

HUTTON PARISH

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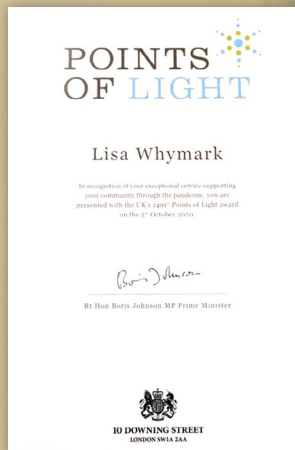
FREE EDITION

DEC 2020 / JAN 2021



All Saints

St. Peter



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From the Editor..

As I write this we are preparing for the imminent end to “Lockdown 2 – The Sequel”, and it has recently been announced that the potential easing of restrictions is likely to mean that we can look forward with some optimism to being able to spend Christmas with our families – those of us, that is, who are fortunate enough to have families with whom to share the occasion. Sadly, though, it still means that there will be many people with little option but to spend Christmas alone, and perhaps this year more than ever before we need to try to find just a few minutes during this busy time to check on a potentially lonely or disadvantaged neighbour or friend. Even a ‘phone call can make such a difference.

More good news is that Churches are going to be allowed to re-open, at least to a degree. To what extent that will impact upon our proposed programme of Christmas events throughout December remains to be seen, but even if one or two have to be cancelled or numerically restricted as they were after the first Lockdown, at least we’ll have the opportunity to savour the true spirit of Christmas and spend a little time returning to the “normal” that we used to take for granted before life became so strange for most of us.

Once again we have been blessed with many exceptional articles from a large number of contributors to this edition of our magazine. We try to cater for all tastes and believe that there is something inside for everyone, whether you are looking for comforting, inspiring or thought-provoking words; historical articles; puzzles, or just the whimsical, or appallingly bad jokes.

But as ever, if you believe we have the balance wrong, or you’d like to see more (or less) of any given topic – or ones that you think we should cover but don’t, please get in touch with me.

As always, all the articles and information contained in the magazine are supplied in good faith by individuals who are best suited to provide them. Should you find anything that is incorrect, personal or otherwise, please contact the person who supplied the article. Any views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Church or the magazine editor, and no responsibility for errors or omissions is accepted by the Ministry team, the PCC or the magazine editor.

May I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and a New Year that makes up for 2020.

Malcolm Webb

Editor

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From the Rector..

I'd like to begin this festive edition of the magazine by sharing with you a poem written by Anglican Priest and Director of Speak Life, Glen Scrivener. I recommend watching this on YouTube to see Glenn performing the poem as he intended it to be heard:

Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lokTM3PEGiM>



A Poetic Anti Santy Ranty

They say there's a big man who lives far away,
Supposedly jolly but it's hard to say.
I've never seen him, and neither have you.
But the children believe, and I 'spose that'll do.

He's known as a loner, with many a quirk
No time for a chat, he's embroiled in his work
He keeps to himself, for most of the year,
I reckon we're grateful he doesn't appear.
We send him requests, for particular needs,
But we never hear back, who knows if he heeds?

We try to be good, give his arm a twist,
To merit our place on his blessed little list.
And maybe one day if we do what we should,
He'll give us our things, so long as we're good.

I've had it to here, I'm calling his bluff:
He's a weird moralistic dispenser of stuff!
Granted, this rant is a strange one to pick
But listen, I'm not really after St Nick.
As strange as he is, and Santa is odd,
In fact I'm attacking most folks' view of God.

It's God who we see as a distant Big Guy –
An ancient, invisible, St Nick in the Sky.
"He sees you asleep, He knows when you wake
He's watching and waiting to spot your mistake."

And just like with Santa, requests we hand in,
We want all his things but we don't want him.
That's our connection with old Father Christmas.
We might dress it up but it's essentially business.

Throughout the year, good behaviour's our onus
When Christmas rolls round we're expecting our bonus.
"Just leave us the gifts, Nick, we've been good enough!
And then please push on, now we've got all your stuff!"

That's old St Nick, but the picture rings true,
It's how we imagine what God is like too.
But Christmas resounds with a stunning "Not so!"
The One from on high was born down below.

To a world in need He did not send another.
God the Son became God our Brother.
He drew alongside, forever to dwell,
Our God in the flesh, Immanuel.

This God in the Manger uproots all our notions:
A heavenly stooping, divine demotion.
Born in a stable, wriggling on straw,
Fully committed to life in the raw.

Santa gives things and then goes away.
Jesus shows up, to befriend and to stay.
Santa rewards those with good behaviour.
Jesus comes near to the broken as Saviour.

If you don't like God, I think I know why...
You probably think He's St Nick in the Sky.
You're right to reject that far-away stranger!
This Christmas look down to the God in the manger.

You probably wouldn't think of Santa Claus as God but how many of us have presented God with a list of "I wants" or "I needs" over the years. How many of us have thought, "I'm a good person, I deserve to get the things I want"?

Or maybe you have taken the other approach to God and thought, "I'm not worth God's time and effort, I'm too insignificant." Or even worse, "I'm a terrible person and I've done some terrible things – God can't love me."

The truth of the Gospel and indeed the Christmas narrative is that it has never been about who deserves what. It's not about whether or not you make it onto a good list or a bad list. God is not Santa Claus.

If I asked you to draw a picture of God, I wonder if you would draw a baby, in an animal shed – born to an unmarried teenage mother. Most wouldn't, I suspect – and yet this is the enduring picture of the first Christmas.

This bleak and dark image of a baby is one of incredible hope and joy. It is a story about God, the world and us. It is how God chooses to reveal himself to people – not just so that we can understand him better – but so that we can be reunited with him forever: without darkness, without despair, and without pain.

If God is a giant Santa in the sky, then I don't want him. I'm not going to waste my time on a petty miser in the sky who gives rewards to all the good boys and girls.

So, what sort of a God is this baby?

John's Gospel makes a big claim which is that God became flesh (John 1:14). The same flesh we all have. Flesh that needs cleaning, flesh that gets hurt, flesh that can be bruised and broken. Flesh that would hang on the cross many years after the first Christmas – broken and bleeding for us.

This last year has not been a good one. We won't forget it in a hurry as the effects of the global Coronavirus pandemic have shut down entire countries and economies. Where millions of people have fallen ill and so many have died. The cost of 2020 has been high in so many ways and there will be some dark days ahead if we want to recover and begin to thrive once more. But the truth is that there are always difficult and dark days to live through - even when all seems right with the world.

Jesus saw the world he created falling into a bottomless pit of death and destruction - and He jumped in, to rescue us. The light in the darkness. And that's what the REAL Christmas is. The Christmas story in the Gospels is about how the Son of God became flesh like us. It is all about how Jesus Christ grabs a-hold of us in the deepest, darkest part of the pit. He joins us in our kind of life, so we can join Him in His kind of life. He dies a human death so that we can live a heavenly life.

Whatever you are going through at the moment - please know that God is with you. God has already dealt with the misery and the pain and this Christmas we are invited to remember that once again. We are invited to let His heavenly light shine in the darkness that we see all around us. That is why our parish churches will keep moving forward in ways to bless and serve our community here in Hutton. We want everyone to know how much God loves this world and his people. So, no matter what you've done - good or bad - please know that in Jesus, God has come near to you.

Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year. I hope that the God in the manger has got you thinking this Christmas. He came to be with you...why not go and investigate his claims some more - you might find the life you were always looking for.

Andy +



Hutton Daily Bread

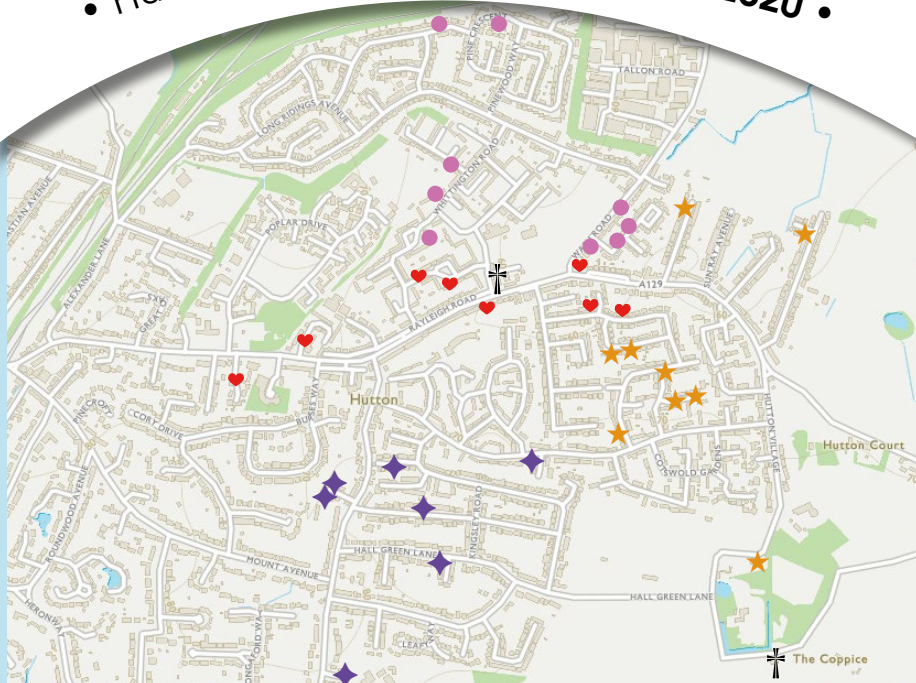
We provide food, support & friendship to those in our community.

The Daily Bread Cafe has provided food to hundreds of families during lockdown. Please help us to continue our work by making a donation through JustGiving using the QR code above. By doing so, you will be helping us support hundreds more during this difficult time and beyond.

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Hutton Parish • Advent Windows 2020 •



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📍 www.huttonparish.com/advent 📍

1 Joy to the World

15 & 23 Wash Road
5 & 14 Edwards Way
26 Colet Road
39 Pine Crescent
8 Shaw Crescent
63 & 140 Whittington Road

LAUNCHES 1ST DECEMBER

2 Silent Night Holy Night

27 & 28 Randalls Drive
11 Mandeville Walk
8 & 39 Fairview Avenue
52 Goodwood Avenue
28 Mount Pleasant Ave
2 Hutton Hall Cottages
5 Kelvendon Close

LAUNCHES 6TH DECEMBER

3 Love Came Down

57 Chelmer Drive
6 Alpha Road
160 & 175 Rayleigh Road
4 & 29 Birkbeck Road
10 Normanhurst
6 The Spinney

LAUNCHES 13TH DECEMBER

4 O' Little Town of Bethlehem

10 Lordship Close
2 Windy Hill
9 Coleridge Walk
99 Hutton Drive
2 & 7 Longfellow Drive
23 Tennyson Road

LAUNCHES 20TH DECEMBER

Join us at 5:00pm on each launch date, **facebook LIVE** @huttonparish



As with so many groups, services and activities, Rooted has moved into an online format again, meeting together twice a week on Zoom since the second national lockdown at the beginning of November.

Having had a few precious weeks of meeting together in person, at the Daily Bread Café on Friday afternoons, it was tough to find ourselves back to screen only gatherings. Here are some comments from our community after our first Rooted Café in September:

"Today felt like a pivotal moment! Friends and fellowship absolutely MAKE the difference...Thank you...Let's get busy lifting each other up because we do all care but after the last 9 months it seems so evident that we are all a gift to each other.."

R

Our network of small groups - Pods – continues to connect individuals for support and encouragement. Pods have been especially helpful in communicating with the Community alongside the shifting restrictions around Tier 2 and national lockdown.

"Your words give me strength and I will read them through the day when I'm doubting myself...Thank you, I really mean it and I appreciate your prayers, I brought my small cross with me but have little energy to pray as I'm so worried, so your prayers would really be appreciated...I appreciate I am not alone, having you all. Thanks."

B

Alice Smith

HOPE IS BORN

Carols in the Café: Fri 18th December, 7pm
Sun 20th December, 6pm

Café Christingles: Tues 22nd December, 3pm
Wed 23rd December, 3pm
Thurs 24th December, 2pm & 4pm

Midnight Mass, St Peter's Church, 11.30pm
Christmas Eve: All Saints' Church, 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Family Worship, 10am
St Peter's Church
(No booking required)

All events/services are **TICKET ONLY**
(unless stated). Book your tickets at
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call **01277 262864** or email
office@huttonparish.com

CELEBRATE THIS CHRISTMAS

SAINTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

Many of you will be familiar with the saint for January – St Paul that great convert and whose story is told by St Luke in the Acts of the Apostles and who himself is the writer of many of the letters which are included in the Church Lectionary throughout the year.

I would guess many of you will be less familiar with the saint I have chosen for December – St Lucy- whose feast day falls on December 13th. St Lucy is a saint for whom I have a great fondness. Her name is linked to light (in Latin lux) and she is the patron saint of electricians and ophthalmologists. But it is the date 13th December which is imprinted in my mind.

We have now begun the season of Advent in the church year – a season of watching and waiting for the celebration of the birth of the baby at Bethlehem who is the Light of the World.

But that world at this moment is very dark. 2020 and all that we have endured and continue to endure with the virus is a bleak and dark place for us all.

And of course (in this hemisphere at least) the days themselves are getting shorter and darker and a time when many suffer isolation as the nights draw in.

And this is why I hold onto St Lucy as a moment of promise not only for that greater light we are promised but her day is the day when there is a change in the darkness of the evening at least. More of that in a minute.

But who was St Lucy? She was a young girl who died a martyr in Syracuse in Sicily about 304-310 AD during the persecutions of Christians by the Emperor Diocletian. A noblewoman who was betrothed, after a vision whilst visiting the tomb of St Agatha she decided to give all her possessions to the poor and to remain unmarried. As a result she was denounced by her fiancé and subjected to horrifying tortures. These included being forced into a brothel and raped, being burnt and having her eyes pulled out (the reason she is portrayed in some art with her eyes on a plate) – all of which is very graphically described in The Golden Legend written by Jacobus de Voragine and popular reading in the Middle Ages. She was eventually beheaded.

St Lucy's day used to be the winter solstice before the calendars changed and it moved to December 21st. And from then on although the mornings continue to get darker the evenings begin to lighten a little which always brings me hope.

We don't seem to make much of St Lucy in this country but in some Scandinavian countries where they have even more darkness than we do here in Britain there is

a tradition that the eldest daughter of the family gets up early, dresses in white with a crown of berries and candles on her head and brings special holiday food to the family whilst they sing of St Lucy. Thus she heralds the beginning of the Christmas season.

We seem to have lost that here but one of the great poets of the 17th century, John Donne, who was also Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, wrote a beautiful poem called "A Nocturnal upon St Lucy's Day" addressed to Lucy, Duchess of Bedford.

It begins with the words

*" 'Tis the year's midnight,
and it is the day's*

*Lucy's, who scarce seven
hours herself unmasks".*



And later he expresses what many, I think, feel about this time of year: "Life is shrunk, dead and interr'd". Rather dark and pessimistic but perhaps we might also remember St Lucy as a holy light and to remember all those saints who surround us still and all those who are and have been holy lights for us.

A poet priest of the present day, Malcolm Guite, wrote a response to John Donne when he was giving an Advent retreat at Launde Abbey in Leicestershire using his own sonnets for the Advent O Antiphons. He had been thinking about the 'O Oriens' the 'Dayspring', the prayer for Christ to come as light which is set for the solstice of 21st December.

As we think of **St Lucy** and struggle with the darkness both real and intangible I leave you with the last couplet of Guite's response to Donne,

*"Though winter night will soon surround us here,
Another Advent comes, Dayspring is here"*

Chris Thomas

DAILY BREAD CAFE AND FOOD HUB



The Daily Bread Café has needed to make fast-paced changes to the way we operate over the past few months, depending on the rules in place regarding Covid-19.

In September we were so pleased to be able to return to running the café on two mornings a week, so people could come inside and sit, socially distanced, and chat while waiting for their bags of shop-ping. It was heartening for everyone and made it easier to reach out to those who might need some comfort or advice.

Although we had to adjust to running the food hub from the smaller back rooms, it actually went real-ly well and our versatile volunteers managed just fine. We had a great kitchen running under Sarah's direction and even had a professional chef come and make delicious lunches for a couple of weeks. Across September and October we helped 422 households and on our last fully-open day before lockdown alone people from 72 households made use of the café and hub.

Going back into lockdown meant that once more we were only able to provide bags of food, and we are sorry that people have to queue outside in the cold, so we are really hoping to be able to reopen the café soon. However, we have continued to be busy and in the first three weeks of November we were able to help 215 households.

Volunteers continue to collect from an average of a dozen supermarkets a week, more volunteers unpack at the hall each evening and then every morning we make up bags of bread, fresh fruit and veg, and chilled goods adding cupboard basics and frozen meals as needed. We've been able to buy some extra food with money we have received from grants. The hub, and Lisa Wymark's leadership in particular, has



been recognised with several awards, not least the Points of Light award from 10 Downing Street.

The hub will, going forward, be open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 12 noon and we will reopen the café on Tuesdays and Fridays as soon as we can - watch out on our Facebook page for announcements. If you know anyone who could do with a little extra to make ends meet, please encourage them to visit us.

The work at the hub is totally win-win: we distribute food that would have been thrown away, we support with freely-given shopping those who need a little help (from their friends) and the volunteers have also become a self supporting group. Some thoughts from our wonderful volunteers are below.



"Helping at the Hub means a lot to me because even though I haven't been in a situation where I have needed to use it I can see how much it means to other people and I'm proud to be part of it. The people that work there are very kind and warming which makes the situation of collecting food even more special. I am delighted to be part of this great cause".

Libby

"Helping at the FoodBank made such a huge difference in my overall well-being. Lockdown didn't help at all but I had to abide because I belong to the shielding group. Amazing how helping brings a lot of joy and positivity. Kudos to Lisa for what she has achieved not only in feeding the community but in uniting us all in this enjoyable journey. So grateful and proud to be a part of this wonderful bunch of lovely people."

Nora

"It's such a welcoming place full of wonderful and enthusiastic people. The Food Hub makes me get up, get out and pack, pack, pack! I enjoy working alongside such lovely people who are so committed to supporting our community, they make it fun and I've learnt so much from them all."

Jen

We feel that the Daily Bread Food Hub and Cafe will be needed for many months to come. To volunteer or donate, please contact dailybreadcafe@huttonparish.com. For help from your community kitchen, just come along to the hall, Monday to Saturday, 10am to 12 noon. We'll be pleased to welcome you.

And finally, from Belle, a Daily Bread volunteer:

"The Garden of Eden is turning into a vegetable patch led by the need to turn it into agricultural land required to meet the food distribution needed to feed the world's expanding population. But the garden is not limitless.

In our quest to do so the wilderness of the planet is shrinking rapidly. In 1967, 66% of the planet was wilderness but today only 33% true wilderness remains.

Whilst our wilderness is shrinking our landfills are growing. We need to reduce food waste.

70% of the birds on the planet are domestic – "We've replaced the wild with the tame," in the words of David Attenborough. So next time you throw that unconsumed chicken breast in the bin, think about what a waste of a chicken's life, the loss of the wilderness to home it, the planet's resources to rear it, the impact to the environment to transport it... to simply go in the bin!

In the UK we throw away 6.6 million tonnes of household food a year – 70% of which could have been eaten. Additionally, the supermarkets waste a further 650 million meals. Yet in the UK there are still people who go a full day without food, and children who experience the pangs of hunger.

I am a volunteer because it addresses the redistribution of surplus food to people who need it. There should be no reason for people in our local community to go without food or be hungry.

If you are not inspired to become a volunteer, you can still help with your feet and your purse. Simply come and save a bag from going to landfill and make a donation towards our running costs or have your next coffee and cake treat at the Daily Bread Café (once we open again) and make your donation there. It all helps.

My tiny weekly effort is a small cog in a huge wheel which has saved tonnes of food that has equated to literally hundreds of bags of shopping for the community. There is plenty for everyone. Hope to see you soon."

Belle

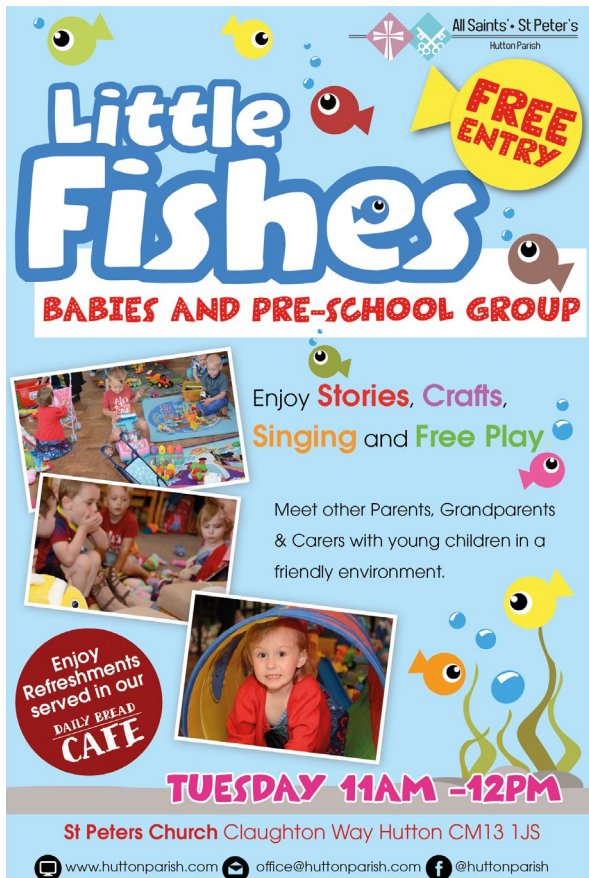


Little Fishes is part of Children's Church for babies and pre-schoolers. We meet every Tuesday during term time between 11am and 12noon for parents and carers.

We operate in a safe and informal space for families to enjoy singing, storytelling, craft activity and playing in a relaxed environment, plus the chance to have a cup of tea and a chat. By holding it on the day and time described above it enables us to establish a closer community tie with the Daily Bread Café and also allows better support for our volunteers and Little Fishes' parents and carers. I am delighted that a number of families who have attended Little Fishes have gone on to attend our parish services and become part of the Rooted Community.

We have an enthusiastic group of ladies who act as volunteers and helpers every week. All the leaders who run sessions have completed the Diocese Child Safeguarding online training course and all the volunteers are supported and trained.

Unfortunately, like most of the Church activities, we are currently closed until further notice, due to recent events, but we shall of course let everyone know as soon as we are able to re-open.



Little Fishes

BABIES AND PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Enjoy **Stories**, **Crafts**, **Singing** and **Free Play**

Meet other Parents, Grandparents & Carers with young children in a friendly environment.

Enjoy Refreshments served in our **DAILY BREAD CAFE**

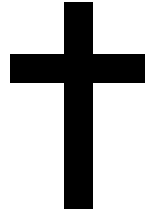
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All Saints • St Peter's Hutton Parish

JANUARY: ST PAUL.



St Paul has two feast days The one he shares with St Peter and another when we celebrate his conversion on 25th January. Why is it that St Paul of all the Apostles has two feast days?

According to Jacobus in The Golden Legend, there are three reasons. Firstly, that no sinner can despair when they see that Saul/ Paul can receive so much grace after so much sin; secondly, that the Church once persecuted by Paul, received so much through his conversion; and thirdly that Christ himself converted this persecutor into a faithful preacher.

The Acts of the Apostles are of course our greatest source for the life of St Paul. It is in Acts 21v39 that we read that Paul was born in Tarsus, the son of a Roman citizen, in approximately 5 - 10 AD. He was a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, and was given the name Saul in memory of the first King of the Jews, but as a Roman citizen he was called Paul. He was highly educated and was sent to Jerusalem to study under the great teacher Gamaliel. However, all young Jews were also expected to learn a trade, and he was put to tent-making, which he was able to use later to provide a living for himself during his travels.

He is recorded as being a deadly enemy of the early Church, but the first we hear of him is in Acts 7v 58 – 60 where as a young man he was present at the martyrdom of St Stephen. Paul's conversion was so dramatic and important to the life of the early Church that we have three accounts of it in Acts. (9 v1-19; 22 v 3-21 and 26v9 – 23) Each account shows slight differences; however the basic story of the dramatic encounter with the risen Christ on his journey to Damascus is a powerful story, which resonates through all his writing. We hear that he fell to the ground, heard and saw Jesus himself, was blinded, and then spent time alone and starving in Damascus.

Paul records that he is as certain of having seen Christ as the other Apostles (1st Corinthians 9 v 1) and that his conversion is the result of a sudden powerful grace and not the fruit of his own reasoning. (Galatians 1 v 12-15). After his conversion and baptism, he set out to preach to the Jews, but later withdrew to Arabia to meditate. Back in Damascus, he was forced to flee due to the opposition of the Jews, and he went from there to Jerusalem to see Peter. He then left for Tarsus,

and we hear nothing for 5 or 6 years. We next hear of him being fetched from his home town by Barnabas, and together they went to Antioch and worked there for a year (Acts 11 v 25-26). At this time, the early Church was being persecuted by Herod; James was martyred and Peter was thrown into prison.

The next 12 years from AD 45 – 57 were the most fruitful period of Paul's life comprising his three great apostolic expeditions. The first, which you can read in Acts 13 v 1--14 v 27 is his great journey to Cyprus with Barnabas, crossing the island from East to West to Paphos, where Paul had dealings with a magician called Elymas. Subsequently he converted a Roman proconsul. They then returned to Perga in Pamphylia where John Mark left them, and from there journeyed back to Antioch. Here Paul preached on the vocation of Israel, and the sending of the Messiah. This sermon Luke reports in full in Acts 13 v 16-41, as an example of Paul's preaching style. Paul and Barnabas continue their journeys in the surrounding areas where they met with hostility and opposition from the Jews, but welcome from the Gentiles. Paul was even stoned and left for dead at one point. This mission lasted 3 years before they returned to Antioch.



The second missionary journey recorded in Acts 15 v 36 – 18v22 saw Barnabas and Mark going to Cyprus, and Paul and Silas to Tarsus to deliver the apostolic decisions of the council of Jerusalem, then on to Lystra where he chose Timothy to accompany him. He continued through Phrygia and Galatia, preaching and strengthening the established Churches. Whilst passing through Mysia Paul had a vision of a man standing and

pleading “come over to Macedonia and help us”. So it was that Paul took the Gospel out of Asia and into Europe for the first time, landing at Neapolis and journeying to Philippi. It was here that he converted a woman dealer in purple cloth – Lydia – as the first European Christian. Paul and Barnabas were arrested and imprisoned for a disturbance of the peace, but were miraculously rescued by an earthquake. Their journey continued through Thessalonica where Paul preached in the synagogue, where many were converted. Continuing on to Athens, Paul was confronted by a city full of idols, which Paul took as a sign of their being religious. The philosophers began to debate with him and took him to the Areopagus where he proclaimed that the altar ‘to an unknown God’ was the God that he had come to tell them of – the living God – Jesus crucified and resurrected. He continued his mission to Corinth, staying for 18 months during which he wrote his two Epistles to the Thessalonians, from here returning to Antioch via Jerusalem.

The third mission Acts 18, v 23 – 21 v 26 was to Ephesus, where he was looked after by Aquila and Priscilla, and from thence to Galatia and Phrygia. He constantly preached the gospel and earned his living making tents. There was the usual persecution by the Jews, but this time also some of the Gentiles were opposed to him because his preaching against the goddess Diana affected the livelihood of the statue-makers, and this row with the guild of silversmiths is vividly described in Acts 19 v 23 – 40. After two and a half years he made further visits to Macedonia and Corinth, and ultimately returned to Jerusalem. One amusing incident occurred at Troas, where Paul had to resuscitate Eutychus who had fallen out of a third-story window during one of Paul’s long sermons! It was during this last mission that he wrote the epistles to the Corinthians, Galatians and Romans. Being falsely accused of bringing Gentiles into the Temple, Paul was thrown into prison for 2 years in chains by Felix and later by Festus. (Acts 21 v 27-28 v 31). At this time he made 5 speeches or discourses: The speech on the stairs of Antonia; to the Sanhedrin; to Felix; to Festus; and to Agrippa. As a Roman citizen, he could only be tried in Rome, to which he appealed, but the ship taking him there was wrecked on Malta by a storm. After waiting for better weather he reached Rome and preached for 2 years ‘without prohibition’.

With these words the Acts of the Apostles ends. He seems to have been acquitted,



and was able to write epistles to the Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon. The period after this is obscure as the Acts has ended, but he may have gone to Spain, (according to Clement), having wanted to do so for some time. After several other visits he seems to have had a second trial in Rome, and felt all was lost and sent for Timothy, as he was alone with Luke. He arrived too late, and Paul underwent martyrdom by beheading near Rome, towards the end of the reign of Nero. Legend has it that Paul suffered martyrdom on the same day as Peter; hence their feasts are celebrated together on 29th June.

St Paul is the patron Saint of numerous religious orders bearing his name, also of labourers, tent-makers, basket-makers, speculative theologians, and the Catholic press! He can be invoked against storms at sea and snake-bites. His relics are mostly in Rome in the Basilica of S Paolo Fuori le Mura and the Lateran Basilica and in S. Agnese in the Piazza Novona. In art the apostle is shown in a long girdled tunic and a coat-pallium and his attribute is a sword. His conversion is a popular subject in art, by such artists as Rubens and Caravaggio, most notably in a chapel in Santa Maria del Popolo. In this country there is a painting of it in the dome of St Paul's Cathedral by Thornhill. His martyrdom and shipwreck on Malta are also subjects of art.

The next day January 26th is the feast-day of St Timothy and Saint Titus, the companions of Paul.

It is difficult to overestimate the legacy of St Paul. Apart from the story of his missions in the second half of Acts, a good percentage of our New Testament comprises his letters to the Churches – letters of support and encouragement and admonishment. His Theological exposition of the death and Resurrection of Christ are seminal works.

Chris Thomas



CALM AFTER THE STORM

Of course we know the saying goes Calm before the Storm, but this edition of our Parish Magazine spans December and January, Christmas and New Year, therefore Calm after the Storm seems more appropriate particularly if you are in a household with children. But whether you are a household of one, two, or many more, December can sometimes feel a little 'busy', full of deadlines, a time of list making; cards, food, presents, whereas January has more of an air of reflection, new beginnings and resolving to do things differently, including sometimes to slow down and have more 'quality time'.



Written in the style of Psalm 23 'The Lord is My Shepherd', 'The Clock is my Dictator' is maybe more December than January:

*The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest.
It makes me lie down only when exhausted.
It leads me into deep depression.
It hounds my soul.
It leads me in circles of frenzy, for activities' sake.
Even though I run frantically from task to task, I will never get it all done,
For my 'ideal' is with me.
Deadlines and my need for approval, they drive me.
They demand performance from me, beyond the limits of my schedule.
They anoint my head with migraines,
My in-basket overflows.
Surely fatigue and time pressures shall follow me
All the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the bonds of frustration
Forever*

Author Unknown

"The Lord is My Shepherd" the 23rd Psalm, has been a source of comfort to myriads of people in life and in death, whereas 'The Clock is my Dictator' is a metaphor for the stress and busyness of everyday life. Of course busyness is nothing new; in the Bible story of Mary and Martha in Chapter 10, verses 38 - 42, of the Gospel of Luke, Mary and Martha, who are sisters, open their home to Jesus as he travels

with his disciples. As Martha hurries to complete the preparations, Mary simply sits at the feet of Jesus and listens to the wisdom of Christ. Martha then says to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Jesus replies, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Of course this Bible story is much more than a simple example of the need to be less busy, it teaches us to be aware of the presence of God in the whole of our lives. While Martha becomes preoccupied with worrying about the preparations of their home, she misses the opportunity to listen and learn from the direct wisdom of Jesus. When she pleads to Jesus that Mary should help her, He responds with, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." It is better to give our full attention when in the presence of the Lord, whether personally as Mary was or when reading the Word of God, praying or worshipping.

But it is, of course, much harder to take time to listen to God when 'The Clock is our Dictator'. Maybe this January we could all try to take just a little moment of time to listen, pray, worship the God who holds all our time in his hands.

Let me finish with a little story from the fourth-century Desert Fathers and Mothers whose way of life was centred on solitude, silence and unceasing prayer but whose writings still have much to say to us all these years later: A hunter in the desert saw abba Antony enjoying some 'free time' with some of the other brothers, and he was shocked.

Abba Antony, wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brothers, said to the hunter, 'Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it.' So he did. And the old man said, 'Shoot another,' and he did so. Then the old man said, 'Shoot yet again,' and the hunter replied, 'If I bend my bow so much, I will break it.' Then the old man said to him, 'It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brothers beyond measure, they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs.'

Let us all try to make 2021 more The Lord is my Shepherd and less the Clock is My Dictator.

*Rev.
Tony Barber*





PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE AND SELF-CENTRED.

Forgive them anyway.

IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE YOU OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

Be kind anyway.

IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, YOU WILL WIN SOME UNFAITHFUL FRIENDS
AND SOME GENUINE ENEMIES.

Succeed anyway.

IF YOU ARE HONEST, PEOPLE MAY CHEAT YOU.

Be honest anyway.

WHAT YOU SPEND YEARS CREATING, PEOPLE MIGHT
DESTROY OVERNIGHT.

Create anyway.

IF YOU FIND HAPPINESS, PEOPLE MAY BE JEALOUS.

Be happy anyway.

THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY MAY BE FORGOTTEN TOMORROW.

Do good anyway.

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND IT MAY NEVER BE ENOUGH.

Do good anyway.

FOR YOU SEE, IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD.

It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



BOXES

By Clare Stockbridge Bland

My box is bigger than yours, she said
It's shinier and newer and just better.
But my box is like a prison, confining and narrow.
I can't grow in it, it's just too small.
My box is not of my choosing.
You put me in it and won't let me get out.
It has no windows, I can't see the light
Or the difference between day and night.
Will you help me out of my box?

Certainly not, you must keep to yourself.
If I let you out you might want to come into my box.
Can't have people going into each other's space
And anyway you might spoil my box.
I like it as it is. You might trail muddy footprints
Or drop something on my nice new carpet
Or say something out of turn.
Let's just keep to our boxes.
It's better that way.

No, no, I won't stay in my box.
If you won't help me then I will just have to batter down the walls.
But will no one help?
I will, he said.
Who are you?
Don't you know me? I am.
I broke out of my box, the tomb,
So you don't have to live in a small box any more.
You are free.

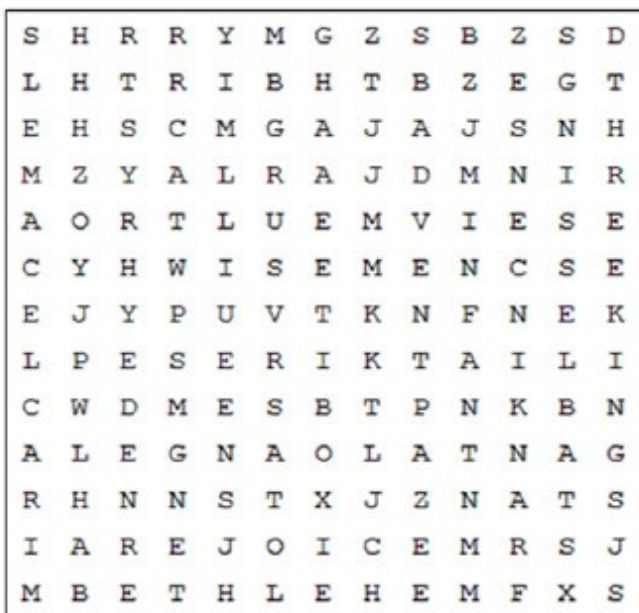
But I am blind.
And I will give you discernment.
I am lame.
And I will help you walk in my ways.
I am deaf.
And you will hear my still small voice in your heart.
I am dumb.
With me your life will say more than words are able.
I am lonely.
And my Spirit will comfort you.

And I will give you a family
Of brothers and sisters
Who will break bread with you, hold your hand,
Cry with you, laugh with you,
Because they also are free.

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Let's get into the Christmas mood
with some really awful.....

CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES

What is the first thing that Santa's little helpers learn at school?

The elf-abet!

What do you call a snowman in summer?

A puddle!

What did Adam say to his wife on the 24th December?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What carol can be heard in the desert?

O camel ye faithful!

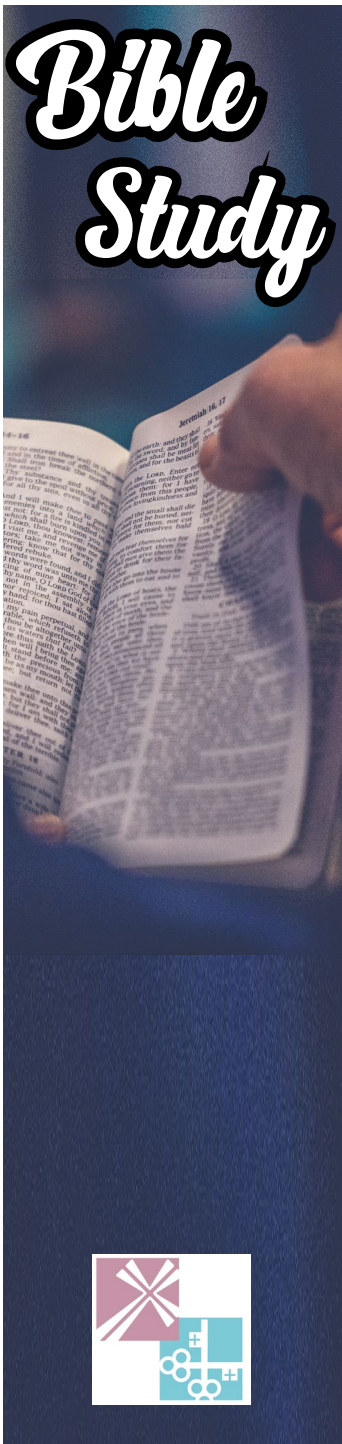
What is the difference between the
Christmas alphabet and the ordinary
one?

The Christmas one only has 25 letters – it
has no-el!

What do you get in December that you
don't get in any other month?

The letter "D"





In the last edition of "Hutton Parish Link" I gave an introduction and background to Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Now I want to examine, with you, the opening chapter of that letter. It will help if you have a Bible with you when you read this.

Ephesians - Chapter 1:1-14

Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus and the surrounding churches to give them in-depth teaching about how to nurture and maintain the unity of the church. He wanted to put this important information in written form because he was in prison for preaching the Gospel and could not visit the churches himself. Paul apparently received reports that the Ephesian church held up well against false teachers. However, perhaps the love, care, and unity Paul had called for were lacking. This letter speaks much of love and unity and the working out of these in relationships in the home and in the church. Paul knew that such teaching was needed not only in Ephesus but in every church – which again points to the probable 'circular' nature of this letter. Indeed, Paul's words applied in Ephesus and in all the surrounding churches at that time – and they apply to our churches today.

Here begins a lengthy passage that praises God for what He has done for us in Jesus Christ. Paul, writing in Greek, wrote one long sentence from 1:3 to 1:14 (which is not reflected in English). It forms the longest sentence ever found in ancient Greek. In this sentence, Paul introduced most of the themes he develops in this letter. This complex sentence is very difficult to analyse. Paul heaped praise upon praise, one thought leading into another, which then would remind him of another. This passage forms a blessing, in Hebrew called a berakah,

frequently used in Jewish liturgy. It is a eulogy for God and for all the blessings He gives His people. Paul praises God for choosing ordinary people (not only the Ephesian Christians, but also ourselves) to join his family.

In verses 9 and 10, Paul states that redemption and forgiveness are but a part of the entire work of God in Christ.

What Paul terms the mystery of his will

embraces the universe in its scope, for it is a plan for the fullness of time, i.e. a plan which God will fulfil in His own way and according to His invincible will (verse 11).



God set His heart on us before the foundation of the world. He has caught us up in the life and death of His Son Jesus. Because Jesus died for us, God has forgiven our sins and welcomed us into His family – not as servants or slaves, but as his children. We belong together – God and humanity, heaven and earth, united with Christ.

Chapter 1:15-23

As verses 3-14 are one long sentence in the Greek, so are verses 15-23. As verses 3-14 are an extended eulogy, verses 15-23 are an extended thanksgiving. Verses 15-16 are the thanksgiving proper; verses 17-19 are an intercessory prayer; verses 20-23 are a confession of praise for God's power.

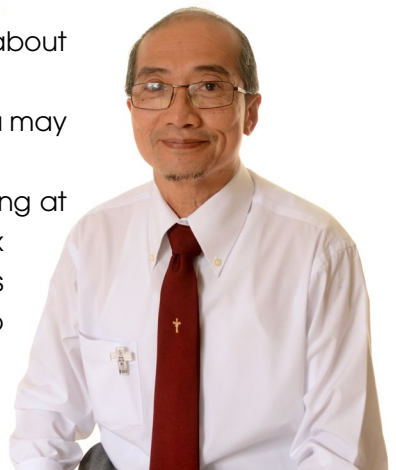
From praise, Paul moves to prayer. He thanks God for the faith that his readers have, and prays that God will strengthen their relationship with him. Their holiness will depend on getting to know God better. They are called to be holy, to be free from sin, to be united in love and to endure suffering. Their hope will depend on God expanding their vision, to see the big picture of eternity and the glorious inheritance which awaits them in heaven. They are each a new creation, the same power that raised Jesus from death is at work in them to give them new life.

The theme of Paul's intercession is a desire that his Christian friends may be grounded in the knowledge of God and His ways (verses 17 and 18); a confidence that they may rely on more firmly with the hope to which they

have been called; and above all, an assurance which he wants to share with them that God's power is available for their needs (verse 19). The evidence of that power is seen in the mightiest of all God's acts in history when He raised Christ from the defeat of death and enthroned him as the risen Lord. God has given Jesus, the king of the universe and the conqueror of death and evil, to be head of the church. Now Christ fills the church with his presence and directs it by his power, just as he already fills and directs the whole universe.

Here are some questions about this chapter to reflect on or discuss: -

- 1) When you count your blessings, what do you put at the top of the list?
- 2) In this passage, what "mystery" has God revealed as part of his ultimate plan and purpose (verse 9)?
- 3) What is it going to take "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together" (verse 10)?
- 4) What is God's mark on the life of a believer? What purpose does this mark serve? (verse 13)
- 5) From this passage, what are the spiritual blessings in Christ? Which of these blessings is most meaningful to you?
- 6) How do you feel in relation to God right now: Close? Challenged? Distant? Chosen? Rejected? Other?
- 7) When did you come to appreciate all that God has done for you in Jesus Christ?
- 8) How do you know if you are "chosen"?
- 9) Which of the things that Paul prayed could you use most in your life right now?
- 10) In verses 20-22, what do we learn about Christ?
- 11) What are you doing in your life "that you may know him better" (verse 17)?
- 12) How much of God's energy are you using at the moment? God put into your bank account all of his resources. What is keeping you from transferring them into your current account?



God Bless you all.

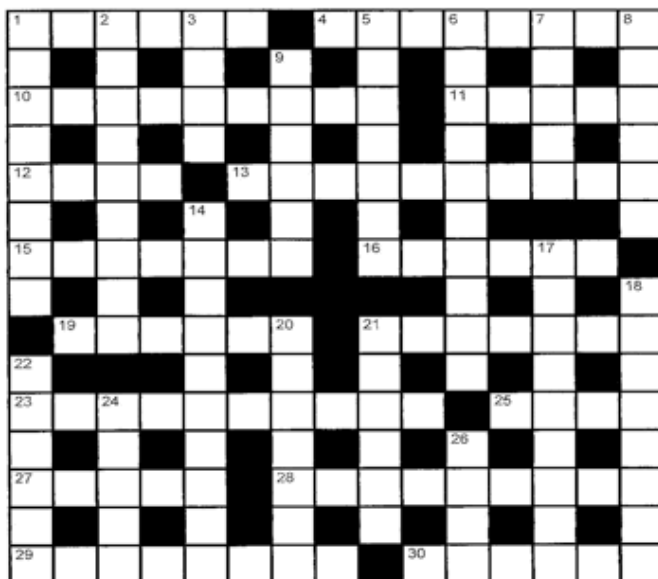
Tmiox.



Tea Break

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



Tea Break

----- Original Message -----

From: Jordan-Management-Consultants.org
To: Jesus.Christ.Nazareth-Carpentry-Shop.en
Sent: Wednesday, 11 Nov At 12:43
Subject: Your Proposed Management Team

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the resumés of the twelve men that you have picked for management positions in your new organisation.

All of them have taken our battery of tests, and we have not only run the results through our computer but also conducted personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and Vocational Aptitude consultant.

I regret to inform you that it is our collective opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background and educational and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would strongly recommend that you continue your search for persons specifically with experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Of the candidates whose details you submitted to us, Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no leadership qualities. The two brothers, James and John - the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty, and Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale.

Furthermore, we feel it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau; James (the son of Alphaeus) and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings and have both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

There is, however, one glimmer of hope. One of the candidates does show a lot of potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness; meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your Controller and right-hand man.

All the other candidates are, in our opinion, well below the level of ability that we believe you should be seeking.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Best regards,

Jordan Management Consultants
Jerusalem

4 WAYS TO GIVE

We are working hard to support our community during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing over 360 bags of free food to residents each week. If you would like to help support us by making a donation Please visit us in person or go to our website:

<https://www.huttonparish.com/donate>



REGULAR GIVING

The most helpful way to give to us is by standing order. Please Click



IN PERSON

Donations via Cash or Debit Cards accepted.



POST

Please make Cheques payable to:
The PCC of All Saints w.
St Peter

Donate with
JustGiving

ONLINE

Please click to donate via
Just Giving

DISTRIBUTION OF “HUTTON PARISH LINK”

You are probably reading this edition of our church magazine online. In normal times you would have the option of picking up a ‘hard copy’ from one or other of the churches or a local shop, but of course at the present it is just not possible for us to be able to print the magazine.

We are aware that this may mean that some of our prospective readership are unable to get access to the magazine by their own means.

If you know somebody who falls into that category and who you believe would like a copy, would you be able to print one off for them please and deliver it to their house?



Lisa's efforts during pandemic win praise from Prime Minister

Submitted by Beth Johnson

The founder of a community café has been recognised by the Prime Minister with a Points of Light award.

Lisa Whymark, from Brentwood, Essex, runs the Hutton Daily Bread Café which she has turned into a community hub since the start of the Coronavirus outbreak.



When the café had to close in March, it was transformed into a food hub where Lisa allowed those in need within the community to pick up free bags of essential food items.

She also helped people celebrate special occasions with bunches of flowers and birthday cakes.

Over 150 volunteers are supporting Lisa with distributing food, and she is working closely with local charity, Manna Meals, set up by fellow Point of Light Victoria De Coster.

In a personal letter to Lisa, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, said:

"I wanted to write to thank you for the magical way you have transformed your café into a thriving community hub filled with food parcels, cakes and flowers.

"Our battle against Coronavirus has necessitated certain restrictions on our lives but you have ensured that birthdays have remained special for so many with your cakes and flowers delivered far and wide across the county."

A spokesperson for Hutton Daily Bread Café said: "

"Organising the band of volunteers who collect from supermarkets, sort, store and pack the food, as well as those who man the café is a massive task, but Lisa is truly inspirational and makes everything work."

On being recognised, Lisa said:

"Thanks so much for nominating me for the award it was a complete shock and I only feel able to accept it on behalf of the amazing team of volunteers that make any of the work possible at the Daily Bread, it has been a mammoth effort by everyone involved and I thank them all hugely."

In September, it was possible to bring the café back twice a week in a covid-safe manner while the food hub still operates every morning.



It's been a good month for Lisa!

As well as receiving the "Points of Light" award from the Prime Minister, she was also interviewed on BBC Radio Essex and was featured in the Brentwood Gazette (see above).

Hopefully it will have drawn attention to the incredible amount of work that Lisa has undertaken with the Daily Bread Café and the Food Hub for a long time now, and especially since the first Lockdown.

She has worked tirelessly with her band of volunteer helpers, and fully deserves all the accolades that come her way.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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YOUTH CLUB





All Saints • St. Peter
Hutton Parish

SNYC

Sunday Night Youth Club

www.huttonparish.com



7pm-8.30pm on Sunday evenings in term time

St Peter's Church or The Rectory

School Years 6-9

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Weddings

17th October

Lucy Oborn and Julian Barnett

Funerals

18th November

Roy Thomas Miller

Died 12th May

Aged 80

Funeral Arrangements

Should you need to book a funeral for someone, please contact a member of the Ministry Team in the first instance, and they will arrange for you to be talked through what needs to be dealt with. In normal circumstances this would include funeral arrangements, pastoral care, a visit from a member of the Bereavement Visiting Team, if appropriate, and information about interment of ashes, plaques on the Memorial Wall, Book of Remembrance, and anything else that you would like to know.

Baptisms

When life returns to normal again, we shall be able to resume conducting baptisms (or Christenings, as they are often called) at both All Saints and St Peter's Church, during an appropriate Sunday service. Any child or adult who lives in the Parish may be baptised in our churches.

In the first instance please contact the Parish Office. The Parish Administrator will liaise with the Clergy to establish a date suitable to all parties and you will be sent an application form and information leaflets about the baptism itself and the other facilities available for you and/or your child to become involved with, all of which are mentioned elsewhere in this magazine.

Contact details for all the people mentioned above can be found on the "Useful Contacts" page at the back of the magazine.



USEFUL CONTACTS



| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Parish Priest | Revd. Andy Smith | andy@huttonparish.com | 01277 514896 |
| Associate Priest | Father Tony Baxter | tonybaxter54@gmail.com | 07879 410543 |
| Licensed Lay Ministers | John Patterson Chris Thomas Tino To | john.patterson37@btinternet.com chrisanddon@hotmail.co.uk tinoto@rocketmail.com | 01277 210862 07845 943676 |
| Pastoral Assistants | Margaret Morris Carol Fulcher | margaretmorris1945@outlook.com | |
| Ordinand & Community Outreach | Lisa Whymark | lisa@huttonparish.com | 07795 966453 |
| Parish Administrator | Dawn Shaxon | office@huttonparish.com | 01277 262864 |
| Churchwardens (St Peters) | Dawn Shaxon Terry Hayden | terryh63@sky.com | 01277 262864 07799 703729 |
| Churchwardens (All Saints) | Carol Bradford Dawn White | danddathutton@talktalk.net | 01277 225991 |
| Deputy Churchwarden (St Peters) | Michelle Yarwood | | 07717 844224 |
| PCC Secretary | Alex Underwood | | 07914 941437 |
| Treasurer | Jason Manning | | 07793 283301 |
| Stewardship & GiftAid Officer | Clare Stockbridge Bland | freaking@btinternet.com | |
| Tower Captain | Sylvia Martin | | |
| Weddings | Annie Bayley | weddings@huttonparish.com | 07714 322961 |
| Rooted Community & Café | Lisa Whymark | lisa@huttonparish.com | 07795 966453 |
| Rooted Community | Alice Smith | rooted@huttonparish.com | 07729 399009 |
| Children's Church | Alice Smith | funkydoofamily@gmail.com | 07729 399009 |
| Little Fishes | Annie Bayley | anniebayley@gmail.com | 07714 322961 |
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