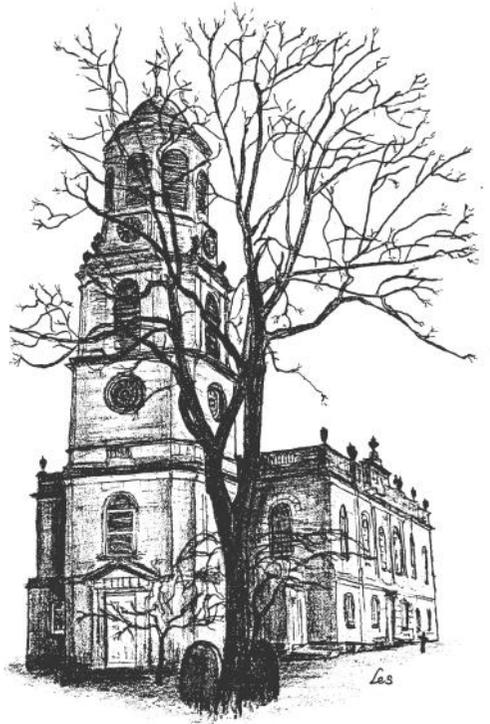
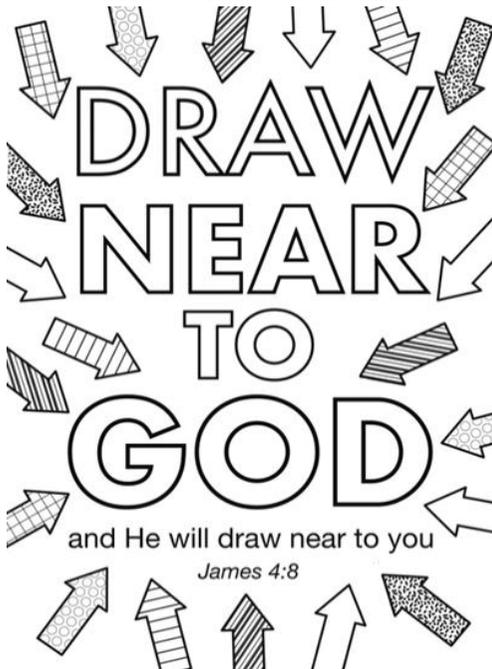


St. John's Church

Sharing
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Parish
Magazine
February
2021
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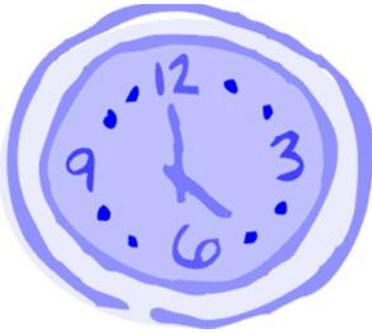
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Time is Lent to Us

Isn't it strange how, being in lockdown, time seems to be distorted? After lunch today, I took down the last of the Christmas decorations; and by the time you read this, we'll be within a couple of weeks of the start of Lent. What on earth is going to fill the five weeks in between?

We tend to think of time as something fixed. We expect our bus, or train, to arrive and leave promptly; 'It'll take me three-quarters of an hour', we say as the car drives off. And that makes no allowance for the half hour we spend stationary while the accident blocking the slip road is cleared. We spend a couple of hours on a tedious job we hate doing, and on looking at our watch find nearly an hour and a quarter has passed; we spend half an hour with a favourite book, and spend the rest of the day trying to catch up on the hour we 'wasted'.

We rarely meet anyone with the right amount of time. Either they're in a desperate rush, trying to cut corners, and do six things at once, or they drag out a half-hour job for ninety minutes to keep themselves busy.

So, perhaps, as we begin Lent, rather than the traditional approach – giving up chocolate, or some other habit – perhaps we may want to consider something rather different, and look at our use of time. Unlike chocolate, time is irreplaceable! And how we use it can affect so many different areas of our life, far more than we realise.

'I'll make time.' I'd love to know how you do that! What you actually do is alter your activities; time given to one thing is not available for anything else. It reflects the urgency, or the importance, of what you're doing – or, quite often, someone else's urgency or importance. And often, what gets squeezed out is something whose value is more difficult to measure. That's why having set periods which cannot be reallocated is

important for things like prayer and Bible study.

One of the recurring phrases in the Bible is 'When the time had come'. God cannot be rushed. Waiting, being attentive, is essential if we are to hear his word to us. And we can so easily obscure it by our constant activity. Perhaps one of the benefits of lockdown is that it enables us to step back, and make time to listen. It may be at home; while we are out for a walk (with our phone turned off!); those few minutes when we glance out of the window and are amazed by the colours of the sunset. God speaks 'when the time has come'; when we are able to catch the whisper we might otherwise miss, and are ready to act on it.

Brian Morris

For the foreseeable future there will be NO services at St John's, due to lockdown.

A service will be recorded in church before Sunday, using the minimum of participants, and a link to this will be sent out with the Sunday news sheet, by e-mail.

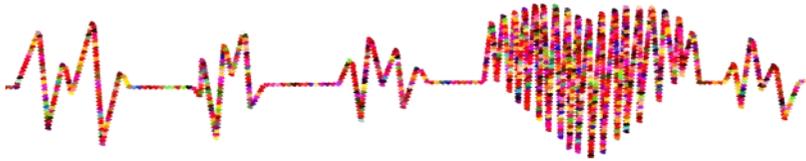
If you are on email and would like to receive the weekly newsletter and link to the service, please let Stephanie know.

If you have no email account but can access the internet, you will find a link to the recording of the service on our Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/wakefieldstjohns>)

and on A Church Near You

(<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>)



Lent Course on Rhythm of Life

The Diocese has produced a Lent Course based on their Rhythm of Life initiative and we plan to run this in the parish via Zoom.

Sessions will provide an opportunity to engage with the seven Rhythm of Life areas for deepening commitment (praying, encouraging, sharing, reflecting, celebrating, resting and creating). Each session will consist of video clips, Bible passages, discussion questions and prayer.

We are offering sessions on:

Tuesdays	1.30 - 3.00pm
Wednesdays	1.30 - 3.00pm
Wednesdays	7.30 - 9.00pm



The course will start on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 February. It is six sessions, and will finish in Holy Week, on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 March

If you are interested in joining a group please let Stephanie know either via e-mail: stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com or by phone on 01924 371029

If it is possible, we will make materials available to those who cannot access the course via Zoom but would be interested in following it anyway.

A simple recorded service for **Ash Wednesday** will be available online on Wednesday 17th February. Recorded reflections by Brian Morris will also be available on Ash Wednesday to help us to spend some time with God / have a quiet day at the beginning of Lent. Links to these will be e-mailed out before the day. They will also be available on Facebook, and on A Church Near You.

The Rev. Kenneth Unwin, Vicar at St John's 1973-82, died last month aged 94. Below are two remembrances of him.

Ken Unwin was one of the kindest, caring, humble people it has ever been my privilege to call friend. He was the vicar of St John's when I moved into the parish and started attending the church.

When he became Rural Dean I was persuaded to be the Deanery Synod Secretary. Ken was the easiest of people to work with, always on time with agendas and any necessary information. When he was elevated to Archdeacon of Pontefract the family moved to Horbury. I was fortunate to maintain my relationship with them, looking after Michael when they were out.

One highlight of this period was travelling with Ken and Beryl to the enthronement of Bishop Colin James in Winchester. We had an overnight stop and visited Blenheim Palace en route. When we reached Winchester poor Ken was dragged into a department store to find me a hat for the service.

On retirement Ken and Beryl moved to Skipton which proved to be a very good calling point when my friend and I were travelling to the Lakes or North Yorkshire. They provided us with excellent sustenance in exchange for local news from Wakefield. On other occasions we went up to spend the day with them and enjoyed visits to their favourite places around Skipton, including lunch at The Angel, Hetton.

Conversation was always easy with Ken and when Beryl sadly had to move into a nursing home I continued to visit them both. After Beryl's death in the Craven Nursing Home, where they were both residents, I visited Ken several times. He was always so welcoming and so pleased to have news of Wakefield.

If there were more people in the world like Ken Unwin what a wonderful place it would be!

Judith Woodhead

Ken Unwin was the 4th Vicar of St. Johns, out of the seven I have known. I was elected Churchwarden whilst he was Vicar, and found him an easy person to work with. Ken was a quiet, sincere man. A man you could trust, and who was well respected.

Ken was a family man, with I think four daughters, and a foster son. There would be regular callers for the girls, at the Vicarage - I know this because the Scouts kept me informed who those callers were!

Services at Church were what you might call "Traditional". The congregation was slightly larger than now, with a more even age distribution. There were a number of fund-raising activities through the year, with regular monthly social events: Whist Drives, Pantomime Trips, Parish Picnics, and Coach Trips to the sea-side.

It was because of the type of man he was, that Ken was appointed Archdeacon of Pontefract. His time at St. Johns was a happy one for the Parish, and everyone wished him well in his new role.

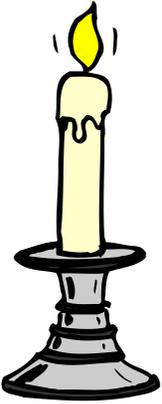
I got to know his grandson Callum when he was in the cubs, and he regularly kept me informed of his grandparents progress when they retired to Skipton.

Ken was a true Christian, a man you were pleased to know.

Philip Booth

Lorraine Hanson. We are very sad to learn of the death of Lorraine Hanson, a long-standing member of St John's Church, former Head-teacher at St John's School, and a much loved friend.

Lorraine's funeral will be held at Wakefield Crematorium on Monday 8 February at 1.45am. As numbers are restricted, John, Lorraine's husband, has arranged for the service to be live-streamed. If you wish to join the livestream please e-mail Stephanie at stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com so that she can send you the link.



Bringing the 'Light of the World' into the dark days of winter

The Christian festival of Candlemas is celebrated on 2nd February. It marks the 'Presentation of Christ in the Temple' (*Luke 2:22-40*), the official name for this feast day. Candlemas is celebrated by Christians throughout the world.

The name 'Candlemas' comes from a tradition that churches, while celebrating the time that the child Jesus was presented in the temple, used the occasion to bless the candles they had bought for the coming year. Candles, of course, were the usual source of light in dark church buildings before electric light became available in the early 1900's. In St Andrew's, Sonning, a single electric light bulb was installed in October 1934 to supplement the candles that had always been used. It was first light bulb in the village. The vicar, in the parish magazine, wrote: 'At Evensong the church looked beautiful ... with the combination of the electric light and the candles.'

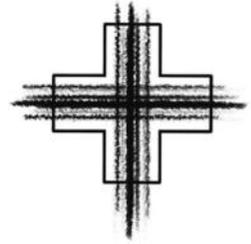
Candles were not only the source of light – oil lamps were also used – in churches but also in people's homes and work-places. Most villages, towns and cities had their candlestick maker, hence the nursery rhyme, '*Rub a dub dub, three men in a tub, the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker*'. Candles, or rather the light they provided, were an essential commodity.

We now have modern day lighting, but most churches still use candles at services. Some churches choose to hold their Christingle service at Candlemas, rather than in the busy days around Christmas. Holding Christingle at Candlemas, on the first Sunday of February, can be a very popular family occasion amidst the winter gloom. The humble candle is the perfect symbol for Jesus as the light that shines into the darkest parts of our world.

Bob Peters

17th Feb: Ash Wednesday

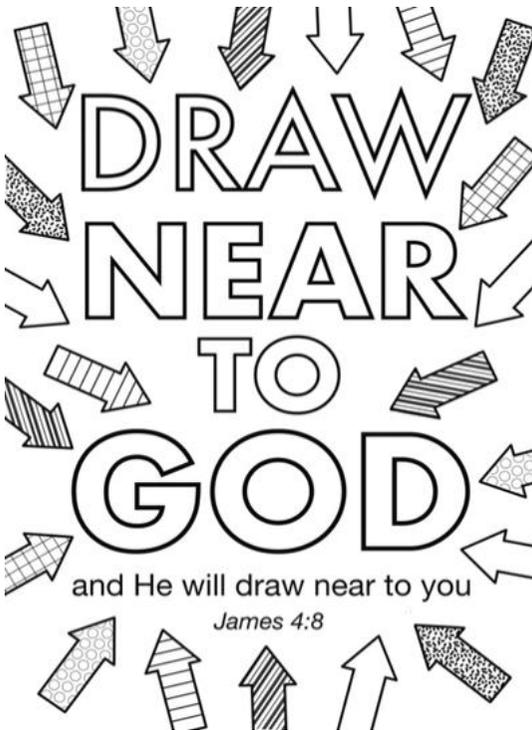
Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:



'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your

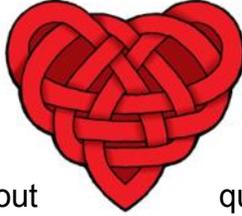


hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

It is not enough to love – you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others – without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity – of great strength. But it can also be one of pride – we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem – we do not think we are anything from others. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem – we do not think we are anything from others.



Whatever the reason, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger – we will burn out quickly.

when we keep giving we put ourselves in danger – we will burn out quickly.

It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs – whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual – you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.

DVDs of Christmas Services at St John's

We have made a DVD of three Christmas season services held at St John's. The services are:

Nativity Service 10.00am on Sunday 13 December

Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm on Sunday 17 December

Christingle Service on Christmas Eve

Plus the Christingle-making workshop run by Paul and Rob.

If you would like a copy of the DVD, for yourself or to give to someone else, please contact Martyn Lawson and he will produce a disc for you. Preferably e-mail him at:

stjohin.churchwarden@gmail.com

If you have no access to e-mail ring him on 01924 378101



BAPTISMS

*We welcome into
the Lord's family*

27th December **Laura Shinkfield** (adult)
Henry James Newton (baby)

*God doesn't just call people who are qualified; He calls people who are willing and then qualifies them.
If we want something we've never had, we have probably got to do something we've never done.*

*The views expressed in this Magazine
are those of each writer and are not necessarily held
by the Editor, Vicar or PCC.*

Magazine Contributions

The Editor is always pleased to receive news of events, to come or which have taken place; reports of church activities; original articles, stories, etc. We cannot guarantee that they will be included, and they may be edited before inclusion.

**Please send contributions for the
March 2021 issue**

by 14 February 2021

All copy should be sent to the editor:

Deidre Morris at
263 Park Lodge Lane, Wakefield WF1 4HY
Or e-mail to: **bandmorris@btinternet.com**

DIARY DATES for FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday 7

Second Sunday before Lent

Readings:

Colossians 1:15-20

John 1:1-14

Sunday 14

Sunday before Lent

Readings:

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Wed 17

Ash Wednesday

Readings

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Sunday 21

Lent 1

Readings:

Genesis 9: 8-17

Mark 1: 9-15

Tuesday 23

1.30-3.00pm

Lent Group via zoom

Wed. 24

1.30-3.00pm

Lent Group via zoom

7.30-9.00pm

Lent Group via zoom

Sunday 28

Lent 2

Readings:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Mark 8:31-end

Tuesday 30

1.30-3.00pm

Lent Group via zoom

Wed. 31

1.30-3.00pm

Lent Group via zoom

7.30-9.00pm

Lent Group via zoom

Sunday 7 March

Lent 3

Readings:

Exodus 20:1-17

John 2:13-2

Parish Morning Prayer - 9.30am Mondays - is now happening by Zoom. Please contact Stephanie if you would like an invitation to join in.

NO Sunday Services at St John's due to the COVID19 restrictions

Our normal pattern of worship, when allowed under the covid restrictions, would be:

EVERY SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion

This is currently NOT happening

1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th SUNDAY EACH MONTH

10.00am Parish Communion

This is now a said service.

There are no hymns, prayer stations etc.

Chairs are arranged for social distancing, so numbers are slightly limited.

2nd SUNDAY EACH MONTH

10.00am Family Service

This is now a said communion service

as on other Sundays,

and all family members are welcome.

The entrance door to the church is on the city centre / High School side of St John's Square. There is a ramp access for wheelchairs and pushchairs up to this door.

There is a fully accessible toilet at the church, and a baby-change facility.

There is an induction loop for those who use a hearing aid.

Mission Statement

St John's is here to be a living, loving and serving witness to Christ; worshipping, learning and growing in our faith together, reaching out to share God's love in the community and bringing His Word to all

PARISH ACTIVITIES / ORGANISATIONS

Parish Morning Prayer 9.30am Mondays - is happening by Zoom. Please contact Stephanie if you would like an invitation to join in.

A short service of readings and prayer to start the week

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Purposeful activity in a structured, fun environment.

25th Wakefield Scout Group For boys and girls, held in the Scout Hut by St. John's Parish Centre at the following times.

Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) Tues & Thurs 5.45 - 6.45pm

Cub Scouts (8-11years) Mon.& Tues 7.00pm-8.15pm

Scouts (11-14 years) Wednesday 7.30pm-9.00pm

Details: Group Scout Leader Laura Stephenson 07772869561

Girl Guiding UK www.girlguiding.org.uk

Rainbows (Girls aged 5-7) Thursdays 6.00-7.00pm in church

Contact: Ann Coulson a.coulson@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Brownies (Girls aged 7-10) Tuesdays 6.15-7.30pm in church

Contact: www.girlguiding.org.uk/registeryourinterest

Girl Guides (Girls 10 – 14 years) Thursday 7.15-8.45pm in school

Contact: Rachel Gibbs www.girlguiding.org.uk/registeryourinterest

Being 'nudged' by God

Two responses to the article on 'Being the answer to someone else's prayer', in last month's magazine.

I used to worry, when I sent such a note or e-mail, "They will think I'm silly" or "They will ask 'who does she think she is, Mrs high and mighty'".

But the reaction I get is surprisingly positive. People say "Thank you. It was so special when I opened your e-mail." or "I didn't know which way to turn and that little verse helped me so much." or "Your little note came just at the right time". Test it out when you feel you are being nudged by God. Do it, see what the reaction is, then you will be a little bit stronger to do it next time.

Such occasions have arisen with me, not frequently but often enough. The other day, the name of a friend, who lives alone in an isolated spot, came into my mind towards the end of my prayer time and I was anxious to know how she was. In fact, I could not find out because neither e-mails nor phone calls worked for three days. So I became even more anxious. On the fourth day I had a reply to my e-mails.

On the day that I first became concerned she was, she told me, on her roof replacing slates after a storm which had also cut off her electricity. She had asked a friend to help with the ladders but said I was quite right to be concerned. We had quite a long chat and she said she was grateful for the call. She added that often friends will say 'I was thinking of you' but they don't actually *do* anything.

Yesterday, when walking back from town, I caught up with a local lady walking very slowly home. I slowed down and walked with her and we talked. When we reached her flat she said, "My daughter said she would pick me up if I phoned her, but I like to walk, hoping I might meet someone to talk to. I am finding it very lonely." A small instance, but God-given.

God of mission,
You give fresh life to St John's.
Send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our activities,
and power to our witness,
that we may grow
in love and commitment to you
in number of disciples
and in loving service to our neighbours
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

In the autumn St John's held a poetry competition, and we include two of the winning entries here this month, (another is on page 19) and the remaining ones will be in next month's magazine. You will find a variety of approaches from a very wide age range.

There was a young man from St Johns
who weighed up the pro's and the con's
and with much concentration
on pronunciation
preferred to say 'scones' and not 'scons'

Phil Javens

Rev. Rob Harper A little rhyme just for fun

The Church stood waiting, empty, still
Waiting patiently to fill
“Where have all the people gone?”
Asked our Curate, Rev. Ron.
They’re all in “lockdown” the Vicar said,
Disappointed, turning red.
“What are we supposed to do?”
She asked, glancing at an empty pew.
Suddenly her face lit up,
And glancing at her empty cup,
She told the Curate not to fret,
But would he fetch his Lego set?
Ron set off at great speed,
Wondering where this would lead.
On Ron’s return he gazed in awe
Very surprised at what he saw!
The Church was filled with Mums and Dads
Aunts and Uncles, lasses, lads,
As all the children gathered round
Their laughter made a happy sound,
On Ron’s return they gave a cheer,
A sound that Ron was pleased to hear.
God’s presence filled the very air
Something for them all to share.
The building now was full of people
Both in the crypt and in the steeple.
Laughing, praying, having fun
In the presence of God’ son.

Joyce Ogden

Hope for 2021: Celebrating the now and future creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have received a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.



Getting outdoors during daylight hours, to enjoy green spaces and get some fresh air and exercise, are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, “Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction.” I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Such diseases are not ‘natural disasters’ but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices – either from greed or from the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, human and everything else, with God’s help.

Our ultimate hope is in God’s promise that He will bring about a new heaven and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a

Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

Ruth Bancewicz

Church Engagement Director

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge.

The Old Lady's Pets

In her bedroom she kept
10 flies that flew around
9 moths that were attracted to the light
8 frogs leaping about
7 mice sprinting under the bed
6 cute pugs who lazily slept all day
5 tabby cats who were getting chased by the dogs
4 cows mooing their heads off
3 snakes slithering around
2 horses trip trapping
AND ONE Guess what?

Isabella Taylor

(Based on the poem *Peter's Pets* by David Orme)

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.



THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

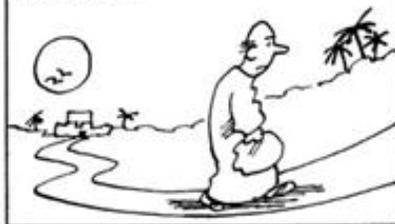


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

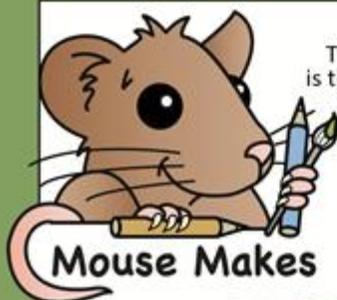


SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!



WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E _ _ _ _ H

- What two things did God create first? Genesis 1:1

_ _ S _ _

- What was the Earth without? Genesis 1:2
- What came before morning? Gen 1:5

_ _ _ _ G

- Who is the creator? Genesis 1:1
- What was separated from light? Gen 1:4

_ _ _ _

- Which day did God finish work? Gen 2:2
- Who was created God's image? Gen 1:27

_ _ _ H _

- Who moved over the water? Gen 1:2

L _ _ _ _ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **fourth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



FIND THE CREATION PAIRS from Genesis 1 and 2

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| EARTH | MORNING |
| LIGHT | FRUIT |
| DAYS | SEA |
| TREES | NIGHT |
| LAND | FISH |
| EVENING | YEARS |
| ADAM | HEAVENS |
| DAY | DARK |
| BIRDS | WATER |
| SKY | EVE |



DID YOU KNOW?

The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means creation, origin and generation



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

- Can you find these words in the word search?
- WORD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
 - FLY • DEEP • EARTH
 - DARK • DAY • LIGHT
 - NIGHT • STARS • SKY
 - SEA • LAND • BIRD
 - CREATURE • HUMAN
 - TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
 - FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

Do Your Days Rush By at a Hectic Pace?

Have you ever stopped to think that your mobile phone and e-mails have not given you *more* time? Just *more things to do* in the same amount of time.

We leave our messages in one place while we take our bodies elsewhere. Instead of doing one thing after another, we shoot out a variety of tasks, and then swoop down on them later, needing to deal with them all at once.

Compare a four-minute clip from a street scene in an old Orson Welles film and a similar clip from a more recent film, and you will see an amazing difference. In the early film, the camera records 'real time' – people get out of their cars, walk across streets, wait for lights, speak to other people, enter a bank. In the more recent film, a similar sequence was reduced to a half a dozen quick cuts. Transition time was eliminated.

Modern life teaches us that 'down time' is wasted. Time is money. So mobile phones, e-mails, etc, enable us to 'waste' less time. The tempo of cultural life picks up, the heartbeat of daily life races, and our own body rhythms respond with adrenaline, cramped muscles and heart attacks.

To take time out for daily prayer, for a quiet walk that is not to the next meeting, for daydreaming or for Bible study becomes a cross-cultural act. Following Christ, waiting on Him, is a counter cultural act.

One lovely biblical phrase is 'in the fullness of time, it came to pass'. This suggests four things: that time crests like a wave; that there is a right moment for things to happen; that it's not ours to plan that moment, but to recognise it; and that we are not the primary agents of what happens in the world.

So, feel free to accept God's offer of rest when you are weary; receive each moment of your life as a gift from God's hand; pray to discern what each new encounter you make requires of you, and freely entrust everything else to God's care.

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle.

Digest of zoom PCC Meeting, 12 January 2021

Since it is only 4 months until the 2021 APCM most of the existing officers were confirmed in their posts. However, the Treasurer, Brian Morris, has handed on this role to Geoff Lockyer. Brian was thanked for all his work as Treasurer. The existing Core Group were also re-appointed, as this is not the time to make needless changes.

With the nation in lockdown the PCC were unanimous in agreeing that the church be closed, to protect everyone. A service will be recorded in church each week, using as few people as possible, and will be available on-line on Sundays. Closure will be reviewed early in March, at the PCC.

Urgent work needed on the church roof has been approved, and will start on 15 February. We have received a grant from All Churches Trust of £5,000, which is nearly half the anticipated cost.

We have received a grant from the Bishop's Development Fund to build storage cupboards for the toys etc. used by the toddlers. This will make the tower entrance area less cluttered and so safer for everyone.

Several items of silverware need repair due to damage over the years. The PCC hesitated to spend money on this, when our income is much reduced, but repair costs will only rise. Sam Megaw had said he would be happy if the money he raised from selling bulbs were used for this, and he was warmly thanked for his generosity.

The Treasurer said regular givers had really helped keep our finances going, but we had lost a lot of income from lettings, Christmas Fayre etc. We have let a few spaces at the parish centre to the builders opposite, which is a bit of extra income, but things will be tight in 2021.

The Diocese have produced a Lent Course based on their Rhythm of Life initiative and it was agreed to run two or three zoom groups to study this.

Rhubarb Pancake Topping for Shrove Tuesday

As February is usually Wakefield Rhubarb Festival it seems appropriate to include this recipe from the BBC's Good Food Magazine. You can find more pancake toppings at:

www.bbcgoodfood.com/search/recipes?q=pancake+toppings

Ingredients

450g rhubarb, cut into 4cm pieces

85g caster sugar

3 tbsp honey

finely grated zest and juice 1 lemon

2 vanilla pods, split, seeds and pods reserved separately

stem ginger, cut into thin shards

For the pancakes

— 140g plain flour

— 200ml whole milk mixed with 100ml of water

— 2 eggs

— 25g unsalted butter, melted, plus a little extra for greasing

To make the pancakes

Sift the flour with a pinch of salt into a bowl and make a well in the centre.

Break the eggs into the well and start whisking slowly. Add the milk and water in a steady stream, whisking constantly, until all the flour is incorporated and the batter is smooth.

Leave to rest for mins, before whisking in the melted butter.

Heat a suitable pan over a medium heat and grease lightly with melted butter. Pour in 2-3 tbsp of batter and swirl it round to evenly coat the bottom of the pan - the aim is for a delicate, lacy pancake. Cook for about 45 secs on one side until golden, then flip the pancake over and cook the other side for about 30 secs until it freckles. Either serve at once or keep warm in a low oven.

To make the rhubarb compote

Heat the oven to 140°C/fan 120°C/gas 1. Put the rhubarb



pieces into a bowl and add the sugar, honey, a squeeze of lemon juice and 3 tbsp water. Mix well, then lay the pieces flat in a roasting tray with the vanilla pods. Bake in the oven for 30 mins. When the rhubarb is cooked, drain the juices into a pan, then boil to thicken slightly.

For the vanilla crème fraîche

1 tsp icing sugar

200ml crème fraîche

Vanilla seeds

Stir the vanilla seeds and icing sugar into the crème fraîche and mix well.

To serve

Mix the rhubarb with the stem ginger and juices, then spoon over pancakes.

Top each pancake with a spoonful of vanilla crème fraîche and a sprinkling of lemon zest.

Time for a smile

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

In 2020 I realised one of my childhood dreams. I walked into a bank with a mask on and demanded money.

Remember the phrase "I wouldn't touch him with a six foot bargepole". I never imagined that one day it would become Government policy.

Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places.

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

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