More Good News

Studies of hormone levels have shown that volunteering, and being generous, is good for you.

Gentle reader, I know that you know that; but I’ll bet you know some nihilist, miserabilist, scorn of religion and the Bible who says “You only do it for what you can get out of it!” Yes, you and I do get something out of it, but no, we don’t only do it for ourselves, but to be part of a virtuous circle of increasing well-being, extending to the infinity of God.

Transactions of “The Art of the Deal” are binary. One party gets more, and the other less, but the transactions of love are creative, generous, enriching. We volunteer for fellowship’s sake.

My volunteering, at four hours per week, is not much. Top junior children read to me. I pay attention; that’s a divine thing to do. We ask each other questions, sometimes personal. One boy read one sentence, and what followed was a fifteen minute conversation.

One girl told me her name.

“Do you know what it means?”

“No, I don’t!”

“It means Little Goddess. It means you have a mysterious, wonderful, unique nature. If we were in India, I would put my hands together, bow and say ‘Namaste’, meaning: ‘I worship the Divine in you.’”

Please consider volunteering to hear children read in a junior school. They really want you, and you will enjoy the children, and some of the authors; Michael Morpurgo especially.

Rvd Peter Evans
What’s on

Weekly meetings

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>10.15 am</td>
<td>Tadpoles St Andrew's large hall, for children and their adults</td>
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<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Time Out (2nd)</td>
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<td>8.30 pm</td>
<td>Escape (1st &amp; 3rd) small hall</td>
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<td>Tues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>9.30-11.00 am</td>
<td>0-2 Playgroup St Andrew's hall, Toys, songs and craft, refreshments. All enquiries to Parish Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>1.30 pm</td>
<td>Little Fishes St Andrew's large hall. Toys, stories and craft, refreshments, all welcome</td>
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Uniformed organisations meet on various nights of the week. Please contact their representatives for times (see page 12 for telephone numbers)

The 3rd Hornchurch Girls Brigade Company

meets on a Friday night during term time between 6 pm and 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, High Street, Hornchurch. We have vacancies for girls aged between 4 and 8 years. We do badge work, games, trips out, theme nights. Come along and make new friends and have fun. For further details contact Karen Speller on 01708-442848

Parish Mission Statement

What is our purpose?
We strive to:

Love God
Jesus said - “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength” Mark 12.30 NIV
"Worship in spirit and in truth” John 4.24 NIV

Grow in Faith and Understanding
St Paul said - “Grow up in Christ until you reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4.13 & 15 NIV

Bring others to knowledge of and faith in Jesus Christ
Jesus said - “Make all nations My disciples” Matthew 28.19 NIV

Serve the community
Jesus said - “Love your neighbour as yourself” Mark 12.31 NIV

Bullseye programme

Contents to the Editor 2018
October Bullseye Sunday 2nd September
November Bullseye Sunday 7th October

Collating
October Bullseye Wed. 26th September
November Bullseye Wed. 24th October

The Bullseye for October will be in the churches by Sunday 30th September 2018

Disclaimer:
Neither the Vicar, Parish Wardens, Parochial Church Council, nor the Editor take responsibility for the information given or views expressed in the Bullseye. Nor is any culpability accepted in work undertaken by advertisers.
Life at St George’s

As mentioned last month, on Sunday 15th July we came to the end of yet another long-standing institution at St George’s. Fifteen of us were present as we held (for the foreseeable future at least) our last evening communion service, which we have celebrated on the 3rd Sunday evening for many years. As with other changes made recently, this decision was not taken lightly. However, it is important to remember that various members of St George’s are still very much involved in parish-wide activities, most recently Safari, but also Messy Church, the Bridge, Healing Prayer ministry and Life Groups, amongst others. They say that when one door closes another opens and that is why we should not become too negative about these endings. We only need look at the way in which St Matthew’s has been transformed since changing focus over recent years, with Messy Church, plus the Dementia and Pet Services. It may be the Lord is also encouraging us to move forward in a different way and we need to prayerfully seek His will for us in that.

Pat Bromhall

Quarter Peal Success for Young Ringer

On Sunday 15th July, St Andrew’s bell ringer Hayden Musham successfully completed his first quarter peal at the first attempt. Hayden rang the treble to a method called Plain Bob Doubles, skilfully changing the position of his bell for 1260 changes. This took about 45 minutes and is a big achievement for a 14 year old who has only been ringing for about 18 months.

Well done!

The photograph below shows the ringers who took part:
L – R: Hayden, John, Gavin, Chris, Clive and Tony

Full details of the quarter peal are:

Hornchurch, Essex
St Andrew
Sunday, 15 July 2018
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1. Hayden R Musham
2. John W Stephenson
3. Gavin S Carpenter
4. Christopher C M Pain
5. Clive J Stephenson (C)
6. Anthony F Ammerlaan

For Evening Worship
First Quarter Peal - 1

Clive Stephenson

Why Bishops, Priests and Deacons?

Most of the New Testament sees the church organised as synagogues, with elders and administrators, even its own sanhedrin. The events described by Josephus in “The Jewish War” culminated in criminals of the Zealot party burning the tally sticks that recorded loans from the Temple. The Temple caught fire. The Romans, enraged by this blasphemy, put all to the sword and dragged the remains off the Temple Mount.

The Romans now recognised the Synagogue as the only permissible Jewish institution. Caesar was to be the only Lord, the only world-ruler, the only divine man.

The Church recognised AD70 as the end of an era, a world. So now the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ is the definitive Rite of Atonement and the memorial sacrifice of bread and wine renews the power of that Rite in us, renews our fellowship, consecrates our vows, and empowers a sacred ministry that corresponds to the Temple ministry of High Priests, Priests and Levites.

We pray for the Reverend Saffron Ryan preparing for her ordination as priest in the Church of God.

Rvd Peter Evans
Light Party Information

Everyone is welcome to come along to the ‘Light Party’ at St Andrew’s Church, Hornchurch on Saturday 27th October 2018.

At a time of year when some people are focusing on darkness, the ‘Light Party’ is an all-age, fun, creative Christian event celebrating ‘Jesus the Light of the World’; we encourage everyone to wear bright coloured clothes rather than scary costumes. Explore the theme of ‘Salt and Light’ in the Bible with science experiments, activities, games, prayers, drama, singing, food and fellowship.

The Light Party has become very popular within the Parish and we are once again expecting to welcome a lot of families to this annual event. Therefore we have changed the format to create two sessions lasting for two hours each to enable as many people as possible to come along and join in. We recommend that you book your place asap or by 21st October to assist with catering and activity preparations.

Please note: On the evening, Registration desks will be open ten minutes before each of the sessions begin.

Session One- 4pm-6pm starts with activities and science experiments, followed by food at 5pm then fun, interactive, family-friendly drama, singing and prayers in St Andrew’s Church at 5:30pm, joining in with people attending session two.

Session Two-5.30pm-7:30pm starts in St Andrew’s Church joined with those who attended session one before taking part in activities and experiments between 6pm-7pm in the Main Hall, followed by food.

Each session is limited to a maximum of 130 people (including babies/toddlers).

To book, pick up a leaflet from the Parish Churches or halls and return the tear-off slip to the Parish Office, or phone or email the Parish Office with your details including any special dietary requirements. Check the Messy Church Facebook page for regular updates, if you have internet access and use social media.

The Messy Church Team

'Messy Church Does Science’ Roadshow

On Sunday 9th September from 1-3pm and 3:30-5:30pm at St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch there will be opportunities to try Science experiments, chat with Messy Church-BRF staff, browse and purchase items from the BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) bookstall, take part in Worship and enjoy a picnic tea, led by ‘Messy Church-BRF’ leaders Lucy Moore, Jane Leadbetter and Revd Dr Dave Gregory (Messy Church Science Co-ordinator). The two sessions are identical, and each session is limited to 130 tickets-one ticket is required per person including babies/toddlers.

FREE tickets are available on Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/myevent?eid=48265823377

Got any questions? Having helped out at ‘Messy Church Does Science’ events in Gloucester and Oxford during 2017, Karen and Hannah can vouch for this fantastic opportunity for people locally to join in Messy Church fun whilst exploring our faith and Bible stories through links to science.

Bell Ringers Coach Outing to Reading and River Thames

Saturday 8th September

Visiting Caversham, Reading, South Stoke and Shiplake

Coach leaves St Andrew’s at 7.30am Returning by 9.00pm.

Cost approximately £30 to include coach and evening meal.

Contact Clive Stephenson on 07896 342010 to book a seat.

Non Ringers are always welcome.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

St Andrew’s Christmas Market
Saturday 24th November 2018
10am – 3pm
St Andrew’s Church Hall

Stalls include ~ Tombolas, Books, Toys, Gifts, Cakes, China Smash, Refreshments.

Please look out for further notices

At Messy Church

We Learn about God Welcome all the Family Activities & Crafts Eat Food Hear Bible Stories

Sunday 9th September

Messy Church Does Science Roadshow

Thursday 27th September at North Street Hall

Take a look at our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/messychurchinhornchurch/ for regular updates and further details about when and where Messy Church is meeting. We look forward to seeing you at a Messy Church session very soon.
Match of the Day
It was 19th July, a week after the World Cup Final, when the PCC came out of the dressing room for a pre-season friendly. Highlights of the fixture included:

◊ Team news – Saffron will be ordained as a Priest in September, and we will welcome a new part-time player to the squad. Becky, (who is an ordinand in training) will begin her parish placement with us, spending 2 – 3 days a week in Hornchurch. Meanwhile, work is in hand to provide Ken with much needed office space by an extension in the Burnway house garden. Let’s hope it’s a premier league home base.

◊ Training hard together – our annual Alpha Course begins this autumn. It is an opportunity to revisit the basis of our faith, and is a must for anyone interested in being Confirmed. Next year, the popular Bible Course will run again, using re-vamped material from the Bible Society. A day of prayer is also in the pipeline for early 2019. Lots of things to help us keep on the ball and raise our game.

◊ Top of the table performance – our Messy Church team provided such great craft facilities in North Street on Good Friday that they were asked to do something similar for the Hornchurch town Summer Fair and town Christmas event. In addition, our parish Summer Fun day in June was a big success, with around 300 people attending. Three points to everyone who helped on the day – winning goal scorers.

◊ Some local football clubs are really struggling, but no extra time was needed for the PCC tonight. The final whistle blew at 8.50pm and we all departed for an early bath.

Carole Sherratt

Time Out
Our ladies group is an informal social group of mixed ages. We meet just one evening a month on the second Monday. We have planned meetings such as walks, games nights, pamper evenings, stretch and tone, plant swap, meals out, theatre. We also have impromptu evenings such as cinema, pub and catch up, quiz nights, library talks, concerts and our book club. If you fancy a night out please come along and join us, you’ll be very welcome.

For details contact Lindsey by text 07855192943 or email lindsey.portsmouth@icloud.com

www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk

Bullseye News from the Parish of Hornchurch September 2018

Special Services this month
Sunday 16th September,
Battle of Britain Service, 10.15am at St Andrew’s. Dementia Friendly Harvest Festival, 11.00 am and new Contemporary Service 6.30 pm at St Matthew’s. Also Celtic Service 6.30pm at St Andrew’s

Sunday 23rd September
Harvest Festival 10.15 am at St Andrew’s and St George’s.

Charity of the Month
Barnabas Fund
Barnabas Fund seeks to identify and respond to the latest needs of Christians around the world who are under pressure and persecution.

The army of Myanmar (Burma) has waged war against the 40% of Burmese citizens who belong to minority ethnic groups, who are mainly Christian.

Pakistani Christians have great difficulty getting jobs, or justice. Many were recently bought out of brick-yard bondage by Barnabas Fund.

Egyptian Christians are bombed, killed, accused falsely and kidnapped. They endure great hardship, and Barnabas helps as many as possible.

Patrick Sookhdeo, the founder, has on appeal been cleared of all wrongdoing, after years of aggravation.

Please see website, www.barnabasfund.org, pray, and giftaid.

Joy in my Heart
There is joy in my heart when I pray to You, even though at times, there may be sadness and foreboding too. For You know how much I need You, and so desperately sometimes, to comfort me and to assure me.

I put my trust in You for when the clouds seem dark or grey, I know the brightness of Your Holy Spirit will not fail to come shining through.

And when I recall the words of the psalmist, I am comforted yet again “I will bless the Lord at all time and His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord so let us be glad. O let us magnify the Lord and exalt His name forever.”

Dear Jesus, dear Saviour, Your presence in my life envelopes me and I am truly blessed. May Your arms ever enfold me, and Your joy live within my heart.

Terence Trimmer

Micah

www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk
On how to make the most of that diocesan ‘residential course’ . . .

From: The Rectory,
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your enthusiasm for attending training courses has, until now, baffled me. Why should you want to become a better preacher, when congregations only use the sermon for catching up on lost sleep? What more do you need to learn about time management than being able to recognise those fixed points of 12.30pm for the pre-luncheon sherry and 6pm for a stiff gin? And what is the point of learning about how to lead Bible study groups when all you will end up discussing is who failed to provide flowers for the altar last Sunday?

But after this last week, dear boy, I take it all back. The bishop sent me on a week’s pre-retirement course. Of course, he was dropping hints, but until I reach my centenary, I have little intention of relinquishing a vocation to annoying parishioners and frustrating the plans of bishops. What else, after all, is parish ministry about?

The first move is to arrive early, receive your room allocation and then discard it. Tour the whole establishment, find the best room and then unpack and make sure your dog is nicely settled in the centre of the bed, just in time for the arrival of the intended occupant. I naturally apologise effusively for my innocent mistake, begin to remove possessions and dog while hoping that he will excuse all the hairs on his bed. This ensures that he magnanimously offers to take your original room.

At the first session, you need to establish the ground rules – and with a course leader, who in my opinion, should still have been wearing short trousers, it was all too easy. You make it clear that you are extremely deaf and so all the lectures will, sadly, be wasted on you. You also add that you will need some time alone to prepare for a surfeit of funerals which inexplicably all came in the day before you left and that you also will need time out to exercise your dog.

By the end of that first session, you will have accounted for your absence for the rest of the week. In my case, it passed delightfully with gentle strolls in the grounds, visits to the local second-hand bookshops and much silent meditation in one’s room. I attended the final session in order to congratulate the leader for his magnificent course, was effusive in my comments on those wretched evaluation forms and on my return wrote a letter of thanks to the bishop for having thought I was worthy of receiving pre-retirement training – while also noting that I was sure it would be of use when I begin to make plans for that happy event in a few decades time.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace
Safari

We had an amazing week of Safari this year. It was a joy to see so many people taking part in all the activities on offer. Hopefully this short article will give you at least a taste of what happened. The whole week was based around heroism. Alongside tapping in to topical superhero movies we looked at a selection of heroes and heroines from the Bible. We considered David and his heroism in standing up to the giant Goliath. It was an opportunity for us to consider areas of our life that we find daunting and assure people that they can trust in God in the same way David trusted in God to defeat Goliath. We looked at the story of Esther and conveyed the meaning of substance, rather than outward appearance. We used the account of Daniel in the lion’s den to show that we can stand out and be distinctive about our faith in God, even when under threat. We focused on Mary, mother of Jesus, in particular about how Mary dealt with the news of being pregnant with Jesus and the various pressures she would have felt because of this.

The above teaching is a key pillar of safari. However, just as important are the personal encounters that go on throughout the week. It can be difficult to measure what impact you are having with a holiday club, however, here are a few positive signs that we can take encouragement from:

Our Facebook page offers reflections of the fruits of those encounters and the numbers of parents following what we do through that has grown to nearly 250.

One of the consistent bits of feedback we get is that children spend the year in between safaris listening to the songs from the green and doing the actions. It highlights the importance of contemporary worship that is age appropriate.

The attendance at the BBQ and the Celebration service has grown abundantly over the last few years. These have traditionally been attended by ‘Church people’ only, but not anymore. All spaces were pretty much taken within the first 24hrs of registration being open. A significant number of parents are deciding to join in and become leaders. These are just signs of positive development and may of course be only ‘skin deep’. Nonetheless I hope you will agree that they show some idea of the impact we are having in our mission.

Ultimately we hope that people are coming to know Christ through what we do and as the book of Romans reminds us, communication of the message is important to belief. That’s what we do through Safari.

All in all I would say that Safari has taken on a significant identity after 23 years of service. There are often alarmist stories that Christianity is being side-lined and no one wants to come to Church anymore. This maybe the situation in some places, but, unless we have found some sort of special formula, which I doubt, this doesn’t have to be the case. We are clear about who we are and why we do what we do and many want to know more. So, if you fancy being a hero or heroine, why not consider being involved in next year’s safari? The dates for next year are 29th July to 2nd August 2019. There are many ways in which you can help, not limited to working directly with the children and young people. Look out for our call for support early next year. Thank you for your support and prayers!

Nathan Whitehead
On behalf of the Safari Planning Team

Easy Sudoku
Solution on Page 11

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Mrs O’Hara told the vicar all about her operation

www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk

article.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk
As you did it to the least of these….  

_The early Celts were keenly aware of Christ’s command to love our neighbours. This is from ‘Celtic Fire’._

Remember the poor when you look out on fields you own, on your plump cows grazing. Remember the poor when you look into your barn at the abundance of your harvest. Remember the poor when the wind howls and the rain falls, as you sit warm in your dry house…. The poor have no food except what you feed them. No shelter except your house when you welcome them, No warmth except your glowing fire.

_Ancient Celtic Poem_
**Hornchurch Country Park, Squardons Approach, Hornchurch, RM12 6DF**

Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre Open daily 9am - 5pm:
Café, Gift shop, Picnic facilities, Toilets, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

**NATURE TOTS** from the 4th September 2018, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**IT’s never too late to get online ~ Many Mondays** ~ Phone to check then drop in between 10.30am-12.30pm. Improve your computer and digital skills with help and advice from one of our friendly volunteers; help setting up email accounts to ordering shopping online or using Skype. Bring along your own device to the Visitor Centre reception desk. No need to book. Free of charge

**EVERY SECOND SATURDAY of the month ~ 10.00am-midday** Join us on a walk around Hornchurch Country Park and the surrounding Living Landscape to experience the fantastic array of wildlife that the valley holds. Suitable for beginners. Binoculars and scopes will be available to use. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £5 donation in advance per person, booking essential.

**MERLINS BIRD WATCHING CLUB for Young People** ~ Every Thursday in the school holidays and once a month on Saturdays during term time ~ Armed with binoculars, bird guide and notepad (all provided) join friendly volunteer Brenda our birdwatching guide to spot, observe and identify the bird life of Hornchurch Country Park. Suitable for 8 years + (unaccompanied). £6 donation in advance per child, siblings £4.

**BIRDIE BIRDS ~ A Sociable Bird Watching Club for Women** ~ One Sunday per month ~ Join Brenda and enjoy a walk around Hornchurch Country Park and surrounding areas spotting and identifying birds and other wildlife along the way. £5 donation in advance per person, booking essential.

Please telephone 01708 520364 to book your place.

**Practical Conservation Volunteer Days** ~ The Friends of Ingrebourne Valley and Hornchurch Country Park run Conservation Volunteer Days on a Sunday, usually the third Sunday of the month. For information or to find out about their next volunteer day, please contact Ray by email at admin@Ingrebournevalleyfriends.org or ring 07933-172921. Please leave message if not answered. http://www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/ingrebourne

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**September 2018**

*at Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Cranham*

**Thames Chase**

At the Forest Centre we are developing the Community Forest’s commitment to improve access for as many people as possible by adding facilities for all ages and abilities. Our programme of cycle hire including adapted bikes offered in conjunction with Positive Parents Charity and Trailnet is well established and this summer we have added an adapted bathroom. Both these projects are funded by the City Bridge Fund and help us to provide for all family members in exploring the natural surroundings of Broadfields. The Forest Centre itself is fully accessible including its cafe, shop and historic farm buildings.

**Events at the Forest Centre**

The monthly *cream tea* is on **Friday 14th September** with a harvest theme (£9 per person – booking essential) and the **Sunday market** is on **Sunday 16th September**.

The monthly *guided walk*, Discovering Thames Chase, is on **Friday 28th September** and will explore the history and the delights of Havering Country Park.

For more information see the website [www.thameschase.org.uk](http://www.thameschase.org.uk), at the Forest Centre or telephone 01708 642970

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**Hornchurch Library**

44 North Street Hornchurch.

Not just for books; talks, activities and more.

Contact the librarians on 01708 434903 for more information

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**Floodlighting of St Andrew’s Church, Hornchurch**

*Many thanks to all below for sponsoring the floodlighting during September 2018:*

- **Dave Butcher ~ Cath Butcher**, remembered with love and joy;
- **Doreen King** (TSSF) ~ I celebrate my 12th year as a member of the Franciscan third Order, and my 9th year professed;
- **Anne Degiorgio** ~ Thinking of my beloved husband, Peter Raymond, especially on his birthday, 8th September;
- **Mrs M Redwood** ~ In Loving Memory of Herbert (Bert) Redwood, Husband, Dad, Granddad, Great Granddad;
- **Margaret Barnard and Family** ~ In memory of Kevin Barnard’s birthday on 16th September. Forever in our hearts.

If you are interested in being a sponsor please telephone the Parish Office on 01708 441571

[www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk](http://www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk) 9  article.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk
ACROSS:
1. ‘Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain’ (Psalm 127:1) (6)
4. Season of the year (Psalm 89:5) (6)
7. ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death, — here and keep watch with me’ (Matthew 26:38) (4)
8. It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
9. Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
13. ‘It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose’ (Philippians 2:13) (3)
16. Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
17. ‘Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down’ (Matthew 5:1) (3)
24. Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
25. First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
26. Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
27. Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

DOWN:
1. ‘Whoever finds his life will — it’ (Matthew 10:39) (4)
2. ‘My lord the king, let the — on me and on my father’s family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt’ (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
3. O raid (anag.) (5)
4. ‘If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven’ (Matthew 18:19) (5)
5. Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
6. What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
10. ‘Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment’ (Romans 12:3) (5)
11. Do ten (anag.) (5)
12. Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
13. Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
14. ‘Each one should — his own actions’ (Galatians 6:4) (4)
15. Among the items imported by Solomon’s fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
18. ‘But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray’ (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
20. Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
21. One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
22. Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
23. He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

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www.advancedpowerwash.co.uk

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Every September prior to the pageant, the Liverymen of the 110 City Livery Companies are invited to attend the London Guildhall to elect from the Aldermen the Lord Mayor for the forthcoming twelve months. The City of London is now the only city in England which still elects Aldermen. The assembly is known as Common Hall and it starts at noon but to be sure of getting a seat one needs to arrive by 11.15. At 10.25 the Livery Committee, masters, Prime Wardens and the upper Bailiff walk in procession to the Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry (right) in Gresham Street. This church service is also open to the public. Following on from the service the party proceeds to the west door of Guildhall (above), they enter and take their seats at the Hustings, the principal court of the City of London. Colour is added to the scene by the nosegays they carry.

The Common Cryer or Sergeant-at-Arms proclaims silence and directs that “all persons are to be uncovered in the hall and all those who are not Liverymen to depart the hall on pain of imprisonment”. He then declares the meeting open and the Assistant Town Clerk reads the minutes of the previous meeting. The reason for the present meeting is then given by the Recorder. The Lord Mayor and such Aldermen who have passed the chair then leave to the Print Room; the door is closed and kept by the Marshall. The Common Sergeant then reads the names of those served in the Office of Sheriff, which is a requirement, and name two from whom they must chose to be Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. The election then proceeds. The ballot papers are provided by an Usher which once completed are counted by the Recorder and the Swordbearer shows the Lord Mayor elect to his place to the left of the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor elect then addresses the Court of Aldermen, thanking them and asking for their assistance in the execution of his office.

Returning to the Great Hall, prominent among the speeches is that given by the Lord Mayor Elect. Common Hall is then dissolved by the Common Cryer with “God save the Queen” which is repeated by all. The first Lord Mayor was thought to have been Henry FitzEylwin who took office in 1190/1. He lived somewhere near London Stone which can be seen today opposite Cannon Street station. It was once set into the wall of St Swithin’s church which was destroyed during the blitz. This year’s Lord Mayor’s Show is on Saturday 10th November. The weather is usually not very kind, but St Bride’s church in Fleet Street (below) has a large screen which shows the parade in its entirety. It has often been described as the greatest free show on earth; it takes an hour to pass by.

Russell Spencer
September Prayer

Dear Father,

September again! How quickly the months roll by. How quickly our lives move forward. Help us this September to welcome the new starts in our every-day lives — the new school year, the new clubs and activities for all ages that start up again this month. There are so many opportunities, so much to keep us busy. Help us, Lord, this September to commit each new day and each new activity to You, aware that every day is a gift from You. Help us to choose wisely how we spend the time You give us and to reflect Your love and generosity and kindness to those we meet each day.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching