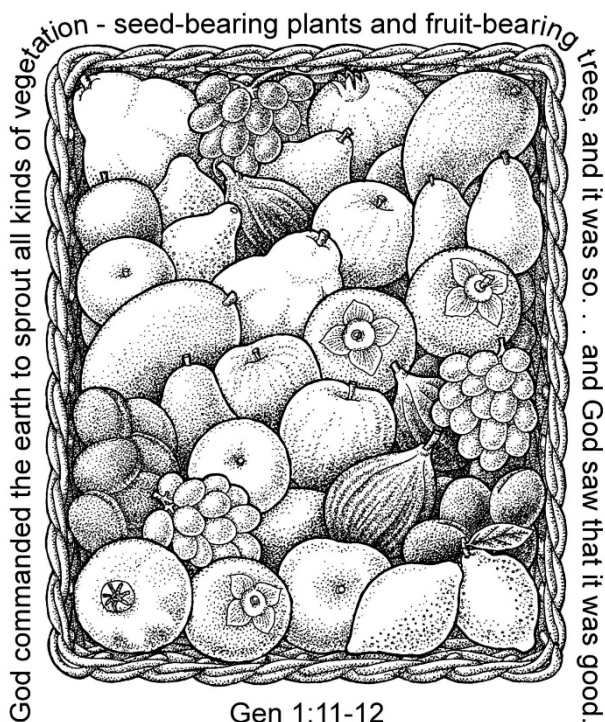


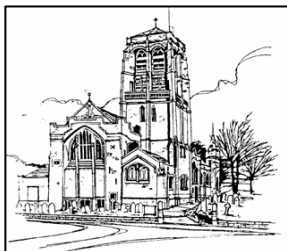
NEW LEAVES

PARISH MAGAZINE

St David's Church Exeter



OCTOBER 2026



**SUGGESTED
VOLUNTARY
CONTRIBUTION**

50p

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WELCOME

The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate articles that reflect church, parish or community interest.

Please send contributions as Word documents (if possible in A5 format, maximum 1000 words) to:
newleaves@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

All articles will be printed with the author's name.

The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors or the Church.

We hope you enjoy this month's read.

Although this magazine is free of charge, voluntary contributions would be gratefully received. This can be done via the wall safes found close to the exit of the west and north doors. Alternatively you can give them to a member of the editorial team. Many thanks.

We welcome critical comments on the magazine.

Editorial Team: Sarah and Alice



Regular Services and Events

Sundays:

9.30 -10.30 am Parish Communion from St David's Church; also streamed on Facebook

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church

Weekdays:

Tuesdays at 9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Tuesdays 10.30am – noon Friendship Café at St David's Church

Thursdays at 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

Thursdays at 7pm Student group

If you don't already receive our regular weekly notice sheet by email and would like to, please contact Rev Mike Clark at notices@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

CLERGY GREETINGS

Someone once said, 'we owe our existence to 6 inches of topsoil and the fact that it rains.'

OK, so that is somewhat over-simplifying the question of existence, but there is a truth in it that helps explain why harvest celebrations are so common in human societies. The 'modern' tradition of the harvest festival in the UK is rooted in the south west of England, as it can be dated back to 1843, when the Rev Robert Hawker introduced the celebration to his parish of Morwenstow. However, harvest celebrations are widespread across cultures and throughout history. The Bible speaks of harvest festivals during which the first part of each crop was offered to God in thanksgiving, as a reminder that, ultimately, it is to God that we owe our existence and survival.

In our harvest celebrations this year, we recognise that 2026 has been a tough one for farmers, with record-breaking warmth in the spring and summer and the driest July on record. Arable farmers have experienced significantly reduced crop yields, and the livestock farmers of Devon have struggled to produce enough hay, silage and other feed crops to get through the coming winter. While we cannot attribute every unusual season simply to climate change, we know that more extreme weather has long been predicted as a result of a warming planet. The harvest this year reminds us not only that we depend on the weather, but that the conditions upon which our food depends are changing.

But none of this should detract from remembering and celebrating the gifts of God in creation, and the work of those who produce our food. Like our lives as a whole, the agricultural year is always full of uncertainty. It is good, every day, every season and every year, to be thankful for the good gifts that we have, and to celebrate them together. We do hope that you will be able to join us for our harvest celebrations on Friday 16th and Sunday 18th of this month.

Finally, some advance notice that on All Saints' Day, Sunday 1st November at 6pm, we will be holding a service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for loved ones who have died. All will be very welcome.

Every blessing,

Every blessing,
Mike



READERS AND LEADERS IN PRAYER: OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 4 October: Trinity 18

1st reading	Isaiah 5.1-7 or Philippians 3.4b-14
Gospel Reading	Matthew 21.33-46
Preacher	Mike Clark
Bible Reader	Jean Thomas
Leader in Prayer	Carol Burrows

Sunday 11 October: Trinity 19

1st reading	Isaiah 25.1-9 or Philippians 4.1-9
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22.1-14
Preacher	Katy Gough
Bible Reader	Sue Wilson
Leader in Prayer	Chris Gill

Sunday 18 October: Trinity 20

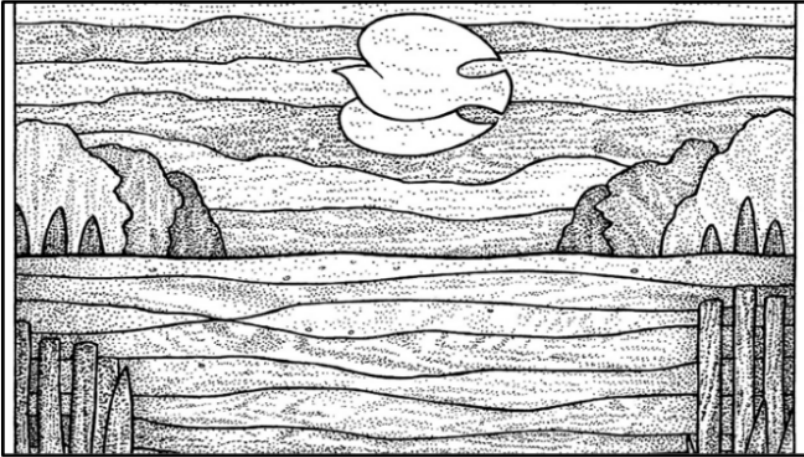
1st reading	Isaiah 45.1-7 or 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22.15-22
Preacher	Suki Coe
Bible Reader	Gabrielle Kirby
Leader in Prayer	Pete Francis

Sunday 25 October: Last Sunday after Trinity

1st reading	Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18 or 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22.34-46
Preacher	Pam Stanley
Bible Reader	Lawrence Sail
Leader in Prayer	Geoff Crockett

Sunday 1 November: All Saints' Day

1st reading	Revelation 7.9-17 or 1 John 3.1-3
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5.1-12
Preacher	Sarah Cumming
Bible Reader	Steph Hills
Leader in Prayer	Richard Johnson



ST DAVID'S PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER

October

- 4th Exeter Prison and Chaplaincy
- 11th World Mission week, Goodwill Village, International students
- 18th Local doctors, district nurses and mental health support counsellors; Age UK services in the Parish
- 25th Steve Race MP, all City and County Councillors

November

- 1st Charity shops, Exeter Food Bank, St Petrock's, The Junction
- 8th Remembrance Sunday; funeral directors
- 15th Youth Sunday; Exeter College Staff and Students; Our Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding Teams
- 22nd The Parish magazine, web sites, social media, communications group
- 29th Advent Sunday, The Children's Society

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Autumn has arrived in the upper Midwest. The trees haven't turned colour yet, but the nights have grown cooler and golden hour (that time before sunset much prized by photographers) has become subtly richer and more alluring to Jeff's bevy of lenses.

When not firing off emails and driving spreadsheets for his day job in public media, Jeff is busy photographing American football (another staple of autumn here in the States). He covers the high school and university teams at his respective alma maters. He might also be covering home games for the NFL's Chicago Bears. It's devilishly difficult to get photo credentials for the NFL, so it will be a major feather in his cap if it happens. Thankfully, the cortisone shot has worked wonders for the pain in his right knee and he's back to prowling the sidelines like a grizzled panther.

Jeff's other major photographic endeavour is finishing his darkroom. Jeff is not handy at all, so he's had to rely on builders for every step of the process. Anyone who's ever had the builders in can sympathize with Jeff (and should pray fervently for him). Last week's *crise majeure* was a snafu with the city permitting department. Having emerged unscathed (but not fully sane) from that cyclone, Jeff is hard at work lashing the ventilation engineers into giving him a timeline for installing the ventilation system, the third-to-last step in the project.

Melo has had a mellow month since our last newsletter. He's not taken a swipe at Jeff in weeks, which makes us think he's storing up his feral energy for a terrifyingly energetic October. Calm before the storm perhaps? But Melo has his own worries—now that the NFL season has kicked off, he must often dodge objects hurled at the tele by you-know-who. Poor moggy!

Earlise continues to enjoy her work best on Mondays, the days she spends in clinic counselling medical students. She's also happy about finally getting Jeff to help her order a garden shed. She's long needed something to store her pots in, as well as some garden furniture we

recently acquired.

We finally found time in August to visit one of our favourite Episcopalian churches in Wisconsin, St. Simon's the Fisherman in Port Washington, a 90-minute drive to the east. It's a beautiful little church, with a cosy wooden building in a woodland setting. And the priest, Father Julian, is English. For Jeff, whose introduction to the Anglican Church was his time at St. David's, it never feels right to hear the liturgy intoned in an American accent.

God's blessings upon all of you, and we hope to see you soon!

Jeff Brown and Earlise Ward Brown
September 2026



FAVOURITE HYMNS



We have recently formed a small group of people to discuss how music is developed as part of our worship at St David's.

This includes choosing hymns each Sunday when either choir and organ or instrumental group lead the music.

We would like to ask for suggestions for hymns that may mean something to you, a favourite, a memory, an uplifting tune, one you had at a special occasion?

We are asking you to put your suggestions on a form at the back of the church and post it into the box.

You can suggest as many as you like.

They don't have to be all done in one go either. It is helpful to include the number in the hymn book but not absolutely necessary.

The suggestion box will be there until the autumn so we have time to have suggestions for all those who are away during the summer.

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON!

At church recently, we stood to sing Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire'. Except the organist was playing the tune which normally accompanies the Christmas carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. (No, not 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'at' - the other one).

I had never sung Wesley's hymn to this tune before, and it took a bit of believing that it was possible, a bit of getting used to. Some hymn tunes are what I call 'portmanteau tunes' - we can sing a number of hymns to the same tune, and we are usually quite happy about it. But we mess with carols at our peril! Most people know them, and they have become identified with very particular hymn tunes. Give us what we expect, please, organist!

We can all be a bit fixed like this. The Bible is full of examples of, 'Who me? You've made a mistake there, God!' Perhaps the most well-known example is Jonah, who was so convinced that God had made a mistake in calling him to go and tell the citizens of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways, that he set off in entirely the opposite direction to Nineveh, and took a ship going west, until he was ambushed by God and ended up in the belly of the great fish. But once Jonah realised God was serious, and that God would be with him, he set off as God had asked him to.

Moses is another example. 'Me, tell Pharaoh to let my people go? Me? You cannot be serious, Lord!' But again, once Moses was convinced that this was the way God wanted him to go, he submitted to God's plan, and became the great leader of his people, bringing them out of slavery in Egypt to the boundary of the Promised Land.

God's plans for us are always bigger than our horizons can presently accommodate. If you have a niggling feeling God is calling you to a particular task, or to abandon a particular something, it may take time to come round to God's point of view, but it will ultimately turn out to be

a better way. When God calls, He does not leave us at that point; He will always resource us for the task, often in surprising ways.

‘Who, me, Lord?’ Yes, YOU!’

Revd Roy Shaw
Parish Pump
October 2026



HOW TYNDALE AFFECTS WHAT YOU SAY – TODAY

It is 500 years since William Tyndale printed the first English translation of the New Testament. And hundreds of millions of people today are still quoting him, though they don't know it. For in 1526 Tyndale invented what would become some of the most famous idioms in the English-speaking world.

For instance – "The salt of the earth"; "Go the extra mile"; "The powers that be"; "Eat, drink and be merry"; "A city on a hill"; "The apple of his eye"; "In the twinkling of an eye"; "Signs of the times"; "My brother's keeper"; "Fight the good fight"; "Broken-hearted"; "Fallen flat on his face".

These phrases were all invented by Tyndale, during his translation from the original Greek of the New Testament.

As a young Catholic priest in England, Tyndale had been inspired by Martin Luther's groundbreaking translation of the Bible into German, and he went to work doing the same for English speakers. No wonder that the Bible Society describes Tyndale as a 'background radical'

during Henry VIII's reign (he's mentioned in *Wolf Hall* but doesn't get involved in the action).

Tyndale invented words, too, when he couldn't find a direct English equivalent for a Greek or Hebrew concept. Here are just some:

Scapegoat: To describe the goat burdened with the sins of the people and sent into the wilderness;

Atonement: Literally "at-one-ment", created to describe being at one with God;

Passover: Coined to describe the Jewish holiday where the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites;

Busybody: Invented to describe someone who meddles in other people's business.

Tyndale's work has survived multiple revisions of the Bible down the centuries. It is found in the Authorised Version of the Bible, the RSV, the ASV or the ESV, among others.

More at Bible Society's website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk> Just type 'Tyndale' into its 'search' box.

Source: Parish Pump
October 2026



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Though it is still a long while until Christmas, I want to tell you about this gift project.

St David's PCC has decided that we are once again supporting the Shoeboxes for Moldova charity run by Hugh Scudder. The difference this year is that his team is now delivering to Ukraine as well... and I believe many of you will welcome that.

The boxes can be packed with little gifts for any age, from toddlers to grandparents, and you can choose who your gift box is to be given to.

We will need to get them ready for some time in mid- November because they are delivered by lorry across Europe.

You do not need to tell me if you would like to help by creating a gift box. Nearer the time I will be making a list to let Hugh know roughly how many to expect from St D's.

If you would like any more information just ring or text me (07905 511873) or catch me at church.

Gina Redman
September 2026



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES: WHAT'S IT WORTH?

Last time we reflected on the time of 'Receiving and sharing the Peace' within our service. This month, we consider what comes next.

I say 'next' but actually, during that time of sharing the Peace, most of us multi-task! We move around saying hello and catching up on the latest news from folk we only see on a Sunday in church; we shake hands and say the words 'Peace be with you'; and we also scrabble around looking for cash to put on the plate or in the bag.

Our cash offering to the church is then processed up to the altar to be received by the priest who blesses it and prays over it. (Many years ago, when we were first able to give by standing order to the local church, I recall some people saying they would prefer to continue to give using cash, as the money in the bank was 'not blessed'!)

In more recent years I have attended, and indeed been the incumbent for, churches where no plate or bag is passed around at this point but rather that folk are both encouraged to give by standing order or if by cash then on a plate or in a box as they enter the building. Some churches today do not bring forward any financial collection, even if there is a plate on entering /leaving.

So what has changed? It's a reflection of our understanding of the real meaning behind the 'collection'. A reversion to the original intention by the church fathers. It was never intended to be just a small percentage of our possessions or the leftover cash we have lying around. Instead, it was intended to be an offering of our whole lives. The money was just a visible token.

This month, have a think about what you are 'offering' when this time comes in your next church service. Are you able to offer yourself and put yourself to God's use?

Revd Dr Jo White
Parish Pump
October 2026

SEASON OF CREATION

In the church year the *Season of Creation* (September 1st - October 4th) is an opportunity for us to reflect on our responsibility to care for the planet. As the season draws to an end for this year, have you considered:

The world is not ours: 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). Clearly, we have not done the best job! The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer. And 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally, 1.3°C to 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. This follows the historic peak in 2024, driven by ongoing fossil fuel emissions and high ocean surface temperatures.

Our hope is found in Jesus: Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: *'all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'* (Colossians 1:16,17). God's plan is *'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new.

In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living.

However difficult the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not fatalism!

Revd Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump
October 2026

ST DAVID'S MUSIC GROUP AKA 'THE BAND'



On the 3rd Sunday of the month, at St David's morning service, the choir and organist take a break. Instead, the music is led by our music group – a merry band of musicians which currently includes players on violin, flute, clarinet, guitar and keyboard.

The purpose of the music group is to:

- make heavenly music as part of the morning service
- be inclusive of all who wish to play – whatever their age or standard – supported by experienced players
- offer an optional, occasional opportunity to play solo or duet during communion with/without keyboard accompaniment

In the past, we have had players on recorder, oboe, viola, cello, saxophone, trumpet, bass guitar and harp.

The age range, to date, is 7 – 80+.



We welcome new players.

- University students have joined us for the duration of their course.
- Young children have joined us until they are grown up and leave home.
- Adult 'returners' have dusted off their instruments and rekindled a love of playing.

Come and try a Sunday if you like – play a hymn or two??

If you would like to find out more, speak to Robert or Susan at church or email:

instrumentalgroup@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

HOW EASY IT IS TO BREAK THE LAW IN YOUR OWN GARDEN

You would be forgiven for thinking that tidying up your own garden is about the most harmless thing you can do. But – beware – there are a few things which may bite back!

Pruning trees is a necessary job. But any tree with a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) on it can be downright scary: legally, you need permission from your local council to carry out *any* work on one, or you may face fines up to £20,000.

Then there is the tree that grows in your neighbour's garden, but which has branches jutting into your garden. What do you do with it? What *can* you do it? The law says you are not allowed to cross into their garden to take any action. But if their overhanging branches are causing an issue in your garden, you are allowed to cut them back to the point at which they cross your boundary line. But – wait for it – the branches that you have cut off *are not yours* – they must be given to the neighbour, if they want them. Otherwise, it is your responsibility to dispose of them.

As for any fallen fruit from the overhanging branches from the tree in your neighbour's garden? The law says that it is still *their* fruit, and you must offer to bring it around to them if they want it. But bizarrely, you cannot simply throw it over the fence, or they could 'do' *you* for littering or even fly-tipping! And without their permission, you must not eat the fruit of their tree, because it is a criminal offence under the Theft Act of 1968.

As for your hedge? Be careful of it between March and August, as the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) warns that "It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs."

After all that, you may decide it is safest to sit in the shade with a drink and a good book...

This is just a light-hearted look at things; before you get into any difficulty with your garden or neighbour, please consult a professional.

Source: Parish Pump
October 2026



PRISONS WEEK

Prisons Week is an annual initiative dedicated to prayer and raising awareness for those affected by the criminal justice system. This year it runs from Prisons Sunday, 11th October, to Saturday 17th October.

It was begun in 1975 by Bishop Victor Guazzelli, an auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster. The bishop was a keen supporter of social justice and wanted to encourage Christians to pray for the needs of all of those affected by prison: the prisoners, their families, the victims of crime and their communities, and all those working in the criminal justice system.

These days Prisons Week provides a shared focus for Christian churches and individuals to minister to those in prisons. It also aims to inspire volunteers to give time to support affected individuals.

Do you feel drawn to some kind of prison ministry, but are not sure where to begin?

You might consider the Prison Fellowship's letter writing scheme, *Letter Link*. It enables volunteers to safely connect with those in prison, to encourage them.

Letter Link has been the foundation of many friendships. Prison Fellowship letter writers can become a strong support system for someone struggling behind bars. And these letters can often be the vital link that connects people in prison with the outside community.

Sadly, *Letter Link* is sometimes the *only* communication that someone in prison receives. In a place of isolation and darkness, regular letters can be a source of comfort and a reminder that people in prison are still loved and valued by God.

Many prisoners are still seeking a pen pal. For more info:
<https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/letter-link/>

Source: Parish Pump
October 2026



REGULAR EVENTS

Martial Arts

Medieval sword fighting

Monday 7pm - 9pm

irondoorcollective.co.uk

Contact the group on idxeter@gmail.com

Friendship café

Tuesday 10.30am – 12pm

Bell Ringing

Wednesday 7.30 – 9pm

Student Group

Every other Thursday 7pm,
with food!

Please talk to one of the clergy if you would
like to know more

Men's/Women's
Breakfasts

Saturday 9am (check newsletter for
dates and venues)



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Friday 16th October at 7pm Harvest supper with musical entertainment

Sunday 18th October Harvest Festival (donations of coffee/tea/cereals/cereal bars/toiletries) welcome in aid of the Esther Community

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

at St David's unless otherwise indicated

Saturday 24th October at 7pm
Fever Candlelight Concert: Hans Zimmer's Best Works

Tuesday 27th to Saturday 31st October at 7.30pm (&2.30pm on 31st)
Shake on the Exe presents Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" at the Cygnet Theatre

Saturday 14th November at 7pm
Exeter Bach Choir: Out of the Deep

Saturday 21st November at 7pm
Fever Candlelight Concert: Queen vs ABBA

Saturday 21st November at 9pm
Fever Candlelight Concert: Hans Zimmer's Best Works





HARVEST BRING & SHARE SUPPER

COME TO OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH
HARVEST SUPPER ON
FRIDAY, 16TH OCTOBER AT 7:00 PM
ENJOY MUSIC, A BAR, AND A DELICIOUS,
SHARED MEAL WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, 18TH OCTOBER
9:30 AM PARISH COMMUNION

YOUR DONATIONS OF COFFEE, TEA, SUGAR, CEREALS, CEREAL
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SUPPORT OF THE ESTHER COMMUNITY IN OUR PARISH.

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PROVIDING SAFE ACCOMMODATION AND TAILORED LIFE-SKILLS SUPPORT
TO HELP VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN OVERCOME CRISES LIKE
HOMELESSNESS OR TRAUMA AND SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION INTO
INDEPENDENT LIVING



Programme of Talks – October 2026

Exeter Forum's programme of weekly talks for October 2026 is shown below. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Descriptions of talks and speakers also appear on the Exeter Forum website

www.exeterforum.org, and in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members and to interested visitors. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Late programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website.

Wednesday 7th October	Dr Robert Rew	Alaska and the Arctic. Rob describes his trips to Northwest America.
Wednesday 14th October	Vanessa Ascough	The life and adventures of Squadron Leader Archibald Stuart-MacLaren. Vanessa recounts the story of her remarkable grandfather, a pioneer aviator who led Britain's first effort to fly around the world.
Wednesday 21st October	Ray Balkwill	The River's Voice. Ray, a renowned artist, describes his 40 years of work to capture the spirit of the River Exe.
Wednesday 28th October	Marcus Paul	From Ireland to the Wild West. Marcus tells the true and moving story, based on their letters, of a couple who emigrated in the 1870s to the extreme frontier of Kansas, in the days of Wyatt Earp, cowboys and "Indians". Illustrated with unique photographs and maps and based on his book.



Try it out Tuesday at the Friendship Cafe

- Try something new!
- Build confidence and take some time for yourself
- Enjoy a creative activity with a cuppa and a cake



Scan QR code for details and to book.

When: First Tuesday of each month, 10:30am-12noon

Where: The Friendship Cafe, St David's Church, Queens Terrace, Exeter, EX4 4HR



DOES YOUR PARTNER...

OR A FAMILY MEMBER LIVING WITH YOU...

...cut you off from family & friends?

...make you feel ugly, undesirable or useless?

...threaten you to get their own way?

...blame you for their behaviour?

...never admit that they are wrong?

...force you to do things you aren't comfortable with?

...misuse the Bible to excuse their behaviour towards you?

1 in 4 people experience domestic abuse - do not suffer in silence

If you believe you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, dial **999**

If you are concerned about someone you know, but unsure what to do, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01392 345909/ 345910/ 294969

If you believe you are experiencing domestic abuse and want to talk to someone, call the National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 or contact the Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service: 0345 155 1074



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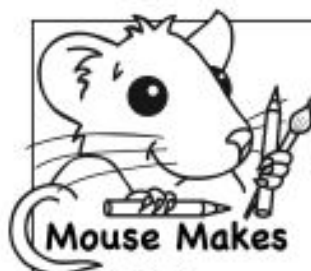
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The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



Mouse Makes



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?



4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

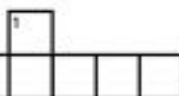


5. The first book of the Bible.

8. The last book in the Bible.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God.
Hebrews 4:12



3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged sword

Hebrews 4:12

6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____
Psalms 119:105

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



Bible Bite

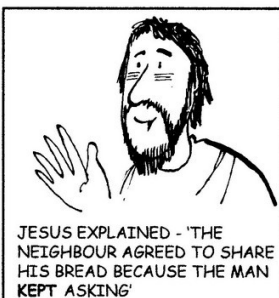
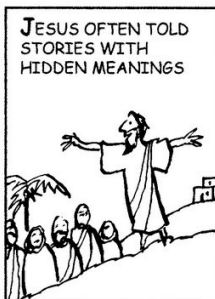
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants



The Tale of The Friend at Midnight

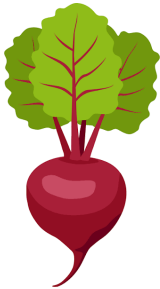
RECIPE CORNER

Beetroot Risotto – 2 ways

We love beetroot and we love risotto, so here are 2 different versions for you to try!

For 2 servings you will need: one small onion (finely chopped), 50ml white wine, 150g arborio rice, 3 small beetroots, vegetable stock (for quantity see below), 2 tbsp crème fraiche and *either* 30g goat's cheese *or* about 175ml coconut milk.

Version 1: fry the onion in some olive oil, then when it is softened, add the rice. Give it a good stir, then add the white wine. Reduce the wine by half. Next add 350ml of liquid – a 50/50 mixture of vegetable stock and coconut milk, a little at a time. After about 10 minutes, add the (pre-cooked) chopped beetroot. When most of the liquid has been absorbed, add the crème fraiche. Serve with a green salad.



Version 2: if you really like beetroot, buy the beetroot raw and use the water you boil it in for the stock, but you will still need to add a vegetable stock cube. Follow the above recipe, substituting the beetroot water for the coconut milk. When you add the crème fraiche, add the goat's cheese as well. This will look quite purple as you have used the beetroot water! This also goes well with a green salad.

Enjoy!

Alice Francis
September 2026

Editors' note – Please send in your favourite recipes to share!

PRAYER AND POETRY CORNER

Prayer for harvest

Lord, as we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

by Daphne Kitching



POETRY

21st September is the day on which the Church remembers St Matthew

The Faraway Country

There's a faraway country we dream of
Where the street is paved with gold,
No more tears or hidden fears
Where time has lost its hold.

The portals of heaven are waiting
Where a place has been reserved,
Bought at a cost, by a Saviour's cross
Not one of us has deserved.

God's love is so embracing
For He longs the world to save
Into realms of glory, resurrection's story
And for this His Son He gave.

Let's be part of God's plan for redemption
Of a world still trapped in sin,
As we seek His face for saving grace
That all may enter in.

by Megan Carter

Autumn Nocturne

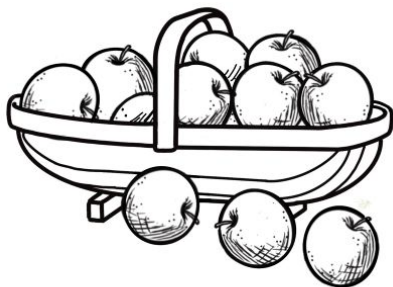
Chopin's quavers tumble in their chords,
Nocturnes gently soothing as they play;
Arpeggios – saying more than words
As autumn shades replace the summer day.

Sapphire skies give way to rainy grey
The heat is gone from damp and misty air,
The maple sheds its fire of yesterday
The moonlight shines on boughs now stark and bare.

Hands of gentle skill caress the keys,
The nocturne soothes our spirits as it's played.
We sigh not for the baring of the trees
Nor for the coming of the winter shade.

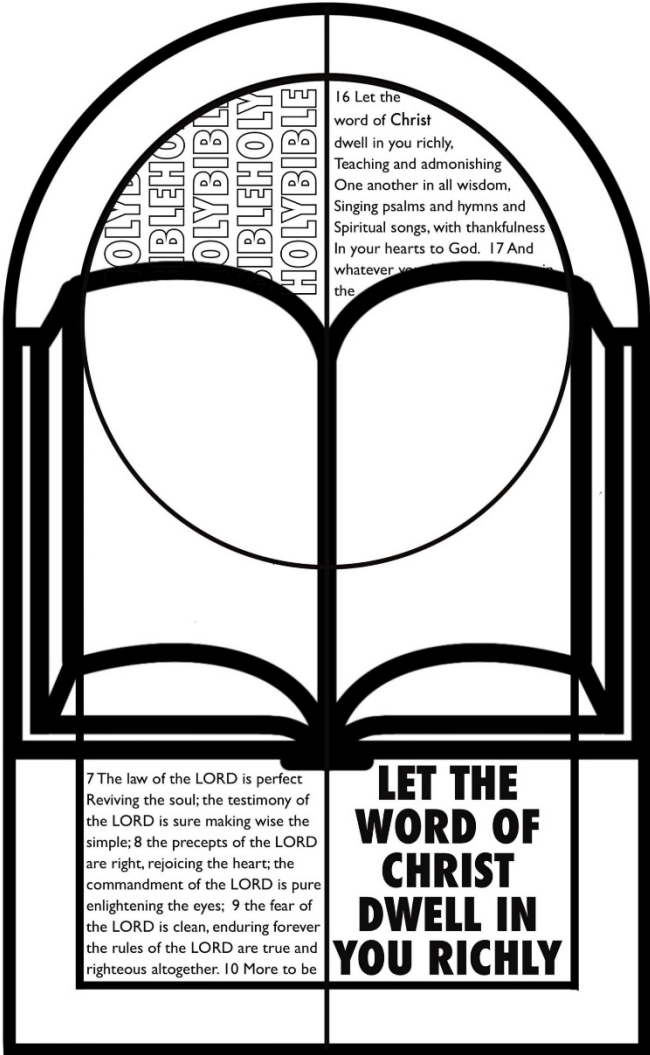
Forgotten soon the frozen frosty ground
The mem'ry stowed beside our winter coats;
As warm we sit, enfolded by the sound
Of Chopin's Nocturne and his graceful notes!

by Nigel Beeton



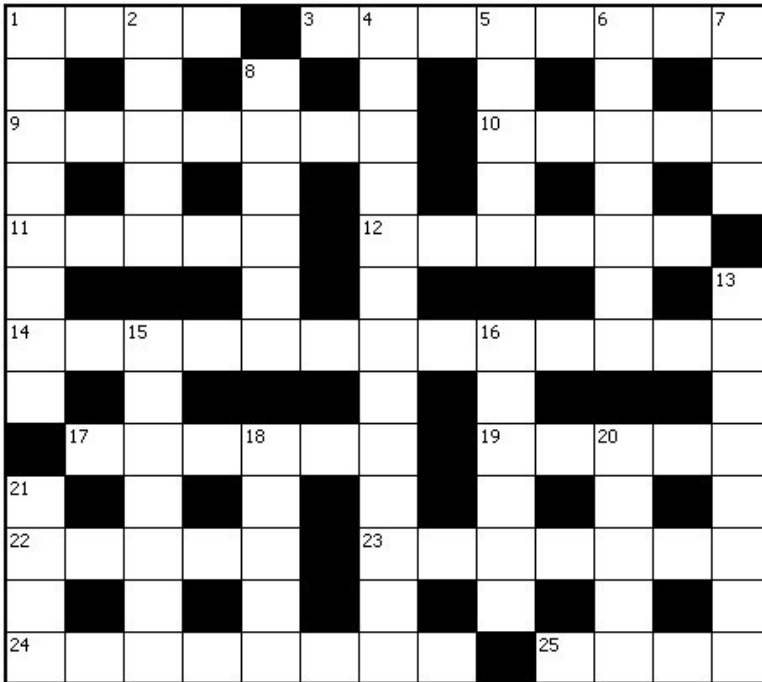
CREATIVE & MINDFUL MOMENT

Let your creative juices flow, add colour or pattern
Bring your finished artworks to church and share them with everyone!



CROSSWORD

Solution on Solutions Page



ACROSS

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)

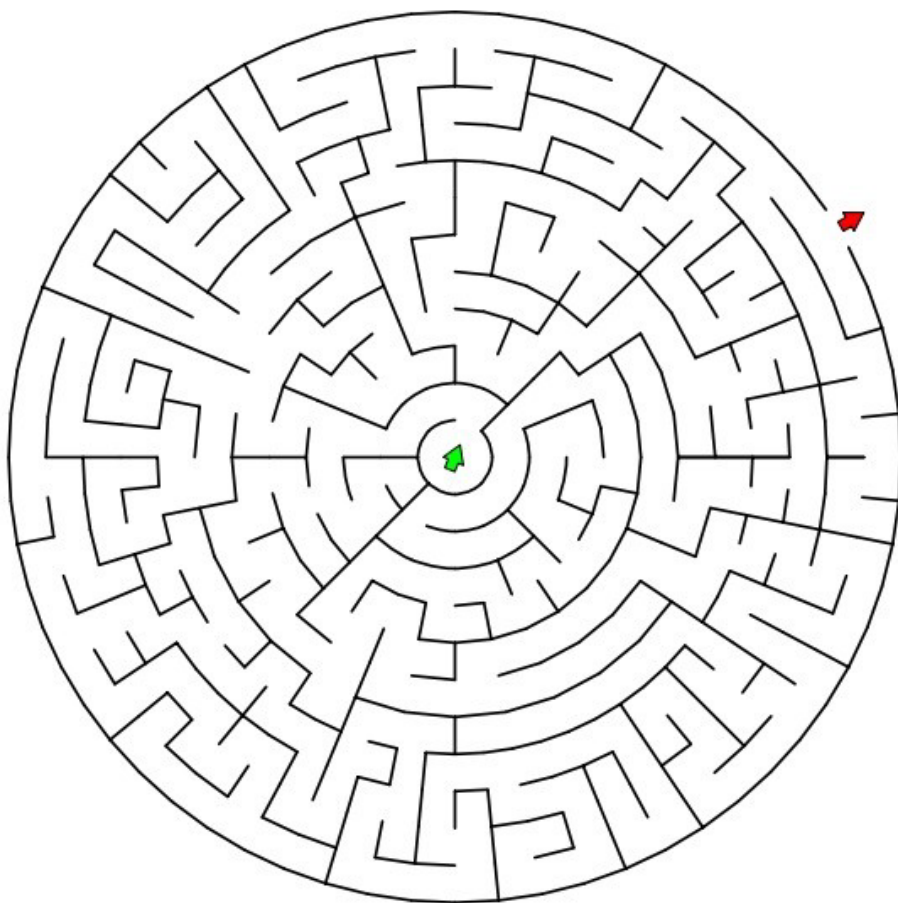
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

AMAZING MAZE

Start in the middle and exit top right

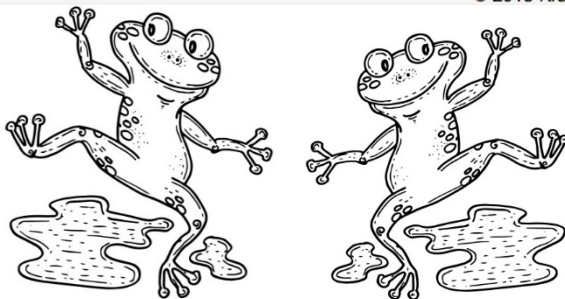


SUDOKU (Medium)

Solution on Solutions Page

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GOD IN THE SCIENCES

This article is written by Dr. Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. She writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to

understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.



SOLUTIONS PAGE



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QUOTES

With Harvest Festival in mind...

The Christian is suspended between blessings received and blessings hoped for, so he should always give thanks. - *M R Vincent*

Some observations on our Christian faith

Our needs will never exhaust God's supply. *Anon*

Never say never when it comes to what God can do. *Anon*

How else but through a broken heart,
May Lord Christ enter in? *Oscar Wilde*

Are you wrinkled with burdens? Come to the church for a faith-lift.
Anon

We may ignore, but we cannot evade, the presence of God. The world
is crowded with Him. *C S Lewis*

October brings Black History Month.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other
time. We are the ones we've been waiting for." *Barack Obama*

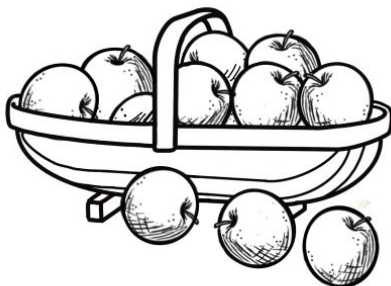
"Every great dream begins with a dreamer" *Harriet Tubman*

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."
Martin Luther King Jr.

"I never think about being Black until it is said—I just get on with life."
*Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin,
the Church of England's first Black female bishop.*

"I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights."
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"Black British history is everyone's history and is all the stronger for it."
David Olusoga OBE



SMILE LINES

God is here

When our minister and his wife visited our neighbour, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. "Mum!" she yelled toward the living room. "God's here, and He brought His girlfriend."

Book the date

Our new curate was very eager to please. When I asked if I could have a church service when I eventually die, he responded with enthusiasm. "Of course," he said, grabbing his date book. "What day do you want?"

Genesis for Cats

On the first day of Creation, God created the cat.
On the second day, God created man and woman to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man and woman could labour for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created expensive furniture so that the cat would have objects whereon to sharpen its claws.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man and woman broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the litterbox needed changing.

Broad

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

The glass

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.



DAYS OF NOTE IN OCTOBER

4th October - St Francis and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Churchgoers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace'. But Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month, was a more complex, and some would say controversial character.

His life spanned the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion', standing before a crucifix, he renounced all his possessions, stripping himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his hometown, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart, St Clare, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Clares this meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Clare is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'.

10th October - Thomas Traherne, lover of nature

Thomas Traherne (1636 - 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet. This 17th-century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not from a literary family; his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But he did well at Hereford

Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College, Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed as private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then in Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as “one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with”, and being of “cheerful and sprightly Temper”, ready to do “all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability”. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as chiming with the Romantic Movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

12th October - Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and a steadfast determination to do God’s work. This outstanding

philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

She was born in 1780. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry. She could have spent her life at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had said something Elizabeth felt was a prophetic for her. As she noted in her diary at the time, 'Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? ... I believe I shall.'

And she was. Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker minister, and her good works in London began. But it was not until 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth's life changed forever. She witnessed the horrific conditions in which women and children were kept, and she knew she had found the focus for her life's work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to secure basic rights for women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and educational provision.

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and lobbied Parliament. By 1818, she had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee that was examining prison conditions. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a 'Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London', which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a 'hands-on' sort of

person; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She went on to inspect prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, introduced better housing for the poor, and investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a 'minister of Christ'.

18th October - St Luke the Evangelist, linking the sacred and the profane

To St Luke, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul and Paul's companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Together with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, this makes up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: he writes an extended story of the Virgin Birth, and includes the stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists. His symbol is an ox, and in England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

26th October - Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons

Can you think of a politician who deserves to be called a saint? If no current politician comes to mind, there is always King Alfred of Wessex (871-99).

This remarkable and best known of all the Anglo-Saxon rulers may have dozed off and let some cakes burn while a peasant woman was hiding him from the Vikings, but he did many other things of lasting value for the Anglo-Saxon people.

It was a desperate time for the Anglo-Saxons – the kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and Mercia had fallen to the Vikings. Only Alfred's province remained free. Through some inspired military manoeuvring, Alfred managed to keep them at bay. He became the defender of all Christian Anglo-Saxons against the pagan Vikings. His son and grandsons went on to conquer the Vikings, and thus ensured the future unity of England.

Alfred was also a scholar, and was admired for certain of his writings that laid down models of ideal Christian kingship. He tried to put these principles into practice, for instance by introducing a code of law. Alfred believed strongly that anyone in authority should have to study in order to learn how to govern. Not such a bad idea for leaders today!

Alfred was never canonised by the Church, but his translation of *Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius is often thought to be a fitting epitaph: *I desired to live worthily as long as I live, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works.*

**Many thanks to contributors
to this edition!**

**The deadline for inclusion of
articles for the next issue of
New Leaves (November) is:
Sunday 18th October 2026**

Please send any information, articles or images you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues to the editorial team at:

newleaves@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

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Please send digital files via email and ensure the subject header fits the content of the email - thanks!

A special thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine – we very much appreciate his hard work.