

St. George's Montezbury

Magazine 50p



October 2026

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Contributions for **St. George's Magazine** should be sent to the Editor by the **15th** of the **previous month**. It may not be possible to include until the following month contributions which are received after this date.
 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:

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart. - Anon



Deanery of Pontesbury

Rural Dean: **The Revd Greg Smith**

Lifting up our eyes With Rev Stephen Griffiths

Hope and resilience

‘It will all be over by Christmas’ - this was the assurance given by Generals at the start of both World Wars. It is always good to have something to hope for to keep up morale, but when targets are missed and disappointment comes our way we need hope’s often forgotten twin, resilience. Resilience is both a state of mind and a way of life. It is made up of attitudes and actions. Resilient buildings and structures tend to have some flexibility built in. Bridges have tolerance to expand and contract in the heat. Skyscrapers can bend to withstand earthquakes. The massive blades of wind turbines flex to catch the breeze. Sure foundations are good thing, but solid immovable bulk does not always give the security it seems to promise. It might just prove too brittle under stress.

One reason why change can appear so threatening to us is that we build our security around our present circumstances. When those circumstances change we feel lost, anxious and angry. Doubling down (like the man who built bigger barns) rarely helps in such situations. Resilience flows from finding our true identity. When we find the central core of who we are, we can adapt to change without being toppled. But we will never find that identity without finding, or being found by, God. Jesus talked about us becoming ‘children of God’. It is a simple but powerful message which reminds us that whatever might change in life, or prove beyond our control, we can claim an identity which can never be removed. This is the gateway to both hope and resilience. It provides a blend of certainty and flexibility to navigate life's complexities.

There is much talk about change in the life of Hereford Diocese. The Church of England all over the country is having to respond to a variety of concerns - finance, building repairs, lack of volunteers, and a reduced supply of vicars.

The Church of England has had to adapt throughout its long existence. This seems like a good moment to remember and hold on to what we value and to recommit to our core mission - following Christ and making him known. But there may be things that God wants us to learn in this time of reflection and change, things that will actually make us stronger not weaker. I for one don't want to abandon the cherished vision of parish clergy and people working together for the glory of God and good of the community. I hope that I might live to see an abundance of vocations to ordained ministry to reverse the current trends.

Whatever the future holds, the key to hope and resilience comes by knowing who we are - the children of God.

Yours in Christ,
Stephen

Prayer for harvest

Dear 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

Readings and Services for this MONTH

Here are the Sunday Service details for this month.

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
1 st October	Messy Church 3.30pm	
4 th October 18 th Sunday after Trinity	Morning Worship without Communion	Isaiah 5. 1-7 Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21. 33-end
6 th October	Tea Service 2.30pm	
11 th October 19 th Sunday after Trinity	Harvest Holy Communion Informal Children's Church 10.30am	Psalms 46 Genesis 1. 20-28 Matthew 8. 23-27
18 th October Luke The Evangelist	Holy Communion 10.30am	Acts 16. 6-12a 2 Timothy 4. 5-17 Luke 10.1-9
25 th October The Last Sunday after Trinity.	All Age Family Worship 10.30am	Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 8-12 Colossians 3. 12-17 Matthew 24. 30-35

Children's Church at St George's usually takes place on the second and third Sundays of the month – all children from pre-school upwards are warmly welcomed.

However, in October, this will run only on the second Sunday, 11th October, complementing the Harvest Service.

Looking at GOD

23rd Psalm for the Workplace

The Lord is my real boss and I shall not want.

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my Source and not my job.

He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors, and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I will not stop -- for He is with me!

His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.

He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.

His faithfulness and love are better than any bonus cheque.

His retirement plan beats every 401K there is.

When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer and for that, I bless His Name.

As the evenings draw in, October is a good time for thanking God for all that He provides for us, and for remembering that in whatever dark times we may face in life, Jesus is the Light of the World, and He is always there for us.

Aberfan - 60 years on

On 21st October 1966 the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery slag heap collapsed, releasing a torrent of slurry onto the village. It engulfed a number of houses and Pantglas Junior School, killing 116 children and 28 adults. It was a disaster that shocked the nation. As we reflect on it today, we are left asking the question, *'where was God when this happened?'*

At the time there was a mixture of strong emotions: grief and sadness over the loss of those who had died, and anger against the Coal Board in allowing the disaster. However, people gave their energy to support each another. A local Baptist Minister, Revd Kenneth Hayes, who lost his eldest son at the school, responded in this way: *'For 36 hours he was working non-stop either at the school, or going around comforting bereaved and stricken families and kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.'*

How should we respond to such an incident? *'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?'* (Romans 8:35). Paul reminds us that even in our darkest times of loss, God is with us to bring comfort. *'Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.'* (34). Paul also tells us that Jesus understands our suffering and is praying for us. *'If God is for us, who can be against us?'* (31). We can let go of bitterness and blame, because God is a God of justice.

King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) on the 50th anniversary summed up the community's response: *'darkest sorrow, but also the most shining selflessness.'*



The Revd Dr Jo White considers various aspects of Christianity.

Reflecting Faith:

What's it worth?

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

I say 'next' but actually, during that time of sharing the Peace many of us multi-task! We might 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 of 'The Peace'; 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? **And please read the article on page 10, written by Colin Sharp, our church treasurer.**



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

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets are '*minor*' not because they lack importance, but due to their length. The 12 prophets, Hosea through Malachi, make up the last books of the Old Testament, and were written from around 770 BC (Jonah) until 433 BC (Malachi).

The prophets fall into 3 time-periods:

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah and Nahum = Assyrian period

Habakkuk and Zephaniah = Babylonian period

Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi = Post-exilic period.

Hosea and Amos spoke to Israel (Northern Kingdom), calling the people to acknowledge their sin and return to God. Joel and Micah addressed Judah (Southern Kingdom), including prophesies about the coming of the Messiah and the church. Habakkuk and Zephaniah spoke to Judah shortly before they were taken into exile into Babylon. Obadiah spoke God's judgment against the Edomites, while Jonah and Nahum both spoke against Assyria and their capital city of Ninevah. Following the people's return from exile, Haggai exhorted the people not to neglect rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah encouraged them with the promise of the future glory of Zion and of its shepherd king, while Malachi reminded them that if he is rejected, God would judge His people.

The minor prophets remind us that God cared not just for the Jews, but also for the Edomites, Assyrians, Egyptians and all of His creation. For Christians today the challenge remains to take the message of God's grace to all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit: *'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.'* (Joel 2:28, 29)



Others: If it's true that we are here to help others.
then what exactly are the others here for?

By Thoughts from the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

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'aht' - 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!'. Or it comes down to 'Here I am, Lord, send him!' 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 Pharoah 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!

Our Church and local COMMUNITY

A Treasurer's Report

I was appointed Treasurer of St George's PCC in Pontesbury in April 2026. I wasn't sure what I was taking on but knew that the congregation had been very grateful to Gerald Worrall who had done a sterling job as Treasurer for many years.

I quickly became conscious that for some years it had been necessary each month to make ends meet by dipping into reserves. This is an understandable situation, but I could see that it wasn't sustainable.

The normal expenditure each month is presently around £6,000 while the average amount of anticipated income each month is a little under £4,000. Thus, there is a necessity to draw about £2,000 a month from reserves. As you can imagine there are always those unforeseen items of expenditure for major repairs that must be carried out, this could be as much as £6,000 a year or more. I would project that with no action the reserves could be exhausted by the end of 2027.

We need to keep our expenses to a minimum, which to be frank has been the case for some time. So, the other side of the equation is looking at our income.

Our monthly income is made up of five parts, namely:

Regular gifts through The Parish Giving Scheme – monthly direct debit payments by Parishioners.	£1,900
Collections of cash and envelopes at each service.	£550
Other giving, mainly donations especially using the SumUp payment machine.	£800
Gift Aid recovered from HMRC.	£450
Fees from Weddings and Funerals	£250
Monthly Income	£3,900

I felt that I must share this information with you and ask all members of the congregation and Parish to reflect on their regular giving to the Church. There are three easy and secure ways to donate to the church through the Parish Giving Scheme. You can set up your Direct Debit online, fill in a gift form at church, or call the people at the scheme who will take you through it, step by step.

Our Parish Code is 180618442

Phone 0333 002 1260

Online: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/>

*Colin Sharp
September 2026*



St. George's Church
Pontesbury

Harvest Service Sunday 11th October 10.30am.

**All welcome.
This will be followed by lunch.**

(Places for lunch will need to be pre-booked)

Lunch 12.30pm - no charge.

(But donations welcome for Cuan Wildlife Rescue)

Contact Marianne McCall 07944 333830

Marion Elliott 07833 325755

The Chosen

“The Chosen” is the first ever multi-season TV series depicting the life of Jesus, with five series to date.

It gives each of the disciples a backstory and puts flesh on the bones of the episodes recorded in the Gospels. It uses creative imagination to develop the stories we have read there. About a third of the audience worldwide have not been church members. It is Hebrew rather than American in feel, authentic without being dry and was crowdfunded, becoming the most successful crowdfunded TV series in history. People have been able to watch it via Amazon Prime, Netflix, YouTube and Facebook.

However, on **Wednesday evenings from October 7th**, you will be able to watch Series 1 of The Chosen at Holy Trinity Minsterley via our new screen and projector. Episodes vary in length from 55 minutes to 20 minutes.

Episodes include:

The call of the disciples

The wedding at Cana

Let the Little children come to me

The rock on which the church is built

I am He

The first Christmas



Screening starts at 7 p.m. Entrance is free, with drinks offered for a donation. Feel free to bring your own snacks. We will be showing every Wednesday with a break for half-term. If you want any further information, please contact Greg Smith at rectorpontstip@gmail.com

COMING SOON



*Shrewsbury Brass Band
A Winter Evening Concert
St. George's Church
Saturday November 28th*

Harvest Festival Donations

Rea Valley Food Bank would like to thank everyone in the community who supports us with Harvest Festival Donations. Thank you also to the staff and volunteers at schools, churches and other community organisations who organise such events. We do appreciate everything that is given, and everything goes to local people in need across the Rea Valley. It is a very important time of year for us as it greatly reduces our costs and helps our charity to keep running.

In date and unopened packaged food, toiletries and cleaning products are always welcome. The items most in need are long-life milk and tins of meat, fish, vegetables, soup and fruit. Donations can be dropped off at Pontesbury Co-op, Longden Village Stores, or at donation boxes in our local churches when they are open,

Want to come to Rea Valley Food Bank?



REGULAR MONTHLY FINANCIAL DONORS: **PLEASE CHANGE YOUR PAYMENT TO OUR NEW BANK ACCOUNT**.

When the Food Bank became a charity, we were required to set up a new bank account. We do hope that you will be able to help us to continue with this much needed local community service.

If you have not received our emails, please see our website <https://reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk/donating/> for details, and contact our Treasurer, Jonathan Brown, mobile: 07497 142485 email: reavalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

See our website www.reavalleyfoodbank.co.uk Look at the 'Getting Help' page.

People's Emergency Briefing On the Climate and Nature Crisis

FREE Film screening and Discussion

Saturday October 24th

at

Holy Trinity Church

Minsterley

Refreshments from 1.30pm

Screening at 2pm





MINSTERLEY EISTEDDFOD CONCERT

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

• 7PM •

MINSTERLEY PARISH HALL

FEATURING
SHREWSBURY BRASS BAND

Conducted by Dougie Graham

GUEST SOLOIST ROSE BURGON

*Winner of the Young Voice of Musical Theatre
competition at Llangollen International Eisteddfod, 2026*

ACCOMPANIST: HEATHER HOWELL

TICKETS £12, INCLUDING LIGHT REFRESHMENT

Funds in aid of Minsterley & District Eisteddfod
Charity number: 1038356

TICKETS FROM JILL BLYTH: 01743 791908
OR ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER

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 administrator, Emma, at
reavalleytransportscheme.info@gmail.com

or by calling **07468115939** Monday-Friday 10-2.30 or 3.30-5pm,
if possible giving a week's notice of your appointment.



Welcome to The Tea Break



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

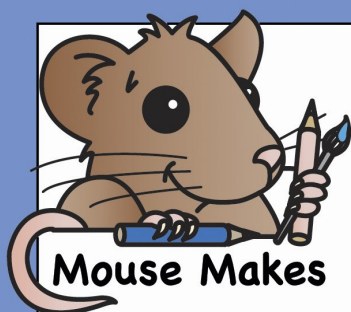
ST. George's Prayer Chain, a small group of people who
believe that prayer can make a difference, is being revived under Mary
Worrall's leadership. Each person within the group offers daily prayer for
anyone who asks for prayer—**would you like to join this group?**

Please contact Mary Worrall
maryew15mp@gmail.com or on 01743 791069

All information given is given in confidence.



Monthly Tea Service,
first Tuesday afternoon
from 2.30 to 4pm
St. George's Church
Pontesbury.



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.



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?

2



3

5. The first book of the Bible.



8. The last book in the Bible.

8

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

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

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



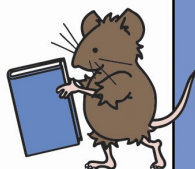
3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

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?



B I B L E S U N D A Y





David Pickup, a solicitor, considers all those possible doors we can take...

Enter Through the Narrow Door

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as He made His way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked Him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴ “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. (Luke 13).

I was waiting for Evensong to start and had got most things ready. If the weather is nice I often sit outside while I wait. It was a very hot day and I wondered where everyone was. My seat was beside the south door and people normally trundle in past me, some early some just in time.

This Sunday I did not see anyone and I was getting worried. What I had forgotten was I had opened the west door and the north door to get a breeze blowing in. The congregation had all gone in those entrances.

We normally use the south door because that has a porch, notices and the smartest entrance. The west door is normally for brides and the north door rarely used at all. It has lots of steps going up and down.

Houses are similar. In many places the front door was hardly ever used except very special occasions and friends and family would go around the back because they knew mum would be in the kitchen, near the rear door.

What did our Lord mean “enter by the narrow door”? Perhaps walled cities had big gates and if you went in you would be seen by everyone, but authorities would check what your business was. It was the obvious way in but there would also be small secret doors which only locals knew. Perhaps they were short cuts or direct routes to the best



October brings Black History Month. Here is a variety of quotes

"I had no idea that history was being made. I was just tired of giving up." - **Rosa Parks**, who became mother of the American civil rights movement in 1955 when she refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery Alabama just because she was a Black.

"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**, former US President.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer" - **Harriet Tubman** –Black American abolitionist and Union spy.

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." - **Martin Luther King, Jr.** -Black church leader and US civil rights activist.

"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.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." **James Baldwin**, American writer, civil rights activist, critic

"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**, global icon for his fierce, non-violent opposition to apartheid, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and first Black African Bishop of Johannesburg and Archbishop of Cape Town.

"Black British history is everyone's history and is all the stronger for it."- **David Adetayo Olusoga OBE**, British Nigerian historian, writer, broadcaster, and BAFTA winning film-maker. Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester.

"You have to do your job so well that nobody can dismiss you because of your race or background." - **Sir Trevor Lawson McDonald**, Trinidadian British newsreader and journalist, best known as a News presenter on ITN (Independent Television News).

Looking at the CHURCH UK & Worldwide

From the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Premier League footballer says: 'faith helped me through injury.'

A Premier League footballer has revealed how finding faith helped him cope with a series of injuries that kept him off the pitch for periods totalling more than three years.



Josh Dasilva, who plays for west London-based Brentford FC, suffered a hip injury in February 2021 that kept him out of the team for a year, and then a hamstring injury followed between August 2023 and January 2024.

Then, in February 2024, Dasilva suffered a serious knee injury while in training, and did not return to the team until the dying minutes of Brentford's 3-0 victory over West Ham in May 2026. The crowd gave Dasilva a standing ovation and cheered his every touch of the ball.

Dasilva's way back to fitness has been long and painful. He now says, "When you seek God honestly and diligently, you'll find true peace. When I was in dark places, that's what pulled me out."

It was four months into rehabilitation, following his knee injury, that Dasilva made a choice that transformed his outlook and his life.

He recalls, "One of my closest friends invited me to church. I'd grown up in church but lost my way. My parents are strong believers. Whenever I went home and visited my parents, my mum would say, 'Let's pray quickly' and sometimes it wasn't so quickly!"

Returning to church made a major impact on Dasilva. He explains, "Since taking it seriously, my whole life has changed. Faith has become a big part of my life and how I want to live my life. If it wasn't for Christ, if it wasn't for Jesus, I wouldn't be here right now."

“What were the biggest things that helped me? Obviously, my family and friends and the club, but my faith has been number one.”

Dasilva was baptised in May 2025, and prayer and worship became part of his daily routine. He explains, “I always dedicate the first hour of the day to God. I pray and I read. It directs my day.

“God is faithful. Regardless of my situation, whether I was able to play another game of football or not. I knew that God loved me regardless. I knew I would be fine.”



How Tyndale affects what you say - today

It is 500 years since William Tyndale printed the very 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 ground breaking 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 equiva-

lent 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.

Walking alongside one another

Many of us can look back and recognise people who have helped us in our faith: a parent, a friend, a church leader, or perhaps someone who was simply willing to listen, pray and encourage us at the right moment.

The Christian life has never been a path we are expected to travel alone. Throughout the gospels, we see how Jesus spent time with a small group of people, His disciples, and helped them grow. The early Church continued this pattern, learning together what it meant to follow Christ in everyday life.

Yet many of us wonder whether we have anything to offer others. Life is busy, and we may feel we don't know enough or have enough time to make a difference.

What if discipleship is simpler than we imagine? Often it begins with a conversation over coffee, offering to pray for someone, opening the Bible together, or taking the time to listen well.

The *Alongsider Course* has recently been launched by the Navigators: a free

seven-session video course that explores what it means to walk alongside others and together take steps towards Jesus. Drawing on many years of experience helping people grow in faith, the course encourages ordinary Christians to be intentional about the relationships God has already given them, in their families, friendships, workplaces and churches.

In a world where many people feel isolated, there is something quietly powerful about walking alongside someone and seeing what God can do. Who might God be inviting you to walk alongside?



Further info: www.alongsidercourse.com.

Diocese of Hereford October 2026

*Thoughts from The Venerable Derek Chedzey
Archdeacon of Hereford*



Anniversaries - I wonder how many of you look up dates to see what happened on them? If you love history you already know that 87 years ago the Britain declared war on Nazi Germany for invading Poland. The Second World War ended in 1945 and peace was maintained in Europe despite the Cold War, until Russia invaded Ukraine.

In many ways anniversary dates often remind us of significant events in history or things closer to home like weddings or birthdays and I think we find these easier to mark because we are involved and invested in them. In churches we have festivals which help remind ourselves us of the Christian story. From a spiritual perspective, if you were to look for them there is almost a Saints day for every day of the year!

We are about to enter a season of Harvest Festivals, All Souls tide and Remembrance Sunday; as humans we love to find reasons to celebrate anniversaries and significant dates.

“One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honour of the Lord. The one who

eats, eats in honour of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honour of the Lord and gives thanks to God.” Romans 14:5-6.

Paul, writing to the church in Rome, says to them that how we mark anniversaries or which anniversaries doesn't actually matter in God's kingdom but it is the attitude of the heart that matters. Paul didn't condemn the people for marking days or celebrating special anniversaries instead he reminds them that we need to honour God in all that we do.

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” Amos 5:21-24.

In the book of Amos God tells the people through the prophet that he has no time for their religious feasts, festivals and anniversaries because of their attitude towards others. The religious people have forgotten that their faith in God starts and finishes with justice, righteousness and mercy. If we do not allow God to change our hearts and minds then our religious festivals and ceremonies are meaningless. It is the very thing that Jesus condemns the religious people of his time for doing and what Paul warns Timothy against.

“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.” 2 Timothy 3:2-5.

Our faith is primarily lived out everyday and whilst festivals and anniversaries help us remember the faith story, when they become more important than our faith we are in danger of swapping human rules and regulations for spiritual realities.



The world-wide COMMUNITY

Remembering St Francis of Assisi

Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order.

He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children – called Francesco by his father, who was an enthusiast for France. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia.

He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – an attitude which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced.

He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.

Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity. He is a joint patron saint of Italy with Catherine of Siena, and in 2013 Archbishop Bergoglio of Argentina chose the papal name of Francis in his honour, becoming Pope Francis.

Many pilgrimage routes lead to the tomb of St Francis in Assisi, and he is honoured by many churches, including Lutherans and Anglicans.

Thoughts from Colin Hurford of the church in Longden

What did you think of Andy Burnham's first two days in Parliament? It is good to have a Prime Minister who is enthusiastic and determined to tackle the problems we face but I think he should have been honest with the public about the reality of the situation.

Climate Change is probably the most serious of all the problems. People promptly switch off whenever those words are mentioned. Not because they aren't concerned but simply because of the question, "Will what I do or what the country does have any effect?" However, to do nothing is simply to abandon hope and consign our young people to a desperate future.

How serious is the situation? In 2024 Deffra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) issued a report about the effects of Climate Change. The Government didn't publish it! Pressure from concerned Members of Parliament produced a redacted version and there was a debate by MPs on the 3rd of September at which members repeatedly asked for the full report.

BUT the Times Newspaper on the 24th March of this year revealed some of the contents including the words "...there was a realistic possibility that by 2030 (increasing to 2050) our food, water and natural ecosystems **are at strategic risk of catastrophic failure**". The report was issued in 2024, well before the heat waves we have been experiencing which have resulted in two years of the worst harvests on record. Harvests in the EU, from which we import about 30 % of our food, have

also been badly affected. What can we do then, both as country and as individuals?

First, if as a country we work together to adapt our nation to what is coming, we could build a much better and fairer society. Climate Change does actually provide an opportunity for real cooperation but it needs about 25% of the adult population to be actively concerned to provide a tipping point. I do believe this is possible and am emailing as many Climate Change organisations as I can urging them to take action.

Second, what can you do? To keep this article short, just three things.

1. Persuade your village to host the "National Emergency Briefing" film (50 minutes) which is well worth watching. (See page 14 for details).
2. Email Andy Burnham with copies to Julia Buckley and Dame Angela Eagle MP, head of Deffra, expressing your concern and asking that urgent action be taken.
3. Pray.



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 good servant



My master could be away
a long time; I will work as
if he was here.



When the servants came
for their food, he had it
ready



He made sure everyone
got their full amount
every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in
charge of everything I
have



The bad servant



My master could be away
a long time; I can do what
I want!



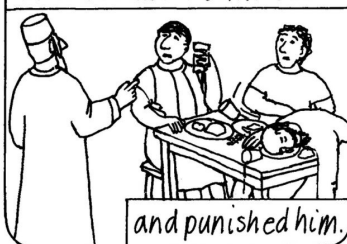
When the servants came
for their food, he chased
them away!



He had friends come
round, and they ate and
drank as much as they
liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said

This is the
difference
between
those who
follow me and those
who only say they do.

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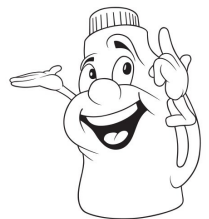
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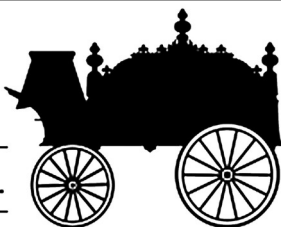
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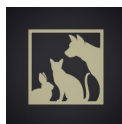
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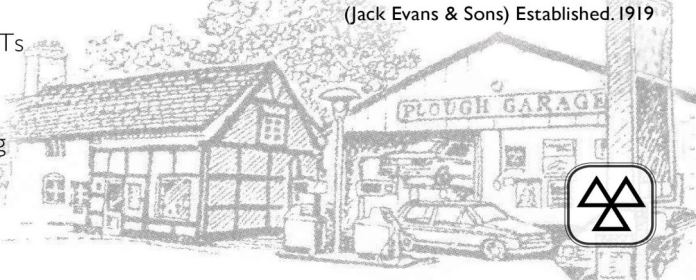
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