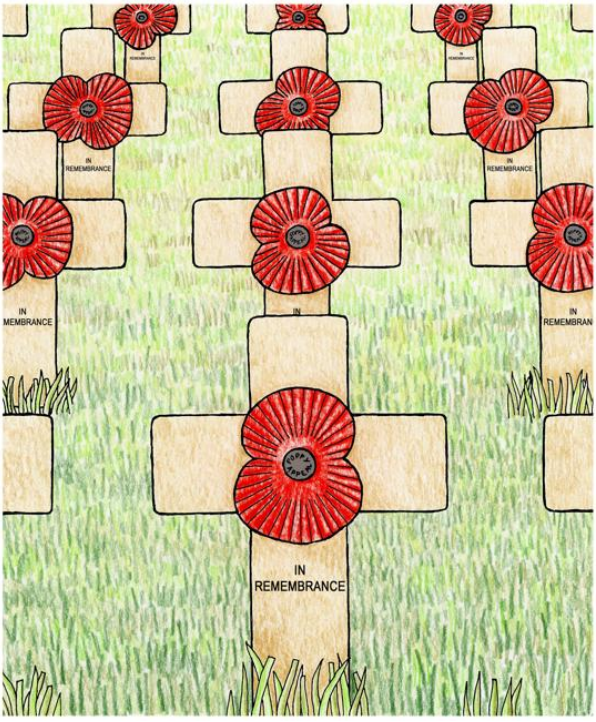
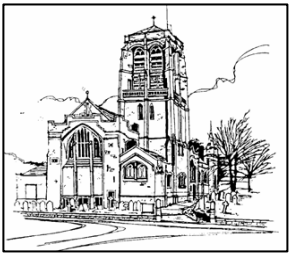
NEW LEAVES

PARISH MAGAZINE

St David's Church Exeter



NOVEMBER 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@stdavidschurchexeter.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

It feels like summer ended only a few weeks ago, but Advent is now almost upon us! What does Advent mean to us? Some of the things that come to mind are preparing for Christmas, Advent calendars, and candles burning down one day at a time. And, of course, the celebration of Christmas before Christmas has even arrived.

Traditionally, Advent is a time of waiting. But why do we wait? Because all is not as it should be. We are reminded of this throughout November. On the 1st of the month, we mark All Saints' and All Souls in which we remember those we have loved and lost, giving us a particular opportunity to light a candle in their memory. Bonfire Night, marking the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot, reminds us of the ways political and religious tensions can divide society, something that feels very contemporary. Remembrance Sunday brings us to lament the loss and destruction of war.

C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*:
"This is a good world that has gone wrong, but still retains the memory of what it ought to have been."

This truth is acknowledged both in All Saints' and All Souls' and in our acts of remembrance. You might say that the saints point us towards the promise of God's kingdom, while Remembrance reminds us how much we need it. But Advent takes us a step further. God has not finished with this world. The world does not simply live with "the memory of what it ought to have been". If we take the gospel seriously, we look forward to what it can and shall be. Christmas is coming. God enters our world, sharing our human life and transforming it from within. And one day, all things shall be made new.

Here and now, we remember and we hope.

Every blessing,
Mike

READERS AND LEADERS IN PRAYER: NOVEMBER 2026

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	Jonathan Draper
Bible Reader	Steph Hills
Leader in Prayer	Richard Johnson

Sunday 8 November: 3rd Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

1st reading	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5.1-12
Preacher	Suki Coe
Bible Reader	Keith Postlethwaite
Leader in Prayer	Sarah Cumming

Sunday 15 November: 2nd Sunday before Advent
Safeguarding Sunday

1st reading	1 John 3:16-24
Gospel Reading	Luke 10:25-37
Preacher	Mike Clark
Bible Reader	Alice Francis
Leader in Prayer	Helena Walker

Sunday 22 November: Christ The King, Sunday next before Advent

1st reading	Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 or Ephesians 1.15-23
Gospel Reading	Matthew 25.31-46
Preacher	Mike Clark
Bible Reader	Mary Williams
Leader in Prayer	Ian Cartwright

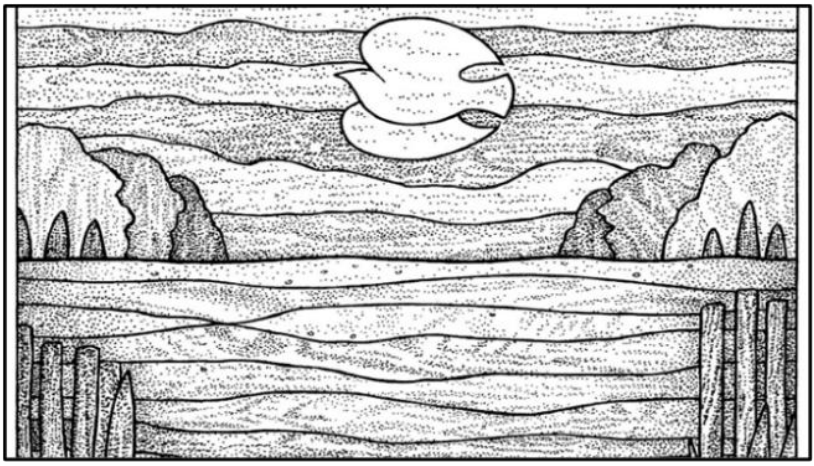
Sunday 29 November: 1st Sunday of Advent

1st reading	Isaiah 64.1-9 or 1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Gospel Reading	Mark 13.24-37
Preacher	Sarah Cumming
Bible Reader	Geoff Crockett
Leader in Prayer	Suki Coe

Sunday 6 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

1st reading	Isaiah 40.1-11 or 2 Peter 3.8-15a
Gospel Reading	Mark 1.1-8
Preacher	Suki Coe
Bible Reader	Susan Mitchell
Leader in Prayer	Nigel Walsh





ST DAVID'S PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER

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

December

6th	Calm during Advent and Christmas preparations
13th	Bury Meadow and all adults and children who use this space
20th	Our Christmas celebrations in church and at home
27th	Men's breakfasts, Parish lunches

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

In November 2025 a small group of us thought it would be good fun to copy the Men's Breakfast and create a Women's Breakfast Group. We meet once a month between 9am and 10am for breakfast - at our initial meeting at the Imperial there were about ten of us, and we created a Whats App group, which has made it really easy to update people on our next meeting.

We have tried out different cafés, including Tea on the Green, Sylvania Community Cafe and the Imperial, trying to find venues that open by 9am on a Saturday and are accessible for everyone.

Our numbers fluctuate - but it really doesn't matter, we have been about six people and this week we were fifteen! It's been lovely to get to know people in our church community and find out a bit more about each other's' lives. We have welcomed overseas students, as well as people on placement and people who have worshipped at St David's for many years.

We are inviting the Breakfast group to join the women's advent reflection at 6pm on December 1st followed by food/drink at the Imperial and again two days later at the Parish Christmas lunch on Thursday 3rd December (tickets available from Jenny Baker). We will reconvene late January - and I will Whats App everyone with a date and venue. If you would like to join us let me know and I can add you to the Whats App group. We also let everyone have the details in the parish newsletter each month.

So on our first anniversary it's good to know that people enjoy meeting up. It doesn't require huge amount of planning but it's a good way of keeping in touch with a range of people and it is clearly "building up our common life"

Maggie Draper
November 2026





LETTER FROM AMERICA

We're having marvellous autumn weather. Crisp cool mornings (just a hint of hoar frost on the ground last Saturday) and clear afternoons warm enough to tempt the few terrapins who've yet to burrow into lake bottoms out to sun themselves.

But winter is coming—you can tell by the steady rain of brown leaves in the backyard and the long black Vs of Canada geese winging their way southward. Thankfully, given the super El Nino, this winter is likely to be a drier and warmer one than usual over here.

Hopefully, the new windows we've ordered for the first floor ("first floor" means the lowest level of a building in American English) and our master bedroom will be installed before the first snow flies. Our house was built in 1963 (just before The Beatles first appeared on American TV!) and its single-pane windows, while no doubt state-of-the-art when they were installed, let too much cold in and too much heat out.

Speaking of house projects, we can report with great relief that Jeff's darkroom is now complete. He plans on slipping inside, putting on

some tasty jazz, switching on the safelights, and having an inaugural printing session this week.

We're off to Toronto later this month, just before Thanksgiving. Earlise has a conference there and Jeff is tagging along to do some street photography and sample the cuisine in the Caribbean quarter (it's the only place you can get Trini food outside Trinidad and Tobago other than London and NYC).

Jeff is wrapping up another season of shooting American football (he's still waiting for that first call to an NFL game). Physiotherapy, stretching and diet/weight loss have kept his knees in shape to keep doing it. Basketball is up next, and then two outdoor ice hockey matches in February in Green Bay—a gig that promises to be dangerously frigid and will pose hazards for both equipment and operator.

The political season is lurching like a syphilitic zombie towards a conclusion on 3rd November. Earlise and I voted early at our local library on the first day it was allowed. We expect to be up into the wee hours watching results on election night, stuffing our face with leftover Halloween candy to keep the cortisol levels down. Selah.

Jeff Brown and Earlise Ward Brown
October 2026



THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who generously donated towards the purchase of our new defibrillator.

Thanks to your kindness, generosity, and support, we have successfully raised the funds needed to purchase this vital piece of life-saving equipment. Your contributions will help make our church a safer place for everyone who worships, visits, and takes part in our community activities.

A defibrillator can make a crucial difference in an emergency, and knowing that we now have this equipment available brings great reassurance to us all. Usually the first question the ambulance service asks us when we call for help is: “do we have a defibrillator available?”

The defibrillator is installed opposite the toilets at the back of the church. It's a little strange to buy something that we hope that we never have to use, but if you *do* have to use it, on opening the machine talks (very loudly!) to give you instructions of how to start CPR.

Thank you for giving so generously and for showing such care and concern for the well-being of others.

Maggie Draper
November 2026



ANGEL TREE COLLECTION: SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

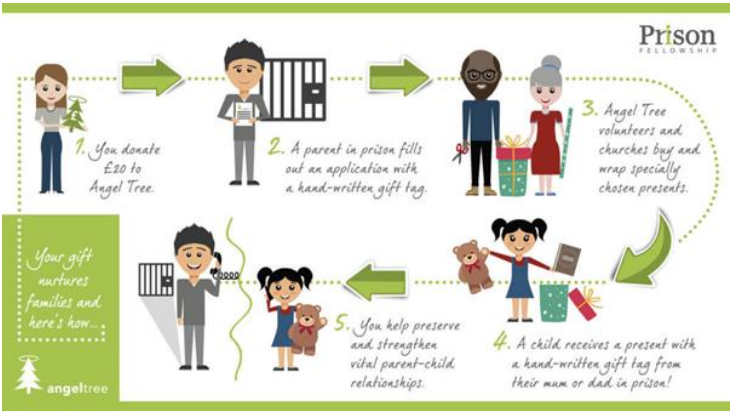
On Sunday 22nd November we will be having our annual Angel Tree collection.

Angel Tree gives parents in prison the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their children. In 2025, they sent out 3,484 gifts!

Christmas is an especially difficult time for prisoners and their children. Angel Tree lessens the devastation experienced as a result of parental absence, not only helping families connect and build relationships, but also by providing children with much-needed joy.

Prison Fellowship volunteers work with prison chaplains and local churches to buy, wrap and deliver the presents. As long as prisoners are allowed access to their children, they can apply for a gift to be sent to them.

Each gift is dispatched as though it has been sent by the parent in prison and is accompanied by a personal message written by the parent for their child. The parent is also given the option of including an age-appropriate Christian story book in their child's gift.



"I can't tell you in words how much my kids are happy. I can only say from my heart, you didn't send gifts, you sent happiness and smiles."
– A dad in prison

"I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am very close to my little girl. It has been very hard on us being parted and Angel Tree has made it a bit easier."
– A mum in prison

Angel Tree is a very simple and incredibly rewarding way to help parents in prison stay in contact with their families during imprisonment. This can contribute to reducing re-offending rates: Ministry of Justice figures have shown that people in prison being visited by a partner or family member have a 52% re-offending rate as compared to 70% for those who do not. It costs just £20 to enable a parent in prison to send a Christmas present to their child.

On 22nd November there'll be **baskets** at the back of the church for cash donations, or you'll be able to **donate by card via the electronic payment point** (also at the back of the church) that weekend too.

You can read more about Angel Tree at
https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/angel-tree/

Thank you very much for anything you can give.

Margaret Grimsey
Sarah Rimmington
November 2026

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

As we move closer to Christmas, I wanted to give you a final reminder about this gift project.

We are once again supporting the Shoeboxes for Moldova charity run by Hugh Scudder. As I mentioned last month, the 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.

Quite a few people have told me they will be putting a box together, but it's not too late – just let me know and I'll put you on the list. If you would like any more information just ring or text me (07905 511873) or catch me at church.

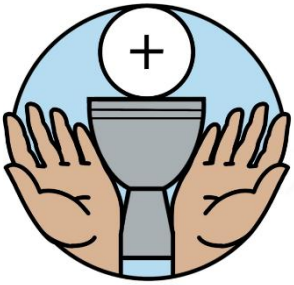
Gina Redman
October 2026



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES: BREAD AND WINE

Last time we reflected on the time of bringing forward our 'collection' money. In many churches the wine and bread are brought forward by members of the congregation at the same time as the collection, for use during the Eucharist celebration.

This bringing of the bread and wine during the Offertory Procession isn't just a practical matter as these are required; it is a symbolic act representing the people deliberately coming forward to the 'holiest' of places and offering their daily work and lives to God.



In the earliest days of the church, actual food and wine were brought from the peoples' homes for the service and to distribute to the poor afterwards.

In orthodox churches there are often two types of 'bread.' One that is consecrated and given to communicants and another kept within the main body of the church, alongside plastic bags, for folk to take a piece home to share with their family and friends; which mimics this earlier action.

In the Church of England, and in many other denominations, when the bread and wine have been consecrated, they are considered to be set aside explicitly for the purpose of human consumption and therefore all must be consumed, either during or immediately after the service. This is normally done by the priest but can be undertaken by any communicant member the priest has asked.

Because of this it's important the priest knows how many communicants there are likely to be. Too much consecrated wine can have a detrimental effect if you have to drive to another church!

For myself, churches have communicated this to me in various ways: in a suburban church we had a board up high at the back of the nave

with large numbers placed there by a Churchwarden who had counted folk as they entered. In a large village church the number was whispered to me by a person bringing up the elements, whilst nowadays in small local village churches you will often see me stop and count!

This month
Next time you attend a communion service have a look at how numbers are communicated and who brings forward the elements. What does the priest do when s/he receives them?

Revd Dr Jo White
Parish Pump
November 2026





In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

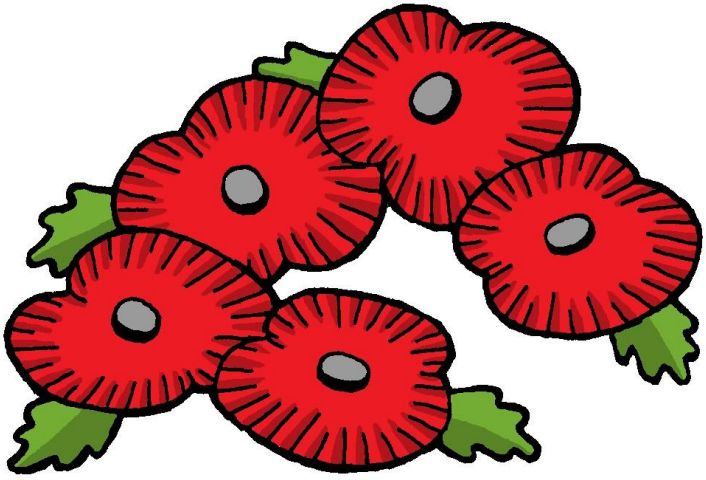
'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured during the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is that it is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us

people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

The Revd Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump
November 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

NATIONAL TREE WEEK – 21st-29th NOVEMBER

It really is time to appreciate our trees. Did you know:

That the UK has 123,000 ancient and veteran trees, and more ancient oak trees than the rest of Europe combined?

Or that trees help us feel better? Studies have found that exposure to forests generally reduces our mental and physical stress, anxiety, and depression.

Or that 95% of land carbon in the UK is stored in soil, and trees help put it there? When wood and leaves fall, their carbon gets stored in the soil.

Or that hedgerows alongside our roads can reduce air pollution exposure by up to 63%?

No wonder that each year the Tree Council and its partners bring together the conservation sector, volunteers and tree-lovers to mark the start of the annual tree planting season. Together, they plant thousands of trees and hedgerows, to celebrate these “magnificent mainstays” of our landscape.

And we need more trees. Sadly, only 13% of the UK’s total land area is covered in trees. That’s compared to an average of 46% in Europe. In England, the figure is just 10%.

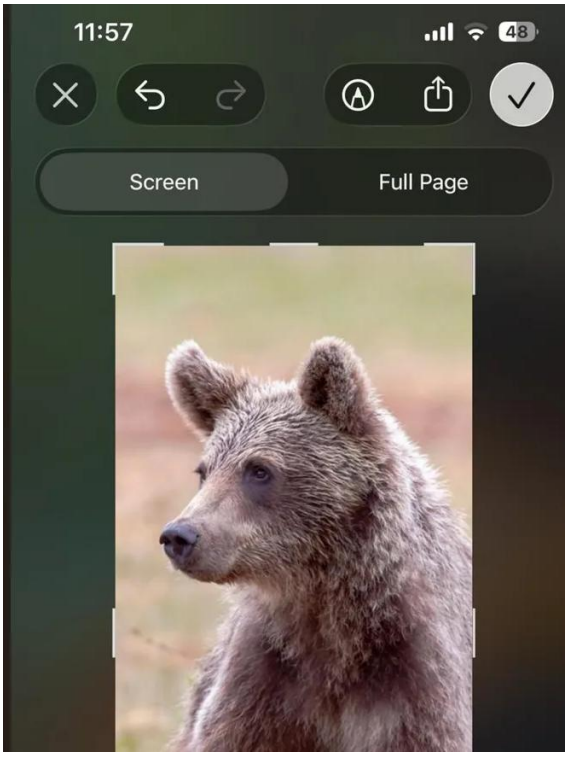
On the plus side, there are more than 80 community tree nurseries in the UK, growing an estimated 250,000 trees a year, often from locally collected seed, and which are given away or sold at minimal cost.

Source: Parish Pump
November 2026

Do you have a favourite tree in Exeter or elsewhere in Devon? Let us know where and why you love it!

HOW IS YOUR PHONE LIKE A GRIZZLY BEAR?

An article by Barbara Echlin, the Vice Chair of Green Christian



Did you know your phone is equivalent to a grizzly bear?

No, I didn't either!

Each day a theme for prayer and reflection pops into my inbox from Green Christian. On Sundays we send out a prayer. So what, you may be asking, has a smart phone to do with the environment or Christianity?

Well, one smartphone contains more than 70 raw materials and more than 50 metals. Many of these need to be mined from the Earth. A

standard 200g phone involves extracting resources from more than 200kg of raw materials. That's equivalent to the weight of 200 standard bags of sugar, 100 bricks or one adult grizzly bear!

I couldn't name even one single raw material in my smartphone. So I read an article by Mark Maslin, Professor of Earth System Science at UCL, and found out that the ten key metals inside smartphones are: cobalt, lithium, tantalum, gallium, graphite, gold, tin, copper, indium and rare earth elements. They are common in the Earth's crust but usually found in small concentrations.

My next question was why is that a problem? We commonly use materials from the Earth. But:

These critical raw materials are only found in a handful of places. That means control over those materials matters both economically and politically, creating geopolitical tensions, fragile supply chains, and competition for access. This can fuel conflict.

Mining the materials can involve environmental damage, pollution, child labour, human rights violation and dangerous geopolitics. All these are of concern to us as Christians.

So what needs to be done?

- Phones need to be repairable so that cracked screens, broken electronics and failing batteries can all be replaced easily.
- Phones should be designed to be easier to recycle, and enable all their valuable raw materials to be extracted and re-used, rather than ending up in landfill in a developing country, as typically happens. Every gram of metal recovered is one less kilogram of rock that has to be dug up.
- Smartphones should be built to be upgradable, repairable, re-usable and recyclable.

And we can help! We can avoid changing our phone when it's still working. Smartphones should last for at least ten years.

'The most sustainable smartphone is the one you currently own,' writes Mark Maslin. An estimated 80% of your phone's negative impact on

the environment happens before the first minute of use – before it is even unboxed.

Barbara Echlin
Green Christian Vice Chair
October 2026

PS On the subject of prayer. Green Christian will be praying on Zoom at 8am for ten minutes each day of the upcoming COP31 United Nations climate conference in Turkey. They welcome anyone who would like to join them. See the Green Christian website for registration details: https://greenchristian.org.uk/introduction/pray-with-us/



THOSE GIANT AUTUMN HOUSE SPIDERS

We've all been there – quietly relaxing at home, when suddenly a HUGE thing with LONG legs scuttles right by you. You can't help but jump, and, if you are normal, scream.

What just scared you was a fully grown adult male *Eratigena atrica*. They are among the largest spiders in Central and Northern Europe.

It has not just come in from the cold. It has been living warm and cosy, hidden in your house for weeks. Now it has left its dark hiding spot to race across your carpets and walls and bed with a definite purpose in mind: it is looking for love.

For autumn is mating time for the big spiders, and there are also females living in your house, safe and secure in cracks, lofts and behind furniture.

If you think giant house spiders are big, you are right. With a body length of 1.6cm, their leg span can commonly reach up to 7.5 cm. And heaven help you if you find you are sharing your house with a cardinal spider (*Tegenaria parietina)* – their bodies are up to 2cm long, and their long hairy legs can span up to 12cm. If *that* thing runs down the couch towards you, you'll notice it! And giant house spiders are fast. They can hit speeds of up to half a metre per second.

The good news is that giant house spiders are as scared of you as you are of them. They are disease-free, and their bite is extremely rare and harmless. They even pay their rent by eating your flies, mosquitoes, and other small bugs.

So, try and be kind to them, and let them live with you – they don't like the cold outside very much. Just lift your feet as they gallop across the carpet…

Source: Parish Pump
November 2026

IN PRAISE OF ORANGES

Do you like oranges? Big? small? easy to peel? or a bit more difficult to get into? They are delicious! Except – when they are not. All orange lovers will know that disappointing moment when they have begun to peel what looks like a perfect orange, only to find that inside it is rotten, marbled black and blemished.

It's a good picture of how we can live our lives. We can be seemingly perfect on the outside, but hiding, at least sometimes, some very dark parts, which we would not like our nearest and dearest to know about, let alone broadcast to the world at large. So it is good to know that we have a God who loves to lighten our darkness, to forgive our sin, and to set us on a right path, clean and whole.

But there's another side to oranges, too. Sometimes our patient peeling is rewarded by the most succulent sweetness; so much so we manage a long 'mmmm' as the juice overflows at the side of our mouths. It's a reminder of the invitation in Psalm 34 to 'taste and see that the Lord is good'.



For the Christian faith is strong on food symbols to help explain how good God is. He is 'sweeter than honey in the honeycomb' says Psalm 19. He gave the Israelites a "land of milk and honey". And of course, the bread and wine we take for our comfort at a Holy Communion service come most readily to mind. They are a foretaste of heaven, portrayed as a great feast. A feast. It's such an attractive image, with universal appeal - to foodies, to the starving, to those who no longer have to think about their figure, to the poor- and the invitation is to all. That's you, and me.

God's invitation is to let Him nourish us day by day. Is there a hunger in you to explore that simple invitation 'Taste and see that the Lord is good'? May God bless you as you feed on Him in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Revd Roy Shaw
Parish Pump, November 2026

REGULAR EVENTS

Martial Arts	Medieval sword fighting Monday 7pm - 9pm irondoorcollective.co.uk Contact the group on idcexeter@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

Sunday 15th November Safeguarding Sunday

Monday 23rd November at 7.15pm PCC Meeting

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

at St David's unless otherwise indicated

Friday 13th November at 8pm
Devon Philharmonic Orchestra present Mahler's *Sixth Symphony* in Exeter Cathedral

Saturday 14th November at 7pm
Exeter Bach Choir: *Out of the Deep*
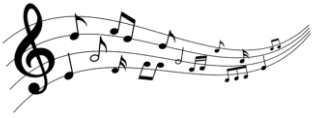
Saturday 21st November at 7.30pm
Exeter Chamber Choir present *Music and Majesty* in Buckfast Abbey

Saturday 21st November at 6.30pm
Exeter Philharmonic Choir and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra present *Carmina Burana* in the University Great Hall
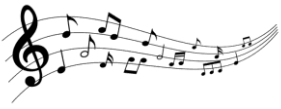
Saturday 21st November at 7pm
Fever Candlelight Concert: *Queen vs ABBA*

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

Saturday 28th November at 7pm
Torbay Singers present *An English Choral Journey* at St Matthias Church in Babbacombe, Torquay







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Cantata BWV4 – *Christ lag in Todes Banden*

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Programme of Talks – November 2026

Exeter Forum's programme of weekly talks for November 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 4 November	Ray Helm	**Human Trafficking** Human trafficking is a serious criminal offence, with a need to determine the actual status of each individual, i.e., either a victim or an illegal migrant. Ray was a senior police officer seconded to The Immigration Service. He had a dual-purpose role: one part training the service to deal with illegal migrants in the community, and the other was as deputy to the chief constable with responsibility for human trafficking.
Wednesday 11 November	Dr Tony Lidington	**Pierrot Heroes: The Evolution of British Seaside Entertainment.** Pierrot troupes and concert parties were ubiquitous throughout the seaside resorts of Britain, but what is a pierrot troupe? Where did they come from? How do they impact us today? Showman Tony will

		use unique archive materials from his vast personal collection to tell the story.
Wednesday 18 November	Andy Gallie	**From HMS to HMP.** The retiring High Sheriff advised us to invite Andy to tell us about his battle against addiction. Royal Navy Veteran Andy will tell his story - from the development of his gambling addiction to prison and subsequent rehabilitation.
Wednesday 25 November	Professor Dame Julia Slingo	**Climate Change – Risks and Management.** Dame Julia will update us on current risk characterisation and the management of climate change.





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- **Build confidence and take some time for yourself**
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When: First Tuesday of each month, 10:30am-12noon

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

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...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?

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Damp surveyor

Dom Rogers

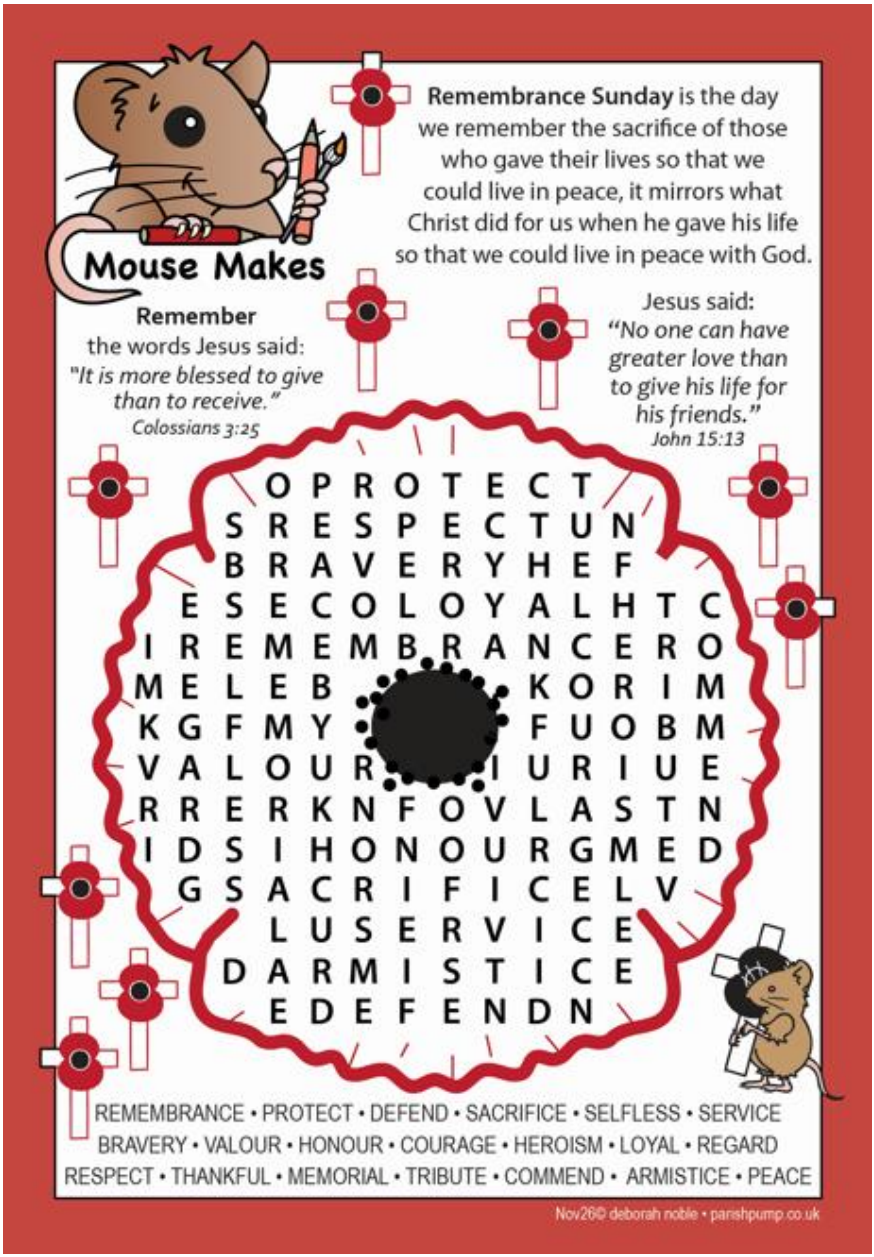
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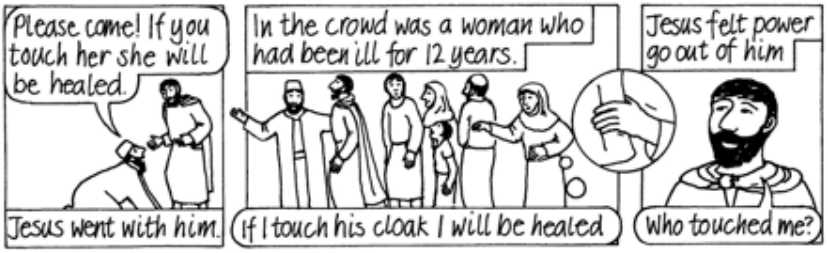

Mouse Makes
Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25
Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.
Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13
O P R O T E C T
S R E S P E C T U N
B R A V E R Y H E F
E S E C O L O Y A L H T C
I R E M E M B R A N C E R O
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...

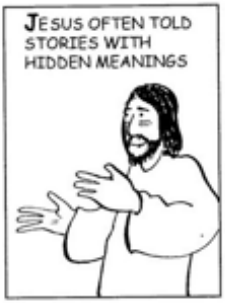


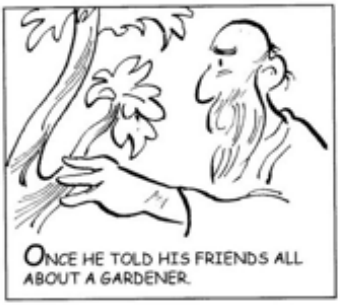






The gardener and the Vine







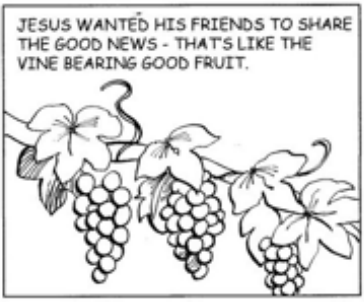


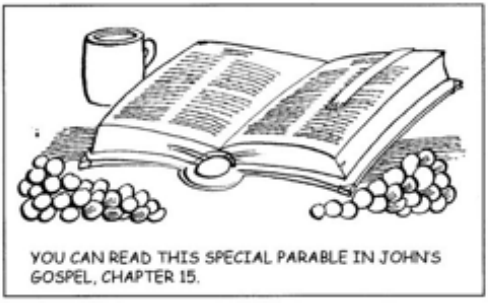












RECIPE CORNER



Brownies

These went down very well at our last PCC Meeting.



Ingredients:

- 300g dark (cooking) chocolate
- 175g salted butter
- 3 medium eggs
- 225g light muscovado sugar
- 1 tbsp dark treacle
- 75g self-raising flour (also fine with GF SR flour)
- ½ tsp baking powder
- Pinch of sea salt flakes
- 100g chopped salted roasted peanuts (optional)

Method:

- Preheat the oven to 190˚C. Grease and line a 27x18cm shallow baking tin with baking parchment.
- Put the chocolate, butter and treacle in a bowl over a pan of gently simmering water. Stir until it is melted and smooth.
- In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs and sugar until thick, smooth and frothy.
- Stir the slightly cooled melted chocolate mix into the egg mix, then add the flour and baking powder.
- Stir in the salt and half the nuts, then turn it all into the tin. Scatter with the remaining nuts.
- Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes until a sugary crust has formed but the mixture feels wobbly underneath.
- Leave to cool in the tin, then lift out and cut into squares.

Alice Francis
October 2026

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

PRAYER AND POETRY CORNER

Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion.

Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always.

In your name,
Amen.

by Daphne Kitching



POETRY

Remembrance

In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

by Megan Carter





The Gentle King

Christ the King – His gentle grace
Will not be found in halls of stone.
But in the still and quiet place
Where prayers are gathered, pleas made known.

His mighty hand holds sword nor spear,
No weapons fly at His command;
But earthly empires disappear
Crushed by faithful, prayerful hands.

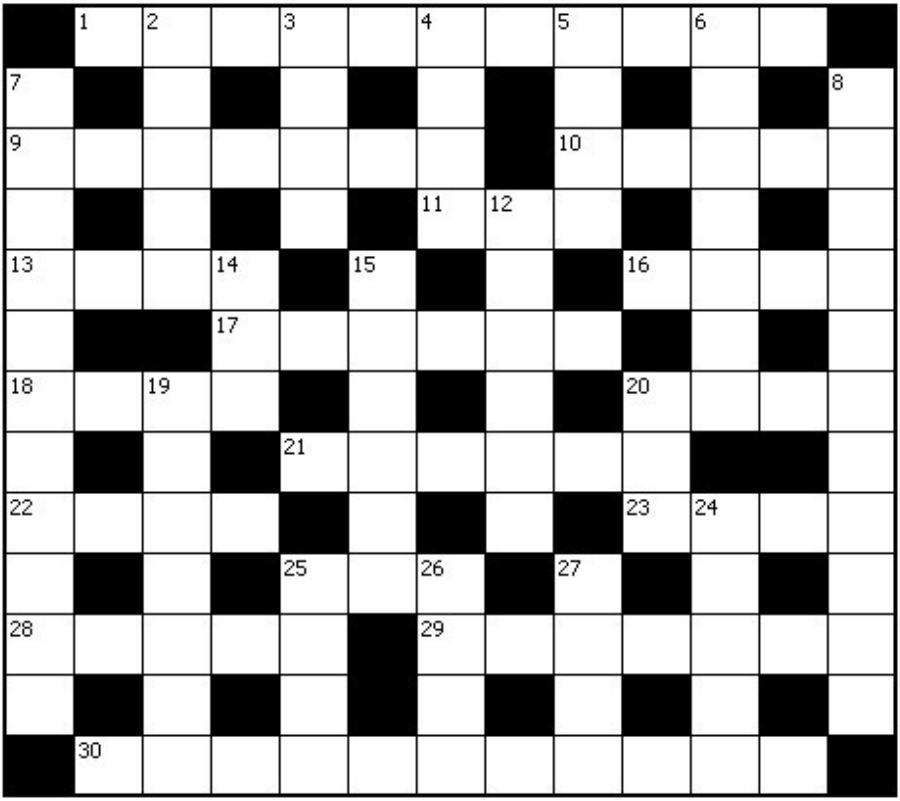
No crown of gold – His royal brow
Bore only crown of braided thorn;
Yet ev'ry knee to Him will bow
Every person ever born.

We come before our Sovereign King
We gaze upon His shining face.
How loud our Alleluias ring!
We're saved by His amazing grace!

By Nigel Beeton

CROSSWORD

Solution on Solutions Page



Across

1 and 20 Down ‘Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy’ (11,3)

9 Moses’ question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: ‘Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?” (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)

11 ‘At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay’ (3)

13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)

16 ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised’ (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter’s response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: ‘We must _God rather than men!’(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 ‘Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ ‘(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 ‘No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you’ (Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church’s calendar (11)

Down
2 ‘O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together’ Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 ‘For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Romans 6:23) (4)

SUDOKU (Medium)

Solution on Solutions Page

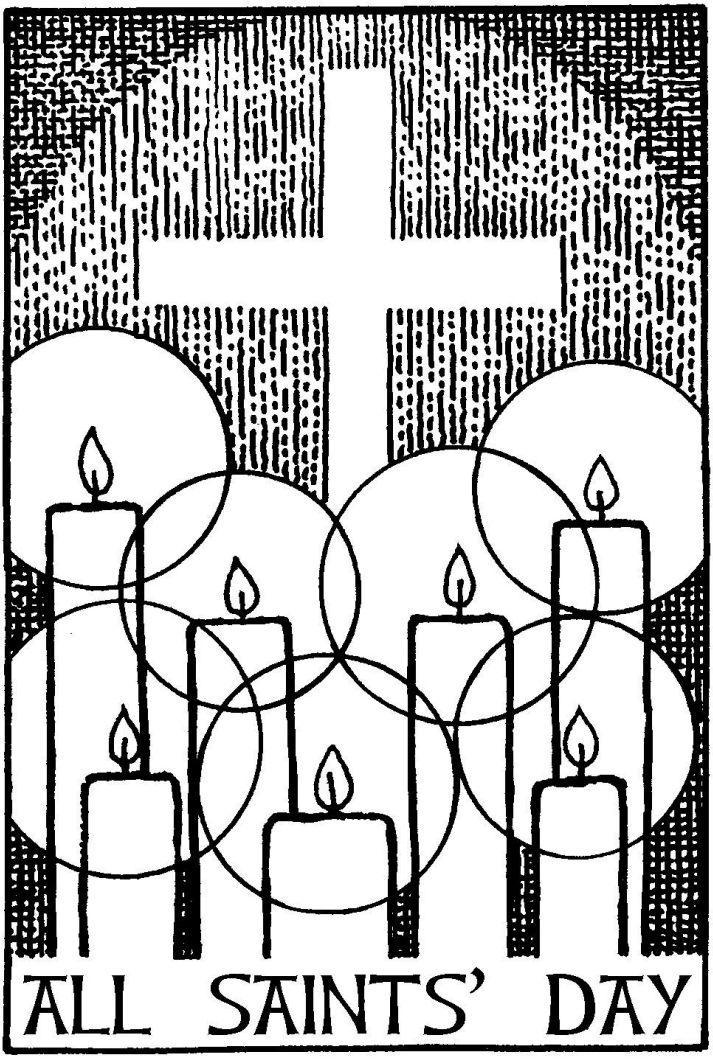
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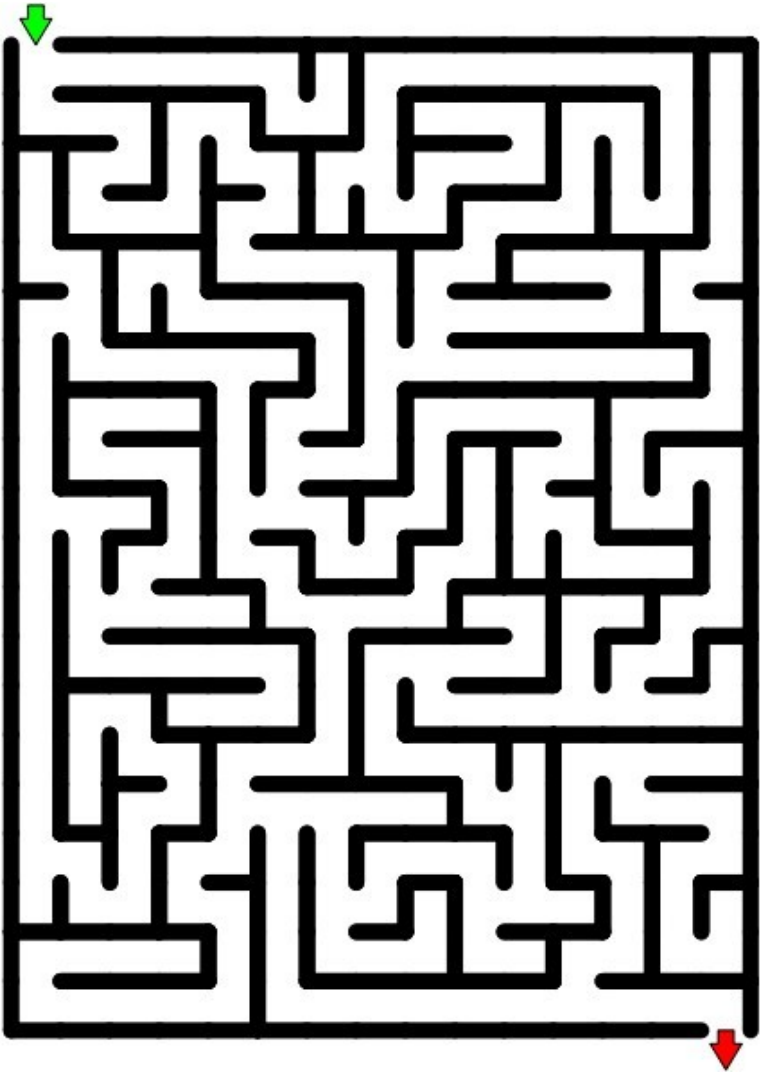
CREATIVE & MINDFUL MOMENT

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



AMAZING MAZE

Start top left and exit bottom right



GOD IN THE ARTS

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – the altar

In ‘The Temple’ the reader travels through the poems of George Herbert and makes a pilgrimage through the church to arrive finally at the altar where Love bids us welcome to make our communion.

For the poet and for us, the altar is a sign of Christ, His presence in the sacrament of His body and blood. During the Reformation, stone altars gave way to wooden holy tables, but in 1972 a stone altar was created for a London church that was designed not only as a sign of Christ, but as a reminder of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – the place where Abraham was ready to offer Isaac.

The altar is a focus of offering. Its sculptor was Henry Moore, who began the work 300 years after Sir Christopher Wren designed the new church of St Stephen, Walbrook in 1672. Neither artist was afraid of innovation and experimentation. Wren created one of the most beautiful and famous of London churches, admired throughout Europe, with its central dome carried on 12 columns. His concern was that in worship all should hear and see, just as Moore’s concern was to show the altar at the heart of the church, and consequently a church that is at the heart of the city.

The placing of that altar led to a lengthy court case in 1987, and opinions may still differ over this marriage of stone and building. But it remains a focus for offering and worship, just as the church of St Stephen stands nearly 350 years after it was rebuilt. Both take us in faith and prayer to an earlier age when Jesus shared a meal with His disciples in the Upper Room. We rejoice that the same Jesus welcomes us to the Eucharist now at this altar of St Stephen and at the altars of all our churches.

The Reverend Michael Burgess
Parish Pump
October 2026

SOLUTIONS PAGE



■	H	O	P	E	F	U	L	N	E	S	S	■
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4	2	8	5	6	1	9	7	3



QUOTES

With Remembrance Sunday in mind:

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. **-** *Aron Kilbourn*

War is a tragedy which commonly destroys the stage it is acted on.
- *Matthew Henry*

Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind.
- *John F Kennedy*

Miscellaneous observations:

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't. - *Henry Ward Beecher*

Piety means letting God bend your will, not just your knees. - *Anon*

SMILE LINES

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and they seemed to fascinate the youngster. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, the minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, “Does anyone know what the bishop does?”

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: “Isn’t he the one who moves diagonally?”

When children tell Bible stories (*real-life efforts that didn’t quite make it...)*

* St John, the blacksmith, dumped water on Jesus’ head.

* Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says: “Do one to others before they do one to you.”

* It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off of the entrance.

* The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

* One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taximan.

Miscellaneous observations

The only thing that wakes you up faster than coffee is spilled coffee.

About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.

An apology is the best way to have the last word.

I’m good at firework displays. I’ve got a flare for it.



DAYS OF NOTE IN NOVEMBER

1st November - International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

More than 360 million Christians worldwide face persecution in their home countries. This includes harassment, detention, legal restrictions, violence, torture, and even death for their faith in Jesus.

The Bible tells us to pray for those who are persecuted, as if we were ourselves mistreated. It says that if one member of the Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer (1 Cor. 12:26).

And so for more than two decades, the World Evangelical Alliance has organised the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). This has become a global event uniting hundreds of millions of Christians worldwide.

The day is held on the first Sunday in November, in order to align it with the liturgical season of All Hallowtide, which remembers both Christian saints and martyrs.

The IDOP is also supported by Open Doors, The Voice of the Martyrs, and Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSM), among others. More details at: https://idop.org/web/

11th November Saint Martin of Tours

When you next see someone who looks poor and cold this winter, think of Martin of Tours. A monk bishop born in Pannonia (now Hungary), he became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages.

Martin's father was a pagan officer in the Roman Army, and Martin was intended for the army as well. But from an early age Martin wanted to be a Christian, and felt that as a Christian he could not serve the Roman Empire. This early example of conscientious objection led to his imprisonment; he was not released until 357, when he was nearly 40.

One day Martin met a near-naked beggar. He took off his cloak, cut it in half and gave one half to the man. Soon after this, he had a dream in

which Christ appeared to him, wearing the half of the cloak that Martin had given away.

Martin was the pioneer of western monasticism: he founded the first monastery in Gaul around 360. By popular demand, he was made bishop of Tours in 372.

As bishop, Martin continued his simple life as a monk and evangelist. Christianity had been largely confined to the urban population centres, but Martin took it to the *pagani* (country-men). For the next 25 years he travelled his diocese by donkey and by boat. He was sought after for his healing prayers for the sick, and his defence of the faith.

In English art, Martin is often symbolised by a goose, whose annual migration is about this time of year. The phrase "St Martin's Summer" denotes a spell of fine weather that occurs around 11th November.

30th November Saint Andrew, patron saint of Scotland

The apostle Andrew (d. c.60) is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the first two disciples called by Jesus. "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt 4:18,19).

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always among the first four. Rather than being an outspoken leader like Peter, he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people. It was Andrew who introduced a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged the apostles to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8).

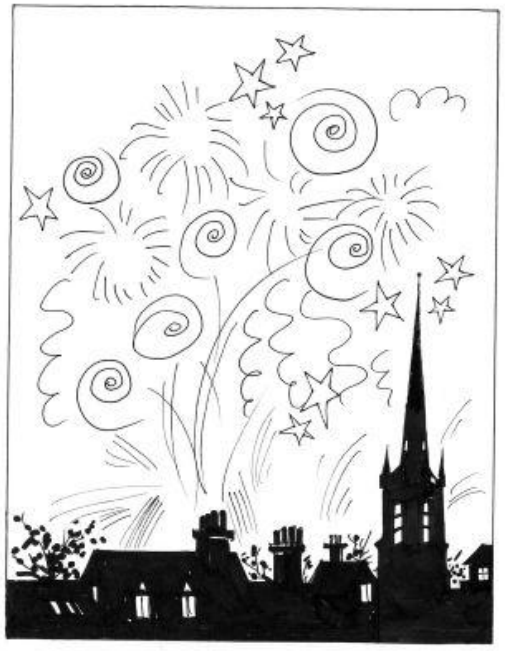
Like Jesus, Andrew was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to people about Jesus.

In the West, Andrew's feast day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland? According to one legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland

in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelisation and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461 – where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peter's – until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.

The most ancient works of art depict Andrew with a Latin cross. The saltire cross ('X'), commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, became associated with him from the 10th century.



Many thanks to contributors to this edition!

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the next issue of New Leaves (December/January) is:

Sunday 15th November 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

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

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