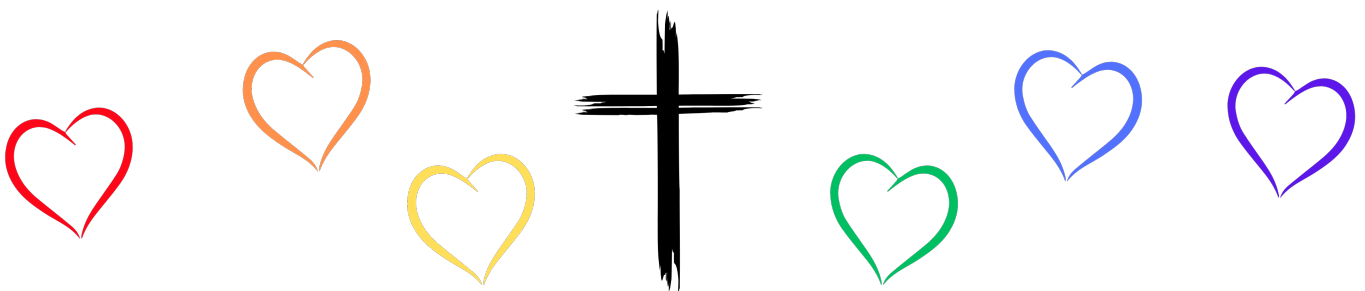


# RYHOPE VIEWS



**FEBRUARY - MARCH 2025**



**ST PAUL'S CHURCH MAGAZINE £1.50**

Large print available on request

## CONTACTS & SERVICES

### REVEREND DAVID CHADWICK

St Paul's Vicarage  
Ryhope Street North  
Sunderland  
SR2 0HH

0191 523 7884

### CHURCH WARDEN

**James McDowall**

0191 528 8375

07833 307 515

[Mcdowall.james1@sky.com](mailto:Mcdowall.james1@sky.com)

### MAGAZINE EDITOR

Joanne Nolan

[ryhopeview@outlook.com](mailto:ryhopeview@outlook.com)

### WEB LINKS

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13733](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13733)

[www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchryhope](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulschurchryhope)

[www.youtube.com/@StPaulsChurchRyhope](http://www.youtube.com/@StPaulsChurchRyhope)

### REGULAR SERVICES

#### Eucharist/Holy Communion

Sundays at 8am and 10:15am

Wednesdays at 9:30am

#### Evensong

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 6pm

#### OFFICE HOUR/ENQUIRES

Tuesdays 6pm – 7pm

#### ST PAUL'S S.H.O.P.

Supporting & Helping Our Parish

24 Ryhope Street South

Sunderland

SR2 0RW

#### OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday 10am to 4pm

#### CLOSED

Bank Holidays & Weekends

#### RYHOPE CHOIR

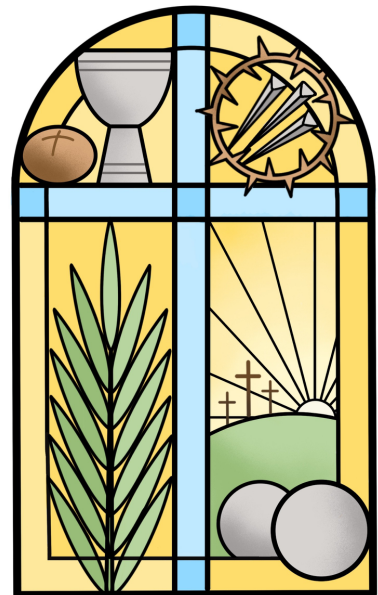
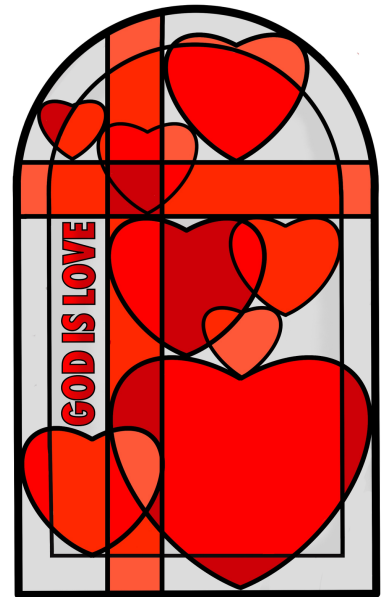
Led by Tony Bowler

Thursdays from 6pm - 7pm



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## SUBMISSIONS

We would love to hear from you with your thoughts and reflections, poetry, or short stories. Please email us on [ryhopeview@outlook.com](mailto:ryhopeview@outlook.com) or if you don't have access to email, speak to Reverend David, Joanne Nolan or Elaine Shanks in church.

## VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.*

*I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.*

Dear All,

We all know the hymn 'Amazing Grace.' Those words could easily apply to St Paul, our patron saint. Because by his own admission he was a wretch, the chief among sinners. He was lost in his hatred towards Jesus and his Church, until the Lord found him. And, although he was blinded on the Damascus Road, the Lord restored his sight.

But those words could equally apply to every sinner saved by the Amazing Grace of Jesus down the ages, and they certainly apply to John Newton, the person who wrote the hymn in the first place.

John Newton was not a nice person. He was a slave trader who worked along the coast of West Africa. You know you've come to no good when you're able to sell your fellow human beings to line your own pockets, and eventually his shipmates got sick of him too. They abandoned him in a slave colony and sailed off without him. Probably John Newton was too debauched at this point to care.



But if John Newton didn't care, God did, and he set his Amazing Grace in motion to save him. We can see this in two instances. First, God's grace was at work in John Newton's father who'd never forgotten him, despite what he'd become. He dispatched a sea captain to see if he could find and rescue his son. Through God's grace the sea captain was successful and brought him back on the ship Greyhound. But this was when God revealed more of his goodness. The Greyhound was struck by a severe storm and began to sink. John Newton threw himself on the mercy of God and prayed that he might be saved. Against all hope the storm abated and the ship sailed on in safety. Nothing could stop Grace from leading John Newton home.

This was a decisive moment in the life of John Newton. He turned his back on his former life, repented of his sins and turned to Jesus. In time he would become an ardent campaigner against the slave trade and work for its abolition.

The message of John Newton and St Paul is that no one is exempt from the Grace of God, and that there is hope for us all. Sometimes we think that we are unworthy of his Grace because of the things that we have done. We think that we are cast out of his kingdom because of our mistakes. But that's to diminish God's grace which is amazing in its capacity to save us. If he can save people like John Newton and St Paul, he can certainly save us. Let us hold on to his promise, which is good for us, and his word, which secures us.

*Your friend and vicar,*

*David.*





## PRAYERS

### PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring. In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord - as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

### A PRAYER FOR LENT

Dear Father in Heaven,

When Lent begins, we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness. The world today can seem like a wilderness. So many difficult, incomprehensible things going on. It is tempting to turn away in horror or denial, tempting to look out for ourselves, tempting to take the easy path, to pay attention to whatever the culture dangles before our eyes.

Lord, please help us. We need your word to guide us. We need your Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen us. Help us to give our attention and our worship only to you.  
Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus, who by his death and resurrection, opens the way to you. Help us to renew our trust in him and through him, to walk with you every day.  
In his name,

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Baptisms

### DECEMBER 2024

**1<sup>ST</sup>** Sydney Edmond

**8<sup>TH</sup>** Emilia Kyle

### FEBRUARY 2025

**2<sup>ND</sup>** Archie John Liddy

*We welcome you into the fellowship of faith.*



## Funerals

### FEBRUARY 2025

**6<sup>TH</sup>** Lynne Johnson

**7<sup>TH</sup>** Margaret Giles

**24<sup>TH</sup>** Matty Partridge

**27<sup>TH</sup>** Alan Horn

**28<sup>TH</sup>** Tom Foster

**29<sup>TH</sup>** Patricia Weaver

**29<sup>TH</sup>** Jacqueline Allen (Memorial Service)

*Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.*



## CHURCH CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

**2<sup>ND</sup>** Candlemas

**13<sup>TH</sup>** **NASUWT Riverside Band's** Spring Concert

### MARCH

**5<sup>TH</sup>** Ash Wednesday- Eucharist with Ashing - 9.30am

**8<sup>TH</sup>** Parish Outing

**10<sup>TH</sup>** Lent Course with the Stations of the Cross - 7.00pm  
Continues for the following four Mondays

**17<sup>TH</sup>** Shop Volunteers Meeting - 2.00pm

**30<sup>TH</sup>** Mothering Sunday





## HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

### FEBRUARY

- 1** Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525
- 2** **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**
- 3** Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865
- 4** Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189
- 6** The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
- 10** Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543
- 14** Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885  
Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269
- 15** Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045  
Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of the SPCK and the SPG, 1730
- 17** Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977
- 23** Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155
- 27** George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633

### ALTERNATIVE DATES

Matthias may be celebrated on 24 February instead of 14 May.



## HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

### MARCH

- 1 David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601
- 2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672
- 5 **Ash Wednesday**
- 7 Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203
- 8 Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910
- 8 Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647
- 8 Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929
- 17 Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c.460
- 18 Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher of the Faith, 386
- 19 **Joseph of Nazareth**
- 20 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687
- 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556
- 24 Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396
- 24 Paul Couturier, Priest, Ecumenist, 1953
- 24 Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980
- 25 **The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 26 Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883
- 31 John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

#### ALTERNATIVE DATES

Chad may be celebrated with Cedd on 26 October instead of 2 March.  
Cuthbert may be celebrated on 4 September instead of 20 March



# Open Table



**@Sunderland Minster**

**You're more than welcome here**

**Hurray!!! It's our 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday!!!**

**Join us at 5pm on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025**

**& be part of our celebrations.**

**There'll be a service of Holy Communion followed  
by a social with refreshments and a birthday cake!**



Email Rev Jacqui Tyson on [sunderland@opentable.lgbt](mailto:sunderland@opentable.lgbt) for further information







presents a

# Concert featuring Music from Theatre to Big Screen Musicals to Movies

Conducted by  
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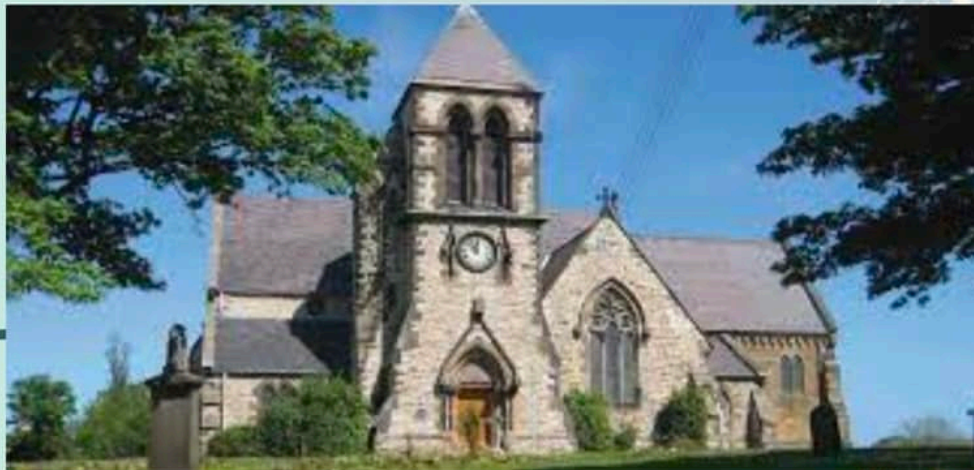
at St Pauls Church | Ryhope | Sunderland | SR2 0HH

Saturday 15th February 2025

starting at 7.30pm , doors open at 7pm

Ticket price £8 for adults , under 16s £4

Tickets can be purchased via St Pauls Charity Shop, located  
on Ryhope Street South or call 07369287375 or via any band member



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SERVICES

# Letters to Church Angels

A five week course for  
Lent, exploring the letters  
of the Book of Revelation.



Led by  
The Rev'd Dr David Bryan and  
The Rev'd David Chadwick.

First session: Monday 10th March at 7pm.

**All are welcome!**



## THE FROG PRINCE

*Elaine Shanks*

Theatre Space North East returned to St Paul's just before Christmas with their latest pantomime, penned by Jamie Brown. The Frog Prince told the story of a frog who was made into a mutant by the illegal polluting of rivers next to a factory in the kingdom. A very topical theme but with a canny fairy tale twist. Or at least I hope so or we will be overrun with mutant talking frogs in modern day Britain with the current state of our waterways.

The show had a small cast of four, with some playing several roles - most effectively illustrated when the king fought the chef in an amusing, chaotic scene with the chef's hat being dropped on the actor's head to indicate he was that character and being removed when he became the king. The frog was puppeteered by one of the young cast members who handily wore green so he also looked frog like.



The panto had the usual mix of original songs, dancing and topical jokes - the recently abolished winter fuel allowance and prisons overflowing with inmates got mentions. But it also very much appealed to the youngsters present. The toddler in front of me was entranced and kept shouting out "hiya froggie" - to her delight the frog replied "hiya!".



There was a happy ending of course with the frog being turned into a boy at the end and made into a Prince. The King and princess got their phones back after they had been confiscated early in the show. We should all maybe put our phones down for a moment and go to watch live shows like this. It was a pleasing, energetic romp through a story suitable for old and young alike.



## NASUWT RIVERSIDE BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Elaine Shanks*

On 6th December St Paul's was happy to welcome back the NASUWT Riverside band for their Christmas concert. The eminent Professor Nicholas Childs returned as Principal conductor. The church was packed with hundreds of music lovers.

The concert began with a rousing opening Ashwell Carol and continued into a piece called Christmas Fantasy which was a medley of popular Christmas songs. Several soloists bravely took to the stage including a tenor horn, cornet, flugel and a rarely used baritone solo by Joe Ridgeon who seemed very keen to have his well deserved time in the spotlight. A very moving piece called Shepherd's Lullaby we were told evoked memories of those we have lost and who won't be here at Christmas with us. This was especially moving for me as it played at the exact time a relative's funeral was taking place thousands of miles away : it was particularly haunting. The first half rounded off with a new arrangement of A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square by the young composer, Matthew Hall, which mixed the original song with dramatic, chaotic music.

After the interval the concert veered firmly into Christmas territory. The band started off with a instrumental song called Sleighride which had a band member playing a fascinating instrument consisting of two bits of wood which slapped together and led to some members of the audience dancing along enthusiastically. Marking the fortieth anniversary of the release of Do They Know It's Christmas? the band performed a rearranged version which had Father David joining in by singing along impressively. There were also opportunities for official audience participation too with stomping renditions of O Come All Ye Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. The evening concluded with an arrangement of Little Drummer Boy which allowed all of the instruments in the band to get their own solos. Finally the percussionists who had spent the evening doing laps of the church back and forth between their various percussion instruments could have a rest.

We all had a really enjoyable evening and the concert really got us into the mood for Christmas. We look forward to the NASUWT Riverside Band back to Ryhope again on 15<sup>th</sup> February to lift our spirits and lift the roof.



## RYHOPE CHOIR RETURN TO BEAMISH FOR CHRISTMAS

*Elaine Shanks*

On 15th December Ryhope choir, based at St Paul's church, were invited to perform in the chapel at the pit village in Beamish Open Air Museum. We sang a selection of carols in the chapel in three sets throughout the afternoon to an audience of passers-by, enthusiastic participants and Peter's grandchildren - the latter joined in the songs and were invited up to sing alongside us such was their enthusiasm.

The chapel filled up each time we sang with people walking past the usually almost empty chapel being attracted in by our voices like Sirens which was very encouraging. It was an emotional experience and felt quite special singing in such a venue at a magical and special time of year.



We enjoyed exploring the museum in the breaks between sets, especially the elf village in the woods with elf homes and buildings scattered along the path surrounded by fairy lights and Christmas music. They had even recreated the Grand cinema which previously stood in Ryhope, but which was recently rebuilt in Beamish. Santa was there in a horse drawn carriage too delighting both small children and middle-aged women!



*Liz & Tony Bowler*

The Christmas trees around the museum and stalls selling decorations and sweets and treats for Christmas stockings really added to our festive spirit. We all had an amazing time and we sincerely hope we are invited back to sing at Beamish in the years to come. Many thanks to Tony Bowler for leading the choir and organising such a wonderful experience for us all.

## **BUS SERVICE CHANGES IN RYHOPE**

**FROM 26 JANUARY 2025**

**GO NORTH EAST** are making some changes to our services in Sunderland and Washington from 26 January 2025. The changes include several new links across the area as well as timetable changes to make services more reliable.

### **SERVICES 61 & 62/A - PENNYWELL – SUNDERLAND – GRANGETOWN – DOXFORD / PETERLEE / MURTON:**

Service's 39, 39A & 39B will be withdrawn, however replacements are provided by the revised 61 and new 62 & 62A.

**SERVICE 61:** Will operate up to every 30 minutes between Pennywell, Sunderland City Centre, Winter Gardens, Grangetown, Hollycarrside, Ryhope and Murton, with one journey each hour extending to Peterlee.

**SERVICE 62/A:** Will operate up to every 30 minutes between Pennywell, Sunderland City Centre, Winter Gardens, Grangetown, Hollycarrside, Ryhope and Doxford International.

### **SERVICE 63 - SUNDERLAND – RYHOPE – SILKSWORTH:**

Service 2 will no longer operate beyond Sunderland to Silksworth, replacement service 63 will continue to operate between Sunderland and Silksworth via Ryhope Village Green. This service will operate up to every 15 minutes, with a revised timetable to improve reliability.

**CUSTOMERS TRAVELLING FROM RYHOPE GREEN TO SUNDERLAND  
CAN BENEFIT FROM A BUS EVERY 7-8 MINUTES WITH SERVICES 60 AND 63.**

### **SERVICE 60 - SUNDERLAND – RYHOPE – PARKSIDE:**

Minor timetable changes to evening journeys to improve service reliability. Customers travelling from Ryhope to Sunderland can benefit from a bus every 7-8 minutes with services 60 and 63.

### **SERVICE 2 - SUNDERLAND – BARNWELL ESTATE – WASHINGTON:**

This service has been revised to run every 20 minutes on an amended route in Barnwell. Service 2A will be withdrawn and service 2 will continue to serve Barnwell.

**THIS SERVICE NO LONGER SERVES BIDDICK OR SHINEY ROW:**

- Customers in Biddick should use services 4 or 84/85 to connect at Washington Galleries.
- Customers in Shiney Row should use services X1 and 4 to Washington Galleries, or 78 to Sunderland.
- Service 8 will continue to provide a direct link from Fatfield to Sunderland

The section of route between Sunderland, Grangetown and Silksworth will be served by routes 61, 62/A and 63.

**FULL INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO NEW BUS TIMETABLES**

**AVAILABLE AT:** [www.gonortheast.co.uk/service-changes-sunderland-and-washington](http://www.gonortheast.co.uk/service-changes-sunderland-and-washington)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **BISHOP SARAH RESPONDS TO COMMONS**

#### **DEBATE ON ASSISTED SUICIDE**

Following the recent vote in the House of Commons to give the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill a second reading, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, the Church of England's lead bishop for health and social care, said:

"I have been deeply moved watching proceedings unfold in the House of Commons today. My prayers are with all those who have been affected, who have shared and heard their stories, and facilitated this debate.

"The Church of England believes that the compassionate response at the end of life lies in the provision of high-quality palliative care services to all who need them.

"Today's vote still leaves the question of how this could be implemented in an overstretched and under-funded NHS, social care and legal system.

"Safeguarding the most vulnerable must be at the heart of the coming Parliamentary process, today's vote is not the end of the debate."

## **INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO CHURCH'S HANDLING OF SMYTH CASE SHAKES THE C OF E**

The independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth was published last autumn.

Keith Makin, who led the independent review said, "The abuse at the hands of John Smyth was prolific and abhorrent. Words cannot adequately describe the horror of what transpired.

"Many of the victims who took the brave decision to speak to us about what they experienced have carried this abuse silently for more than 40 years.

"Despite the efforts of some individuals to bring the abuse to the attention of authorities, the responses by the Church of England and others were wholly ineffective and amounted to a coverup.

"The Church and its associated organisations must learn from this review and implement robust safeguarding procedures across their organisations that are governed independently.

"This has been a long process but a necessary one to uncover the extent of John Smyth's despicable behaviour and how the Church reacted to it.

"I would like to sincerely thank the victims for their courage, grace and dignity and I would like to remind everyone reporting on this review about their right to anonymity and privacy."

The Church of England's Lead Safeguarding Bishop, Joanne Grenfell, and the National Director of Safeguarding, Alexander Kubeyinje said, "We are deeply sorry for the horrific abuse inflicted by the late John Smyth and its lifelong effects, already spanning more than 40 years.



“The review concludes that Smyth is arguably the most prolific serial abuser to be associated with the Church of England. We know that no words can undo the damage done to people’s lives both by him and by the failure of individuals in the Church and other institutions to respond well. We are also aware that the time the review has taken, which the reviewer addresses, as well as the details now in the public domain have been retraumatising for survivors.

“We highlight the comment in the review from a deceased cleric (David Fletcher) who was aware in the 1980s, along with others, of the extent of the abuse: ‘I thought it would do the work of God immense damage if this were public’.

“We are appalled that any clergy person could believe that covering up abuse was justified in the name of the Gospel, which is about proclaiming Good News to the poor and healing the broken hearted. It was wrong for a seemingly privileged group from an elite background to decide that the needs of victims should be set aside, and that Smyth’s abuse should not therefore be brought to light.

“Every member of the Church is responsible for a culture in which victims are heard, responded to well, and put first: there is never a place for covering up abuse.

“We are aware of criticisms in the report of individuals and organisations and names of clergy were passed to the National Safeguarding Team, NST, from the reviewer (see below Terms of Reference).

“Of those who were interviewed 25 were questioned about their knowledge of Smyth and had their safeguarding risk assessed. The reviewer also had a duty to pass on information to statutory authorities including police if appropriate. Permissions to officiate were removed for some clergy while their actions were considered. Some seriously criticised in the report are deceased, others are not.

“The NST will now consider if there is any new evidence in the report that needs to be considered to assess if there is any ongoing safeguarding risk and if there is evidence to support any disciplinary process.

“The report also highlights Smyth’s abuse in Zimbabwe, where a boy died and many more were abused. It is clear that Smyth went abroad in the early 1980s following the discovery of his abuse here and in full knowledge of the church officers named in the report. The reviewer urges the Church to consider commissioning a report into Smyth’s actions both in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

“We will now seek to progress this in appropriate ways (noting the recommendation for international information sharing) and liaise with counterparts there who would need to lead on any subsequent investigation, which we would fully support.

“We also note the criticism of the Church's response in 2013 and 2017. We apologise unreservedly that the needs of the victims were not at the forefront in terms of thinking and planning and the response was not trauma informed. We will continue to learn lessons about responding well which is reflected in our revised guidance and survivor engagement framework.

“We welcome all the recommendations and will consider them now in detail, noting work already underway. We wholeheartedly endorse the reviewer’s emphasis that safeguarding must be everyone’s responsibility in the Church, working closely with safeguarding professionals.”

## **STATEMENT ON THE RESIGNATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

Following the publication of the independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth, the Archbishop of Canterbury resigned on 12<sup>th</sup> November. He said:

"Having sought the gracious permission of His Majesty The King, I have decided to resign as Archbishop of Canterbury.

"The Makin Review has exposed the long-maintained conspiracy of silence about the heinous abuses of John Smyth.

"When I was informed in 2013 and told that police had been notified, I believed wrongly that an appropriate resolution would follow.

"It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and retraumatising period between 2013 and 2024.

"It is my duty to honour my Constitutional and church responsibilities, so exact timings will be decided once a review of necessary obligations has been completed, including those in England and in the Anglican Communion.

"I hope this decision makes clear how seriously the Church of England understands the need for change and our profound commitment to creating a safer church. As I step down I do so in sorrow with all victims and survivors of abuse.

"The last few days have renewed my long felt and profound sense of shame at the historic safeguarding failures of the Church of England. For nearly twelve years I have struggled to introduce improvements. It is for others to judge what has been done.

"In the meantime, I will follow through on my commitment to meet victims. I will delegate all my other current responsibilities for safeguarding until the necessary risk assessment process is complete.

"I ask everyone to keep my wife Caroline and my children in their prayers. They have been my most important support throughout my ministry, and I am eternally grateful for their sacrifice. Caroline led the spouses' programme during the Lambeth Conference and has travelled tirelessly in areas of conflict supporting the most vulnerable, the women, and those who care for them locally.

"I believe that stepping aside is in the best interests of the Church of England, which I dearly love and which I have been honoured to serve. I pray that this decision points us back towards the love that Jesus Christ has for every one of us.

"For above all else, my deepest commitment is to the person of Jesus Christ, my saviour and my God; the bearer of the sins and burdens of the world, and the hope of every person."

The Bishop of Stepney Joanne Grenfell said: "As Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Church of England, I have been acutely aware of the impact of the Makin report and the retraumatizing effects of its publication on victims and survivors of John Smyth's awful abuse.

"With sadness, I fully respect and understand Archbishop Justin's decision today to resign. Although Archbishop Justin has helped the Church of England to achieve much in relation to safeguarding during his tenure, because of the failings identified in the Makin Report, it is now necessary for others to take up the baton.

"I have worked closely with Archbishop Justin since I took on this role and have greatly valued his personal commitment to good safeguarding and his desire to see the whole Church make this a priority."

## **FORMER HEAD OF M15 TO LEAD SEARCH FOR NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

The Prime Minister has appointed The Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL to chair the new Crown Nominations Commission for Canterbury. The Crown Nominations Commission is the C of E committee that will nominate the candidate to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Welby completed his duties on 6th January.

Jonathan Evans has been a Crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2014. Until October 2023 he was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He is currently Chair of the HALO Trust, the anti-landmine charity, and of the Public Interest Committee at KPMG UK. He is a former Director-General of the Security Service, MI5. He is an active and communicant member of his local parish church.

## **SAFEGUARDING BISHOPS APOLOGISE TO SURVIVORS FOLLOWING ARCHBISHOP'S SPEECH**

The Lead Bishops for Safeguarding, Joanne Grenfell, Julie Conalty and Robert Springett wrote to survivors and their advocates, following the Archbishop of Canterbury's last speech in the House of Lords at the end of December.

"We write after watching Archbishop Justin's farewell speech in the House of Lords yesterday. We have heard from several of you about the distress and anger that this has caused you.

"Both in content and delivery, the speech was utterly insensitive, lacked any focus on victims and survivors of abuse, especially those affected by John Smyth, and made light of the events surrounding the Archbishop's resignation. It was mistaken and wrong. We acknowledge and deeply regret that this has caused further harm to you in an already distressing situation.

"We know that the Church of England has seriously failed over many years at many levels in relation to safeguarding, and we are so sorry that yesterday's speech was the antithesis of all that we are now trying to work towards in terms of culture change and redress with all of you.

"As lead bishops for safeguarding in the Church of England, we apologize to you. We will continue to do all we can to change the culture of the Church, so that abuse is exposed and prevented, those in authority are held to account.

"If you are or are in contact with someone affected by this letter, please call the **Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056** or visit this webpage [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/reporting-abuse](https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/reporting-abuse) where other support services are listed."



## PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

### NEW WORLD WATCH LIST

On 15<sup>th</sup> January Open Doors published its well-known World Watch List for 2025, naming the countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian.

More than 365 million Christians worldwide face persecution and discrimination for their faith – that's a staggering one in seven believers.

The Open Doors website shares the following data from around the world:

**NORTH KOREA REMAINS AT NUMBER ONE** as the most dangerous country. It has been at the top 23 times in the past 24 years.

**IN 2023, 4,998 CHRISTIANS WERE KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH.** According to Open Doors research, around 90% of these were in Nigeria (just over 4,000), where Christian communities are attacked by armed bandits and Islamic militants. The country with the next highest number of deaths is DRC, with 261.

**MILITANT ISLAMISTS ARE EXPLOITING THE CHAOS IN AFRICA.** The sweeping violence against Christians in sub-Saharan Africa is being aided by economic instability, climate change and fractures in governance and security across the region.

But right across the world, as autocratic governments increase their control, Christians are being targeted: in China, Iran, and now Nicaragua, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

**AN ALARMING RISE IN THE CLOSURE OF CHURCHES AND BUILDINGS.** Some 15,000 churches or public Christian properties were attacked or closed in 2023 – that's seven times the number recorded in 2022. Two-thirds of these were in China (around 10,000).

**CHRISTIANS SQUEEZED OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA.** The situation in Syria has worsened, and believers face extreme persecution. Ongoing conflict, pressure from the Islamic majority, the influence of extremist groups and a collapsed economy contribute to the vulnerability of Christians.

Meanwhile, Libya has reached third on the World Watch List, due to an increase in violence against Christians. And in Tunisia, pressure on Christians continues to grow as President Kais Saied's rule drifts into authoritarianism.

**MORE AT:** <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

**LOVE MATTERS: NEW RESOURCES DEVELOPED  
FOR DIOCESES, SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS**

The Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households has developed resources for use locally in parishes, deaneries and dioceses. It has also collaborated with schools to produce resources for children and young people.

Two videos and lesson plans for children and young people are now available to help them learn about loving relationships: in the family; in singleness; children and young people; forgiveness and kindness; and diversity. An eight-page booklet is also available, and is already proving popular. The initiative follows the success of the *Love Matters* report of April 2023.

# LOOKING AT GOD

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Canon Paul Hardingham

#### ACTS

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

#### LUKE'S AIM IS:

**TO PRESENT A HISTORY.** Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

**TO GIVE A DEFENSE.** We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8–12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8–11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

**TO PROVIDE A GUIDE.** We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'* (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

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*To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution.* The success of

## LOVE IN ACTION!

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers true love...*

*‘Dear children,  
let us not love with words or speech  
but with actions and in truth.’  
(1 John 3:18).*

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different ‘languages’: words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let’s consider how God’s love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *‘This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.’* (1 John 3:16). Jesus’ giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God’s love in our relationships with others.

*It is self-giving:* are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

*It takes the initiative:* are we ready to show love to those who don’t deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

*It is intentional:* are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *‘how much do you love me?’* The child replied *‘lots and lots and lots!’* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *‘I love you this much’*, as they nailed Him to a cross.



## GOD IN THE ARTS

### ‘THE ANNUNCIATION’ - BY DOMENICO VENEZIANO

*The Revd Michael Burgess considers the sacred in Art.*

During this year, we shall be ‘visiting’ different art galleries and museums in England to explore their treasures. Our first visit is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Founded in 1816, it is a wonderful building in Trumpington Street that houses a wealth of art and antiquities.



Our painting this month is *The Annunciation* by Domenico Veneziano, who died in Florence in 1461. It is part of the Magnoli altarpiece, and other panels are on display in Washington and Berlin. The scene has been much loved of artists throughout the ages. We can read the account of Gabriel announcing the good news of motherhood to Mary in chapter two of St Luke's Gospel. In the simplicity and beauty of Veneziano's work, we see Gabriel kneeling with lilies, the traditional symbol of our Lady, who is standing on the far side of the canvas. It is early morning, but the two squares on the wall show the blackness of night. They stand either side of a garden where the door is closed.

An enclosed garden, like the lilies, is a medieval symbol of Mary. 'A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed' we read in the Song of Songs. We might think of the Garden of the Hesperides or the apple orchard of Avalon, or perhaps a monastic herbal garden. They are all images of fruitfulness and new life enclosed by walls. Mary receives the good news of Gabriel and responds with the words, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord.' Her words will open the garden door and lead her out into the new world of redemption, just as Genesis tells us how turning against God closed the garden door of Eden to Adam and Eve.

The pathway from the portico and garden in Veneziano's painting will take Mary into a world where she will give birth to a son, Emmanuel. But that joy of motherhood will be coloured by a flight to Egypt and eventually the death of her Son. Then another garden will announce new and eternal life in the joy of the Resurrection. Here Mary's words will open that door in the garden. She will walk through, trusting in God and letting love guide her steps.

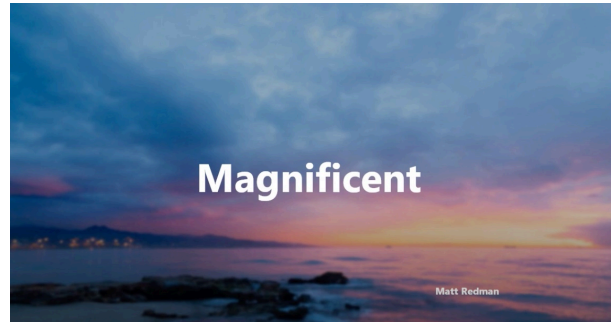
We begin this New Year with an invitation to open the door of our lives to God's guidance and love. That invitation begins with the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. Trusting in that gospel, we can open our lives, like the door of the garden, and travel in trust and love through all that the year will bring.

## GOD IN THE SCIENCES

*Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### JUST BREATHE

You show your majesty in every star that shines,  
And every time we breathe. Your glory, God revealed  
From distant galaxies to here, beneath our skin.



These words from the song *Magnificent* by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin speak volumes to me as a scientist. Redman is an astronomy geek who has ‘an appreciation for the universe that surrounds us, particularly its unique ability to lift our hearts to see how massive and mysterious God truly is’.\*

The microscopic level on the other hand – what goes on ‘beneath our skin’ – is less available to ordinary people. I have had the privilege of exploring this world to my heart’s content, and what I’ve seen has given me such a sense of awe that I want to share with others.

Every time you breathe, a series of air pockets with a combined surface area the size of a tennis court is bathed with oxygen. These minute air pockets are covered with blood vessels. The boundary between air and blood is so thin that oxygen and carbon dioxide can diffuse freely from one to the other.

When your heart beats at a normal rate, a single red blood cell takes about three quarters of a second to travel through the small blood vessels in your lungs. But in just one third of that time, a quarter of a second, that cell has already received all the oxygen it needs from the air. So, when you exercise, causing your heart rate to increase and the blood to flow faster, you’re still getting plenty of oxygen, as long as you keep breathing!

Redman and Myrin wrote in their song, “*You are higher than we ever could imagine, And closer than our eyes could ever see.*” The universe demonstrates God’s awesome power. This is a place made by a Being whose imagination is not limited by time and space.

Biology, on the other hand, helps to remind me of God’s creativity and closeness. I am a product of a long and painstaking process of continued development over aeons of time. Beneath my skin are incredibly detailed, beautifully regulated processes that give me life. Jesus said that ‘even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.’ The knowledge that God intentionally made me and knows every detail of my physiology is both amazing and humbling.

*\*Indescribable: Encountering the Glory of God in the Beauty of the Universe, Matt Redman & Louis Giglio (David C. Cook,*

## **LOOKING AT THE CHURCH**

### **MOTHERING SUNDAY & MOTHER CHURCH**

**SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

## LOOKING AT THE COMMUNITY

### ROME BRACING TO WELCOME 60 MILLION VISITORS

If you like peace and quiet, it is best to avoid Rome this year.

For 2025 is a Jubilee Year for the city, and tens of millions of visitors worldwide are expected to converge on Rome. In all, a staggering 60 million are expected.

As Pope Francis has recently explained: “Once again, Rome will welcome pilgrims from across the globe, as it did in 1300 during the first Church Jubilee.” Many religious and cultural events on the theme of ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ are planned.

The Pope foresees that this year Rome will be a “place of hospitality, a melting pot of diversity and dialogue, a multicultural hub where the world’s colours come together like a mosaic. Rome can embody an eternal spirit, rooted in its glorious past yet committed to building a future without barriers, discrimination or mistrust.”

The Jubilee tradition harks back to Old Testament Jewish practices. The modern tradition of Jubilee began with Pope Boniface VIII. It was seen as a time of grace, “offering freedom to those imprisoned by sin, resignation, and despair.”

The 2025 Jubilee coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, as well as a rare common celebration of Easter by all the Churches.





## LOOKING FOR ROMANCE?

February can be lonely if you want a partner but just can't find one. The world seems full of couples buying each other Valentine cards and planning romantic meals for the 14<sup>th</sup>. If that is your problem this month, why not at least visit the Christian dating site, Christian Connection?

They have brought literally thousands of people together since they started in 2000. It is free to join, and you can cancel your subscription any time.

Most important, visit their page on how to prepare yourself for online dating. There is a downloadable guide full of very practical tips of how to have the best chance of finding and connecting safely with someone, who just *might* become special to you.

(<https://www.christianconnection.com/gettingstarted>)

Yes, LGBTQ+ Christians are welcome to join Christian Connection

## CALL 999 IF YOU SEE JUST ONE SYMPTOM OF A STROKE

The NHS has launched the first major update to its 'Act FAST' campaign in 15 years.

It is concerned that too many people are waiting on average 90 minutes to ring for help when a stroke happens. That is far too long, doctors say, and the delay can mean the difference between life and death.

Health officials strongly urge the public to call 999 if they see just one symptom of a stroke, such as struggling to smile (**Face**), raising an arm (**Arm**), or slurring their words (**Speech**).

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PEWS

With June Davies

### OF KINDNESS AND COMPASSION

*Jesus demonstrated compassion wherever he went.  
He taught that must care for the least among us*  
(MATTHEW 25:40)

The New testament church continued this by doing away with racism, ageism and classism, and sexism.

*There is neither Jew nor Greek  
or slave or free  
or male or female.  
For we are all one in Christ Jesus.*  
(GALATIANS 3 : 28)

To follow Christ means showing compassion to everyone whether you like them or not. You are called to practice compassion wherever you go.

Jean Henri Dunant couldn't bear the sound of soldiers crying out in pain on the battlefield after being wounded. So, he dedicated his life to helping them in Jesus name. As a result, he set up the red cross in the 1860s.

A Lutheran pastor in Germany called Theodore Fliedner taught a group of peasant women to nurse the sick. This led to the development of hospitals all over Europe and inspired Florence Nightingale to dedicate her life to tend the sick.

Jesus said of every act of kindness shown towards someone, including those that don't deserve it "*You did for me*" (MATTHEW 25:40).



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PEWS

*With June Davies*

Today we live in a multi-cultural society. Even in religion there are so many different faiths and religious leaders. It was the same in Jesus' time. Jews, Romans and Greeks; Sadducees, Pharisees and Herodians.

However, this does not mean we lose our identity or faith. If we persevere, believe and follow God's only begotten son our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, through his death and resurrection and by his grace, we are brought to salvation.

Our Lord Jesus taught us to pray and we have much to pray for in our world today. For the poor and needy, those that are homeless and living on the streets in this really cold weather. For children and families living in poverty, for the sick and lonely and for the salvation of others.

*Father*

Help us to be better witnesses and Christians. Bless the work and service of the Mission as they lead many to our Lord Jesus Christ, bringing salvation to India. Bless the teachers of the bible schools and literacy classes as they teach children and adults the gospel, also the planters as they spread the gospel, opening new churches to the saving of souls in India.

*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*



# CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY AND SUPPORTIVE  
CREATIVE WRITING GROUP?

THE CULTURAL SPRING WRITING GROUP IS  
A COLLECTIVE OF LOCAL WRITERS WHO  
MEET ONLINE TO WRITE TOGETHER AND  
SHARE NEWS AND IDEAS.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME  
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE WRITTEN  
BEFORE TO ATTEND.

## MONDAYS

12.30-2.30

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

AGES 16+

FREE TO ATTEND

FOR A JOINING LINK, EMAIL: [CULTURALSPRINGWRITERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CULTURALSPRINGWRITERS@GMAIL.COM)



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



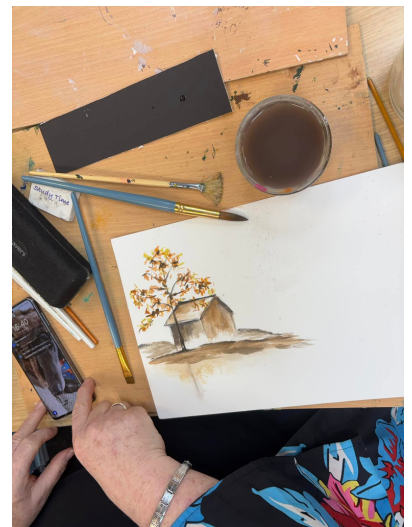
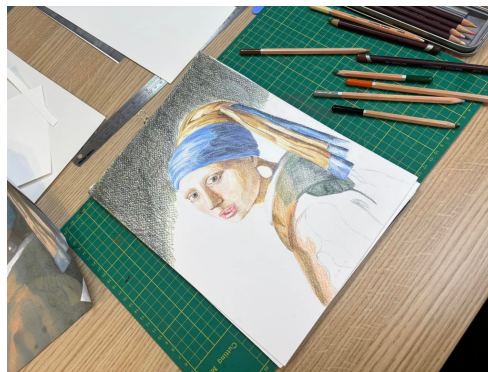
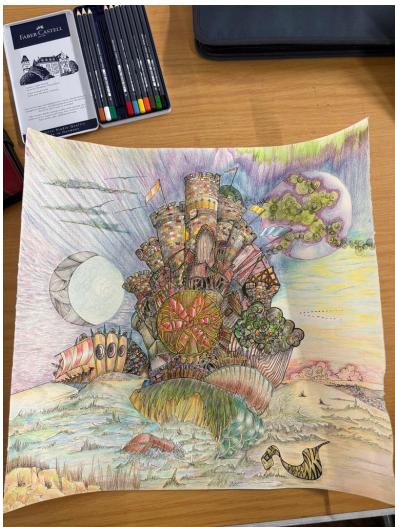


## REGENERATION NORTH EAST

30 Ryhope Street South, Sunderland, United Kingdom, SR2 0RW

07598 008 178 - [contact@regenerationne.org.uk](mailto:contact@regenerationne.org.uk)

[www.regenerationne.org.uk/](http://www.regenerationne.org.uk/)



## ACTIVITIES AT REGENERATION NORTH EAST

Mondays: Happy Hookers crochet group. 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Wednesdays: Arts and Crafts Workshop 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Fridays: Sensory Reduced Sessions 10:30am - 12:30pm. And 2:00pm – 4:00pm

*A small fee applies, a free place for carers on Fridays*



## **RYHOPE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Black Road, Ryhope, Sunderland.SR2 0RX

**TELEPHONE:** 0191 5239371 **EMAIL:** ryhopeca@aol.com

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/RyhopeCommunityCentre](http://www.facebook.com/RyhopeCommunityCentre)

The centre hosts over 30 leisure/activity sessions each week in addition to training/learning and leisure opportunities that take place periodically.



Active Forever (over 50's)

Cricket Practice (ages 4 - 11)

Feng Shu/Kung Fu

JC Kickboxing

Mission 2 Mobility

Kawauso Karate

Keep Fit (over 50's)

Mission2Mobility

Pilates -

Slimming World

T'ai Chi

Ryhope Heritage Society

Ryhope Reminiscence  
Group

Lunch Club Ryhope Sea  
Angling Club

Baby Movers

Little Movers -

Exercise & Play for Babies

Exercise & Play for Toddlers

Toddler Group

Baby & Toddler Groups

Art Club

Crafty Corner/Knit and Natter

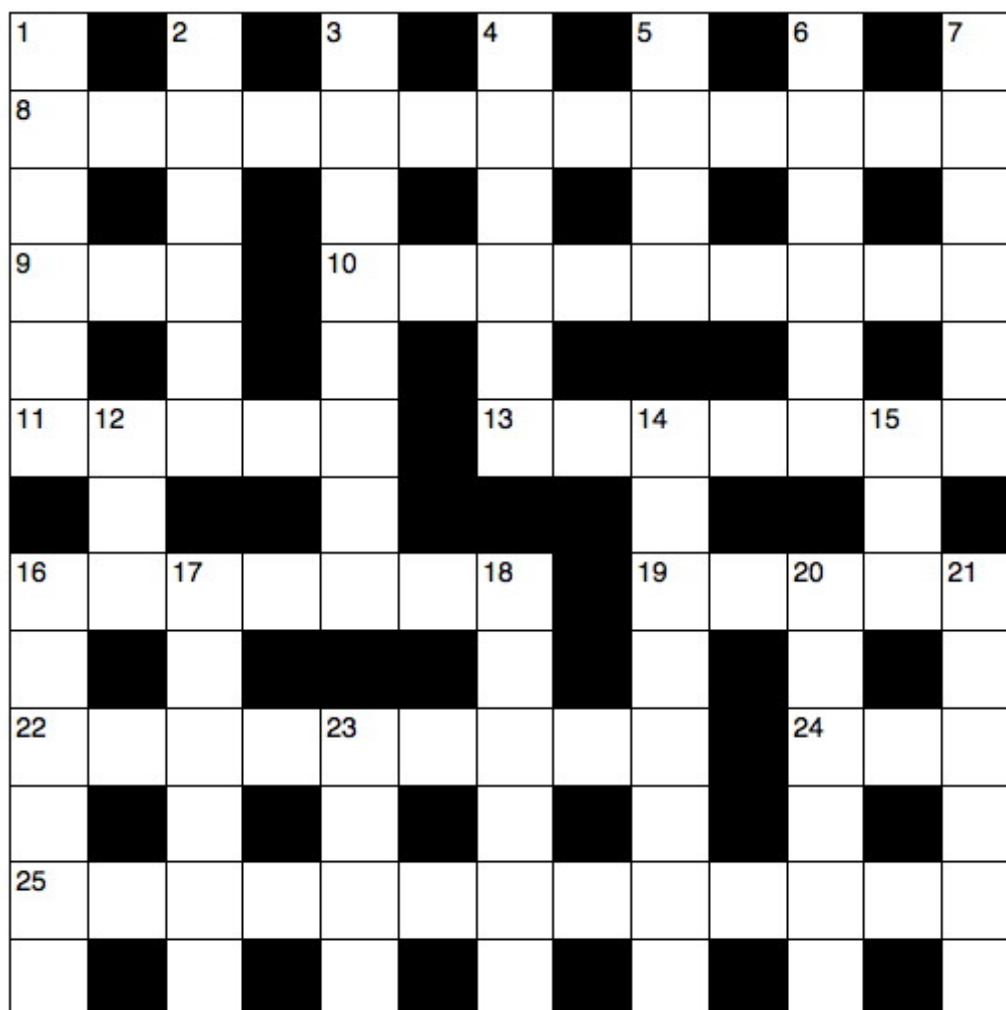
Rainbows

Brownies

### **FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO HIRE:**

Two large halls with seating capacities of 180 and 200 both have their own kitchen and toilet facilities. Multi-purpose room meetings, group work activities etc., for up to 30 Two interview/counselling rooms or long-term office lets.

# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 8** Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9** 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10** Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11** Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13** Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16** Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19** 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22** David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24** Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

## DOWN

- 1** Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2** One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3** Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4** 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5** One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6** Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7** God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12** Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14** 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15** The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16** Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17** How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18** What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20** Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21** Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23** Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



## SUDOKU ONE

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

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### BASIC SUDOKU RULES

You can use only numbers from 1 to 9.

Each 3×3 block can only contain numbers from 1 to 9.

Each vertical column can only contain numbers from 1 to 9.

Each horizontal row can only contain numbers from 1 to 9.

Each number in the 3×3 block, vertical column or horizontal row can be used only once.

The game is over when the whole Sudoku grid is correctly filled with numbers.

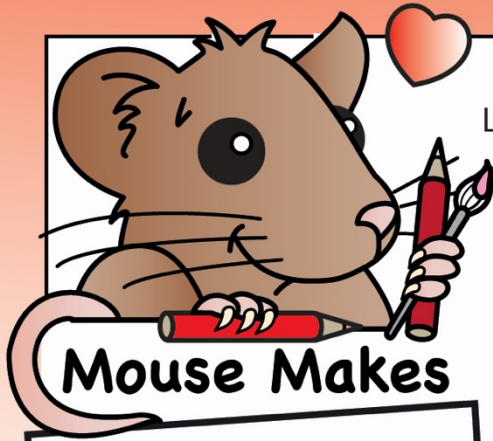
## SUDOKU Two

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

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## Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is \_\_\_\_\_.  
It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
it is not \_\_\_\_\_.  
it does not \_\_\_\_\_

others, it is not self - \_\_\_\_\_  
it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_  
it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_.

Love delights in \_\_\_\_\_  
it always \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the  
Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;  
His \_\_\_\_\_  
never come to an end;  
they are new every  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...  
the greatness of Christ's **love**,  
how \_\_\_\_\_  
and how \_\_\_\_\_  
and how \_\_\_\_\_  
that **love** is.  
Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.  
whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
in God, and God  
\_\_\_\_\_ in them.  
1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
to the Lord, for He is  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
his steadfast **love**  
endures  
\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES  
GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:**  
He sent His one and only  
Son into the world so  
that we might have  
eternal life through Him.  
1 John 4:9

**God gave me His spirit:**  
He has given you the  
Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
with His **love**.  
Romans 5:5

**God called me His child:**  
See what great **love** the  
Father has for us that He  
would call us His children.  
1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:  
**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** your neighbour the  
same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

GOD • **LOVE**  
PATIENT • KIND  
GRACIOUS • PEACE  
JUST • TRUTHFUL  
TRUSTING • LOYAL  
HOPEFUL  
PERSEVERES  
ENDURES  
HUMBLE  
SELFLESS  
PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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

# The parable of the Shrewd Manager

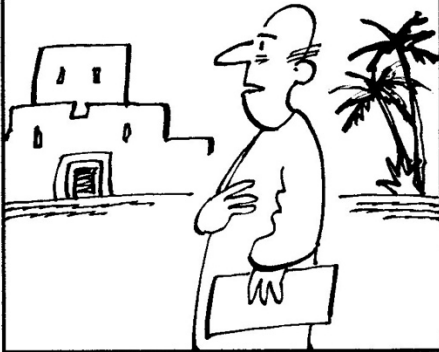


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



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

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

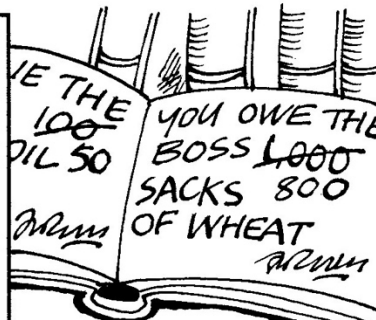


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



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

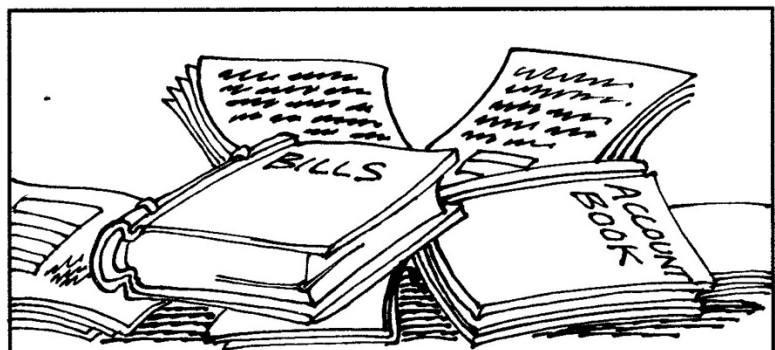
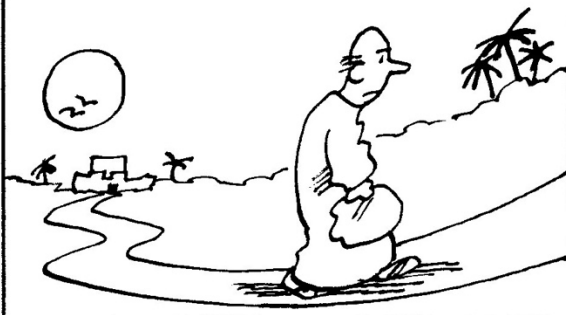


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



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

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



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

# SOLUTIONS

## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

### DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

### SUDOKU ONE

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

### SUDOKU TWO

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

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

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### THE NEXT ISSUE OF RYHOPE VIEWS WILL BE IN APRIL

This magazine wouldn't be possible without the support of our contributors. If you'd like to share something with us, please do get in touch with either Joanne Nolan, Elaine Shanks or Reverend David. We'd be very happy to talk with you.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR READERS,**  
**AND ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH,**  
**OUR SHOP AND THE COMMUNITY OF RYHOPE.**



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I'm reading a really good  
book about glue.



I just can't put it down!