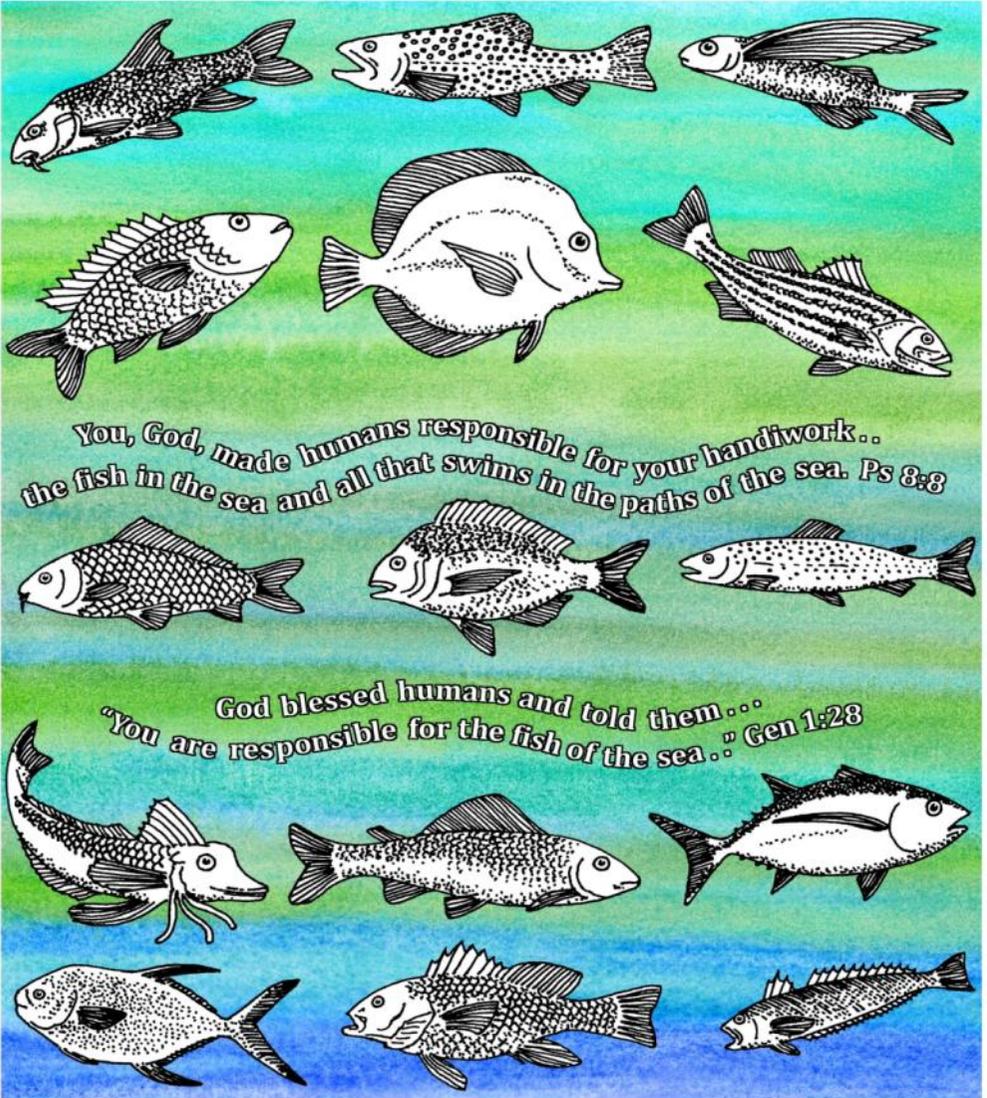


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July 2022

Contents

Hello Everyone

I am writing this whilst it is scorching outside. It's great to feel the heat but uncomfortable to work outside in such weather. I feel for those people who don't have a choice.

This past weekend was spent at Sarum theological college where I had a lovely time discovering all about rural ministry and exploring village churches near Salisbury. The experience reiterated to me the heart that I have for rural ministry and I consider myself fortunate to live in the Two Shires Benefice surrounded by lovely people and beautiful countryside.

Have a wonderful July.

Anne Perez

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If you would like to add any content or have any suggestions about what you would like to see in future issues please send it to me at thelinktwoshires@gmail.com

Many thanks Anne Perez

Rev'd Michelle writes

Today, Florence and I have started our greatest baking challenge yet! We are attempting to make the official Jubilee pudding – the Lemon Swiss Roll and Amaretti Trifle. At the moment, the recipe looks a bit daunting – with so many different elements to be made before we can begin to put the trifle together. We are hoping that once everything is made and has been assembled, we will have a bit of a feast, but there is still a lot of work to go!

Florence and I both love cooking and baking, but all too often the days are far too busy for us to do anything new or creative. It feels like, only too often, the things that we enjoy doing get pushed out to make way for the busyness of everyday life!

As we head towards the summer holidays (which are only a few weeks away now), many of the things that can make us busy or fill our time begin to slow down – just for a few weeks. Even those of us who maybe aren't so busy will probably notice a change in the rhythm over the summer months.

I am a big believer in taking time out – to rest, to be still, to listen. The summer months can be great in giving us the opportunity to be outdoors, or maybe just giving us that little bit more time to sit and reflect.

However, my challenge to you, and to myself, this month is to try and spend just a little bit more time simply doing the things that you love, the things that inspire your creative side, the things that you can just get lost in. For me, this might be cooking or maybe re-discovering my

knitting or cross stitch projects, or some gardening. What are the things that you love doing and struggle to make time for, or the things that you used to love doing but haven't done for years? Are there new things that you would like to try?

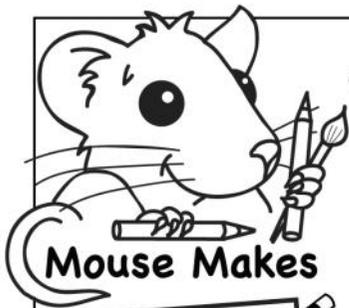
We must make time to do those things that put a smile on our faces, those things that challenge and inspire us.

Our God is a creator God. The Bible gives us such a beautiful image of how he created our world out of love, how he painted the skies and filled the earth with colour, how he made each animal and each person. We are told in Ephesians:

"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works". Ephesians 2:10

We are part of that beautiful creation, and within each of us we carry the very imprint of our creator. We need to give ourselves the space, the time and the permission to really explore and discover all the things that make us, us. For, in doing this, we not only discover more of who we are and who we can be, we also discover God – present in the very things that make us smile. Amen.





Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X
to find the bible verse:

NXOXWXTXHXEREXEA
 XRXEXMXAXNXYOXT
 XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXGX
 SXTXHXAXTXJEXXSXU
 XSXDIXDX.WXEXRXEXE
 VXEXRXYXONXEXOXX
 TXHXEXMXTXOXBEXW
 XRXIXTXEXNX,IXSXU
 XPXPXOXSXETHXAXTX
 TXHXEXWXOXRXLXDXI
 TXSXEXLXFCXOXUXLD
 XNXOXTXCXOXNXTXAI
 XNXTXHXEXBOXOXKXS
 XTXXHXAXTXWXOXULX
 DBXEXWXRXIXTXEXEN
 X.JXOXHXNX2X1X:2X5X

What did Jesus turn
water into?



John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law
did Jesus heal?

Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out
to the disciples
in the boat?



Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise
from the dead?

John 11:38-44



How long had the
woman at the synagogue
been disabled?

— — years

What did she do after
she was healed?

Luke 13:10-13

Who did Jesus
heal when his ear
was cut off?

Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus fed thousands
of people from a
few loaves and fish,
... not once but twice!

READ 
 Matthew 14:13-21
 AND
 Matthew 15:32-39

In each story...
How many loaves
and how many fish
did Jesus have?

How many people
were fed?

How many baskets of
broken pieces were
left over?



DID YOU KNOW?

There
are over

37

miracles of Jesus
recorded in the Gospels.

How many of them
do you know?

Find these words
in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE
 DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE
 PARALYSED • WALK • SICK
 HEALED • DEAD • RAISED
 MUTE • SPEAK • DEMONS
 CAST OUT • STORM
 CALMED • WATER • WINE
 FISH • MULTIPLIED

F A L S H B J O H E A L E D
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 S P G O A I I D E A F A I M
 H E A R T N N Y J I S S W O
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Tatworth WI

At the Annual General Meeting on the 19th May, Sue Cheese stood down as president and was applauded by members for managing to keep the Tatworth W.I. going, with the help of the committee and members, during the very difficult years of the Covid pandemic. There were no volunteers at the meeting offering to take over as president, but all the committee members, apart from Margaret agreed to continue and Tina Moon volunteered to shadow Sue Markby as treasurer and take over next year, when Sue retires. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee will take place on the 7th June to resolve the problem of a new president.

Twenty eight members have booked to attend the rather late Jubilee celebration lunch, that will take place at The Belmont Hotel in Sidmouth on the 22nd June and they are hoping for good weather for the 19th July, when after that meeting is held in Nora`s garden, the afternoon will finish with a cream tea and games.

Unfortunately the County Quiz at Ilminster has been cancelled, but some members will be going to the Craft Taster day at Horton Village Hall on the 5th July.

St Swithun's Day, 15th July



St Swithun's day,
if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St Swithun's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain na mair.

Ancient rhyme



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	Chard Guildhall	09.30/17.25
	Tatworth Church	09.40/17.15
	Abbotsbury	11.00/16.00

JULY: SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

31st	£15 RETURN TRAVEL TO SIDMOUTH SEAFRONT	
	Iminster Market Square	08.50/17.25
	Chard Guildhall	09.05/17.10
	Tatworth Church	09.15/17.00
	Sidmouth Seafont	10.15/16.00

AUGUST: LYME REGIS

21st	£13 RETURN TRAVEL TO LYME REGIS	
	Iminster Market Square	09.30/17.00
	Chard Guildhall	09.45/16.45
	Tatworth Church	09.55/16.35
	Lyme Regis	10.30/16.00

DECEMBER: EXETER CHRISTMAS MARKET

4th	£16 RETURN TRAVEL TO EXETER CHRISTMAS MARKET	
	Iminster Market Square	09.30/17.30
	Chard Guildhall	09.45/17.15
	Tatworth Church	09.55/17.05
	Exeter Cathedral Square	11.00/16.00

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T and F Movies

On Friday the 22nd July, T & F Movies will show the Ealing comedy, style British film "The Duke". Jim Broadbent plays the eccentric Kempton Bunton and Helen Mirren his wife Dorothy. The film is based on the real life theft of the Goya masterpiece from The National Gallery, by a man who hoped to use it to blackmail the Macmillan government into funding free TV licences for pensioners.

The doors open at 7.00pm and the film will start at 7.30pm. There will be the usual bar and raffle and the entry charge is £5



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St Mary Magdalene Festival Church, Cricket Malherbie with Knowle St Giles

Many thanks to everyone who visited our Flower Festival over the Platinum Jubilee week-end. The theme of “WORDS OF WISDOM” (Proverbs) was well represented around the church and in the churchyard and stimulated conversation, thought and amusement. The cream teas and cakes also went down very well.

The Garden Party at The Old Rectory gave parishioners and friends the opportunity to enjoy a convivial time in a wonderful setting and a great atmosphere. Our barbeque and quiz in the church grounds were very well attended and a good time was had by all.

We concluded the week-end with a Thanksgiving Service for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, led by Reverend Philip. This too was well attended and a splendid end to our celebrations.

The sum raised for church funds was in excess of £3,000-00, a marvellous result. Thank you to everyone, those who planned, organised and made events happen and to those who came along to enjoy the occasion and gave so generously.

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3 rd July <i>Thomas the Apostle</i>	10am Morning Worship 12.30pm Baptism	2pm Baptism MB/PB		8am BCP HC (Forde)	10am HC PB	
10 th July <i>4th Sunday after Trinity</i>		10:30am HC PB		10am Morning Worship Lay	8am BCP HC PB	
17 th July <i>5th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am HC MB			6.30pm Service of Light Lay	10am Morning Worship Lay	
24 th July <i>6th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8am HC (said) PB	6:30pm Evening Prayer AP		10am HC PB		
31 st July <i>7th after Trinity</i>	Benefice Service at Cricket Malherbie at 10.30(PB and MB away)DP					

Weds HC	13th 20th 27th	11am	MB	9.30am	PB	9.30am	AC

WEDNESDAY

Baptism

10am HC

One little Word

For St Mary Magdalene's Day - 22nd July

Bible passage: John 20:1-18, by Mary Dewar

ONE little word – it was only one little word, but what a difference it made; before it was spoken, isolation, despair, grief, but afterwards, oh afterwards, joy, happiness, love, all laced with a sense of unexpected wonderment.

But we're running ahead of ourselves. Lets go back a bit to "Early on the first day of the week" and to Mary Magdalene standing gazing with horror and tear-filled eyes at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. JESUS had told His disciples that He would rise from the dead, but had they really understood? Would you and I have understood if we'd been there? Mary had, after all, seen JESUS crucified, she had watched Him die! And she'd seen Him laid in the tomb, this tomb, a tomb that was now EMPTY! Hadn't they done enough to Him? Couldn't they leave Him alone even now? If we had been in Mary's place perhaps we might have been thinking like that. This was the first time since JESUS had been laid there that Mary had been able to go to the tomb. St John, in chapter twenty of his gospel, doesn't tell us why she went; we do know that she loved JESUS very much, perhaps she wanted to anoint His body properly, as befitted her Lord, something she had been unable to do at the time, because of the approaching Sabbath. Her heart was breaking, she longed to do this one last thing for her Lord, and she found the stone rolled away, the grave empty, no wonder she couldn't holdback her tears.

There was no one to comfort her, Peter and John had been to the tomb, but now they were gone, one of them amazed at what he'd seen, the other just beginning to understand. They were gone now; Mary was alone. Still crying, she looked into the tomb, only to find to her amazement that it was no longer empty! Two angels were sitting, one

at the head and one at the feet of where JESUS' body had been. Mary does not appear to have been frightened. The angels didn't say, as they usually do, "Don't be afraid," instead, they asked her why she was crying, and (as if speaking to angels was the most natural thing in the world), she tells them they have taken her Lord away, she doesn't know where they have put Him, who has taken Him, or why; she just knows He is gone.

As she finishes speaking she becomes aware of Someone behind her; the deep love she has for JESUS shines through in her conversation with this person she thought was the gardener. "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him and I will get Him." She never once mentioned JESUS' name, He was all she could think of and she thought everyone would know who she meant. She hadn't thought how she would carry His body; her one desire was to find Him.

Then comes what someone has called, the greatest recognition scene in all literature. Try to picture it: Mary was still looking into the tomb, still crying, then the Person in the garden speaks one word, one little word, and her whole world changes. "JESUS said to her, ' Mary!'" Instantly she knew Him, "Master!" Suddenly there was overwhelming joy and happiness where moments before there had been grief and despair. As Mary Magdalene turned to look at the One she thought she would never see again, life had meaning once more, and a new task. "Go to my brothers," JESUS tells her, "and tell them I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." So Mary was reunited with her Lord, she never wanted to let Him go again, her cup of happiness was full. But wait, what had He just said, "Go and tell..." how must she have felt, she'd only just found Him again and He was sending her away. But that same love that had drawn her like a magnet to the tomb now compelled her to obey JESUS' command. She didn't know whether she would see Him again, but she did indeed go and tell. This time the message was not, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb." but the triumphant cry,

“I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!”

Mary Magdalene, out of whom, tradition tells us, JESUS cast seven demons to make her whole and well again, who loved much because she had been forgiven much, Mary had the wonderful, tremendous privilege to be the first person in the world to witness the Resurrection of our Lord from the dead, and all it took was ONE LITTLE WORD.

Amen

Chard Churches Together



You are cordially invited to a meeting of Chard Churches Together at 7.00 pm on Thursday 7th July in the hall at the English Martyrs. We will be providing a buffet which will commence at 7.00 pm and the meeting will commence at 8.00 pm finishing no later than 9.30. The meeting will be an

opportunity for you to hear what Chard Churches Together does as a team, and to input any ideas or suggestions, although only the committee members will be able to vote.

We do hope that you will join us and meet some new people from other churches and see what we can do together to live out the Gospel in our community.

With every blessing

Rev'd Ann Kember, Chair of Chard Churches Together

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Bishop Ruth Writes.....

A wealth of ministries



By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

Half-way through the year already! Midsummer's day past. It hardly seems possible. We have now had Bishop Michael's election as our new Diocesan Bishop confirmed and we have joined together in a Day of Prayer to mark this new chapter in the life of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Praying with hope and joy as we look forward to the next part of the journey together, and with realism as we recognise the challenges we face especially with our limited financial resources.

However, we are rich in other ways. The missional and ministerial resources amongst us are strong. We continue to see people drawn to exploring ordained ministry and yet an even greater number seeking new lay ministerial opportunities. Reader training is beginning to increase once more. Chaplaincies of all shapes and sizes are developing. Recently we introduced chaplaincy to the courts in Taunton, and Weston-Super-Mare is following after. Churchwardens in this past month have demonstrated their commitment to service at the annual Visitation services.

And there are loads more ways in which the wealth of the Church is seen, through pastoral care, worship leading, and children and youth work, to name but a few. Our deaneries are working together on plans for local shared ministry focussing on the particular needs, context and gifts of each place and community. It is an opportunity for us to note God's abundant goodness to us and the gift of the people with whom we gather.

I am looking forward to sharing in our celebration of all the lay ministries across the diocese. It is an opportunity to hear the stories of one another, to reflect on creative possibilities and ways you can join in. Please respond to the invitation to come along!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 41 to 51

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival with their family and friends. This year Jesus was twelve.

The women and children went in front to set the pace



Next year, Jesus, you'll be walking at the back with the men.

The Passover feasting lasted eight days...



..and then they set off for home again



but without Jesus.

Mary and Joseph didn't find out until the evening



I thought he was with you!

So they walked back to Jerusalem and started searching for Jesus...



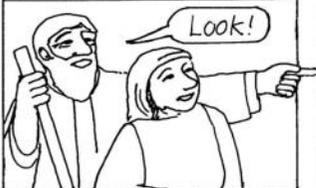
Sorry, I haven't seen him.

..and the next day,



then on the third day

they went to the temple



Look!

He was talking with the teachers.



You must be very proud of your clever son



But Mary was not happy.

How could you treat your father and I like this?



Didn't you know I'd be here?



I needed to be where my birth father, God, is working.

Mary thought about this all the way home



... and all her life.

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Sea Sunday – 10th July

Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships?

What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.

St James the Least of All

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in renditions of ‘Shine Jesus, Shine’ and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying ‘Thieves will be forgiven’, although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening, I hope your forgiveness still operates. Especially as they also stole your favourite guitar.

Last year, we had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the church’s 400-year-old oak door to get in. Shame about that. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the 19th century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn’t even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into – although as far as I can remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of Civilisation as We Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on the premises, and a few even speculated about the possibility of having strategically placed land mines about the place. Mrs Beaufort offered to lend us her fierce Pekingese, and Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

Somebody once defined a football match as ‘22 people on the field desperately in need of rest, watched by 50 thousand people in the stands, desperately in need of exercise! It reminds us that church is not a spectator sport! The Holy Spirit equips us to serve God in the Church and daily life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are variously described as *spiritual gifts* (1 Cor. 12:1) or *grace gifts* (1 Cor. 1:7), the latter word being used in modern Greek for a birthday present! They are love gifts from God that we cannot earn or deserve, that are open to everybody. Note what Paul says, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Cor. 12:7):

‘to each one’: the gifts are available to every Christian. Everyone will have a different ‘gift-mix’, with their own particular contribution to offer.

‘the manifestation of the Spirit’: the gifts of the Spirit enable an invisible God to be real and visible.

As we exercise the gifts that God has given to us, in our speech or service, people will be able to say, ‘*God is at work here*’!

‘for the common good’: the aim of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom of God. They are not intended to meet our own needs or reputation, but simply to serve and encourage others.

With the gifts given by God, we are able to fulfil His purposes in His world. Paul urges us to ‘*eagerly desire*’ the gifts that God has for us (1 Cor. 12:31). How true is this for each of us? Any present that we are given needs unwrapping before we can enjoy it. Are we doing this with our spiritual gifts?

C of E has good skills, says new bishop

The next Bishop of Bath and Wells, Dr Michael Beasley, has said that the Cof E learned valuable lessons during the pandemic. “There’s been a huge amount that we’ve seen in our response to an emergency. It shows we have a flexibility and a resilience and an ability to respond to situations that we might not have known we have, but now we do.”

He said that such resilience will be needed, to cope in these “challenging times”, with the world still emerging from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the cost-of-living crisis, “which is only to become increasingly urgent.”.

He said: “Addressing these issues is going to demand everyone’s faith and experiences, their creativity and skill.”



The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand,
The garden blooms at her command,
Plants abounding everywhere
As fragrant perfumes fill the air.

Roses, geraniums, lilies too
Agapanthus with globes of blue,
Sumptuous colours in such array,
Their beauty takes our breath away.
To sit beneath the shady trees,
To listen to the humming bees,
As Summer wears her rainbow dress
We thank God for such loveliness.

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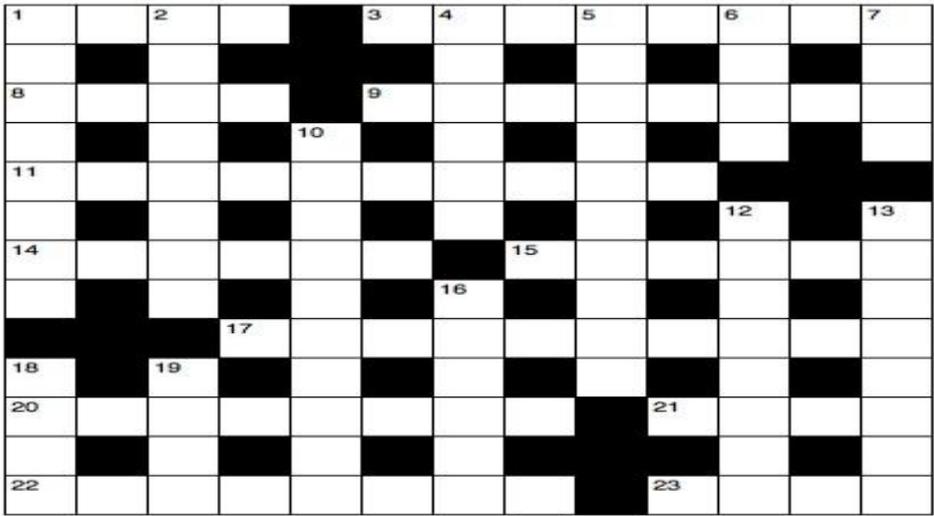
Puzzle Page

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Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being ‘of noble character’ (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 ‘Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?’ (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 ‘Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ’ (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment (Ephesians 4:31)(10) 14 In Cain (anag.)(6)
- 15 ‘Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to— ’ (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 ‘At midnight the cry rang out, “Here’s the bridegroom!Come out to — him”’ (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ’ (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 ‘As the — pants for streams of water, s (Psalm 42:1) (4)



Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John 10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear (James 2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha (6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis 25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear (anag.)(4)

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Solar power

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer. It's called a 'clothes-line'.

Baptism

A couple took their five-year-old young daughter to church. During the service, the minister conducted the baptism of a tiny infant. The little girl watched in wonder as he held the baby, said solemn words, then poured water over its head, and then carefully wiped it dry. Finally, she turned to her father. "Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?"

Heaven help me

One Sunday in church a little boy was 'acting up' during the morning worship. His parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew, but it was a losing battle. Finally, an exasperated father picked up his son and strode sternly down the aisle. Just as the church doors closed behind them, the little boy cried loudly to the congregation: "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

Seagull

A woman went to the beach with her children. Her four-year-old son ran up to her, grabbed her hand, and led her to the shore where a dead seagull lay in the sand. "Mummy, what happened to him?" the little boy asked.

Not wanting to upset him, she said: "He died and went to heaven." The child thought for a moment and said, "And God threw him back down?"

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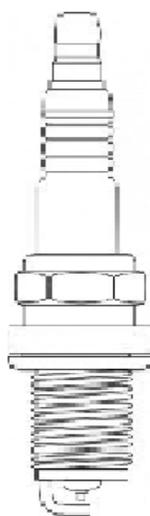
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Practice is the soul of knowledge. –Thomas Adams

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