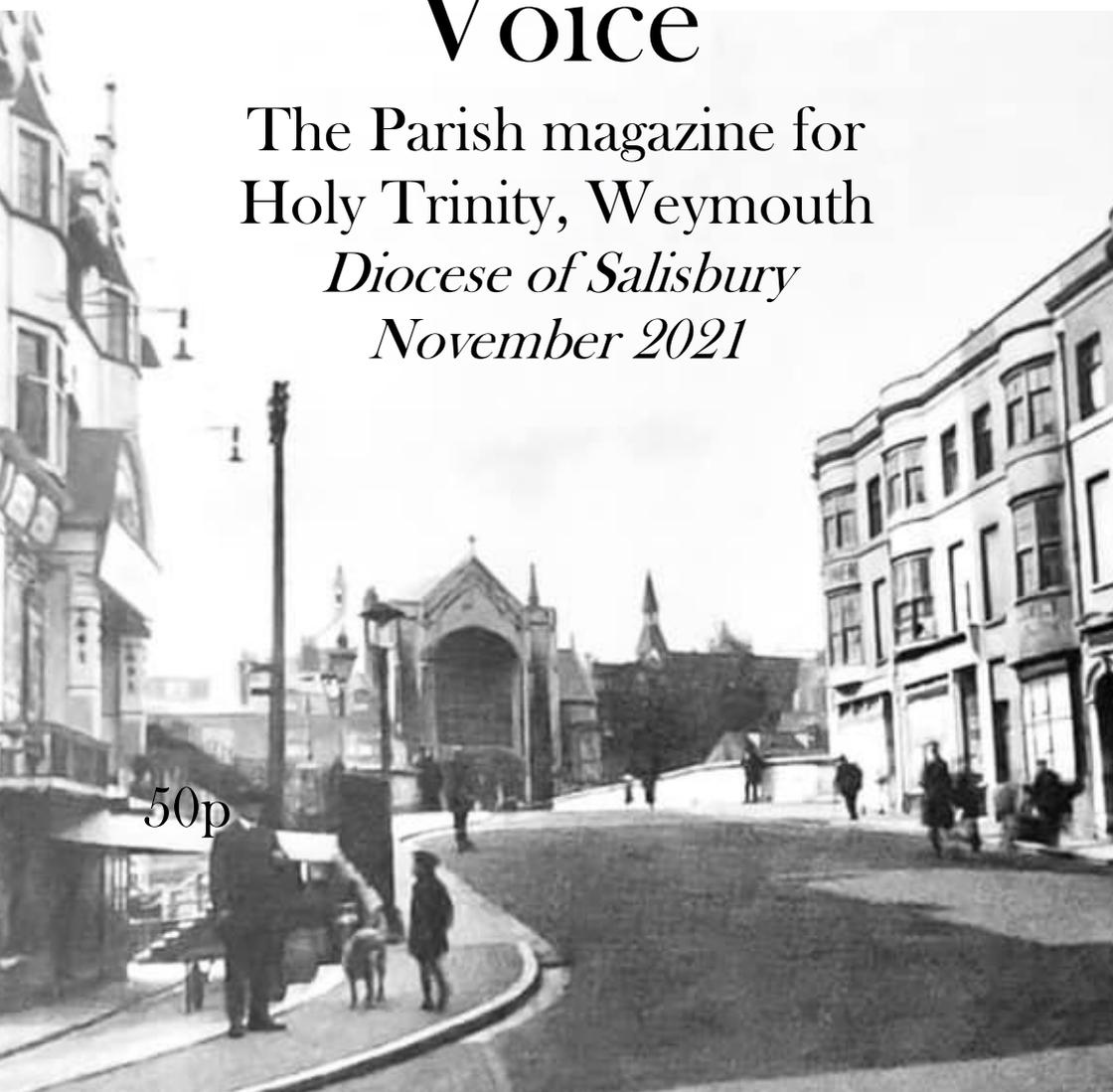




# Trinity Voice

The Parish magazine for  
Holy Trinity, Weymouth  
*Diocese of Salisbury*  
*November 2021*

50p



## SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Said Eucharist                      Holy Trinity  
10.00am Parish Sung Eucharist      Holy Trinity

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP.** Coffee and tea are served after our 10am Sunday service. This is a great opportunity for us to talk to each other. **IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH** please introduce yourself to Canon Andrew.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** For any general information please contact the Vicar 760354.

**FOR ALL MATTERS RELATING** to Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Confirmation and matters of pastoral care for the sick and dying as well as home visits, home communions and the Ministry of Reconciliation (Confession), please

**TELEPHONE THE VICAR:** Revd. Canon Andrew Gough 760354

*Email:* [goughfr@hotmail.com](mailto:goughfr@hotmail.com)

**THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** is perpetually reserved for the sick and infirm.

**Holy Trinity Website**  
[www.holytrinityweymouth.org](http://www.holytrinityweymouth.org)

**General enquiries:**

enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org

**Vicar:** The Reverend Canon Andrew Gough B.A.

**The Parish Office:** 01305 760354

**Email:** *Goughfr@hotmail.com*

***Please note that the vicar's day off is Monday***

**HT Churchwarden:** Phil Wise 01305 759484

**HT Churchwarden:** Trudi Shaw 07973 560705

**PCC Secretary:** Angela Kerigan Email  
angelakerigan@gmail.com

**HT Youth worker:** Connor Hansford  
Con.Hans@mail.com

**Sunday School:** Jenny Keates: 01305 788136

**Electoral Roll:** Phil Wise/Liz Williams:  
01305 786421

**Verger:** Peter Rendall: 01305  
782546

**Sacristan:** Carole Didcock (contact via  
church office)

**Servers/Acolytes** Janny Richards (contact via  
church office)

**Safeguarding Officer:** Krys Fursman 07916

097606 emmaaleks04@gmail.com

**Children's Society:** Val Sewry 01305 776155

**Flowers:** Church Team (contact the church office)

**Musical Director:**

James Thomas MA FRCO FTCL GTCL LRAM

07971403856

Assisted by Lizzie Peacock BMus LTCL, Dip

ABRSM CT ABRSM 07551623583

**Sunday pew sheet:** To be sent to the vicar's office

Goughfr@hotmail.com by

Wednesday 12noon each week

**Magazine Editor:**

Connor Hansford

*Contributions to the December magazine by the  
November 15th*

# The vicar's letter

## REMEMBERING



November is a month set aside for remembering and for preparations for Advent and the joy of Christmas. But this year as we remember the last two years of living with Covid, we also look forward to new beginnings and doing this differently and with different people.

We are delighted that this is the new Parish Magazine with our new editor at the helm. Connor Hansford is fairly new to Holy Trinity and is employed as our church Youth Worker, but he is also dipping his toe in other things around parish life, and we are grateful to him for taking on the church magazine and putting his skills in publishing to good use. Our thanks must also go to Geoff Pritchard who has been holding the fort for several years – more than he expected no doubt!

So back to November. The 1st of November is All Saints Day as we remember all the saints – from the big well-known ones to the small lesser-known ones. The 2<sup>nd</sup> of November is All Soul's Day when we commemorate the faithful departed. On November 5th we remember Guy

Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. Five days later we have Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day, when we cast our thoughts towards those who were killed, maimed, or injured (military or civilian) in two World Wars. But there is some joy in this often described as gloomy month on the last Sunday in November. It is the great celebration of the Feast of Christ the King. It is also 'stir up Sunday' On this day we shall stir the Christmas community cake in church. So, despite the gloom there is joy to be found.

So, November is not all gloom and doom, but a time for quiet reflection, remembrance, and joyful preparation. I am going to end with the following poem by Elizabeth Coatsworth which provides us with a fair picture of this month.

**November comes  
And November goes  
With the last red berries  
And the first white snows.  
With night coming early  
And dawn coming late  
And ice in the bucket  
And frost by the gate.  
The fires burn  
And the kettles sing  
And earth slips to rest  
Until next Spring.**



Wishing you all God's blessing  
Canon Andrew Gough  
**Vicar**

# From the Acting Bishop of Salisbury, Karen Gorham



I was delighted recently to be able to issue recommissioning certificates to those continuing to serve as Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Pastoral Assistants and Commissioned Lay Pioneers across the Diocese. We are grateful to all who play a part in the local church in this way, to assist in the leading of worship, visit those who are ill, co-ordinate baptism preparation, or bereavement care and work with those on the fringes of church life in faith sharing and outreach.

I am delighted too that this year we have an increased number of individuals embarking on training for Licensed Lay Ministry, and who have been licensed for that ministry. Our LLMs are key to the life of the local church as they

lead in church and society, teach the faith and act as enablers of mission. As we think as a Diocese about Generous Giving it is gratifying to see so many offering their gifts to the church and that includes churchwardens, treasurers, and PCC Secretaries too.

It is so easy however to concentrate on what happens in and around the local church and forget the role that each person following God's call plays in their everyday life. The Christian contribution to education, farming, the health service, business, politics, social services, charity, local government, commerce, retail, leisure, and our local community is enormous as individuals play their part in being the person God calls each one of us to be in the places he has put us. This, as for those playing a part inside the church, takes courage and confidence to be people of faith in the world.

We are a diocese of disciples, and all need one another to encourage and support us in our day to day lives. So, this month let us not only give thanks for those serving in our churches, but intentionally pray for those amongst us who are called to live out their calling in the world. We all have opportunities to bring about change for good and by using our God given gifts, with the encouragement of each other and the power of prayer together we have what we need to further God's work across the Diocese and beyond.

**Karen**



**A ONE-HOUR FAMILY FRIENDLY THEATRE  
PRODUCTION  
Holy Trinity church**

This is a free event, but booking is essential.

**Date:** Saturday 20th November

**Time:** 2.30pm.

Please contact CONNOR HANSFORD on  
*Con.Hans@mail.com*  
to book your place.

\*Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.  
Please note only one adult per party is allowed  
due to limited spaces.

**Website [www.holytrinityweymouth.org](http://www.holytrinityweymouth.org)  
Or Bookings can be taken at church**

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS 2021

## FUNERALS

15<sup>th</sup> January – Brian Pinhorn  
3<sup>rd</sup> February – Keith Lillington  
24<sup>th</sup> February – John Warner  
4<sup>th</sup> March – Irene Cardwell  
4<sup>th</sup> March – Veronica Wenborne  
10<sup>th</sup> March – Tony Allen  
30<sup>th</sup> March – Jill Crocker  
23<sup>rd</sup> April – John Dean  
30<sup>th</sup> April – Irene Medway  
26<sup>th</sup> May – George Ingram  
30<sup>th</sup> May – Carlos Hermedez  
1<sup>st</sup> June – John Hobbs  
3<sup>rd</sup> September – Mervyn Bown  
22<sup>nd</sup> September – Pamela Wakeling  
7<sup>th</sup> October – Mavis Morgan



## HOLY BAPTISM

27<sup>TH</sup> June – Rionn Mai Roper



25<sup>th</sup> July – Aria Hallett

## **CONFIRMATION**

31<sup>st</sup> July – Carole Didcock

31<sup>st</sup> July – Connor Hansford

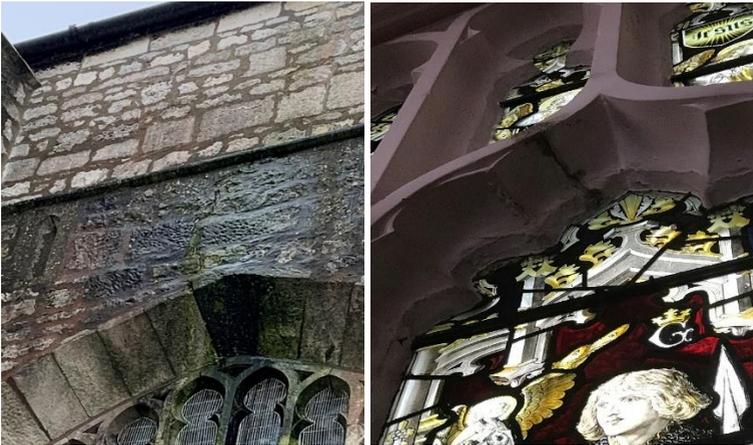
## **HOLY MATRIMONY**

12<sup>th</sup> June – Katherine Pomfrett &  
Luke Denning

11<sup>th</sup> September – Kelly Irvine & Jordan Barratt



# RESTORATION AND REPAIR WORK at Holy Trinity Church



*Warrior window water ingress and stonework deterioration*

Work has at last begun on the restoration of the windows at Holy Trinity church. Scaffolding has gone up on the great west window, warrior window and around the back of the building.

Some of the stonework needs urgent repair due to years of erosion from the weather and sea air. It has now been discovered that a window in the Lady chapel also needs

urgent attention. Once completed the church will continue to serve the community for many more years to come.

We will be using the south porch entrance to come in and exit the church building for the duration of the work.

Shortly the pipe organ will be covered in plastic sheeting while the windows in the south aisle are repaired.

### **WEEKLY ENVELOPES**

Thank you to everyone who gives to the church using the weekly envelope scheme. The new boxed sets for the church year starting 7<sup>th</sup> November are now available in the organ transept. If you would like to start using the boxed set let Churchwarden Philip Wise know. Thank you.

# NEW SEDILIA BLESSED IN MEMORY OF THE LATE REVD ANNE DUNN



On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July a large congregation gathered at Holy Trinity church for the dedication of three new sedilia. The sedilia are three chairs for the presiding priests to use at the Holy Eucharist.

We were pleased to welcome members of Anne's family to the service. Bishop Stephen Venner presided over the Eucharist and dedicated the sedilia.

Reverend Anne Dunn had been a member of Holy Trinity church for many years and served in many capacities, among them as churchwarden and latterly a local ordained priest.

# A Celebration of the 450th Anniversary of Weymouth Concert

It was a privilege and most enjoyable to take part in the concert with Jeremy Summerly. I had arrived early to help set up the refreshments and was impressed with Jeremy's rehearsal with his choir of eight singers. The rehearsal was never about singing the right notes. They did that perfectly. It was all about balance, projection, and diction in the building. They were singing to me, and it was wonderful. Later Jeremy confirmed that the church acoustic was very good if you sat after the third row of pews. Jeremy was happy to be part of our celebration concert for the town.

Jeremy's lecture before the concert was most interesting and enlightening. His passion for Elizabethan music was clear and I learnt that, if ever I have to make an announcement at church again, I should follow the "abb" rhythm of plainsong introduced by the composers of the day delivering praise to God in churches throughout the land.

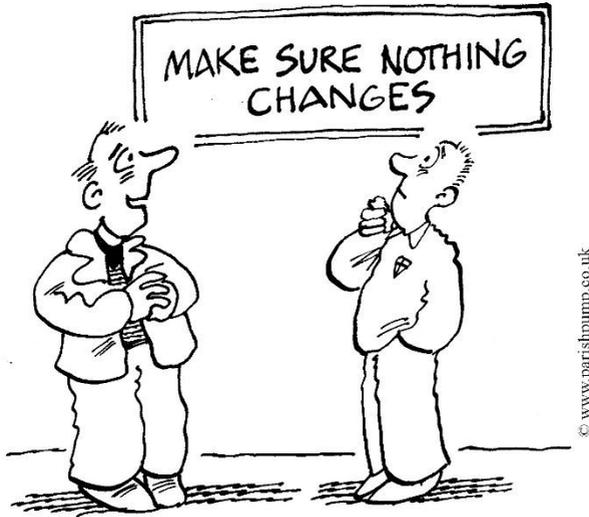
The combination of visiting local singers, some from our church choir and Jeremy's choral singers worked well. I think the young bass next to me from St. Luke's breathed

through his ears. I never heard him breathe as he sang through all the long phrases perfectly where I had to snatch a breath as necessary. He also kept me in tune if I hadn't landed on the right note correctly - the audience wouldn't / shouldn't hear me anyway. James and Jeremy had got us singing as one voice in a rehearsal before the concert.

It was a joy for Jeremy Summerly to conduct us for the Byrd Mass and sing first bass with us for the Taverner piece *Dum transisset Sabbatum*. Those that didn't join us at the concert missed a real treat of fine Elizabethan music.

I thank in particular our Musical Director James for arranging the concert for us with his mate Jeremy and St. Lukes singers. We couldn't have done it without James and Lizzie. Let's hope Jeremy will join us again. Long may we make music together to the glory of God in Holy Trinity Church, Weymouth.

**Phil Wise**



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*...it's perhaps not the most dynamic of mission statements...  
but at least it received the unanimous approval of the Church Council!*

# The Reverend Ruth Milverton

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October Ruth celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Like so many people of Ruth's generation the pandemic as well as recent illness and visits to hospital has meant that Ruth has not been as mobile and active as she used to. Many miss her gentle pastoral care, and everyone wishes to send birthday wishes to Ruth.



With failing eyesight and mobility issues Ruth has recently decided to give up her car and that was a major decision in her life. But like all things Ruth accepts that she is getting older and puts herself in God's hands daily and trusts that he will provide.

Canon Andrew takes Ruth her Holy Communion at home, and she loves to hear of all that is going on at Holy Trinity church which has been her spiritual home since 1983.

Canon Andrew and Ruth go back a long way as when Fr Andrew was training full time at Salisbury theological college, Ruth was training part time on the Non Stipendiary

course for ministry based at Salisbury theological college. The other connection they have is that Canon Andrew served as a curate with Ruth's nephew Fr Marcus Riggs in the late 80s in St Leonards on Sea in the Diocese of Chichester. Sadly, Fr Marcus died at a young age and is still sadly missed by us all.

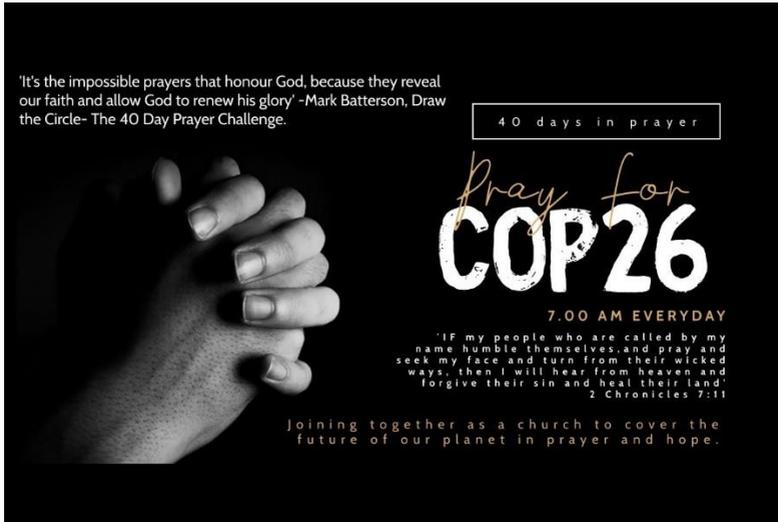
How did Ruth's journey to ordained ministry begin? Ruth came to Holy Trinity church in 1983 with her husband Fr Jack Milverton from Canford Heath. Fr Jack became a very popular and well-loved member of the clergy at Holy Trinity until his death in 2009.

Reverend Ruth had approached the vicar at that time who was Fr Stephen Venner about studying some theology. The parish sponsored Ruth for a selection conference, and she began training for the Diaconess ministry on the South West Ministerial Training course at Salisbury Theological College. In 1986 Ruth was made a deaconess in Salisbury Cathedral. She continued an active ministry in the parish as a deaconess until women could be ordained in the Church of England. In 1995 on the Feast of the Epiphany Ruth was made a Deacon and later a Priest.

Ruth is proud to claim that she was ordained in Holy Trinity and the ordination was officiated by three bishops: Rt Rev David Stancliffe (Salisbury), Rt Rev John Kirkham (Sherborne) and Rt Rev Stephen Venner (Middleton) formally vicar of Holy Trinity. They were assisted by twelve clergy from the Diocese. Revd Ruth has always been a Non

Stipendiary priest assisting the vicar at Holy Trinity and was for some time the NSM officer for the Diocese of Salisbury.

# Pray for COP26



Abi Taylor, daughter of Hamworthy Curate Sally Taylor, has written an open letter, calling fellow teens and church members to pray for 40 days.

She says:

"Join us in coming together as a church to cover COP26 and the future of this planet in prayer.

"I don't know about you, but with COP26 coming up, I've been feeling pretty hopeless and afraid. Headlines suggest that this will just be yet another round of talks and little action. Governments aren't doing enough, companies are shortcutting and greenwashing and activists are struggling to shout any louder. And that can be pretty frightening. It

feels like we're moving towards a future we don't have the power to change.

"But I have this hope. Call me completely crazy, but I think prayer can turn it around, I really do. Because governments are big but our God's bigger. He's in the business of changing hearts and bringing change.

"So, I am choosing to place all my hope in him.

"I recently read Mark Batterson's book 'Draw the Circle; The 40 Day Circle Challenge' and prayed over a youth group I was helping start up and his words about praying big prayers just stuck on my heart like super glue. I couldn't shift it. And this just happened to coincide with a small seed of a dream in a Climate Group that had started at my church. And I kept praying for God to shift this dream if it wasn't of him, but it didn't seem to be going away.

"I'm asking if you'll join me in hitting your knees everyday for 40 days, at 7.00am in your own home. I really believe God is calling us to cover COP26 completely in prayer and hope and expectation. If you can't do 7 that's totally okay, what's important is us all standing together in prayer for 40 days, the specific time just means that many of us will be united in prayer. It will start on Monday the 18th of October, two weeks before the summit and our prayers will carry on throughout the conference and as ambassadors travel home.

"But how do we pray for such a huge conference and such a huge issue?

"Well, it can be simply a quiet prayer every morning over the leaders who will be there. It can be letting the tears pour as you sing God's promises over the problems on your heart. It can be sticking on a worship song and interceding for someone specific every day. It can be grabbing a notebook and circling 'COP26'. It can be screaming out for a better future. Christian charity Tearfund has a text messaging service in which you can receive specific things to pray for each week. Just text PRAY to 07916 874441 to sign up to this.

"Our group had this verse put on our hearts from 2 Chronicles 7:14 -

'IF my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'

"So perhaps you could pray through this verse.

"Whatever you choose to do, and it can vary day by day, what matters is what's in your heart. God hears that. He honours that.

"I'm 17, and although the future looks frightening, I'm putting my trust in the one who created it all.

"Prayer is powerful my friend, believe it.

"A xx"

# I would bike 700 miles, and I would walk 300 more

***Pilgrimage is very much about a journey in faith, travelling as well as towards any destination. Mothers' Union members know about faith in action, but two have taken it a step further.***



*MU's Revd Jo Naish on her bike*

The Revd Jo Naish says:

“When Bishop Karen announced plans for a Pilgrimage to Iona, it was a delight - the landscape of Mull has been a place of prayer for me for a long while. But how to travel?

“In a world where climate change and a fast pace of life are both challenges, it seemed a good idea to go there by bike and take a slower way of discovery.”

Then, after the coming of Covid, Rosie Stiven the Diocesan President of the MU and Jo as Chaplain decided to raise funds for the work of the Mothers' Union here in the Diocese.

For the next two weeks or so, Jo will be travelling slowly, pedalling the 700 miles to Iona. She says:

“Two years ago, I walked the St Cuthbert's way to Lindisfarne. This year, I will be travelling up via Durham, where St Cuthbert's shrine rests in the cathedral, then on to Lindisfarne and Iona, the source of so much of the history of the saints who spread Christianity in Britain.”

A host of people from all backgrounds have offered food and shelter on route:

“I've been bowled over by the generosity of all who have contributed sponsorship, taught me bike maintenance and more, and have agreed to put me up on route. I'm only hoping the legs will get me there.

Rosie's plan is just as big a challenge. She says:

“You may remember that I set myself a target of completing 1,000 miles in 2021 to raise funds for our Mothers' Union in this Diocese. Well, the good news is that as at the end of September, I will have achieved my target of 800 miles with only another 200 miles to go!



*Rosie Stiven walking the Wessex Ridgeway*

“Together with several others, we will have raised - we hope - over £,3000 for the work we do to help families in need. And that makes it all worth it.”

# Vital support service anniversary

Safe Spaces, the independent support service for survivors of Church-related abuse, run by the charity Victim Support, recently marked its first anniversary.

The service has so far helped a total of 188 people. Safe Spaces has given emotional support, advocacy, information and advice. Service users have also been supported to raise their cases with the Church and statutory agencies.

Bishop Debbie Sellin and Bishop Paul Mason, two of the directors of Safe Spaces England and Wales, said: “We must never forget the appalling abuse suffered by these individuals who have found the courage to come forward and ask for support and the important input of those survivors who have helped inform the way the service has been set up.”

Victims and survivors wishing to use the service may contact Safe Spaces through its independent helpline on 0300 303 1056, email [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk) or via livechat on the service [website](#). Safe Spaces contact details are shared by dioceses and the national Churches when there is a safeguarding story or a report is released.

# Dioceses invited to bid for funding to explore new approaches to mission

A fund aimed at helping parishes explore new ways of sharing the Christian message alongside tried and tested approaches has been launched.

Dioceses are being encouraged to apply for a share of the £4.8 million Innovation Funding for projects lasting up to three years that could act as blueprints for future mission and growth across the country.

Successful bids will support the Church of England's Vision and Strategy; in particular, the priority of becoming a Church which is younger and more diverse.

The projects could focus on younger people and children, people living in low-income communities and urban areas and people from UK Minority Ethnic groups.

An early Innovation Funding award has been made to the Diocese of Ely to fund sports ministry work over three years with children and young people at Christ the Redeemer church in Barnwell, Cambridge.



*An epic struggle between good and evil  
took place in the Vicarage kitchen*

# A fair way to Christmas

To mark the launch of the 2021 Real Advent Calendar, the Meaningful Chocolate Company is offering free delivery to churches and schools if they buy a case of 18 calendars.



The Real Advent Calendar is designed to support outreach work, mission and is a great way to share the Christmas story. Each calendar includes a 24-page Christmas story activity book, the chocolate is Fairtrade, and it supports charitable causes including a baby clinic in Kenya and Fairtrade farmer community schemes.

Real Advent Calendars cost £4.50 each and is not available in supermarkets. There is a case discount and free delivery if buying at [www.realadvent.co.uk](http://www.realadvent.co.uk)

You can view a video of the Christmas story activity book at <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas/products/real-advent-calendar>

# Afghanistan crisis: advice for parishes on helping refugees

The Church of England has published a 'toolkit' of resources for parishes seeking to help refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover of the country.

The material, available online, brings together links and information on how churches can welcome people arriving from Afghanistan through giving, longer-term practical support such as community sponsorship, prayer and advocacy.

Staff in the Church of England's national Mission and Public Affairs team say they have been overwhelmed with messages from churches and individuals concerned by the situation in Afghanistan and asking what they can do to help.

The toolkit includes a range of prayer and theological resources from the Church of England and other sources alongside details of an array of charities and NGOs also working to support refugees and asylum seekers.

It also includes a simple explanation of the two main resettlement schemes and the asylum system and offers

suggestions on how Christians can speak out on behalf of those unable to do so.

In a foreword to the toolkit, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Refugees and Asylum, said: "The challenge for the whole nation is to welcome these families and help them build new lives here in the United Kingdom.

"Alongside this is the reality that there are thousands of Afghan citizens already here and stuck in the asylum system awaiting a response to their claim.

"God's call on God's people has always been to welcome the stranger and help provide for them. So here is a fresh opportunity to live out this calling.

"It is not a quick short-term response that is most needed but a willingness to befriend families and support them for the long haul.

The Church of England is a longstanding supporter of refugee programmes. The material is available online at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/toolkit-supporting-afghan-refugees>

# Remembrance

*The Revd John Tyler considers what it means to remember.*

Have you seen the film 'Saving Private Ryan'? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing crafts arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word *remembrance* means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the *why* question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: *why does God allow such suffering to take place?* One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It is at Calvary that we see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. *'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for*

*the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?' (John Stott).*

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace. We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, *'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God'* (Matt 5:9).



# Should a Christian go to war?

***The American evangelist Billy Graham considered war in the light of the Bible's teaching. This article comes from his book 'Answers to Life's Problems'.***

War is one of the consequences of living in a fallen world in which sinful men and women are unable to settle differences between each other by peaceful means.

I believe there are just wars. World War Two, for example, came about when a tyrant sought to take over the world while at the same time eradicating an entire race of people. Only war put a stop to his bloodshed and enslavement of others.

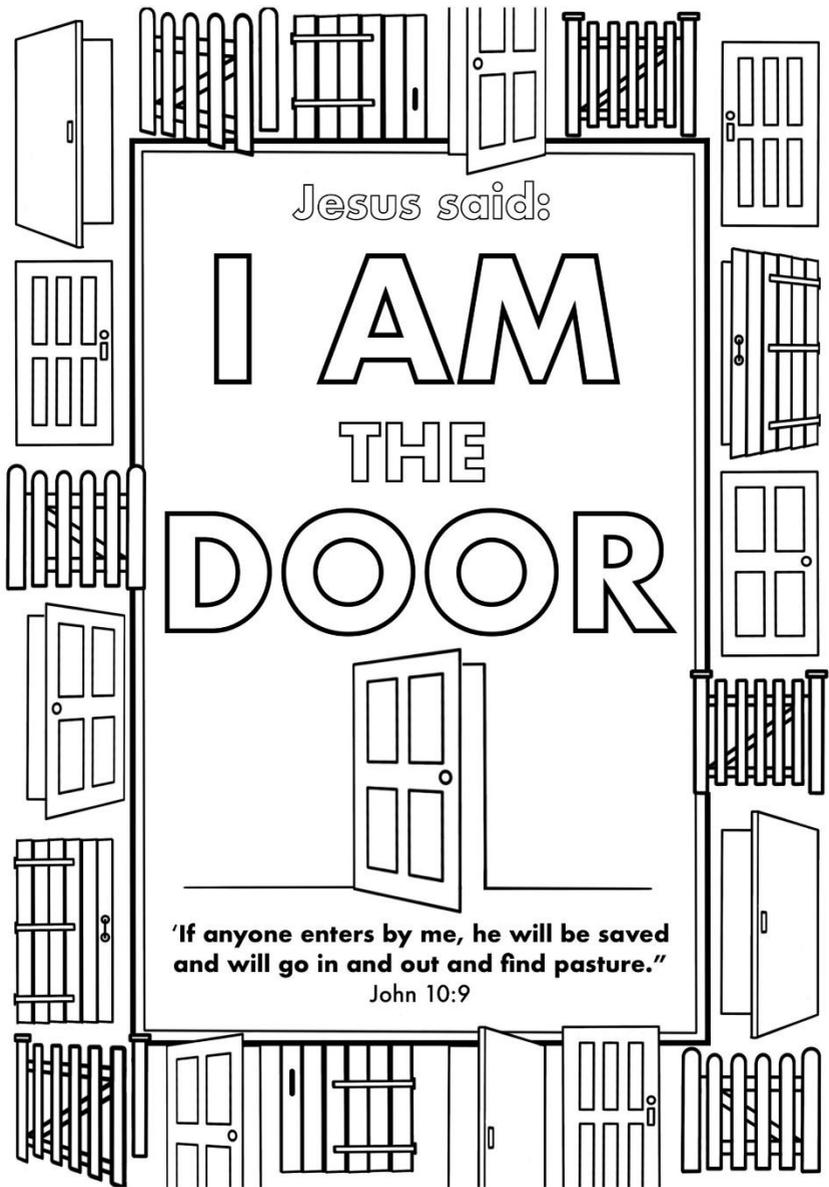


We must accept our responsibility as citizens. A man may protest against war and criticise his government for becoming involved in war, but as a citizen accepting the privileges and benefits of his government, he must also accept certain responsibilities. If we are in entire disagreement with our government, we can always elect to take our citizenship elsewhere.

John the Baptist said one time, when soldiers inquired of him concerning their duty: "Extort from no man by violence, neither accuse any one wrongfully; and be content with your wages." But he did not tell them that they must cease being soldiers.

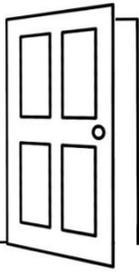
A Christian would find it hard to be a loyal citizen in a nation that promoted warfare. We can thank God that we are part of a nation that first seeks to solve problems by peaceful means.

*From 'Answers to Life's Problems' by Billy Graham, W Publishing Group.*



Jesus said:

I AM  
THE  
DOOR



'If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.'

John 10:9

# Should We Have Faith in Science?

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*



How do you feel about science after more than 18 months of pandemic: tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation

itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data don't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in the run-up to the COP26 UN climate change conference, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm Eight reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of

responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

## Prayer for November

Father,

In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light – by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.

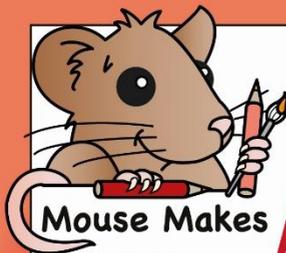
In His name – the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties – we pray.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

*November*





# I AM

I AM  
THE



Read John 10:11 and 14



I AM  
THE

Read John 15:1 and 35



I AM  
THE

Read John 6: 35,51



OF

Read John 11:25

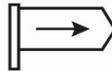


I AM  
THE

AND THE

I AM  
THE

Read John 10:9



I AM  
THE

OF THE

Read John 18:12



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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17, Jn 6:1-15

Jesus and his disciples went by boat to a quiet place to have some time alone, but the crowds noticed, and followed them.

Jesus felt sorry for them so he taught and healed them.



It was now late afternoon, so Philip spoke to Jesus



This is a remote place. Send them away.

They can go and buy something to eat.



You give them something to eat.

There are thousands of them! Half a year's wages wouldn't be enough!



So what do you have?

Andrew brought a boy to Jesus.



He has 2 dried fish and 5 small loaves.

Get everyone to sit down in groups.



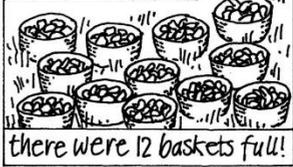
Jesus blessed the bread and fish and the disciples gave them out.



Everyone ate all they wanted.

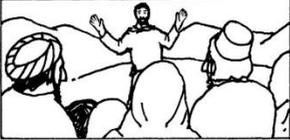


Jesus told them to gather up the leftovers.



there were 12 baskets full!

Jesus sent the disciples off in the boat and stayed to dismiss the crowd.



We will make him become our king!



He can get rid of the Romans!

Free food!

But Jesus knew what they planned..



and had already gone.

c	j	p	p	v	t	a	n	d	r	e	w
r	e	l	b	h	c	i	k	i	n	g	q
o	i	a	e	u	i	j	e	s	u	s	s
w	v	f	l	f	y	l	d	c	g	u	h
d	r	t	e	o	t	n	i	i	a	y	e
b	t	e	b	p	a	o	k	p	t	b	a
a	a	r	m	s	l	v	v	l	h	l	l
s	u	n	u	o	b	a	e	e	e	e	e
k	g	o	f	r	t	o	n	s	r	s	d
e	h	o	i	r	w	e	a	n	n	s	q
t	t	n	s	y	x	b	a	t	e	e	o
s	r	j	h	h	w	a	n	t	e	d	o

thousands  
 taught  
 gather  
 boy  
 loaves  
 king  
 blessed  
 remote

boat  
 fish  
 wanted  
 planned  
 disciples  
 buy  
 Andrew  
 baskets

eat  
 sorry  
 Philip  
 leftovers  
 afternoon  
 healed  
 Jesus  
 crowd