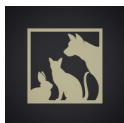


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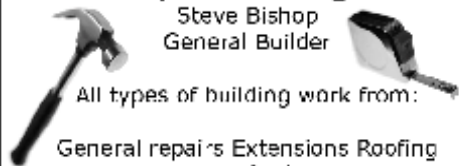
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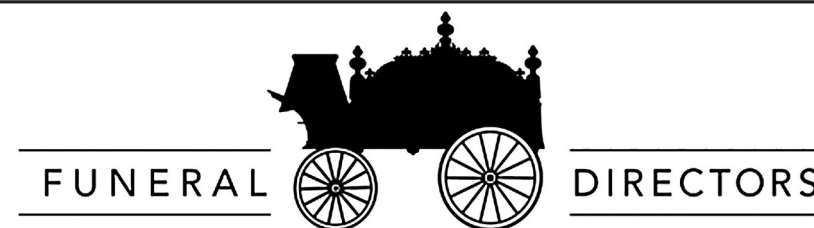
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 Send e-mail & attachments to stgsmagazine@googlemail.com

Items for inclusion in the **Deanery News** should be sent by the **10th** of the **previous month** to Ann Jones
 annmorganjones456@gmail.com

QUOTE Let us make God the beginning and end of our love. for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into Him alone they flow back. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. *-Richard Rolle*



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LIFTING UP OUR EYES

With Rev Stuart Carter

"When it's Time for Change"

For most people at various times in their lives July often signals a period of change.

It's the beginning of the summer holidays and for most families that entails a change in routine for six weeks. For a start, the kids are at home and need to be occupied in some way by someone. If not, they may descend into interminable screen time, or discover some mischief that only they and their mates can conceive of... one can only imagine!

The opportunity for an adventure can often arise – a couple of weeks under canvas, or grilling your skin under the seaside sun, or jetting off to some exotic place – backpacking in Bali or lazing by the bar in Benidorm.

For most people, at some point in their younger years, July has been a time to say 'Goodbye' to familiar places and friends and prepare for something new and different. Getting ready for a new school, or leaving school altogether. Preparing for college or university. Setting about finding a job and starting work for the first time. Leaving home and moving away, with the prospect of having to find new friends, face new challenges, and step out into a new uncertain future.

I have to say that almost every significant change and move I have experienced over the years has begun in or around July; the ending of one term and the anticipation of the next.

These can be exciting times or fearful times or, most probably, a mixture of both.

The Bible tells the story of the Israelites journey to the Promised Land. It was a long journey punctuated by times of hope and glory, and pockmarked by moments of folly and failure as well. But eventually they arrived and pre-

pared to cross the river to begin a new and settled life, and to build a new homeland.

The man in charge at that moment was Joshua. He was a confident leader possessing a strength of character and a firm faith in God. But, when the time came, he felt the pressure of the unknown.

Joshua sat alone staring out across the river to the land the other side. He was on his own now. Well, not really on his own. He had a whole nation, twelve tribes, thousands of people with him. But he was in charge. Moses had been the leader for years and years, but now Moses was gone.

Joshua looked across the river to the new land that they were going to – the Promised Land. He'd seen it once before, a long time ago, and dreamed about it ever since. How he had longed for this moment...the day they would all cross over to a new country, a new home, a new beginning.

He was filled with excitement, but he was scared too. Who would they meet there? How would they live? There would be new challenges, new ways of doing things, new things to learn. They would be spreading out to different places in this Promised Land; It might mean losing touch with some old friends or having to make new ones. What about enemies? Would there be many of those when they got there? Would there be problems? He was sure there would be some. "How will I cope?" he thought.

There by the river he could see where he was going – where they would all be going. It looked good. It looked mysterious and exciting. But Moses was gone now, and he'd always relied on him. Moses had known what to do. But who would teach him now? Who would show him the way in the new place and the new life that waited for him there?

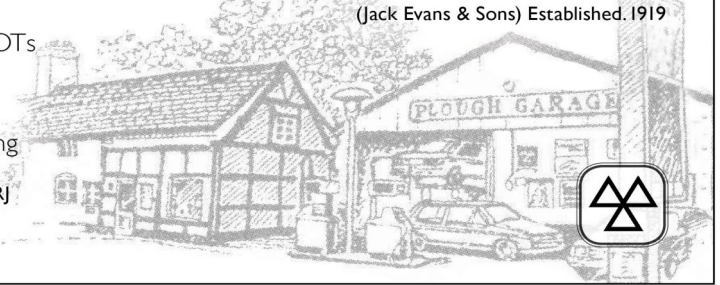
So many questions - so many hopes, doubts, fears, dreams and longings. So many thoughts running round in his mind. So many feelings running round in his stomach.

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about which we can keep silent. It is something to proclaim boldly, for it is indeed Good News and needs to be shared.

In his message, the Pontiff speaks of our longing for God to heal what is broken in us and broken in the world. At the core of our being, we know that only God can satisfy our deepest longings and inner restlessness, he says.

"We long for Him to save us from our sins, our foolishness and all that might harm us," he says.

The TKC movement was first launched a decade ago and each year unites more than a million Christians in prayer across the world. Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days between Pentecost and Ascension in their own way.

Military chaplains vital to "spiritual resilience" of service members

The key role played by Church of Scotland military chaplains at a time of rising international tensions has been recently highlighted at the General Assembly.

Group Captain (Ret'd) Andrew Tait, who is convener of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces, said that as people in the services "prepared like never before" for whatever demands the country asked of them, chaplains would stand alongside them "wherever they go and whatever they do".

Mr Tait went on to refer to the "dangerous state of the world today." He said: "There is war in Europe, tension in the Persian Gulf and many other conflicts and hotspots around the world. Some informed commentators believe this country is closer to major conflict than it has been for many years.

"As a result, the men and women of his Majesty's Armed Forces are preparing like never before to meet whatever demands the Government and the country ask of them.

"Chaplains stand alongside the people of the Services wherever they go and whatever they do, to support them and care for them morally, pastorally and spiritually. Chaplains, of any faith, working with those of all faiths and no faith, are there to listen, to advise and to support."

Then, like a sighing on the wind, and a distant echo in the mountains, he heard it. God's voice, speaking.

"Be strong, Joshua. This is my command. Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

It was getting dark. Joshua stood and turned back towards the tents where his people were already settling down for the night. "A few more days, that's all", he thought, "Then we move on."

He began to walk towards the camp. A gust of wind shook the bushes nearby and blew across his face, as if to remind him once again. "You are not alone. You will never be alone... the Lord your God is with you."

For me as a Christian one of the most precious aspects of my faith is the knowledge that whenever I face changes, however challenging or perplexing, I never have to face them alone.

I may find myself separated from friends or loved ones, but there is One who never leaves me and, in those times of uncertainty or difficult decision making, I can be confident that he will accompany me. I can ask for wisdom and trust in his guidance.

Even in moments of uncertainty, when I feel as if I might be stepping out into thin air, God's promise and encouragement for me remains the same as it was for Joshua all those years ago... *"Be strong. This is my command. Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1;9)

Whatever changes you might be facing in your life's journey; in your relationships, in your work life, in health and fitness, though times of enrichment or moments of loss; may you come to know and trust the God who will be with you wherever you go.

God bless,

Rev Stuart Carter



Readings and Services for this MONTH

Here are the Sunday Service details.

The readings are included: if you are unable to join the service in church, you may like to use these at home.

Date	Service	Readings
5 th July The Fifth Sunday After Trinity	Holy Communion 10.30am	Zechariah 9.9-12 Romans 7. 15-25a Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end
7 th July Tuesday	Tea Service 2.30pm	
9 th July Thursday	Messy Church 3.30pm	
12 th July The Sixth Sunday After Trinity	Morning Worship without Communion but with Children's Church 10.30am	Isaiah 55. 10-13 Romans 8. 1-11 Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23
19 th July The Seventh Sunday After Trinity	Holy Communion and Children's Church 10.30am	Isaiah 44. 6-8 Romans 8. 12-25 Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43
26 th July The Eighth Sunday After Trinity	All Age Family Service 10.30am	Psalms 119. 129-136 Romans 8. 26-end Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

COMING SOON - in JULY

Welcome Lunch for Ian and Claire at St George's on 5th July
Bingo at Holy Trinity on 11th July
Farewell to Richard & family at Holy Trinity on 21st July at 7pm

In the NEWS

Archbishop of Canterbury calls to 'make strangers neighbours' amid rising hostility

Responding to the recent King's Speech, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, has spoken about the importance of hope at a time of rising hate crime, intimidation and hostility.

"The work of integration has never been more urgent. We have witnessed a deeply concerning deterioration in intercommunity relations. I therefore welcome the commitment in the Gracious Speech to do more to protect the Jewish communities following the recent appalling attacks and in doing so I wish to assure both Jewish and Muslim communities of my support as they face the unacceptable rise in hate crime, intimidation and hostility.

"The Church of England has long held that the right of all people to practise their faith without fear must be protected.

"We have also seen religious identity misused to intimidate and divide. Let us be clear: the commandment of Jesus Christ is to love your neighbour as yourself, to love without exception and to seek the flourishing of all.

"We must address the pressures facing people and communities today while ensuring that systems for new arrivals are fair. We must undertake the harder task of bringing communities together - of making strangers neighbours - and ensuring that all who reside here have both the opportunity and the responsibility to contribute to our shared life."

Pope Leo encourages Christians to share the Good News

The Good News of Christ needs to be shared, Pope Leo says in a video message recently launched for the worldwide Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) international prayer movement.

Christ is "everything" for us and in Him we find fullness of life and its meaning, the Pope said.

"In Him, we find the fullness of life and its meaning. This is not something

Have you planned a holiday yet?

Stay overnight in a historic Mid Wales church this summer

Walkers and visitors can once again book overnight stays at St Gwrhai's Church in Penstrowed, Powys, as the 2026 champing season opens.

Champing, a blend of 'church' and 'camping', offers exclusive overnight access to historic churches no longer used for regular services. The church accommodates up to four guests and includes a fully equipped kitchen in the adjacent hall, an indoor toilet, and secure space for bikes. Dogs are welcome.

Located an hour from both Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the site is well placed for exploring the Cambrian Mountains, which lie 20 minutes away and include nine Dark Sky Discovery sites. The Severn Way — a 215-mile walking route to Bristol — begins nearby, and guided walking groups operate in the area. For more information visit champing.co.uk.

Observing 'Saint's Days' is not a universal Christian practice, but they do give us cause to consider the examples set for us. On July 3rd we have St Thomas' Day. 'Doubting' Thomas is famous for his scepticism that Jesus was alive, when in fact he had a towering faith that carried him further from Jerusalem than any of his fellow apostles. That faith carried him to

India, where he preached the gospel and eventually lost his life for his faith.

St Thomas by Nigel Beeton

St Thomas struggled to believe
That Jesus lived again;
He feared that hope would just deceive
He thought it easier to grieve –
So 'Doubting' is his name.

His Lord led him to Indian shore
To bring His words of love
Through journeys long and hardships sore
To bring the needy and the poor
The peace of God above.

Oh grant us, Lord, the certainty
That 'Doubting Thomas' knew,
May we, like him, cross land and sea
Oh may we just as faithful be
To do what You would do!

But then he met the risen Lord
And touched His wounded side.
His solid faith was so restored
He saw his mission lay abroad
And journeyed far and wide

But some who dwelt in that far land
Returned his peace with strife
For they just could not understand
The gifts he held within his hand
And so he gave his life.

Looking at GOD

Canon Paul Hardingham considers football.

World Cup

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?



The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

Reflecting Faith: Intersessions

After reflecting last month on the Creed within our service, we now consider what comes next.

In the Book of Common Prayer, the Creed and the sermon appear in a different order, but in both traditions intercessions follow. In Common Worship, they come straight after the Creed.

By this point, we may feel we have already prayed a great deal, so what makes intercessions different?

Intercessions focus entirely on the needs of others. They are public prayers, not centred on 'me' but on the wider world. They gather the concerns of the Church, the world, our community, those in need, and those who have died, along with those who mourn and as a whole congregation we bring them before God.

They are not, repeat not, a time to slip in a couple of adverts for next week's summer fair and a prayer for enough volunteers to come forward – please see Mrs Jones after the service - or to tell the congregation of someone's ill health or funeral arrangements!

These prayers usually follow that order, though sometimes in reverse. Either way, there is a clear pattern that helps the congregation engage. We may begin broadly with the world and move towards the local and personal, or start close to home and widen our view.

For example, with a theme such as farming, intercessions might include churches in rural communities worldwide, countries dependent on food production, government ministers responsible for agriculture and fisheries, local farmers and food workers, and those in need or recently bereaved within the community.

Style matters as much as content. These are the prayers of the people, so they should use language that feels natural and accessible. Often, simplicity works best.

This month

Listen carefully to the intercessions when you attend a service. Do they follow a clear, engaging pattern? Is the language accessible? Which prayers stay with you through the week? Who leads them, and from where?

The MPs stress that what they call Britain's 'crumbling infrastructure' is leading to many preventable health conditions, ranging from obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cancer, the onset of frailty, dementia and disability.

Figures suggest that 44 per cent of people aged 75 or older are doing less than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per week. In the UK, lack of activity is associated with a staggering one in six deaths and is estimated to cost £7.4bn a year.

So, the MPs are calling for local action to fix streets and crossings, and to put in more toilets and public seating, as well as better national transport.

Layla Moran, the chairman of the health select committee, said: "Staying physically active can help older people to live not just longer, but healthier, happier, more sociable lives."

Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington on 28th July 1866, it's now 160 years since her birth. Born into the restrictive middle-class Victorian society, her world was one of rules and limits, but she had the courage to shake off those limits and her legacy to us of the unspoilt beauty of the lake district and her vivid imaginings of what the animals there got up to are almost timeless:

Miss Potter by Nigel Beeton

A rabbit in a coat of blue,
A hedgehog laundress, a badger, too;
A kitten – now, his name was 'Tom'
Whose clothes were off much more than on!
Jemima was a 'puddle duck'
Who thought a fox would bring her luck
Till Kep, the farmer's collie dog
Saw through the fox's scheming fog!

Although she dwelt in London's dusts
Brought up with can'ts and don'ts and musts;
Her eyes just twinkled with the light
Of scenes beyond the smoky night!
Miss Potter saw the trees and woods
Which turned her 'couldn'ts' into 'coulds'.
And she could – with ink and paint
Show us a world both rich and quaint.
So many summers since her birth

Her vivid creatures bring us mirth!
Her rabbits bring us timeless joy,
Her ducks that fox nor time destroy,
She brings us from the city's smells
To brooks that weave through soaring fells!
So many summers since her birth –
Yet still she brings such joy to Earth!



David Pickup, a lawyer, considers writing a letter

Best handwriting please!

*See how large a letter I have written unto you
with my own hand.* (Galatians 6 v 11)

I am sitting in a train and most of my fellow passengers are preparing for their important days by typing away on laptops and checking their phones. I am probably only person who has a notebook open beside them with a list of things to do, written in pencil. A couple of weeks ago I was waiting for a train and a member of staff noted I was writing a letter with “one of those things,” meaning a fountain pen.

Being a lawyer I am supposed to be traditional and old fashioned. I still like writing letters and receiving postcards. Notes written in pencil work when there is a good signal or none. I was often told at school not to use pencil as it faded over time. I remember reading official war diaries written in the trenches in pencil that crystal clear after eighty years, so teacher, you were wrong!

Paul had a secretary to write for him. Perhaps his eyesight was failing or his handwriting had got worse with time as it does for most of us. Several times, St Paul ends his letters by taking the pen from his secretary and writing himself. He did it to emphasise a point or to add a human touch.

The world we live in needs clear, bold words and the Church must write them.

Why our ‘crumbling infrastructure’ is hurting older people

Poorly paved roads, unsafe crossings and poor public toilets are slowing people down. Especially older people. Rather than getting out and about in their communities, they tend to feel safer staying inside.

But the lack of regular, positive exercise is a danger for them. Such is the verdict of a recent report from MPs serving on the Health and Social Care Select Committee.



Canon Paul Hardingham continues his look at the books of the Bible:

What’s the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul’s letters, written when he was in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1–18) in 49–51 AD. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, as well as being a flourishing centre for trade and philosophy. After founding the church (Acts 17:1–9) Paul was forced to leave, when he was falsely accused of speaking against Caesar. As the new Christians were left with little spiritual support, Paul wrote this letter to encourage them.

Paul addresses a number of issues throughout this letter. As they weren’t expecting persecution, Paul reminds them that this is normal Christian experience (3:3–4). He also challenges those in the church who were living off wealthier Christians rather than earning their own living (4:9–12; 5:14).

However, the most prominent theme in letter is the second coming of Jesus. It is mentioned in every chapter of the book (1:10; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–11, 23–24). The Thessalonians were unclear about the timing of the day of the Lord (5:1–2). Some church members had died (4:13), and people weren’t sure what would happen to them at Christ’s return (3:10; 4:13). However, Paul assures them that when Jesus returns, the dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord with the living (4:15–17). Therefore, believers don’t need to fear God’s wrath, but rather are assured of inheriting his salvation.

Living in the light of Christ’s return calls for holy and blameless lives (3:11–4:8; 5:23). *‘May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.’* (5:23).

QUOTE: I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space: but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. –Isaac Newton



The Seven Deadly Sins: Sloth

'They're called deadly because they lead to the death of the soul.' (Richard Newhauser).

'Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.' (Ecclesiastes 10:18).

This month we are looking at *Sloth*, the last of the Seven Deadly Sins. This is more than just laziness! The Latin root of the word is '*acedia*' ('*without care*'), meaning it represents spiritual apathy, distraction or indifference in our lives. Sloth can have a significant effect on our spiritual lives, as it enables other sins to gain a foothold eg lust, anger or envy. Another consequence is that we can fail to respond to God's calling in our lives and his gifts go unused. There is no satisfaction in sloth, as real joy comes when we are ready to step out of our comfort zones for God.

How do we overcome sloth in our lives? Paul writes, '*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord*' (Colossians 3:23).

We can ask ourselves some key questions:

Am I living with unconfessed sin? Can I identify sins or habits that are getting in the way of my spiritual intimacy with God?

Have I neglected the spiritual disciplines? In what ways have I neglected spending quality time with God in prayer, reading his Word or being still in his presence?

What fills my mind daily? What are the distractions that occupy my time and thinking eg social media, technology, people or habits? How can I let go of these things to give space for listening to God?

The Holy Spirit can convict us of those things that we need to confess and let go. Are we ready to switch off our screens, seek to help others in need and give time to God?

'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.' (Romans 12:11)

Looking back on 20 years with Twitter....

Tim Lenton surveys 20 years of micro-blogging

Twenty years ago, on 15th July 2006, Twitter, the online micro-blogging service, was launched.

It had been developed earlier that year by Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone, Evan Williams and Noah Glass at the podcasting company Odeo. Originally named "twtr", it was thought of as an SMS-based, short messaging service, at first with a 140-character limit. It became Twitter within six months of its launch.

Originally a side project, the free application let users share short status updates with friends by sending one text message to a single number ("40404"). Within a few years, it exploded in popularity until it became one of the world's top social networking platforms.

Its name was obviously inspired by bird sounds, after some other suggestions – including FriendStalker – had been rejected. The first ever tweet was sent by Dorsey on the prototype platform on March 21 – "just setting up my twtr".

The company became more prominent with the election of President Donald Trump in 2016. He used Twitter throughout his campaign and made announcements on it during his administration. Banned in 2021 for allegedly using it to incite violence, he was later reinstated under new owner Elon Musk, who acted as CEO until July 2023, when he was succeeded by Linda Yaccarino. She resigned in July last year. Meanwhile, Twitter had become X, with Musk intending it to expand to become a "digital market place".

Like other social media companies, Twitter/X has faced strong pressure to police content more closely, in order to deter hate speech, misinformation and pornography, among other things. But it is used by many Christians to discuss key issues of faith and culture, and for sharing devotional content, prayer requests and #happysunday messages.



The world-wide COMMUNITY

All in the month of JULY It was:

250 years ago, from 12th July 1776 to 4th October 1780, that the British explorer Captain James Cook made his third and final voyage. He travelled to New Zealand and Hawaii, where he was killed in a violent exchange with the local people.

175 years ago, on 3rd July 1851 that Charles Bannerman, British-born Australian cricketer, was born. He scored the first-ever run in Test cricket, and also scored the first century in Test cricket.

Also 175 years ago, on 10th July 1851 that Louis Daguerre, French photographer and artist who invented the daguerreotype photography process was born. He is regarded as one of the fathers of photography.

Also 175 years ago, on 24th July 1851 that the Window Tax was abolished in England and Wales. The tax was introduced in 1696 and was based on the number of windows in a house. It led to many windows being bricked up. It was replaced by a tax on inhabited buildings.

90 years ago, on 24th July 1936 that the speaking clock telephone service was launched in the UK.

60 years ago, on 30th July 1966 that the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 – 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

50 years ago, on 4th July 1976 that Operation Entebbe took place. Israeli commandos staged a counter-terrorist hostage-rescue mission at Entebbe Airport in Uganda, following the hijacking of an Air France plane on 27th June.

Also 50 years ago, on 29th July 1976 that the pier-head of Southend Pier in Essex was destroyed by fire. It is the world's longest pier. It re-opened in 1986, but then a tanker crashed into it, creating a 70-foot gap. It reopened again in 1989, but two further fires, in 1999 and 2005, caused significant damaged. It reopened in July 2012.

30 years ago, on 5th July 1996 that Dolly the sheep was born. She was the first cloned mammal at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. She died in 2003.

Looking at CHURCH



THE DIOCESE OF HEREFORD

July 2026

The Power of Friendship

*Thoughts from the Rev'd Jane Plackett-Ferguson,
Chaplain to the Bishop of Hereford.*



Recently, I've been thinking a lot about friendship: what starts it, what builds it and what sustains it.

Our family moved to Hereford a little over a year ago. When we sensed a call from God to come here, we knew we would be starting again. We knew no one locally, which meant building friendships and community from the beginning.

Friendship doesn't arrive fully formed. It grows slowly, often in what Scripture calls "the day of small things": small conversations, small acts of kindness, small decisions to keep turning up. Like many relationships, friendship begins with connection but grows through countless small choices over time.

Even Jesus invested deeply in only a few close friendships. We cannot invest deeply in everyone, but we can choose to show up consistently for a few people: to cherish them, serve them, forgive them and remain faithful companions through life's ups and downs.

I have often found this challenging because it means choosing to go first: starting the conversation, suggesting meeting up, offering help, buying the coffee and risking things feeling a little awkward. I have learnt from my husband, who is much more natural at including others and making space for friendship than I am. Yet, as I have been brave, I have discovered that many people are open to friendship. They are waiting, just as we are.

One of my most significant friendships began in my thirties in a very ordinary way. While volunteering, I simply said to someone, "This is a bit awkward, but I'd really like to be friends." It sounds disarmingly simple, but it takes courage. Often all it takes is one person willing to make the first move.

There are seasons in life that carry a particular loneliness: the early years of parenting, times of transition, when friends move away, or later, when friends go to glory. Loneliness is not unusual; it is part of the human experience. Yet rather than turning on the TV, perhaps the invitation is to look up and out: to join a club, volunteer, pick up the phone or invite someone for dinner regardless of the state of our life, kitchen or garden.

Friendship is not only about reaching out; we also have to learn to receive. It can dent our pride to let it be known that we can't manage everything. Yet some of the greatest moments of friendship in my life have come through friends offering practical help when I didn't realise how much I needed it.

One of the great gifts the church can still offer is community: a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather regularly, be known and build genuine friendships. When God said to Adam, "It is not good for a person to be alone," he knew that would apply to all of us.

So my prayer this year is to learn how to be a better friend to those I already love, and to ask God who in my life is lonely, where I could be their friend, and they mine.

I wonder if God might be asking some of you to pray this too?

What the ex-PM said to the Archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury paid a recent visit to the Prime Minister at Downing Street.

They discussed "the importance of social cohesion, inter-faith relationships and celebrating the UK's diverse communities in the face of division, including rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hostility", according to a spokesperson for No. 10.

They also discussed world events, "including the war in Iran, and its impacts on communities here. They reflected on the millions of individuals around the UK whose selfless acts of service build up the nation."

Sir Keir is the first explicitly atheist British Prime Minister. But he told Archbishop Mullaly that that it was "important that we talk to each other and we have a proper partnership."

Sir Keir said: "Government and faith should not be two separate things operating in separate spheres. Many of the values we hold are the same, and therefore we should be trying to work in partnership wherever we can."

Archbishop Mullally has called for the need to tackle anti-Semitism, and says that identity in the UK has been "misused to intimidate and divide". She calls for "a renewal of hope", "a rejection of hatred and division, and a turning towards one another".

The Crossword Clues — and answers (don't cheat!)

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 so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

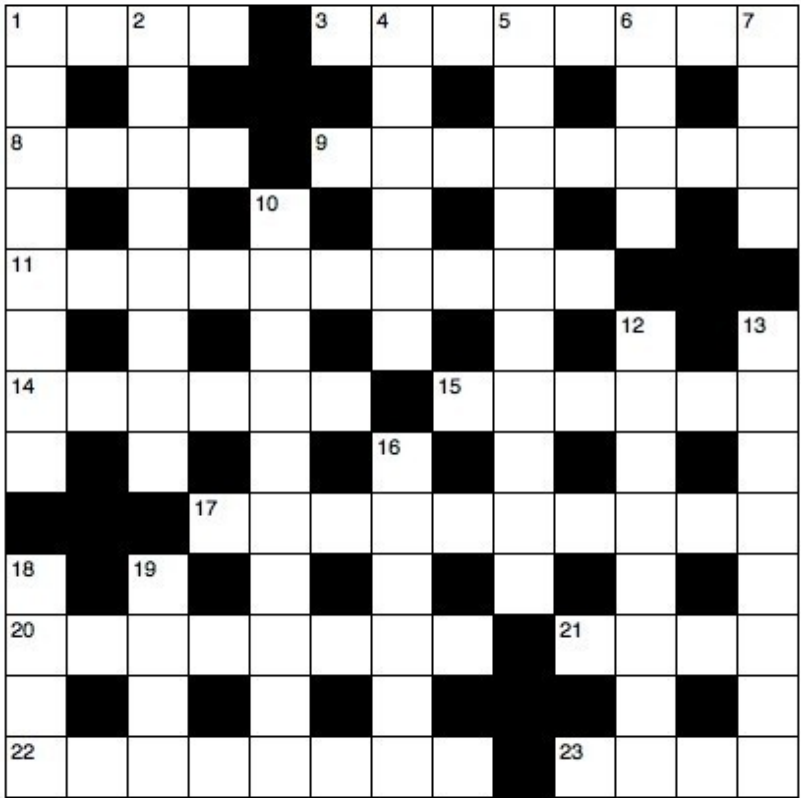
- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(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(James2:21)(8)
16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Answers are here ...

DOWN: 1, Woodbine, 2, Feast day, 4, Orient, 5, Accusation, 6, Type, 7, Eyes, 10, Dedication, 12, Gadarene, 13, Ancestor, 16, Esdras, 18, Stew, 19, Area.

ACROSS: 1, Wife, 3, To battle, 8, Obal, 9, Disciple, 11, Bitterness, 14, Niacin, 15, Attain, 17, Passionate, 20, Tertiary, 21, Meet, 22, Weakness, 23, Deer.

This Month's Crossword.



Christians call attention to growing homelessness in the EU

A Christian European network, Eurodiaconia, has warned that family homelessness is an increasing problem across the EU's 27 member-states.

The network says: "Family homelessness is growing in Europe, yet frequently remains overlooked and under discussed."

Although families in trouble "are less likely to sleep rough", instead they often rely on using "informal and precarious accommodation arrangements". And "rising housing costs, increasing living expenses, higher eviction rates and growing pressures on social protection systems have further exacerbated the problem."

Eurodiaconia, a network of 62 Churches and Christian organisations, runs thousands of social and health-care centres across the continent, but it is a drop in the bucket, compared to the need.

It has been estimated that about 400,000 children were sleeping rough or in shelters across Europe on any given night in 2024. Many single mothers are facing poverty, unaffordable housing, relationship breakdown, and domestic violence.

.More details at: <https://eurodiaconia.org>



Time Choices by Daphne Kitching
(Lk 10:38-42)

Martha is distracted,
too busy
preparing for the needs
of the day.
Not enough time... not enough time.

There is time...there is time.
We all have our life time.
What will we choose?

Mary is focused,
taking time to meet the needs
of the heart.
Sitting still, seeing through
the paraphernalia of every day
with a new clarity that changes
her world.

Mary listens to Jesus.
She chooses life.

The 16th century Bible that may have saved the Welsh language

The Spanish Armada may have indirectly helped save the Welsh language.

For at the time when the Spanish were threatening England, Queen Elizabeth 1 decided to commission a Welsh Bible, to help to secure the Church of England's diocese in Wales.

She chose to ask William Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff in 1595 and then of St Asaph in 1601.

He spent ten years at the task, and in the end one thousand copies were printed, and then distributed to every church in Wales.

Nowadays Bishop William Morgan's 16th-century Welsh-language Bible, *Y Beibl Cyssegr-lan*, can be found in a farmhouse at Ty Mawr Wybrnant, near Penmachno, in north Wales. The copy at Ty Mawr attracts hundreds of pilgrims and visitors every year, and has now been featured in a BBC series *Hidden Treasures of the National Trust*.

Fflur Medi Owen, programming and partnership officer for the National Trust, says that the translation of the Welsh Bible was pivotal for the preservation of the Welsh language. Not only that, but the timing of the translation was significant, because the language had become "very dialect-heavy".

"I do think we would have been able to understand each other, but things were falling out of shape," says Ms Owen. "The green light to commission the Bible into Welsh by William Morgan came at a time that meant the language could be given a form and structure."

She goes on: "Welsh is an old, old Brittonic language—it's like an umbilical cord. Had it not been for William Morgan, our Welsh language would have gone like Manx and Cornish."



... and here's the Bible Bite Wordsearch grid....



p	h	i	l	i	s	t	i	n	e	s	y
m	u	i	m	c	h	o	i	c	e	e	k
c	j	e	a	l	o	u	s	i	b	c	i
k	h	o	j	r	u	i	i	o	k	h	n
a	n	o	e	o	t	f	s	u	t	a	d
f	r	o	s	b	e	i	a	r	w	n	i
o	c	m	t	e	d	g	u	m	a	c	p
l	a	d	y	i	n	h	l	p	i	e	y
d	v	t	h	j	c	t	e	o	t	l	l
b	e	k	i	l	l	e	d	n	e	n	y
t	c	a	t	c	h	r	f	x	d	p	f
k	i	n	g	s	d	a	v	i	d	j	r

choice
robe
family
king
Israel
shouted
kind
army

chance
sheep
disobey
fighter
Saul
waited
catch
killed

chosen
David
notice
jealous
Philistines
majesty
fold
cave

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



Saul became jealous and angry

David had to go on the run and hide.



When he wasn't fighting the Philistines, Saul tried to catch David.

One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



God has given you a chance to kill him!

David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



Saul didn't notice.

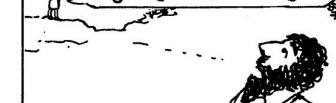
Then David felt bad.



David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.



Our Church and local COMMUNITY

Welcome to
The Tea Break



Cuppa, cake, and a chat

Wednesdays 2pm - 4pm
St George's Church
Pontesbury

OASIS **FREE lunch & companionship** for anyone living in Pontesbury, Minsterley and surrounding villages, who has been recently bereaved ...

... on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays every month, 12pm - 1.30pm
Minsterley Methodist Chapel, Horsebridge Rd, Minsterley.

Transport is Available—Friends & Family are Welcome too.
Contact Heather Ryder for more information, at
ryder928@btinternet.com or 01743 790359

St. George's Prayer Chain, a small group of people who believe that prayer can make a difference, is being revived under Mary Worrall's leadership. Each person within the group offers daily prayer for anyone who asks for prayer—**would you like to join this group?**

Please contact Mary Worrall
maryew15mp@gmail.com or on 01743 791069
All information given is given in confidence.



Monthly Tea Service
(not August)
1st Tuesday afternoon
2.30pm to 4pm
St George's Church,
Pontesbury.

A moment of prayer,
A short Holy Communion followed by tea and cake

Reaching out to older residents

ACTION NEEDED: all regular financial donors need to change their payments to our **new bank account**. Please also complete and return a Gift Aid Form. See www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk Donating page, or contact our Treasurer, Jonathan Brown 07497 142 485 email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com
Thank you for your support, it's much appreciated



The rising cost of living affects everyone, but older people have transport needs and must rely on more expensive local shops. A third of people over 60 years only have their state pension as an

income. There is a higher-than-average number of older residents in the Rea Valley. We don't want people to skip meals or cut down, when our Foodbank offer is a free top up to a basic shop.

You choose what items you need, we will try to meet your needs, and you can come once, every week or when you need to. We know that older people don't like asking for help, but we want to make it as easy as possible for people to use our Foodbank, so you can come along with a neighbour or relative or be accompanied by one of our friendly volunteers -the majority are retired too.

There are quieter times when we are open and tea, coffee and chat if you wish. It's just one step away to get referred.

If you are concerned about an older relative, friend or neighbour you can contact us on their behalf or drop in and talk to our volunteers when the Food bank is open. You are welcome to come along with them and stay for a cuppa and chat.

Get referred by your local clergy, GP practice, housing provider or other support agency or call for a chat with Rev. Greg Smith 07902 794653, email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

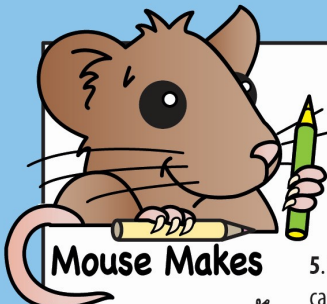
See our website www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk Getting Help page.

The Rea Valley Transport Scheme, which is entirely free, is designed to get patients to the doctors, dentists, hospital, opticians and other wellbeing services. To request transport, please contact our scheme administrator, Emma, at reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com or by calling **07468115939**.



Emma works Monday-Friday 10-2.30 and 3.30-5. We do not

operate an answering machine service, so please call back if you receive no answer. If possible, please give us a minimum of a week's notice of when and where your appointment is. Whilst we can never guarantee to be able to help, we have so far been able to respond positively to most requests.



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes it's nest on high?
Job 39:27

2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4

3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6

6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25

7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29

8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7

9 across. In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27

9 down. What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20

10. What insect would God send to destroy the enemy?
Deut 7:20

11. What animals eat crumbs from under the table?
Matthew 15:27

12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13

15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4

16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30

