

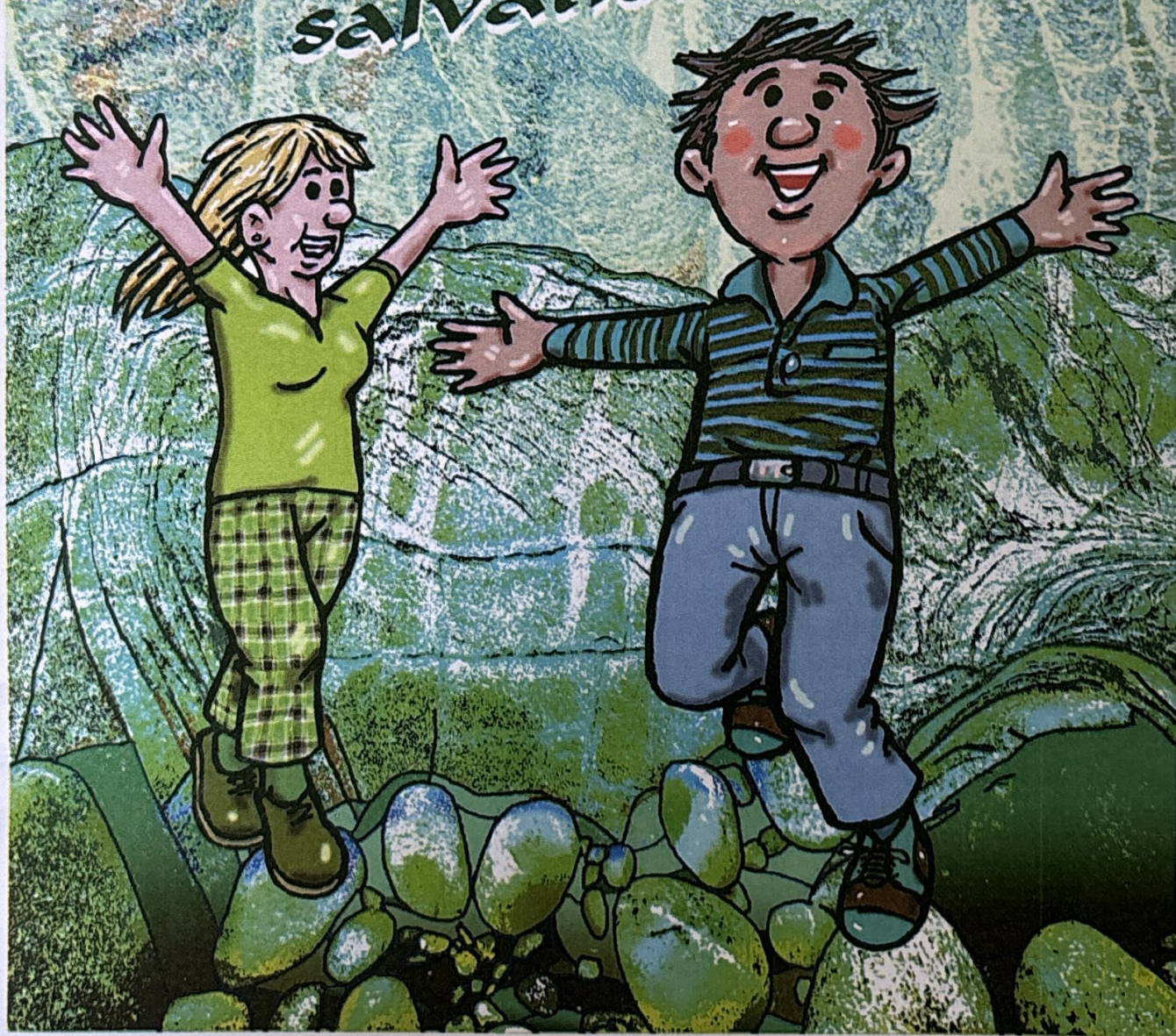
Sale, St. Paul's

'Serving God and the community'

May 2024

O come, let us sing
to the Lord;
let us make
a joyful noise
to the rock of our
salvation!

Psalm 95: 1



From the Vicarage....

Dear Friends,

It's summertime!

As we unfurl ourselves and make our way outside May it's often a time when we can celebrate simple pleasures, bare feet on grass, the sun warming your face, a bit of time to ourselves. For those with young people and teenagers in the house its often a time of study and examinations.

Summer is often a time of restoration and relaxation with time to explore our hobbies and interests helped by the increased light levels and access to outdoor spaces and it all starts on May 1st. May Day is the ancient festival celebrated the start of summer which is often celebrated with the crowning of a May Queen, dancing around a maypole or singing on the church roof. In Lancashire, my curacy church had the tradition of crowning a May Queen, the young people both Queens and Kings, also promised to undertake fundraising during the year for a local charity and were supported in this by the church family who attended various coffee mornings, car-boot sales and car-washes.

May is also the month for the main Christian Aid fundraiser and I know many of you will have in the past been diligent in delivering and collecting red envelopes on their behalf. I hope that we can once again support Christian Aid. This year's campaign will be following the story of Aline Nibogora from Makamba province in Burundi, a landlocked country in Central Africa. Married when she was still a child, Aline has experienced domestic violence, homelessness, and extreme

poverty. She was brought to a point where she says that 'people forgot I was human'. But Aline's love for her children, and her experience of God's love, filled her with exceptional courage. She was determined to give her children a better life and to help her neighbour. Aline joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid-funded trainers. She learnt about Village Savings and Loans Associations and was determined to form her own to help herself and others around her. With support from Christian Aid, Aline's and her children's lives have been lifted into the light. She works hard and is now able to afford to build a home and has purchased solar panels so her children have light so they can study even after the sun sets. In her family prayers she give thanks for the support they have received from Christian Aid and the differences it's made in their lives.

As we head into the summer months what will you be thankful for? The warmer days? The delights of a garden heading into the summer? A family wedding or a long-anticipated holiday? The conclusion of examinations and handing in of dissertations and course work?

I'm thankful for sabbatical time over the summer, as I engage in some academic research and undertaken visits and a trip overseas to meet up with former colleagues in the Diocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

I hope and pray that you will find restoration and relaxation time over the next few months.

Yours in faith,
Becky

Nigel Beeton writes: One wonderful thing about May is that it has not one, but two Bank Holidays! Some complain that they are too close together, but you know, May's a lovely month for some time off!

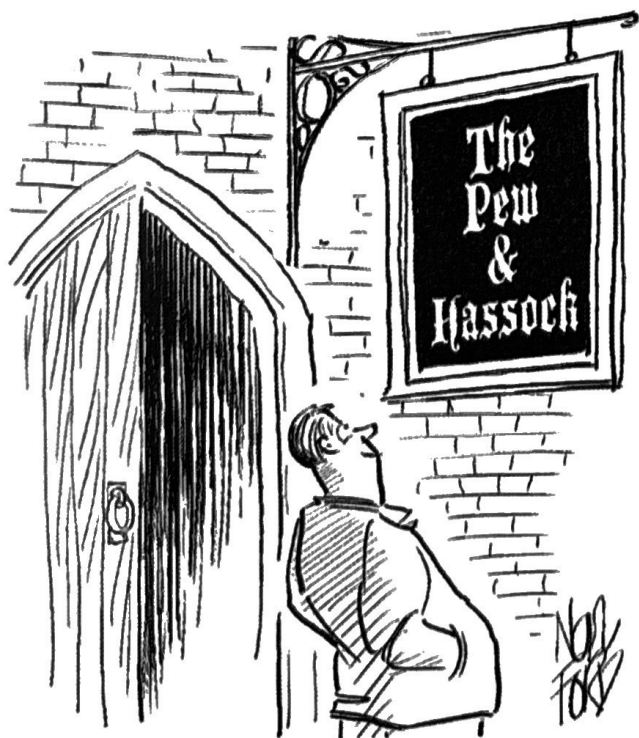
May Bank Holidays

Who doesn't enjoy the fair month of May?
Not one day but two we can spend time away;
With workbags and satchels left under the bed
We sing as we pack up a picnic instead!

The sun in the sky and the wind in our hair
As we eat our lunch in the fresh open air;
The river chants secrets to daisies nearby
And birds sing their anthems beneath the blue sky.

Replete, we can take to our feet, or a bike
Instead of a schedule we can do what we like!
Catch up on a novel, or stroll 'neath the trees
Our laughter transported on warm summer breeze.

From two days of duty we are thus relieved
And so we should judge them a blessing received;
A pause in life's rhythm, a gift from above
To substitute stresses with laughter and love.



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

Tuesday Group

First of all I must apologise for the lack of a meeting in April. As it fell in the Easter school holiday the hall was not available. We did try to arrange a lunch at a local garden centre but it proved to be very complicated!

On 14th May Colin Hepburn will be giving us an illustrated talk which he has entitled "Viva Mexico"! Colin seems to travel the world and often puts fascinating photos on Facebook so I think we're in for a treat.

I discovered today that my local Post Office is collecting used stamps in aid of research at Wythenshawe Nightingale Centre. If anyone has used stamps I will be pleased to collect them any Sunday at Church; thank you.

Diana

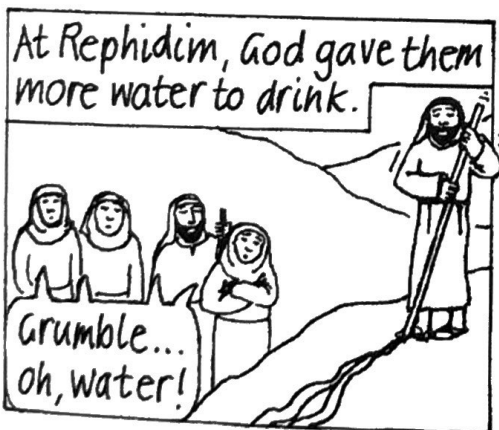
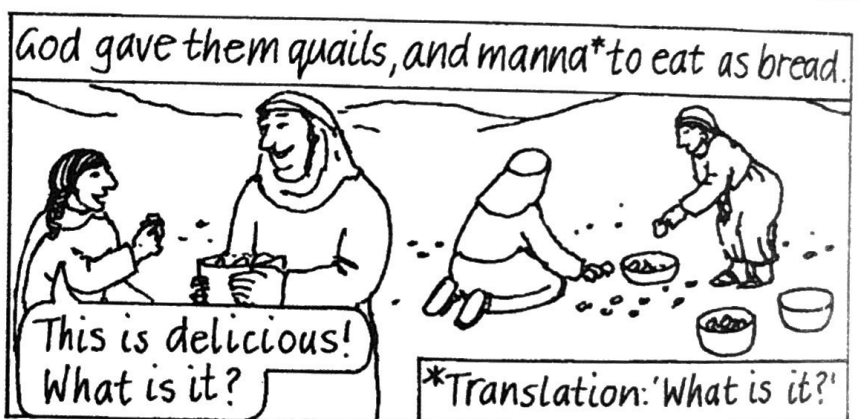
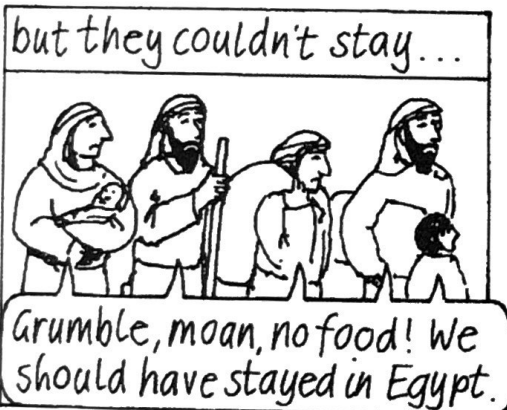
We also need an extra helper for Babes & Tots please let Revd. Margaret or Yvonne S know if you can assist- you will need to have a Basic DBS check and have undertaken the Basic safeguarding course.

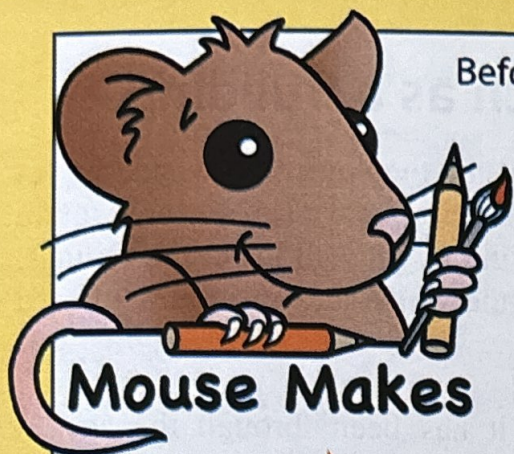
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15:22 to 19:2

God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days....





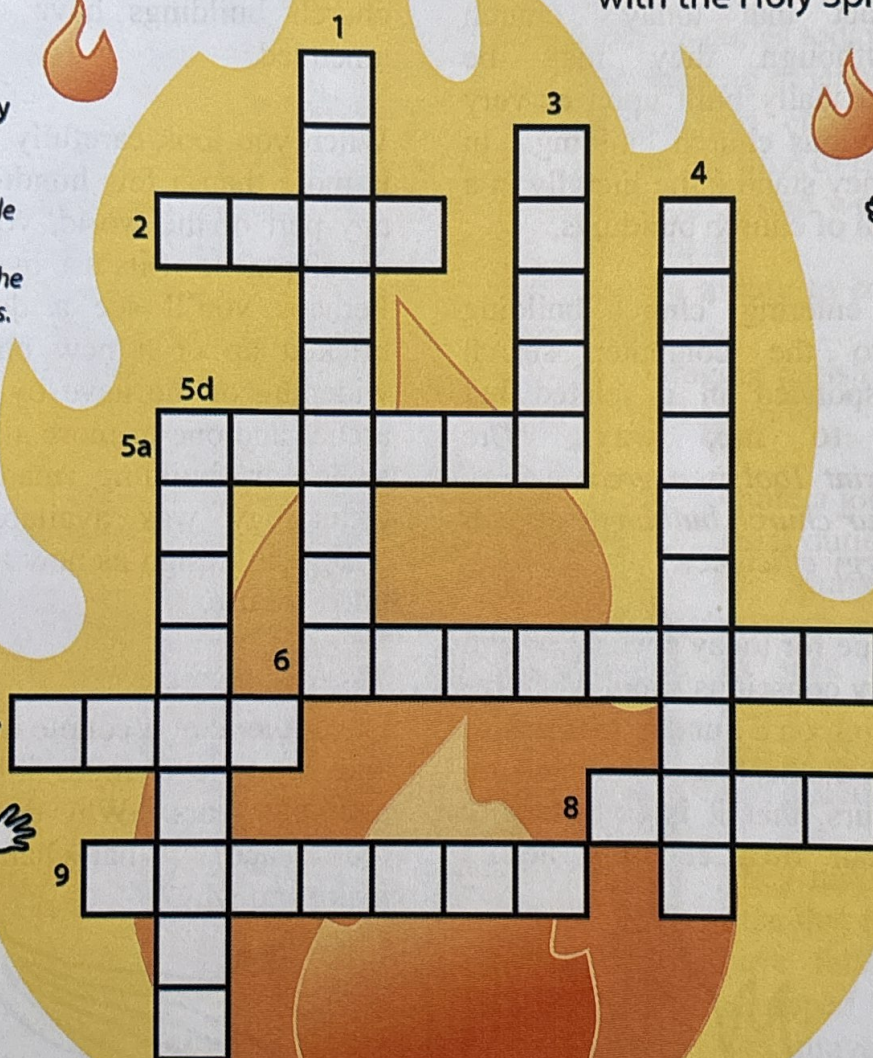
Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...*

*...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."*



READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? Acts 1:26
- 5d Which special day was it? Acts 2:1

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4
- 9 What did they start speaking in? Acts 2:4
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? Acts 2:14
- 7 Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16

Revd Dr Jo White considers

Reflecting Faith—The Church as a Building

Today's church buildings are rich and varied in their designs, sizes, materials, plans and groupings; from large cruciform churches to simple single room designs; from red brick to stone, and so on.

I wanted to look up some information about the fact that today's church buildings, although they may be 'modern', are usually built upon or very close to a previous church building. In other words, they stand quite literally in a long succession of church buildings.

However, on entering 'church building footprint' into the computer search engine, it responded in a related but unexpected, to me, way: *'The Energy Footprint Tool is a great way of monitoring your church building's carbon usage and energy efficiency.'*

A very real issue for today's world! - and one we are very conscious about when we enter the building on a Sunday morning to find, even with the heating turned on for a number of hours, that it is considerably cooler than our own centrally heated homes.

Whilst it is theologically wonderful to have high ceilings, we can see how future remodelling might well lower the ceilings, bring in the walls, and shrink the glassed areas.

And so it has been through the ages – church buildings have constantly been amended.

When you look carefully at a church that is more than a few hundred years old, in any part of the world, you can trace the development of its use by its architecture. Perhaps you'll see a door or window bricked up or a new one opened. The widening of the nave by the addition of arches and one or more aisles. Change in stone or building materials as later technology was available or even a change in design as new techniques came into safe use.

This month:

Have a look at a couple of local churches and spot the changes in their buildings over the years. Why do you think they took place? What changes would you make and why?



Fr Tom—an introduction

Hello!

I thought I should introduce myself a little as I am going to be with you until Rev Becky returns from her sabbatical.

First, thank you for your welcome so far. I am very much looking forward to ministering with you in the coming days. Please note, I think of myself as ministering “with” you rather than “to” you. We are all in the business of building the Kingdom of God together. My role is to serve you by leading worship and providing pastoral care as a priest. Our common task is to be disciples of our Lord Jesus and to spread his message of love and salvation amongst one another and our community. I hope that you believe your role is to pray and care as much for me as I will care for you. Of course, I am sure this extends to Revs Margaret and Lisa as well.

I thought you might like a little bit of background information. I am married to Lesley who I hope you will meet soon. She has two sons by her previous marriage and I have four children by mine. We have been married for about 16 years and live in Hollins Green.

From 1981 to 1998 I was a barrister in Liverpool. Then, until I retired in 2020 I was a judge in the Employment Tribunal, latterly in Manchester, and a part time judge in the Crown Courts and County Courts in the northwest.

By then I had been accepted for ordination training in the Diocese of Chester. I trained at Emmanuel Theological College. I was ordained as a Deacon in July 2022 and began my curacy at St Albans, Broadheath. I am currently training to be a spiritual director and pastoral supervisor.



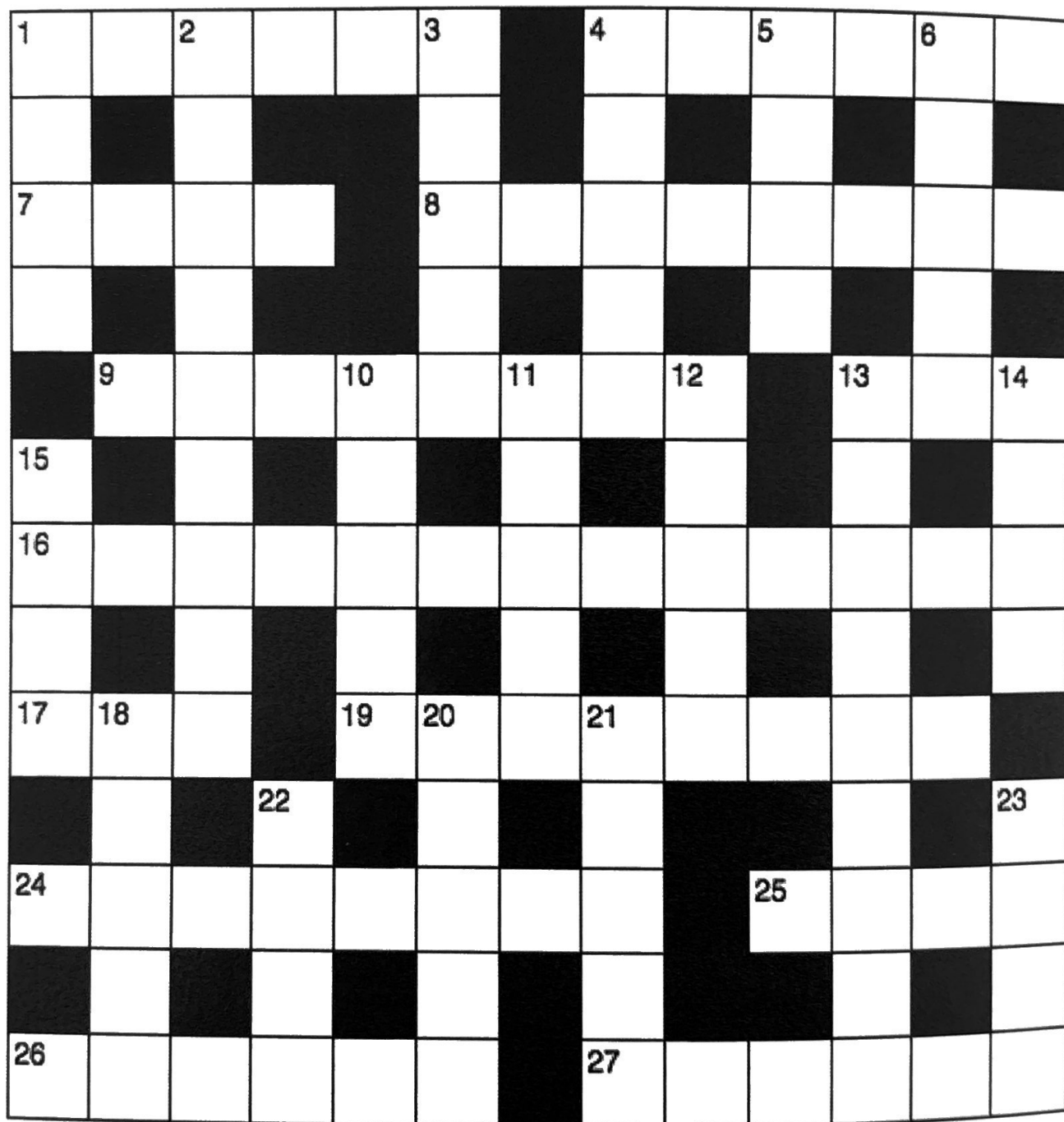
I was ordained a priest in June last year. I was diagnosed with sarcoma in my lower leg 10 days later. I had surgery in September. I now use a wheelchair most of the time although I can walk a little bit using a prosthetic leg.

All this means I will have to lead services from a seated position. Please bear with me if that causes difficulty. I will work hard to engage as much as possible with parish life but I will need help accessing church and preparing for services.

I think you should also know that I have no hearing in my left ear and that makes conversation difficult when there is a lot of background noise. If you would like to speak to me about any matter in particular it probably would be a good idea for us to arrange a further time to do that. You can of course contact me by e-mail or phone if you prefer. I would generally be available, like Rev Becky, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but if we need to meet outside those times we could do so subject to my other commitments.

With every blessing,
Tom

Crossword



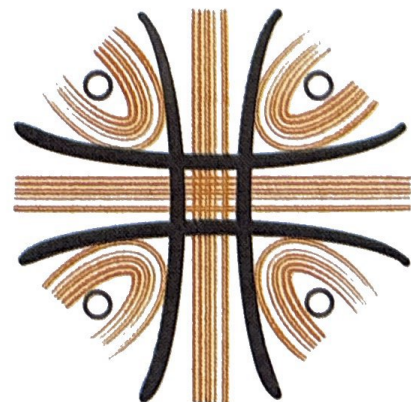
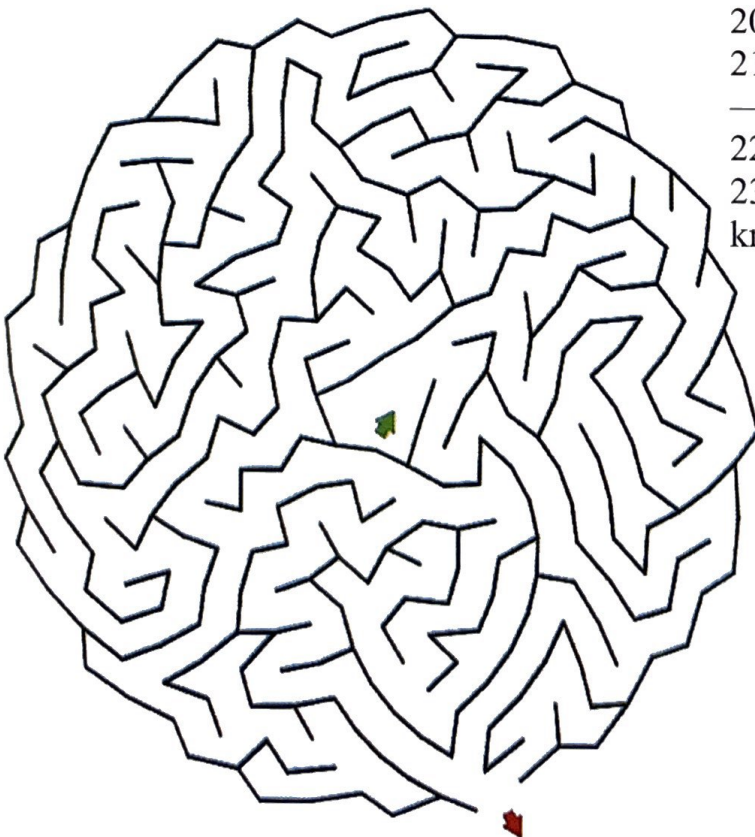
Solution—see the notice board in the church hall

Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)



THY KINGDOM COME – 9th to 19th May 2024

This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long-distance prayer between Ascension Day to Pentecost (9th – 19th May).

What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to 11 days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus.

According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions.

Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: “Every person, household and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

“Specifically, we again invite each Christian to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people whom they know, who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call.”

Whether you have joined in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ before or not, you are invited to take part this year. Archbishop Justin Welby says: “In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

13th-20th May - Mental Health Awareness week

As this month we observe Mental Health Awareness Week, it would be well worth especially praying for our young people.

The Children’s Commissioner for England has recently warned that our nation’s children are still facing a mental health crisis, following the isolation and loneliness of the pandemic.

And now, Dame Rachel de Souza warns that too many of these children are being kept waiting “far too long” for professional support. She found that, of the 949,200 children and young people referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in 2022-23, more than 270,000 children and young people are still waiting to be seen.

Dame Rachel says: “This generation of children has experienced uniquely uncertain and challenging times. Some have spent some of their most formative years isolated and indoors, fearful they or their loved ones may catch a deadly virus.

“They have felt the squeeze of a cost-of-living crisis, and they are keenly aware of the pressure their parents are under. They are constantly bombarded by negative news, of wars and climate catastrophe. And an increasing number are exposed to the harmful impact of social media, cyber bullying, and online exploitation.”

She continued: “Against this backdrop, it is not surprising that we continue to see the number of children experiencing poor mental health at persistently high levels.”

In the aftermath of our Annual Church Meetings, David Pickup, a solicitor, considers churchwardens...

Time to pray for your churchwardens

*O Eternal God... enlighten with Thy Grace the Wardens of this church, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek Thy Holy Will...
Amen.*

*O Lord, ...we beseech Thee to bless all who, ...give themselves to the service of their fellow worshipers. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall... that they may worthily minister in Thy Name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy... Amen
(Prayers from the C of E)*

Churchwardens have a vital and historical role in the life of the church. They are elected by the parish, not just the members of the church. Anyone in the parish can vote for them, not just people on the church's electoral roll.

So, if you want to be a churchwarden, just invite your neighbours on the day of the parish meetings in church!

Wardens used to have a significant role in the wider life of the parish with responsibilities for charity, poor relief and even bridges and roads.

Their church duties today include:

- ♦ Maintaining order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service
- ♦ Being entrusted with the property of the church
- ♦ Having a duty to cooperate with the vicar
- ♦ Encouraging parishioners in practice of "true religion"



Quite a job! These are their legal duties, but I also like the prayer above as it reminds us to pray for them to seek God's will, not theirs or ours, but God's, and to strengthen the weak and encourage the fallen.

They may feel most of the time that they are weak and have fallen, but they are equipped with our support and prayers to look after other people who need strength or support - which is probably most of us at times!



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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."
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Who's Who?
Members of the Parochial Church
Council (not mentioned on the
back page)

Diana Kelly	973-4578
Paula Hughes	973-5121
Joyce Green	973-0396
Eileen Craven	283-7668
Jean Law	962-6761



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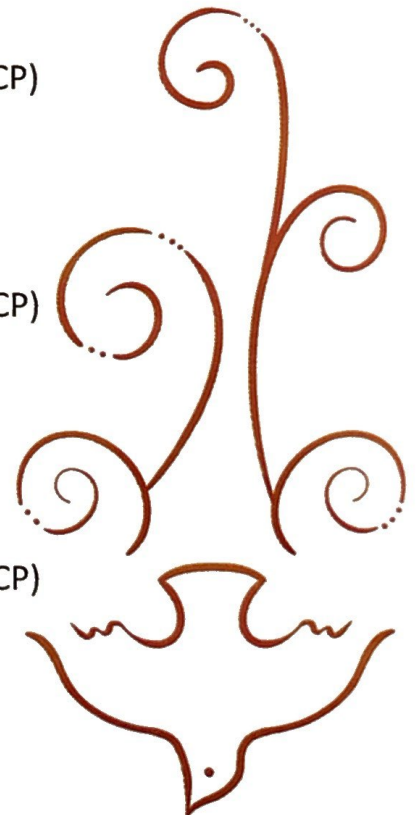
May 2024



1 st	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)
3 rd	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
5 th	Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Taize Style Evening Prayer
7 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Babes & Tots
8 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (BCP)
		7.45pm	PCC Meeting
9 th	Thursday		Thy Kingdom Come begins
10 th	Friday	1.30pm	Community Choir
12 th	Sunday	10.00am	All Age Worship
		6.00pm	Holy Communion

Deadline for the June Parish News

14 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Christian Aid Week begins
		1.15pm	Babes & Tots
15 th	Wednesday	10.00am	Tuesday Group
17 th	Friday	1.30pm	Communion Service (BCP)
19 th	Sunday	10.00am	Community Choir
		6.00pm	Parish Eucharist
21 st	Tuesday	9.30am	Evening Prayer
22 nd	Wednesday	10.00am	Babes & Tots
24 th	Friday	1.30pm	Communion Service (BCP)
26 th	Sunday	10.00am	Community Choir
		3.00pm	Parish Eucharist
		6.00pm	Forest Church
28 th	Tuesday	9.30am	Evening Prayer
29 th	Wednesday	10.00am	NO Babes & Tots
31 st	Friday	1.30pm	Communion Service (BCP)
			NO Community Choir



Next Month —

2 nd Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	6.00pm	Taize Style Evening Prayer
5 th Wednesday	10.00am	Communion Service (CW)



*Please check the weekly pew sheets for any service changes that may occur.
Don't forget—email any articles for the Parish News to the Parish Office email address—*

officestpaulsale@gmail.com

The Bible in 50 words

God made.
Adam bit.
Noah arked.
Abraham split.
Joseph ruled.
Jacob fooled.
Bush talked.
Moses balked.
Pharaoh plagued.
People walked.
Sea divided.
Tablets guided.
Promise landed.
Saul freaked.
David peaked.
Prophets warned.
Jesus born.
God walked.
Love talked.
Anger crucified.
Hope died.
Love rose.
Spirit flamed.
Word spread.
God remained.
- Anon



Dear Lord,

May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, “What does this mean?” May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things. Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,

In Jesus' name.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

St. Paul's Parish Directory

Churchwardens:	Yvonne Stevenson	*	07946 644214
	Vacant		
Pastoral Workers:	Yvonne Kerridge	*	962-4066
	Karen Salisbury	*	
Treasurer to the PCC:	Joe Blaney		treasurerstpaulsale@gmail.com
Secretary to the PCC:	Karen Salisbury	*	
Director of Music:	Anne Allen	*	01925-763103
Assistant Organists:	Kevin Drury		962-7963
	Donald Brooks		
Safeguarding Officer	Carole Shakeshaft	*	969-6319
Parish Giving Officer	Brian Kerridge	*	962-4066
Electoral Roll Officer:	Yvonne Stevenson	*	283-1065
Parish News Editor:	Karen Salisbury	*	283-8309
Bible Reading Fellowship:	Rachel Lee	*	973-1282
Men's Society:	Rodney Hadwen		
Women's Tuesday Group:	Hilary Moore	*	969-1831
St. Paul's Babes & Tots	Rachel Lee		973-1282
Tower Warden:	Ian Moore		0787-670-6834
Christian Aid:	Anita Evans		973-4679
Children's Society Rep:	Sheila Clarke		962-4678
Church Hall Bookings:	Contact via the Parish Office		
4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Rainbows, Brownies & Guides			
	Vicky Williams		07986 525898
Forest Church	Revd Dr Lisa Redfern		
Vicar:	Revd. Becky Mathew		
Associate Ministers:	Revd. Dr Lisa Redfern (Forest Church)		
	Revd. Dr Margaret Jones		973-7790
	Revd. Shemil Mathew		217-8795
Assistant Curate:	Revd. Tom Ryan		07793 019457
(on Secondment to St. Paul's)		Email:	revtomryan@gmail.com

Parish Office

962-0082

Parish Office e-mail

officestpaulsale@gmail.com

*Names above marked with * are members of the Parochial Church Council. Please note that **Vicar Becky** is part-time and her working hours are flexible so she might not be able to reply or respond immediately to your calls and emails. Please leave an answerphone message.*

Parish Organisations affiliated to St Paul's

The following groups meet in St Paul's Church Hall unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday	9.30am-11am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots (school term time)
	1.15pm	Women's Tuesday Group (2 nd of every month)
	6.15pm	4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies
	7.30pm	4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides
Friday	1.30pm-2.30pm	Community Choir (school term time)
	5.30pm	2 nd Sale Central Rainbows