

May 2021

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



SERVICES & EVENTS

The pattern of services will be as follows until June 6th:

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

Important St Laurence's Notice

Sun 16th May 3.00pm Service of Nones followed by Annual District Church Meeting (SL)

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the June issue by **Sunday 16th May** at the latest!

Dave

Fr Alistair Writes:

Easter happened!

In normal years that would hardly be a headline, but as we all know, this is not a normal year! And so, that we were able to have a Holy Week with a daily mass, a remembrance of the last supper on Maundy Thursday, a veneration of the cross on Good Friday, a vigil gathering with a paschal candle on Easter morning, and a mass of the resurrection later in the morning are, by the standards of this year, remarkable.

As I look forward to our round of annual meetings (taking place in May this year, another peculiarity, though a good one as it means that they have not disrupted Lent as they usually do) I am reading the reports others have written as I compile my own. “Unprecedented”, “unusual”, “strange”, “unpredicted” are the words which are repeatedly used.

Which leads me to reflect that the resurrection was “unprecedented”, “unusual”, and “strange” and “unpredicted.” We are so used to telling and hearing the story, so familiar with the routine of Holy Week and Easter, that we can forget the oddness of it all. But odd it was. And so it is perhaps not inappropriate to make “Easter happened” a headline, because for us as Christians it is, and remains, headline news and is, still, shocking, unprecedented and unusual.

In the months ahead we are hoping that our lives will slowly return to normal, that we will be able to gather with family and friends, shake hands, go to the pub, or even have a holiday! In our churches likewise we may be cautiously optimistic that normal service may gradually be restored. But when the disciples in Jerusalem picked themselves up after the events of Easter, they did not return to their old normal. We may ask ourselves if we have learnt anything through this experience. Do we value our worship more, having had to miss it? Do we value our friends and families more, having been forced to miss them? Do we think we could travel less, be less busy, do less shopping? And in doing less of these things show some kindness to the creation? Are we any different from the people we were a year ago? Are we any better? Do we want to return to the old normal, or do we want to take something positive from the experiences of the past year?

Reflections from the Lent group

Our Lent groups this year have followed a course from USPG called For such a time as this, focussing on issues relating to climate change and responses from across the Anglican communion. We asked ourselves how we might make a contribution in our own lives and in our own churches; among ideas were the installation of a smart meter, planting seeds (especially bee-friendly seeds) and trees, changing to LED lighting... Members of the group thought it would be good to hear of ideas from the wider parish. Perhaps you could write in to the editor.

We also noted that the Church of England provides some material for reflection and action at www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change.

The group was struck by a prayer provided by Green Christian, and wanted to share it with you:

Our climate is changing, and we are changing it. We confess our carbon footprints, our failure to consider the consequences of our actions, our slowness to react. We are sorry for all the times we knew the right thing to do but chose convenience instead.

Your Earth is exploited, and we are complicit in its exploitation. Species are lost, soil erodes, fish stocks decline, resources dwindle. We confess that many of us have taken too much, and not considered the needs of future generations.

We have become consumers. We have turned a blind eye to greed. We confess our hunger for more, and our failure to appreciate what we already have. We live in a time of unparalleled luxury, and we are sorry that we have not been more grateful.

The poor are left behind, even in this age of plenty. Human rights are pushed aside for profit. Wealth accumulates for the rich while the poorest still do not have what they need. We confess our apathy to injustice, and our haste in judging others.

This is not who you made us to be. We have not been good caretakers of your garden Earth. We have not loved our neighbours. Forgive us, creator God.

Forgive us. Renew us. Inspire us.



Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

Revd Canon Paul Hardingham

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.



"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"

Remembering an outstanding astronomer

It was 150 years ago, on 11th May 1871, that John Herschel – British astronomer, mathematician, chemist and pioneering photographer – died at the age of 79. Among other things, he named seven of Saturn’s moons and four moons of Uranus, as well as investigating colour blindness. He was also President of the Royal Astronomical Society three times.

He was the son of Sir William Herschel, a distinguished scientist who had moved from Germany to Britain and later discovered the planet Uranus, thus creating a pronunciation problem that still hasn’t gone away.

Sir John Herschel, himself knighted in 1831, made many contributions to the science of photography and invented the blueprint. He was also deeply interested in the philosophy of science and pioneered an inductive approach to experiments and the construction of scientific theories.

Between 1834 and 1838 he worked in South Africa with his wife Margaret, studying and photographing Cape flora as well as continuing his astronomical interests. It was here that he met Charles Darwin, on his way home in the HMS Beagle, and had a significant influence on him.

Sir John also developed and backed the use of the impressive Julian day numbering system in astronomy.

How to keep ground coffee fresh

The battle rages: just where IS the best place to store your ground coffee?

Sainsburys, Morrisons, Asda, Marks & Spencer and Ocado are among the supermarkets that advise you keep fresh ground coffee in a fridge or freezer after opening. But Tesco, Waitrose and Harrods advise that you store ground coffee and beans in a cool, dry place such a kitchen cupboard.

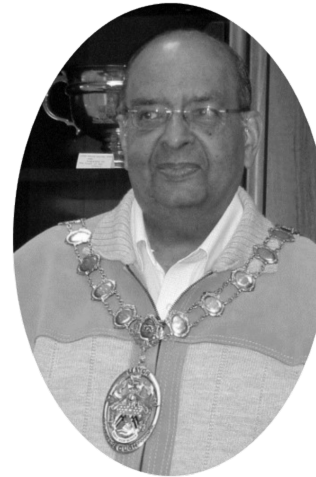
Many coffee experts warn that storing your coffee in the fridge is wrong because coffee easily absorbs aroma, moisture and flavours, and can be tainted by fish, meat and cheese.

Martin Isark, founder of the Can I Eat It website, laments: “So much coffee is spoilt by poor storage, which makes the coffee producers want to weep...”

Paul Rooke of the British Coffee Association adds: “Coffee, like many food and drink products when exposed to air, will deteriorate. Cool and dry are the key words; the ideal storage is in an inert, airtight container stored in a cool place.”

ALBERT WILLIAM LAWRENCE, R.I.P

20th March 1937 – 9th March 2021



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Albert Lawrence in Wexham Park Hospital on 9th March, having sustained a broken hip in a fall he was unable to regain his strength to make a full recovery. Albert was churchwarden at St Laurence’s for 12½ years, and a faithful congregation member for longer. He was always willing, if not quite so able over the past couple of years, to lend a hand in churchyard maintenance to selling bric-a-brac at the Fayre, picking raspberries at Copas Farm to hospital and home visiting. He will be greatly missed.

An outpouring of condolences and tributes from across the Parish indicates the measure of Albert, with many paying their respects in person at his funeral and joining on-line streaming from India, Canada and Ecuador:

“So sad to hear the news of Albert. Everyone loved him and he will be greatly missed.” (June)

“Such a lovely man” . . . “that is very sad, a lovely gentleman” . . . “He was such a nice man”

“I was sad to learn of the death of Albert Lawrence this morning. With Albert, it was always service with a smile. A helpful and kind person. He was a shining example to many. I am glad I knew him all these years.” (Roy)

Our thoughts and prayers go with Mary, his daughter Fiona and Sophie, his grand-daughter and the rest of his family and friends.

Julie James

Picture: At the Mayor’s Parlour, Albert as Mayor for the Day 2014

DAD

Albert William Lawrance, or Dad, was born in Madras (now called Chennai) in India. He came to England when he was 14 years old with his parents and younger sister Patricia (Aunt Pat) and they settled in Effingham, in Surrey. David, Dad and Pat's younger brother, was born shortly thereafter.

Dad enjoyed playing sport, mainly cricket and athletics. We have a fantastic action picture of him doing the high jump. We asked, but where is the big blue padded landing mat? There was just a sandpit – different times.

Mum and Dad met at a dance in Wimbledon Town Hall, when Mum was 18 and Dad was 20. It was clearly meant to be, because Mum went with some friends who persuaded her to go following recovery from a recent bout of flu. Dad went with a friend of his who knew some people in the area. Dad had never been to the dance in Wimbledon before, unlike Mum who lived in Wimbledon with her sister and who often went to the dance. The rest is history.

On leaving school Dad joined the RAF as part of National Service. Although he was discharged on medical grounds (due to an over active thyroid) he continued to shine our school shoes until they shone, just as he had done in the RAF.

Dad's first job after leaving the RAF was for Ronson's, the lighter manufacturer, in Leatherhead. Following redundancy Mum, Dad, my brother Andrew and I moved to Slough as Dad started a new job in Iver for a company that produced punched card for computers. I can remember that he used to bring home rolls of punched card that I would draw on. Then Dad got a job with Securicor. Initially he drove the delivery vans, but then he moved into the office where he was promoted first to supervisor and then to office manager. Dad worked for Securicor until he retired.

Dad liked motor bikes and cars and would get excited if he saw a vintage car on the road. In later years he became a keen follower of F1 and was a fan of Lewis Hamilton.

Fiona Lawrance

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St Peter's News

St Peter's had a very successful remote Gift Day at the end of March. Thanks to everyone's generosity our project fund looks much healthier, so we can meet any future maintenance needs.

Whilst we have been in lockdown since Christmas we have undertaken extensive tree work on the grounds. The trees in St Peter's are subject to a conservation order, as they are an important asset to the local environment.

We are hoping that it will not be too long before we are back to worshipping in St Peter's, but in the hope that we will be able to meet in the summer, we have pencilled the fete into the diary. We are planning for Saturday 3rd July, so watch this space.



Slough in Bloom

Slough in Bloom is back, after a fallow year in 2020, when we had to cancel. It will be formally launched on 12th May, but without the usual photoshoot, because of Covid.

The format is as before. There are categories for residential front gardens and hanging baskets, pubs, allotments and businesses.

Many people have spent more time than ever in their gardens during the various lockdowns, and many have taken up gardening for the first time. If either applies to you, do consider entering this year. And if you know of a good garden near you, encourage the owner to enter,

Entries have to be in by 3rd July and judging tasks place from 12th July. Give me a ring for more information and for an entry form.

Margaret (Tel: 01753 595838)

Foreigners?

Among the estimated 130,000 people from Hong Kong who are making their way to the UK, there are bound to be thousands of Christians. What kind of reception will they get from the churches here?

We shudder when reminded of the cold shoulder shown to the 500 Jamaicans who disembarked the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 1948, and others who followed. They came in response to a recruitment drive by London Transport and the NHS. Many were practising Anglicans, so naturally they made their way to English parish churches. Many were told they didn't belong there.

St Paul's nightmare about the Church had become a reality, with the eye saying to the hand, "I don't need you." (1 Corinthians 12.21) As a result, the Church of England missed out on the faith, experience, and witness of brother and sister believers from the Caribbean.

Hong Kong citizens who hold British National Overseas passports can now apply for a work visa, enabling them to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for permanent UK citizenship. They will bring a wealth of knowledge with them, including the experience of living under an increasingly repressive regime.

This is our chance to learn from past errors and to turn hostility into hospitality. We will soon discover that we have at least as much to receive as we have to give. UK society has already been enriched by immigrants, especially those who belong to ethnic minorities in this country, but are in the majority, worldwide. The NHS alone would collapse without them.

In Bible times, Christians who were from Jewish backgrounds found it hard to believe the Church could accommodate foreigners. First there was a division between Hebrew-speakers and Greek-speakers. An even bigger row followed, when new Christians in other countries were regarded as sub-standard. Then St Peter had a visionary experience which contradicted his narrow upbringing. This is how he summarised it:

"I now realise it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to." (Acts 10.34)

Chinese? African? Caribbean? European? British? The real Church will accommodate all of them and then look for others to welcome.

Ven John Barton

Finding Expression – and God's Response – in Lament

The question of suffering comes up regularly in discussions about science and faith. I once visited a school to speak to some of the older teenagers. One of the pupils had sadly passed away from cancer a few weeks before and his classmates asked, "How God could let this happen?" Of course, these young people's questions about where God was in this situation were important. But the chaplain also gently reminded the class that their friend's family were Christians, and that they were finding that their experience of loss had brought them even closer to God than before.

One way that grief can bring us near to God is when we share it with Him, telling Him exactly how we feel. The biblical writers had no scruples about expressing themselves to God, giving vent to emotions we often hold back in a church context. As my colleague Roger Abbott has written in his book on *'Unanswered' Prayer*, "Let us not confuse reverence with spiritual prudishness. Perhaps honesty, the way it feels, is precisely what God is waiting to hear from us."

About one third of the Psalms express some form of grief. The book of Job is a series of responses to one man's suffering as he loses his children, property and health in quick succession. Lamentations is also one long outpouring of sadness at what happened to Israel under the Babylonians. Some of the prophets, especially Jeremiah, also express their pain at these sorts of events – which reflect something of God's own feelings at the suffering of His people.

Most of these biblical authors would have had access to Scriptures that encouraged them to turn to God whatever the circumstances. Emboldened by their knowledge of His character and promises, these divinely inspired writers even express their anger to God about the things He lets happen, or complain that He seems to act unfairly or ignore them in their plight. Not only do these people let out all their feelings without fear of reprisal, but they also clearly expect a helpful answer. Some record a resolution to their troubles – often simply because God speaks to and comforts them, enabling them to keep going.

The biblical writers demonstrated that God can handle pretty much anything – anger, blame, bitterness – if we are actively looking to Him for help. As Pete Greig of the 24-7 prayer movement has written, "pain that is not expressed can never be transformed".

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

St Nicholas Owen and Priest Holes.

Nicholas was known also as Little John. He was small in stature but big in the esteem of his fellow Jesuits. He built many "priest holes" for Roman Catholic priests to hide in the houses and mansions they would be staying in, as these homes would be searched thoroughly and if they were caught they would be tortured and killed and the home owners would either be put in jail or heavily fined. A lot of these priest holes were discovered a hundred years or more later when places were being pulled down or having restoration.

In Cowdray Mansion in Sussex the hiding place was behind the fireplace in a bedroom. It had a moveable panel in a cupboard with two flights of stairs going up into the roof. On the way up there was also a small room with an iron chair, brass lamp and some manuscripts.

Harvington Hall is also known as The House of Secrets because it has seven priest holes, more than any other house in Britain! The owner Humphrey Packington refused to attend the Church of England service on Sundays and was fined £20 a month, which in today's money is £4,000! Other people couldn't afford to pay and were made to attend the service but tried not to listen to it and afterwards went straight to Harvington Hall to hear mass there, which was illegal.

Speke Hall, Liverpool, not only had priest holes, but for extra security it had an eavesdropper which was a hole under the main entrance door so a person could listen clearly to the people waiting at the door.

Hindlip House in Worcester is where St Nicholas finally gave himself up after hiding for days in that building. The original building was burnt down in the 1800s and rebuilt, and is now used as the headquarters of West Mercia Police and the Fire & Rescue Service.

The priest holes were also used by other people. Moseley Old Hall not only hid priests but also King Charles II when Oliver Cromwell was outside searching for him, but he wasn't found. Later he rewarded the lady of the house with £1,000, which was the sum on his head, plus £200 every year afterwards.

The Priest Hole you may know about is in Upton Court, Slough! It's entered from a fireplace with a double flue, one for smoke and the other one for ventilation to the hiding place!

Alice Sanders

Millions join worship online during the pandemic

The Church of England's national online services alone have attracted more than 3.7 million views since the first restrictions on gatherings for public worship to limit the spread of Covid-19 were introduced. Clips and content from the services have been seen 40 million times on social media channels.

The Church of England's prayer and discipleship apps – through which people can join in ancient services of morning and evening prayer from wherever they are – have been accessed eight million times, up 50% on the previous year.

The figures for the online services are thought to be just the tip of the iceberg, as churches' response to the pandemic triggered a major change in the way Christians worship and reach out to their neighbours.

At least 20,000 services and other online events are now listed on the Church of England's 'church-finder' website AChurchNearYou. Fifteen months ago, there were none.

And a special hymn download service, designed for local churches to use as part of online worship, has seen more than a million downloads.

As churches look ahead, many are assessing how to incorporate the lessons of the last year into their regular patterns of worship and outreach after the pandemic.

Many of those attending online services were worshipping for the first time. A survey of some of the online congregation found 19.7 per cent of people asked were engaging with the Church of England online for the first time.

These national services have also been made available on the DailyHOPE line, a free phone line that has been especially welcomed by those without internet access. The line has received over 400,000 calls and played five million minutes since it was launched in April last year.

The need to find new ways of meeting for worship amid lockdowns and local restrictions has also helped the wider public engage with a broad range of Anglican traditions. For example, Book of Common Prayer services have seen a large increase in people attending as a result of being available online.

Amaris Cole, the Church of England's Head of Digital, said: "The last year has shown the incredible creativity of our local churches, which have worked quickly to engage with their communities, despite restrictions.

To support this, we've continued our digital training for local churches to use

digital platforms, with more than 7,000 attendees attending webinars to learn skills such as how to live stream, how to turn their sermons into podcasts or use Facebook groups for their Bible studies.

“It’s been incredible to hear the stories of those being reached through these online services.

“With the national weekly services shared on our Facebook page and YouTube channel, we’ve been able to connect with people who may have never engaged with church services before and have seen communities form in the comments while these services are streaming on a Sunday morning.

“They regularly share prayer requests, ask questions about the Christian faith and offer to support others online.

“With services being led by bishops, chaplains, vicars and lay people, featuring classic hymns or worship bands, readings from television presenters and children from our primary schools, the diversity of the Church of England has been showcased through our national social media channels and we’ve ensured corporate worship is accessible wherever people may be.”

The prayer apps include the Church of England’s Daily Prayer app, offering traditional services of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, which was accessed 4.4 million times, a rise of 55 per cent.

The Lectionary app, which includes the calendar, readings and prayer for the Church’s year, was accessed 1.7million times, up 21 per cent.

Meanwhile the Church of England campaign app which provides reflections for current #LiveLent campaign and the Comfort and Joy campaign during Advent and Christmas was accessed 700,000 times, an increase of nine per cent.

Do you love a bargain?

Some people adore bargains, promotions, and cut-price items. They are the ones who always forage out reduced clothing and food, collect coupons and loyalty points with great care, and are at the front of the queue to bag items on Black Friday.

Now a new study has found that such deal-prone bargain-hunting may be more than a preference – it may even run in your genes. It could be a tendency which is passed on genetically as well as learned.

The study was published in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research.

Church of England backs VaccinAid campaign to ‘Give the World a Shot’ to help defeat Covid-19

The Church of England is supporting the ‘VaccinAid’ campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.

Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is encouraging people and congregations both to donate, and also to spread the word in their community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus’s command to love our neighbour.

VaccinAid is being supported by other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS. Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities - including parishes - can sign-up to fundraise together.

Local churches are being encouraged to join the campaign, with resources available to download for free on the AChurchNearYou.com Resource Hub to share on social media, newsletters or notice boards.

The recently launched campaign has been developed in just a few weeks following a meeting convened by Archbishop Justin with faith leaders, Government and NGOs to discuss how people in the UK could do something practical in response to the real sense of gratitude they have felt as they and their loved-ones receive their vaccines.

Archbishop Justin said: “The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound impact on people here and around the world, but vaccines offer the hope of a brighter future. I’m delighted that churches and other faith groups in the UK are supporting the VaccinAid campaign.

“There is no better way to show our deep gratitude for the gifts of science and medicine than making sure vulnerable people around the world are also given a shot.

For more information on the campaign go to www.vaccinaid.org to donate or begin fundraising.

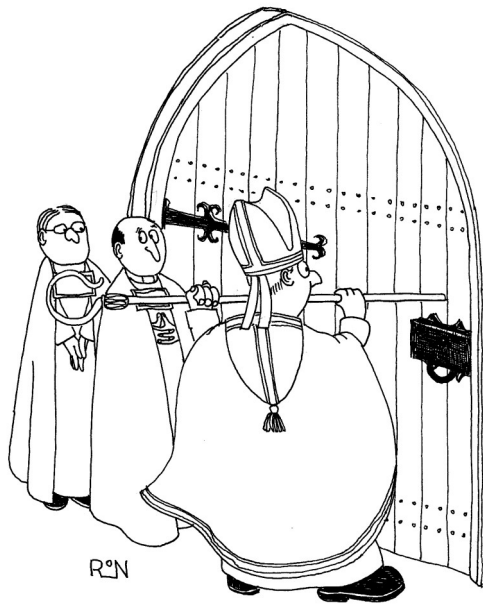
C of E to provide National Professional Qualification for school leadership in partnership with Catholic Church

The Department for Education has recently announced that a partnership between The Church of England and the Catholic Church will provide part of the Government's reformed National Professional Qualification training for teachers from September 2021.

The new National Professional Qualifications will provide training for teachers in different areas of school leadership, including senior leadership, headship and executive leadership as well as specialist areas of teaching.

The Church of England NPQs will support up to 2,500 teachers each year across the whole country.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's lead bishop for Education, said: "I'm delighted that the Government has demonstrated its confidence in our track record of leadership training. Through the Church of England's Foundation for Educational Leadership, we have a first class and innovative team."



There didn't seem to be anyone in



On the perils of holding a Rose Queen celebration

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

On reflection, inviting your parishioners to join in our annual Rose Queen celebrations may not have been entirely wise. It was cheering to see that your people arrived on carnival floats, although it was less happy that some of them should have chosen to dress up as coronavirus bugs, full of those nasty spike proteins that startled some of the timid residents in our community.

Once the procession started, your drivers did not seem to have grasped the fact that the vehicles were expected to tour the village slowly, for the benefit of spectators, instead of treating it as a competitive race. I noticed that numbers on your floats gradually diminished as they were flung off while careering round corners. Those who had a walk of several miles back home while dressed as pirates and ballerinas had my sympathy. Our tea ladies, however, were less sympathetic when one of your hay bales was spun off on a tight corner and went through our Women's Guild like a row of skittles.

The local police normally use the afternoon to do a little gentle point duty while drinking gallons of sweet tea; this year, the number of tickets issued for speeding, and not social distancing, should boost our constabulary's figures for the next 12 months.

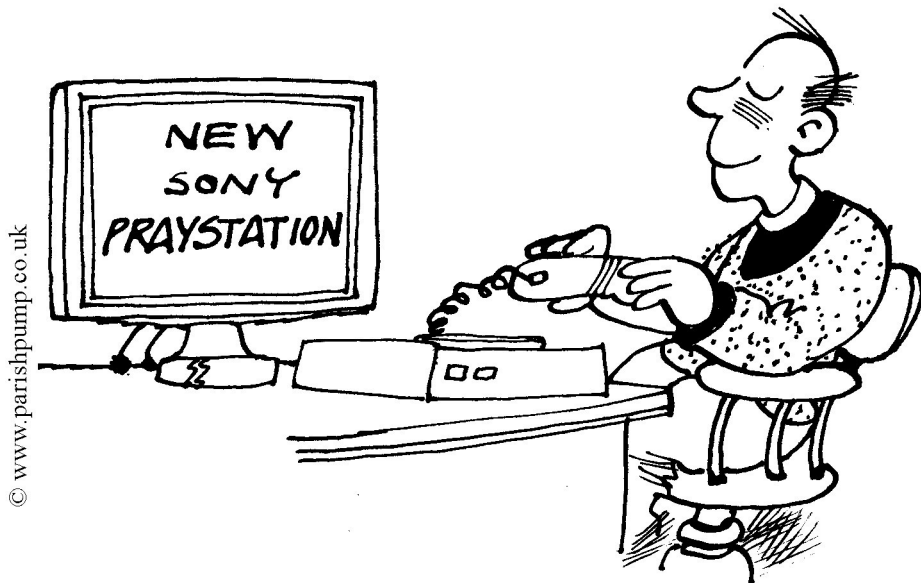
I must concede that the group who decided to make a *papier mache* swan for one of your floats showed great imagination. It was such a pity that they did not know a 15-foot-high swan would be driven under a 12-foot bridge. The drama of its emergence, headless, was only exceeded by the following float which appeared to have a group of Brownies being savaged by a demented, bodiless, vulture.

I am sure that some of your people's offers to help this year's Princesses campaign for election for Rose Queen next year were well-meant. However, I don't think our parish really wants a full-blown social media campaign for next year's Rose Queen, and so we will have to decline your offer.

The crowning of the Rose Queen is always a high point to the afternoon, but could I point out that the 'gold' crown is only metal foil, and the 'diamond' sceptre is only a piece of glass? So, whoever it was in your crowd who walked off with them, please may we have them back before next year?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Nectar in your garden

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Is there life without the BBC?

Could you live happily without the BBC? Just try it for two weeks.

That was the recent challenge of the corporation's outgoing chairman, Sir David Clementi, to a group of critics who said they resented the licence fee.

Apparently, nine days later, two thirds of the critics had changed their mind and said that the licence was worth every penny. Sir David observed that when "things that they took for granted are removed from them, they realise how valuable the BBC is."

So he encourages anyone else who thinks that the license is not worth £3 a week, to try life without the BBC. "I think that most people would find it very hard to cope."

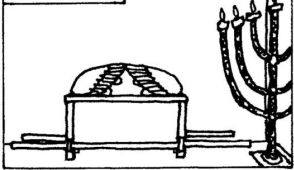
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so He let the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



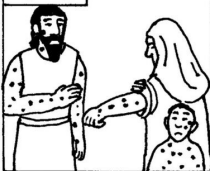
The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



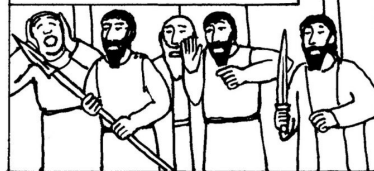
Then the people became covered in sores.



They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.



They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.



But some treated it without respect and died.



The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

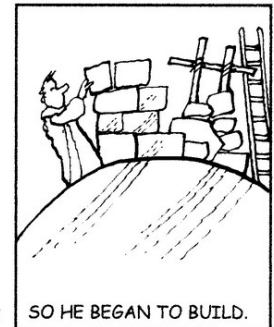


ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

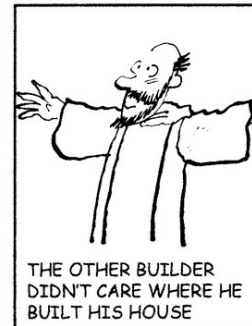


THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HOME.

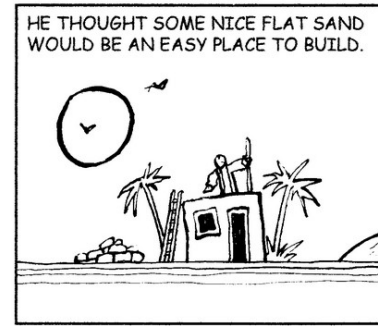
AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



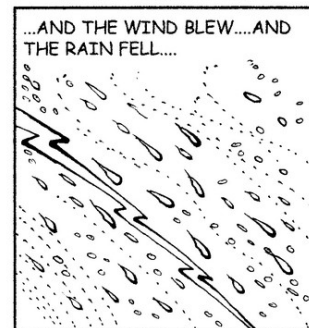
THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE



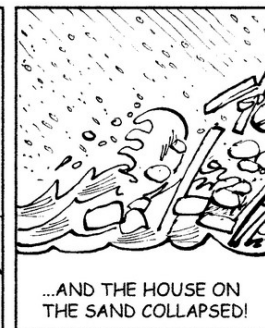
HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



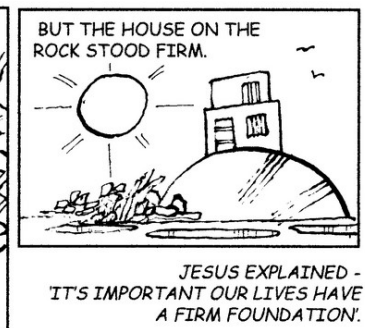
BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL...

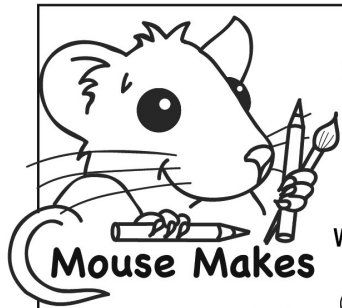


...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!



BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.



Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
VSEIL
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
WKN O
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
HCTSEEA
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
KPESSA
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
PHLSE
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
AYPR

On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?
Acts 2:2

What did they see?
Acts 2:3

What filled them?
Acts 2:4

How did they speak?
Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?
Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?
Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?
Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?
What did he say?
Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?
Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the Holy Spirit
produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT
Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ES
COMF _RTS
REVEA _S
IN _OU
TRAN _FORMS
HEL _S
GU _DES
_GENEWS
CONV _CTS
SANC _IFIES

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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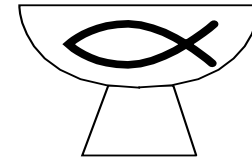
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Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

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
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

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

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

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