The magazine of Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Messenger

Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.



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November 2026 40p

Rector : Position vacant

The Vicarage, Bolton Road, Hawkshaw, Bury, BL8 4JN

Please contact Wardens .

See page 39 for all contact details

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Editorial: Stephen Newhouse - stephen.newhouse@sky.com. 01706 412657

Copy to can be handed to Stephen Newhouse, sent by email to stephen.newhouse@sky.com or can be handed in at any service by the 15th of the month prior to publication, we can not guarentee insertion after this date.

Note: The editor would be grateful for copy by email, but typed or hand written contributions are always welcome.

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AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

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Our printed version of this magazine is now produced on 100% recycled paper.

The Emmanuel Church Centre, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and St. Mary, Hawkshaw, have each achieved a BRONZE Eco Church Award.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

Why not visit our website:
www.holcombehawkshaw.org

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Association for Church Editors

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All correspondence will be assumed for publication unless you specify otherwise. Contributions may be edited. Ideas and opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the editor.

REMEMBER REMEMBER



We all learned 'Remember remember the 5th November', when we were young, but it is not just that date we remember in November.

November is a month of remembering starting with All Saints Day on 1st November and All Souls on 2nd. All Saints celebrates the lives of great people who have gone before us and left a lasting legacy and enduring place in Christian lives. This is followed by All Souls' Day when we remember and give thanks for those who have died and are known to us personally, those who gave us life, made sacrifices for us and are always in our hearts. We have a Remembering Service on 8th November at 2pm to do just this. In France it is the tradition to take pots of Chrysanthemum plants to family graves at the beginning of the month.

Then we have Remembrance Day when we remember those who have lost their lives in wars and conflict.We think of the ongoing issues of war and peace and self sacrifice.

In our collective remembrance we call on the peace of John 14 vv27-31

'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you.I do not give to you as the world gives.Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

'

We pray for peace on Earth and an end to the madness and futility of war. The prophet Micah talks of terrible times of war for the people of Israel then goes on with the amazing vision when peace will replace warfare and swords will be made into ploughs.

Of course ultimate peace, justice and joy will only come at the end of time but that doesn't mean we just sit and wait.

As Mahatma Gandhi said 'Peace is not something that you wish for, it is something that you make, something that you give away.

If we truly want to remember those who have gone before us, whether in conflict or not what better way than building a more peaceful and loving world ,starting in our own families, our community ,our church fellowship and our nation.

When we say and give the sign of the peace to each other in our services let us always truly mean the words we say.

Jo Venn

What's going on at Campfire Church ?



Campfire Church is going well and we had seven young people and their families at the October gathering.They were all keen to get involved and be in the play about Ruth and Boaz and enjoyed the various activities. With a Harvest theme they made lots of words like Starve, Have,Save and Share out of the word, as well as matching the raw ingredients like seeds fruit and vegetables to the finished article.



Both Adults and Children sang well and we chalked our poems on the concrete slabs. Hot chocolate always goes down well as does whatever we make on the campfire and this time it was popcorn.

Once again lucky with the weather. Why not join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3 pm.You would be most welcome. There is always a roaring fire.

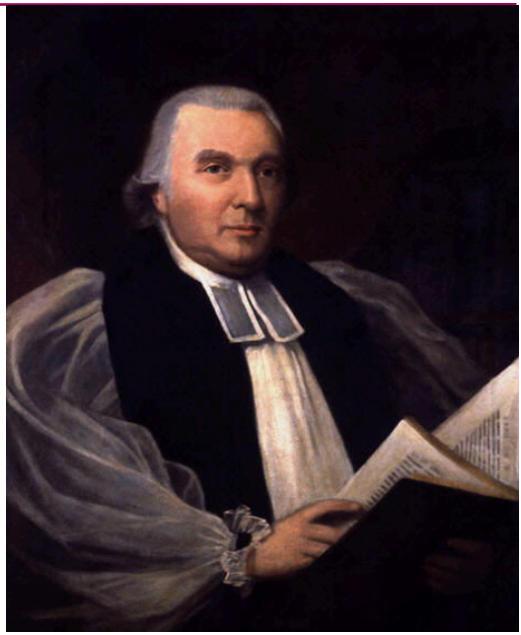
See page 31



A question: Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

14th November -

Samuel Seabury,
first Anglican Bishop in North America



As this year the USA marks 250 years since independence, it is worth remembering the poor bishop who got entangled between the King of England, the Anglican church, and the young America.

Samuel Seabury never set out to make international headlines. Born in Connecticut in 1729, he had studied theology at Yale and then medicine at Edinburgh. In 1753 he was ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln and then felt called to return to North America as a missionary with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He began his ministry in New Brunswick, Canada, before moving on to several parishes in New York.

But Seabury's peaceful ministry was soon swept up into politics. For tensions were growing between the American colonies and the mother country, and the slide to war was underway.

Seabury never wanted the war. He never wanted independence for America. He wanted to remain loyal to the Crown, and he even went to prison for his opposition to the Declaration of Independence.

Even after the war ended, Seabury ran into difficulties. For in 1783 the Protestant Episcopal Church of America decided to elect him as Bishop of Connecticut and Rhode Island. But how was he to be consecrated? Canon law said that the Anglican church could not consecrate anyone without them taking an Oath of Allegiance to the king. But Seabury was now an American, so he could no longer take that vow.

In the end, he was sent off to Scotland in 1784, to be consecrated a bishop by the Bishop of Aberdeen, who belonged to the Scottish Episcopal Church. It had been disestablished after the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and had no link with the State, and so its bishops were free agents.

Although some good links between the Scottish and the American Episcopal churches came out of Seabury's consecration, his experience as an American becoming a bishop via the Scottish church was to be unique.

For by the time the next bishop was due to be consecrated, an Act of Parliament in 1786 had empowered the two archbishops to consecrate bishops for territories outside British jurisdiction. It was a sign of things to come: the Anglican Church being a wider and more diverse worldwide Communion.

Church council

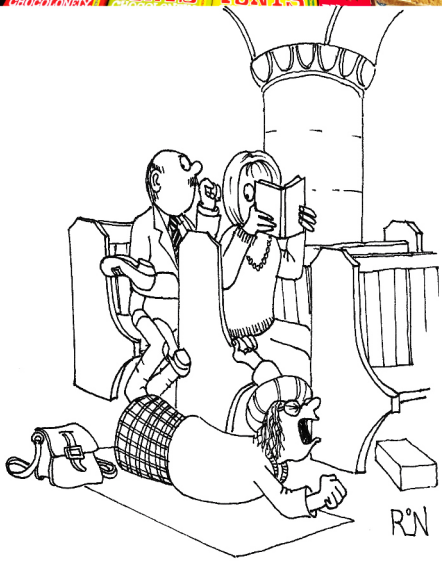
Regardless of how many items there are on the church council agenda, a meeting will take the same amount of time.

Fairtrade at ECC

As part of **Fairtrade** fortnight we invited Justitia from Bolton to come and have a stall at ECC after the morning service. Joanne had a gorgeous range of items for sale including gifts for Christmas as well as teas coffees hot chocolate as well as oils, chutneys, jams, biscuits and so much more. Joanne was delighted with the proceeds taken. Thank you to everyone for their support for Fairtrade.







Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew

Still waiting

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and now I don't want to remind Him!"

An atheist has no invisible means of support.

Gin Tasting



Ever since we started thinking of ideas to celebrate our Golden Jubilee we had a Gin Tasting evening in mind and this happened on Friday 25th September and was huge fun. We had 40 people ready to enjoy themselves immediately and with over 30 gins from all over the world including Australia ,New Zealand, Mexico ,Japan ,Singapore , Moravia, France, as well as plenty from Ireland Scotland and England. Local gins from Lancashire , Leyland and as close as Brinscall all were there to be tasted. A mixture of types of tonics accompanied all the garnishes.

We started with a History of Gin video with really interesting information not only to how it is made but its history in England and America. The origins of phrases such as Mother's Ruin and Dutch Courage were explained.

No evening at the Centre would be complete without Annette's wonderful treats. Olives Parmiers ,Cheese Scones Pate, and Salami on Rye Bread and so much more.

As one of our gin plaques said:

'Forgive me Father for I have Ginned'

With the compulsory raffle comprising of gin related prizes and the top prize a bottle of your choice from the selection.



Working Party ECC

It was great to have Sarah Holt join us for our working party at Emmanuel Church Centre on 14th October a lovely Autumn afternoon. Sarah is the daughter of Christine and Neville and will be moving into 8 Newcombe Road in the New Year. She is an excellent digger and gardener just what we need.

There were six of us picking up leaves, planting bulbs, chopping back, etc. The camaraderie is great and you get refreshments as well!!

The next one is **11th November** so if you can spare a couple of hours come along . You will be made very welcome.

Jo

Remembrance Sunday 2026

This year the national service for Remembrance will be held on 8th November, and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.



This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:

The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.

The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.



The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

Are you lighting fireworks on Bonfire Night?



If you are planning to set off fireworks at home on Bonfire Night, you may wish to review the Fireworks Code, to help keep you and your family and guests safe….

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if you are the one setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five. They burn incredibly hot, and can cause severe burns.
- Keep pets indoors

Stone of Scone – still safely home in Perth



Thirty years ago, on 30th November 1996, England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland, after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and later English and British monarchs. It is now on permanent display in Perth Museum.

According to Scottish history the 336lb block of sandstone measuring about 26 × 16 × 11 inches. also known as the Stone of Destiny – was first recorded in 1249 as being used for the Scottish coronation of Alexander III. It was then taken by Edward Longshanks (Edward I of England) in 1296, who transferred it to Westminster Abbey, where it was placed under the English Coronation Chair.

Geologists say the stone was quarried near Scone, two miles north of Perth. There is little doubt that it was kept at Scone Abbey as a symbol of Scottish sovereignty, but there are also claims that it came originally from Ireland, and even that it had its origins in biblical times, being in fact the Stone of Jacob, taken from Bethel to Ireland by the prophet Jeremiah.

There are also suggestions that the stone taken by Edward 1 was a substitute, with the original hidden by local monks, perhaps in the nearby River Tay. Nevertheless, the stone taken by Edward remained at Westminster for another six centuries, being used in the coronation of Scottish Stuart kings – and others – on the English throne.

Scottish nationalist students stole the stone from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950, but accidentally broke it in two before its reappearance at Arbroath Abbey the following year. It was restored to Westminster in February 1952, but fragments of it appear to have gone missing during its repair.

Its official return to Scotland in 1996 was conditional on its returning to Westminster Abbey for coronations such as that of King Charles III in 2023.

Lead us not…

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen"

DROP-IN

Mondays

10.00am – 1.00pm

**Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road**

Come and enjoy the company.



From Monday 26th October our weekly Drop-in is extended to include a free simple soup lunch from 12.15pm in the warmth of Canon Lewis Hall.

All Welcome!

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw



WARMSPACES

Sunday 1st November

There will be only ONE SERVICE in the parish.

11am Holy Communion and Jubilee Celebration Service

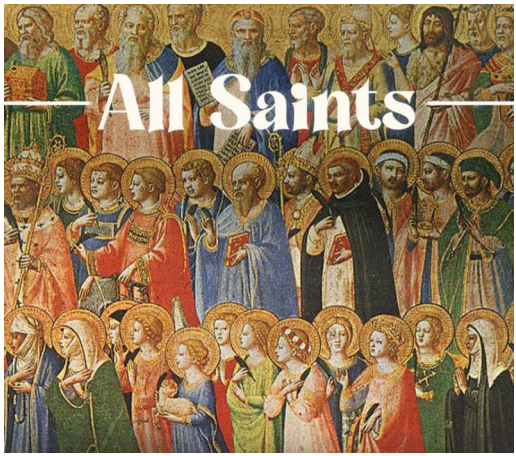
at Emmanuel Church Centre.

Service taken by Robert Airey and Paul Sumsion.
Shared Lunch to follow.

An opportunity to catch up with Paul and bring the Hall's Jubilee celebrations to a close.
The 29th October is the actual date, but we are going for the nearest Sunday. We will all be dancing and singing to the Strummers the evening before in the Hall. Put the date in your diary now so that you do not double book yourself. It should be a wonderful celebration.

An apology is the best way to have the last word.

All Saints



At the beginning of this month, we celebrate 'All Saints' (1st November), when we remember all those heroes of the faith who have in one way or another been a witness to Christ in what they said and what they did. But sometimes the saints of old- those portrayed in Renaissance pictures or in craggy, oversized sculptures- can matter less to us than the saints we have personally known.

For instance, one minister tells of a good friend of his, Stan, a farmer on the Yorkshire Wolds, who died earlier this year. Stan was the sort of man you'd meet at the mart, or stop to have a chat with in the village. He always had time for you. You'd go away thinking 'salt of the earth', and you would be right.

But Stan was much deeper than that. He was a devout Christian, with a simple but profound faith, used by God in many situations that never made the public eye. His farm had a Site of Special Scientific Interest in that it captured many of the unique features of the Wolds. He was a knowledgeable plantsman, although you would have to drag it out of him. In his day he had taken Bibles to Soviet-era Ukraine and Romania, and received the thanks of Christians there who were so encouraged that they were not alone, that someone cared, made the effort to bring them the Word of God.

So Stan, although a quiet family man living on a fairly remote farm, had had a profound influence for God and for good in many people's lives, both in the area – and in Ukraine and Romania.

And there have been multitudes like him. This month, are there folk in your life who have been an influence on you for God and for good? What difference did they make to you?

All Saints-tide is the ideal opportunity to give thanks for them. They are life's unsung heroes, who help others steer a path closer to God by their wise words, or their support, their prayers. The impact of a good life on others can be enormous. For all of them, let's thank God.

Hold on

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was.

The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."



Those giant autumn house spiders



We've all been there – quietly relaxing at home, when suddenly a HUGE thing with LONG legs scuttles right by you. You can't help but jump, and if you are normal, scream.

What just scared you was a fully grown adult male Eratigena atrica. They are among the largest spiders in Central and Northern Europe.

It has not just come in from the cold. It has been living warm and cosy, hidden in your house for weeks. Now it has left its dark hiding spot to race across your carpets and walls and bed with a definite purpose in mind: it is looking for love.

For autumn is mating time for the big spiders, and there are also females living in your house, safe and secure in cracks, lofts and behind furniture.

If you think giant house spiders are big, you are right. With a body length of 1.6cm, their leg span can commonly reach up to 7.5 cm. And heaven help you if you find you are sharing your house with a cardinal spider (*Tegenaria parietina)* – their bodies are up to 2cm long, and their long hairy legs can span up to 12cm. If that thing runs down the couch towards you, you'll notice it! And giant house spiders are fast. They can hit speeds of up to half a metre per second.

The good news is that giant house spiders are as scared of you as you are of them. They are disease-free, and their bite is extremely rare and harmless. They even pay their rent by eating your flies, mosquitoes, and other small bugs.

So, try and be kind to them, and let them live with you – they don't like the cold outside very much. Just lift your feet as they gallop across the carpet…

Next Primate's Meeting to take place in Johannesburg early next year



The Archbishop of Canterbury has called her first Primates' Meeting.

It will take place in Johannesburg from 28th February to 5th March 2027, and it will be hosted by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The gathering of Primates will explore mission, service, and advocacy. Also on the agenda will be peace and reconciliation, migration and the refugee crisis, the environment and safeguarding.

Neither teenagers nor cats turn their heads when you call them by name.

God of the mountains, God of the valleys



Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment… Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to you…? Why have you made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in New Daylight (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

Great News

After much work by a number of people Emmanuel Church Centre, (with Canon Lewis Halll) has been awarded the SILVER Eco Church Award.
This is a reflection of the effort put in to make the building and facilities more Eco friendly.
Now starts the harder work to achieve the GOLD Award.
Emmanuel, Holcombe and St. Mary, Hawkshaw both have Bronze Awards and are also working towards the SILVER Award.



For Reflection



We're all familiar with the saying: "You don't know what you've got till it's gone", and it has struck me recently how very true that is. I'm sure we're all sometimes guilty of taking things – and indeed, people – for granted. We just assume that life as we know it will continue. Rather than seeing things as blessings to be cherished, we are in danger of regarding them as rights, and feel surprised or aggrieved when anything changes. And yet everything around us tells us that the world and life are in a constant state of flux.

When the Covid pandemic struck we were given a sharp reminder that many of our usual certainties no longer applied. Our lives were turned upside down, and we gained a fresh appreciation of what was important to us and we feared for all that could so easily be lost. It was a potent wake-up call, but all too soon, many of the lessons we'd learned about valuing our usual everyday lives and the people around us, were forgotten as we settled back into "a new normal".

Again we find ourselves in uncertain times, when much of what we've taken for granted appears to be in jeopardy. After years of comparative stability, current global events make us feel less secure, and here we have less trust in long-cherished national institutions. Forces beyond our control are affecting the economy and the supply of essential commodities, and even the predictability of the seasons is threatened by climate change.

Our individual lives, which we had naively assumed would always remain the same, and the creature comforts we have enjoyed, may change due to economic pressures, and as we get older or ill-health strikes, we are made acutely aware of being unable to do the things we used to and had taken for granted. And, sadly, we sometimes fail to value our family and friends, only recognising how important to us they have been when circumstances change or we suffer bereavement.

In our church life we assume that services and activities will always happen and run smoothly, even in this time of interregnum. Let's thank God for those who are working so hard to keep things together and let them know how much we appreciate them.

In a world of change and uncertainty, the only constant on which we can rely is God, who is "the same, yesterday, today and for ever", and, difficult as it may be to admit, there are times when we take even Him and all that He has done for us for granted. Those who have been Christians for many years may sometimes lose that overwhelming sense of gratitude and awe that we once experienced. We may need to ask Him to help us to rekindle that first love, to remind us that everything is gift. I'm sure we don't intentionally neglect to appreciate the good things God has put into our lives, but perhaps we should take some time out occasionally to reflect on them and see them as undeserved blessings, to acknowledge just how fortunate we are. And perhaps from time to time, we should tell the people we know how much we love and value them before it's too late.

As the familiar old hymn says:

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love."

Linda Jackson

Church car park sign…FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

November Services

1st November - All Saints

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
11.00am **Holy Communion with Jubilee Celebration and ALM Recognition** *Rev Robert Airey &* *Rev Paul Sumsion.*	**NO SERVICE** **See page 10**	**NO SERVICE**
		6.30pm Evening Worship 3 Hawkshaw Lane

8th November- Second Sunday before Advent Remembrance

*1 Thessalonians 4 13 - 18; **Matthew 25 1 - 13***

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am **Morning Worship** **Common Worship** *Michael Burton*	**10.50am** **Remembrance** **at Lych Gate** **11.00 am** **Holy Communion** **Common Worship** *Rev Robert Airey &* *Michael Burton*	**10.45am** **Morning Worship with Groups** *Tim Webber &* *Richard Byrom*
2pm Remembering Loved Ones		
3pm Campfire Church		**6.30pm Evening Worship** 3 Hawkshaw Lane

12th November - *2.00pm - Holy Communion*

Emmanuel Church Centre - Rev. Robert Airey.

Passage and Prayer

The idea is to take a few moments out during each day to meet with God.

Keep these pages for the two month and refer to them each day.

Read a passage of Scripture and spend a little while thinking on what God might be saying to you through it. Then pray for whatever is on your heart and mind, and perhaps include the things happening around the parish.

Each month, a new sheet will be included in the magazine.

Passage & Prayer 2nd – 8th November

Prayer for the week:

Lord our God, rule over us in strength, and grant us your light. Let your Spirit be with us to confirm what has already taken place in our hearts, so that we have joy and trust even under all the strain and stress of this life. Shine into the darkness of the world. Shine for all people. May we be shown more and more clearly what we have been created for. Strengthen our faith for the future, our faith in everything good, for however hidden the good may be, it must at last come to the light. May we and all the world bring praise and honor to you.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

As we close our Jubilee celebrations, we give thanks for all those connected with the Emmanuel Church Centre and their work over many years.

Reading for this week:
Matthew 6: 25 – 34.

Sunday Reading:
Matthew 25: 1 – 13.

Passage & Prayer 9th – 15th November

Prayer for the week:

Lord our God, we thank you for sending into our lives so much that turns our thoughts to things above and enables us always to look to you. Through Jesus Christ send us what is of heaven. Send what is of heaven into every single life and into the lives of the nations, so that something good may arise from your heavenly Spirit. In their stubbornness people intend to do evil, but you can turn it all to the good. You can change everything. We hope in you, and we want to put our lives in your hands. Bless us with heavenly riches and power.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

The members of our armed forces who have died or been injured through war, their families and the work of the Royal British Legion.

Reading for this week:
Micah 4: 1 – 5.

Sunday Reading:
Matthew 25: 14 – 30.

Passage & Prayer 16th - 22nd November

Prayer for the week:

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart filled with gratitude. As I reflect on my life, I see Your hand at work in every moment. The blessings You have poured out upon me are countless, and I recognize that every good and perfect gift comes from You. Your love, mercy, and grace have sustained me, and Your faithfulness has been my constant companion. You have given me family, friends, and a community that supports me. More than anything else, You have granted me salvation through Jesus Christ, a gift of immeasurable value. I am truly thankful, Lord, for all that You have done.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

All those members of our young people's groups, their parents and the leaders who put in so much of their spare time.

Reading for this week:
Mark 5: 35 – 41.

Sunday Reading:
Matthew 25: 31 – 46.

Passage & Prayer 23rd – 29th November

Prayer for the week:

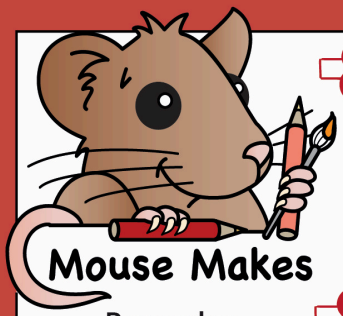
God of Salvation, wake us up Lord! The night is nearly over. Let us begin our Advent journey. Move us from our lives of greed and selfishness, from our globalised world of inequality and exploitation, to your kingdom of righteousness and mercy. To a transformed world, where peace is built on understanding not weapons, the poor are empowered to live their lives to the full, businesses are built on need not greed and your Creation is nurtured not abused. Wake us up Lord! Let us live as people of the light.

Please include the following in your prayers each day:

Our "Open The Book" Team for all their work with schools over the last term and their preparations for presenting "Experience Christmas"

Reading for this week
John 6: 1 – 13.m

Sunday Reading:
Mark 13: 24 – 37.



Mouse Makes

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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



REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

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November Services

15th November - The Second Sunday before Advent

1 Thessalonians 5 1 - 11; ***Matthew 25 14 - 30***

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am **Holy Communion** **Common Worship** *Rev. Richard Moffat*	**11.00am Morning Worship** *Michael Burton*	**10.45am** **Holy Communion with Groups** *Rev. Vic Fletchery & Julie Smales*
	6.30pm Choral Evensong 1662 ***Rev Robert Airey***	**6.30pm Evening Worship** **3 Hawkshaw Lane**

22nd November - Christ the King (Safeguarding Sunday)

Ephesians 1 15 - 23; **Matthew 25 31 - 46**

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am **Morning Worship** **Common Worship** *Rev Richard Moffat*	**11.00am** **Holy Communion** **Common Prayer** *Rev Richard Moffat*	**10.45am** **Morning Worship with groups** *Tim Webber & Richard Byrom*
		6.30pm Evening Worship **3 Hawkshaw Lane**

26th October - *2.00pm - Home Communion*

Emmanuel Church Centre - Barbara Atkin.

29th November - Advent Sunday

Emmanuel Church Centre	Emmanuel, Holcombe	St. Mary, Hawkshaw
9.30am **Taizė Service** *Barbara Atkin* *Linda Jackson*	**11.00am** **Holy Communion** **Book of Common Prayer** *Rev Robert Airey &* *Michael Burton* *Micah 4 1-4, 6-7* ***Matthew 21 ; 1- 13***	**10.45am** **Morning Worship with groups** *Dick Gorst &* *Rev Vic Fletcher* *Isaiah 64 1- 19* ***Mark 13 24 - 37***
		6.30pm Evening Worship **3 Hawkshaw Lane**

Why was 6 afraid of 7?
Answer: Because 7 8 9!

What did 0 say to 8?
Answer: Nice belt!

Why didn't 4 go to the party?
Answer: Because it was two square!

What do you call friends who love math?
Answer: Alge-bros!



Why did the lamp go to school?
Answer: It wanted to be brighter!

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?
Answer: In case he got a hole in one!

Knock knock.
Who's there?
Lettuce.
Lettuce who?
Lettuce in, it's freezing out here!

Why you should not squeeze your teabag

More than eight million of us drink at least two cups of tea a day. Many of us drink five cups or more. As a nation, we love tea.

George Orwell loved tea. Back in 1946 he even wrote an essay, 'A Nice Cup of Tea' to set out his 11 rules for making the perfect brew. But nowadays, we turn to chemistry professors on the Tea Advisory Panel for their tea-making tips.

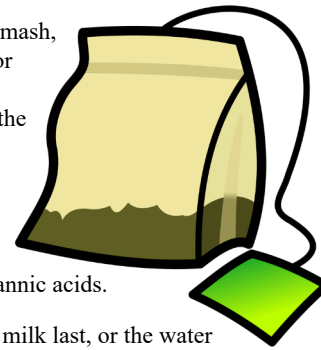
Why chemistry professors? Because there are almost 2,000 chemicals in tea, which is a "wildly rich molecular mix". And everything you do to your tea changes its chemical makeup.

So – some tips:

First of all, use boiling water on the tea leaves.

Secondly, warm your mug or teapot. That ensures the water is HOT when it hits your tea leaves.

Thirdly, swirl the bag or pot – swirling releases more of those subtle flavours.



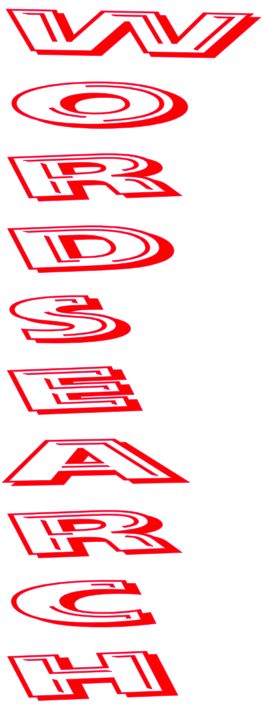
Fourthly, let it mash, steep or brew for three to five minutes, to get the best flavour.

Fifthly, never squeeze your teabag! That releases bitter tannic acids.

Sixth – add the milk last, or the water won't be hot enough to brew your tea. Apparently, adding milk first is a historical relic from when boiling tea could break fragile china cups.

Seventh – take a moment to enjoy your tea. Chemists stress that medium to strong tea is really good for you. It increases your hydration, your cognitive function, and your bone health. It even helps cut the risk of type-2 diabetes and heart disease.

Finally, beware tea in America. They do odd things with it there. They use lukewarm water over indifferent tea bags. Even worse, they sometimes put a teabag in a mug of cold water and then boil it in a microwave. This is sacrilege!



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

The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

Those endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such horror, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

World
War
France
Flanders
Green
Fields
Bombed
Barren
Bleak
Destroyed
Spring
Destruction
Bright
Red
Poppies
Mud
Chaos
Seeds
Grow
Soil
Cheerful
Growing
Horror
Doctor
poem

Solution page 28

Sudoku

Easy

		4	1					
		9	4				2	
		2	6			3		8
	6		8	4	3		9	
2	8	5				4	3	1
4	9		2	1	5		8	
3		6			9	5		
	2				1	9		
					4	8		

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Medium

6						2		4
			3				6	
	1			4				
		9				7	8	
		2	1		5	6		
	8	4				1		
				2			1	
	5				7			
4		8						3

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Solution page 28

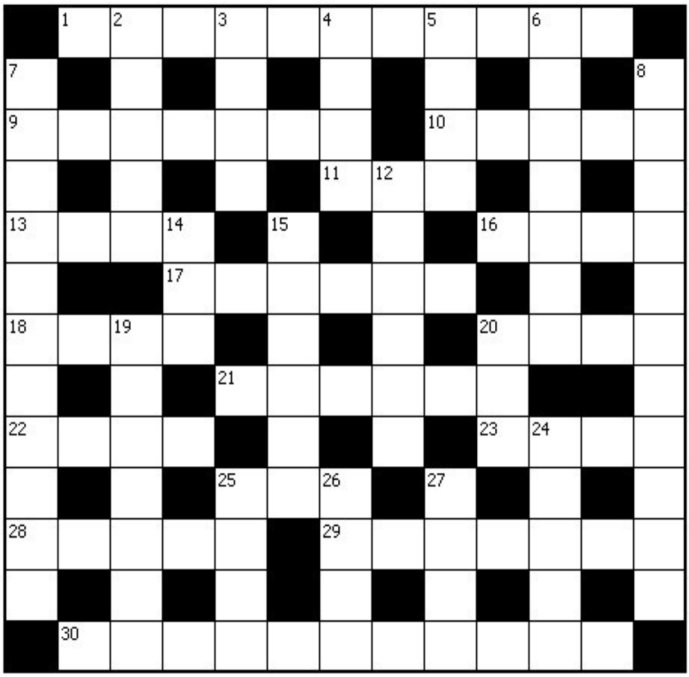
Explaining those words used in church

- **BULLETIN:** Your receipt for attending a service.
- **PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.
- **USHERS:** The only people in the parish who don't understand the seating capacity of a pew.
- **PEW**: A medieval torture device still found in many churches.

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

  HYMN: A song of praise, often sung three octaves higher than the congregation's range.
- **AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.





Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

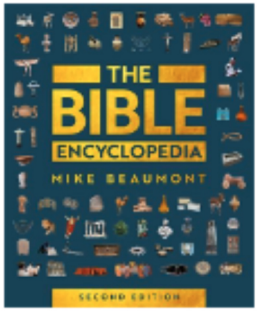
2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

Solution page 28



The Bible Encyclopaedia

By Mike Beaumont, Lion Books, £24.99



This fully revised second edition of the Lion Bible Encyclopaedia is packed with accessible explanations, full-colour illustrations, maps, timelines, charts, diagrams, and more than 100 new images. It brings the world of Scripture vividly to life.

The book covers how the Bible was written and preserved, the lands and nations of the ancient world, what everyday life looked like for biblical people, and tells more about the beliefs, customs, and traditions that shaped their lives. A dedicated section on Jesus explains who he is, why he came, and his place within the wider biblical story.

Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with Hope

By Wendy Gleadle and Frances Attwood, BRF, £12.99

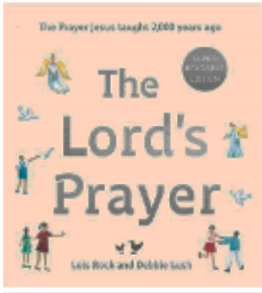


Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions. Christians may worry about losing their connection to God. However, those living with dementia can still find meaning in their faith.

Although there are difficulties of expressing one's faith as cognition declines, the spirit remains intact, and spiritually aware. And churches can support those living with dementia through giving what support they, their families and carers most need.

The Lord's Prayer – the Prayer Jesus taught 2,000 years ago

By Lois Rock, Lion Cub Books, £8.99



Specially commissioned to provide a brief, lucid and reflective commentary on the prayer for children aged 5 to 11 years, this colourful book helps them understand and bring the words to life. There is a one line of reflection to each line of prayer, to help explain how the prayer is applicable for their everyday experiences.

Politics: the career of plundering and blundering. – Disraeli

Ramsbottom & Tottington Probus Club.

The objectives of the Club are to support and encourage regular meetings of professional and business people and other people who appreciate and value association and social contact with other like-minded people.

We meet at Canon Lewis Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Members arrive from 10 a.m. for tea/coffee and a chat and the meeting starts at 10.30a.m . with a guest speaker and lasts for approximately one hour.Talks are given on a wide range of subjects.

Why not come along to one of our meetings to see what the Club has to offer and if the format and content appeals to you? You will be made most welcome.

Date of next Meeting: 5th November 2026
Speaker: Robert Newgrosh
Topic: Magician

For further information, please contact our Secretary, Philip Gibbons, on 01204 882918 or e-mail him at: plg35@tiscali.co.uk



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

Crossword solution

From page 25

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

Wordsearch solution

From page 23

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

Sudoku solutions

8	7	4	1	3	2	6	5	9
6	3	9	4	5	8	1	2	7
1	5	2	6	9	7	3	4	8
7	6	1	8	4	3	2	9	5
2	8	5	9	7	6	4	3	1
4	9	3	2	1	5	7	8	6
3	4	6	7	8	9	5	1	2
5	2	8	3	6	1	9	7	4
9	1	7	5	2	4	8	6	3

From page 24

6	9	3	7	1	8	2	5	4
2	4	7	3	5	9	8	6	1
8	1	5	6	4	2	3	9	7
1	6	9	2	3	4	7	8	5
7	3	2	1	8	5	6	4	9
5	8	4	9	7	6	1	3	2
9	7	6	4	2	3	5	1	8
3	5	1	8	9	7	4	2	6
4	2	8	5	6	1	9	7	3

From page 24

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. – Mark Twain

Continuing from last month



Significantly Mr Beckett was much involved in church life – as well as Sunday school, his role was that of choirmaster. During the war he sent Christmas letters to his former pupils serving in the army, but he faced the heartbreaking situation, second only to the families involved, when he received news of the untimely deaths of young men who had been his pupils – one after another. In all thirty-three local men died. After the war, at every Remembrance Service in November, Thomas Beckett would ascend the pulpit and read out the names of the men and boys who had died in the Great War. Villagers long remembered the increasingly frail and elderly man whose voice would crack, and whose composure would momentarily disappear, as he read the names, and remembered the lives, of his former pupils.

One of those pupils was Harry Greenhalgh, killed at Passchendaele in 1917, older brother of Gordon and Liza Greenhalgh, and one of six men from the Walves cottages who lost their lives. Along with his mother, father, brother Gordon and sister Liza, Harry worked in the weaving shed at Riggs' Mill. Indeed most of those who went off to war worked in one or other of the Hawkshaw mills. With most of the men gone, fifteen-year-old Gordon was appointed to the adult role of Collector for the Ramsbottom and District Weavers' Association. Gordon was soon running twelve looms, before becoming a 'tackler' (= someone who looks after the looms). From there he became school caretaker and church verger – the Riggs supplied the coke for the church boiler. By 1979 Gordon had been a member of the church choir for sixty-five years, and his wife Elsie and sister Liza were not far behind.

Thomas Beckett died in 1940. After his death a poem was published which he had written at the end of the Great War. It suggests that, contrary to Scripture, he held 'universalist' views, seemingly equating fighting for one's country with having a saving faith in Jesus. Perhaps if we had lived through those harrowing days our faith might have similarly frayed. He is one of the heroes of this parish.

Andy Burnham wants to approve bishops

The Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, wants to advise the King on the appointment of bishops and archbishops in the Church of England and Church of Scotland.

The practice of the King being involved dates way back to the Reformation, when the monarch was head of the Church, and so took responsibility for appointing clergy.

Burnham is currently barred because he is a professing Roman Catholic. But he has called the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 an "antiquated and archaic anomaly" and is determined to change it.

These days, of course, the Prime Minister's approval of such appointments is symbolic. The Church puts its candidate forward, who will be approved. In the meantime, there are nine current or upcoming vacancies for diocesan bishops.

People nowadays treat the Ten Commandments like a history exam – they attempt only three. 29

You are invited to
St. Mary, Hawkshaw

"Sizzling Seniors"

Thursday

5th November

10am - 12noon

Usually every first Thursday of the month.

Contact: Jane Fletcher for details **or if you need transport.**



Drop IN

10am until 12 noon
every Monday,
at Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, BL8 4DB welcomes anyone and everyone, who wants a "bit of company, a cup of coffee and a chat".

The Soup Company

A simple meal of bread and soup in good company!
12.30pm to 2pm
Why not come along and share good company and heart warming soup and gorgeous puddings .

Thursday 12th November

Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, BL8 4DB

Note: at 2pm there is a Holy Communion Service

Canon Lewis Hall Playgroup

(Formerly "Travellers")

Adult and Toddler Group
Wednesdays
1.30pm to 3pm
Canon Lewis Hall.

Quiet Morning

Tuesday
17th November
10am to 12noon
Emmanuel Church Centre



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers' Union invite you

Sunday 22nd November at 2.00pm at the Emmanuel Church Centre.

Our speakers will be telling us about the

"Eagles wing" project and everyone is welcome.

You are welcome to come and pray for East Asia

Overseas Missionary Fellowship

OMF

Prayer Meeting

Thursday 5th November

2-3.15pm

3, Hawkshaw Lane, BL8 4JZ

Followed by tea/coffee and cake.

Greenmount Village Community

D-CaFF©

A lovely place to meet... For people living with dementia, their carers, family and friends.

Friday
13th November
Kirsty part 2
As we Remember

Look forward to seeing you all!

1pm-3pm at
Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road .
BL8 4EQ

Any help is welcome.

Working Party

Emmanuel Church Centre Garden

11th November

1.30pm to 4pm

Your help would be much appreciated.

Any help is welcome.

Working Party

Emmanuel Church Holcombe

Wednesday
18th November
1.30 to 4pm

Your help would be much appreciated.

Shoebox Services

It is never too early to start putting together your shoebox for collection at Christmas. Our services will enable me to deliver them to International Aid Trust the week of 8th December in Blackburn. They are looking forward to receiving them.

Lists of what they should contain will be issued and remember you can tailor make them for a boy or a girl and roughly the age. We have started collecting empty boxes if anyone needs one.

Jo

TOILETRIES	*Soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, face cloths are good. No medicines, vitamins, matches or perishables.*
FOOD & SWEETS	*Just sweets with a long (6 month) BBE date please.* ***No chocolates***
TOYS	*Small clean toys, games and cuddly toys are welcome. Please avoid war related toys etc.*
CLOTHES	*Socks, T-Shirts, hats, scarves, gloves and underwear* ***Babygrows for little ones***
STATIONERY	*Crafts, colouring, notebooks, pencils, pens… If scissors for children, rounded end type please.*



Do you have problems getting to church?

Do you need a lift?

Want to reduce car usage?

Can you offer a lift?

Contact:

stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org

I am a mental tourist. My mind wanders.

On working with young people



The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

It is quite natural for you curates to enjoy working with young people in your parishes; church youth clubs were created in order to keep the newly ordained off the streets in the evenings. But be assured you will grow out of it. I consent to baptise babies and prepare teenagers for confirmation, but beyond that my contact with this alien life form is kept to an absolute minimum.

Dear Miss Thrush runs our weekly Pram Service - whose sole purpose seems to be to give young mothers an opportunity to discuss the ever-changing liaisons within the village, while their offspring shred hymn books and destroy the flower arrangements. I drop in from time to time in order to check that the more mobile haven't found where we hide the matches. An infant equipped with that knowledge can so easily become a teenage pyromaniac.

I can give you little advice on your youth group. When I was a curate, the major activity seemed to be to teach them how to wear gas masks, although today I imagine there is more concern about protecting them from other sorts of exotic chemicals. Also, I suspect you are kept busy keeping the young out of the darker corners of the churchyard as they develop their anatomical knowledge – a past-time still enthusiastically pursued by each new generation.

You clearly find your monthly Youth Service a deeply enriching experience. As far as I am concerned, if such a liturgy had been necessary, then Cranmer would have provided us with one. Endlessly repeated choruses accompanied by a guitar would make me warm to the Quakers. I am sure St Paul's services would have been much enriched with Hymns Ancient and Modern. The disciples in hiding in Jerusalem were not even able to sing accompanied by an organ, which must have greatly dispirited them. I also feel that our Verger would be unable to cope with organising the strobe lighting and dry ice effects. It takes him all his time to remember to light the candles on the altar.

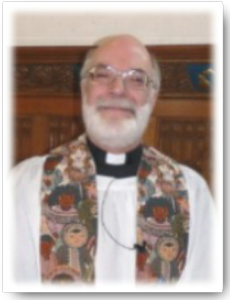
On this matter we must differ. You must worship God in your way, and I in His.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Rector:
Position Vacant
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road ,
Hawkshaw, Bury ,
BL8 4JN

Contact Wardens



Minister with permission to officiate:
Rev. Robert Airey
01706 941047.
robert@holcombehawkshaw.org



Associate Minister:
Rev. Vic. Fletcher
01204 882750.
vic@holcombehawkshaw.org

Readers: Mr. Michael Burton 01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom 01204 883110.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton 01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.

Church Warden: Mr. Peter Hardcastle 07780 313101
Mr. Stephen Newhouse 07779416344 stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org

Children and Families' Lead: Liz Webber 07541168474 liz@holcombehawkshaw.org

Deputy Wardens:
Emmanuel: Susan Nuttall and Pat Lainton
Emmanuel Church Centre: Julie Smale and Jo Venn.
St. Mary, Hawkshaw: Jane Fletcher and Keith Jones.

Hon. P.C.C. Secretary: Penny Hanley, 07870 578632

Treasurer: Position Vacant
Assistants to Treasurer: Judith Horrocks & Pam Jones

Gift Aid Secretary: Pam Jones.

Electoral Roll Officer: Sheila Partridge,

Safeguarding Officer: Liz Webber: safeguarding@holcombehawkshaw.org

Assistants: Rev. Robert Airey, Julie Ringer and Tim Webber.

Standing Committee: Rector, Churchwardens, P.C.C. Secretary and Treasurer.
Other members to be decided by the P.C.C.

Finance Team: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretary.

Booking Secretary: Emmanuel Church Centre & Canon Lewis Hall:
Susan Holdway 07786077988.

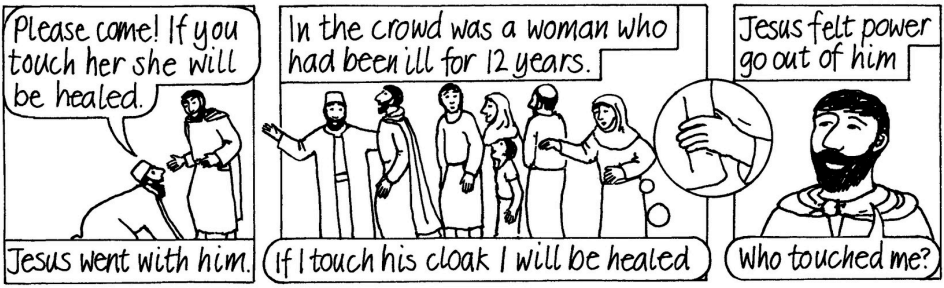
Booking Secretary: St. Mary, Hawkshaw Penny Hanley 07870 578632

Bible Bite

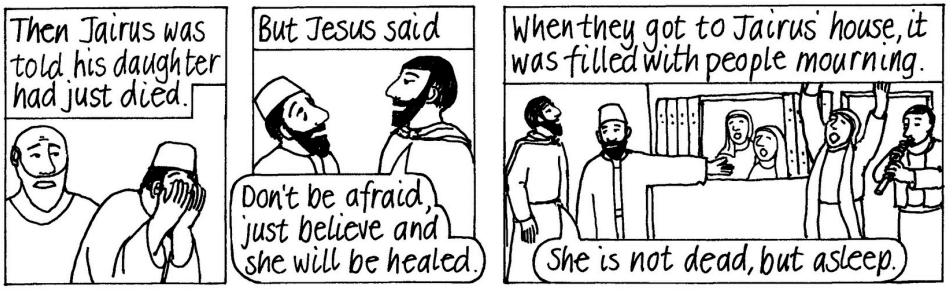
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...



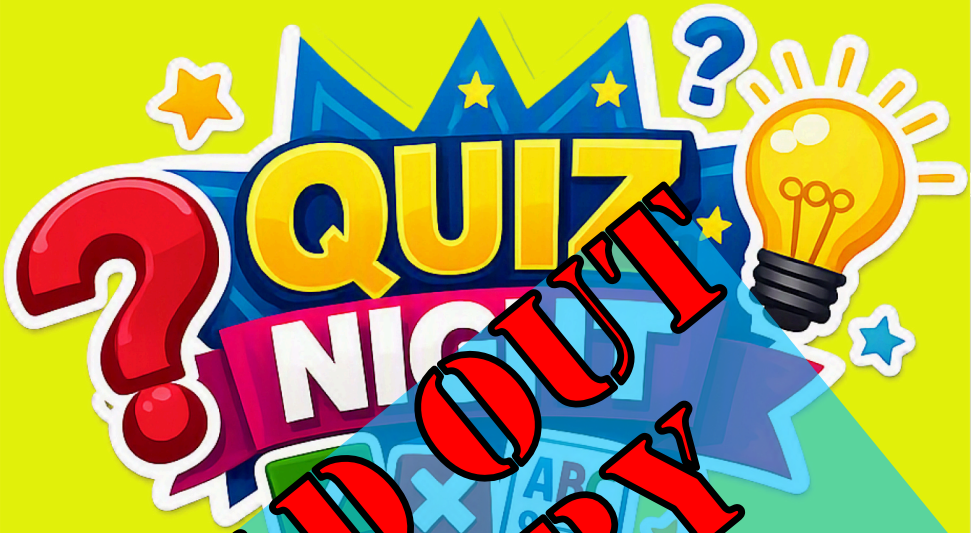






Friday 13th November
7 for 7.30pm

Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw



SOLD OUT
SORRY
TRY AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

£7 per person
includes supper, tea or coffee (BYOB)

Emmanuel Church Centre
Canon Lewis Hall,
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
BL8 4DB

Teams:
two to six
(max.)

Tickets at each worship centre
or speak to Stephen Newhouse 01706 412657
stephen@holcombehawkshaw.org

Proceeds to Holcombe Building Fund