

July 2021

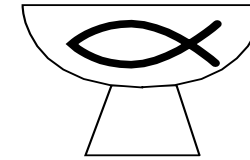
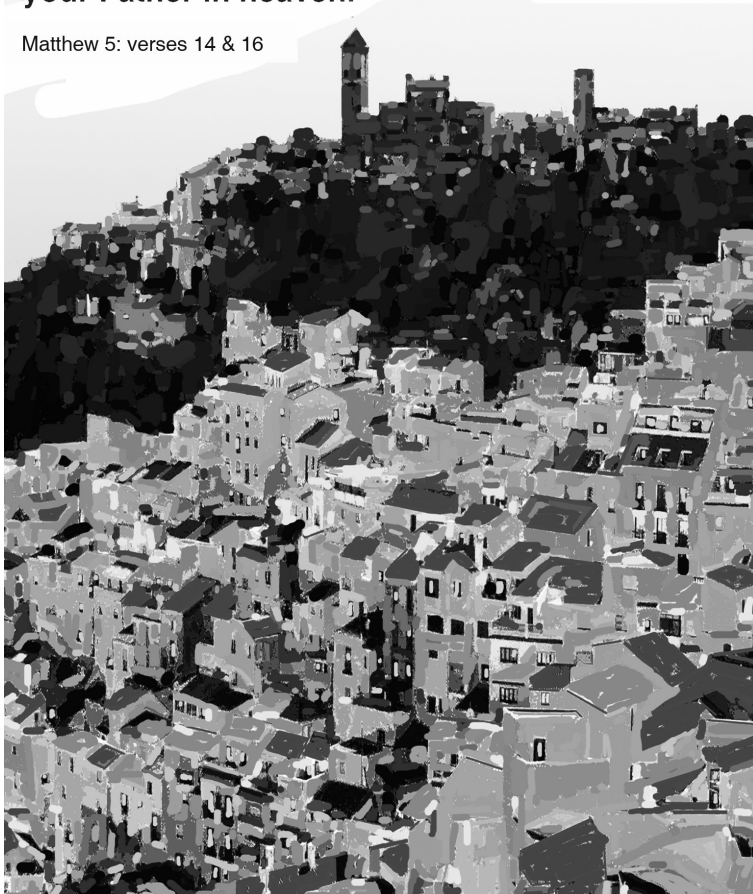
30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter

'You are the light of the world A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5: verses 14 & 16



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 Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Rob Walker (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
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Clergy days off:

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Web-sites:

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

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

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

Fr Alistair Writes:

July is usually a month I enjoy, as not only is the weather somewhat kinder, but the weekends often bring fetes and carnivals. Our churches often have stalls, if they are not running the events themselves, and I like to go down to lend a hand, or bring a cup of tea or an ice cream to those who are working hard, and take the opportunity occasionally presented to have a chat to a few passers by. Not this year. And the result is a further hole in our finances. Rather than a fete or a fair the item which looms largest in the diary is a meeting of the deanery about the parish share.

There is no question that I am the most expensive item in the churches' budgets.

I am paid by the Diocese, which in turn takes funds from the parishes. So the item marked "parish share" on our budget sheets is money paid to the Diocese, which is in turn largely used to pay the clergy. Hence the ice creams and cups of tea... as the stall is really going to pay my wages!

Sadly it is not so simple, as the diocese gives a total to the deaneries, who have to figure out how it is to be split between the churches in the deanery... for some years now the churches of Slough and Burnham have paid what they considered that they could afford, but this has never reached anything like the sum the diocese was expecting, even before covid shot a hole in all our finances. And so the deanery is meeting to tell us how they intend to close the gap. If you hear wailing and gnashing of teeth coming from the vicinity of St Paul's Slough on 13th July you will now know why.

You may hear more on this; for the moment I will not pre-empt the discussion in the deanery. But I reflect that in the eucharistic sacrament we all receive the fullness just as, when Jesus fed the 5000, nobody went away hungry. We say that the church is a sacramental organism, that it is the means by which the gifts of God are given to the world. I wonder whether the church can find a way to be sacramental in such a way that all God's people, regardless of income, have continued and equal access to these means of grace, and to the priests through whom these gifts are offered.

SERVICES & EVENTS

Due to Covid restrictions, the pattern of services up to and including 1st August will be as follows:

Sundays:	10.00am	Mass at St Mary's,
Tuesdays:	10.00am	Mass at St Mary's
Wednesdays:	9.30am	Mass at St Peter's
Thursdays:	10.00am	Mass at St Laurence's

August Services

Sun 8 th	10.00am	Said Mass (SM)
	11.00am	St Laurence's Patronal Festival – Said Mass (SL)

Subject to Covid restrictions, we hope and expect to resume our normal Sunday pattern of worship at our three churches on **Sunday 15th August**. Check our websites for the latest news.

Websites:

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

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

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

Olympic Gold

This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).*

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!

Following

A young mother writes:

It is always busy in our home, as we have four young children running about. But one particular Sunday afternoon James, my four-year-old kept following me about very closely. He was on my heels every time I turned around, and after nearly falling over him several times, I lost patience. 'Whatever is the matter with you?' I demanded. 'Why don't you go play?'

He looked up at me and said: 'This morning at church the teacher told us that we should walk in Jesus' footsteps. But I can't see Him, so I am walking in yours instead.' I gathered up my young son and felt tears in my eyes. I thanked God for this lesson I will never forget – about the value of being a living example to our young ones."

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.



St Laurence's Preserves

If you would like to order some St Laurence's jam, marmalade, chutney or other item from the preserves stall, please call Allan on 01753 532425 and he will arrange collection or delivery in line with current Covid-19 regulations.

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the August issue by **Sunday 11th July** at the latest!

Dave

Obvious

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

HYMN: The story behind ‘Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken’

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
Thou may’st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon’s troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition ‘Emperor’s Hymn’. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II’s birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben’s (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslid, which began with the famous words: ‘Deutschland uber alles’ (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton’s inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: ‘Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God’ (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: ‘Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers

and streams...’

John Newton’s hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

Reflected Faith series: the spaces between

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don’t know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be ‘listened to’. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will ‘actively listen’ to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don’t clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn’t necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life’s challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to ‘nudge’ the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the

words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

Jo White

Time for a change

I have had my walking boots for a few years now, and they have been faithful companions. We have walked many miles together during that time, on my daily walks as well as on holiday. They are partly responsible for my physical recovery after Covid-19, so they have a place in my heart. They fit me very well, and we have adjusted to one another. But they are very thin now on the soles and heels, and it is reluctantly time for a change.

So, one recent Saturday I bought a new pair. They are clean and smart, and fully waterproof. The soles are strong and new. There are no signs of wear and tear. But I know that change is never easy. They will take some time to wear in. They may rub and I may get a blister or two. Occasionally I will long for my old boots, and wonder, ‘Did I make a mistake?’ Hopefully, they will become as much a part of me as my old ones as we tread the miles together. But there is always a risk with something new, Isn't there?

Change is never easy in whatever form it comes. But change is inevitable because life does not stand still, and we have to keep adjusting and adapting and being open to fresh winds of the Spirit. Never more so than in these present, troublesome days.

Strangely enough as I have been meditating on this, my reading this morning (Isaiah 9) contained a reference to ‘Every warrior’s boot used in battle ... will be destined for burning (v5).’ Oh dear. I’m sure like me, warriors were fond of their boots too and found it hard to part with them.

Tony Horsfall

‘Remember Me’ – St Paul’s launches fundraising campaign for memorial

St Paul’s Cathedral has launched a campaign in partnership with the Daily Mail to raise £2.3m to build a physical memorial in St Paul’s Cathedral for those who died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be the first build of its kind at St Paul’s for nearly 150 years and is part of the ‘Remember Me’ project, an online book of remembrance launched last year. More than 7,300 names of those who have died as a result of the pandemic have been entered into the book.

The campaign will install the online memorial book at a permanent site within St Paul’s as well as on the internet. People entering the Cathedral by the new Equal Access Ramp will be able to go through the memorial into a tranquil space and take time to remember the many individuals who have died as a result of the pandemic.

The memorial will be a portico in the North Transept on the site of an earlier porch destroyed by a bomb in 1941. Oliver Caroe, the Cathedral’s Surveyor to the Fabric, who has designed the memorial, lost his mother during the pandemic.

£9 million funding package for mission to students and young people

Tens of thousands of students and young people who may never have been to church before are to be reached by the Church of England with the message of the Christian faith as part of a £9 million funding programme for mission projects across the country, it was recently announced.

Church of England parishes are to form new congregations aimed at reaching young adults and students in Leeds and Huddersfield in West Yorkshire, Blackburn in Lancashire and coastal areas of Paignton in Devon and Brighton and Hove in east Sussex.

A series of grants to help fund the projects has been awarded as part of the Church of England’s programme of Renewal and Reform.

The Church of England’s National Youth Evangelism Officer, Jimmy Dale, welcomed the investment in work with students and young people.

He said: “It is so exciting to see the church engaging with students and young people in a way that historically, we have often fallen short. Young people, the ‘Generation Z’ of 11- to-25-year-olds, have faced enormous challenges as a result of the pandemic. They have struggled not just socially and financially but educationally and with regards to mental health. The message of the good news of Jesus Christ offers this generation a real beacon of hope.”

Church of England commits £1.25 million to enabling digital giving in parishes

The Church of England aims to enable contactless giving in half of all parishes over the next two years.

The first pilot scheme has been launched in more than 100 churches across the Diocese of Carlisle to help encourage contactless giving, making giving easier for congregations.

The pilot will help pave the way for a £1.25m investment from the Church of England which will see thousands more churches accept contactless and digital payments over the next two years. Consideration for connectivity in rural settings has been taken into account, with churches being offered one of two types of device, depending on each parish's context.

Two further pilots will take place in other dioceses later this year before the nation-wide roll out begins.

Grace Emmett, National Digital Giving Manager for the Church of England, explained: "Experience so far is that contactless donations are, on average, three times the value of cash donations."



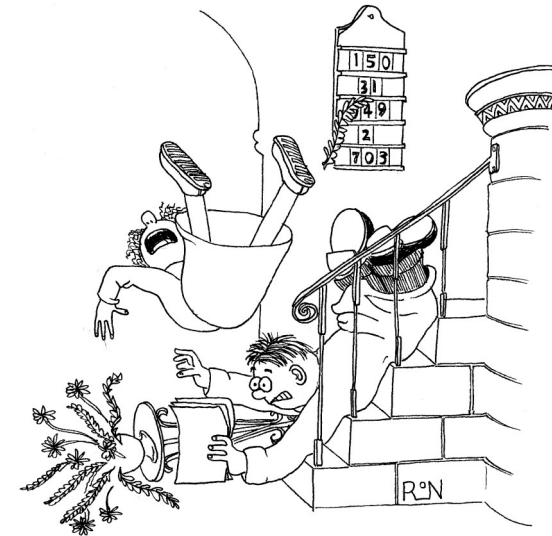
...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...

Tree Church

In New Zealand there is a church made from real living trees. The man who built it made it in his own three acre garden. This Tree Church is the first in the world as it's still alive and growing. It took four years in all to complete. He selected a wide variety of trees for his beautiful church. It has an iron frame to support its body. He owns a gardening company called "Tree Locations" which replants whole live trees using enormous mechanized spades. This allowed him to plant live trees in any way he wanted. The altar has a special significance because it comes from his family's church in Shannon and is made from marble from Italy. The church has 100 seats.

He built it for himself but was persuaded to open his gardens to the public in 2015 for weddings, and private events take place here as well.

Alice Sanders



Sharing the Notices while keeping a social distance was proving tricky.

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, 'Why am I here?'"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz



On why the clergy should avoid computers

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it a fundamental basic of daily life, but I do not, and I intend to keep things that way.

This is despite the fact that our diocesan office now takes it for granted that all of us clergy have a computer. Indeed, the diocesan secretary and I have had several awkward phone calls upon this very subject. He can't believe that I really don't have one, and suspects that I am simply hiding my email address from him so that he cannot send me the daily diocesan briefings, weekly questionnaires, and constant notification of all sorts of meetings and training days. But I remain firm: I have survived in ministry for nearly 50 years without a computer, and I don't intend to change now. When he gets tetchy with me, I take the high moral ground and remind him that St Paul did not have a computer.

Besides, it would not end with just a computer. Next, I would be obliged to get a printer and then ink cartridges and then maybe some sort of virus would attack me. As I have no idea about any of this, I might have to allow someone into the vicarage to sort it out, and even worse, I might even have to *pay* them. My money can be far more usefully spent on good claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can

gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives either trying to get their machine to do something that it refuses to do, or else getting help from someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English, who assures you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

So I have decided that should I ever REALLY need to use a computer for something, I will visit our local primary school and get a six year-old to do the job for me, which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

How climate change could affect your cup of tea

Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future.

It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well.

Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."

Twitter marks its 15th birthday

It was 15 years ago, on 15th July 2006, that Twitter, the American micro-blogging social network, was launched. The first tweet – or short message – had been sent internally in March that year and was recently sold for over £2 million.

The service was originally known as twtr (by analogy with the photo site flickr) because the domain name twitter.com was already in use. But this was eventually purchased. Jack Dorsey, the originator, said that the word twitter meant "a short burst of inconsequential information", which he regarded as perfect for what they were intending.

The messages – tweets – were originally limited to 140 characters, but the limit was doubled in late 2017. Audio and visual tweets have now been introduced, which are normally limited to 140 seconds. There are reckoned to be more than 330 million monthly active users, but the vast majority of tweets are sent by a small minority.

Many churches use Twitter to reach members who cannot attend, using #hashtags to link with them. The Church of England, not surprisingly, has provided guidance for this.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

Kings normally led their armies to battles but David had sent his army with his commander, Joab, to fight the Ammonites.

David was strolling on his palace roof when he saw a beautiful woman.



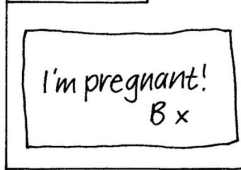
Who is she?

She is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.



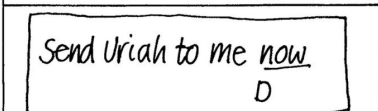
Have her brought to the palace!

Later, Bathsheba sent a message to King David.



I'm pregnant!
B x

David tried to cover up what he had done. He sent a note to Joab.



Send Uriah to me now
D

Why didn't you go home?



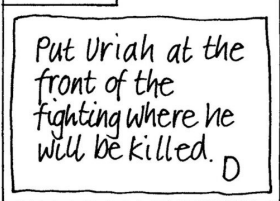
How can I go home to my wife when my fellow soldiers can't?

David had Uriah stay to dinner and got him drunk.



But he still didn't go home.

So David wrote a letter to Joab



Put Uriah at the front of the fighting where he will be killed.
D

He gave it to Uriah to give to Joab.



Joab did what was asked.

Bathsheba was now a widow and David married her.



But God was angry and He sent Nathan the prophet to David.



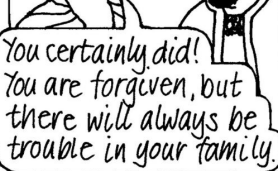
God says He chose you to be king of Israel and kept you safe.

You took Uriah's wife and then you murdered him by having him killed.



I disobeyed God.

You certainly did! You are forgiven, but there will always be trouble in your family.



The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



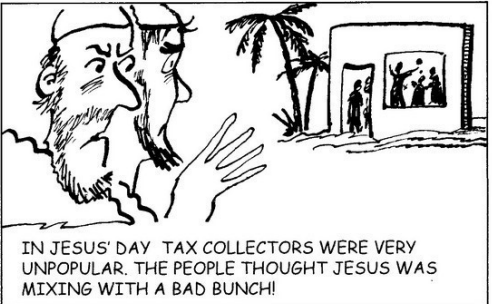
ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

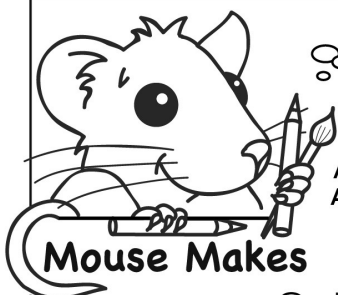
...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!




SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32



Mouse Makes




Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan
A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side. A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



C L O T H E S P
H N J E S U S R A
M E R C Y S L O S
B I R O B B E R S
G J M P W V A E
H E P A O I J D
B R A R U T E C
O I S A N E R A
U C S B D E U R
D P L B R H I L S B S E
W A S L O I L D S A M A R I T A N O O E E O A P
P R I E S T A O A M A G O O D C N I N N T U L A
G O D O I G C W W I N E A T A K W J O U R N E Y
E N T D E N A R I I D T W O P O U R E D M

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICHO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • Poured • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO

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UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME
All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch.

OR

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.



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