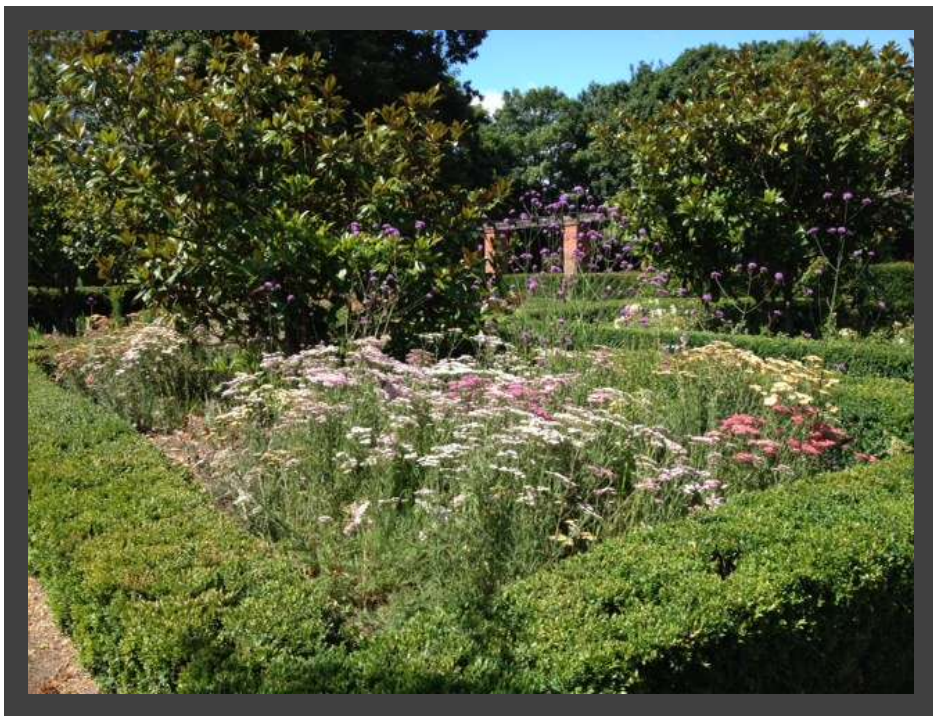


The

CRAYFISHER

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40p



The parish magazine of the Cray Valley Benefice

No. 5

CONTACTS

Vicar: Rev. Paul Prentice (01689 823775)

Curate: Rev. Jane Winter (01689 872282)

Reader: Elaine Chapple (01689 874325)

Pastoral Assistants: Jill Renwick (01689 825582)

Muriel Unsworth (01689 835275)

Churchwardens: Colin Chapple (01689 874325)

Malcolm Hubbard (01689 601827)

*Child Protection Officer and
Parish Administrator: Suzanne Diamond* (01689 823775)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings

Magazine Editor: Brenda Smith (01689 829556)

Email: brendaknickknock@gmail.com

St Mary's, High Street St Mary Cray: BR5 4NJ

www.stmaryatcray.com

St Andrew's, Lower Road St Mary Cray: BR5 4AL

www.standrewatcray.com

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Front cover picture: Priory Gardens by Brenda Smith

PARISH LETTER



In my kitchen at the moment stand two 23 litre buckets of beer happily bubbling away as they go through the fermentation process prior to bottling. A recently acquired hobby of mine, brewing beer is surprisingly easy and a cost effective way of enjoying a pint. The process is straightforward, but the preparation is more difficult. Everything that comes into contact with the beer has to be sterilized, everything, and I mean everything! Any outside bacteria that get into the beer itself during the brewing process would render it useless; it's all about the preparation.

In fact so much in life requires us to make sufficient preparation. Ministry is a lot like that, and while I would certainly be the first to say it's inevitable that some things happen that you have not prepared for, the more preparation you put in the more confident you are of delivering a good product. I have just come back from leading a retreat for members of the Mothers Union, which took time and preparation in order for me to feel confident about delivering the finished programme.

We are now coming out of the summer and into another busy period within the Church's year. Harvest will soon be upon us and then, well you know what's just around the corner come the end of November! In our spiritual lives we also need to prepare ourselves to enter into God's presence. Allowing ourselves the space and time within the day to pause, pray and reflect. Preparation for the devotional Christian means putting aside time to be with God and that often means slowing down and stilling ourselves.

Both churches of the benefice will be in preparation for the busy few months ahead. In order to share with others the gospel within the next few months, let us be prepared! Pause, reflect, and pray for God's grace, and guidance.

*Yours in Christ,
Paul*

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Celebrating Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is an internationally popular German folk and beer festival. Its original purpose was to celebrate unity. The first Oktoberfest was held in Munich in 1810. Now over 6 million people attend the festival, with many more celebrating across the world.

Our Cray Valley Benefice is part of a Southeast England Oktoberfest - the first of its kind. The emphasis is on music, with at least one musical event being held every day of the month. We are hosting two: St Andrew's Candlelit Dinner 10 October and St Mary's Concert 25 October. The music for these events is being organised by local musician Dave Silk, and they promise to be of a very high standard. It is down to us as churches to create the right atmosphere to promote unity which remains at the heart of the festival. We can only do that together.



Unity does not mean we all agree, in fact far from it. Unity demonstrates that we can live with disagreement and difference. It means we can respect our differences and learn from them. We grow as Christian communities through creating unity one with another. We do this by worshipping together and supporting the different events at both churches. Unity is more than just about ourselves, it is about being open and welcoming to others, something we hold very dear across our benefice.

Jesus calls his followers to be one, to be united in love of him and in our commitment to serve. By being part of Oktoberfest we serve the Cray Valley community. We demonstrate the unity that the festival celebrates, but most of all we demonstrate the unity that Jesus calls us to live out.

Let us enjoy celebrating unity through Oktoberfest, Cray Valley style.

Rev. Jane Winter

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

- Sundays** 09:00 Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.
10:30 Sung Parish Eucharist.
(On the first Sunday of the month, the 10:30 service is an All Age Family Eucharist.)
- Mondays** 17:00 Rainbows in the hall, excluding school and bank holidays.
- Tuesdays** 09:00 Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.
- Wednesdays** 09:30 Funshine Club in the church excluding school holidays.
- Thursdays** 19:00 Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel with homily.
- Fridays** 12:00 Said Eucharist with Healing and Wholeness, followed by the opportunity for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.
- Saturdays** There are different regular Saturday events throughout the month. See the following 'What to look out for this month'.

ST ANDREW'S READINGS FOR OCTOBER

- Sunday 4th THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
ALL AGE FAMILY EUCHARIST
Genesis 2: 18-24 and Mark 10: 2-16. (Good News Bible)
- Sunday 11th THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Amos 5: 6-7 & 10-15, Hebrews 4: 12-16 and
Mark 10: 17-31.
- Sunday 18th **ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST**
Isaiah 35: 3-6, 2 Timothy 4: 5-17 and Luke 10: 1-9.
- Sunday 25th **BIBLE SUNDAY**
THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Isaiah 55: 1-11, 2 Timothy 3: 14-45 and John 5: 36-47.

ST MARY'S READINGS FOR OCTOBER

- Sunday 4th **HARVEST AND EUCHARIST**
Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 25-33
- Sunday 11th **EUCHARIST** Hebrews 4: 12-16 Mark 10: 17 -31
- Sunday 18th **PRAISE AND WORSHIP EUCHARIST** for St Luke
2 Timothy 4: 5-17 Luke 10: 1-9
- Sunday 25th **BIBLE SUNDAY** Eucharist
2 Timothy 3: 14-45 John 5: 36b-end

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

- Sat 3rd 18:00 **HARVEST SUPPER** at **St Mary's**. There will be a
for raffle in aid of St Mary's Restoration Fund. Please
18:30 email jackiecook.email@gmail.com for more
information. There will be a list in St Mary's Church
Mon 5th **SINGLETONS LUNCH** at Petts Wood. See Jill Renwick
if you wish to attend
- Sat 10th **CANDLELIT DINNER** at **St Andrew's** - Hope you have
bought your ticket!
- Wed 14th 15:00 **AFTERNOON TEA** at Apsley Court - Please join us
19:45 **HOMEGROUP** - See Malcolm Deering for full details
- Sat 17th 15:30- **MESSY CHURCH HALLOWEEN PARTY** - Fancy dress
17:00 optional
- Sun 18th TBA **BENEFICE YOUTH CLUB MEETING - Activity TBA**
- Mon 19th TBA **GOING PLACES** visit The Red House - See the notice
board for full details
- Sun 25th 15:00- **LIVE MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON** at St
17:00 Mary's - See notice board - Get your tickets as soon as
possible.

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER WILL BE
8 OCTOBER AS PRINTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON 14TH -15TH
PLEASE GET YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THEN OR EARLIER**

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS
AT ST MARY'S

Sundays	10:00	Holy Communion
Mondays	09:00	Morning Prayer
	17:30	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	12:00	Midweek Eucharist

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ST MARY'S

MOTHERS' UNION

First Sunday of the month - 11:30 in the church centre (hall).

First Tuesday of the month - 13:30-16:00 at various venues. Please listen to notices and see the noticeboard.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

September's meeting of the Tuesday St Mary's Mothers' Union met at Muriel Unsworth's home on 1 August. The meeting discussed with Rev. Jane Winter the new Communion service of praise and celebration. Several alterations were suggested but the service seemed to require very little change.

The next Mothers' Union meetings are on Tuesday 6 October at 14:15 in Jacky Cook's home (102 Chislehurst Road, Orpington) and on Sunday 4 October at 11:30 in the church centre (hall). At the Tuesday meeting Jacky and Jim Cook will be talking about Browsea Island and their visits there. All are welcome

Rosemary Lathey

17 October 09:30- Autumn members meeting at St Columbus School
 14:30 Bexleyheath (bring your own lunch)

OPEN DOOR LUNCH

Second Tuesday of the month at 12:00 (Cost £5.00)

Tuesday 8 September saw 10 Open Door diners enjoying a pizza and salad prepared by Rosemary Lathey and Jacky Cook, followed by delicious trifle made by Myra. The smaller attendance was caused by holidays and conferences.

The next lunch will be on Tuesday 13 October at 12:00. Please remember the midweek Eucharist is now every Wednesday at 12:00. The menu will be fish'n'chips, followed by Myra's syrup sponge and custard. Please let me know if

THE CRAYFISHER

you would like to join us, because we need to order the correct amount. Payment of £5:00 in advance for the shopping is essential. Thank you to all who helped this month, we look forward to you joining us in October. Suggestions for meals will always be considered, if in budget.

Advance notice that the December Open Door Lunch will be joined with the Mothers' Union and will probably be on 15 December possibly at the Bromley Court Hotel. The cost will be approximately £25. This has to be confirmed. Details will be announced once known.

Rosemary Lathey (01689 872742)

SOCIAL CLUB

Second Tuesday of the month 13:30 to 16:00

Five people enjoyed each other's company and had a chat. Unfortunately because of an equipment malfunction the usual film show did not happen and we closed early. The next Tuesday social Club will be held in the church centre (hall) opposite St Mary's on 13 October at 13:30 until 15:30, all are welcome. For further details please contact me.

Tony Lathey (01689 872742)

COFFEE MORNING

Second Saturday of the month 10:00 - 12:00 (Cost £2:00)

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

We have formed a Friends of St Mary's as an offshoot of the Friends of Cray Valley, who have been doing the odd litter pick of the churchyard. The main reason is to try and keep the church and churchyard in a reasonable state of appearance as there is no longer anybody responsible for this task available from the congregation on a regular basis. The Friends of St Mary's membership is open to all willing helpers whether members of St Mary's or another church or just interested members of the public who feel the church and churchyard is worthy of looking after. To start off we are meeting on the first Saturday of each month from 14:00 until 16:00 and will be doing litter picking, removing greenery from the graves where possible and removing basal growth from the base of the trees. Gloves and equipment provided.

We have had two meetings to date and have removed ivy from several gravestones although they need some work on them, dead headed the roses, removed a broken bough and a few of the many weeds in the flower beds. To make a real difference we do need more volunteers.

Please pass this information on to your neighbours, they might like to help. For further details please see me.

Tony Lathey (01689 872742)

A JAR OF JaM

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The younger children have been listening to the story of Mary when she was visited by the angel Gabriel. Chiko, aged 6 asked some questions which Rev. Chris Kitchener felt needed being answered in a homegroup. Here are a few of them:

Was Jesus God? An explanation of the Trinity was thought necessary.

Was King David the one who killed Goliath? That was easier!

Is Mary more important than God? The children said definitely NO!

Was it Bethlehem where that man was blinded? A quiz question?

Was Jesus adopted by Mary? Perhaps this would be the easiest way to explain his birth to younger children.

The older children read the Bible story in Luke, and they were wondering how Mary felt:

'Mary had mixed feelings about her son Jesus because she explained to Gabriel that she was a virgin and it wasn't possible. Imagine if you won the lottery, but you hadn't bought a ticket!' Temi, aged 12.

'Mary was confused but also very surprised because the angel was telling her about her destiny'. Zina, aged 13.

Mary was confused and overwhelmed with the news as she wasn't even married. Also, she was concerned about how this could happen'. Ozo aged 10.

Jacky Cook and Francis Aylgabo



JaM COMPETITION

Our older children of JaM have begun a new group within St Mary's. They have been devising a new name for it, and would like any more suggestions by both children and adults. The group is for children in secondary school. Their leader is Francis Aylgabo. They have thought of some names to start the competition rolling. The winner (with the most votes) will be chosen on 27 September and announced by Rev. Jane Winter.

Here they are:

JaM PLUS (JaM +)

TEENS' CHURCH

Youth Explorers (SMYE)

Junior JaMmers

St Mary's Youth Group (SMYG)

J.A.M. Teenz

TEEN WORSHIP

Senior JaMmers

Send your suggestions or votes to jackiecook.email@gmail.com

ST MARY'S RESTORATION NEWS

This month sees the first of what we hope will be a successful fund raising initiative - our concert on Sunday 25 October: **Light Music for a Lazy Sunday Afternoon**. It is great to be working in partnership with local musician Dave Silk who has arranged the performers. Tickets are £7.00 with complimentary refreshments available from Jacky Cook (01689 810451). Please buy your ticket, and one for a friend. Even better please sell some tickets. We want this to be a great success, and the first of many opportunities to open St Mary's church to the local community.

We have nearly completed compiling a revised history of the church with huge thanks to Tony Lathey. This will be published. It will also form the basis of our guided tours. Would you like to **be a guide**? Full training will be given and the task is not hard. All you need is a passion for the church, love for God and an ability to talk. We can probably all say yes to these requirements - so what is stopping you. Speak to me if you are willing to give this a go.

We also need a volunteer (or two) who would be prepared to keep a maintenance plan and record for the church. This does not mean doing all the repairs. It is about identifying what needs to be repaired and making sure it gets done. We hope to find training for this because it is a requirement of our funders Heritage Lottery.

So there are three opportunities for us to be involved with the restoration project matching the hard work the committee continue to give.

Please: buy and sell tickets for the concert,
become a volunteer guide,
invite someone to look after the maintenance record.

Rev. Jane Winter

A PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE NORTHERN SAINTS

Part Two

We began Wednesday at a more civilized hour and set off, after breakfast, to visit Chester-Le-Street - a garrison town in Roman times. We visited the parish church of St Mary and St Cuthbert, dating back to 883AD, and here the Bible was first translated into English. We saw a facsimile copy of the Lindisfarne Gospels, visited the Ankers House Museum and saw the small window - the only source of light - through which the Anchorites could focus on the cross. Lunch was a delicious soup served in the Parish Centre before we left to



continue our journey to Jarrow via the Angel of the North with its wingspan of fifty-four metres. To see this was a dream come true.

In Jarrow, the home of the venerable Bede, we had a guided tour of St Paul's Church and Monastery and Bede's World - a museum dedicated to the life and times of St Bede -

where we would have liked to stay for longer. We returned to Durham for dinner and, in the evening, were introduced to the music of Northumbrian pipes.

On Thursday we stayed nearer home and had an hour's guided walk into Durham followed by a cruise on the river Wear. We had a little spare time then for lunch and shopping before exploring the Cathedral and attending a service.

We had expected Choral Evensong but the choir were singing abroad so the Dean took a beautiful service of Evening Prayer focusing on pilgrimage - presumably in our honour! With music being so important to me, I thought I would be very disappointed but, in fact, was so moved by the service that, after dinner, I opted-out of the evening quiz and returned to my room to meditate on all that I had experienced.

Friday came all too soon and it was time to say our goodbyes to new friends. We were fortunate to have some spare time in the morning and so were able to visit the university's Oriental Museum which was fascinating. Here were exhibitions concerning the various religions and some beautiful Japanese wedding kimonos. Again, we could have spent much more time here, but had to leave to catch our train and return home.



I began this venture with some trepidation but knew I needed to get away and spend time with God in a different place, with time to meditate and pray about my life and what I'm doing with it. I've returned feeling calmer and more optimistic and feel that I'm where God wants me to be for the moment. The whole experience was uplifting and enlightening, not to mention satisfying! My thanks to McCabe and all the wonderful people who worked so hard for us. All praise, glory and thanks to God our Father without whom it wouldn't have happened!

Jill Renwick

THE FOUR Rs!

In the school curriculum we are acquainted with the three Rs... Reading, Riting (including spelling?) and Rithmetic! Actually this should be the four Rs because a very important subject is missing. I refer to Religious Education or RE. (It also happens to really begin with an R!)

In the Hebrew scriptures of the Old Testament there are also four Rs. Four 'leading ladies'. Or perhaps we could call them heroines or even matriarchs. They are, in alphabetical order: Rachel, Rahab, Rebekah and Ruth. All four of these incredible women are also mentioned in the Greek scriptures of the New Testament.

Rachel: An Aramaean woman whose name can mean 'ewe'. She was the wife of Jacob and the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. Her wonderful story can be read in the book of Genesis chapters 29 to 48.

In Matthew 2:18 which is a quote from Jeremiah 31:15 we read...

A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, **Rachel** weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.

This scripture relates to the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt and the massacre of the innocents. The feast of Holy Innocents is commemorated on 28 December.

Rahab: A Canaanite woman whose name can mean 'pride'. She was a harlot/prostitute/courtesan! Her amazing story can be found in the book of Joshua chapters 2 and 6.

In Hebrews 11:31 we read...

By faith the prostitute **Rahab**, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

In James 2:25 we read...

Rahab the prostitute was considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction.

Rebekah: Her name can mean 'beauty'. She was the wife of Isaac and the mother of Jacob and Esau. Her beautiful story is told in the book of Genesis chapters 22 to 49.

In the letter of St Paul the Apostle to the Romans 9:10 we read...

Rebecca's (the Greek spelling) children had one and the same father, our father Isaac.

Ruth: A Moabitess who lived in the time of the Judges. Her name can mean 'friend'. She was a widow who married Boaz. She was the mother of Obed who was the grandfather of King David. Her remarkable story is related in the book named after her, Ruth chapters 1 to 4.

In Matthew 1:5-6 which is part of the ancestry or genealogy of Christ we read...

Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was **Ruth**. Obed was the father of Jesse and Jesse was the father of King David.

To conclude; I recommend the stories of all four of these notable women. It is well worth reading their accounts in full using a good, clear, modern translation of the Bible.

Bill Willis



Rev. Jane Winter writes

A very big thank-you to everyone from St Andrew's and St Mary's who made the celebration of my ordination to the priesthood so special. It was great to see so many people in the cathedral and to share in the pub afterwards. Thank you to all who attended my two first Eucharists, I literally couldn't have done those without you, quite seriously because priests cannot celebrate on their own, and rightly so. I believe part of the ministry of a priest is about enabling a congregation to worship God together. It won't surprise you to know that *together* is my watchword.

Thank you for welcoming me into both church communities this year, for supporting me in getting involved with local community groups and most of all for sharing in worship as we grow together in faith.

BOOK REVIEW**THE CASTLE OF THE HUMAN HEART****The miseries of backsliding**

Many people will be aware of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. Until my recent book search at the Orpington Oxfam shop, I was not aware of his book The Holy War. The copy I found was a modern English translation by Thelma H Jenkins.

The story is an allegory about the city of Mansoul in which Heart Castle is found. Three of the central characters are The Great King El Shaddai, his son The Golden Prince Emmanuel and The Lord Secretary. The story describes both the attempts of Diabolous to replace those three characters in the affections and loyalty of the citizens of Mansoul and the *backsliding* of those citizens.

Sometimes, books are described as *unputdownable*. I started and finished the book in the same day. It is easy to read but has a message that can provoke thought and reflection. If you would like to borrow my copy, just ask.

Malcolm Deering

DAMIEN HIRST AND THE CHARITY SCULPTURE CITY OF LONDON 2015



If you visit the City of London and you walk past the eye-catching tall building known as The Gherkin you'll find that in the summer of 2015 there is a temporary work of large art there. It is a 22 foot painted bronze sculpture by the artist Damian Hirst. The statue first saw the light of day in Hoxton Square in 2002 and has now been taken to St Mary Axe, next to St Helen's church, as part of this year's Art in the City annual event.

The sculpture is entitled Charity and it depicts the collecting box of the Spastics Society that was commonly seen outside chemists shops in Great Britain during the 1960s and 1970s. As an artist, Hirst often puts a theme of polarity into his work. I can't help feeling that the positioning of his Charity sculpture makes a very powerful statement of polarity, set in the heartland of the City's financial district where glass and steel structures surround it, symbolising the pursuit of affluence and gain.

It states on the plinth: *Monumental yet vulnerable, the work plays on the historical tradition in art of depicting the Virtue of Charity as a single female figure.*

Jerry Dowlen

QUIET DAY AT BISHOPSCOURT

Thirteen of us met on 29 August at Orpington Station to catch the train to Rochester for a visit to Bishopscourt, the official residence of the Bishop of Rochester. The Bishop is generously permitting groups to visit the house on specific days and Jill Renwick had booked a visit in order that we could have a quiet day of contemplation and meditation in this very





graceful house and garden.

Bishop James greeted us on arrival and gave a brief history of the house. We then gathered in the elegant dining room and after a welcome cuppa we began our day of quietude. Jill set the tone by asking us to think about our relationship with God. She suggested various themes that we should consider and reflect upon. Themes that perhaps we may not have consciously

thought about in our daily lives. They were directed towards a better awareness of our relationship with God and how God fits into the *jigsaw* of our lives, wholly, partially or just on the periphery. We then had a period of quiet to think on these things. To search our hearts and minds and perhaps clarify some of the vagueness of our feelings and thoughts. Some of the group spent the time sitting in the very pretty garden in the warm sunshine and some in the house, alone and silent.

After we ate our lunch, some in the dining room and some sitting outside in the sunshine, we gathered in the small chapel for a shared Eucharist and a Service of Wholeness and Healing. The chapel looked as if it was a small cave, hewn out of the earth and lined with flint. It also had a suggestion of being like a nest and us being held in God's hands. Perhaps the answer to the rhetorical questions we were asked to think about was, that we are fitting into God's *jigsaw* rather than he into ours.

After a cuppa (another one!) and one of the Bishop's biscuits, we wandered down the hill to the station and then boarded the train to Orpington. It was a very rewarding day and I am sure everyone felt spiritually refreshed as a result. Many thanks to Jill and Paul for arranging and planning the visit.

Evelyn Magee

Photo of the house by Bridget Langstaff

FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Try your hand at this Sudoku - the solution will appear next month

	1		6		7			
		8			5		9	
				3			5	
5				1		7		8
3		6		7				4
	2			4				
			5			6		
			9		3		2	

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GUARDIAN ANGELS - KEEPING AN EYE ON US

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18:10) The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham, has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels. Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour. Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th - 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2 October.



QUOTES FOR OCTOBER

WITH HALLOWEEN IN MIND ...

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*

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE...

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*

MISCELLANEOUS ONE-LINERS

What part of "THOU SHALT NOT" don't you understand?
A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.

Don't let the littleness in others bring out the littleness in you.

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord.

We don't change God's message - His message changes us.

The best thing parents can do for their children is to love each other.

Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.

To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it.

We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for.

For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.

Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, and where you are.




Mouse Makes

The Lord's teachings
are perfect.
*They give **strength**
to his people.*

The Lord's rules can
be **trusted**.
*They help even the
foolish become **wise**.*

The Lord's laws are **right**.
*They make people **happy**.*

The Lord's commands
are **good**.
*They show people the
right way to live.*




from Psalm 119:7--8

Do you have a favourite
bible verse? Write it here:

.....

.....

.....

Colour in the illustrated bible verse,
cut out and use as a
bookmark in your bible. 

GOD'S

WORD

is a

LAMP

TO

GUIDE

my feet

and a

LIGHT

for my

PATH

PSALM 119:105

Oct 15 ©decorah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Courtesy of www.Parishpump.co.uk

GUTTER CLEARING CAN BE A PROFITABLE OCCUPATION?

Having noticed a number of weeds growing in the gutter on the north side of the church hall Trevor Taylor and I agreed that it would be prudent to clean it out.

Whilst Trevor was up the ladder clearing out the gutter I was clearing some vegetation at ground level when I noticed a black and tan handbag lying in the bushes where it had been thrown over our fence. On further examination I found the bag contained a bottle of eye drops, a Boots glasses cleaning cloth, a 50p coin, a 20p coin, a 1 Eurocent coin and banknotes totalling 84 US dollars! Unfortunately there was no identification.

On Wednesday evening I arrived at St Mary Cray police station just before 19:00 (the station only being open to the public on Wednesday between 19:00 - 20:00) to hand in the items found. I could see lights on inside but no personnel so I rang the bell but there was no response. I rang again and at 19:08 a PCSO appeared and apologised for keeping me waiting. I said I had rung the bell a few times and she replied 'the bell doesn't work'!

I explained what had happened and handed in the bag etc. She duly filled in the appropriate forms and I had to sign a declaration to say that I waived all rights to the property if, for any reason, I failed to make a claim within two weeks immediately following the next 28 days!



Naturally, I hope the rightful owner is reunited with the money, but if this is not possible then St Andrews will receive an unexpected donation!

Malcolm Hubbard.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Yes, Christmas is not that far off! Our Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 28 November, so we are now asking you if you would be kind enough to bring your donations in as soon as possible. We need bottles for the tombola, bric-a-brac, books etc.
Thank you.

JaM

(JESUS and ME)

JaM is our Sunday school group at St Mary's
We meet in the church centre (hall) at
10:00

You are very welcome to join us

Every week is full of activities such as art and craft, drama, games and music

Learning about Jesus and the Bible is fun

For more information please contact

Jacky Cook on 01689 810451

Come and join us if you're aged between 4 and 16

PCC VACANCY

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, a member of the current PCC has found it necessary to resign. This has created a vacancy which needs to be filled. Is there anyone who would be willing to take this on? It isn't such an onerous task. We only meet about 6 times a year. If you are interested please speak to me and I will fill you in on the details. Many thanks.

Brenda Smith
PCC Secretary



Funshine Club

St Andrew's Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time

We meet in St Andrew's Church
Lower Road.

Car Parking in St Andrew's Church Car
Park

**£1.00 per Adult,
Children free**

(Includes craft activity, tea/coffee,
squash and biscuit)

Enquiries to: Sarah Rideout 0794 1020724

We are a very friendly group for babies to
preschool children, Mums, Grans,
Dads, Grandads, Childminders & Carers.
Please come along & join in the fun.

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