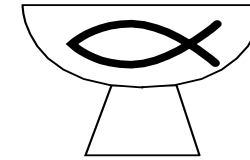


July 2023

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Eddie Ijeomah	07493 304447
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
District Churchwarden (SL):	
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07388 832233
District Churchwarden (SP): Frank Gerrish	07970 537572
Vergers (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651

Clergy days off:

Revd Scott Lamb Friday
Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

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Web-sites:

<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk>



The Rector Writes:

Dear Friends,

This is an incredibly significant month for our churches as Fr Alistair leaves us for his new post. He has worked tirelessly over the last 10 years in Slough, particularly in St Peter's and St Laurence's, He faced the unique challenge of supporting three churches in interregnum through the Covid lockdown. He and Eudora leave with our love and prayers as they return to Barbados.

One thing that struck me forcibly when I arrived in Slough was the extent to which Fr Alistair was recognised and respected in the local community. Whether I met community organisers, local councillors, Free Church pastors or Imams they all knew Fr Alistair and thought of him warmly. In Chalvey especially he has been a crucial member of all the networks of good-will and common endeavour that hold community life together and make Chalvey, which can be a difficult area, a better place. Bishop Alan has said that he feels that our parish in particular needs visible holy figures in its midst, and Fr Alistair has fulfilled that role for people across all the faiths represented in our town.

Such involvement is of the essence of what it means to be a parish priest rather than a congregational minister. For a parish priest, the focus of ministry is always wider than the Christian community alone to show that the Kingdom of God is greater than any church. They work not only amongst believers but in the small part of God's creation to which they have been sent. As a physical sign of God's presence in that place, a parish priest affirms the fundamental Christian conviction that for faith to be credible it must be embodied, seen and touched, and experienced in human relationships, as it was in Jesus.

Both Fr Alistair and I have emphasised to the Bishop how important it will be for us going forward to have a clerical presence "on the ground" in our parish. That continuity of incarnational ministry will be a crucial aspect of Fr Alistair's legacy.

Fr Scott

JULY SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Sat 1st	12noon	St Peter's Fair, Chalvey (until 2.30pm) (SP)
Sun 2nd	10.00am	St Peter's Patronal Festival: Joint Parish Eucharist - Fr Alistair's final service in the Parish (SP)
Tue 4th	2.30pm	"Mulling It Over": Tea Party (SL)
Sun 16th	12.45pm	International Church Lunch (International Friendship Day is on 30th July) - book in church or call 01753 532425 by 12th July (SL)

Free Performance
Friday 14th July
4-5pm
St Mary's Church, Church St, Slough, SL1 1PJ
Music by William Herschel
and new Herschel inspired songs created by
students at Slough & Eton College
and St Mary's Primary School



St Mary's News

After several years of planning a faculty has finally been granted so that work can commence on the restoration of the names on the War Memorial. This has been a complicated, long drawn out process because although the memorial sits in church grounds we do not own it and Slough Borough do not accept responsibility for it. Back in 1921 when the war memorial was commissioned no-one envisaged that these arguments would still be going on 102 years later! Segro (Slough Estates) are funding the project and will deal with the stone mason direct whilst we will be working with him on a day to day basis regarding access to the churchyard, etc. This may result in limited access while the work is being carried out.

St. Mary's Management Committee have now received approval from the PCC to go ahead with the upgrade to our security system. This will include the addition of new cameras to the areas currently not covered by CCTV and improved lighting to the outside area.

Just a reminder if you see any anti-social behaviour or suspicious activity in the churchyard please call 101.

The Saturday evening self-help group who closed down during Covid have now reformed and will be meeting on Saturday as well as the established group on Sunday.

Jean

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

These free art classes are held in St Mary's, every Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and are open to all.

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the August issue by **Sunday 9th July** at the latest!

Dave

St Laurence's News

As you read this, we will have completed five of our six summer Fayres with one to go. **FUNdraising** has got off to a good start, but with the price of fruit and veg for our preserves we are cutting into our profits. We need alerting to the whereabouts of FREE surplus fruit from yourselves, friends and neighbours during the season and then we need assistance with picking. Please let us know if you can help and where to find blackberries, plums etc. FREE (NB not near main roads because of pollution). We are making enquiries at the Pick Your Own for some favourable deals. Also join the Occupational Therapy team for a "jamming" session, ie. chopping, plus sorting and wrapping, a cuppa and a good chat.

On 13th August we celebrate **St Laurence's Patronal Festival** which will be a Joint Parish Eucharist followed by lunch (sign up in church or book on 01753 532425 by Wednesday 9th August). We then have church opening events in September with 'Bucks Ride and Stride' (9th) and 'Heritage Open Days' which are run nationally 8th to 17th September. There are a few gaps on the rota for manning the church so please sign up, you will not be on your own and you will not need to lead a tour (unless you want to!) PS it is also "cool" in church. Eton Action (the second this year) is on 16th September and then it's Christmas . . .

St Laurence's Heritage Focus this year is on the tri-centenary of the death of **Benjamin Lane** (1651 - 1723) as reported last month. Janet Kennish, a local historian, is working on display boards and a presentation which has been confirmed for **Sunday 10th September 3.00-5.00pm** followed by Tea. It is hoped a further exciting prospect of our Heritage Focus is the reintroduction of the presentation of six Bibles in keeping with the Benjamin Lane legacy. Still to be verified, it was thought to offer age-appropriate illustrated Bibles to St Mary's School. This would happen at the end of October and would include a tribute to Robert Barker, a Datchet printer who printed the King James Bible in 1611.

Finally, you know the saying about waiting ages for a bus and then three come along at the same time, well St Laurence's have been offered **three telescopes** in as many months. The second "refractor" telescope is awaiting arrival in the Heritage area. Meanwhile a "reflecting" telescope has been offered by the Herschel Astronomical Society. It is roughly similar to the sort of telescope that Herschel made in his time at Bath and used to discover Uranus with. This telescope was originally built by Brian May (Queen lead guitarist and astro-physicist) and David King-Hele in 1960 when they were the first employees of the Radio and Space Research Station at Datchet. Having no other equipment but a pair of their own binoculars, equipped with a war-surplus gun-sight, it was used to make visual observations of the position of the (then new) artificial earth satellites! More news next month and perhaps a telescope or two.

Julie James

St Peter's News

A big weekend is ahead of us at St Peter's at the beginning of July. First we have our fete on 1st July. The fallen tree has been removed, the grass will be cut (we have been promised!) and we are looking forward to our big day, and of course to the queues for the food. Incidentally, draw tickets are available from any member of St Peter's.

Our patronal festival is on 2nd July; we are delighted to report that the corpus of our war memorial, apparently stolen a few months back, has been returned. It will be re-consecrated and re-installed at our patronal festival at the conclusion of the solemn mass and procession by which we will mark our festival day.

And as if that wasn't enough, there's a massive bring and share lunch afterwards to which friends and neighbours from across the parish and town have been invited... please bring and share... and enjoy!

Fr Alistair



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"

General Synod dates and update on 'Living in Love and Faith' groups

The next meeting of General Synod will take place in York from Friday 7th to Tuesday 11th July.

The July meeting will include a substantial item on the proposals, which emerged from the Living in Love and Faith process, to enable same-sex couples who have marked a significant stage of their relationship such as a civil marriage or civil partnership to come to church to give thanks, offer prayers of dedication to God and to receive God's blessing.

Following a landmark debate at Synod in February, a series of implementation groups have been set up to take the proposals forward including refining a set of draft texts known as Prayers of Love and Faith; working on new pastoral guidance for the Church of England and examining what pastoral reassurance will be required to ensure freedom of conscience for clergy and laity.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, and the Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, the co-chairs of the steering group overseeing the implementation groups, said: "The working groups set up by the College of Bishops to take forward the decision of General Synod on a way forward for the Church of England on identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage have been working at pace and are making good progress.

"We hope that work to refine the texts of Prayers of Love and Faith, together with aspects of the work of the Pastoral Guidance and Pastoral Reassurance groups, will be in place before the meeting of Synod in York in July.

"We will be bringing a report to Synod updating in more detail on the progress that has been made.

"Recognising the complexity of the matters being considered, we anticipate that time could be made available at the November meeting of Synod for any further work required." The next group of sessions will be held in London from Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th November.

Bishops agree key areas for further work implementing 'Living in Love and Faith'

The House of Bishops has set out key areas in which it is requesting further work from the implementation groups who are taking forward the recent decision of General Synod on offering prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and for God's blessing for same-sex couples.

The proposals debated at Synod, which were developed after a six-year period

of listening, learning and discernment known as Living in Love and Faith, would mean that, for the first time, same-sex couples could have a service in church in which there would be prayers of dedication, thanksgiving or for God's blessing on the two people concerned, following a civil marriage or civil partnership.

The proposals would not, however, change the Church's doctrine of Holy Matrimony. The texts known as *Prayers of Love and Faith* will be voluntary, with freedom of choice about their use. There will be protections both for those who, on grounds of conscience, will not be able to offer them and those who will.

Three implementation groups have been set up to refine the draft texts of Prayers of Love and Faith, to work on the new pastoral guidance for the Church of England; and also to examine what pastoral reassurance will be required to ensure freedom of conscience for clergy and laity.

Churches for the Deaf

There are 12 million deaf people in the UK, about one in every six people, with 151,000 people using sign language. To make people more aware of this there is a Deaf Awareness Week once a year. As early as the 1830's churches for the deaf were established to enable the deaf to worship in their own language. There are about 100-150 of these churches in England.

In churches for the deaf, a large screen shows British Sign Language for the congregation. In London alone there are eight of these churches, but they are also all over England. They join in everything like we do such as sign language Christmas carols, Nativity plays, Easter services, and Remembrance Day services, but less than 2% of the Deaf have an active relationship with Jesus. The Deaf Bible Society says worldwide 98% of deaf people do not know the Gospel. Those that are deaf do not read in the same way as those who hear. The Society has the scripture on sign language videos for them.

St Saviour's church Southwark, London was the first church built for deaf people. It had two pulpits one for a preacher, the other for the sign language interpreter with no pillars so everyone could see. It opened in 1925 for a congregation which had previously met in central London since the 1870's. It closed in 2014 and was sold because of lack of funding. It not only was a church for them but a social club as well.

It's odd to think of a church without any music, choir or organ.

Alice Sanders

Ten Years in Slough

Ten years in Slough? What did I do... and where did the years go?

So I ask myself... after ten years, what memories stand out?

"Have you been here before?" I was asked. I replied that I had passed through on a number of occasions, and was told that most people did that, some staying longer than others!

Looking back, it dawns on me to present a set of annual highlights.

2012: In November 2012 I visited Slough. I remember the interview and a discussion about how to explain the Sonship of Jesus to Muslims, the chicken stew with rice and peas prepared by Evelyn Richardson, and a chat with Albert Lawrence about the perils of plaster! I also remember the shock and fear when Bishop Alan called me to offer me the post... I actually said "No", which I then had to explain was an expression of disbelief rather than a refusal. Much talk about the St Peter's community hall...

2013: A year of laying foundations... although the first challenge was not getting lost between St Peter's and St Laurence's (which I did several times, before abandoning the car and taking a taxi!) A lot of focus at the time was on improving the co-operation between the churches. Have we progressed? Actually I think we have, though there is still much to do. I also recall, late in the year, a community clear-up in St Peter's grounds organized by Madhu Bedi, who became a good friend over the years I have been here. Keeping St Peter's grounds clear and welcoming is, I have realized, a constant task!

2014: The abiding memory of 2014 is the launch of two books at Eton College, at a charity event at Eton College! We had the services of a Hungarian butler called Gabor... I refrained from asking if his friends called him Zsa Zsa. The gathering of such a diverse group was a sign of the Kingdom. At the end of the year St Peter's lost an organist... and then found one. All the organists I have known here have been larger than life characters, but Eros was in a class of his own!

2015: This was the year that the Ken Bryant Heritage area was opened at St Laurence's! Nuff said. The anniversary of Magna Carta was also kept... which brought about the first of many mayoral visits to St Laurence's. The focussing of St Laurence's on history was, alongside the development of community facilities at St Peter's, one of the two fundamental tasks I was set from the beginning. Less glamorously, but perhaps more importantly, it was the year of our giving in grace stewardship campaign, which, combined with some tough negotiations with the

deanery, put the churches on a far better financial footing... at least for the time being!

2016: The opening of St Peter's loos! Fiona McTaggart came to do the honours... and we remain grateful to the Gerrish family. At St Laurence's we looked at our present and our future, with a mission audit, and decided that all we could do was carry on as we are.

2017: The great Merton Priory celebrations at St Laurence's set the pattern for heritage weeks going forward... and the big iftar at St Peter's was BIG. Meanwhile in St Peter's we made a start on the long-outstanding window repairs. This was a drawn-out process because the first thing I had to do was to convince the DAC that their architect had it all wrong! He was wrong, but the DAC took some convincing... the result was that the job was simplified massively, and the price dropped. Special thanks to Adrian Powell, our stonemason and restoration expert. I knew Adrian back in Dorset, so it was indeed a happy chance that he shipped up here, working for Cliveden, at about the same time that I did.

2018: Was a quiet year; I lost a lot of time as, after taking my biennial holiday, I caught a bug at a family event in Langley, and ended up in hospital. I came back to light duties... and the first day back I was up to Wexham again, as Maggie Trimble had collapsed. However, alongside the struggle with GDPR, the restoration of the war memorial rose garden at St Peter's was completed and the Merton nones at St Laurence's were sung according to authentic Sarum tones... a real feat of historical musicology, but not one I would necessarily want to repeat (or could repeat, with the loss of Martin Willson).

2019: I'm sure that lots happened... but the abiding memory unquestionably is from St Mary's, as a huge confirmation took place in the autumn, with candidates from (I recollect) six churches across the deanery, including a good group from St Peter's. It was a huge feat of organization and a truly magnificent liturgy, not to be repeated until this year, with the rededication of the corpus.

2020: Covid... what more to say? No Easter masses, online liturgy (learning how to create a video), back to church and then out again, outdoor carols and outdoor Remembrance Sunday... and Fr Andrew slipped away. In spite of this, some useful back-room work took place, alongside keeping in touch, in particular with the elderly and vulnerable, by telephone. Rev Linda was a star in assisting with that. Sadly our plans for an exhibition of the work of Vincent Evans at St Laurence's had to be shelved... will they ever be unshelved? But while St Peter's was closed the window was repaired!

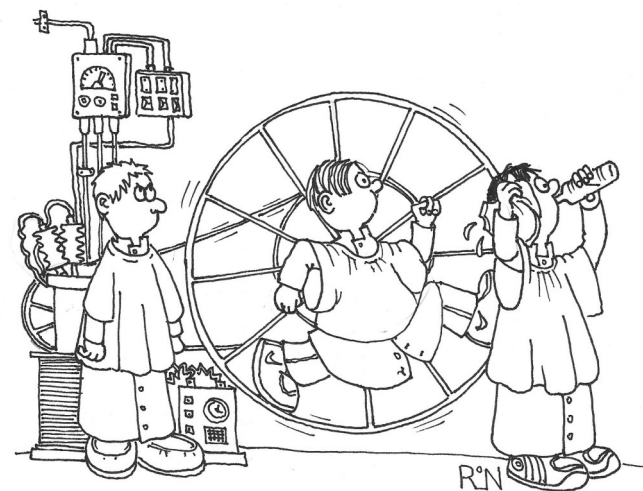
2021: More covid, more closures, and a gradual return to normal. When Fr Scott arrived at the end of the year, we had got back on an even keel... and that in itself was an achievement.

2022: Fr Scott hit the ground running... in particular with the clearance of St Mary's churchyard and the jubilee celebrations in St Mary's. And at St Peter's we finally managed to get the vestry into a fit state for letting for meetings, something we had been trying to do since the opening of the loos. St Laurence's, of course, remembered Herschel, with an amazing exhibition running over several weeks and bringing hundreds into the church.

2023: Perhaps too early to say, though the paths at St Peter's will soon be restored, and gates installed... and we have just heard from the Diocese that we have been successful in our application for a grant to commission a feasibility study to examine the introduction of community facilities into St Peter's!

These are just the highlights. I am also aware that whereas a few names have been mentioned, most of whom have passed, many have not. The unmentioned names are those who have just got on with it, supporting their churches with the daily round of tasks, and occasionally rising to major challenges. There will be more challenges ahead, but I'm also confident that, in particular with the recent re-organization of our structures (which I first suggested in 2013) the parish is fit to meet them.

Fr Alistair



When the solar panels weren't working,
there was Plan "B"

A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

During the cost-of-living crisis, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions: from relief, happiness, and hope, to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the *potential* for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

31st July: St Ignatius Loyola – founder of the Society of Jesus

Ignatius came from a noble Basque family in north-east Spain. Born in 1491 in his family’s castle near Loyala, he was sent to serve as a page at the court of King Ferdinand V of Castile. Ignatius entered military service, but was wounded in 1521, at the French siege of Pamplona. While convalescing, he read the life of Christ, as well as the biographies of various saints.

Like those saints, Ignatius felt the call of Christ on his life, and responded. He made a pilgrimage to Montserrat (near Barcelona) where he firmly hung up his sword over the altar. He exchanged his clothes with a beggar, and settled in nearby Manresa, where he helped care for the sick in the hospital there. Then he spent some time as a hermit in a local cave, praying and studying Thomas a Kempis’s book ‘*The Imitation of Christ*’. It was probably during this time that Ignatius wrote his famous ‘*Spiritual Exercises*’ on Christian prayer and meditation. It has been valued by Christians of many traditions for centuries.

Ignatius then went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, studied at the universities of Barcelona, Alcalá and Salamanca, and ended up in Paris to continue studies. It was there, in 1534 that Ignatius and a group of six students (including Francis Xavier) vowed to go as missionaries to Islamic Palestine.

They were prevented from travel by a war in Europe, and so, in 1537, the group, now ten in number, offered their services to the Pope. By 1540 they had been ordained, and with papal approval, formed the Society of Jesus, with a vow of personal obedience to the Pope, in addition to the traditional three monastic vows.

Ignatius became the first general of the order, and in the following 15 years the order grew hundred-fold, to become the vanguard of both the Counter Reformation and the missionary work of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ignatius died on 31st July 1556, but even today his famous prayer is treasured by Christians of all traditions:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve.
To give and not to count the cost.
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward;
Save that of knowing that we do Your will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

How to keep young, as you grow old

When the US President Joe Biden announced that he was running for re-election, many of us thought he was too old. He will be 86 by the end of 2028. Trump will be 82. How could either of them run the United States at such an age?

The argument about Biden and Trump will doubtless carry on, but meanwhile, there is some encouragement for the rest of us who are ageing.

A 2012 study by the University of Edinburgh found that only about a quarter of the cognitive changes that occur as we age are determined by genetics. The other three quarters are based on our lifestyle choices.

Firstly, choose to exercise. When you exercise in any way, you are not just making your body fit, you are also improving your brain health. This is because exercise promotes the release of a cell-making protein in the brain called BDNF (brain-derived neurotrophic factor), which is linked to learning and memory.

Secondly, choose to retain a sense of control and purpose in your life. We can't all influence world politics, but we can each of us can act for the general good of the people around us. In 2022, researchers in the US found that people who have a greater sense of purpose in life not only live longer, but have fewer health problems, including depression, blood pressure problems and heart attacks.

Thirdly, choose to set yourself some realistic personal goals, no matter how small. Research shows that setting a goal – even just to lose weight, or tidy the garden, can make you feel immediately more worthwhile.

Fourthly, choose to keep spending time with other people. Remaining sociable in old age is vital – we are social animals and really do need those meaningful relationships.

Fifthly, choose to follow activities that allow you to keep learning – perhaps take up a hobby such as gardening, or even begin a foreign language.

The nervous nun

“People get nervous when they think that they have to call me ‘my Lord’, said an Irish bishop. “Especially the poor nuns. One was giving me a cup of coffee. As she pushed the sugar bowl towards me, she said, ‘How many lords, my lump?’”



On why we don't bother to lock the church

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Since I happened to be in your area last week, I tried to call in at your church, and was sorry to find it was locked and bolted, with surveillance cameras watching me.

We tend to be a little more relaxed about matters of security. The key to the medieval lock was lost some time during Queen Victoria's reign and never replaced. How someone managed to misplace a foot long piece of cast iron, weighing about 10 pounds is a mystery. If it had fallen out of someone's pocket, it would certainly have broken their foot. Ever since, no one has bothered with locking the door – which makes me wish our burglars last year had thought of trying it, before wasting so much energy smashing a stained-glass window when they visited in the early hours one morning. On the other hand, were the key still in use, I should probably be arrested these days for carrying an offensive weapon.

As with most rural churches, keys which open just about everything in the village are hidden in various parts of the church. The vestry key is under my seat cushion, the organ key under a vase on the altar, the church hall key on top of the hymn book cupboard, and Miss Simpson's spare front door key inside the font. I have never been certain whether the latter is there for safety, or as a general invitation. I am sure someone could usefully produce a book suggesting the many places that keys are likely to be found secreted in churches for the use of vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners – and thieves wanting to save themselves time and effort.

I suspect that the burdened look that many urban clergy wear is not because they are weighed down with parish troubles, but because they are obliged to carry

with them a superfluity of keys needed to negotiate every door in church, hall, school, and vicarage. And why is there always one for which no one has any idea what it opens?

The only occasion I have ever thought it would be useful to be able to lock a church is when you have a party of visitors inside. So often, on hearing the words “let us pray” or the start of an appeal for funds, they bolt for the door.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church’s calendar. What can we learn from Mary’s story?

We don’t have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don’t have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

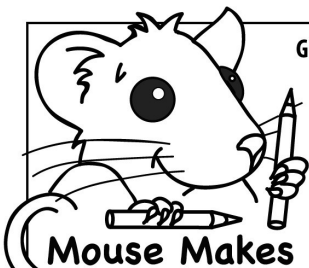
Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul’s words: ‘But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.’ (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women’s witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don’t follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn’t always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

Canon Paul Hardingham

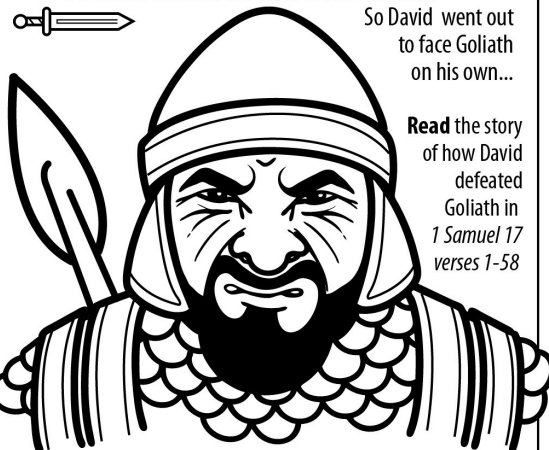




Goliath, the champion of the Philistine army, taunted the Israelites.
 "Choose a man to fight with me and if he kills me then we will be your servants!"

The Israelites were afraid, but **David**, a shepherd boy who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield said:
 "The **Lord** who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

So David went out to face Goliath on his own...



Read the story of how David defeated Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 verses 1-58

Where did Goliath come from?

1 Samuel 17:4

How tall was Goliath?

_____ cubits.
 1 Samuel 17:4

What was Goliath's armour made of?

1 Samuel 17:5,6

What weapons did Goliath carry?

a JAVELIN,
 a _____
 and a _____
 1 Samuel 17:45

How many stones did David take from the stream?

1 Samuel 17:40

Where did David's stone hit Goliath? On his

1 Samuel 17:49

ISRAEL • SAUL • DAVID • LORD • GOD • PHILISTINES • BATTLE • CAMP
 CHAMPION • GOLIATH • HELMET • ARMOUR • JAVELIN • SHIELD • FIGHT • BEAR
 LION • SHEPHERD • STAFF • STONES • BAG • SLING • STRUCK • HIT • FELL • GROUND

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 1 verses 35 - 51

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples, he went to find their friend Philip ...

Panel 1: "Come with me."
 Panel 2: "Philip went to find his friend Nathanael."
 Panel 3: "We have found the special one that Moses and the prophets wrote about."
 Panel 4: "Don't be silly, nothing good has ever come from Nazareth."
 Panel 5: "Look, it's a man of Israel who never cheats."
 Panel 6: "He is Jesus, from Nazareth."
 Panel 7: "Come and see."
 Panel 8: "Background: the ancestor of the Israelites was Jacob, whose name meant 'Grasper' or 'Cheat', and who cheated his father and brother. God gave him a new start and a new name - Israel - 'Prince of God'. Gen 25, 27, 32."
 Panel 9: "How do you know me?"
 Panel 10: "You're the Son of God and King of Israel."
 Panel 11: "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."
 Panel 12: "You believe because of what I said? You will see even more."
 Panel 13: "You will see God's angels travelling between heaven and me."
 Panel 14: "Jacob had seen the stairway of angels as he fled from his family! Gen 28: 10-22"

Church School Test

For a church school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These were some of the (real) results...

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.
5. Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

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Tuesday: 10.00am Eucharist
Wednesday: 12.30pm Eucharist

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