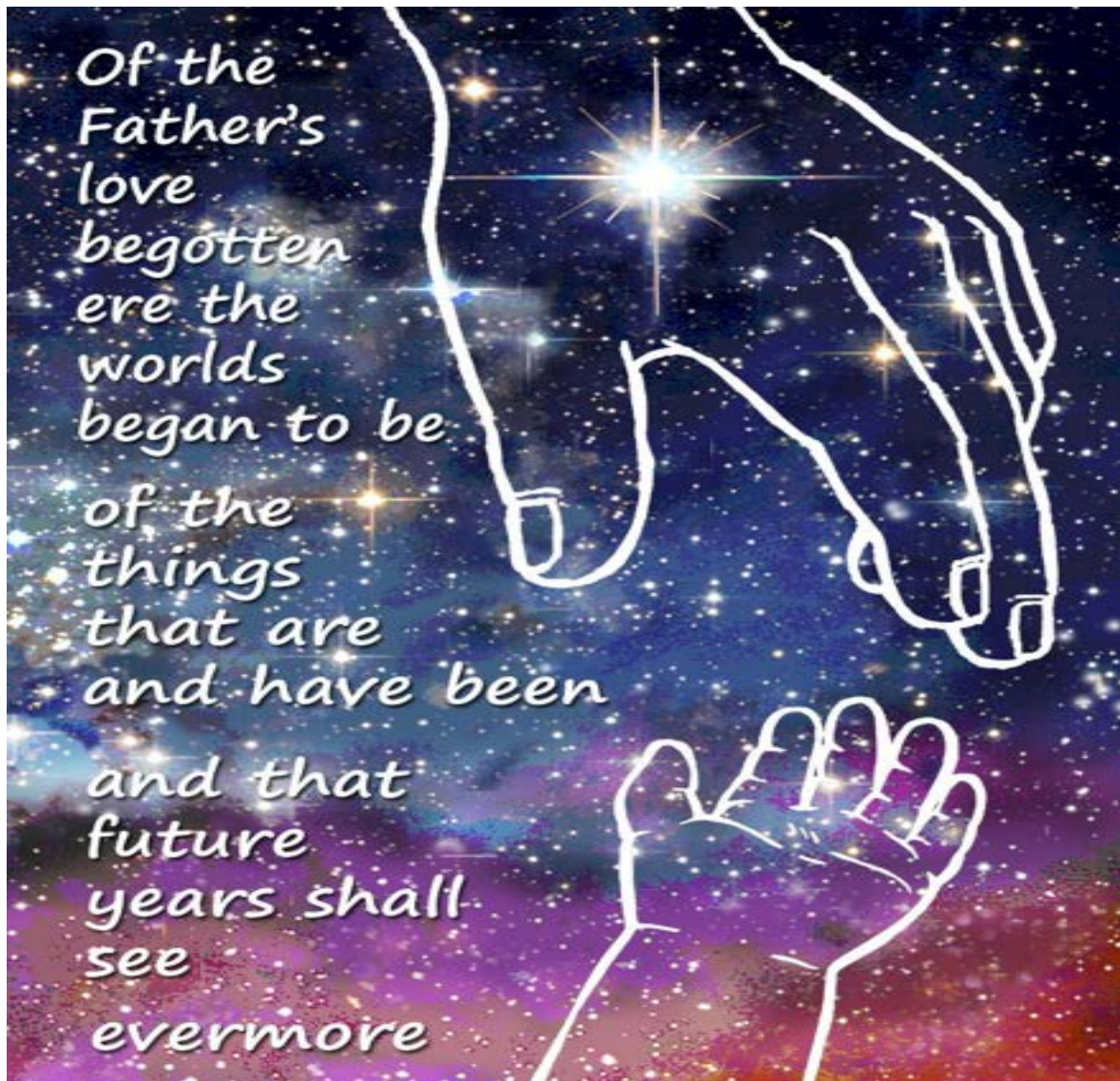




December 2022
& January 2023

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM**



THE MESSENGER PARISH MAGAZINE

50p

St Andrew's Clergy

The Church is currently in Interregnum

Enquiries – 0121 551 2097 or email vicar@standrews-handsworth.org.uk

Asst Priest – Father John Austen

Church Wardens – Carl Hart – 07967 410155. Vacancy

Lay Readers

Carole Sami – 07447 889657

Alison Thorne

Valerie Powell (Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Representative)

Stuart Jeffs (Director of Music)

Services

Sunday 10.00 – Parish Eucharist. This service is also live streamed via YouTube

Wednesday 7.00p.m. Evening Prayer

Every second Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm Book of Common Prayer

Wednesday Services take place via Zoom and are led by Lay Readers Valerie Powell, Stuart Jeffs and Alison Thorne.

Church Website <https://www.standrews-handsworth.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StAndrews.Handsworth>

Twitter @StAndrewCE_HW

St Andrew's WhatsApp Group – if you wish to join, please contact Carl Hart 07967 410155, Valerie Powell 07540 890068 or Stuart Jeffs 07910 484505

St Andrew's PCC

Carl Hart- Church Warden

Vacancy – Church Warden

Vacancy – PCC Secretary

Richard Paton-Devine – Treasurer

Mary Bairstow

John Emmins

Rachael Emmins

Stuart Jeffs

Glory Omenma

Val Powell

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An introduction to our new Vicar

My Life & Ministry



I have been serving God and his people since 1988 in different countries, among multicultural and diverse parishes/communities. The centre of my ministry is the Eucharist. My strength, energy, and spirituality flow from the sacrament of the Eucharist. Pastoral care is very close to my heart. Providing care for all but especially for the lonely in the parish.

Originally, I am from Pakistan but have now settled in the UK since 2001. I got married in 2002 and became an Anglican in 2004. I was born in a very religious Catholic family in Pakistan. I was ordained as a Catholic priest in Pakistan and served in different parishes. I was a Friar (Monk) in the Order of Franciscan Minor Capuchin (OFM CAP) and lived a monastic life for over two decades. So, St Francis and his spirituality is embedded in my life – a life of simplicity. I became the Director of the Capuchin Formation House (Seminary) for eight years. I taught in the Minor Seminary, St. Francis Xavier Seminary, and to the nuns of different religious communities in Lahore. As a visiting lecturer I taught Human Development & Counselling at the Southall School of Languages and Missionary Orientation, Southall London. I give workshops and seminars to different groups and lead them in retreats and quiet days. I have been serving as a spiritual director since 1988. My great passion is to lead and guide individuals and groups in Christian meditation. Meditation helps to improve concentration, creativity, relationship, and positive thinking, leading to a better and healthy life and enjoying inner peace. I am quite involved in working with other faith communities and supporting each other in our work. As a chair of Churches Together I encouraged churches to work together to be Christian witnesses in a diverse society.

I have done my Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Journalism in Pakistan and Master of Arts in Missional Leadership from the Prifysgol Cymru University of Wales, UK.

I am very much looking forward to joining both parishes and ministering to them, by empowering lay leadership, enhancing, and developing spiritual life, reaching out to youth and young families, working with schools, celebrating the diversity, developing a relationship with local communities and faith communities, and together building God's Kingdom.

Fr Paskal Clement

ST ANDREW'S DAY
30 NOVEMBER 2022

We celebrated St Andrew's Day this year as part of the Sunday Morning Service on 27 November 2022, with a great sermon preached by Fr John.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING FR PASKAL TO ST ANDREW'S IN 2023

Fr Paskal has written the following for St Andrew's.

Feast of St Andrew the Apostle

30 November

A short reflection

All of you will be celebrating or at least be thoughtful of the patron saint – St Andrew the Apostle. While I am thinking of you all on this special day. I am also writing a short reflection on the life of St. Andrew the Apostle. Andrew's very name means strong, and he was known for having good social skills.

We read in the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) that Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. He was a younger brother of St Peter. They both were fishermen whom Jesus called to follow him. For Jesus wanted to make them fisher of men.

Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, he also longed for the one to come. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, 'Behold, the Lamb of God!' It is then that Andrew and another decide to follow Jesus.

At the Sea of Galilee, feeding of the 5000. It was Andrew who noticed the little boy with the loaves and fish and brought him to Jesus. Andrew finds his brother Simon and tells him that he has 'found' the Messiah.

As a church community, like Andrew the Apostle, we need to introduce Jesus Christ – the Messiah to others wherever we are—bringing people to Jesus. Being aware of the needs of others is also our calling. Their spiritual, emotional and physical hunger and thirst. Bringing them to God, the source of everything, so that they may be fed.

God bless you all.

Fr Paskal

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES
FOR DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

CAROL SERVICE

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 4.00
CAROLS, HYMNS, POEMS & PRAYERS
Followed by refreshments

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER
11.30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER
10.00 A.M.

NEW YEARS DAY

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023
10.00 A.M.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

8th JANUARY 2023
10.00 A.M.



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

The darkness of the Judean hillside was lit up by the appearance of a great angelic choir, messengers sent to herald the birth of the Saviour. Their song breaks the stillness of the night, first in praise of God for his act of mercy in sending the Son, and then in proclamation of the peace the child will bring to earth. The shepherds now decide to do the unthinkable -leave their flocks, and head off into town to see the new born King. Such is the drawing power of the Saviour.

Sometimes there are things we too must leave behind if we are to follow his call, but whatever sacrifice is needed, it will be worth it just to find him for ourselves.

c/o Parish Pump/

Reflecting faith - To the Glory of God

Everything about the church building is intended to tell us something about God.

But it doesn't end there. We put into the building things that are important to us and again reflect not just our specific denomination but our ways of worship.

Imagine visiting someone in their home whom you are just getting to know and have a look around at the decorations, photos, wall hangings, books, music etc. What are their hobbies? How do they enjoy spending their time? Who is important to them? Well our church interiors are like that.

In most church buildings each week there will be a display of flowers. Venues vary from being large and elaborate to simple and homely and so do such arrangements. Of course, much depends upon finance and the availability of flowers as well as the interest and skills of the arranger.

Flower arrangements 'should' be in keeping with the church season or the occasion that is being celebrated. During Advent (Latin meaning 'coming') while we anticipate the birth of Christ at the Feast of Christmas most places of worship show restraint in their arrangements and often decline to use any coloured flowers using only evergreen leaves.

Then nearer to Christmas itself everything changes and either flowers are added to the original evergreens or they start completely new. Colours change to red for love and Christ's death and passion, white and gold for importance, royalty and celebration: with green alongside for the hope of new birth and spring.

This month: Have a look at the flowers used in a church near you. What do they 'say'? Perhaps there will be poinsettias, lilies or even irises. Each has a different story to tell of the glory of God.

c/o Parish Pump

October was Black History Month. The following poems are a contribution from Val Powell.

Imagine a World

Imagine a world where no colour exists
Where no conversation could be had about who tops the list
Imagine just accepting everyone as they are
Every look, every smile, right down to our scars
Imagine not being afraid to love who we choose
Not having to sacrifice, make decisions or lose
Imagine just talking about love, justice and peace
Where hatred, racism and prejudice all ceased

Imagine never feeling like you just don't belong
That everyday you don't have to fight or be strong
Lets all imagine the world as God made it
Where we all live together in the image he created
So let us all imagine that that time is right now
And the world is as it should be somehow
Let talk become actions and hateful words become peace
May our world become one, united with Gods ways and beliefs



Valerie Powell
Poetry Emotions

Time for change

How long as a race have we stood the test of time
Suffered discrimination, injustice and crime
Our voices are raised in a world that is deaf
We continue to fight with every breath we have left
Generations before us fought for our legacy
Many no longer here to justify what we see
Why must ignorance and colour always go hand in hand
It is time for change in this too our land

Time to see actions come out of spoken words
For voices lifted up from stories we have heard
Let us appreciate the richness of black contributions
Creating a world without judgemental constitutions
Hatred, segregations, harassment, and abuse
Forcing many of our young generations to feel like recluses
Black History is important in this world we all share
Let us all come together united in justice, love and care.



Valerie Powell
Poetry Emotions

Memories of Queen Elizabeth the Second

I have many memories of our late Queen. One of my favourite ones is of her Coronation on June 2nd, 1953, which was a dull grey day. I was 7 years old and was playing with my sister and our friends in our back garden as we had been given a day off school for the Coronation, when we were suddenly told to stop playing and all of us were taken to a neighbour's house. We all crowded in and were so surprised to see what looked like a wooden box with black and white moving pictures on like at the cinema. It was the first television I had ever seen and all us children sat on the floor and our moms sat on chairs behind us as we watched the young Princess Elizabeth travelling in a beautiful horse drawn coach to Westminster Abbey for her Coronation.

The streets were lined with thousands of people cheering and waving. We watched as she made her way into the Abbey to be crowned by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, as her family and all present at the service watched on. After the service had ended the Queen was taken back to Buckingham Palace where she greeted her loyal subjects from the balcony.

On the afternoon of June 2nd, 1953, we went to The Uplands Allotments along with all of our neighbours where we all enjoyed a celebration tea. The children were all given a mug to mark the occasion which I still have. I also have a cup which I was given with a saucer and plate to go with it. I can remember my mom and dad giving my sister and myself a replica of the Coronation coach and my Uncle gave us a medal to mark the occasion.

It was a wonderful occasion the memory of which I treasure.

Chris Baker



Cost-of-living crisis bites deep

More than four million people in the UK are now being forced to borrow money to cover the cost of essentials, such as heating and food.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) say that a poll carried out for them by YouGov has found that nearly one fifth of adults in the UK, or about ten million people, are now struggling financially. CAP says that of its clients who have done so, 44 per cent of them have a disability, 42 per cent are single parents, and 47 per cent have suffered abuse.

Higher earners are using up savings, while those on medium to low incomes are having to turn to high-cost credit to survive. One quarter of low earners (earning less than £15,000 a year) have already fallen behind on bills.

c/o Parish Pump

Church of England commits £2m to helping house vulnerable people

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme has committed £2m towards the second Social and Sustainable Housing Fund (SASH II) managed by Social and Sustainable Capital.

SASH II seeks to enable charities and social sector organisations to acquire portfolios of property that provide a combination of high quality housing and targeted support to vulnerable people.

SASH II has a target size of £125m, and the fund aims to help over 30 organisations purchase 1,000 properties, providing homes for 10,000 people over the life of the fund.

It is estimated that up to 200,000 people in the UK are currently living in housing on a transitional basis before they can return to independent living without the need for additional support.

This £2m commitment will enable charities across the UK to support a wide range of vulnerable adults, including people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, experiencing mental health issues, with drug or alcohol addiction, or who are ex-offenders or asylum seekers or young people leaving the care system.

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme will focus on investments that strengthen communities, particularly through access to housing and affordable finance.

c/o Parish Pump

New £15 million fund to help churches with energy bills

The Church of England is to provide £15 million for dioceses to help churches struggling to pay their energy costs.

The Energy Costs Grant will be distributed to dioceses to enable them to help Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) cover the increased cost of heating and lighting church buildings this winter.

Dioceses will also be able to use some of their fund allocation to make additional targeted hardship payments for clergy and other employed ministers to cover household bills, in particular energy costs.

The new funding comes after £3 million was made available earlier this year by the Church of England for dioceses to distribute to clergy and lay ministers who are facing a particular hardship because of the cost-of-living crisis.

The Energy Costs Grant is accompanied by information aimed at helping churches to become more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

John Spence, Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, said: "The Government has announced welcome support for non-domestic energy users including voluntary sector organisations such as PCCs.

"But, in spite of this, our churches still face the challenge of significant rises in their energy bills over this winter, and that is why we are announcing the Energy Costs Grant which will be in addition to Government support. We will keep the situation under close review throughout the winter."

c/o Parish Pump



Luke 2:14

The special gift of Christmas for people living with dementia

Christmas time, with its music and traditions, offers “a special gift” to people living with dementia. Christmas can act as a powerful reminiscence therapy, especially for Christian believers, who will have long term memories of past Christmases, even though their short-term memory (working memory) has faded.

So says Louise Morse, a cognitive behavioural therapist and author of several books about dementia (*Lion Monarch* and *SPCK*) and old age. So, this Christmas she is urging families who have someone with dementia to use those long-term memories and help a loved one who is suffering memory loss.

Louise Morse explains: “Reminiscence therapy helps us recall the past as a means of owning it, and strengthens a sense of self. Grandma may have only a tenuous grasp of herself in the present, but in the past, she knew who she was – and therefore, still is.”

The effect of music on the brain is well known, and so Louise Morse urges that traditional Christmas music can play a big part here. She quotes a line from the hymn ‘O Holy Night’, when ‘the soul knows its worth.’ She says: “And bound up in Grandma’s memories of Christmas will be worship. Worship unites us with God, and we enter into His peace.”

Louise Morse also advises other music. “There are also the popular songs Grandma would have heard in her day, like Bing Crosby’s ‘White Christmas’. Perhaps record a selection and play them through wearable earphones. Also, don’t be surprised if she ‘time-travels’ temporarily to a familiar place in the past!

If this happens, “don’t ask them, ‘do you remember?’ or even say, ‘I remember when,’ because it will challenge and disturb your loved one. Instead, when showing family photographs or memorabilia to them, simply frame the memory with enthusiasm and warmth by saying, ‘that was the day our Kevin’ Or ‘this came from Aunt Mabel when ...’

“Let the rhythms and music of Christmas do their work.”

Louise Morse is a writer and speaker for Pilgrims’ Friend Society (www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk)

c/o Parish Pump



Larry

No. 10's Resident Cat

As I See It

By

Larry The Cat

Well, well well! Another Prime Minister, and just as I was getting used to Liz Truss feeding me. I thought she was a very nice lady: she reminded me of a daffodil with her fair hair and figure, especially when she wore that green dress. Who is that gent who has just come into No. 10? You what? The youngest PM for over 200 years? But he's only as big as a hap-porth of chips. Apparently in a previous life he was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Boris was Prime Minister. Don't remind me of Dylan. The times I had to remind that dog by tapping his nose that I was the boss. What has happened to my dinner? Larry looks at me, just as a woman comes in with a bowl of Whiskas. Larry jumps on the windowsill to look at the photo: he returns to his half-finished dinner, after which he climbs into his basket for a snooze.

Larry was interviewed by me, Margaret Wiwczaryk

Word Search Answers

In the magazine for August/September I set a word search. The characters from the Old Testament hidden in the puzzle were Boaz, David, Rachel, Jezebel, Nahum, Simeon, Jacob, Solomon, Shem, Ruth, Ham, Bathsheba, Jehu and Noah. That's fourteen; I said there were fifteen. Did anyone find a fifteenth? A special prize if you did – claim it from me!

Alison Thorne

More than one million people pray online with C of E podcast and app

The number of people using the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio service has recently passed a million, as the podcasting revolution begins to reshape how people worship.

The podcast, also available as audio on the [Daily Prayer app](#), follows the Church of England's traditional cycle of Morning and Evening Prayer, with a range of voices and music.

The short atmospheric services feature prayers and readings following the pattern set out in the Church of England's Common Worship services, recorded by volunteers across the country.

They are edited together with music from the St Martin's Voices choir at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, by the Church of England's Digital team.

It was launched in March last year after churches across the country reported large numbers tuning into prayer services broadcast online during Covid restrictions.

It comes amid signs of a resurgence of interest in the ancient monastic cycle of daily worship.

Thomas Allain-Chapman, Head of Publishing for the Church of England, said: "Adding audio to the existing Daily Prayer app has transformed a useful resource into something truly inspiring and enriching."

So far, the Daily Prayer podcast has reached one million listeners, with around 8,000 listening every day. In total there have now been five million downloads since its launch in March 2020.

Daily Prayer is one of a series of prayer and discipleship apps and podcasts available from the Church of England, including 'Time to Pray', which won Gold for Best Use of Audio at the 2021 Digital Impact Awards.

c/o Parish Pump

COFFEE MORNINGS

COFFEE MORNING IS EVERY THURSDAY AT 10.00 IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD HALL (AT THE BACK OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH). LAST COFFEE MORNING FOR 2022 WILL BE 15 DECEMBER AND WILL RE-OPEN 5 JANUARY.

Chris Baker

Youthscape charity to work with parishes on reaching young people

The Church of England is to work with a youth charity to equip parishes to reach more young people with the Christian message.

A £1.29 million grant from the Archbishops' Council will fund work led by Youthscape to help parishes connect with young people and recruit and train church volunteers for youth work.

The Launchpad scheme, run by Youthscape, has already been successfully piloted in the Dioceses of Blackburn, London and St Albans. So far, the scheme has helped 140 Church of England priests to formulate plans to work with young people in their parishes.

Under the new funding arrangements, the scheme will be expanded to 450 churches across 18 dioceses over the next three years with the potential to engage with up to 4,000 young people.

The grant will also fund training produced by Youthscape for up to 2,500 church volunteers to do youth work and resources to support youth work in up to 2,000 churches or groups.

c/o Parish Pump



A contribution from Val Powell for Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day

Many have fallen few still remain
The day they remember is always the same
The lonely trumpet still sounds the call
Time stands still as we remember you all
Shoulder to shoulder, brothers together
Remain in our hearts forever and ever
Wars may have taken you, plaques now remain
Names to remember, honours to gain

Let us never forget the life that you gave
The sacrifice given and the road that you paved
That we now have the freedom of the life we now live
Passing on to generations memories we can still give
Let this day be commended we give thanks to you all
For every soldier whose life was given at the call
Remember remember till death us do part
This day will always remain in our hearts.



Valerie Powell
Poetry Emotions

This poem was written by a Christian brother from Skegness on his recent journey to Auschwitz

Visit Auschwitz

I have seen the gates of Auschwitz
The words above it I have read
I have walked the path of a million Jews
The majority now dead
The words say work will set you free
But to them it came to mean
Death and misery

Men women and children, some so very small
The Nazis had a masterplan to eradicate them all
Crammed in like cattle, but all human beings
I could not believe just what I was seeing
Their hair, shoes, glasses and cases left for all to see
I couldn't help but feel their despair and pray it will nether happen to the likes of you and me

These soldiers all had mothers and fathers
Some had children too
How on earth could they have lived
Knowing what they had to do
How cruel a person were they
I cannot understand
They used that age old excuse
I was just obeying my command

I am certain that I would have said no
For such evil I cannot compare
It's to heaven not hell I wish to go
And pray one day I will be there
Evil is in all of us and this is how it all begins
But for these soldiers there can be no hope
For they will be judged on Their final day
And nothing will take away their sins

I am now afraid it is all starting again
In that little country called Ukraine
The soldiers there must all say No
Or it will all have been in vain
They must get rid of Putin and all of them that start these wars
We should all live as one in peace and harmony
Forget the past and settling old scores

J M Farrell

(Submitted by Angela Cross)

All in the month of DECEMBER

It was:

200 years ago, on 27th December 1822 that Louis Pasteur, French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

100 years ago, on 8th December 1922 that Lucian Freud, German-born British figurative artist and draughtsman was born. One of the leading portrait artists of the 20th century. Also 100 years ago, on 30th December 1922 that the Soviet Union was founded. Officially known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), it was dissolved in 1991.

90 years ago, on 25th December 1932 that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham.

80 years ago, on 1st December 1942 that the British Government published the Beveridge Report, which formed the basis of the welfare state. Also 80 years ago, on 17th December 1942 that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons about the mass executions of Jews by the Nazis in occupied Europe. Ministers and Members of Parliament condemned the massacres and held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the victims.

65 years ago, on 25th December 1957 that Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas message was televised for the first time.

50 years ago, on 22nd December 1972 that 14 people were found alive in the Andes more than two months after their plane crashed. They had survived by eating dead passengers.

40 years ago, on 12th December 1982 that 30,000 women joined hands around the Greenham Common RAF base in Berkshire to protest against the siting of US Cruise missiles there.

25 years ago, on 11th December 1997 that Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street – the first Irish Republican leader to do so since Michael Collins in 1921.

20 years ago, on 7th December 2002 that Iraq submitted a weapons declaration to the United Nations in which it said it had no weapons of mass destruction. This was part of the prelude to the March 2003 Invasion of Iraq.

10 years ago, on 9th December 2012 that Patrick Moore, British astronomer, television presenter and musician died. Best known for hosting the astronomy series The Sky at Night (1957-2013) the longest-running TV series with the same presenter.

c/o Parish Pump

Spiritual Practices

January is a time for thinking about New Year Resolutions, even though we can struggle to keep them very long! However, this month is a good time to re-set our spiritual disciplines. These practices, which engage our whole person, help our spiritual growth as disciples of Christ.

If we want more of Jesus' presence in our lives, we often find ourselves thinking, *'I'll have to try harder: to pray, listen to God or read the Bible'*. Paul makes the important distinction between training and trying in the Christian life:

'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever'. (1 Corinthians 9:24,25).

Paul insists that runners undergo strict training if they are to win the race. It would be foolish to enter a marathon without adequate training. The runner wouldn't complete the course despite trying hard! The same principles apply to the Christian life: God wants us to train by developing spiritual practices: *'to train means to arrange my life around activities I can do that will enable me, over time, to do what I cannot do by direct effort alone'* (Dallas Willard).

In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster lists the following spiritual disciplines:

Inward Disciplines: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study

Outward Disciplines: Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service

Corporate Disciplines: Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration

Over the coming year we will be looking at some of these. Effective discipline is not drudgery, but delightful! Richard Foster insists that we can *'celebrate' these disciplines which can help us grow.*

c/o Parish Pump



Christian Basics - No 12: the Return of Jesus

'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people... while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ' (Titus 2:11,13-14).

Advent is the time when we focus on the first and second coming of Jesus. He first came as a baby in Bethlehem as our Saviour, *'to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own.'* (14), through His cross and resurrection. Now we wait for His return to judge the world and finally put an end to sin and death.

We can understand the relationship of these two events by considering D Day and VE Day in World War 2. D Day marked the allied invasion at the beaches of Normandy on 6th June 1944. It was not the end of the war, but it was a decisive turning point in which victory was assured, although not finally achieved until VE Day on 8th May 1945.

For us, Jesus' death and resurrection marks our D Day, when He secured victory over sin and death. However, only when He returns, will Jesus finally end sin and death and all who have put their trust in Him can share the great victory celebration in heaven.

In Advent we reflect on what it means to live in the time between these key events. Paul says, we need to *'to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age'* (12). More troops died in the period between D Day and VE Day than during the rest of the war. Although we live under Christ's victory, we will still struggle with sin and suffering.

c/o Parish Pump



6th Jan: Epiphany

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

c/o Parish Pump

25th Jan: Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.

c/o Parish Pump

The man who made the first-ever vaccine

Two hundred years ago, on 26th January 1823, Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine (for smallpox), died of a stroke.

He was the son of a Gloucestershire clergyman and the brother of another – who brought him up when his father died. He was also a violinist, a poet and a naturalist, but he chose medicine and became the pupil of a distinguished surgeon, John Hunter, at St George's Hospital in London. Hunter also had wide interests, and the two kept in touch for many years.

Jenner, a committed and sincere Christian, married a near neighbour, Catharine King-scote, in 1788. He was described as amiable and quiet, but his work in creating a small-pox vaccine was said to have saved more lives than any other man on earth, though his treatment in making inoculations using cowpox lesions, initially from a dairymaid in 1796, was laughed at by some to start with.

The word 'vaccination' (relating to cows) stems from this experiment. Previous smallpox inoculation attempts were known as variolation and were both less successful and dangerous to health. Jenner himself had received this treatment as a child.

Jenner was a member of the Royal Society, primarily because of his work as a naturalist. He published valuable observations and interpretations on, for instance, the life of the cuckoo, which was little understood at the time.

But in the end, he gave so much time to vaccination work that his personal affairs suffered badly, though he was voted a total of £30,000 by Parliament.

His wife died of tuberculosis in 1815, after which he retired from public life. In 1980 the World Health Organisation said that smallpox had finally been eradicated from the world, though a few lab samples were kept.

c/o Parish Pump

New Year? Get First Aid training

Here is a very worthwhile New Year's Resolution: consider doing some First Aid training this year, especially if you are a parent with young children.

In a survey by the British Red Cross, 96% of parents agreed that their main fears were of their children choking, or of finding them unconscious – when seconds could make the difference to their survival. Even 15 minutes of proper First Aid training is enough to give you knowledge that could save someone's life in an emergency. For details of your nearest First Aid Course, visit: www.redcross.org.uk

c/o Parish Pump

NEW! CHILDREN'S SECTION



This month we are starting a Children's Section. First there is a Children's Bible Quiz (answers on the last page), followed by a Word Search and a Maze. New ideas and contributions welcome.

Children's Bible Quiz

1. God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th day. What did God create on the 4th day? (Genesis, Chapter One)
2. There are 10 commandments. What is the 8th commandment? (Exodus, Chapter 20)
3. There was a war between the Israelites and the Philistines where a giant called Goliath was fighting with the Philistines. Who killed the giant Goliath? (1 Samuel, Chapter 17)
4. What was the name of the Angel that told Mary she would have a baby? (Luke Chapter 1)
5. In the story of the crucifixion, Jesus was arrested by the Roman soldiers. Who betrayed Jesus? (Mark, Chapter 14)
6. Jesus was talking to a large crowd of 5,000 people. How much food did he have to share with them? (John, Chapter 6)

c	o	u	s	i	n	v	a	d	e	d	l
f	e	h	g	o	n	d	n	g	s	t	f
o	f	l	o	n	c	g	m	e	e	i	
g	c	h	i	l	d	l	e	s	s	m	s
m	a	r	y	z	y	l	l	n	s	p	r
p	r	e	g	n	a	n	t	u	s	l	a
j	o	h	n	s	x	b	o	b	g	e	e
s	o	d	u	t	y	i	e	i	a	e	l
h	i	r	e	s	c	u	e	t	m	b	i
z	e	c	h	a	r	a	i	a	h	u	y
j	n	a	r	o	m	a	n	s	q	r	u
h	n	g	p	r	a	y	e	r	t	n	r

God

temple

duty

incense

Jerusalem

rescue

gracious

cousin

Romans

holy

Elizabeth

prayer

childless

pregnant

invaded

Zecharaiah

Mary

Israel

name

burn

angel

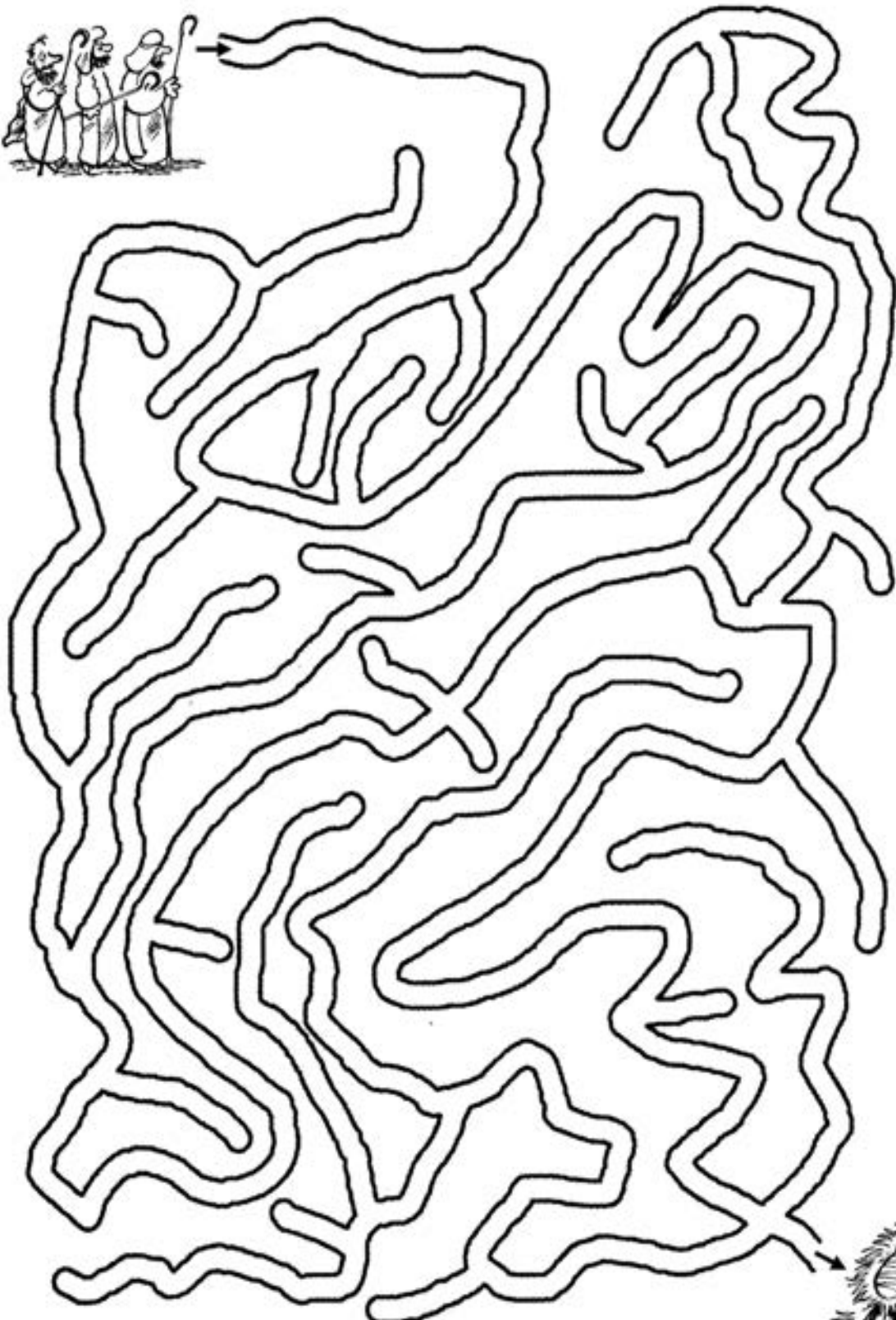
son

baby

John

The Christmas Journey

The most wonderful story of all time tells of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Some angels gave the good news of Jesus' arrival to shepherds in nearby fields. Can you help the shepherds find their way to the manger?



Wordsearch clues & answers for December 2022

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

c/o Parish Pump



- | | | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Messiah | Broken | Heart | Freedom | Father |
| Darkness | Favour | Prisoners | Comfort | Whoever |
| Mourn | Bestow | Crown | Beauty | Longing |
| Ashes | Son | God | Jesus | Seen Thousand |

WORDSEARCH JANUARY 2023 The Coming of the Magi

'Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So Matthew tells of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to the baby Jesus. Today we remember it on Epiphany, on 6th January. Did they come from Arabia Felix – nowadays southern Arabia? How many came? No one knows, but by the 6th century they were named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold stands for kingship: Jesus was King of the Jews. Frankincense stands for divinity; Jesus was to be worshipped. Myrrh stands for death and burial; Jesus would become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi wanted to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill Him. But the Jewish leaders who knew about the prophecy of a Messiah born in Bethlehem did not even bother to visit to Bethlehem. And it is only six miles from Jerusalem!

c/o Parish Pump



King men
Gaspar
myrrh
herod
scribes
jews
baby
Melchior
kingship
prophecy
star
Jesus
Balthasar
Bethlehem
east
epiphany
death
Bethlehem
worship
Arabia
Gold
Frankincense
Isaiah
Jerusalem
nations
Priests
wise
Felix

All in the month of JANUARY

It was:

250 years ago, on 17th January 1773 that Captain James Cook's ship, the *HMS Resolution*, became the first ship to cross the Antarctic Circle, during his second voyage.

200 years ago, on 26th January 1823 that Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine, died. The vaccine was for smallpox.

125 years ago, on 14th January 1898 that Lewis Carroll died. Best known for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and the poems *Jabberwocky* and *The Hunting of the Snark*.

90 years ago, on 18th January 1933 that David Bellamy, the botanist, TV presenter and environmentalist was born. (Died 2019)

80 years ago, on 30th January 1943 that on the 10th anniversary of Adolf Hitler becoming Chancellor of Germany, the British RAF launched a massed air raid on Berlin, disrupting major speeches by Goring and Goebbels which were being broadcast on the radio. Major propaganda coup for the Allies.

70 years ago, on 31st January and 1st February 1953 that the North Sea flood took place. North-western Europe was hit by extensive flooding when severe gales, combined with a spring tide. Over 1,800 people were killed in the Netherlands, over 300 in Eastern England, and 28 in Belgium. A further 133 people were killed when the Princess Victoria car ferry capsized off Scotland, and many fishing boats sank.

65 years ago, on 1st January 1958 that Chinese leader Mao Zedong announced the Great Leap Forwards, a 5-year plan to transform China from an agrarian economy into a socialist society via rapid industrialisation and collective farming. The plan failed and within three years tens of millions of people had died from mass killings, starvation and forced labour.

60 years ago, on 23rd January 1963 that the British Intelligence Officer and Soviet Spy, Kim Philby, defected to the Soviet Union.

50 years ago, on 30th January 1973 that the Watergate scandal began when seven men were convicted of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Complex in Washington DC.

30 years ago, on 5th January 1993 that the Liberian-registered oil tanker *MV Braer* ran aground off the Shetland Islands, spilling 84,700 tons of crude oil into the sea, and causing massive ecological damage.

25 years ago, on 23rd January 1998 that the film *Titanic* was released in the UK.

20 years ago, on 24th January 2003 that the US Department of Homeland Security began operating. It was formed in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

c/o Parish Pump

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hope you enjoyed the December/January magazine. We will soon be welcoming our new Vicar, Fr Paskal Clement, after a very long Interregnum. We look forward to meeting him. Our very talented Poet, Val Powell has written some amazing poems for Black History Month and Remembrance Sunday. It was also amazing to read Chris Baker's account of seeing a television for the first time and being able to watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second. This month I am starting a Children's Section; articles from children and young people will be welcome. New ideas and general feedback about the magazine is also welcome. We should be having some articles from the Birstows in the next magazine, about the environment and climate issues.

Please feel free to contribute articles for the magazine to parishmagzine949@gmail.com

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Eileen Lawrence

Answers to Children's Bible Quiz. 1. Sun, moon and stars. 2. Though shalt not steal. 3. David. 4. Angel Gabriel. 5. Judas. 6. Five loaves and 2 fishes.

Please note that the magazine is also available online at St Andrew's website and is accessible to the public.

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HANDSWORTH**

