

Crosstalk

60p



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

June 2021

SOCIALLY DISTANT

*Spiritually
together*

WELCOME BACK

India - engulfed by a tsunami of grief

Covid-19 has been overwhelming India in recent weeks, bringing its health services and institutions to their knees. Hospitals have run out of oxygen, medical staff cannot help the queues of desperate patients, and bodies are piling up as people die in vast numbers.

The Indian Christian community, like their compatriots, have also been suffering. Reports speak of many church leaders contracting the virus and some even dying. Their congregations, also sick and dying, are left without pastoral care.

Indian Christians report that more than 50-60 senior church leaders have died. One pastor said: "in the last seven days we have lost four pastors to Covid19." Another organisation lost three missionaries within a week. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg.

The lockdown is causing severe suffering to the poorest, the day-labourers, who now have no work and no income. Barnabas Fund is working with Indian Christian leaders to provide assistance, both food and medical help, for our brothers and sisters. If you would like to help support them, please go to:

<https://barnabasfund.org>

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.

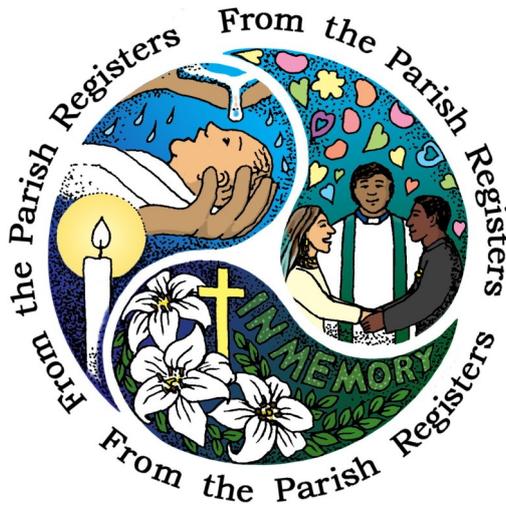
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* **"Your magazine needs you"** *
* Please send your contributions *
* (eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting articles etc.,) *
* to office@thurstaston.org.uk *
* no later than 21st February *
* * * * *

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Diary Dates

**Please see the back page for
Church Service dates and times**



Funerals:-

29th April - Reginald Derrick Antrobus
30th April - William Edgar Cheater
6th May - Robert Williams
7th May - Valerie McNeil

From Your Rector

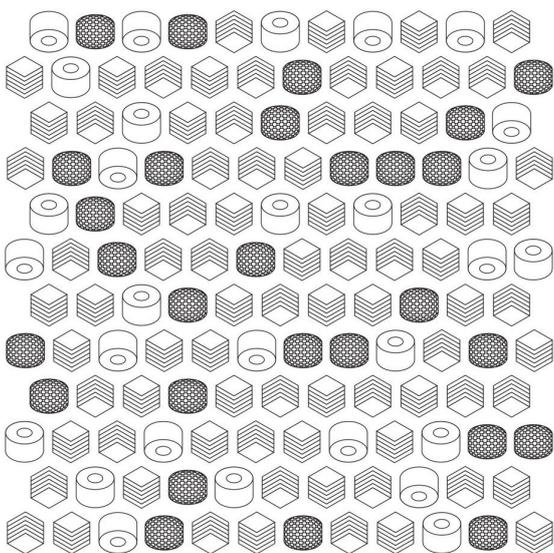
One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. This month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus' parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this.

In Jesus' day, when people accepted an *invitation* to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: *'Come, for everything is now ready'*. Jesus invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom.

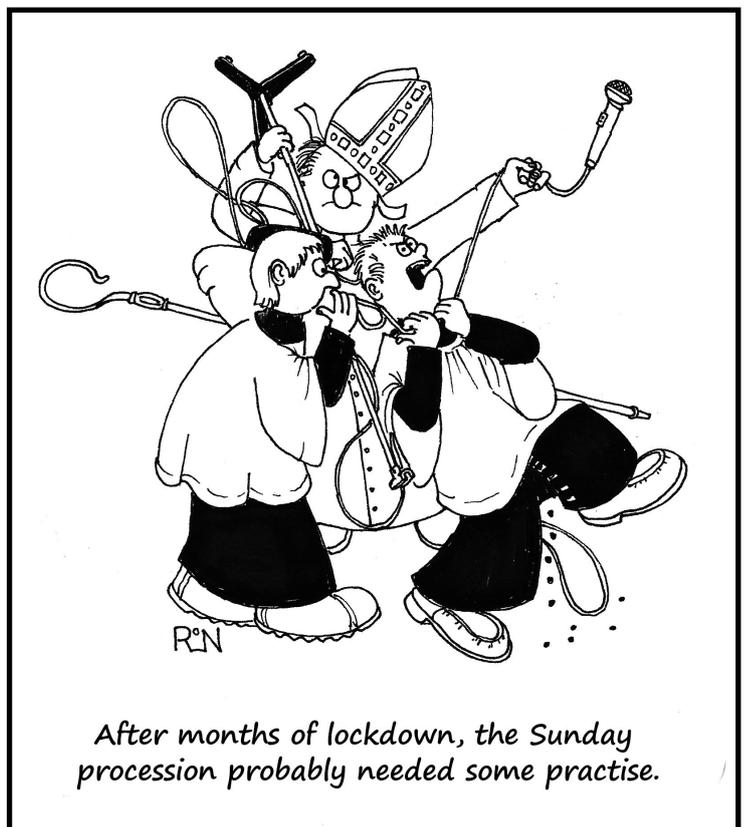
However, the guests made *excuses* for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: *'I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married'*. These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere. We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work, family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. *What priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?*

How did the host *respond*? He ordered His servants to *'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'* He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to his banquet. Jesus makes the point that *God's kingdom is open to all!* Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God: *Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?*

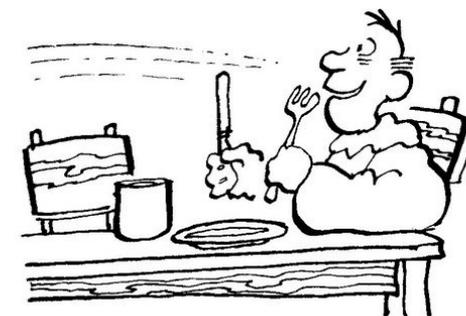
Rev'd Jane



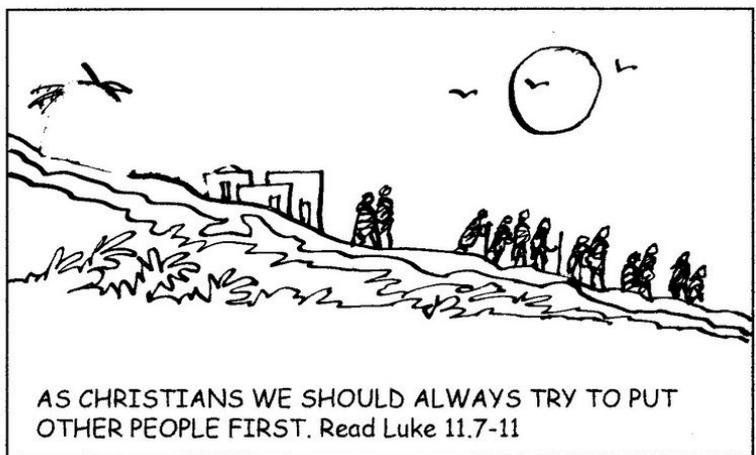
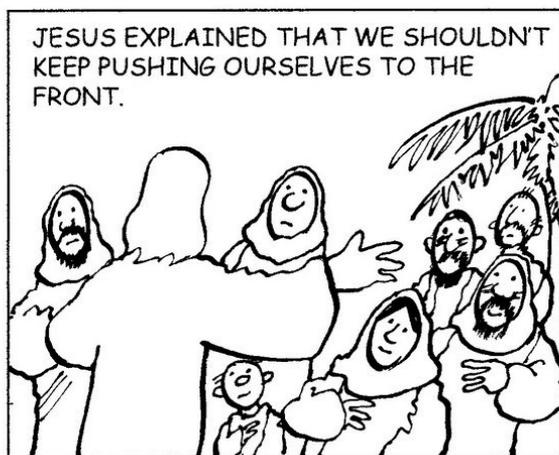
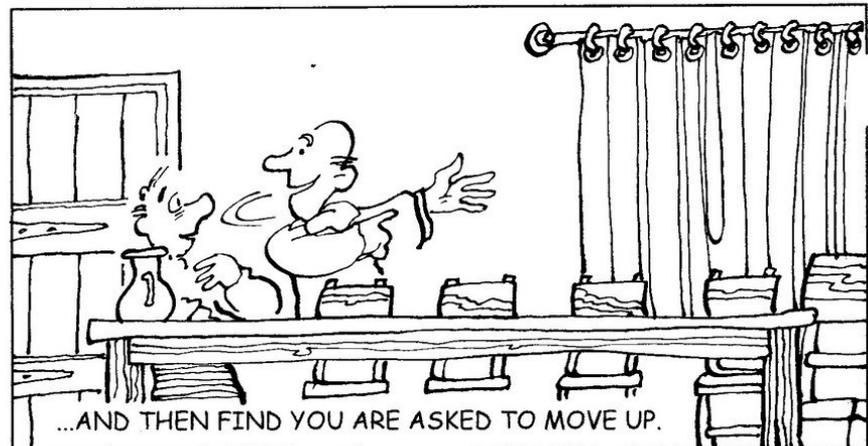
God welcomes
all sorts!



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.



DON'T RUSH TO SIT IN THE BEST SEAT....





*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

**Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

By Timothy Dudley Smith

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more."

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so - 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time - his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen has also held true.

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

A prince's legacy on matters of faith

Just when we thought the last word had been written about the late Duke of Edinburgh, it emerged that he had a genuine interest in theology. That dashing young naval officer, who became the Queen's dutiful consort and accompanied her to thousands of church services, was someone who listened intently to sermons, thought through what was being said, and then asked questions.

Every Sunday when the royal couple were at Sandringham, a diocesan bishop was invited to preach in the parish church. Afterwards, they were grilled by the Duke who, we are told by one of them, showed that he "wanted to be intellectually and spiritually engaged". That's a polite way of saying he wasn't prepared to swallow what came out of the pulpit if he wasn't convinced by it.

Some Christians are suspicious of people who probe the faith. Should it not be taken on trust? Who are we to question the Almighty? For others, doubt hovers uninvited. Honest doubt won't settle for unbelief but will continue to persevere with its enquiries. The Russian writer and philosopher Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote: "It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt." Dostoyevsky had lived a turbulent life, both personally and publicly, and wrestled mentally with himself and God. Some people are like that.

Prince Philip had been baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and was received into the Church of England just before his marriage. He organised much of his own funeral, and if you followed it, you will remember how traditional it was. Many of the prayers were from the 17th Century Book of Common Prayer, the hymns were more ancient than modern, and the Bible readings confidently proclaimed the magnificence of God's Creation and Jesus' teaching about the resurrection. These are basic to Christianity and it was from such a foundation that he was able to explore.

So, if you wake up one morning questioning everything you have believed, take it as a spur to dig deeper and ask questions. Be encouraged by Philip, who shunned a second-hand faith because he wanted to know the truth for himself.

The next time you hear a sermon which you can't understand or disagree with, don't let the preacher get away with it. And if, in your private conversations with God, you find yourself praying, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief,' you won't be the first. See Mark 9, verse 24.

Ruth's Reflecting

I have been thinking back over the last year and how life has changed. When Jane first asked about writing an article for the Magazine I was decorating the kitchen! Now, it almost needs doing again.

This spring the weather has not been as good as last year, and outdoor activities have been somewhat curtailed, but I have been able to do quite a bit in the garden and with the help of a gardener the garden is looking quite good. The lawns have definitely improved with the rain! I have also added some more bird feeders and love spending time watching the birds, reflecting on the beauty of nature.

As I write this I am listening to the latest updates on the pandemic. It seems that we will soon be able to give and receive hugs! Hurray. Also being able to meet indoors will be good, given the weather at the moment. I have met people outside several times, so far we have been lucky, cold but not rained on.

Talking of meeting people, it seems that the Churches will be reopening and from what several people have said to me not before time! I myself am in two minds about this, I don't think there is a right answer, it is the same with all the decisions taken nationally about the pandemic, there is no precedent to guide us.

The easing of restrictions does mean that the family will be able to go out for a meal to celebrate my grandsons 21st birthday, something to really look forward to.

Something else to look forward to is that we can start ringing again, there will still be restrictions, so it won't be the same as pre pandemic but it is a start.

So far 2021 has not been a brilliant year for me, starting with a blocked sewer in the road causing a mini flood outside my driveway, followed by a leaky chimney and a wet lounge ceiling. Both have now been sorted but did cause a lot of stress at the time, made worse by the fact I am on my own. I must add here a big thankyou to the Rev Jane for practical help and support during this time. The latest trauma to happen is that I lost my house keys during a visit to the Garden Centre. They have not been handed in so I have had to have my locks changed and my security codes

updated. Again a stressful time and as you can imagine my conversations with God have gone into overtime!

I am also looking forward to going to stay with my sister. It seems so long since I saw her although we have kept in constant touch through video calls. I am also looking forward to those hugs from my grandsons.

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

And another Reflection from the Parish on Covid-19

How has Covid-19 and resultant lockdown affected my life in 2021 - a very good question. In many ways it has reinforced relationships. My cleaner (Dina) has become more like a granddaughter to me, and I her Grandma!

My gardener (Ken) and my carer (Alison) have between them redeveloped the garden for me! What better place to sit and listen to the birds singing? I am well blessed.

Judith Hodgson

What do you think will happen after Covid?

You can take your choice: a recent survey has found that a third of us think that society may *never* go back to the old ways, a third of us think we will go back to *exactly* as we were before, and a third of us think that we will be *keener than ever* to stay together.

The Together Coalition, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been working for the past year on a piece of research to track just what has happened to communities during lockdown.

The new research has found that “people feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbours and community. ...We found a clear public appetite for a society in which we are more connected to each other, and the community spirit of 2020 is kept alive.”

It also found that around 12.4million people have volunteered during the pandemic, 4.6million of them for the first time. And 75 per cent of those volunteers would be happy to do so again.

An unusual bequest

And a bit of a mystery



Ever since I have been Rector here (13 years) there has been a story about a truncheon and handcuffs that used to be in the safe, but nobody knew where they were now.

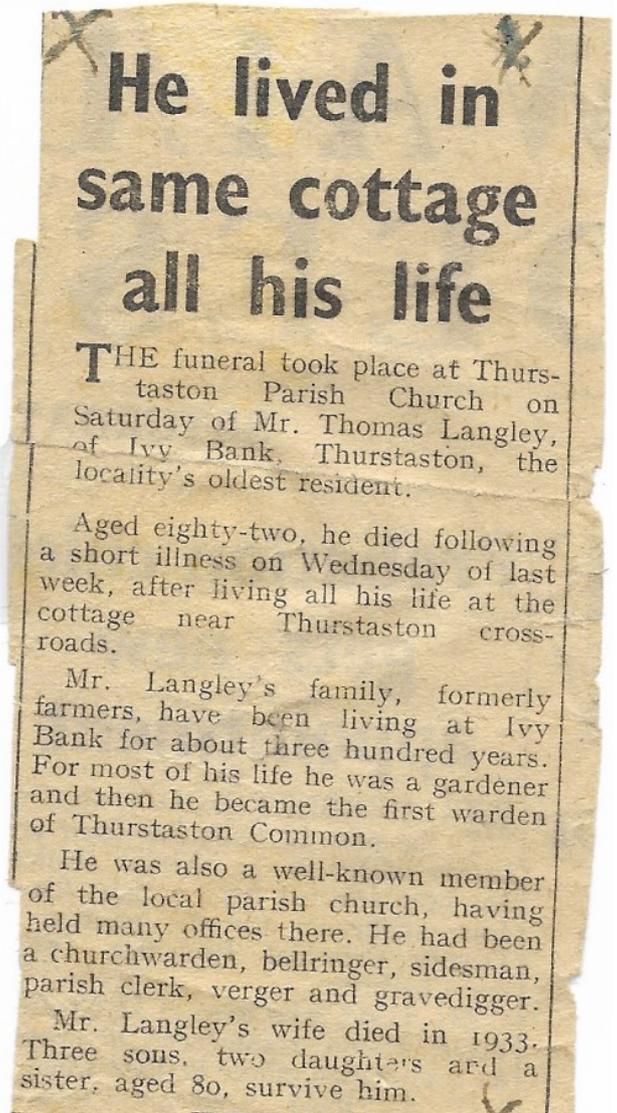
They came to light in the planning of the Funeral of Robert (Bob) Williams – 6th May 2020, and have now been bequeathed to the Church.

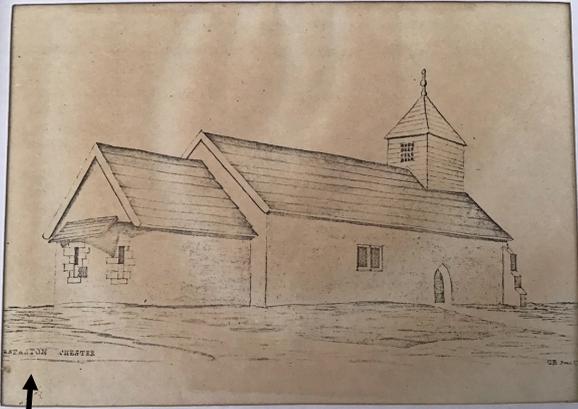
Bob's daughter Jackie sent me a newspaper cutting about her Great Grandad, saying "He was the first warden of Thurstaston Common and it was he who held the handcuffs and truncheon! He died in 1953 and all his possessions stayed at Ivy Bank as his son (my great uncle) still lived there for a long time."

The PCC have agreed that these socially important "historical relics" should be on display in Church, and are in the process of seeking permission to install a wall mounted cabinet at the back of Church for this purpose.

One member of the PCC is also doing some research into the history of this family and the history of the truncheon. Watch this space - hopefully more details next month.

Revd Jane Turner





mem 1931.

Thurstaston church, Wirral, Cheshire
 from a drawing by Thomas Rickman
 1812 In the British Museum.

This church was taken down - as being unsafe
 in 1820 Replaced in 1824 by another plain stone
 building - the tower of which remains

First Church 1125-1820

Second Church 1824-1885

Present Church was consecrated 7th January 1886.

W. LANGLEY

Builder and Contractor

IVY BANK,
 THURSTASTON,
 HESWALL,
 WIRRAL,
 CHESHIRE.

Mr Arthur Maddocks,

October 15th 1955.

Dear Sir,

As I understand you are to speak about "Irby and Thurstaston of The Past" at the Rate Payers' Meeting on Oct. 28th I thought you might be interested in these old relics.

Before there was a County Constabulary as we know it today, it was the custom to appoint a local resident to act as the village constable. My Great Grandfather held this office, so here are his truncheons and handcuffs, which I hope he never had to use on the local inhabitants.

The old Parish Rate Book has been in our possession since My Grandfather made the last entry in 1878, the rate was then 2d. in the £. and you will see there were not many defaulters.

Very few people know what Thurstaston Church looked like in the year 1125, so I am sending you a Photograph of it. The original picture was drawn by a Thomas Rickman in 1812, and it is preserved in The British Museum, I believe Mr William Hope who once lived in the Old Hall at Thurstaston, was granted permission to have this photo taken, and before he died he presented it to my father as the Langleys had been connected with the church for so long. I might say here that my Grandfather, William Langley, was re-elected as the peoples' warden for seventeen consecutive years, and was held in such high esteem that when he died the Parishoners erected the tomb stone over his grave, it can be seen at the rear of the old tower in the churchyard, and it is suitably inscribed by the parishoners of those days.

If you look at the back of the photograph of the old church, you will find the history of all the churches.

Yours Sincerely,



Top Tier Front-In Memory of/ William LANGLEY/ of Thurstaston/ who died May 14th 1898/ aged 65 years/ This stone was erected/ Middle Tier Front-by the parishoners in token of/ the respect in which he was held/ and their appreciation of his/ services as church warden of/ the parish/ Top Tier Right-In loving memory of/ Mary wife of/ William LANGLEY/ who died June 11th 1907/ aged 71 years/ Middle Tier Right-her children rise up and call her/ blessed Top Tier Left-also Mary/ their beloved daughter/ who died Jan 4th 1957/ aged 83 years

GOD IN THE SCIENCES: Wonders of the Living World

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.



I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org.

GOD IN THE ARTS : 'I do not know the man', the fearful Peter said

At the end of this month, on 28th June, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul. We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest's courtyard declares with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'



That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.

That episode is recorded by Duccio in this month's painting, 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter.' Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13th and 14th centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.

This month's picture is the first painting to depict Jesus' trial and Peter's denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio's work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His hands bound in front of Him and His head to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio's painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.

Reflected Faith: : Sit and be Still

The Revd Dr Jo White continues her Reflected Faith series

How do you 'sit' in church? I'm a wriggler and change my position on the seat often. I cross one leg over the other, then swap them over, stretch them out, then cross them at the ankles. I do the same with my arms. I lean one way and then the other.

In other words, 'I'm a fidget.' But having been absent from a church building for so long, I wanted to think this month about simply *sitting and being still* before the Lord.

I'm well aware we've done little else this last 18 months – but if you manage to get into a church building, for whatever reason I'd like to encourage us all to just sit still and breathe in the place. To relish being 'back'!

To sit 'heavily' in that spot. To feel the solidity of the surface you are sitting on. Lean into it. Feel how it supports you. Feel each part of your body where it is touching the chair or pew.

Look around you at all the distinctive seating set aside for the different participants of the church: the choir, the worship leader, a deacon or curate, the priest and so on.

In an Anglican church there will be a chair especially dedicated for the use of the Bishop.

However plain or fancy each piece of furniture is within your building, they all have the same purpose. To hold the person and keep them safe.

This month:

As you sit in the church building – or at home if you are not able to do so – think of all those people in the Bible stories who sat with Jesus. The number of times He taught in the Temple or in a synagogue, or to crowds gathered on a hill. Recall the Last Supper and His friends gathered sitting with Him to eat and share the Passover meal, and then recall the meal with the men from the Emmaus Road. So many meal times with the bold and the weak, the saints and the sinners. With you and me.





WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH **St Bartholomew's and St Chad's**

This is a reminder of the guidance regarding "in-person services at church. It's intended as a pocket-sized "aide memoire", and has deliberately been placed in the middle of the magazine so that you can pull it out and keep it easily to hand. It doesn't include all the details – please refer to the full guidance document for those (available on parish website - or in printed form by contacting the parish office). The numbers in brackets by some of the headings refer to the full guidance notes.

Service Times (p 1)

St Chad's 9.30 am

St Bartholomew's
8.00 am on 1st and 3rd Sunday
11.15 am on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday

St Chad's - Wednesday 10.15 am

The services at 8 am (St Bartholomew's) and 10.15 am (St Chad's) are primarily (but not exclusively) for those who are over 70 or clinically vulnerable.

Numbers Attending (p 1)

Up to 7 households at St Bartholomew's

Up to 16 households at St Chad's

You must book your place in advance, otherwise you might find that the limits have already been reached.

How to book a place (p 3)

Book by email from Monday morning for the service the following Sunday, or Thursday morning for the service on the following Wednesday. You cannot book before bookings open at 9am.

**Email for bookings:
servicebookings@thurstaston.org.uk**

You should include your name and phone number; the date and time of service you wish to attend; names of all those attending, with ages if under 16; if you have children who will be in a pram, pushchair or on your knee for the whole service please let us know. If you will be in a wheelchair, please also inform us so we can make appropriate arrangements.

We would encourage you to sign a consent form for the NHS "Track and Trace" system for each service you attend. There is a copy of the form at the end of the main document (on page 5) which is downloadable from the front page of the website and will be available in physical form when you arrive at church.

If you cannot send an email and do not have a friend who can do it for you then you can book by phone on 07553 099 388.

If you can send emails, please do not use the phone number.

Arrival at Church (p 3)

A steward will ask you to confirm that you are well, remind you about face coverings and ask you to use the hand sanitiser. On your first service under these arrangements, another steward will invite you to pick up an envelope with two service books – Morning Worship and Holy Communion. You should take these home after the service and bring them with you the next time you come.

When it is safe to do so, we will ask you to return them for general use again but until then they will be your personal copies. Please write your name on the envelope.

The stewards will show you to your place, starting at the front.

You will not be able to sit next to anyone who is not in your household or support bubble.

In St Chad's, please ask the stewards for help if you need to bring chairs together for your household.

Some quiet music will be playing. Please use the time before the service for private prayer and reflection.

Safety is paramount (p 2)

We will follow the guidelines of the Church of England and the Government. Symptoms of Covid-19: new continuous cough, high temperature or change in or loss of your sense of taste and smell. If you have any of these, please do not attend church as you could infect others. You should self-isolate at home immediately.

If you are clinically vulnerable, Government advice is to stay at home as much as possible. If you do go out, take care to minimise contact with anyone who isn't in your household.

The church will be cleaned before and after every service and left for 48 hours (the time recommended at present) before it can be used again. That means just one service per building on Sundays.

Face coverings

Everyone in the building must wear a face covering which covers mouth and nose. More details and the legitimate exemptions are shown on page 2 of the full guidance notes.

Other changes in the form of the services

- Children and young people are always very welcome but please supervise them, with appropriate precautions. For the time being, there will be no Junior Church at St Chad's.

You might wish to bring some "quiet" toys or books for your children, as none will be available in the churches.

- There will be no singing.
- You will be able to greet other people, with social distancing, outside the church after the service.
- Doors and windows will be open for the duration of services, so if it is a cooler day, please bring something warm to wear.
- For our Giving, we are encouraging people to set up Standing Orders if possible. Otherwise, there will be a collection plate at the back of the church for cash and cheques.
- Receiving Communion – when these services are started, only bread will be distributed, not wine. You should stand to receive, as the altar rails cannot be used. The priest will come to you. If possible, please sanitise your hands before and after removing your face mask and before and after replacing it (do not touch the front of the mask).
- At St Chad's, only the disabled access and baby-change toilet will be in use – but only in an emergency, please.
- At St Chad's - No refreshments will be provided after the service.

Barnabas the Encourager

This month we remember the life of St Barnabas. His real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he is known by his nickname '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is still crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond and will we strengthen people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be encouragers to others?*'

Father,

At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you – and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be encouraged!

In Jesus name, Amen.

How healthy is your church leader – and your church?

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, is concerned for the wellbeing of our clergy.

When was the last time you heard a church leader preach about sleep? Or about eating well, exercise, coping with stress or living a life rich with relationships?

How far do your church leaders model good health and wellbeing in the way the church is run and the example they set for the congregation? And how often do they teach about living well?

These questions are posed by experienced general practitioner and Christian, Dr Richard Pile, in a newly-published book that aims to bridge the gap between health and faith.

In *Fit for Purpose*, (Harper Inspire), he declares: “I believe for us to feel truly well, to fulfil our potential and live satisfying and meaningful lives, there should not be an artificial divide between physical and mental and spiritual wellbeing.”

He calls on church leaders to take seriously the health of their congregations and the people they seek to serve. They should create a culture where living well – “life in all its fulness” – is encouraged and modelled.

“If someone tells me that they have lots of spiritual gifts – such as prophecy, discernment or speaking in tongues – but their physical and mental health, their relationships, their career or finances are a disaster, I would question whether they truly understand what wellbeing really means, and whether they’ve got the balance right.”

Richard Pile sets out what the Bible says about sleep, food, exercise, coping with stress, having strong social connections and living with meaning, and then challenges the Church to take these teachings seriously. He believes this could have a positive impact on a church’s influence in its community.

He says, “Crowds followed Jesus because they were hungry, physically and spiritually. He didn’t have to drum up trade. They saw in Him someone who could offer them hope and meet their needs. If one of the purposes of your church is to serve your community, how is this best done where you live?”

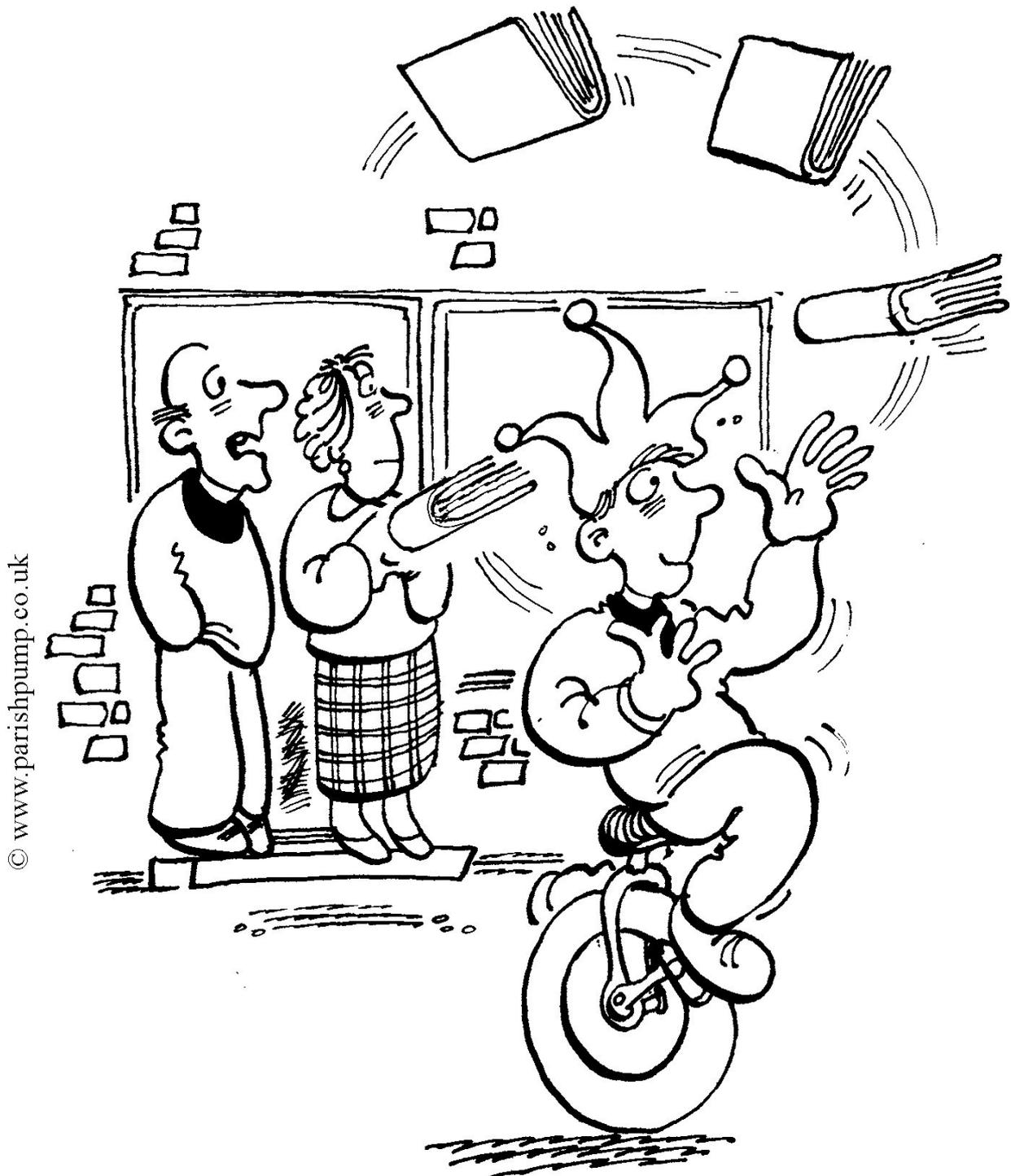
Based on more than 20 years of general practice, Dr Pile also challenges health professionals to recognise the benefits of good ‘spiritual health’, often derived from belonging to churches or other faith communities.

These health benefits frequently arise from living a life with purpose and being connected to a wide-ranging group of people.

He explains: “As a society we have never had so much advantage and yet been so disadvantaged by this very same society which we have built for ourselves. We are ignoring our basic needs when it comes to sleep, nutrition, movement, relaxation, relationships and purpose in life.

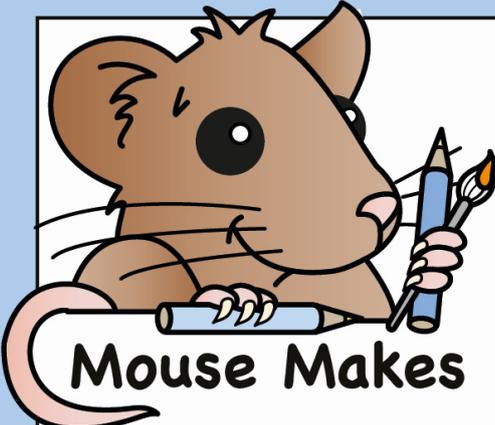
“We face a rising tide of physical health problems, such as obesity and diabetes, and mental health issues such as loneliness and depression. Our medical model is a broken, disease-based one which is not fit to meet our needs, particularly when it comes to preventing health and wellbeing problems.”

Using his experience of medicine, behavioural change and the Christian faith, Richard Pile responds to these challenges with real-life case studies and practical recommendations for change for individuals, churches, and wider society.



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*...I think I must have missed that module
when I was at theological college!*



Mouse Makes

JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?
John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?
Mark 1:29-31

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?
Mark 2:1-12

- Jesus **healed** and made the...
- SICK
 - DEAD
 - BLIND
 - DEAF
 - CRIPPLED
 - SINNER
 - MUTE
 - PARALYSED
 - DISABLED
 - ABLE
 - WALK
 - FORGIVEN
 - ALIVE
 - SPEAK
 - MOVE
 - SEE
 - WELL
 - HEAR



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?
Mark 5:1-20

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?
John 5:1-15

What did Jesus say made the woman well?
Matthew 9: 20-22



"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

John 21:25

How many men were healed from leprosy?
Luke 17:11-19

What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?
Mark 10:46-52



Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?
John 11:1-45

SMILE LINE

Neighbourhood Watch

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"



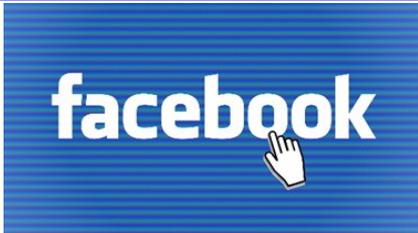
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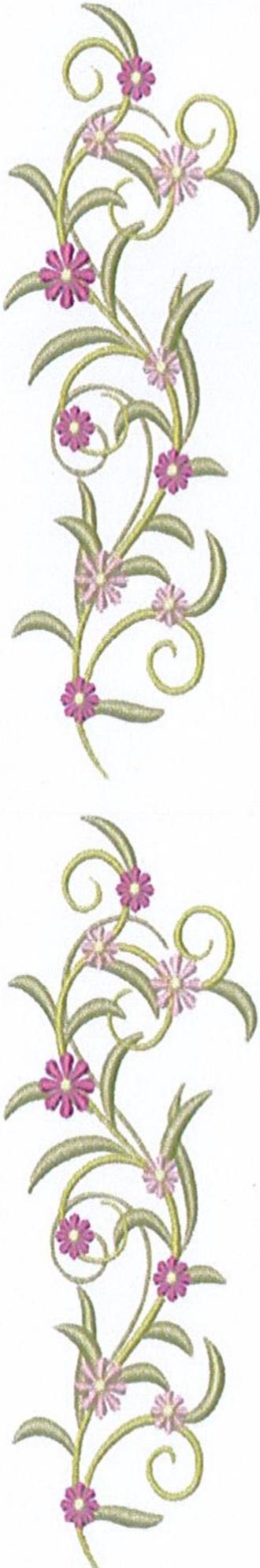
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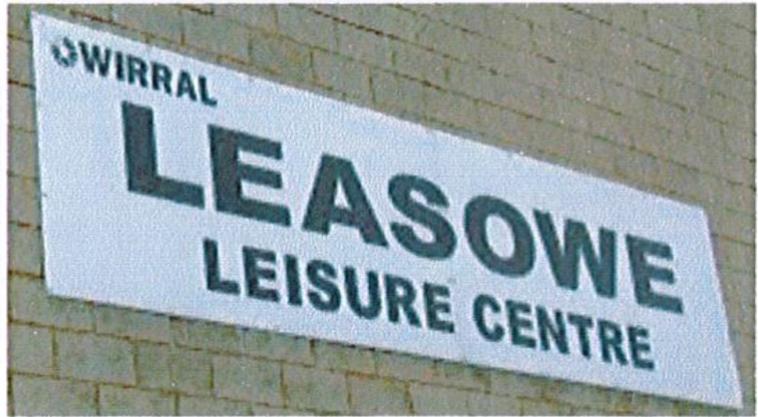
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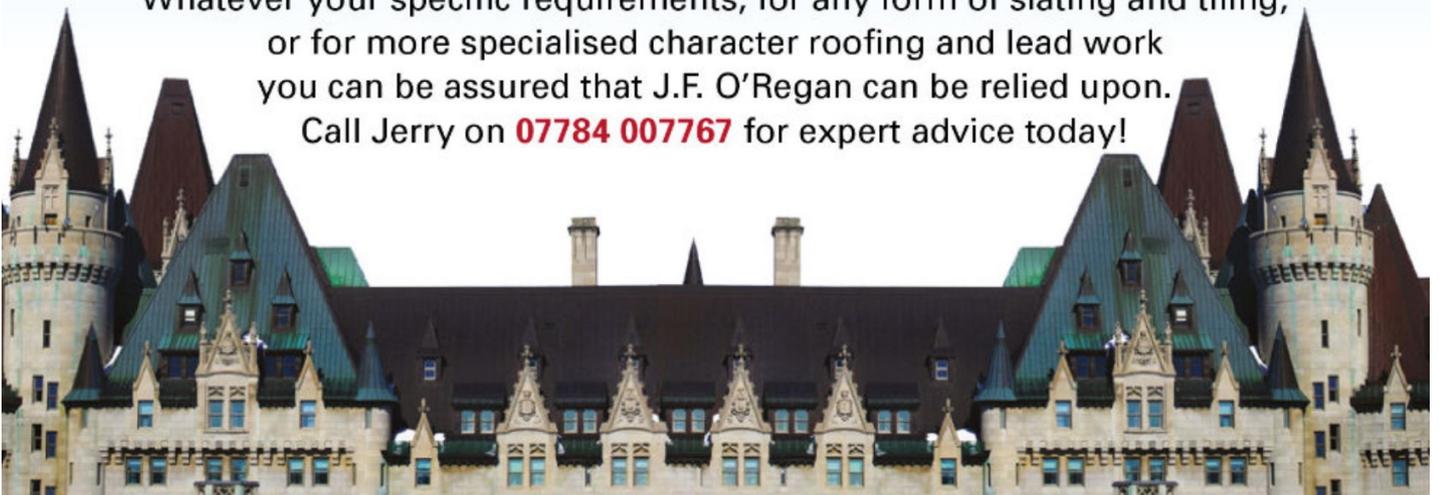
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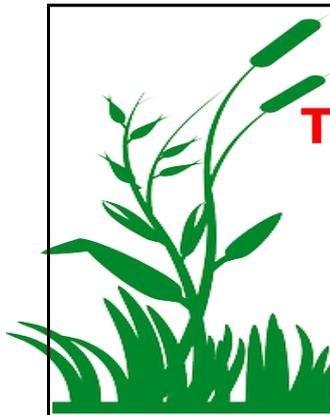
*The National Institutes of Health



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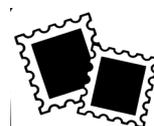
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JUNE 2021

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Joining details available by emailing the Rector

June 6th 6.00pm All-Age Service

June 13th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

June 20th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

June 27th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

July 4th 6.00pm All-Age Service

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- details on pages 13-16**

EVERY Wednesday 10.15am HC at St Chads

**Sun 6th June 8.00am BCP HC at St Barts
9.30am MW at St Chad's**

**Sun 13th June 9.30am HC at St Chad's
11.15am MW at St Bart's**

**Sun 20th June 8.00am BCP HC at St Bart's
9.30am MW at St Chad's**

**Sun 27th June 9.30am HC at St Chad's
11.15am HC at St. Bart's**

**Sun 4th July 8.00am BCP HC at St Bart's
9.30am MW at St Chad's**

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To arrange a baptism or wedding, please telephone the Rector,
Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816
or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

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