

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



50p

November 2020

## ***From the Editor***

Are you feeling a little *acedia* at the moment? The editorial word of the month was once used by John Cassian, a fifth century monk and theologian, to explain the state that those living a sort of hermit life faced. He described it thus “*such bodily listlessness and yawning hunger as though he were worn by a long journey or a prolonged fast ... Next he glances about and sighs that no one is coming to see him. Constantly in and out of his cell, he looks at the sun as if it were too slow in setting*”. The word came to mean a sort of spiritual listlessness when used in English but has long been out of fashion. Lockdown or Tier 3 or whatever we have to call it might not be the same as living in a cave in the desert but it is the closest that many of us are going to get. In Cassian’s time *acedia* was actually seen as the biggest challenge facing these solitary holy men and women and for many of us right now it is the same. So if today was like Groundhog Day (again) take a deep breath, randomly choose a Psalm to read, watch Songs of Praise on catch up and sing along, phone a friend, bake a cake and just tell God how you feel.

Early fifth century monasticism is a bit niche so no more of that although Sharon does keep us in the first millennium with her Saint. Elsewhere this month we have a further reflection from Isabel and Peter takes us down memory lane. News of a new Curate, another Golden Wedding anniversary and your usual features make up the November edition.

As you know next month is the last edition of the magazine. That means it is your very last chance to have something published. So please send any reminiscences, reflections, wishes for Christmas and 2021 or anything suitable to print by 16 November. The editorial email is below or post to 159 Marsland Road, M33 3WE. Writing something will even help your *acedia*.

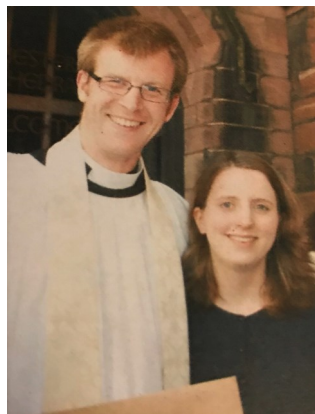
Be blessed

**The Editor**

(brooklandsmag@gmail.com)

## Richard writes...

No sooner than October ends does November begin with two significant feast days: All Saints on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and All Souls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. All Saints Day is also known as All Hallows, and for this reason the 31<sup>st</sup> October is called Halloween, or “the Eve of All Hallows”. It is also the time of year that many churches hold an All Souls commemoration, a special service to remember those who have died. On these three days the church reflects on death and resurrection, light and darkness. They are an opportunity to remind ourselves - and others - of the hope we have and the reason for it. It also provides a time to think about how we can shine the light of Christ to our friends and neighbours.



As such, All Saints Day has been one of the four principal feast days on which baptisms are particularly appropriate (the others being Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost). Baptism symbolises our death as we are united with Christ and become incorporated into the ‘communion of saints’ comprising all Christians, past as well as present. Contrary to popular misunderstanding, saints are not a special class of spiritual superheroes. Everyone who has been baptized is a saint; a friend of God, a member of God’s family who seeks to follow Jesus in all they do.

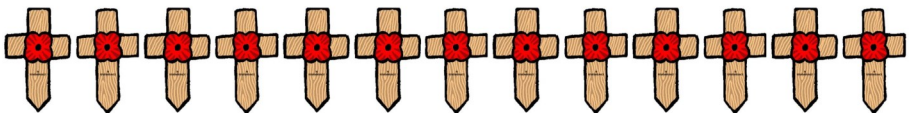
The origin of All Souls day is intimately connected with the concept of purgatory. The idea is that when someone dies their soul isn’t pure enough to go to heaven and so it goes to a place where it can be purified, ready for heaven. This place is purgatory, an intermediate stage between earth and heaven: the living on earth, the saints in heaven, and the souls in purgatory awaiting their release. It became taught that it was possible for the living to reduce the time the souls spent in purgatory by praying for them, holding services of Communion for them (a Requiem Mass), and this all forms the backdrop to All Souls Day. Communion would be celebrated on All Souls on behalf of those whose names were read, as a means of reducing the time they spend in purgatory.

As I mentioned above, there has been a tendency in recent years for churches to hold special services to provide pastoral care to bereaved families by reading out the names of loved ones who have died and providing an opportunity to light a candle. The question I have been reflecting on is whether All Souls provides the most appropriate context for this.

In his book *Surprised by Hope* Tom Wright has written a thought-provoking section in which he challenges the contemporary church to think carefully about how we can remember the dead in a way that expresses genuine hope, a hope that is firmly rooted in Jesus' triumph over death through his resurrection. His suggestion echoes my own, which is to do this at Easter and All Saints. This will mean that we can provide space to grieve within the context of Christian hope. It also helps answer the questions: "should we pray for the dead?", "why?", and "for what"? I love Tom Wright's answer: 'once we rule out purgatory, I see no reason why we should not pray for and with the dead, and every reason why we should - not that they will get out of purgatory, but that they will be refreshed, and filled with God's joy and peace.'

At a time when much of what we see on the TV and read in the papers is bad news, let us remind ourselves that as Christians we have the best news ever. Jesus Christ has conquered the grave and we can know the power of Jesus' resurrection in our lives! How will you shine a light of hope this November? May you and all whom you know be filled with God's joy and peace this Allhallowtide!

*Richard*



## Lee Wood Introduction



Hello St. John's! My name is Lee (or David) Wood and it is with great excitement and anticipation that I introduce myself as the new parish Curate. I am due to start with you next year after my ordination of 4<sup>th</sup> July. I look forward to meeting some of you before then if social distancing allows us to but I will make every effort to come and say hello at some point in the future.

So, a little about me. I'm married to Sophie and we have 2 daughters.

Nicole age 9 and Bella age 3. I grew up in the Timperley area and before being called to ministry I served with Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service as a Watch Commander and I worked on ambulances as an Advanced Trauma Practitioner. I am currently completing my theological studies at St. Mellitus College, based at Liverpool Cathedral as a full-time student whilst working in the parish of Timperley on placement.

Although from a Catholic background I'd like to think I have a modern approach to ministry that is quite varied. Believing in service to local communities and to ultimately reach out to those on the margins in order to bring them the Good News of Jesus Christ. Although the idea of ordination and the thought of becoming "Father" Lee is exciting, it is also still quite unbelievable. God is good, but your prayers over the coming months as I continue my studies and as we arrange to move into the parish would be greatly appreciated. Exciting times can quite often prove to be nervous and unsettling times but after talking this post through with Richard I really do feel called to Brooklands and I can't think of a better place to continue my development and to serve the people of God over the next few years. I look forward to the day when we meet and I hope you will continue to hold me in your prayers as I hold you all in mine.

God Bless - Lee (I do answer to David)

## A time to remember ...

Isabel writes

We have had plenty of time for reflection these past months ..not least to remember how things used to be before lockdown!

In the early days, you may have decided to use the time in lockdown to spring clean, to declutter, to sort through boxes of 'stuff' ... the jobs you had promised yourself you would tackle, but never seemed to find the time or the inclination to begin.

I made many plans! The process of my decluttering has brought back lots of memories ...of happy days and sad times too. I have spent lots of time re-living experiences, pondering over photographs, reading diaries, letters and notebooks, re-discovering many keepsakes with stories to tell! I've made piles of books, (I know I have far too many! ) and have taken some to the Oxfam shop, but there are still too many left! I confess that I now have more boxes to sort than when I started, but I maintain that this is a work in progress. Perhaps during the winter months, I'll update my plans!

In recent days, as we keep in touch with each other, conversations inevitably turn to living with the coronavirus. In this difficult time of uncertainty and worry it is so important that we look after each other. A friendly voice and some time to share our thoughts and feelings can make such a difference. It is surprising how sharing memories can uplift the soul. "Do you remember when ...?" How many times has that question led to laughter at ourselves and situations we found ourselves in.

It is good to share our memories of times when we have felt God's presence in our lives, and also when we have had doubts and questioned our faith. During my decluttering I came across a box of our 'Tuesday at Two' prayer and discussion leaflets. I enjoyed chatting with Brenda Shields and Hazel Farrington recently, both founding members of the Prayer Group. We agreed that our weekly gatherings for just over ten years were special!

The following detail from our meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012, may encourage us again today:

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012, was the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of Michelangelo's frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. So we thought it appropriate, at our next meeting to reflect on perhaps the most iconic image from that wonderful work ... the finger of God reaching out to the finger of Adam.



The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, then Bishop of Reading, provided an excellent conclusion to our lively and interesting discussion. We read how he once received a Christmas card which, against the backdrop of a twinkling star filled sky, showed two hands reaching out and clasping each other. Underneath the text read: 'faith is holding your hand out in the dark and knowing it is held'.

*Extracts from his sermon ....*

"Brothers and sisters, I beg to disagree. Faith is not certainty. The opposite of faith isn't doubt, but no faith at all. To have faith is to live *with* doubt and to live *by* trust. When you are baptised or confirmed you are not asked, 'Are you absolutely certain about God and his Son Jesus Christ?', but 'Do you believe and trust?' Believing and trusting is a different sort of knowing. We do not know God in quite the same way as we know that two and two is four, that the sun rises in the east .... faith is not holding your hand out in the dark and knowing it is held. Faith is holding your hand out in the dark and *trusting* it is held.

..... we need to know and share our faith with others. We need to give simple testimony to the fact that even though there are dark times in our lives when we feel bereft or alone; in this darkness we have known that God is present with us."

I, the Lord, your God,  
hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you,  
'Do not fear, I will help you.'  
Isaiah 41: 13

## Hymns We've Sung Recently: To Be a Pilgrim

As is now the case we haven't sung this but on, seeing the title, I'm sure you are at least now humming the tune. It was played a few weeks ago on the Radio Manchester Sunday Service so is at least one you could have sung along to recently. For me, it is a hymn I always associate with school and it takes me back to those days. It is of course much older. Attributed to John Bunyan it appeared as a poem in Pilgrim's Progress. John Bunyan never sang it as it was not turned into a hymn until 1906 by Percy Dearmer. In fact John Bunyan belonged to a sect that didn't sing hymns at all so possibly wouldn't have approved. The words we use now exclude some of Bunyan's more robust words. Verse 3 makes reference to hobgoblins and foul fiends rather than our more sanitised version. I'm fairly sure that as a schoolboy I'd have preferred the original version. The hymn was given a tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams and is much loved.

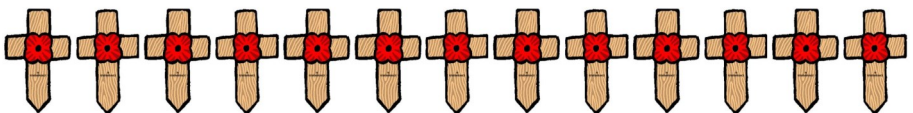
*He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster  
Let him in constancy follow the Master  
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim*

*Who so beset him round with dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound - his strength the more is  
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight  
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim*

*Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit  
We know we at the end, shall life inherit  
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say  
I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim*

The Hymn was played at the funeral of the former Prime Minister, baroness hatcher, and you can find it on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a0otP1BWIU>





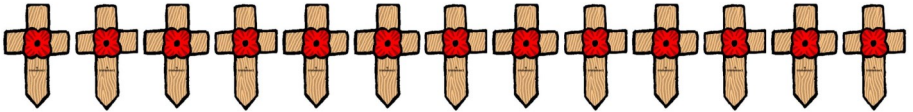
## YET ANOTHER GOLDEN WEDDING

Who can say they met in a cave?? Phil and I met, through mutual friends, at a Youth Fellowship weekend in Castleton, Derbyshire in March 1967. Engaged in Aug 1968, we married at St Luke's, Weaste (the stunning Gilbert Scott church on the hill in Salford) in September 1970.

We settled in Tyldesley near Leigh where we were very happy bringing up our two boys, Paul 47 and Rob 42. They - and us - have been richly blessed with five wonderful grandchildren under seven: Jack and George were baptised at St Johns where we all truly feel we belong to this lovely church's family.

We were lucky to be able to celebrate with them all recently at Center Parcs : even social distancing couldn't quell the excitement of golden balloons and streamers!

**Jean and Phil Makins**



## Lord, prop us up!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The famer replied: "Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

## Memories of Saint John's Mens' Society 1970-1980

Peter Roberts reminisces

As our editor mentioned in the October magazine, 1970 saw the launch of a Mens' Society at Saint John's. It was felt that the womenfolk of the parish had more opportunity to socialise than the menfolk and that the Society would help remedy this.

The programme was a monthly meeting in the Hut on the mid-month Monday, when a speaker would give a talk, followed by a general chat over a cup of tea. This was not always the case, sometimes slides were shown or a general discussion took place, topics recalled included "Should the church advertise"; "Should the Church get involved in politics"; and "Should women priests be admitted" (this was the 1970s!). Other occasions saw a visit to the Vicar's (Rev E Buckley) printing press to learn of its use and a look around the church organ and hearing Mr Edees playing various works.

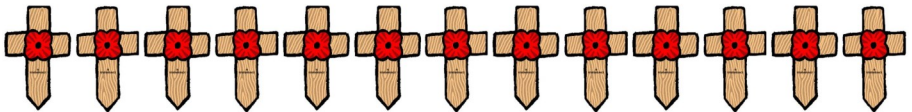
I was invited along by Ken Ellis, I think it was the second meeting on 14th of September 1970, when a speaker was considering the problem of the Palestinian refugees. With visitors supporting both Palestine and Israel present, the meeting became decidedly lively! However, the following meetings dealing with church unity, bee-keeping and mountain rescue respectively established a more peaceful pattern.

A four-month break took place each summer and the suggestion was made that we should do something to keep in touch. Arrangements were completed and a ride out by coach was made. With guests we visited and said Compline at Daresbury (1973) and Great Budworth going via Warburton Old Church (1974). In 1975 our regular driver, John Miller, welcomed us to his church, Poynton Baptist, then thriving and expanding. 1976 saw us visit Rosthere and Grappenhall. The Society also helped prepare the garden of the Curate's house for a new tenant. Here the agility of members was shown when our bonfire threatened to become out of control! Another occasion saw us taking part in a bowls match-was it with St Anne's?- the result of which is best long since forgotten.

Initially the Society was under the control of a very enthusiastic Felix Paget (“there’s a three line whip out for attendance”, was how a fellow member put it). However, he moved away and was replaced by Dr John Halliday. After a while John invited four members to form a committee to run the Society, I was invited and accepted. I don’t know if it was something I said, but my three companions each shortly retired and left the district. With considerable help I took charge for a while before passing the buck to Stanley Barlow.

In the later days of the Society our main problem was the lack of numbers attending, it was embarrassing to ask someone to come and speak to so small a number of people. In spite of valiant efforts, Stan had no more success than I and when only the two of us attended the AGM in September 1980, we decided to call it a day.

Was the Society successful? Well, we learned much from the interesting talks we heard, a spirit of comradeship was established and we were able to give some help to St John’s, so I feel to some extent it was.



## St Edmund (Eadmund) 841-69

Edmund was once the patron saint of England. He led an army against the Vikings in 849, he being King of East Anglia at the time. Later in his life, as Edmund wouldn't denounce his Christian faith, he was murdered, probably with arrows. There is a legend, that he had his head cut off and thrown into a forest, where it was found, being guarded by a wolf. Edmund was buried, with his head and a chapel built over his grave. The body was later found to be incorrupt and transferred in 915 to Bedricsworth (now Bury St Edmunds). Edmund's remains were moved several times, finally in 925 King Athelstan commissioned a community of monks to protect the shrine.

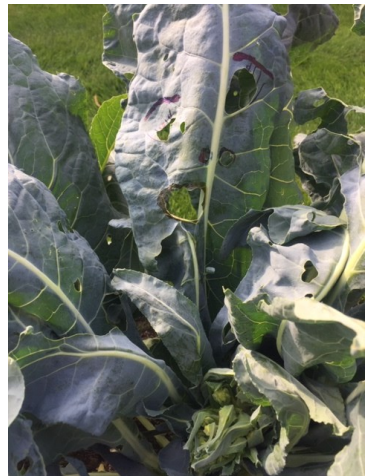
Edmund appears in several paintings, notably the Wilton Diptych (see below), where he is shown presenting Richard II to the virgin and child.

Feast 20 November



## Harvest Displays

Thanks to Lynda Tatersall for the picture of her Harvest Display. The other picture was from Mrs Editor and I'm not entirely sure if it was meant to be taken seriously but better to be on the safe side...



*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this month he considers ‘*

**He gave us eyes to see them: Tobias, the angel and the dog, by Andrea del Verrochio**

‘He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.’

Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a reassuring, dependable presence in so many ways.

A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a companion. It is the theme of this month’s painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrochio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father’s blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel’s arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While ‘dog’ is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life. Dostoevsky wrote ‘Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.’ We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.



## If the World Were a Village of 100 People...

If we could turn the population of the earth into a small community of 100 people, keeping the same proportions we have today, it would look something like this...

**ETHNICITY** 61 Asians; 13 Africans; 12 Europeans; 8 North Americans; 5 South Americans & the Caribbean; 1 from Oceania.

**GENDER**: 50 male; 50 female.

**RELIGION**: 33 are Christian; 21 are Muslims; 13 are Hindus; 6 are Buddhists; 1 is Sikhs; 1 is Jewish; 11 practice other religions; 11 are non-religious; 3 are Atheists.

**SKIN COLOUR**: 70 non-white; 30 white.

**LANGUAGE**: 17 speak Chinese; 9 speak English; 8 speak Hindi; 6 speak Russian; 6 speak Spanish; 4 speak Arabic; 50 speak other languages.

**FOOD**: 30 would always have enough to eat (15 would be overweight); 50 would be malnourished; 20 would be undernourished (1 would be dying of starvation).

**FREEDOMS**: 48 can't speak, act according to their faith and conscience due to harassment, imprisonment, torture or death; 52 can. 20 live in fear of death by bombardment, armed attack, landmines, or of rape or kidnapping by armed groups. 80 do not.

**EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY**: 12 are unable to read; 1 has a college degree; 12 own a computer; 8 have an internet connection.

**HEALTH**: 12 are disabled; 1 adult has HIV/AIDS.

**LIVING STANDARDS**: 43 live without basic sanitation; 20 have no clean, safe water to drink; 80 live in substandard housing; 68 breathe clean air; 32 breathe polluted air'

**MONEY**: 6 people own 59% of the world's wealth (all of them from the United States); 74 people own 39%; 20 people share the remaining 2%; 21 people live on \$1.25 (US) per day or less; The village spend \$1.24 trillion (US) on military expenditures; \$100 billion (US) on development aid.

If you keep your food in a refrigerator, your clothes in a wardrobe, if you have a bed to sleep in and a roof over your head you are richer than 75% of the entire world population.  
Appreciate what you have & do your best for a better world.

*(NB There are a number of variants on this some with graphics that can be found online. This version as taken from <https://usm.maine.edu/international/if-world-were-village-100-0>)*



## ***And in case you thought there were no funnies...***

Some Tim Vine one liners.

“I rang up British Telecom and said: ‘I want to report a nuisance caller.’ He said: ‘Not you again.’”

“The advantages of easy origami are two-fold.”

“I rang up my local swimming baths. I said: ‘Is that the local swimming baths?’ He said: ‘It depends where you’re calling from.’”

“I said to the gym instructor: ‘Can you teach me to do the splits?’ He said: ‘How flexible are you?’ I said: ‘I can’t make Tuesdays.’”

“This policeman came up to me with a pencil and a piece of very thin paper. He said, ‘I want you to trace someone for me.’”

“I met this bloke with a didgeridoo and he was playing Dancing Queen on it. I thought, ‘that’s Abba-riginal.’”

“I’ve decided to sell my Hoover - it was just collecting dust.”

“You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen, it said ‘Parking Fine.’ So that was nice.”

“I’m so lazy I’ve got a smoke alarm with a snooze button.”

“I went to buy a watch, and the man in the shop said ‘Analogue?’ I said ‘No, just a watch.’”

“I was in this restaurant and I asked for something herby. They gave me a Volkswagen with no driver.”

“I met the bloke who invented crosswords today. I can’t remember his name, it’s P-something T-something R...”

“Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels.”

“I went to a Pretenders concert. It was a tribute act.”

“I went into a shop and I said, ‘Can someone sell me a kettle?’ The bloke said ‘Kenwood?’ I said, ‘Where is he?’”

“I went in to a pet shop. I said, ‘Can I buy a goldfish?’ The guy said, ‘Do you want an aquarium?’ I said, ‘I don’t care what star sign it is.’”

“He said ‘I’m going to chop off the bottom of one of your trouser legs and put it in a library’. I thought ‘That’s a turn-up for the books.’”

## From the Archive

### November 1920

The letter this month began by thanking those who contributed to the Harvest Thanksgiving services. It seems that the plea for additional monetary gifts had been heard and a considerable amount had been raised at those services. An important part of the letter was a discussion of the role of the Parochial Church Council. You may remember that this was a very new innovation, so new that the authority and responsibilities of the PCC had not yet been determined and were under consideration in Parliament. The legislation had to deal with “the thorny question of patronage and appointment of the incumbent, church finances, election and status of churchwarden’s, allocation of offertories and ordering and alteration of divine service”. These were quite far reaching proposals and would give much more power to a newly elected PCC. As part of the preparations for this the Register of Electors was being urgently updated.

The magazine would not be complete without reference to the forthcoming Bazaar and further details were given about stall holders meeting and the final preparation.

A final point was the fact that in 1920 the two minute silence was implemented as an annual event on Armistice Day. This had happened in 1919 when, in the words of Reverend Bethel Jones, “it certainly quickened the imagination of all our people last year, and is a very fitting reminder to us all of the great sacrifice of the past years”.

### November 1970

Reverend Buckley's letter this month was a plea for help for the church Christmas Fair. It was left to the Curate, Mr Jones, to provide something with more meat. He discussed our reluctance to change at church and gave an example of how much people enjoy going to a different church while on holiday. Yet when they come back loyalty to tradition and possibly mental lethargy inhibit change and we prefer the familiar. He described the work of the Joint Liturgical Group and showed how different denominations had more in common than they had differences. He noted that the recent changes to the communion service had come from the work of this group and stressed that this was not change for changes sake but based on solid scholarship and looking back at the sources and roots of our church. He concluded by saying “we must pray that we can be open-minded and childlike enough to judge without fear and prejudice all that the future will bring to the church”. As we contemplate continued disruption to services as a result of Covid we would do well to remind ourselves of this and not cling to the desire for ‘normal’ church.

The magazine also contained a report on the Harvest Festival. It noted that the church was beautifully decorated with fruit and flowers. The writer commented that while we might seem rather remote from harvesting, living in crowded cities, it was still a good thing once a year to give thanks for what we enjoy. It was reported that over 200 parcels were given out across the Parish, including one to an elderly lady who had not been out of her home for 18 weeks. The recipients were all appreciative and those delivering had the pleasure of talking to someone new. The young people of the church were also active enjoying a youth weekend at Crawshawbooth when 15 recently confirmed members of the congregation spent time there together. Whatever they had learned they put into action because on the 15th of November they were scheduled to conduct evening worship.

## **The Pilgrimage of Life**

Our brother Jesus, you set our feet upon the way and sometimes where you lead we do not like it or understand.

Bless us with courage where the way is fraught with dread or danger;

Bless us with graceful meetings where the way is lonely;

Bless us with good companions where the way demands a common cause;

Bless us with night vision where we travel in the dark, keen hearing where we have no sight, to hear the reassuring sounds of fellow travellers;

Bless us with humour - we cannot travel lightly- weighed down with gravity;

Bless us with humility to learn from those around us;

Bless us with decisiveness where we must move with speed;

Bless us with lazy moments, to stretch and rest and savour;

Bless us with love, given and received;

And bless us with your presence, even when we know it in your absence.

Lead us into exile,

until we find that on the road

is where you are,

and where you are is going home.

Bless us, lead us, love us, bring us home

bearing the gospel of life

*Kathy Galloway (Iona Community)*

## Helping people cope with loss

Bereavement at any time is hard. Bereavement during a period of isolation with restricted movement and limited contact with family and friends is so much harder. During the global coronavirus pandemic many thousands in the UK have faced the loss of someone they know.

‘Loss and HOPE’ was launched just before the Covid-19 crisis to enable the Church to respond effectively with support for those who are grieving. This timely coalition between HOPE Together, Care for the Family, the Church of England and At A Loss, is developing support for the increased numbers of people who are bereaved at this time. The church-facing website [lossandhope.org](http://lossandhope.org) is gathering ideas from Christians across the country to help churches support the bereaved. ‘Loss and HOPE’ is also connecting Christians who are experts in supporting people who are bereaved, to run the Bereavement Journey course.

This tried and tested six-session course uses films and discussion, which help to guide people through the most common aspects of grief. It is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, and it offers an optional session with the Christian perspective.

To find out more about the course visit [www.thebereavementjourney.org](http://www.thebereavementjourney.org) or contact [projectleader@lossandhope.org](mailto:projectleader@lossandhope.org) for more information.

It is intended to start delivery of this course in the Sale area in January. Due to the expected restrictions on meeting it will be offered via zoom.

## Sarah Jane Higgins

**23 March 1966-17 September 2020**

David, Wendy, their son Richard and all the family, would like to thank the Revd. Richard Sherratt and the members of the St Johns’ family for the prayers and words of comfort in their sad loss. Sarah will be greatly missed and they appreciate that they are in your thoughts.

Love to all our friends

**Wendy and David**

## Poppy Appeal 2020

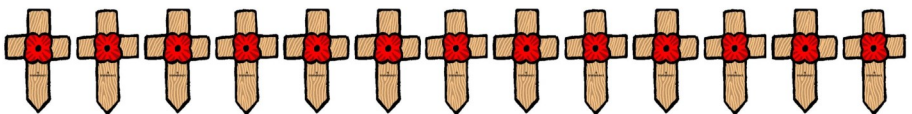
Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be ‘point of sale donations’. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: “The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead”, but that “the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised “not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present.”

And yet the need is still huge: “Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid -19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them.”



## "Have you a computer problem? If so, I am local and here to help..."

Here are just a few of the services I can offer

- Virus removal and health checks
- Internet & Email set up
- New computer installations
- Upgrades & repairs
- Help and advice on how to get the best out of your computer
- Back up & data recovery
- Training & support
- Laptop & computer repairs
- I can supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices and include data transfer, full set up & full guidance

Quite simply my aim is to provide an effective, quick, reliable and friendly service without unnecessary jargon.

**I CAN SUPPLY COMPUTERS & LAPTOPS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES & INCLUDE SET UP, DATA TRANSFER & GUIDANCE**

DO GIVE ME A CALL NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE. I AM HERE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.

**STOP PRESS!!!** Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using XP, do give me a call for FREE & independent advice.

*"Your service is very good, it is good to know someone is available to help & understands we are not all experts."*  
G Singer, Sale

*"It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none."*  
Vivian, Sale



### **Mel's Computer Care Ltd**

Sale, Manchester, UK

Local (Sale) 0161 977 0107

Mobile 07901 553 848

info@melscomputercare.co.uk

www.melscomputercare.co.uk

Registered in England, Reg No 7417728, Registered Office; Christian Douglas LLP, Manchester M15 4PY

## Noah and the Ark - 2020 version

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, "Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. "Noah", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?" "Forgive me Lord", begged Noah "but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

"The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can't build the Ark until they've conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can't use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species. "So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. "No need for me to destroy the world after all," observed God. "The government has the matter already in hand."



**Helping Hands**

Care and Nursing at Home

Est. 1987

## Looking for support at home?

With over 30 years' experience in caring for people within their own home, and a commitment to using only directly employed carers, we have the expertise to provide the best care possible from 30 minutes to full-time live-in care.

- Award-winning team
- Fully managed service
- Dementia specialists
- 100+ branches nationwide
- Fully regulated by CQC & CIW
- Care can start within 24 hours

**Looking for home care or a job in care?**

Call our specialist team on

**For more information**

Visit our website

[www.helpinghands.co.uk](http://www.helpinghands.co.uk)



# E&M

## GARAGE

## DOORS

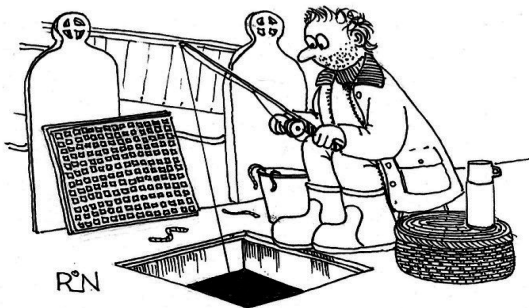


**Phil & Gill Etherington**

**GARAGE DOOR SPECIALISTS**

**Free Quotations**

**0161 962 0924**



*Quarantining in church had its drawbacks. Two days in, the biscuits were gone, and Rupert was hungry.*

## Online Version

The online version has full colour and some added content. Do take a look and please pass on the link to friends and family via whatever social media you use. It can be found on the Church website.

Stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk and look under the 'Contacts and Links' tab..

## **Lockdown Research**

### **In praise of peanut butter**

One quirky change of life under Covid-19 is that for some reason, we are eating more peanut butter. According to a recent report in *The Grocer*, sales of the stuff rose by 35.5 per cent in the Spring. Peanut butter producer Kirstie Hawkins (Whole Earth brand) is delighted. "Peanut butter offers an easy way to add more nutrition to breakfast and snack choices."

### **Diamonds are for lockdown...**

Here's an unexpected outcome of Covid-19: it has inspired more of us to get engaged. Engagement rings sales have risen this year, in some firms by up to 73 per cent, a survey of various jewellery firms has discovered. When, at the beginning of lockdown, Dr Jenny Harries, the deputy chief medical officer, suggested that couples could get round the coming isolation by moving in together, it seems that many listened to her. They decided to give it a go and 'test the strength of their relationship.' "A lot of people have now resolved to go ahead and tie the knot," said one jeweller. "Perhaps they are thinking: 'life's too short, let's go for it'."

### **Spare a thought for your furry friend**

Many dogs have struggled to adjust to the changes that Covid-19 has brought to their owners this year, according to the Dogs Trust. For one thing, coronavirus has meant greatly reduced walkies for many dogs, more people around the house all day, less quiet for rest, and little or no contact with other dogs. No wonder that the Dogs Trust has reported that 82 per cent of owners have reported an increase in barking or whining.

### **Nurture your friendships**

Lockdown has damaged our social life, so badly that many of our friendships may not be the same for up to a year after lockdown. And although Zoom is 'extremely good' at slowing down the rate of a friendship's decay, 'nothing on earth is going to stop a relationship quietly sliding away, if you don't once in a while meet up physically.'" So warns an Oxford University academic, Robin Dunbar, who is an evolutionary psychology professor. He was talking to BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

# The Parish Church of

*St. John the Divine, Brooklands*

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,  
In the Province of York*

Website: [www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk)

Due to current restrictions, normal Sunday Services are suspended but opportunities to worship both in the Church building and online are available. Booking and online access details are given in the weekly notice sheet. If you do not receive this then please contact Rev. Richard Sherratt by email [vicarbrooklands@gmail.com](mailto:vicarbrooklands@gmail.com)

## 9.30am A spoken Communion in Church.

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions this is by ticket only. A link to book is sent out in the weekly update.

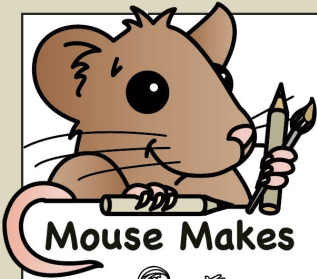
10.30am Online worship.

11.15am Zoom Coffee.

If you wish to pray privately in Church please contact Richard.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

		<u>Telephone</u>
VICAR	Revd Richard Sherratt <a href="mailto:vicarbrooklands@gmail.com">vicarbrooklands@gmail.com</a>	973 5220
READER	David Newton	973 8145
CHURCH WARDEN	Caroline Windle	610 3956
CHURCH WARDEN	Philip Dykes	905 2212
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Janet Hunter	
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Angela Mather	282 7656
ASSISTANT WARDEN (Health And Safety)	Simon Mather	282 7656
AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS (PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY)		
	Isabel Bryce	980 5762
	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Vacancy	
ORGANISTS	Katie Jones	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Carys Pugh	973 5111
MOTHERS' UNION	Sharon Marlow	973 0880
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mary Webster	973 9916
MAGAZINE EDITOR	John Vaughan	610 2453
		<a href="mailto:brooklandsmag@gmail.com">brooklandsmag@gmail.com</a>
MAGAZINE SECRETARY	Sharon Marlow	973 0880
PCC SECRETARY	Susan Wildman	973 6892
SOCIAL COORDINATOR	Carys Pugh	973 5111
HALL BOOKINGS	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
CARETAKER	Vacancy	
SCOUTS etc.	Clive Winby	973 6507
GUIDES etc.	Jackie Eastwood	976 4613
BROWNIES	Janet Shaw	973 8238
BEAVERS & CUBS	Greg Hart	07506 584579



## REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

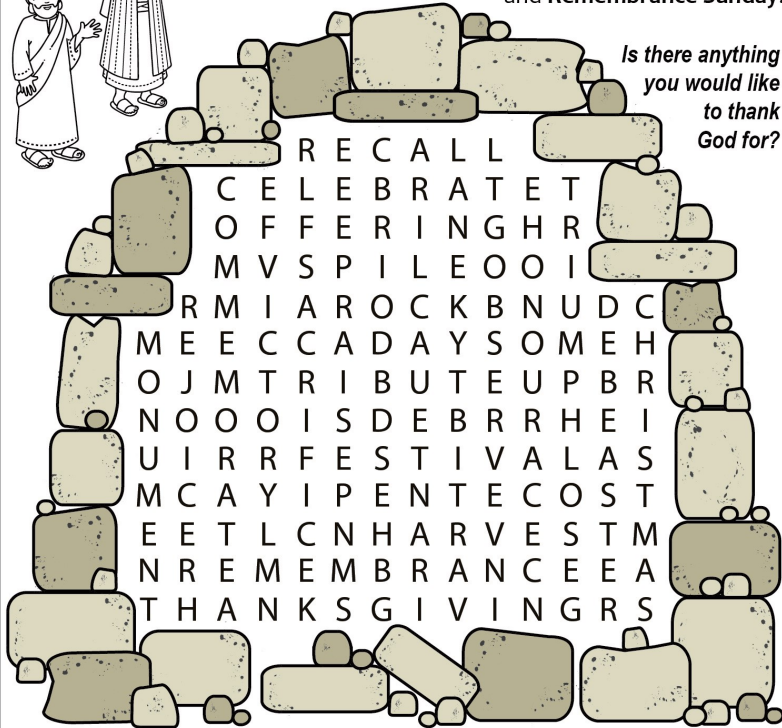


READ *Joshua 4:1-9* and *Exodus 12:1-14*

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



*Is there anything you would like to thank God for?*



REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT  
 ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING  
 HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS  
 FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

Nov20 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk