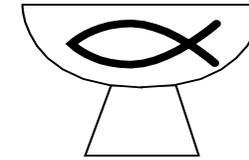


February 2023

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News



St Mary St Laurence St Peter

The people who walked in darkness
'I am the light
of the world.
Whoever follows me
will never walk in
darkness but will
have the light of life.'

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
The light came into the world,
and everyone, who came into the world,
loved the darkness rather than the light,
because their deeds were evil.
Whoever does not receive the light
who comes into the world,
the darkness remains in him.
The light that gives life to everyone
came into the world.
Whoever receives the light
who comes into the world,
the light of life will be in him.
The children of light
do not hate the children of darkness,
nor do the children of light hate the children of darkness,
but they love the light so that they may see
their works, which are good.
The light of the life of the world
has come into the world,
and everyone who loves the light
will be in the light forever.
The light of the life of the world
has come into the world,
and everyone who loves the light
will be in the light forever.
The light of the life of the world
has come into the world,
and everyone who loves the light
will be in the light forever.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path

Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

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

Revd Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
District Churchwarden (SL):	
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07388 832233
District Churchwarden (SP): Frank Gerrish	07970 537572
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651

Clergy days off:

Revd Scott Lamb Friday
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<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

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

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

The Rector Writes:

Dear Friends,

The recently released census results make fascinating reading, not least for the Church of England. For the first time since the Dark Ages only a minority of people in Britain call themselves Christian, 46.2% to be precise.

Reactions to this finding have been rather predictable. Humanists UK called for Christianity and the Church of England in particular to be stripped of their established status and lose their remaining privileges in our national life. Quietly ignoring the fact that only a very small number of those claiming to hold “no religion” are signed up Humanists. Some right-wing commentators tried to link the decline in Christianity to immigration, ignorant of the reality that immigration has boosted Christianity in Britain. As we know well some churches would have closed completely without the fresh input of lively faith brought from overseas. Other writers highlighted the increase in other world religions, and while this is a trend in the data, the percentages remain small nationally over all. If the figures are examined, the real reason for the decline in Christianity is obvious: the loss of faith amongst those who identify as White British. A graph on the BBC census website makes this patently clear. The change is due to loss of religion in the majority population, not the growth in minorities. In reaction, church leaders have rightly called for the church to renew its evangelistic zeal. Christendom is past and we are now in a missionary situation again.

And for us in Slough? We will all be aware that, as in many other areas, Slough is atypical where religion is concerned. Unlike most of the UK, religion flourishes here in the most culturally diverse place outside London. With our friends and neighbours in mind, our response will be nuanced. Of course we want people to know Jesus and the life he gives, but as we seek to share our faith our focus will be those without faith rather than those with it. To our neighbours of faith we will adopt a different posture. At the height of the Crusades, St Francis chose to go among “the Saracens and other infidels.” A contemporary follower of Francis describes his approach: “The meaning of mission for Francis is not, above all, to convert the infidel and expand Christianity, but rather to live the Gospel of universal fraternity.... Because of all this, the living of fraternity and service beyond differences of religion and culture is closer to the truth of the Gospel than its mere doctrinal substance.”

Fr Scott

FEBRUARY SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Wed 22nd Ash Wednesday Eucharists with Imposition of Ashes:
9.30am St Peter's
12.30pm St Mary's
7.30pm St Laurence's

Our Lent course this year will run after each mid-week Eucharist (the same session three times each week), using the Oxford Diocese “Come and See” materials. More details will follow

Coming Soon!

Sunday 5th March, 12.45pm: St David's Day Church Lunch at St Laurence's.

Sign up in church or call 01753 532425.

St Mary's News

Now the shops are starting to sell Cream Eggs and Hot Cross Buns, Christmas seems to be a distant memory. However, attendance at St Mary's over the period was very encouraging both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Revd Linda led our first attempt at a Toddler worship service and we hope to that we can hold a similar event at Easter.

The new year has seen the return of our regular church users, NHS Mental Health carers, Art Class, AA and NA, Mother/carers and Toddlers and Contact Centre, Romanian Church and we look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Unfortunately we were not successful in our bid for the Home Office grant to upgrade our CCTV and lighting around the church, but we are hoping to explore some improvements and hopefully attract local funding.

The mechanism in the clock tower for the hour chime has broken but we are hoping that this will be repaired in the next few weeks and the chime restored.

Jean

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

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

St Laurence's News

Our financial position at the end of 2022 was much better than we expected at the beginning of the year. I'm afraid you'll have to wait until the Annual District Church Meeting reports are issued to get the details.

We've had two additional security cameras installed to cover vulnerable areas around the building, which we identified after the vestry was broken onto last year.

Our lightning conductor will be replaced in the near future, so if you see someone crawling around on the church roof it probably won't be a burglar (although it might be!)

Dave



"He moved here after the PCC voted to lower the church heating bill. He says it is warmer out here."

St Peter's News

St Peter's has continued to support the food bank through 2022. We sent them all the tins and packets given for the harvest celebrations in October. In December we had a special collection of food and toiletries for the bank. An emergency supply for one person for three days is reckoned to be 10 Kg of food and one Kg of toiletries, so it is easy to understand how vital all donations, are, however small.

Planning fundraising is now high on the agenda as we endeavour to meet our commitments, especially the diocesan share. We will have a stall at the postponed Eton Community Fair, on 18th March and the following Saturday we are hoping to have our Eastertime bazaar, this year; it will be called a Lady Day Fair. More details next month, but help is needed for both events.

Margaret

Chalvey's Secret Santa

A chance conversation between a member of St Peter's Church in Chalvey and Tania Vermeulen from Slough Salvation Army led to a visit from a secret Santa.

Tania mentioned that there was a great need for socks and pants for the Army's homeless outreach. Word got around, and over £250 worth of socks and pants from a secret Santa (together with some other little gifts) arrived at the Slough HQ on a sleigh with Fr Alistair Stewart, Vicar at Chalvey within the central Slough Anglican Parish of Upton cum Chalvey.

Fr Alistair commented that at the time when we remember God's entry into the world as a marginalized person it is fitting that we remember those who are marginalized today.

A big thank-you to the secret Santa.

War, hunger, cold ... and hope – bishops look ahead and share their thoughts

With a focus on food banks, warm spaces, community, the war in Ukraine, and migration, bishops across England have shared messages of hope for the coming year.

The Bishop of Lichfield, Michael Ipgrave, has highlighted not only many churches will be open for services, but also as a warm, heated space for those who need it.

“The instinct to welcome people into our own space is deep within us as human beings,” he said. “And the welcome we give, or fail to give, to people who are cold, hungry, struggling with finances today says so much about our own society.

The Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, looked back on 2022 as a year of upheaval and “of seismic proportions ...the loss of our beloved late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

“The shadow of Covid-19 remained with us and we heard stories of the lasting impact of the pandemic, especially through Long Covid, [and] the effects of lockdown on children’s and adults’ mental well-being,” she added.

“But we have also seen compassion in action as thousands of families offered to share their homes with those Ukrainian families who have been lucky enough to get visas. We also saw our churches working with many charities to offer support by way of warm community spaces; assisting with language lessons; providing clothing and food.

“Indeed, the words of our Lord came into their own: ‘I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink, naked and you clothed me, sick and in prison and you visited me.’ Thank you for your part in this.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehqani said: “As we begin another year, with all the uncertainty that continues raging around us, and with continued worries about the cost of living and the changing nature of the church, it’s perhaps worth remembering that the same Christ child who drew kings and magi to His crib is the one who invites us to follow Him still today.”

Cost of living crisis: 2.6 million seek help from churches and faith groups

Nearly three million adults in the UK are estimated to have sought help from church or other religious organisations since the start of last year, as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, according to research published.

New findings show that, overall, almost four in 10 (38%) of UK adults sought help last year because of the squeeze on living costs. Family and friends were the most common source of help, at 24% and 14% respectively.

However, the polling by Savanta, for the Church of England, also found that 5% of UK adults, approximately equivalent to 2.6 million people, sought help from churches or other religious organisations.

Six in 10 of those who sought help from churches and other religions said they had received free food or groceries (60%). Half said they received low-cost food or groceries (50%) or hot food (48%), and four in 10 (40%) said they had been provided with warm spaces.

The survey showed that, overall, 61% of UK adults said they had *not* sought help in 2022 as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, but this figure fell to 24% of 18 to 24 year-olds and 30% of 25 to 34 year-olds.

When early last year the Warm Welcome campaign was launched, it was supported by thousands of churches and other public buildings, which are opening their doors this winter to provide a warm space for people amid surging energy bills.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on welfare issues, said: “Churches have been providing a lifeline to people struggling to balance their household budgets and provide for their families through food banks and food clubs and other forms of hospitality for many years.

“The cost-of-living crisis has seen churches step up this support, with many providing warm spaces through the Warm Welcome campaign this winter for people struggling to heat their homes.

“The figure of nearly three million people seeking help from church or other religious organisations since the start of this year is almost certainly an underestimate of the extent of the support, as many visit church-run food banks and food clubs in order to provide for their families and wider households.”

Statistics for Mission 2021 published

Attendance at Church of England parishes rose sharply in 2021, compared to 2020, but continued to be affected by Covid measures, new statistics from the Church of England show.

Average weekly attendance, which includes Sundays and midweek attendance, grew to 605,000 in 2021 compared to 345,000 in 2020. But it was lower than in 2019, when average weekly attendance stood at 854,000 people.

The number of baptisms and weddings grew in 2021 compared to 2020, with 26,500 marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage and 55,200 baptisms or thanksgiving services for a child.

Many churches continued to provide 'church at home' services in 2021, offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means amid a range of Covid restrictions.

It comes as separate figures show the number of people praying online has continued to grow sharply over the past year with downloads of the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio at 3.2 million so far in 2022 – 62% higher than 2021 when it was launched. Total downloads now stand at 5.2 million.

Daily Prayer audio – across the Daily Prayer podcast and app – has now reached more than 1.1 million unique listeners.

Meanwhile, figures from the Church of England's digital channels show that social media content – prayers, Bible verses, reflection content, good news stories and encouragement – have been seen more than 65 million times this year so far.

This amounts to approximately 1.3 million impressions per week, with content seen roughly 190,000 times a day.

And the Church of England's national online service averages around 150,000 views a week, with an average of 300 written comments a week from regular online worshipping communities.

The summary adds: “The pandemic continued to have an impact on the life of the Church of England, with some churches being closed for worship for parts of 2021 and some members of congregations continuing not to attend in-person services. This report indicates the extent to which things have 'bounced back,' but notes that further bouncing back is expected.”

Number of Christmas services surged, as parishes welcome public

At the end of last year, the number of Christmas services advertised on the Church of England's church-finding website were up by more than a quarter on pre-pandemic levels.

The *A Church Near You* website was advertising just over 23,850 services and other gatherings. And search engines saw a surge in people searching for phrases such as 'midnight mass'. All in all, an estimated 682,000 people visited AChurchNearYou.com in December, and around 80% of these visitors were on the site for the first time.



"But look", said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly any chocolate on"

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the March issue by **Sunday 12th February** at the latest!

Dave

The Language of Love

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: '*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another*' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, '*everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry*' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an *appropriate* touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: '*speaking the truth in love*'.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

Canon Paul Hardingham



Some hints about prayer this Lent

Prayer is instinctive for human beings, even those who don't regard themselves as religious. You are standing at a bus stop in the wind and the rain, thinking 'I do hope the bus will come soon'. It's an inner yearning. It defies logic: either the bus is coming, or it isn't. But we all do it. It's instinctive and it's the raw material of prayer. Hoping for something better is basic. Like all instincts, it needs to be trained.

To whom do we pray? What you pray, and the way you do it will be shaped by your view of God. Christian prayers are fashioned by what we know of Jesus and what He taught about prayer.

We pray by invitation. Again and again, Jesus encouraged His companions to pray. A couple of His parables on the subject have been misinterpreted as instructions to persuade a resistant God to do what we want. Have a look at Luke 18, verses 1-8, about a widow whose perseverance finally persuaded an unwilling judge to rule in her favour. The lesson is that God is *not* like that! Similarly, an unwelcome neighbour who persistently calls for help in the middle of the night gets what he wants (Luke 11:5-13). The lesson? If tenacious lobbying can overcome human unwillingness, *how much more* our gracious God will heed His children's cry.

Pushing at an open door. Jesus is already praying for us. So, when we start to pray, we step on to an already moving staircase. Sometimes prayer seems tougher than it need be. Jesus invited us to be linked to Him, in the way an inexperienced bullock is yoked to a mature ox. Have a look at Matthew 11:28-29, which concludes "for my yoke is easy and my burden is light". When Marion Bartoli unexpectedly won the 2013 Women's Wimbledon final, she said "I believe if you put all your heart and effort into everything you are doing, then God is there to help you."

Is your prayer on the right lines? Try adding "for Christ's sake" at the end. "Please let my marrow win the Gardening Club competition"? No. "Not my will but yours" is the key. So when praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

Ven John Barton

Spiritual Disciplines - Study

'The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.' (Richard Foster)

Spiritual disciplines are practices designed to develop and grow our lives as disciples of Jesus. This month we are looking at the place of *study* as a spiritual practice.

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.' (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). The study of God's Word is vital if we are to grow in understanding God's will for our lives. The discipline of study can take different forms: reading the Bible as a book or on a digital device and listening to an audio Bible. We can hear the Bible taught in church on Sundays or online any time.

One helpful way of studying Scripture is *Lectio Divina*. It consists of five steps:

Select a Scripture passage to read.

Read the passage, preferably out loud, two or three times. Use the first time to get a feel for the passage. On the second time, note any words or phrase that draw your attention.

Meditate on the word or phrase that stood out to you. How is God speaking to you through these? Take time and allow God to speak personally about your life now.

Respond to what God has been saying to you. What is your response? What is your prayer?

Rest in God's presence and allow His love to embrace you by His Spirit.

Why not try this for yourself to hear God speak?

'We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords.' (Words used when the late Queen received a Bible at her Coronation).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

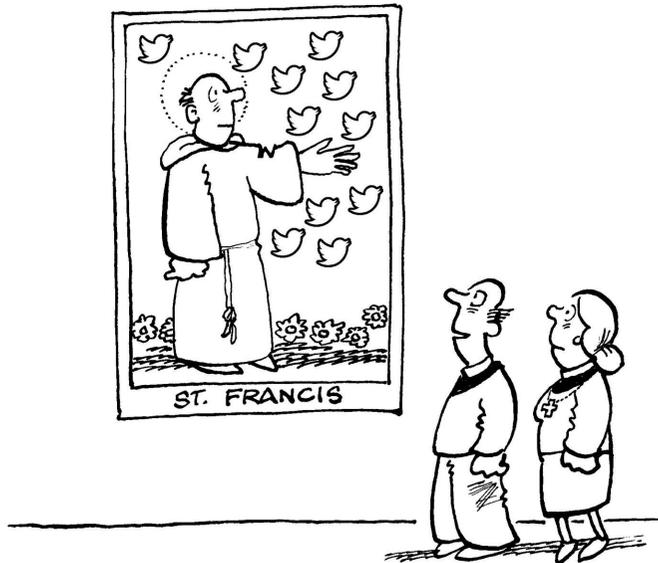
You can help three ways during this Fortnight.

First, why not join an online *Big Fairtrade Get Together?* Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future.

Secondly, *let your friends know* of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night.

Thirdly, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else.

For more information, visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!



2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo's development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*



What the temptations mean for us

Immediately after His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 22nd February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, many of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. ‘You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at Your feet into loaves of bread’. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: ‘throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground’. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular publicity stunt for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

The third was outrageous. ‘Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and you will have infinite worldly power and success’. In other words, the divine Son of God should deny His Father and worship the devil, to glean success without going to the Cross. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise your integrity, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or choose the hard way: walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment, and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

Canon David Winter

Sometimes it is wise to retreat

Lent is supposed to prepare us for Easter, but making time for spiritual reflection in our busy lives can be hard. One solution is to take a short retreat, at one of the many retreat houses or centres around the country.

It has been said that *"Retreats are for ordinary people at any time in their life. There are no expectations of you when you're there and you don't need to be a churchgoer."* Just step back, relax in quiet and calm, and allow yourself some time to reflect and grow in your relationship with God.

Jesus Himself started the idea, when He invited his disciples to *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while"* (Mark 6: 31). His disciples needed to be alone with Him then, and they still need to be alone with Him today.

Retreat houses offer a warm welcome, and many are set in beautiful buildings with gardens. Most offer overnight accommodation and wholesome, home cooked food. Just visit: <https://www.retreats.org.uk>

Answer to prayer

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."



On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat *in* and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport, to ice hockey.

Inevitably, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has *not* dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character.

The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

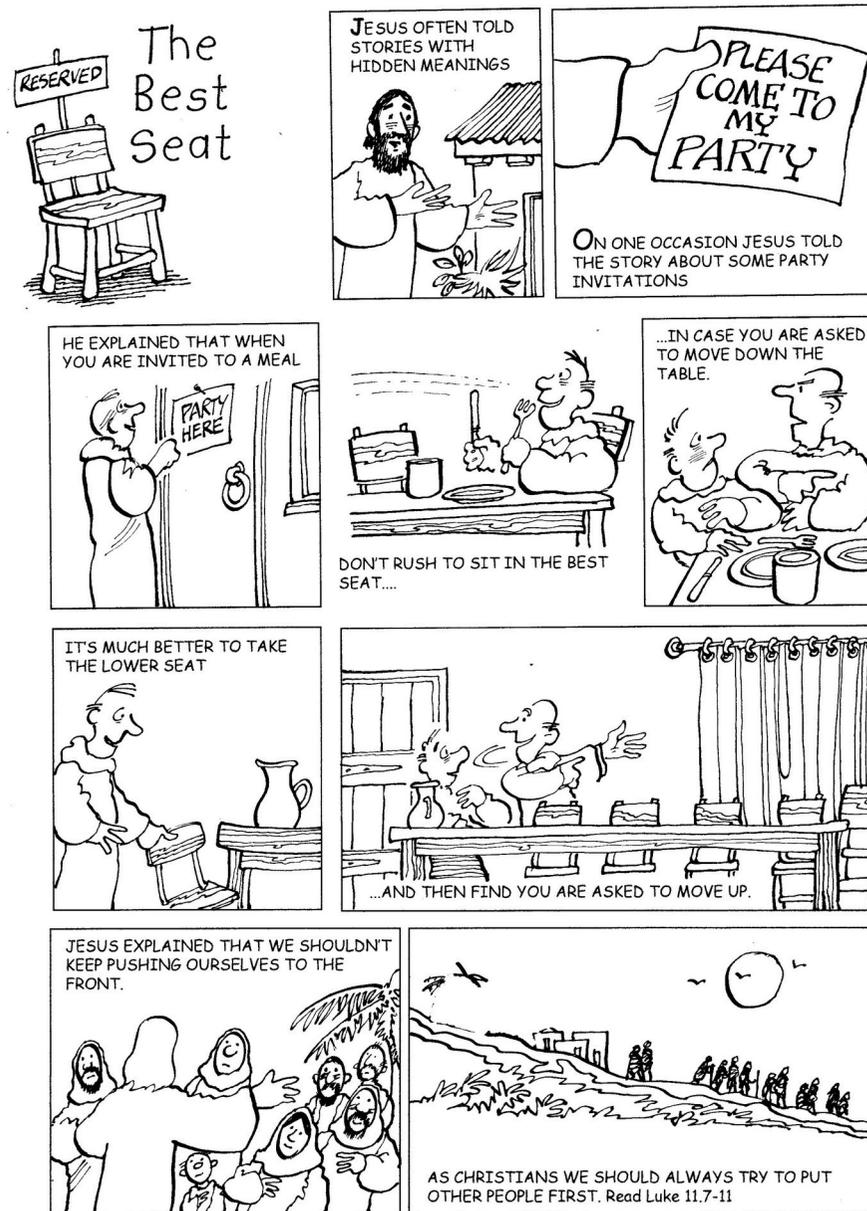
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race

No one is quite sure how the world famous Pancake Race in the village of Olney originated. One story is that when a local housewife living in Olney in 1445 heard the church bell ringing to summon everyone to church she raced to the church carrying her frying pan as she had been making her Shrove Tuesday Pancakes.

Another story tells that the gift of pancakes may have been a bribe to the bell ringer that he might ring the bell signalling the beginning of the day's holiday and enjoyment.

By 1950 the pancake race became an international event. As you drive into Olney, the village sign has a painting of the Olney housewives running the race. Nowadays the church bell rings to signal the race to begin. The competitors wear housewife outfits, a scarf, skirt and apron, all in the same matching clothes. The pancake must be tossed the whole time throughout the race. Afterwards is a traditional shriving church service with a procession of the runners into the church.

Alice Sanders



CHILDREN'S PAGE



Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?
Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?
His
Matthew 26:27-28

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?
Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?
Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?
His
Matthew 26:26

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in
of me."
1 Corinthians 11:24-25



What did Jesus take, bless and break?
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Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in
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1 Corinthians 11:24-25



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
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R O O M B C U P T O O K E H
L O R D R U B A W G D J A R
T E G J E S U S E E R E T I
M U I N A N E S L V I S O S
L C V C D E C O V E N A N T
B H E O C I N V E N K B I B
L A N M W A T E R I L L G O
O R E M E M B R A N C E H D
O I S U P P E R I G O S T Y
D S S N M U G I V E N S H D
E T D I S C I P L E S I N S
B S T O G E T H E R W N A
T H A N K S K L A M B G**

Find the words from the questions too!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus...

How many times do I have to forgive? Seven?



It's not about keeping count

You must never stop forgiving.



And Jesus told them a story...

A king decided to check his accounts



Bring me the man who owes me the most money.

One servant owed him 50 million silver coins



Sell him, his family, and all he has.

Please give me more time to pay



I feel sorry for you. Your debt is cancelled.

Then the servant saw someone who owed him 100 silver coins



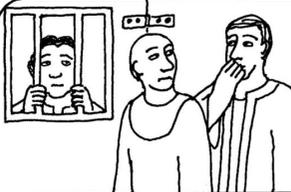
I want my money now!

Please give me more time



No! You're going to prison now!

The other servants found out what had happened..



and they told the king.

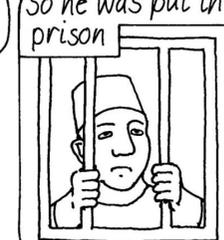


Bring him here now!

You bad man! I forgave you so much - why did you not forgive?



So he was put in prison



Jesus ended by saying...



Because God has forgiven you so much, you must forgive others with all your heart.

Church-speak

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JUSTICE: When your children grow up and have children of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Anglicans can recognise, besides gyros and baklava.

Disclaimer

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SERVICES IN THE PARISH

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.
6.00pm Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)
Tuesday: 10.00am Eucharist
Wednesday: 12.30pm Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday: 11.00am Family Eucharist with children's group.
Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.
Wednesday: 9.30am Holy Communion

Websites:

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

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

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