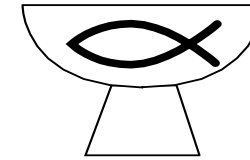


June 2021

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.

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

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

Fr Alistair Writes:

As a result of our Lent course we have been asking ourselves what we can do about climate change, and climate justice. This is in many ways opportune because this year the UK hosts both COP26 (the UN Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow from 1-12 November, and the 2021 G7 Summit in Cornwall on 11-13 June. Indeed a group of young Christians is walking from Cornwall to Glasgow to lobby our leaders, and will be passing through our parish at the beginning of August when we hope to meet them and walk with them.

Another point which emerged from our Lent group was the extent to which our eucharistic celebration is also a celebration of creation, and of creation transformed. Each mass we say “all things come from you... and of your own do we give you” and the gifts of creation are then transformed through the work of the Spirit to become the greater gifts of God to unite our selves with his self. Our Eucharist is founded not simply in the work of Christ, but in the work of creation, and renders thanks for both as the work of creation is made the work of salvation in our midst.

We give particular thanks for this gift at the feast known as Corpus Christi, the solemn thanksgiving for the gifts of Christ's Body and Blood. This year Corpus Christi is on 3rd June, and will be kept at St Laurence's at 10am and with a particular solemnity at St Peter's at 7.30pm. Although this has been kept in the parish for as long as anyone can remember, it is often poorly attended. Are we really that ungrateful?

The first week of June is also “bike week”; when I arrived in the parish there were three clergy, and we were all often on our bikes. I'm still on the bike... and thank the Lord that the small size of the parish and the town saves me, and you, the expense of a car. Not driving is a further small way to reduce carbon emissions and to give creation a chance. So here's a thought to combine our gratitude for the gifts of Christ's body and blood, and our thanks for creation... namely come to mass on Corpus Christi on your bike! And you can even share it on social media, with a chance to win a prize! See www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek. Personally I think I'll pass on posting to social media, but I will, of course, be giving thanks on Corpus Christi, and getting there by bike!

SERVICES & EVENTS

The pattern of services 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

Assuming the government's timetable for exiting lockdown is followed this pattern will continue until 4th July, at which point our normal pattern of services will resume.

The exception is that on Sunday 27th June the 10am service will be at St Peter's instead of St Mary's, to celebrate their patronal festival.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This meeting will be held at 11am on Sunday 6th June at St Mary's, following the 10am mass. It will also be available online via Zoom.

Churches to launch nature count within the ‘National Park’ of churchyards

Hundreds of churches have signed up to a week-long ‘nature count’ occurring this month (June), which will encourage people to visit churchyards and record what they see.

Churches Count on Nature, to run between 5th and 13th June, is a citizen-science event covering churchyards across England and Wales.

Communities and visitors will be asked to make a note of the animals, birds, insects, or fungi in their local churchyard. Their data will then be collated on the National Biodiversity Network.

It is being jointly run by the conservation charities Caring for God’s Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales.

Church land, often uniquely unploughed and undeveloped, can be a habitat for precious, endangered plants and wildlife. Together, churchyards cover a huge area – estimated to be equivalent to a small national park.

The week is open to anyone with a love of nature, and churches are seeking links with local schools and local wildlife groups.

Various online guidance about getting to know fauna and flora is being shared with the churches who are participating. A similar national event Love Your Burial Ground Week will be combined with this project.

Registration for the webinars is on the Church of England’s website and also at Churches Count on Nature online.

Talking

Bishop Douglas Feaver, the notoriously outspoken former Bishop of Peterborough, was presiding at his first Diocesan Synod and a man at the back had been droning on and on for some length of time. Finally, a lady called out to protest that she could not hear what he was saying. Bishop Douglas replied: “You should thank God and sit down.”

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 July issue by **Sunday 13th June** at the latest!

Dave

Wonders of the Living World

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

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

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

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

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

The beginnings of Boots the Chemist

Jesse Boot, the British pharmacist and philanthropist, died 90 years ago, on 13th June 1931. He turned the Boots Company started by his father John – a former agricultural worker – into a chain of chemists branded ‘Chemists to the Nation’.

The 1st Baron Trent, as Jesse became in 1929, sold his controlling interest to American investors in 1920, but Boots continues to be a familiar name to all Britons. Ironically John Boot had offered his close friend and business associate John Harston the opportunity of going into business with him, but Harston had felt it was not a good investment.

Jesse Boot was a great benefactor to the City of Nottingham. He gave land for what is now the University of Nottingham and was presented with the Freedom of the City of Nottingham in 1920.

He met his wife, Florence Rowe, in a Wesleyan Chapel in Jersey while he was recuperating from illness. She was also an astute businesswoman, who helped to develop the Boots business, and her home island of Jersey benefited from the couple’s generosity. After her husband’s death she commissioned the glass artist René Lalique to refit the Anglican church of St Matthew there as a memorial to him.



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden

Churches stepped up support for their communities during pandemic

More than 4,000 Church of England parishes have stepped up their support to local communities in the face of rising levels of poverty, loneliness and isolation since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new research.

Church volunteers have delivered food, shopped, walked dogs and collected prescriptions this past year, according to a report by the Church of England and Church Urban Fund.

Church volunteers have also done gardening projects, been ‘phone buddies’, aided with job-hunting, and helped people get online, as local people struggled with the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

Despite restrictions on meeting socially, nearly a quarter of churches even started a completely new activity during the pandemic. More than of them adapted two or more of their existing community activities in order to meet local needs.

Overall, 37% of churches reported that they were providing *more* support to their communities, with this figure rising to 41% in rural areas.

Food provision and pastoral support were by far the biggest area of support provided by churches, with nearly 80% of churches involved in running or supporting a food bank or similar service. Many opened food banks for the first time.

Church leaders reported that isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, food poverty, unemployment and debt are more widespread in their communities as a result of the pandemic.

Church buildings, because of their size and ventilation, have been well used for activities from ante natal classes to socially prescribed exercise. In fact, many became ‘symbols of hope’, with flags, posters and artwork as a “form of visual encouragement”.

Church Urban Fund Chief Executive Rachel Whittington said: “2020 was a year like no other, and yet churches across the UK rose ... with undeterred compassion, displaying the love in action which lies at the heart of the Christian gospel.”

Bishop tells General Synod to speak against persecution of religious believers and atheists

The Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, recently told General Synod that “human dignity and flourishing is diminished” when religious believers and atheists are persecuted.

He also warned the Church of England’s decision-making body that it would be an “act of self-harm” only to speak up for persecuted Christians.

Speaking in a debate on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), Bishop Nick addressed many abuses including against Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, China, atheists in Saudi Arabia, and Christians in Pakistan.

"If human rights mean anything, then the freedom to choose our religion or belief, the freedom to change our religion or belief and the freedom to have no religion or stated belief at all is a right we all have by virtue of being human," Bishop Nick said.

He continued: “Violations are increasing and intensifying involving not just intolerance and exclusion but active discrimination.

“In its ultimate form this can culminate in genocide, a phenomenon that has sadly been seen with increasing frequency, whether that of Christians and Yazidis at the hands of Isis in Iraq, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar or Uighurs in China.”



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

India - engulfed by a tsunami of grief

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

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

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

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

“It is like driving on the moon”

Some of our British roads are beginning to resemble “the surface of the moon”, according to the RAC. It has recently reported that an average of 52 drivers a day are breaking their cars on potholes and needing to be rescued.

More than 4,000 drivers have needed assistance since January, despite the fact that lockdown has meant many fewer cars on the road.

After years of underfunding and patch-up repair jobs, and despite the fact that councils are currently filling a pothole every 19 seconds, the RAC says that the Government and local councils face an ‘enormous task’ to get our roads “anything like reasonable” again.

Potholes are nasty to cars. They can break your suspension springs, distort your wheels, and damage your shock absorbers, among other woes.

A prince’s legacy on matters of faith

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ven John Barton

Barnabas the Encourager

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canon Paul Hardingham

Friend?

Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. "Are you a friend of the groom?" he ventured.

"Certainly not," she said indignantly. "I'm the bride's mother."



On getting to church at a social distance

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing

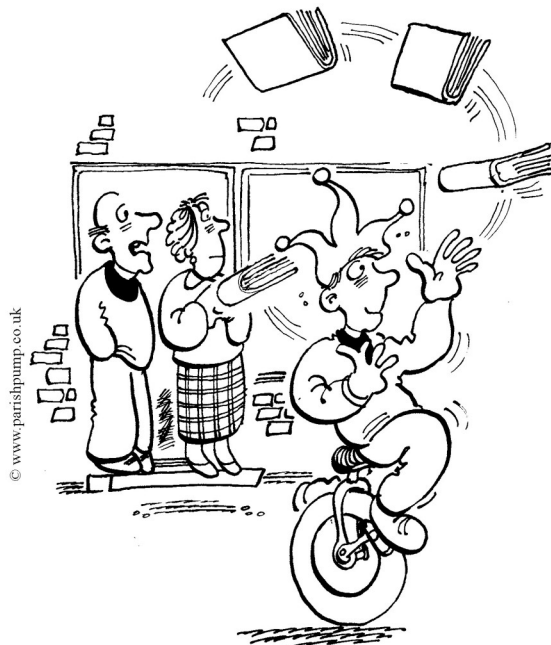
apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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

The Nun Doll Museum

In Michigan, US, is the largest museum of Nun Dolls. In fact there are 525 dolls dressed up as nuns.

The collection is of the work of only two people, Wally and Sally Rogalski. Sally started dressing her dolls as nuns in 1940 as a hobby. She continued her hobby into her adulthood and her husband Wally helped her and created ways for her to display her growing self-made collection. At first they displayed them in their home. In 1964 they donated their collection to the Shrine in Michigan. They gave them on condition that no admission charge would ever be asked so that people rich and poor would be able to see them. In the decades that followed they continued to expand the collection.

As well as this huge collection of nuns there are also 217 religious orders of priests, sisters and brothers. The dolls are kept in glass display cases in several showrooms at the Shrine. Thousands of visitors view the display yearly.

In 1988 they received a blessing from St John Paul II for their unique work in helping to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life through their doll collection.

If you would like to look it up on your computer look under The Nun Doll Museum, US.

Alice Sanders

Where are our birds?

British birds are in big trouble. 80% of our most popular species are in severe decline, according to recent data from the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

The world's largest wildlife survey has found that 16 out of the 20 most spotted garden birds have been in decline since 2020. There are now concerns about the greenfinch and chaffinch, which were seen in their lowest ever numbers this year.

The top five birds seen in people's gardens were: house sparrows, blue tits, starlings, blackbirds and wood pigeons. Only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush grew in number in 2020.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

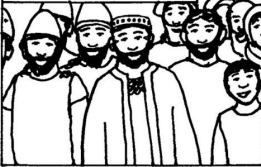
It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15: 1-28

Copies of God's Laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

When King David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



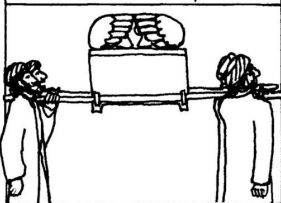
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



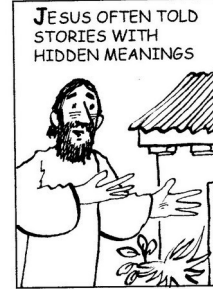
God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.



The Best Seat

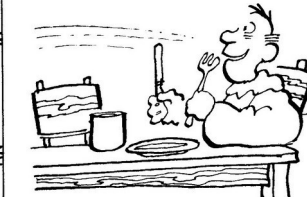


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS TOLD THE STORY ABOUT SOME PARTY INVITATIONS

HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEAL



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

...IN CASE YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE DOWN THE TABLE.

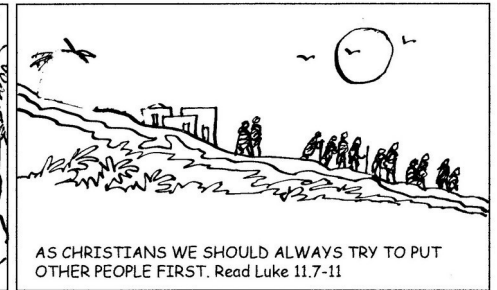


IT'S MUCH BETTER TO TAKE THE LOWER SEAT



...AND THEN FIND YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE UP.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE SHOULDN'T KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TO THE FRONT.



AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS TRY TO PUT OTHER PEOPLE FIRST. Read Luke 11:7-11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."
John 21:25

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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