also cautious to what this book is not addressing which might be sensitive to others who would pick up this book.

Thank God for Bedtime is an engagingly precise and clear message of how this God given gift should be viewed and gives utmost importance. Robson wrote a book that unfolds to the reader like flowing water. Easily reach out and take a drink. You'll easily be immersed by the topic and be refreshed by giving you a new perspective on sleep. You won't be disappointed with this book.

Highly recommended!

Book Review written by Nitoy on

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/49019204-thank-god-for-bedtime>

On your bike

Under more normal circumstances, 6th August would be cycle-to-work day. A day to encourage and recognise an alternative mode of transport for the daily commute. A more environmentally friendly option and one which helps people fit exercise into their working week.

In the current, 'new normal' cycling has even more importance. With the weather being kind since the beginning of lockdown it has become a popular pastime with a 200% increase in cycling at weekends and a 100% increase in the week. Helping people to get out of the house and improve mental health.

We are very fortunate to live in the Surrey Hills, the home of Olympic Cycling and you can often see many a MAMIL (middle-aged man in Lycra) out on a Saturday and Sunday traveling around Box Hill.

The reason for its popularity is it is so accessible, from the youngest children up to grandparents. As the government recently announced its plans to cut obesity levels, you may have seen its recent advertising campaign encouraging everyone to move more and eat better, for better health. What better way to improve your health than getting on your bike? You don't need any special clothes, unless you are taking it very seriously and with a rucksack on your back with some nice food, you never know where it might take you.

<https://www.cyclist.co.uk/news/8285/cycling-has-increased-by-200-since-lockdown-government-reports>

Reader recipes

Courgette Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:-

For the cake:

- 4 medium eggs
- 150ml of vegetable oil
- 130ml of semi-skimmed milk
- 300g of light brown soft sugar
- 350g of plain flour
- 75g of cocoa powder
- 2 tsp of baking powder
- 400g of courgettes, grated
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract

For the icing:

- 100g of unsalted butter, softened
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract
- 250g of icing sugar

Chocolate buttons to decorate (optional)

Method:-

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/gas mark 5. Line a 20cm x 30cm baking tray with baking parchment.
2. Whisk together the eggs, oil and milk. Add the brown sugar and mix well. Sift the flour, cocoa and baking powder into a bowl, then fold into the wet mixture. Finely grate the courgettes and stir into the mixture along with 1 tsp vanilla extract. Spoon into the baking tray and bake for 40 minutes, then leave to cool.
3. Meanwhile, beat the butter, vanilla extract and 250g icing sugar in a bowl. Spread the icing over the top of the cooled cake and finish with a dusting of cocoa. Cut into slices, remove from the tray and serve.



This recipe is taken from the Sainsbury's website and is great if you have had a bumper courgette harvest on your allotment. We would really like to hear from you with your favourite recipes. It really can be anything. Please email them to magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.

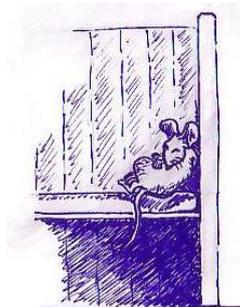
Candlemouse Returns

Another Tale about a Church Mouse for younger readers

Written by Sarah Cousins and illustrated by Roger Lloyd

Amy and Charlie's Baptism

Hello, it's me again, Candlemouse. I live in St. Mark's church near the railway station in Reigate. I'm as small and as quiet as a mouse can be, so most people don't notice me, which gives me plenty of time to see them and the things that they do!

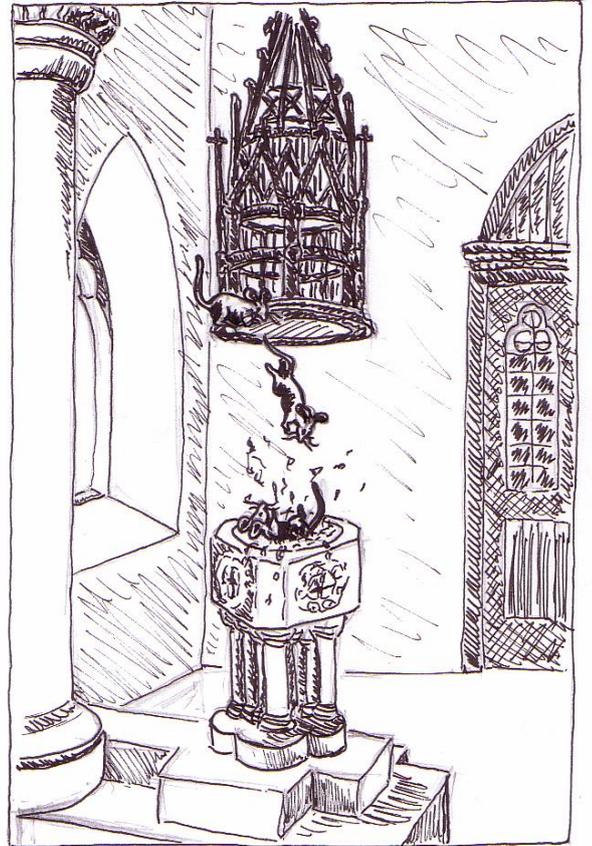


Have you ever been to a ***baptism***? If you can't remember ask your mum and dad. They will be able to tell you if you were baptised when you were very small. To baptise someone means that they are either dipped in water or have water poured over them when they join the church as a follower of Jesus. You can be very young or very old, it doesn't matter as long as you promise to follow Jesus. Because I live in the church I have seen many babies and children taken by their parents to the back of the church to be baptised in the big stone basin which is called a ***font***.

At Amy and Charlie's baptism there were lots of people. Everyone in their family had come to see them be baptised. Amy was three-years old and Charlie was only eight-months old and because they were both quite young they had ***Godparents*** to help with the promises. Parents and godparents promise to help their child or godchild to grow up knowing about Jesus and his way of living. They also have to promise to fight evil. Do you remember the BBR? [New readers will have to find last month's magazine to read that story.]

I watched their baptism from a secret place above their heads. Can you guess where? Yes! I was lying on my tummy on the wooden cover for the font which hangs from the ceiling. First the vicar signed the sign of the cross on their foreheads with holy oil. I had a splendid view of the vicar holding first Amy then Charlie and scooping up water with a shell then pouring it on their heads. When they had been dried off with a towel they were each given a candle to remind them to "**walk in the light**" which means to let God keep on showing you his goodness and to follow Jesus' way of living.

Then they all went to the front of the church to put their candles down. That is when I slipped and fell, all the way from the top of the cover into the font! There was quite a splash, but no one heard it because they were all too busy clapping for Amy and Charlie. I kept on swimming, but I knew I could never climb out of the font on my own. At last one of the **sides people**, who take care of all sorts of things during a service, saw me. She scooped me out and put me on a warm kneeler to dry out. What a narrow squeak!



Story and prayer copyright of Sarah Cousins and illustrations copyright of Roger Lloyd.

Let's pray

Lord, may I come to the baptism?

May I join in the party?

Move from the dark into the splendid light of your presence?

May my wrongdoing be washed away leaving me in a white pure dress,
Sparkling from head to toe in the joy of the angels over the hundredth lamb.

Jokes and Quotes

A friend of mine was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the vicar was standing at the door, as always, to shake hands with the worshippers. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The vicar said to him, "You need to join the army of the Lord." My friend replied, "I'm already in the army of the Lord, Father." So the vicar inquired, "Then how come I only see you at Christmas and at Easter?" My friend whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

There were four teenagers who played truant one morning. Upon coming to class in the afternoon, they reported that their lateness was because their car got a flat tyre. 'That's fine' the teacher said, much to the students' relief. 'But there was a test this morning which you boys have to make up, so please have a seat and take out a piece of paper. Now for the first question, "Which tyre was flat?"'

Courtesy of Grove Books

Puzzles

Sudoku

August Puzzle

5					2			8
	8	3	1			9		4
9			8			1	5	
			9				8	3
	6	9	7	4	8	5	2	
8	1				6			
	9	2			4			6
6		4			9	2	1	
1			6					5

July Solution

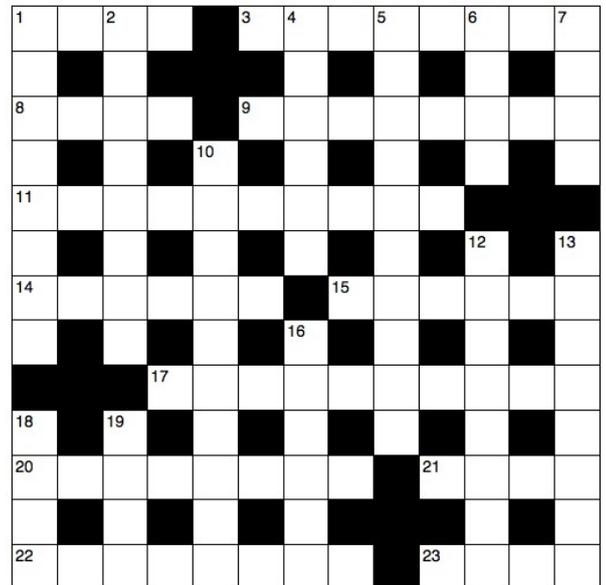
3	6	5	4	9	7	8	2	1
8	2	7	6	1	5	9	4	3
1	9	4	3	2	8	6	5	7
2	7	9	8	4	3	5	1	6
5	4	8	2	6	1	3	7	9
6	1	3	5	7	9	2	8	4
7	3	2	1	5	6	4	9	8
4	8	1	9	3	2	7	6	5
9	5	6	7	8	4	1	3	2

August Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
 3 See 1 Across
 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)



Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

ANSWERS

Across

1 Riches 4 Abner's 7 Soul 8 Damascus 9 Statutes 13 Add 16 Craftsmanship
 17 Old 19 Redeemer 24 Walls are 25 Wise 26 Target 27 Thief

Down

1 Rest 2 Courtyard 3 Sadhu 4 Arm he 5 Nose 6 Round 10 Tutor 11 Timid 12 Sense 13 Ashbelite 14 Dips 15 Echo 18 Lhasa 20 Exact 21 Erect 22 Flog 23 Mede

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