

The Parish website is: www.parishofkingswood.org.uk



Cross Ways

Parish Magazine for the churches of St Andrew and The Wisdom of God
We are a church family that seeks to share the love of Christ
with the community here and world wide.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22v2



October 2024

Please send all correspondence to kingswood.Parishmag@gmail.com,
and submit copy for the November issue by Wednesday 23rd October 2024

A New Season

Autumn has officially begun and with this new season the nights are drawing in quite quickly now. The traditional pattern of services in the coming months will turn towards remembrance and with the weather now likely to keep us at home a little more, I think it might be a good moment to refresh and to reflect, take stock and focus on the things that really matter. This will help prepare for what is to come and help us to clear the path for something new.

As a Parish we're in a time of change and transition, both challenging and exciting. Please, with that in mind, I encourage everyone to give time for some particular attention to prayer: for the Churchwardens and PCC for those who will be helping out in the coming months and that the life and work of the Parish will thrive going forward. Please also pray for me as I retire after, very nearly, 10 years as Priest in Charge of Kingswood.

My final farewell service will be at The Wisdom of God on 29th September at 6pm. All are welcome and there will be refreshments afterwards. It has been both a joy and a privilege to be part of this Parish during this time. I leave with many happy memories from sharing ministry, embracing our common life together and in seeking to serve over these years.

I am obliged by clergy protocol to make a clean break from the Parish and to spend at least 6 months discerning how much, or how little, ministry I might be involved in elsewhere.

In a poignant way this is for me certainly a new season.

I shall miss serving you all.

Chris Colton

In This Issue

The months of September and October are sometimes known as the season of Creation; Paul Hardingham considers what our response to António Guterres assertion that we're at 'Code red for humanity' should be. Justin Welby considers the impact on the big problems of society when we 'seek to serve'.

Ruth Bancewicz considers our understanding of DNA and genes in the light of Psalm 139. Michael Burgess tells us about Henry Newman's poem 'The Dream of Gerontius' and how it was set to music by Elgar. There is a Bill on Assisted Dying currently before the Scottish parliament; there is an article on evidence submitted to MSPs by the church leaders.

Parish highlights reports on the harvest festival, the Mad Hatter's fete and the Faure Requiem choir concert.

In the sidebar there is information about the Banstead Arts Festival autumn concerts and there are all the usual book reviews, poems, cartoons and sideways look at life.

I hope that you find this issue interesting and enjoyable.

Seek to serve	Care for Creation
Parish Highlights	Pause for Prayer
Food is weaponised in Sudan	What's the Big Idea: Mark's Gospel
Services for October	Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
Parish diary	The Dream of Gerontius
The Rev Freddie	Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults
Parish Directory	Book Reviews

PS. Some images in this issue can be clicked to expand



Chris Colton

Letters to the Editor

It's always great to receive your letters (snail mail or email) of things that might be of interest to others in the parish.

If you have something that you would like to share, please get in touch via snail mail or email kingswood.Parishmag@gmail.com). The right of reply reserved :)

Ed



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows.

Ed

From the Editor

You may be familiar with the hymn 'I the Lord of sea and sky', the chorus of which is:

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?

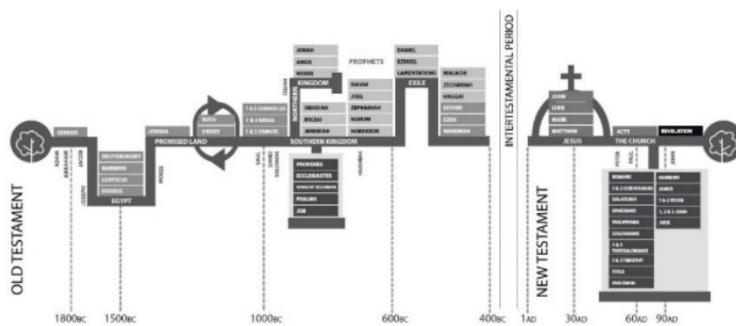
I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

About ten years ago Chris was led to be the priest in charge of this parish. Throughout that time has held its people in her heart. As she retires and enters into a new season of life, she is following Jesus into a different sort of ministry. In the services on Sunday 29 September, we will remember the good times we have shared and give thanks for her ministry amongst us. Chris we will miss you, thank you for all that you have done in the parish and we pray for God's blessings for the future.

The first verse of the hymn declares that God is Lord of sea and sky and that God made the stars of night. The last verse tells us that God will provide salvation and



Bible Overview - click image to expand

longs to give us life. This is the whole narrative of the Bible. You may have been wondering what the strange squiggly line across the bottom of the magazine cover is all about. Well, it is a way of representing an overview of the Bible narrative as the story of two trees; on the left is the tree of life in the Garden of Eden and the narrative culminates in the vision of the river and tree of life for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22 v1-5) pointing to our restored relationship with God as envisioned at the start of Genesis.

That is all very well but how do we understand what the Bible is and how it impacts our daily lives. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, Paul reminds him that the whole Bible is God breathed (or inspired) and its study equips us for the work God has for us to do. Paul goes on to say that we all have a ministry of some sort. Understanding the Bible in this way changes our expectations as we read it. The writer to the Hebrews tells us, "*the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*"

These ideas are not confined to the New Testament. The psalmist asks, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity?". Then provides their own answer, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you".

Unlike the psalmist we have a lot of resources to help us understand the Bible. There are daily reading notes, commentaries, Bibles with cross references and Bible study books. Not to mention the availability of the Bible in numerous translations and paraphrase versions. As we study the Bible and try to apply it to our daily lives it might all seem rather daunting. However, Isaiah tells us, "*Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*"

Ed

The Bible Overview image is part of the Bible Course published by The Bible Society.

Spoken, Written, Living Word

(Ps 119:105, Isaiah 40:8, 55:11, Jn1:1)

God has spoken.
His word created everything
In the beginning.
God saw all
That He had spoken into being,
And it was very good,
His spoken world.

He spoke freedom
To the ones in His image.
But then a stumbling
And a falling
And a need for the path to be lit.
By His power,
Through His people
It is written,
God's word.
To stand for ever,
To accomplish His purpose.

Spoken and written,
Revealing Jesus.
Word-man,
Word alive,
Life itself,
Gift-wrapped by His Spirit
And offered to all
Who will trust and receive
The rescue package,
And live the Word
In the world
Until He comes.

Daphne Kitching

Heritage Open Days

A really BIG thank you to everyone who helped to welcome visitors to our church buildings over the Heritage Open Days.

At St Andrew's there were ten visitors and at the Wisdom of God there were a total of thirty visitors over the two days.

Parish Highlights

Harvest service at the Wisdom of God



Our Harvest services on the 15th September were well attended. A big thank you to everyone for the abundance of produce donations from both St Andrew's and the Wisdom of God which was gratefully received by the St Matthew's Foodbank. It was really good to welcome the Girl Guides and everyone enjoyed the parish choir's valuable contribution to our worship.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party Fete

On Saturday 7th September we all disappeared down the rabbit hole in search of Alice in the wonderland of the parish fete.

It was a fun occasion with a lively feel. There was plenty of stalls and activities for all ages with face painting, bouncy castle, petting farm or you could even hook a duck!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation, run stalls or just turned up and enjoyed the BBQ or tea and cake.



Faure Requiem Choir Concert

On the 8th September the choir performed the hauntingly beautiful requiem composed By Gabriel Urbain Faure from 1887. The version performed was adapted for female voices.

As we now expect, the performance exhibited a high level of professionalism combined with joyous enthusiasm. The individuals participating in the choir clearly love singing together and support and encourage each other. This is reflected in the warm, enthusiastic response from the audience. The Kingswood area is fortunate to have such a musical experience on its doorstep.

After a glass of wine, the second half of the concert included a wide selection of songs both sacred and secular which rang lots of bells of familiarity and nostalgia. My particular favourite being "Panis Angelicus".

It was particularly poignant that Chris Colton was performing with choir for the last time, and everybody wishes her "All the best" for a happy, healthy retirement.

Cont...

India –Christian arrests and attacks continue to rise

Hostility towards Christians is growing in India. In the past four years, almost 1700 people have been arrested under anti-conversion laws in one state, Uttar Pradesh, alone.

And Uttar Pradesh is moving to tighten that law. A new bill increases the maximum penalty for fraudulent or forced conversion to 20 years with provision for life imprisonment.

Some 12 states in India have now passed anti conversion laws, reflecting the rise in Hindu religious nationalism and accompanying intolerance in the country.

Intolerance against Christians has been growing since the election of the nationalist BJP government in 2014. The party's re-election in June has strengthened the hand of Hindu militants, and it is BJP-governed states that are leading the anti-conversion charge.

The Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) recorded a record 601 cases of persecution against Christians in India last year – a rise of 45 per cent.

And in the first six months of 2024 there were 361 attacks against Christians, according to India's United Christian Forum (UCF).

The growing *Hindutva* nationalist movement aims to keep India a Hindu nation and to prevent Hindus from converting to Islam or Christianity.

Parish Pump



Many, many thanks to Jane and Lizzie Searle, all the choir members and the outstanding organist/pianist for giving us such a special evening.

We look forward to the next concert with great anticipation.

Celia Tiley



Seek to serve

In England, football (the proper football, with the round ball!) is sometimes defined as 30,000 people in the stands in desperate need of exercise, watching 22 people on the pitch in desperate need of a rest.

Sometimes I think that politics is much the same. The readings today speak of three of the great political problems. By political I don't mean only national or international politics, but I also mean the politics of communities, churches

and small groups. And the three great problems are dealing with oneself, living in our society and trying to change the world around us.

Jesus finds two of his disciples engaging in wanting a position in the cabinet. In other words, these two disciples come up and say 'we want the top jobs'. What we ask often reveals who we are. Do you know the story of Aladdin and the magic lamp? The point of the story is not the magic lamp, but the three wishes. It is about what is in the heart of Aladdin. And like all good parables, it is not clear what is going to happen. The two disciples believe that Jesus is going to be ruler of Israel. So get your claims in early. And Jesus says, 'You just don't get it'. He says, 'To share with me is to share my suffering.'

I remember a meeting with an English Prime Minister. Given how often we change them, that is not very revealing. He said to me, 'why is everything so difficult?' He was asking the same question [as the disciples]. What he wanted was prestige and the top job, but also to change things for the better – to give instructions and see improvement. And what he found was a cross, a heart that betrayed him, people who did not obey him and situations that seemed impossible to solve.

Jesus points to the need for personal change if we are to cope with the burdens of life. Do not seek your own good in any place, even in the family, but instead seek to serve. In England, the Church of England has for many centuries acted as though it were very important. That has not been attractive. It does not reveal Jesus. A few years ago we rewrote what we are trying to do. We said we must be simpler, bolder and humbler.

Cont...

The Dance

Life is a dance -
Sometimes you lead, sometimes
you follow,
At times the steps are hard to learn
But persevere - there is a tomorrow.

It can be hard -
Sometimes it's right, sometimes it's
wrong,
As you learn to move to a different
beat
But don't look back keep moving
on.

Problems may come –
Sometimes you can, sometimes you
fail
To do the things you did before,
But carry on you will prevail.

Life is still there -
Sometimes it's practice, sometimes
it's chance
As you've learnt the steps that take
you on
And the music plays as you join in
the dance

*(Dance, then, wherever you may be; I
AM the Lord of the Dance said He.)
Megan Carter*

Banstead Arts Festival Society AUTUMN CONCERTS

26th October
Maxim Calver, cello and **Kumi
Matsuo**, piano
Praised for the "elegance of his
technique, overall sound and
natural poeticism", Maxim Calver
performs four glorious sonatas by
Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy and
Mendelssohn with pianist Kumi
Matsuo. He was BBC Young
Musician Grand Finalist in 2018 and
she has performed extensively at
venues across the world.

Cont...

And last year for the first time in 70 years, our numbers grew. I wonder if God was saying at last we've got the message. But why is it so difficult? Even with the disciples who've walked daily with Jesus, who've heard every word he said. It starts within ourselves. There are not many of us who feel that we are satisfactory within ourselves. Paul says that's God's message from the cross- he's dealing with that.

He has made a dramatic change and the gift of being able to serve, to put aside ourselves, is offered to us in return for giving our lives to God. We can know his forgiveness. When we fail we can know his constant faithful love. And when things go well, we can say, like the Psalmist, you have blessed me, I live in a good place.

Therefore it is difficult. The heart of our lives is living them in the presence of Jesus Christ. But like the footballers on the pitch, there is so much happening that it is difficult to remember the presence of Christ, in places of suffering and times of hardship- that is our daily experience.

An English soldier of the 17th century wrote a prayer. It was on the day of a great battle. He prayed, 'Lord, I must be very occupied this day. If I forget thee, do not thou forget me.' It is a prayer I often pray.

The people to whom Ezekiel prophesied would have understood much of the modern world. They did not live in comfortable houses. They were exiles and refugees. They lived in slave labour camps outside Babylon. Their daily struggle was to get food, keep shelter and not to die.

So many people in this world today, over 100 million refugees and displaced persons, would understand those concerns. And so many leaders would understand the difficulty of changing that situation. And yet God changes us. And so we hear from Ezekiel a promise that came true some 40 years later. They required leadership and strength in the way Jesus shows it. We have to recognise our fallibility, and work in the liberty of knowing the forgiveness of God. Because that gives us the freedom to act as we should. Not to look backwards, but to look forwards with hope. We need to live in partnership with others who seek to do good. They may be Christians or not. When the liberty came to Israel that Ezekiel prophesied, it came from a non-Jewish king. They did not say 'we cannot accept his gifts', they gave thanks and went forward to a better future.

What is the hope in this country and our world? It is knowing that we belong to others and that we can share our burdens. If we can create communities and coalitions, whose aim is the common good, we will find the blessing of God.

So many of our problems today will feel to those who come into government like mountains. The biggest is climate change. The others are the levels of migration. The challenges, as Panama becomes part of the Security Council over the next two years, will seem enormous. Panama's representatives will find those alongside them who seek to sabotage what is good. Who seek only their own interest, not the interests of the world. They will see wars everywhere. The temptation will be to enjoy the position but give up on changing things. The temptation for those in the slave labour camps of Babylon was to abandon hope and seek only their own survival. Every year in England on 27th January, we have Holocaust Memorial Day. I heard this year from someone who was eight when he was sent to Auschwitz. How did he survive, I asked. He said, 'We formed groups and encouraged each other'. That is the only way that a person, a family, a society or a nation will flourish in the years to come.

I pray for the government that is leaving here and for the government that is coming in. In England, I pray for the government that will be elected on July 4th. For I know that, like the footballers, in a year they will want nothing more than a good night's sleep.

Cont...

16th November

Sofia Sacco, piano

Born in Italy, Sofia Sacco moved to the UK in 2019 and is now Hodgson Fellow at the Royal Academy of Music. Her recital is entitled "Miniatures and Sketches" and includes works ranging from French Baroque and J.S. Bach to Shostakovich and the contemporary Hungarian composer Gregöry Kurtág.

The events are all at Banstead Community Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £20, school pupils free.

Visit

<https://www.bansteadarts.org.uk>

Persecution in Russia

In Russia, an outspoken Christian preacher is facing trial for posting a question on social media. And in occupied Ukraine, a Christian woman could be jailed for up to ten years for remarks made in a prayer meeting.

'Both cases reflect the rising persecution of Christians in Russia and in Russian-occupied Ukraine,' says Paul Robinson, the CEO of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world.

'Christian leaders have been tortured, disappeared, and murdered for taking a Christian stand, in what looks worryingly like a return to the bad old days of Christian persecution under the Soviet Union.'

Eduard Charov, a Russian preacher with Orthodox and Pentecostal roots, posted online the question: 'Would Jesus Christ have gone to kill in Ukraine?'

He is set to stand trial on charges of discrediting the Russian armed forces and is expecting a prison term. In the meantime, he has been forbidden from leaving his home district or from using the phone or the Internet.

Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust

President Obama was once asked what he would do after he was President. He said, 'First, sleep for six months, and secondly, set up a shop on the beach in Hawaii which will only sell one thing – white t-shirts of medium size.' And the interviewer said, 'why?!', and he said 'so I never have to make a difficult decision again.' In his cabinet meetings, he and his Chief of Staff would sometimes say to each other 'white medium' and all his cabinet thought it was a secret code, when all it meant was 'I'm exhausted'.

So let us pray for our government. Let us pray that each of them know forgiveness for their errors, strength in their weakness and hope facing their problems. For strength, forgiveness and hope will enable them to act rightly, to be humble, to [give their] service and to find that Panama is a better country, and in five years Britain is a better country, because of their ministry. It does not guarantee the election, neither does it guarantee success, but it guarantees a sense that I have run the race, I have met the call set before me. It guarantees knowing the love and the presence of God. May God bless this country and our country and my country, and may God enable them to be light and salt in our troubled world. Amen.

Justin Welby

Archbishop's sermon in Panama City 8th June 2024

Care for Creation

António Guterres (United Nations Secretary-General) has said that we're at '*Code red for humanity: the alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk.*'

At this time of Creationtide, how are we to respond to these climate concerns?

The world belongs to God:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! We are called to share in care for God's world: *'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'* (Genesis 1:28). We represent God by governing with the same self-giving generosity that we see in His creation of the earth. This challenges our consumer mindset, that sees the earth's resources as both limitless and existing simply for our needs. For example, the fashion industry uses as much carbon per minute, as a car emits going six times round the world! How can we make a difference in our world?

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one who's plan is: *'to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the time when God will create a new heaven and a new earth and make everything new. Meanwhile, we are called to serve as He serves, caring for the earth and our fellow humans, by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

In terms of our world, there is no plan B! God gave us only one planet!

Paul Hardingham

During July we had a fantastic offer of match funding of any new or increased recurring payments over £50 received by Sept 30th. The matched funding and increased pledges enabled us to give brilliant news to some of our projects.

The school for refugees in Thailand has received more children fleeing Myanmar government bombing. We had told them that we will now be able to fund school lunches throughout next year for 50 more children. We have also sent them a one-off donation of £1,000 for desks, books etc for the extra children. We know that due to cost of living increases in Thailand their actual lunch costs will not be fully covered by our donation. However, for the next few months they have reserves they can use and we may be able to cover the cost of living increases with more funds in 2025.

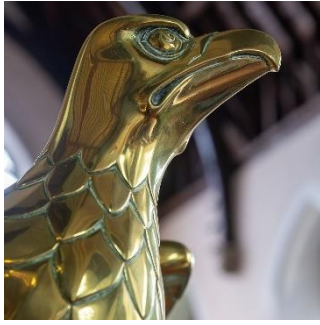


Myanmar Refugee Lunch

We have also offered extra help to the Mtandika Trade School in Tanzania for establishing their new hotel management training course. We have sent a one-off £500 to help with materials needed for the new course plus half the new teacher's annual salary and sponsorship fees for two students for this coming academic year with the second half to be sent in March. We would like to be able to sponsor more if we have funds available.

The Mother's Union school in Madagascar has confirmed that the number of children seeking to attend has increased to 76. They are building two new classrooms partly covered by a generous donation from by St Peter's Church, Walton last year.

Cont...



Pause for prayer

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Paul the apostle

The photograph is the lectern at St Andrew's in the classic form of an eagle.

Here are some topics for prayer during the month of October:

- Thanks for the fact we have the Bible in several English translations.
- Thanks for all those involved in Bible translation and that they may have the necessary wisdom and skills.
- The eagle is a symbol for carrying the Word to all people. Pray for safety, insight and wisdom for all those involved in missionary work.
- That as Paul tells Timothy we too may be people who handle the Word of Truth correctly.
- That we may all expect God to speak to us through the Bible.
- Those who live and work in Outwood Lane, Pinehurst Close, Reads Rest Lane, Rookery Way, Silver Close, Smithy Close, Smithy Lane, St Monica's Road and Stanacre Court.

Prayer for October

Lord,

As we move into autumn and the month of October, the normal seasonal changes are all around us, the beautiful colours, the falling leaves, the cooler days. And that is reassuring. But, so much else in our world is changing so rapidly, often in ways we don't understand. And that can be worrying.

Thank you that You never change. You are always the same, faithful, present and loving. And You tell us in Your Word, not to be anxious about anything, but to bring all things to You in prayer and to trust You. When we do this, You promise us Your Peace – a peace of heart that steadies us and helps us move forward.

Thank you that whatever comes, we are secure in You, when we put our trust in Jesus.

In His name, we pray. Amen

Daphne Kitching

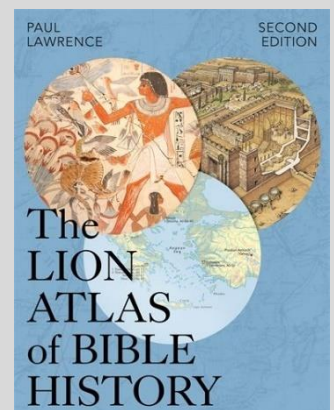
Ed

They are also recruiting another teacher. We have sent them over £3,000 this September to help towards these increased costs and the additional donations we are expecting should enable us to sustain our support next year.

We received a recurring donation for the Epilepsy Clinic at Berega Hospital Tanzania. This has enabled us to cover a 30% increase in medication costs which we fund for all the patients. Part of this cost was to give each patient in outlying villages an extra month's supply of drugs. Some of these patients were unable to attend the monthly clinic sessions in their own village, where drugs are dispensed. This meant that they might run out of medication critical for controlling their seizures.

As our AGM and dinner in St John's Hall, Tadworth, is on Nov 9th, You can read the Annual Report, more about our activities and see how you might support us on our web site www.TWOAT.org. If you want to attend TWOAT's Annual Meeting and Dinner please contact Chair Mike Fox on 01737 350452.

Book Reviews



Lion Atlas of Bible History
Paul Lawrence, Lion Books, £39.99

The Lion Atlas of Bible History spans the entire 3,000 years of biblical history, explaining the many ways in which history and archaeology confirm and complement the biblical narrative, and adding depth and colour to our understanding of key people and events.



PARISH DIARY

We are pleased to welcome everyone into both St Andrew's and the Wisdom of God for Public Worship. We are offering Communion as both bread and wine from a common chalice in both churches. However, you may receive communion in one kind (bread only) if you prefer. Unfortunately receiving communion by dipping the bread in the chalice is not safe and therefore, not permitted.

The following service and event details are correct at time of publication however, please check the parish web site at <https://www.parishofkingswood.org.uk/> and the weekly emails for up to date information.

Services for October

St Andrews	The Wisdom of God
October	
Sun 6 Oct: Trinity 19 11am Holy Communion	Sun 6 Oct: Trinity 19 9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 13 Oct: Trinity 20 11am Holy Communion	Sun 13 Oct: Trinity 20 9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 20 Oct: Trinity 21 11am Holy Communion	Sun 20 Oct: Trinity 21 9.30am Family Worship
Sun 27 Oct: Trinity 22 11am Holy Communion	Sun 27 Oct: Trinity 22 9.30am Holy Communion
November	
Sun 3 Nov: All Saints 11am Holy Communion	Sun 3 Nov: All Saints 9.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm All Souls

Parish events; details are correct at time of publication. However, please note that there may be changes at short notice.

Please check www.parishofkingswood.org.uk/ for more details.



Monthly Coffee Circle

Wednesday 2nd October
10.30 am - Noon
The Church Hall, Buckland Road,
Lower Kingswood
All Welcome - Free
Coffee / tea and homemade cake



Wisdom Stories at Tea Time

Wednesday, 2, 9, 16, 23 October
Wednesday 6th November
3.30 pm at The Wisdom of God

Taking a narrative approach, the book traces the unfolding of the major events in the Old and New Testaments, from Abraham's wanderings in Canaan and Egypt through to Paul's missions and founding of new churches.

Special features on subjects such as the peoples and languages of the Bible run throughout the book, helping to deepen the reader's understanding of geography, landscape, climate, culture and religion.

97 maps are included, to help the reader understand the Bible narrative and provide background information. In addition, there are over 150 colour photographs, seven panoramic illustrations and 17 site plans, plus a range of battle plans and small artworks



Have You Ever Wondered? Andy Bannister and Gavin Matthews, 10Publishing, £7.99

Have you ever looked at a landscape and wondered why we are drawn to beauty? Or wondered why we are so insatiably curious about our universe? Or have you ever simply looked up at a million stars in the vast night's sky and just wondered...

This book includes contributors from a range of backgrounds in science, law, linguistics, theology, bioethics, history, and more. They reflect on how their questions have, in some cases unexpectedly, led them to a compelling Christian spirituality and a profound sense of meaning and purpose in life

Banstead Arts Festival Society

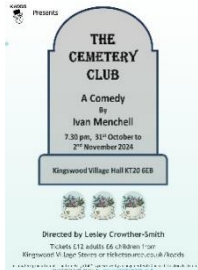
AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 26 Oct

Maxim Calver performs four glorious sonatas by Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy and Mendelssohn with pianist Kumi Matsuo

Banstead Community Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £20, school pupils free.

See sidebar for more details



KADDS Presents

The Cemetery Club

7:30pm Thurs 31 Oct – Sat 2 Nov

Kingswood Village Hall, KT20 6EB

Tickets £12 adults, £6 Children

From Kingswood Village Stores or

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kadds>

The Dream of Gerontius

John Henry Newman was a great Victorian churchman, an inspired Anglican preacher and teacher who became a Roman Catholic in 1845. Newman was also a poet and wrote hymns that have remained perennial favourites – among them, ‘Lead, kindly Light’ and ‘Praise to the Holiest.’

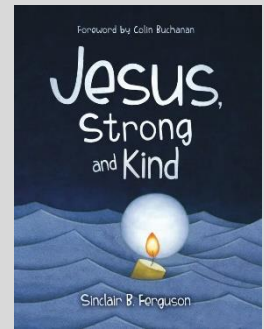
The first hymn was written when, as an Anglican, Newman was ill in Sicily and his servant thought he might die. But he recovered and, anxious to return home, he wrote these words, knowing that God had important work for him to do. The light that he prayed for in Sicily was to shine out, resplendent and glorious, in that later hymn which expresses the vision of the heavenly courts in the longer poem, ‘The Dream of Gerontius.’

Newman wrote the poem in 1865 after the death of a 41-year-old fellow Oratorian, Fr John Joseph Gordon, who had said to him as he lay dying, “I do not say that I do not fear to die: for death must always be a fearful thing. God’s justice is very terrible; but then, in the crucifixion, God’s mercy appears so very great.” ‘The Dream of Gerontius’ is about death and judgement, but it is the judgement of a loving God.

Newman presented Dvorak with a copy of this poem when the composer visited Birmingham, and he was invited to compose a setting for the city’s 1888 Festival. Although Dvorak felt inspired by the words, the timescale was too demanding. The poem was presented to Elgar on his wedding day a year later, again with the suggestion that he set it to music. The words simmered and stirred in Elgar’s imagination to produce one of the great oratorios of all time in 1900, when it was given its first performance in Birmingham.

Elgar inscribed the score ADMG (To the greater glory of God) and wrote on the last page of the manuscript, ‘This is the best of me.’ The light of God’s glory and grace that inspired Newman shines through the music as it shone through Elgar’s own life. His funeral card of 1934 contained words from the poem, and on his own score of ‘The Dream’ he wrote these words of Virgil, ‘Whence doth so dear desire of Light on wretches grow?’

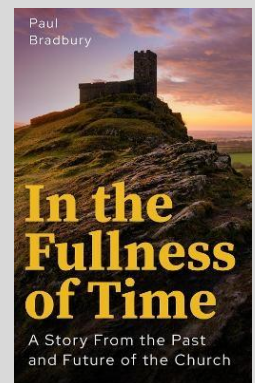
It is now difficult to separate the poem from Elgar’s setting. The composer, like the poet, leads the listener from the prayer of faith, ‘Firmly I believe and truly’ – a prayer sustained by the words of the priest, ‘Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul’ – to the judgement throne where the angels praise God in the heights



Jesus, Strong and Kind

Sinclair B Ferguson, 10Publishing, £10.98

This book uses the words of the popular children’s song to help children understand that they can always run to Jesus, even when they feel lost or scared or weak. The author shows that God is powerful and merciful, good and faithful. With some very attractive colour illustrations by Angelo Ruta, the book will be a helpful addition to any family’s library.



In the Fullness of Time

Paul Bradbury, Canterbury Press, £14.99

Here’s a book about the present and future of the church in our own challenging context: a secular age, decline, stretched resources, complex and fragmented communities requiring diverse missional approaches.

Weaving together parable, storytelling, travelogue history and poetry, Paul Bradbury journeys from rural Norfolk to inner-city London, from a radical missional community in Lincolnshire, to a traditional village parish in Dorset, to explore what the church looks like today, and how local parish communities are wrestling with the tensions between the value of inherited church, and the need to look to the future

Cont...

One of the angels then leads the soul away with a beautiful setting of 'Softly and gently,' not to the fire of judgement, but to the cleansing, sustaining water of eternal life. The work ends with echoes of that angelic hymn, praising God who is our refuge in every generation.

Newman wrote, "I always sleep better after music." He compared music to an electric current that passes through the body and then into the mind and heart. And Elgar's wonderful setting can do exactly that, creating a vision of that new world of eternal glory that Gerontius expresses in the words, 'Novissima hora est.....into thy hands, O Lord, into thy hands.'

Michael Burgess

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

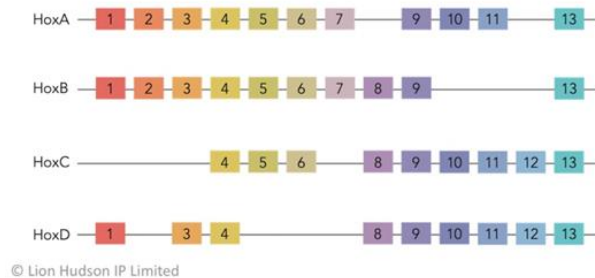
Every person was once a sperm and an egg. Those two unique germ cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. One of the most important stages of this process is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity.

In this context, identity means what shape it takes, and which limbs or internal organs grow there: legs or arms, lungs or pancreas, and so on. The source of that physical identity is DNA: the networks of genes that are switched on or off in each segment of the body, making all the proteins that are needed to grow and develop in the right way. The master-genes that control the whole process are called homeobox, or Hox genes for short.



Danny Allison, © Lion Hudson IP Limited

The most beautiful thing about the process of body patterning is the way it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a tidy way. The Hox genes are organised into several clusters on the chromosomes, in the order in which they are needed during development *and* the order in which they appear on the body.



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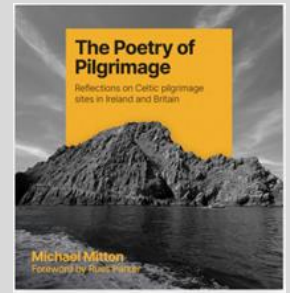
As the embryo develops, the cells near the head end activate the first genes in the Hox clusters. The cells just below the head then switch on the second genes in the cluster, and so on. A wave of gene activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

Once a Hox gene is switched on it can stay switched on in the next few sections of cells, and it is the overlapping activity of the genes which gives each section of the body its proper identity.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth." The story of the tidy Hox genes is very relevant to these verses, bringing out the hidden beauty in the process.

The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made"!

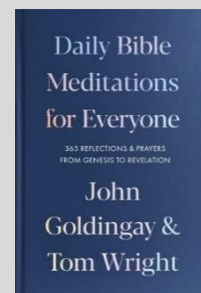
Ruth M Bancewicz



The Poetry of Pilgrimage
Michael Mitton, BRF, £12.99

Drawing from his experience of co-leading pilgrimages in Britain and Ireland, Michael Mitton describes 23 significant pilgrimage sites for anyone from experienced pilgrims to armchair pilgrims.

Each chapter outlines the story of the Celtic saint who founded the site, together with information about the location, a poem inspired by the author's experience of that place, a reflective question, a suggested Bible reading and a photo of the site. Michael Mitton is an Anglican priest and canon emeritus of Derby Cathedral.



Daily Bible Meditations for Everyone
John Goldingay and Tom Wright, SPCK, £19.99

This book takes you on a journey through the whole Bible in one year. With wisdom, clarity and depth, Goldingay and Wright provide a rich blend of theological insight and practical application in 365 concise reflections and prayers.

For anyone seeking spiritual growth, a deeper connection with the Scriptures, or simply a daily source of inspiration, this book could enrich your appreciation of the whole Bible and offers a clear path to understanding and applying God's Word in your daily life

What's the Big Idea: Mark's Gospel

Mark is the second of the synoptic gospels, along with Matthew and Luke. Traditionally this gospel is ascribed to John Mark, a close associate of Peter. It was written for Gentile readers, probably in Rome during Nero's persecution of the church (c AD 64-7).

Mark unveils Jesus' public ministry with the words: *'the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God'* (1:1). The gospel provides a succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry, concentrating on what Jesus did rather than what He said. Mark moves quickly from one episode to another, often using the word *'immediately'* which is characteristic of his gospel.

For Mark, understanding the true identity of Jesus is fundamental to his gospel. Jesus asks the disciples, *'Who do people say I am?'* (8:27), to which Peter replies, *'You are the Christ'*. This is evident in Jesus' role as teacher, the call for discipleship and the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, which occupies the last third of the gospel.

A key verse which helps us to understand the nature of Jesus' mission and how we might live in the light of it is: *'Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* (10:44,45). As the Suffering Servant, Jesus gave His life on the cross, that we might know and share his love.

Mark is understandably in a hurry to tell us about Jesus: the one who reveals the truth of God to us, that we might live in reality, not ignorance!

Paul Hardingham

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

The Church has submitted written evidence to a group of MSPs who are investigating the case for legalising assisted dying in Scotland.

The purpose of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill is to introduce a lawful form of assisted dying for people over the age of 16 with a terminal illness.

Scrutiny is being undertaken by the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee and is at stage one of a three-part process.

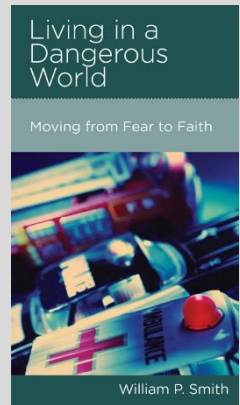
The Church is "partially opposed" to the legislation becoming law due to its historic opposition to assisted dying while recognising that this position is currently under review following debates and decisions made by the General Assembly in 2023 and 2024.

The Church has extensive experience of walking with people in the final stages of their lives and for many the current societal prohibition on killing means that our role in Christ's call to care is clear.

However, for others this may lead them to support giving terminally ill people the option of an assisted death – views informed by profound and intense personal experience.

A working group formed by the Theological Forum and Faith Action Programme Leadership Team is currently exploring more deeply the diverse views held by Church members on the subject and will report to the General Assembly next year.

Parish Pump



Living in a Dangerous World

William P Smith, New Growth Press, £2.30

Everyone is afraid of something. Fear is part of life in a broken, fallen world. We try to manage our fears, but our coping mechanisms impact our faith. We hoard resources and stop praying for provision. We stockpile information and forget to seek godly wisdom. Yet we continue to live anxious lives.

The author argues that our faith should, instead, change our strategies for dealing with fear. He offers practical guidance on how to exchange fear for faith by learning to find security in our relationship with an all-sufficient, unchanging God



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the winter season"



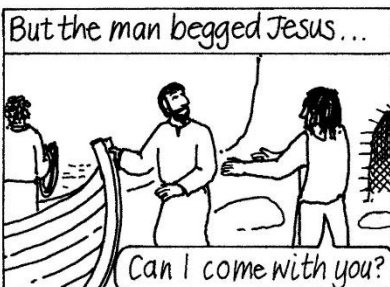
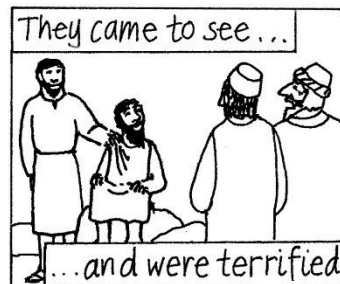
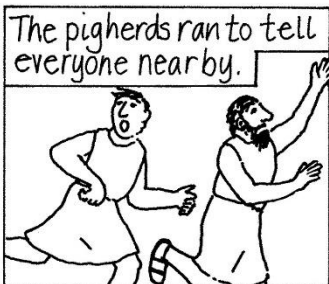
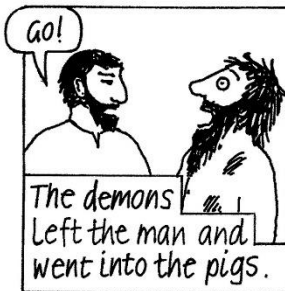
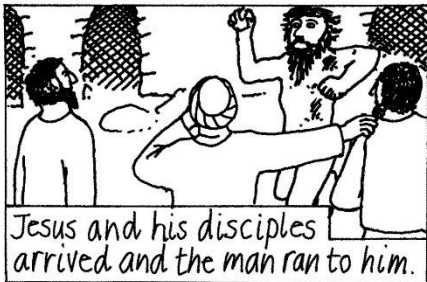
The Rev Freddie

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons
He tore off any clothes or chains put
on him, and he lived in the graveyard.



He is Always There

It is funny that when we're in trouble
We immediately kneel down and pray,
And expect that the good Lord in heaven
Will all of our fears allay.

It's amazing that when we're in crisis
We turn to the Lord straight away,
But we barely spare Him a moment
When everything's going our way.

We seem to seek God when it suits us
And we fail to keep in touch each day,
Yet regardless how badly we treat Him
His love means He's not far away.

So perhaps we should stop for a moment
And give thanks to the Lord in a prayer,
For no matter how neglectful of Him we may be
For us, He will always be there.

Colin Hammacott

The month of October

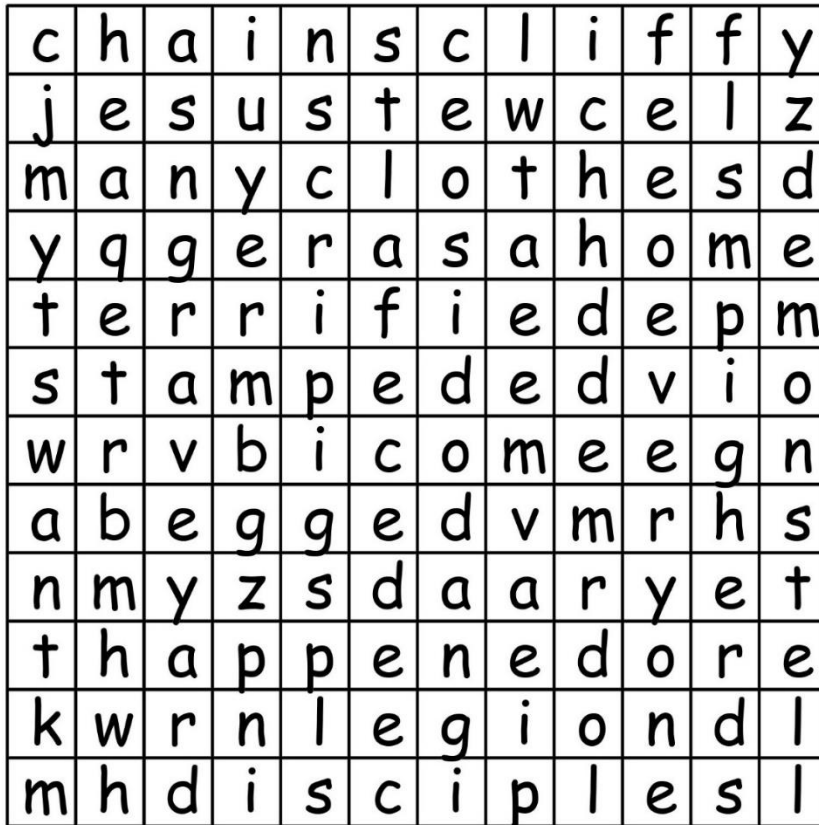
250 years ago, on 26th Oct 1774 that the Colony of Massachusetts Bay began building up its militia of 'minute men', who could respond to the growing British threat at a moment's notice. The American Revolutionary War began a few months later.

125 years ago, from 11th Oct 1899 to May 1902 that the Second Boer War in South Africa took place. 22,000 British forces were killed, and nearly 100,000 wounded. More than 6,000 Boers were killed, and more than 46,000 African civilians died in concentration camps.

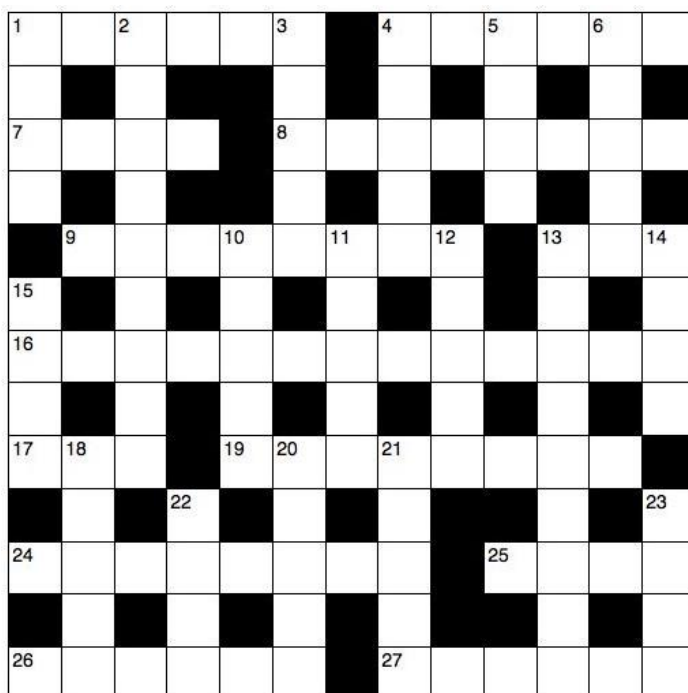
Wordsearch:

This month's wordsearch is based on the account of how Jesus healed a man called Legion who was demon possessed. You can read all about it in Matthew 8:28-34.

home, want, come, Legion, man, pigs, cliff, Jesus, begged, everyone, graveyard, demons, disciples, tell, leave, clothes, stampeded, many, name, happened, chains, pigherds, Gerasa, terrified.



Crossword



90 years ago, on 16th Oct 1934 that the Long March took place. Chinese communists led by Mao Zedong began a year-long 8,000-mile march from south-east China to north-west China to evade the armies of the Chinese National Party and establish a new base. It led to the founding of the People's Republic of China.

80 years ago, on 2nd Oct 1944 that the Warsaw Uprising in Poland was ended. The Germans destroyed the city, killing 200,000 civilians and expelling 700,000.

70 years ago, from 30th Oct to 13th Nov 1954 that the first Rugby World Cup was held in Paris. Great Britain beat France 16-12 in the final.

60 years ago, on 14th Oct 1964 that the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality in the USA without violence.

40 years ago, on 16th Oct 1984 that South African Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the opposition to apartheid.

30 years ago, on 13th Oct 1994 that the three main loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland announced a ceasefire following the IRA's ceasefire announcement on 31st Aug.

25 years ago, on 12th Oct 1999 that the United Nations announced that the world's population had reached six billion. It reached seven billion in 2011/12.

25 years ago, on 27th Oct 1999 that the House of Lords voted to end the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the upper chamber of Parliament. Of over 700 hereditary peers, only 92 would remain, chosen by election.

20 years ago, on 2nd Oct 2004 that the first Parkrun was held in Bushy Park, London. Parkruns are now held every Saturday morning at more than 2,000 locations in 22 countries.

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
8 See 19 Across
9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
22 Bats (anag.) (4)
23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Quotes of the month

Worship is no longer worship when it reflects the culture around us more than the Christ within us. - *Tozer*

Never undertake more Christian service that you can cover by believing prayer. - *Alan Redpath*

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. - *Augustine*

A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the Church will have clowns entertaining the goats. - *Spurgeon*

If you don't believe in the devil's existence, just try resisting him for a while. - *Charles G Finney*

Satan does not work haphazardly, but attacks systematically. - *Thomas Cosmades*

Satan is not fighting churches; he is joining them. He does more harm by sowing tares than by pulling up wheat. He accomplishes more by imitation than by outright opposition. - *Vance Havner*

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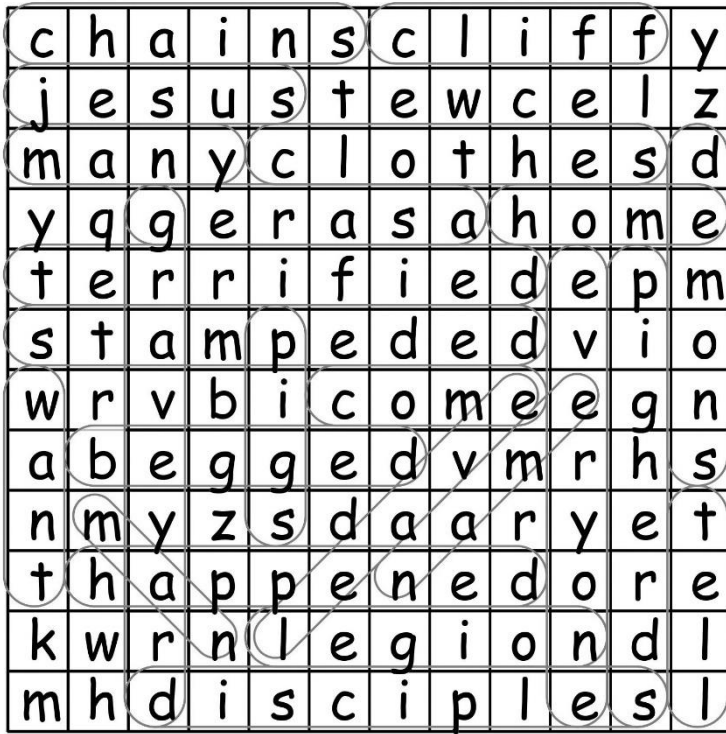
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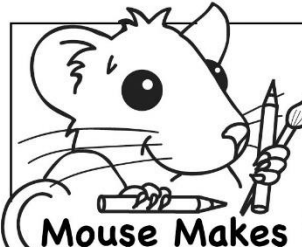
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Wordsearch Answers





Mouse Makes

WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11

"For we walk by _____
not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7


"Walk by the _____"
Galatians 5:16

Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you _____
me you won't
have to walk
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."
John 8:12

"Walk in _____
as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"Walk in
a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing _____
in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"
John 8:12

" _____
is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who walks in
his ways."
Psalm 128:1



O I R
S P I R I T
K F A I T H R O
J N L O V E L U T
L O R D E A I T
R W A V S C G H
V L P A T H H
J E S U S U T
I D O F W T
G G O A B
E F L L L
W R L K E
A U O V S I
Y I W E S J
S T E P E E
Y O G O D S
F E E T
V T E

GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Oct24@deborah.noble • parishpump.co.uk

Find the words from the questions too!

Smile Lines

Halloween costumes

My six-year-old son was excited about choosing his Halloween costume. "I'm going to be the Pope," he announced proudly.

"But Ian, you can't be the Pope. You're not Catholic," I explained. "You're Church of England."

My son was silent for a few moments, while he considered his alternatives. "Well, is Dracula Church of England?"

To change a light bulb...

What do you mean CHANGE???

That light bulb was given in memory of my grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands! He donated his time AND the use of his ladder to do it, too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make a bunch of changes all of a sudden, Vicar, you've got another think coming!

Ghost stories

"I'm a great lover of ghost stories."
"So am I, pal. Let's shake."

Fish

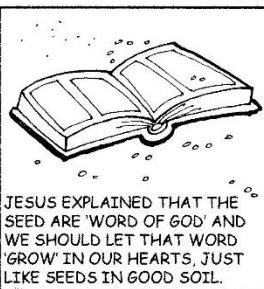
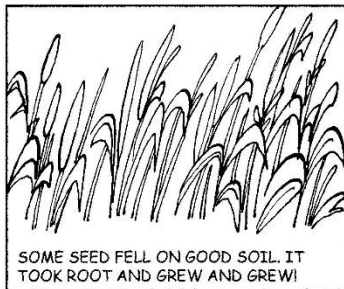
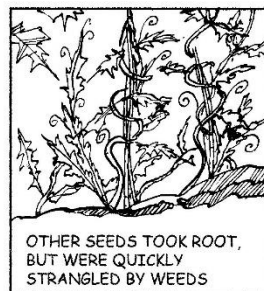
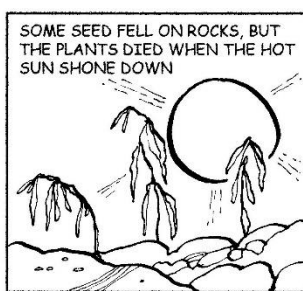
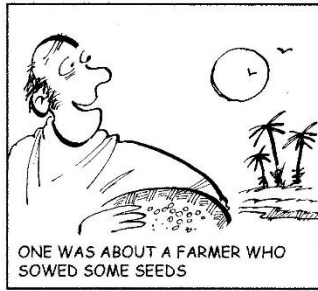
Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Quick

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

Cont...

the PARABLE of the SOWER



Visiting the sick
 The vicar had been summoned to the bedside of a local Baptist woman who was quite ill. As he went up the walk, he met the little daughter and said, "I'm very glad your mother remembered me in her illness. Is your Baptist minister out of town?"
 "No," answered the child. "He's at home, but we thought it might be something contagious, and we didn't want to expose him to it."

Passwords
 An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords." The vicar replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

If you would like someone remembered in our Sunday prayers annually on the anniversary of their death, you can have their name put in the Book of Remembrance either at St Andrew's or at The Wisdom of God for about £5. Please contact the parish administrator (administrator@parishofkingswood.org.uk or 01737 210785) .

Crossword Answers

- ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.
- DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.



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Wisdom Stories at Tea Time	Linda Utting	linda@lindautting.co.uk	01737 833779
Parish Magazine	Graeme Knibbs	kingswood.Parishmag@gmail.com	
Church Flowers at St Andrew's	Jane Hollington	janehollington@btinternet.com	01737 354208
Upper Room at St Andrew's Booking	Anne Bennett	anne.bennett@btinternet.com	01717 813496
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