

Contact

PARISH NEWS OF THETFORD, CROXTON, CLOVERFIELD, KILVERSTONE

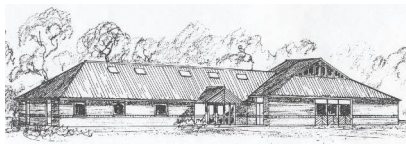
November 2025



St. Cuthbert's, Thetford



All Saints', Croxton



Cloverfield Community Church



*St. Andrew's
Kilverstone*

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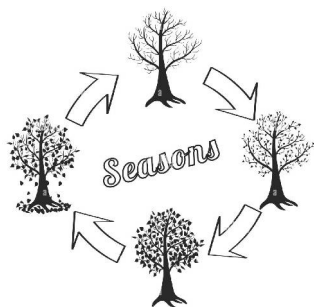
Visit the Churches' Websites

www.thetfordteamministry.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/thetford-st-cuthbert
www.cloverfieldchurch.org www.gracechurchthetford.org

'Contact' is also available online

Go to www.achurchnearyou.com/thetford-st-cuthbert

From the drop down menu please select **"Keep in Contact"** then select
Download to see the current magazine



by Susie Bratby

Summer is my favourite time of year. I love the warm weather, eating outside, the light evenings. However, over the last few years I have really begun to appreciate Autumn. The leaves are so rich in colour with yellows, reds and oranges being displayed all around. You've also got fireworks, hearty winter meals and the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas just round

the corner!

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis Chapter 8 verse 22 (NIV) it says:

*"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."*

I was looking at this chapter with 60 children at Barnham school as part of 'Active RE' recently and it was great to reflect on and be reminded of God's faithfulness.

Seasons change, but God's nature and promises to us are unchanging. Whatever season of life you are in, whether you feel God is close or far away, I hope and pray you can take comfort in this verse, knowing God's consistent provision and care for His creation.

Christmas Greetings

As in previous years, we invite you to send Christmas Greetings to friends in the churches through 'Contact'. We will list the names of participants and hope that they will give a donation to their church instead of spending the money buying and posting individual cards.

If you would like to do this please tell Decia & Colin Orbell by November 15th.

Please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Christmas Greetings' and leave it in your church collection.

ST. CUTHBERT'S THETFORD



Every Wednesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday November 2nd

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship

4 p.m. Annual Memorial Service

9th 9.30a.m. Holy Communion

**10.30 a.m. Act of Remembrance
on the Market Square**

16th 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

23rd 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry

30th 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry

ST. ANDREW'S, KILVERSTONE



Sunday 9th November

9 a.m. Remembrance Service

ALL SAINTS', CROXTON



Sunday 9th November

9.30 a.m. Remembrance Service

23rd

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

CLOVERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH



Sunday 2nd November

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

**9th 10.30 a.m. Remembrance
Service**

16th 10.30 a.m. Messy Sunday

23rd 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship

30th 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship

GRACE CHURCH

**Meets every Sunday at 4 p.m. in
the Arts Centre, Bishop's School,
Canterbury Way**

Thetford Team Ministry Weekend Away A First-Timer's View

From Friday 26th to Sunday 28th September, Ruth and I were fortunate to join about 60 brothers and sisters, mostly from Grace Church, Cloverfield Church and St Cuthbert's, for a weekend away at Sizewell Hall.

I signed up, primarily, as a way to get to know church members better as I've only recently started attending these churches and this was certainly a great way to build fellowship.

Eating together, worshipping together, studying the word together, playing sports and board games together and break times together gave plenty of time to build relationships.



The living accommodation at Sizewell Hall was basic but adequate, but overall the Hall provides a great location with meeting rooms with piano, drum-kit, mics and PA system, a well-equipped

kitchen for the caterers, a bookshop, sports fields and access to the beach and sea.

We were wonderfully catered for, with delicious and nutritious food served promptly. Our speaker, Andrew Sach, from Grace Church, Greenwich, was so engaging, bringing the text to life and keeping us on our toes, joining in with his Sermon on the Mount Rap. Sessions for the children and young people were led by Sophie and Titus respectively (both kindly coming to serve us from other churches), assisted by members of the Thetford Team churches.

It was great to be part of the worship band, combined from all three churches praising God together. The content of the sessions was a great blend of singing, bible reading, teaching and prayer. All activities are optional and the planned program leaves plenty of time for a private quiet time, or some time to yourself.

If you've never been, I highly recommend going the next chance you get. I know I plan to.

Mike Harding-White

Annual Memorial Service

This year our annual Memorial Service will take place on **Sunday 2nd November, at 4 p.m. in St Cuthbert's.** Everyone is welcome to join us, however recently or long ago you have been bereaved.

During the service, we will be reading out the names of all those whose funerals we have taken over the past year and inviting their families to join us as we draw together our memories, griefs and hopes. For more information please go to www.thetfordteamministry.org.uk/memorial.





22nd November, 7:30pm, in St Cuthbert's Church
Teams of 4-6
BYOB - tea, coffee, squash provided.
No fee - donation only.
Sign up via the Thetford Team Ministry Website

Legacy sports holiday club for 5-16-year-olds

Monday 22nd December 10am-3pm
at the Arts Centre (Bishop's School).
Book via the website.



Café Cuthbert at St Cuthbert's Church
Saturday Mornings 10-00am to 2-00pm.

Come and enjoy coffee, tea or hot chocolate and some delicious cakes & scones all freshly made in our own kitchen.



Looking for something hot and savoury? Then come and try a soft brioche bun filled with either grilled bacon or sausage.



CROXTON NEWS

November has always been the month when we remember. First All Souls' Day when we remember all those faithful souls who have gone before us – there will be a service in St. Cuthbert's on November 2nd (please see details on page 6).

On Sunday 9th November we shall have our annual Remembrance Day Service at 9.30am where the village will gather together to remember all those who have given their lives to bring us peace after bitter fighting in two world wars and more recent conflicts. This is a service where all ages are very welcome to ensure the Act of Remembrance will be passed on to future generations. It is terrible to think the world is still not at peace – when will world leaders learn?

Our Annual All-Age Christmas Carol Service has been arranged for December 14th – so please do put the date in your diaries – as usual there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

We are sad to know **Frank Myers** has recently died. **Frank and Gloria** came to live in Croxton when Pinelands Estate was built in the early 1970s and were well known in the village. We send our love and sympathy to Andrea, Clare and Louise and their families.

Diana Goucher

We are saddened to learn of the recent death of **Eileen Kitson**.

She was Churchwarden at St Ethelbert's and held for 22 years.

The church became a very important part of her life, and she and husband, **John**, who is still its secretary, worked together as a team and were much involved in the work of the Thetford Team Ministry when East Wretham was part of the Benefice.

We send condolences to John and all the family.



John & Eileen

TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CLOVERFIELD CHURCH AND SAMARITANS PURSE
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
(SHOEBOX APPEAL)

ENCORE
THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS
A MURDER MYSTERY
MURDER

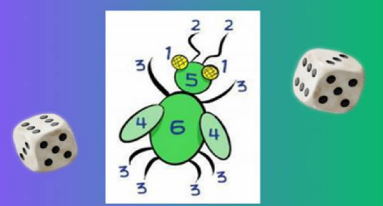
AT THE
MUSIC HALL
8TH NOVEMBER
2025
MATINEE - 2-30PM
EVENING - 7PM

Bring your detection skills to help Hercules Parrot and Jane Marbles discover Whodunnit?

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT DAVID WILLIAMS.
EMAIL ENCORETCHETFORD@OUTLOOK.COM

BEETLE DRIVE
lots of fun for everyone!

Saturday 15th November
5.30pm



Cloverfield Community Church
Yarrow Close, Thetford, IP24 2TZ

Cost: £7.50 u16's £5
includes jacket potato supper

 Please book @ cloverfieldchurch.org
or use the QR code 

Operation Christmas Child

Cloverfield is acting as a collection centre once again for the Operation Christmas Child Campaign.

Below is a list of times during which you can drop off your completed shoebox. **The last day for drop off is 17th November.**

The shoeboxes will then be collected and sent off to the central processing team before their onward journey to a child who would otherwise not receive a Christmas gift. Please do help if you can.



Cloverfield Community Church – Shoebox Drop off Times 2025

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday 10th November	9am – 12 noon	5pm – 8pm
Tuesday 11th November	Not open	12 noon – 4pm
Wednesday 12th November	Not open	12 noon until 3pm
Thursday 13th November	Not open	3-5.30 pm
Friday 14th November	Not open	2-5pm
Saturday 15th November	Not open	3pm – 8pm
Sunday 16th November	9.30am – 12 noon	Not open
Monday 17th November	9am – 12 noon	5pm – 8pm

Wendy Serjeant has written this tribute to her friend **Ray Hoskins**, a worshipper at Cloverfield, who died recently:

"I have recently lost a good friend and neighbour, Ray Hoskins, who with his wife, Joy, were *'the fairies at the bottom of the garden'*! And I will miss Ray who filled his life to overflow.

Ray was a proud Thetfordian, apprenticed as a carpenter to Goddard's the builders. He later taught technical drawing and carpentry at Wayland prison. Ray trained as a hypnotherapist, working for 15 years. He was a skilled glass engraver and gained his Wings as glider pilot. His love of music was also practical; he played the trumpet (for 17 years he played the Last Post at Thetford's Remembrance Sunday) and the cello as a member of Hector Sutherland's quartet.

He was prepared and enjoyed to discuss his faith.

I have lovely memories of Ray coming down the garden path which adjoined the Hoskins', bearing a St. George's flag on April 23rd (Derek's & my anniversary) and recently with a guitar which he had made and strung, in spite of Parkinson's, then playing Amazing Grace to me.

He will be missed.

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Mark Skinner

"After recommendations, research showed impeccable reviews and very competitive prices. You were not only totally professional and so approachable, but treated my Dad like I felt you would your own family. Wouldn't go anywhere else!" G Kent

30 Bury Road • Thetford • Norfolk • IP24 3DE **T: 01842 752197**
 E: info@mark-skinner.org.uk www.markskinnerfunerals.org.uk

Prayer for November 2025

Heavenly Father,

Here we are in November – the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith – and in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

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St Andrew and football by Canon Paul Hardingham



'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that' (Bill Shankley).

When you replace the word 'football' with 'mission', this quote still has something to say! The apostle Andrew (we remember him on 30th

November) demonstrates what the mission of the Church is all about (cf John 1:35-42). It's not unlike following your favourite football team!

When we support a football team, we make sure that we know all about them! When Andrew and his friend heard about Jesus, they wanted to find out more: *'Look, the Lamb of God.'* (how John the Baptist pointed to Jesus in verse 35). The first stage of mission is finding out more about Jesus, the One who enables us to be friends of God through His death and resurrection.

Secondly, when supporting a football team, we will spend time watching their games. Andrew asked, *'where are you staying?'* and Jesus replied, *'Come and you will see'* (v39). Andrew spent the rest of the day talking and listening to Jesus. As a result of this time, he had something to share. How much time do we spend with Jesus, reading His word and praying?

When our team wins, we want to share the good news! After meeting Jesus, Andrew's first action was to tell his brother Peter: *'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ)* (v41). Are we willing to tell others about Him too? Sharing with family and close friends can sometimes be harder than talking with strangers. However, we don't need to follow a football team to engage in mission. It's all about being excited to share Jesus with those we meet day by day.

'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in' (Rowan Williams).

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the concept of 'peace'.

When there is no peace

They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after 9th May or 16th August? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had 'peace' of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about peace making, peace keeping and a lasting peace, which are not the same and require different skills. In and after the Second World War *peace making* meant winning the war and defeating evil. *Peace keeping* was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice. (The preacher was born exactly nine months after either VE or VJ Day, so he was a 'child of peace'!)

What about a *lasting peace*? Many world leaders say, "Peace, Peace" but they mean only *peace on their terms* and do not care about anything else.

As Christians we should:

Pray for the *peace makers*: the women and men in the forces

Pray for *peace keepers*: the experts helping to build new societies

Pray for *lasting peace*: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.



Margery Kempe

Here is a saint for any out-spoken, emotional person who also struggles with depression and human failings in the quest to live their best life.

Margery Kempe was born in 1373, the daughter of a wealthy businessman in King's Lynn. She married John Kempe and had 14 children. She described herself as "*not lettrid*", for she could not read or write.

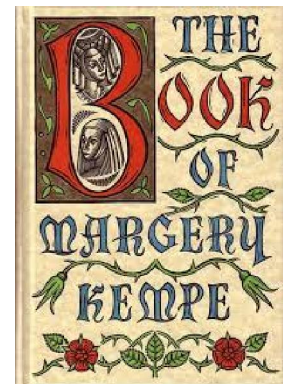
Margery Kempe was far from the usual 'saint' of the Late Medieval Ages. She was not a recluse. She had not defended her virginity. She was not a submissive wife. Instead, she must have been stormy to live with, as she was known to be very emotional, and at times, very rude. In fact, her emotion engagement with the liturgy deeply unsettled the established local clergy, who distrusted her flare-ups.

Margery began her spiritual pilgrimage with depression - probably brought on by the birth of her first child. She was so ill that she had been forcibly locked away in a room by her spiritual director, when she saw a vision of Jesus. He said to her: "*Daughter why have you forsaken Me? I never forsook you.*" Margery was then reassured that her depressive guilt and fear were misplaced, and that Jesus was actually welcoming her into a personal relationship with Himself.

In 1436 Margery dictated her famous book. It was a sort of spiritual autobiography, and for centuries only edited bits of it were published for people to read. Then in 1934 a complete manuscript was found, and it led to a re-evaluation of Margery herself.

After years of being remembered as a devout mystic, Margery emerged as a more complete, more human woman from these pages. She loved clothes. She envied other people. She sometimes had fantasies, and sometimes few scruples. But she was also honest in her growing relationship with Christ, and finally found in Him a fulfilment she could find nowhere else. That fulfilment helped her on her journey to gradual transformation.

She has been called '*the embodiment of an honest soul on a quest for God.*' She died in 1440, aged 67, a good age in those days.



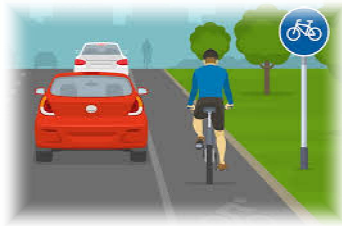
Take it easy on those country roads

Country roads may look inviting to drive, but the statistics tell a different story. For collisions on rural roads are around four times more likely to result in a fatality.

Such is the finding of the NFU Mutual Rural Road Safety Report 2024. It found that in 2023, an average of one in every 32 collisions on rural highways resulted in a death, compared to one in every 122 on urban roads. Overall, more than 18 people died on rural roads each week in 2023.

So - what is wrong? It seems it is the sheer number of hazards which motorists may face on a rural road. These include blind corners, narrow roads, road quality, poor visibility, cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders, mud and debris, loose livestock, agricultural vehicles, unexpected road or field entrances, impatient drivers, and Sat-Navs sending people down unsuitable roads.

It all adds up to one simple message: be careful and expect the unexpected on country roads.



Put together a Memory Book



Do you have grandchildren? Then this winter, during those long dark days, why not spend some time putting together a sort of scrapbook of memories to pass on to them?

Things you might like include could be: where you lived when you were a child; what your school was like, what games you most enjoyed, who your best buddies were, what pets you had, what your first job was, and how you met your partner. What was your first car, and where was your first home as an adult? Add a selection of photographs that you have from the past.

175 years ago, on 19th November 1850 Alfred, Lord Tennyson, became Poet Laureate of the UK (until 1892).

125 years ago, on 22nd November 1900 Arthur Sullivan died. Best known for his collaborations with the dramatist W S Gilbert on operas including H.M.S. Pinafore and The Pirate of Penzance. He also wrote the hymn Onward, Christian Soldiers.

100 years ago, on 10th November 1925 Richard Burton, Welsh stage and film actor was born. Fifth and sixth husband of Elizabeth Taylor.

100 years ago, on 27th November 1925 Ernie Wise was born. Best known for his comedy partnership with Eric Morecambe

90 years ago, on 6th November 1935 Britain's Hawker Hurricane fighter made its first flight. It played a major role in the Battle of Britain.

75 years ago, on 2nd November 1950 George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright and literary critic, died. Winner of the 1925 Nobel Prize in Literature, and co-founder of the London School of Economics.

65 years ago, on 2nd November 1960 a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D.H. Lawrence's novel Lady Chatterley's Lover. This is often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain.

65 years ago, on 8th November 1960 John F Kennedy was elected 35th President of the USA.

60 years ago, on 9th November 1965 the death penalty abolished in UK

50 years ago, on 3rd November 1975 Britain's first North Sea oil pipeline was officially opened.

40 years ago, on 15th November 1985 the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish President Garret Fitzgerald. It gave the Irish government a consultative role in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

30 years ago, on 20th November 1995 Princess Diana spoke openly about her separation from the Prince of Wales in a frank interview with 2021, BBC journalist Martin Bashir was accused of using deception, to persuade her to give the interview.

20 years ago, on 30th November 2005 John Sentamu became Archbishop of York. He was the first black archbishop in the Church of England.

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES, FIND A CURE, JOIN US

THETFORD PARKINSON'S CAFÉ

No Meeting in Thetford in November

We are going to Bury on November 17th at 2pm to hear Professor Roger Barker talk about the latest developments in Parkinson's. If anyone would like to go they need to be in touch with me before November 8th or the Bury group thereafter.

**For more information please contact Rachel Woods
Tel: 07796 958 404, email: rwiad2@gmail.com**

Leaf some green stuff in the garden

The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much.

Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter. Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide a great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants.



'Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter. Above all, before you light any bonfires on 5th November, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside!

Morning

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Hear, hear

A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. "Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Grave certainties

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The service was to be at a cemetery some distance away. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost and finally arrived an hour late. The funeral director and hearse were long gone. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The lid was partially covered with soil. The diggers stared at me over their sandwiches, and I sensed their reproach that I had deserted this dead man in his final hour of need. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.



The diggers looked quite startled at this, and put down their lunches. But they stood quietly enough while I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Silverthreads Club for the over 60s



**Every Tuesday afternoon 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
at Cloverfield Community Church.**

£5 which includes sandwiches, scones & lots of tea

Regular activities include Raffle, Bingo, Quiz, Guest Speakers and more

Contact Moya Brown Tel: 01842 761863 to book your place

Stretch and Pray

Wednesdays 9:30 - 10am
in St. Cuthbert's Church

An opportunity to use our bodies doing some light exercise
while focusing on God and praying.

More information from susie.bratby@thetfordteamministry.org.uk

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts. - Anon

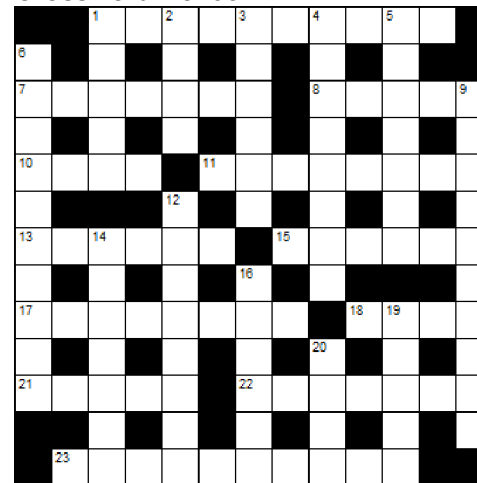
Faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out
of everything. - James Kok

Growing old is inevitable, growing UP is optional. - Anon

What we desire our children to be, we must endeavour to be before
them. - Andrew Combe

Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted. - Anon

Crossword No. 381



Across

- 1** Funny comedian - an ally of an Achaian Rom 15:26 (10)
7 Rouses first real friends (7)
8 Drink upset sailor after dance (5)
10 Vicar from Hanover turns to lifeboatman Gen 7:23 (4)
11 Son has an alternative to shouts of praise. (8)
13 Some agree Cenchrea is where Paul had haircut. Acts 18:18 (6)
15 Travel, but not to Pretoria (6)
17 A hot pie I cooked in Candace's country Acts 8:27 (8)
18 Guy returned to Chedorlaomer's realm. Gen 14:1 (4)
21 Edison lacks energy reparing to Lebanese port Luke 4:26 (5)
22 Ban Noel from becoming timber producer 2 Chron 2:8 (7)
23 Italy fears upsetting children's reading (5,5)

Down

- 1** Mother holds key to where Paul was shipwrecked. Acts 28:1(5)
2 Find place to sleep in Caribbean lacking a bit of money (4)
3 Tyrant posted change (6)
4 Tells story about an arrest (8)
5 Song about soldiers from land where Sennacharib's killers went Isa 37:38 KJV (7)
6 Initially selfish strangers turn to sin (10)
9 Variety of matters son sorted out (10)
12 Arranged no chores on ship (8)
14 Chained up prickly animal (7)
16 Scrutinise oil contained in flower (6)
19 Territories held by Portugal and Spain (5)
20 Isabella holds second son Gen 4:2 (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 380

Across: 1 Jehoiachin, 7 Endures, 8 Eased, 10 Rash, 11 Startled, 13 Easter, 15 Rubric, 17 Imperial, 18 Cant, 21 Exalt, 22 Placebo, 23 Holy spirit.

Down: 1 Judas, 2 Harm, 3 In situ, 4 Cheerful, 5 Insular, 6 Jezreelite, 9 Dedication, 12 Secretly, 14 Soprano, 16 Ramp-up, 19 Agent, 20 Fair.