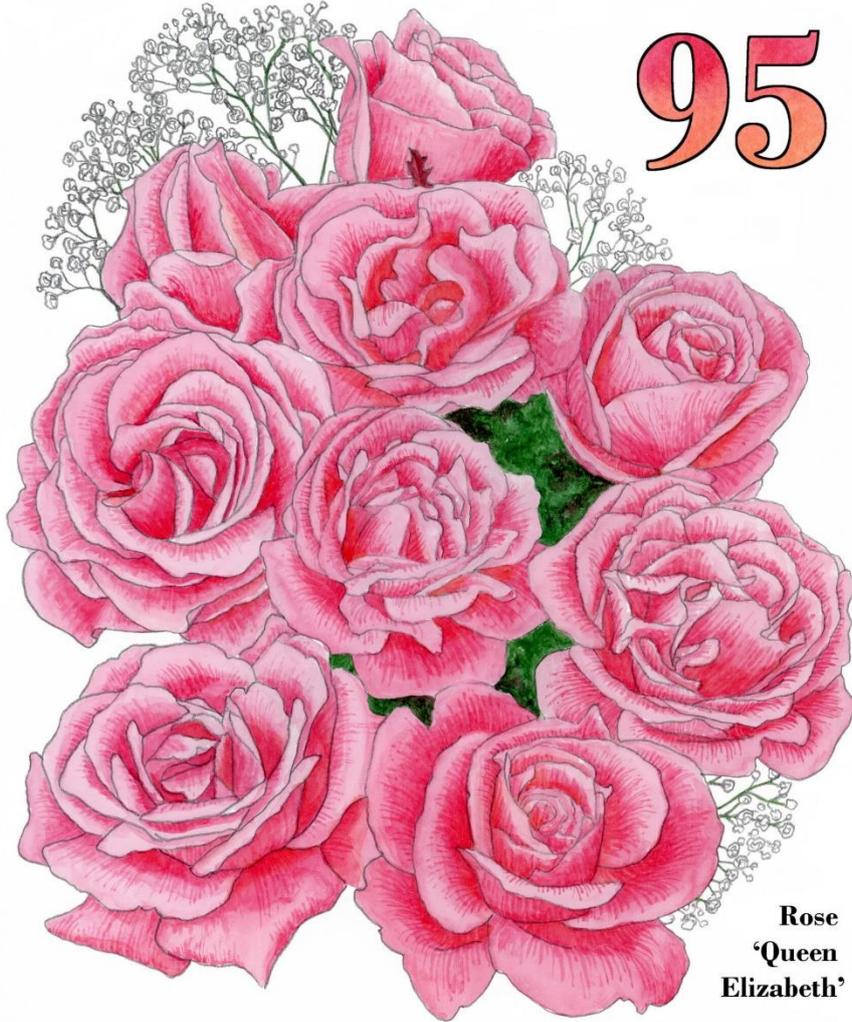


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Wednesday	10.00am 5.30 pm	Eucharist at The Old Church (All Saints) Evening Prayer
Thursday	8.30 am 10.00am 6.00 pm	Morning Prayer Eucharist Evening Prayer
Friday	8.30 am 5.30 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer (All Sts)
Sunday	8.00am 10.00am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Eucharist at The Old Church (All Saints) Sung Eucharist Evensong

Wednesday small group on Zoom -11.30 every Wednesday – for details contact Rev’d Hilary.

Sunday Club for children in Reception and above. 10.am.

running alongside the Parish Eucharist in both churches. There is no need to book, just come along to church and your children can join in.

Monday Club during term time at the Parish Church hall from 3.30-5pm. Children from reception to Year 6 can attend. There will be craft, art, sports snacks coking, games and bible stories and prizes. You will need to pre-register your child at www.rbf.org.uk/parishofchingford.

We are planning to relaunch **Cherubs**, our Monday church service for children under five and their families in September 2021, at the Parish Church. If you are interested or want to know more, email mthr.marilyn@parishofchingford.org.uk

EASING THE LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

As the government's easing of the Lockdown restrictions has continued, we have resumed our usual pattern of worship in both churches. However, regulations and prudence mean that we will continue to keep physical distancing and hygiene measures, and anyone entering our churches for public worship must wear a face covering and participate in the Track and Trace system.

Please do not come to church if you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms, even if you have been vaccinated.

As St Paul promised, our liberation is closer now than when we first believed – and that is true for freedom from lockdown as well.

Services at All Saints'

In order to maintain safe physical distancing, congregants are required to book for 10.00 am and 11.15 am services at the Old Church.

Please book at <http://parishofchingford.eventbrite.com> If you are unable to use the website to book services, please contact the Parish Office and the Parish Administrator will book the services for you.

Music at the Parish Church

We are pleased that we are now able to resume choral music at Parish Church services, though numbers of singers are still subject to restrictions. Weekly Choral Evensongs resume from 25th April and the boys and girls will begin singing at alternate services with the choir men again. For details see page 19



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Weddings coordinator

Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Marilyn Claydon
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Baptisms

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Hon Assistant Priest:

The Rev'd Canon Rodney Matthews
canonrodney@ntlworld.com
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Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Diana Kennedy 07542 701 949

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Sacristan

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Old Church social club

Karon Fordham 8523 9233 or 07956 236517

Flowers

Gill Hemsted

Editorial

The magazine this month seems to focus on journeys and pilgrimage. The Queen celebrates her 95th Birthday and she has had a long life to reflect on, especially with the death of Prince Philip last month. My main contribution this month is in the article on Oberammagau on page 8. I have been reflecting this month on our Spiritual journey, which Hilary writes about in her piece on Fruit Growth and Gifts on page 6. As a Parish we have over the years been offered the opportunity to Pilgrimage and develop our Spiritual life. Although the situation in Israel is appalling at the moment, Jan Hawkins feels once again the call to lead a group to the Holy Land. See pages 13-15 for details.

Perhaps a Pilgrimage closer to home, to a place we have regularly visited on day trips or residential stays – Walsingham, in Norfolk see Max `s account on pages 11-12.

Once again Jonathan Dwelley takes us on a journey from the Old Church to Oxford. Where ever your journey takes you this month may it be a blessed one.

Christine.

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NOTICES

Planned Giving Envelopes

For those who still use the boxes of weekly envelopes, the new set, starting 6 June, is now available in both churches. If anyone would like information about starting Planned Giving by standing order, please contact Ian Rampton.

Planned.giving@parishofchingford.org.uk or phone 020 8527 5009.

Bishop Peter's Farewell We would like to express our thanks to Bishop Peter and Ellen as we say goodbye when Peter retires on 4 August. A special farewell service will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on 4 July. The Diocese is organising a collection to buy Peter and Ellen a leaving gift. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact the Parish Office for details. All donations must arrive by 25 June.

Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion The Christian life is a pilgrimage, and we change and grow into the new circumstances in which God is leading us. If you are thinking that baptism, confirmation, or preparation to receive communion might be something that God is calling you to explore, then please speak to any of the parish clergy, or email the Rector rector@parishofchingford.org.uk so that we may explore it together.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting which took place on Tuesday 18 May was well attended. Thank you to all who came. Richard Vincent and Joyce Hilton were re-elected to be our churchwardens for the coming year. Larry Relfe was elected to join Diana Kennedy and Ruth Mills as a lay member of the Deanery Synod.

Debbie Torrie and Max Liebow were newly elected as lay members of the Parochial Church Council. Pat Drapper, Jan Harrison, Barbara Fox, Christine Rampton and Sue Emerson, all of whose three-year terms had come to an end, were re-elected as lay members of the PCC. Thanks to Laura Alexander, whose three year term has come to an end for her contribution to the work of the PCC. Thanks were expressed to Jan Harrison, Joe Collins and Diana Alexander for their massive contribution to the work of our church as they retire from their roles this year.

FRUIT, GROWTH AND GIFTS.

As we approach the Summer months, we look forward to eating locally grown fruit. The beautiful blossoms of Spring will give way to Summer fruits for us to enjoy and be nourished by. Jesus uses picture language to help us understand God's Kingdom and our part in it. We are to be fruitful, like seeds planted in good soil, producing good and useful results.

Last month we were exploring passages from John's Gospel, with teaching from Jesus about abiding in His love, and about pruning, so that we can be fruitful (John 15). Later this month in Mark's Gospel, there is much about seeds and growth. God wants to cultivate and nurture us in His love, so that we can join in his mission of transformation in the world.

How can we know if we are growing and producing fruit in our lives? As we ease out of lockdown, what is God calling us to be and do as individuals and as a Parish?

We can take stock of our spiritual journey and how God is shaping us, by prayerfully asking these questions: Am I growing closer to God? Am I becoming more like Jesus, in my character and behaviour? (The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23) Is my time in God's presence not only changing me and helping me to flourish, but also making a difference to others through my actions and words? Am I using the gifts God has given me?

A group of people in the Parish have been asking these questions on the Monday evening SHAPE course (where each person explored their Spiritual gifts, Heart's desire, Abilities, Personality and Experience).

It can be quite hard to explore who we are, and yet discovering the gifts and opportunities that God has given us, is a step on the road to using those gifts in His service. The course has just finished, and some people have discovered how God has gifted and equipped them for their current job or role (both within and outside the church), while others have discovered more about themselves and

have gained confidence to try something new. What are your gifts and how are you using them to further His Kingdom?

The more I discover about the people in this Parish, the more I realise how God has blessed us with so many gifts. May we in the weeks and months ahead, grow closer to God and to each other, and prayerfully discern the gifts God is calling us to use in His service.

Rev'd Hilary

GARDENING IS REALLY GOOD FOR YOU

According to a recent study conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and two universities, people who garden every day have well-being scores 6.6 per cent higher, and stress levels 4.2 per cent lower than those who do not garden at all. Dr Lauriane Chalmin-Pui, RHS well-being fellow and lead author says, "The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the more frequently you garden, the greater the health benefits.

"In fact, gardening every day has the same positive impact on your well-being as undertaking regular, vigorous exercise like cycling or running.

"Gardening is like effortless exercise: it doesn't feel as strenuous as going to the gym, but we can expend similar amounts of energy."

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PARISH NOTES

These seemingly interminable 'Covid' restrictions like social distancing, wearing masks, hand sanitising etc. are causing anxiety to some of our parishioners and keeping them away from areas where people gather. When we don't see people for several weeks especially those who are alone, we telephone or pop into them to check that all is well. Some of us do shopping, others offer transport or just a call makes a big difference. Please let us know if you are struggling and we'll be in touch for a chat at least.

As some people who do not want to go into busy or crowded places and are worried about the church being busy on Sundays don't come to church, we intend to open the church from 10.30-12.00 each Tuesday for private prayer from 8th June.

Of course, we will be socially distanced and masks and hand sanitiser will be used so come along if you think this will support you. I would also point out that we have a quieter communion service every Thursday at 10am.

From Saturday 3rd July we will also resume our open church coffee and chats from 10.00 – 12.00. 1st Saturday in each month.

I'm sitting at home writing this with huge black clouds filling the sky... again! and threatening us with another downpour. Hopefully next weekend will see the weather improve and we'll have some seasonal sunshine to make everyone feel better.

Hope to see you soon.

Joyce

CURATES CORNER Mthr Katherine

I am currently in the process of sorting out my mother's house after her death and preparing to put it on the market. She only lived in this current house 23 years, but I have discovered items that go back much further than that. She seems to have kept absolutely everything; her own school reports from the 1930's and 1940's, all her wedding cards and telegrams, my brother's chorister report from 1971, all my music certificates, our graduation booklets and the booklets from numerous funerals and weddings she attended. What is even more remarkable is that some of the items I have found date from my mother's own early childhood. Her

family moved around nine times when she was growing up. She then went to University, lived in digs as a young teacher and subsequently lived in in 5 different houses as an adult. All these items went with her and she gathered mainly more over the years.

One of the most poignant discoveries I have made is a bag with three newspapers in it-the South Wales Argus. These papers are dated August 1959, July 1961, and June 1964. They each contain the birth announcements of my two brothers and myself published the day after we were born. These papers are, of course, hysterical in content and are equally fascinating. Then, of course, there are all the many photographs, many of which are slides. My parents young and in love; the three of us as children, on holiday or just being a family. The photos of my dad are especially precious as he took most of the photos when we were growing up and he died when I was in my teens. All these items are of precious memories which tell the story of special moments in the lives of my mother and our family. These items have been lovingly kept and are of priceless sentimental value.

I'm sure many of you will have something similar up in the loft, or perhaps have your memories on display all around you at home. Souvenirs from holidays in exotic, or not so exotic places; photographs placed lovingly on shelves and tables to remind you of good times and significant events, friends, and those you love. Sometimes it is good just to spend some time with our memories, to remember and reflect on all that has been good in our lives, and especially having lived through this last year of enforced separation, to be thankful for the memories that have often kept us going.

Our Bible is full of written memories too, written down with love and care to remind us of the story of God in the lives of so many through the ages. Memories of encounters with God in the Old Testament and with Jesus in the Gospels. Memories of friends made as the new followers of 'The Way of Jesus' began to grow in number with the spread of the early Church. Memories of the difference that encountering God had made to their lives. St Paul, separated from the people of the newly planted Church in Philippi, spoke with deep affection in his letters to them:

'I thank my God every time I remember you.'

Philippians 1:3

Of course, the memories we have made during this last year may not all be good ones. We may have had more time on our hands than we were comfortable with and some have found life challenging and lonely with just their memories for company. Inevitably, there will be others known to us living with dementia who have lost precious time with loved ones and who have suffered irreversible memory loss over the course of the pandemic. Connections lost that can never be retrieved – and there is great sadness in that which should be acknowledged. As we gradually ease back into a life of connection again in person – the first coffee with friends, the first barbeque with family, that first hug with those we have missed so much, let's not forget to start making fresh and lasting memories again. Memories we can look back on in the future with great gladness and be thankful for.

Let us all be thankful to God for the times we have had with others and the things we have had the opportunity to do and share.



OBERAMMAGAU 2010

2010 was the last year of the Oberammergau Passion play. Its tenth Yearly performance should have been in 2020 but has now



now been rescheduled for 14 May to 2 October 2022 when the villagers of Oberammergau in Bavaria, Southern Germany, hope to perform their world famous Passion Play. It's a tradition which first started in 1634. Today the

performance involves more than 2,000 villagers, a full orchestra, a vast stage and commemorates Christ's journey into Jerusalem, His death and resurrection.

It is ironic that it has been the Coronavirus Pandemic, which has prevented the play from being performed in 2020. In 1632 Eighty villagers had died of the Black Plague, so a promise was made to perform a Passion play if no more of its villagers died. They were answered by God and the first play was performed at Whitsun 1634 by 60 -70 actors next to the church among the recently dug graves of the victims of the Black Death. Now as then only those living in the village are permitted to be part of the performance. It has been performed every ten years, with the exception, of the World Wars and the recent Corona Virus pandemic.

We were fortunate as a Parish that in June 2010 Cynthia and Keith Wendon, organised a trip to Oberammagau for us to experience this World famous play.



Fthr Tom our Rector at the time accompanied us and we were also joined by our previous Parish Rector Fthr Nick Edwards and some of his new parish members – which was a wonderful surprise. Sue Flower and I went together and shared a room and we became friendly with Gill Hoxby of the Old

Church who shared with a lady she had not known before Rita Blackburn of the Chingford Methodist Church. We stayed for four



nights in a lovely hotel in the Austrian town of Fuschl and had three days of wonderful excursions to Saltzberg, Lake Woflgangsee and also had a Mozart concert dinner. We also had an opportunity for a group Eucharist in the grounds of the hotel.



After five days in Austria, we journeyed to Oberammergau and stayed in the households of various members of the Village, for two evenings. The Play started at 2.30 and we had a break for dinner in a restaurant and then returned for the evening performance. What was so amazing was the day to night effect of the weather. There was a lightening strike in the evening as the



passion was being performed which made it a very moving experience. It was amazing the number of actors, adults and children their professionalism, and the stunning costumes. There were even donkeys and various other animals.

It was lovely to get to know other members of our own Churches and to make new friends.



It is sad that some of our Parish are no longer with us, either due to death or because they have moved away.

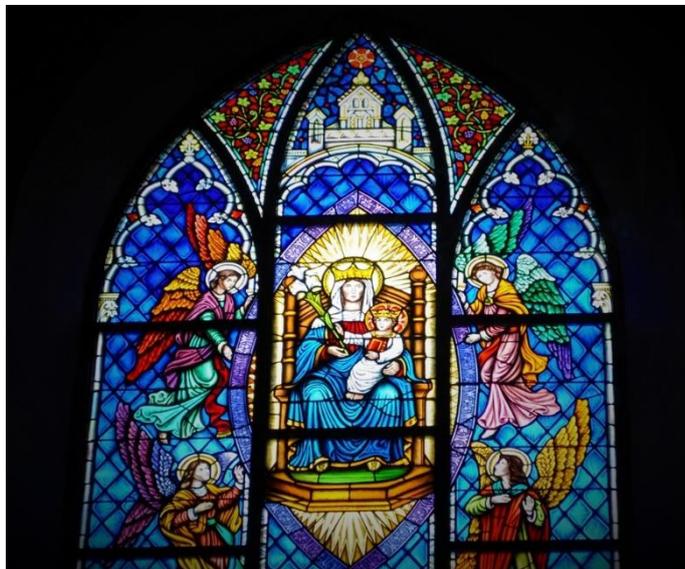
Sue, Gill, Rita and I formed a sound friendship that has lasted these last eleven years. It is with sadness though, that our friend Rita passed away from cancer earlier this year and in many ways this article is to honour her. She had many medical issues over the years but was such a positive person, who made the most of every day of her life. She took any opportunities offered and travelled either with her friend Hazel or her family. She had to shield for many months during the pandemic and when she was in pain, she wouldn't say but her faith sustained her. This wonderful trip and the spirituality of Oberammagau encouraged our faith, so thank you again to Cynthia and Keith for giving us this wonderful opportunity. May Rita and all those we have lost this year, rest in peace with our Lord and Rise in Glory.

Christine (Editor)



WALSINGHAM

We have come to the end of May, a month that is traditionally offered in dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the end of April, Pope Francis, who we saw recently on TV alongside our own Fr Justin and Mike Emerson, announced that May should also be



offered as a time of deep intercessory prayer to the Blessed Mother for guidance and hope in the current COVID-19 pandemic. This was a far reaching request, to over 30 Marian shrines from around the world. First in line to lead the way, was the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, here in England. The Rector of the Basilica, Mgr Philip Moger, has invited the neighbouring Priest

Administrator of the Anglican Shrine, Fr Kevin Smith, to join him in praying the Rosary with the Bishop of Rome LIVE from the Chapel of Reconciliation in Walsingham. This extraordinary event was broadcast on the 1st May, and I was able to tune in and watch the big launch alongside tens of thousands of others. And extraordinary it was! Roman-Catholic and Anglican-Catholic side by side leading the way in prayer, as an example to the whole world. Ecumenical works are often looked at with a degree of scepticism, but we must remember what the Bishop of Rome and Archbishop of Canterbury declared a few years ago, to the tune of how despite "serious obstacles" we should not undervalue that certain communion we already share, and to have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide us and open new doors. And this was very clear to me in that recent gesture of fraternity between the respective shrines at Walsingham.

For those who don't know or who have wondered, Walsingham is home to England's Nazareth. Why? Well, we all know the special house in Nazareth that once stood, in which the Blessed Mother was told by the Angel Gabriel that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus. It was in this house that Jesus lived and was cared for and raised by His parents. Fast forward just over 1000 years and in present-day Norfolk, and the Blessed Mother appeared in a vision to the Norman noblewoman Lady Richeldis, where she

instructed her to build a replica of that Holy House of Nazareth. It was to be a sign and reminder of the good news received that in Jesus, God would come to share in our earthly lives. For centuries, the Holy House at Walsingham was a place of great pilgrimage that drew globally from both royalty and commoners to celebrate and to deepen their faith in God and their relationship with him. Through prayer and worship, they sought to listen to God and to open their



lives to his love. They also came to find inspiration and guidance through the example of the Blessed Mother. She trusted completely in God, and her faith in Him never failed. Because of her joyful and sorrowful experiences as the Mother of Jesus, she understands everything we feel. Today, after

350 years of post-Reformation neglect, the last 95 years have seen the dramatic restoration of pilgrimage to Walsingham and a surge of great Marian veneration. Her love and example are still needed by Christians, and we bear witness to this more and more as the years go by and pilgrim numbers are ever increasing.

As you can imagine, the Shrine at Walsingham has been essentially closed off to pilgrims during the COVID-19 pandemic, but thankfully organized pilgrimage is starting to resume step by step. The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham, is one of the many "catholic devotional societies within the Church of England", and our own Parish here in Chingford hosts a growing Cell made up of members (as do a great number of other Parishes around the country). One of our objectives is to promote a deeper devotion and love to the Blessed Mother, while another is to promote pilgrimage to Walsingham. Does this appeal to you? If so, then please do reach out to me, and I shall provide you with more information about the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham and what we do in particular at the Chingford Parish's Cell.

By Max Heinrich Liebow

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 31st October- 9th November 2022

In 2007, with Father Tom and Father Darren from St Peter's & St Paul's, I went to the Holy Land for the first time and found the whole experience awe inspiring. Following that trip, I felt a strong call to bring people to the Holy Land, not only to share the experience of the places where our Lord lived and worked and then died, but to share solidarity with the few remaining Christians there. It also feels important to me to bear witness to what is happening in that land, in some ways not so very different to what was happening two thousand years ago. For those who fear danger with the news we see daily from the Middle East, this trip is as safe as being in our own city. McCabe's have been running pilgrimages in the Holy Land for over 30 years during all sorts of difficulties there, with never a problem for their groups. The areas we visit are not near Gaza, where the saddest news often comes from.

Each time I lead a group, I expect it to be my last visit, but I have felt called every time to do it again – so every two years, since 2007, I have co led and subsequently led as co participant, to the Holy Land, and one trip I co led with Father Hall Speers, to Rome and Assisi – and the call keeps coming to arrange another trip – so here I am, letting you know about it.

The landscape is breath taking, and the experience of waking up in a modern hotel not 100 feet from the old City Wall of Jerusalem, is difficult to describe. In the old City the three major faith groups (along with many, many other faiths) co-exist, all wearing their faiths with pride. All three revering the same Holy Sites for different reasons. The City is now about 16 feet above the City of Jesus' day. Since His time, the City has been destroyed and rebuilt several times, yet some of Jerusalem of Jesus' time remains and has been excavated. The pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the man who had languished there for 38 years, are visible as they were then for example. From the Mount of Olives it is possible to see the actual foundation of the Temple Mount. To see the size of the rocks which only human power could have carried or dragged up to that height is a source of wonder to me. In the Garden of Gethsemane, olive trees remain as they were two thousand years ago. When an old olive tree dies, a new shoot emerges from within the dying trunk – so at least one of the trees has been dated to Jesus' time. We spend six days in and around Jerusalem, visiting Bethany,

Bethlehem, Jericho and the Jordan Valley, and also, of course the Old City, Western (Wailing) Wall and Mount Zion. We walk the Via Dolorosa, as Jesus did – and get a real sense of the way it was back then with the bustling narrow streets He had to carry His cross through. We then transfer for four days to Tiberius, staying at a hotel on the Sea of Galilee where we visit Nazareth, Capernaum, The Mount of Beatitudes and in addition we visit Masada, the Dead Sea and the spectacular Caesarea. We also visit Cana where members of our parties in a couple of the pilgrimages I have taken, have renewed their wedding vows. We also visited the Tomb of Lazarus – it is a very full program, and I have given only a few of the details here.

The pilgrimage is not an easy holiday, but rather a trip allowing each pilgrim to have their own experience of a place they may never have been able to fully conceptualise. It is often a place that pilgrims want to return to. We have our own local, and very knowledgeable guide and coach driver throughout. Both are very experienced in making the pilgrimage work for each group, so the stories of the Bible are brought alive as we visit each Site. Fortunately for us, we travel in a comfortable air-conditioned coach. For anyone fearing a lack of toilets along the way, I am happy to report that there is no problem at all finding clean and accessible toilets wherever we are! Rooms in each hotel are clean and comfortable, with staff who are keen to give us the best that they can.

A few years ago, when leading that year's pilgrimage, the priest who had been committed to coming with us, had to pull out shortly before our trip. The choice then was to separate the group, so they would go with others, or to cancel the trip – but McCabe's encouraged me to go ahead. Having checked with the group that they were happy to continue without a priest in our group, we went ahead. The process of planning and organising that trip then took an entirely different turn for me. Usually, I am simply chief cook and bottle washer – or glorified sheepdog! This time I needed to prepare all the readings, prayers, services and select the hymns for along the way. With Father Rodney's support and guidance, along with guidance from other priest friends, I was able to organise the readings, services, prayers and so on. Much time was spent in prayer then to prepare the rest. And then time reflecting on each individual in the party so that I could ensure that every participant

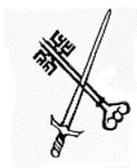
had readings and prayers to lead and those who felt able could prepare their own contributions. I produced a booklet so that everyone had every single word used along the way – and also knew when they were up front with a reading or prayer. So instead of having one priest, we were all priests. It was really rather wonderful. Some of those who made that trip then signed up again for the next one – and with a special request that we share among us the readings and prayers etc. as we did before. So that is why I am taking responsibility for the organising etc. and allowing any priests who join us to relax into the experience rather than having full responsibility. The trips are life changing for many.

Our groups are made up of people from our parish and further afield. Already ten people are signed up – I think the pandemic has inspired us to look ahead for this wonderful experience. We welcome all comers, and I would especially love to share the journey with others from our parish.

If you would like to have the full brochure, or to discuss the pilgrimage, please contact me, Jan Hawkins either on 0208 925 2819 or email: jan@janhawkins.co.uk

INDIA ENGULFED IN A TSUNAMI OF GRIEF

Covid-19 has been overwhelming India in recent weeks, bringing its health services and institutions to their knees. Hospitals have run out of oxygen, medical staff cannot help the queues of desperate patients, and bodies are piling up as people die in vast numbers. The Indian Christian community, like their compatriots, have also been suffering. Reports speak of many church leaders contracting the virus and some even dying. Their congregations, also sick and dying, are left without pastoral care. Indian Christians report that more than 50-60 senior church leaders have died. One pastor said: "in the last seven days we have lost four pastors to Covid19." Another organisation lost three missionaries within a week. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg. The lockdown is causing severe suffering to the poorest, the day-labourers, who now have no work and no income. Barnabas Fund is working with Indian Christian leaders to provide assistance, both food and medical help, for our brothers and sisters. If you would like to help support them, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org>



Chingsford Parish Church Music

All music in services is subject to alteration as a result of changes in coronavirus restrictions. We are not allowed to arrange any concerts at but these will be advertised as soon as they are able to resume.

June 6 Trinity 1

Eucharist (girls only) Shephard Addington Service
Fugue sur la nom d'Alain – *Durufié* [ME]
Corpus Christi Carol – *Britten*

Evensong (boys & men) *Holmes* responses; *Harwood* in A flat
I will sing with the spirit – *Rutter*
Toccata in Seven – *Rutter* [AC]

June 13 Trinity 2

Eucharist (boys & men) *Walsh* Mass of St Michael O hearken thou – *Elgar*
Postlude in C – *Smart* [AC]

Evensong (girls & men) *Sanders* responses; *Howells* St Paul's Service
Hail gladdening light – *Wood*
Fantasia & fugue in C minor BWV 537 – *J. S. Bach* [PT]

June 20 Trinity 3

Eucharist (girls & men) *Darke* in E
My soul there is a country – *Parry*
Fantasia in G – *Parry* [ME]

Evensong (boys & men) *Holmes* responses; *Wise* in F
They that go down to the sea in ships – *Sumsion*
Prelude (Trois Pièces Op.29) – *Pierne* [AC]

June 27 St Petertide

Eucharist (chamber choir) *Haydn* 'Little Organ Mass' Holy is the true light – *Harris*
Toccata & Fugue in F – *Buxtehude* [AC]

Evensong (boys & girls) *Darke* responses; *Watson* in F
Give us the wings of faith – *Blatchly*
Fugue in G – *Parry* [ME]

Tuesday June 29 – St Peter: *Eucharist 8pm (Senior girls & men)*
Darke in E; Tu es Petrus – *Durufié*
Tu es petra – *Mulet* [ME]

Organ Music after services: **ME** – Michael Emerson. **PT** – Pavlos Triantaris **AC** – Alex Coutts

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP APPOINTMENT

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Alex Coutts as our new Organ Scholar and we hope he will be able to begin working with our team of musicians in June.

Alex was educated at Hampton School and Cambridge University, where he read Modern Languages, graduating in June 2020. He is currently a Master's student at University College London. Whilst at Cambridge, Alex held Academic and Organ Scholarships at Magdalene College. The latter position saw him perform extensively across Europe and the U.S.A., at venues such as Ely and St. Edmundsbury Cathedrals, All Saints' Margaret Street, Augsburg Cathedral, and Trinity Church, Concord.

Spending his third undergraduate year abroad, Alex was Acting Organist and Director of Music at St. George's Church, Venice; the Anglican chaplaincy for the province of Veneto, Italy, alongside his studies at Università degli studi di Padova.

Alex has performed as a recitalist across numerous U.K. venues, including Wimborne Minster, Benenden Parish Church, and St. Dunstan's Church, Acton, at a recital which raised almost £2000 towards the survivors fund for Grenfell Tower.

Additionally, Alex is a keen singer. Whilst teaching English in Paris in his third year, Alex sung with the cathedral choir at Holy Trinity Episcopalian Cathedral, Paris, where he also accompanied weddings and services. He was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 with his school close harmony group, with whom he was also a Choir of the Year finalist. Away from music, Alex enjoys football and cricket, which he played for his college, as well as reading, running and cooking.

As our Organ Scholar, Alex hopes to further develop his skills in accompanying music of the Anglican choral tradition whilst working towards the professional playing qualifications of the Royal College of Organists. He also seeks the valuable experience of working with and training young choristers, which our Organ Scholarship should be able to provide. Therefore, we really look forward to having Alex in our team of musicians for the coming year.

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL

We are enormously grateful to the many in our congregations who help fund the Organ Scholarship salary each year through their generous donations to this ongoing project. Covid restrictions had put things on hold for a while, but now we are able to continue, as a result of this appointment. Contributions towards the cost of providing this scholarship, large or small, can be paid directly to the parish by contacting the Parish Finance Officer Silvia Garrido Kemp silvia.gkemp@parishofchingford.org.uk or the Director of Music mike.emerson@parishofchingford.org.uk or by handing any contributions personally to the Director of Music or churchwardens.

THE FONT OF LIFE

By Jonathan Dwelley

Our Parish church of St Peter and Paul was built from The Victorian age, and most of the building and furnishings date from then and later – except from one notable exception which lies near the entrance to the church – it has to be, if you haven't guessed yet... the outstanding font.



The Font used to grace the Old church but, in 1844 was moved to the Parish church and what a beauty it is. Our font is of great age, being Norman from the 12th century We should, as a Parish, be proud to boast having one of the Oldest fonts in London. It is of dark stone with a band of carved rounded arches along the side. The definition for a font is a basin or receptacle in which water is stored for the Christian act of Baptism. The receptacle contains

Baptismal water in which the candidate of Baptism is immersed or for receiving water which is poured over the head of the person being baptised.

You may want to know why Fonts are found near the entrance of churches, well, the reason is simply to remind believers of their own baptism as they enter the church to pray as the right of Baptism served as their initiation to the church.

It came to me while I was admiring the font, that In the UK fonts are found in churches and cathedrals while in Italy, for example, especially in Northern and central Italy, cities built separate Baptisteries located usually in front of the Cathedral which are almost always octagonal in shape and almost as large and imposing as the cathedral itself. Notable examples are Pisa and Parma, but I thought I would share with you my visit of the Baptistery in one my favourite Italian cities – Florence.

I've been to Florence quite a few times in the last twenty years. I lived and worked in Italy in 1997 and made frequent visits to the city. Back then there were some tourists around the cathedral square, piazza del Duomo but, it was never too busy but, when I went to Florence two years ago, being in the Piazza del Duomo felt like Oxford Circus on a manic day. It was a mad scrum of tourist and tour groups packed like sardines into the piazza – how things change over the years – I guess it represents the development of modern tourism that's stifling cities like Florence and Venice. If you want to go and visit Florence – I advise you to not even think of going in peak season.



None the less, the Florentine gathering of the Cathedral, adjacent tower of Giotto and Baptistery has to be one of the world's outstanding ensembles – a mass a of glaring white and dark green

marble rising above the city: it's dazzling on a sunny day.

I had never actually been inside Florence's Baptistery all these years visiting the city, however on this occasion I had purchased a ticket for the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, which also included entrance into the Baptistery, so I wasn't going to miss out visiting it this time. The Octagonal building is made up of White Carrara marble patterned into geometric shapes with Green Prato marble which was the fashion of Florentine Romanesque architecture. Why is the Baptistery octagonal you may be asking? Well, they are visual metaphors for the number eight. As eight follows the complete number seven so the beginning of the Christian life follows Baptism.

The Baptistery has a special place in every Florentine's heart. To start with the building is dedicated to San Giovanni (St. John the Baptist) – patron saint of Florence and his feast day is the 24th June.



It is the oldest religious building in the city. Dante Alighieri, author of the divine comedy referred to the Baptistery as 'my beautiful san Giovanni.' Until the 19th century, all catholic Florentine citizens were baptised here. It is built on top of the site of a Roman temple of the God, Mars (God of War)

Before venturing inside the building, I thought I should have a look at the famous Bronze doors - well the replicas to be correct – the original are safely on display in the cathedral Museum: problem was how was how was I to get to see them as there was a wall of tourists blocking my view. I resorted to elbowing my way through

the throng in a determined manner. Even though replicas of Gilberti's eastern doors, they are pretty amazing. The sculptor beat Brunelleschi in a competition to win the commission. Michelangelo - who wasn't a bad Florentine artist himself, said about them that 'they are so beautiful they would be perfect for the gates of Paradise.'

Having had a quick inspection of the Baptistery doors I became a little infuriated being jostled by the crowds and having my head lodged under a tourist's armpit while taking a photo, so I withdrew and ventured inside the building, which to my surprise I found rather empty.

The first thing that hits you when entering the Baptistery is the glory of the Cupola vaults which is a mass of glittering mosaics representing a whole series of biblical scenes from the 12th century, it really took my breath away.



Then I noticed the elaborate marble floor decorated in geometric patterns. I came upon a few tombs, the one that really grabbed my attention was that of the Antipope John

XXIII by Donatello and Michelozzo.

The actual Baptismal font that was located in the centre of the Baptistery was destroyed in the 1576. Everything about the Baptistery is exquisite: now I know why Florentine's such as Dante had such a soft spot for it.

If you can't get to see Florence's Baptistery, content yourselves in being able to see at your own pleasure our very own Norman Baptismal Font in the Parish church... And probably the oldest thing in Chingford.... Something to be rather chuffed about wouldn't you say?

A PRINCE'S LEGACY ON MATTERS OF FAITH

Just when we thought the last word had been written about the late Duke of Edinburgh, it emerged that he had a genuine interest in theology. That dashing young naval officer, who became the Queen's dutiful consort and accompanied her to thousands of church services, was someone who listened intently to sermons, thought through what was being said, and then asked questions.

Every Sunday when the royal couple were at Sandringham, a diocesan bishop was invited to preach in the parish church. Afterwards, they were grilled by the Duke who, we are told by one of them, showed that he "wanted to be intellectually and spiritually engaged". That's a polite way of saying he wasn't prepared to swallow what came out of the pulpit if he wasn't convinced by it.

Some Christians are suspicious of people who probe the faith. Should it not be taken on trust? Who are we to question the Almighty? For others, doubt hovers uninvited. Honest doubt won't settle for unbelief but will continue to persevere with its enquiries. The Russian writer and philosopher Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote: "It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt." Dostoyevsky had lived a turbulent life, both personally and publicly, and wrestled mentally with himself and God. Some people are like that.

Prince Philip had been baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and was received into the Church of England just before his marriage. He organised much of his own funeral, and if you followed it, you will remember how traditional it was. Many of the prayers were from the 17th Century Book of Common Prayer, the hymns were more ancient than modern, and the Bible readings confidently proclaimed the magnificence of God's Creation and Jesus' teaching about the resurrection. These are basic to Christianity and it was from such a foundation that he was able to explore.

So, if you wake up one morning questioning everything you have believed, take it as a spur to dig deeper and ask questions. Be encouraged by Philip, who shunned a second-hand faith because he

wanted to know the truth for himself. The next time you hear a sermon which you can't understand or disagree with, don't let the preacher get away with it. And if, in your private conversations with God, you find yourself praying, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief,' you won't be the first. See Mark 9, verse 24.

What do you think will happen after Covid?

You can take your choice: a recent survey has found that:-

a third of us think that society may *never* go back to the old ways,

a third of us think we will go back to *exactly* as we were before,
and

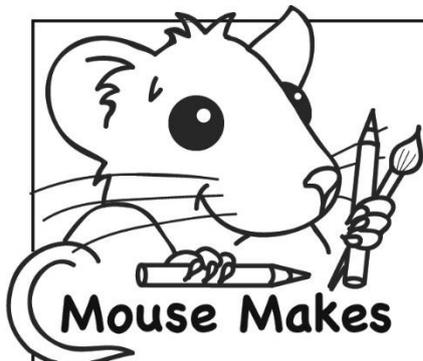
a third of us think that we will be *keener than ever* to stay together.

The Together Coalition, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been working for the past year on a piece of research to track just what has happened to communities during lockdown.

The new research has found that "people feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbours and community. ...We found a clear public appetite for a society in which we are more connected to each other, and the community spirit of 2020 is kept alive."

It also found that around 12.4million people have volunteered during the pandemic, 4.6million of them for the first time. And 75 per cent of those volunteers would be happy to do so again.

CROSSWORD AND CHILDRENS SECTION



What did Jesus say made the woman well?
 Matthew 9: 20-22

"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

John 21:25

JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?
 John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?
 Mark 1:29-31

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?
 Mark 2:1-12

Jesus **healed** and made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR

Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?
 Mark 5:1-20

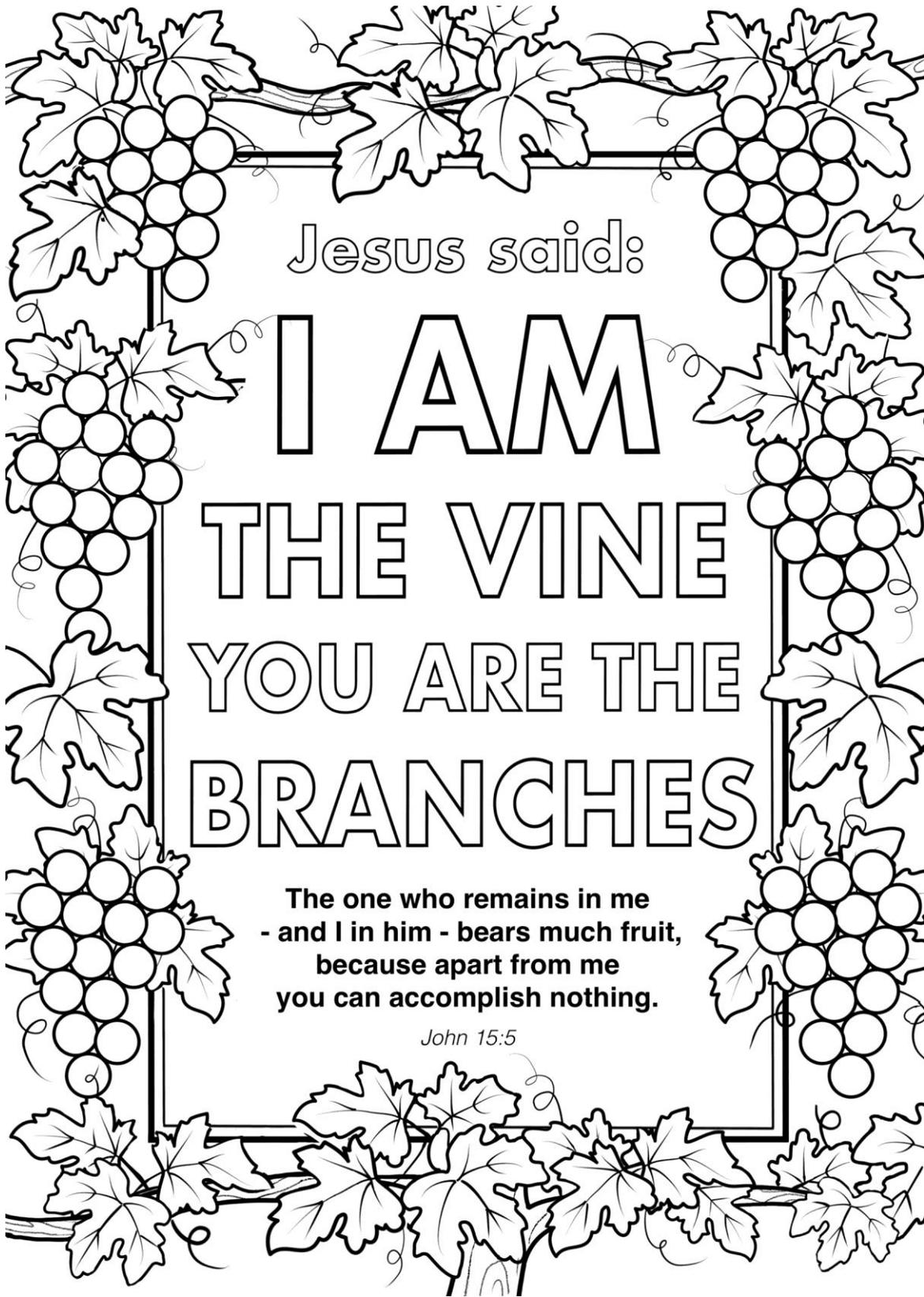
How long had the man by the pool been disabled?
 John 5:1-15

How many men were healed from leprosy?
 Luke 17:11-19

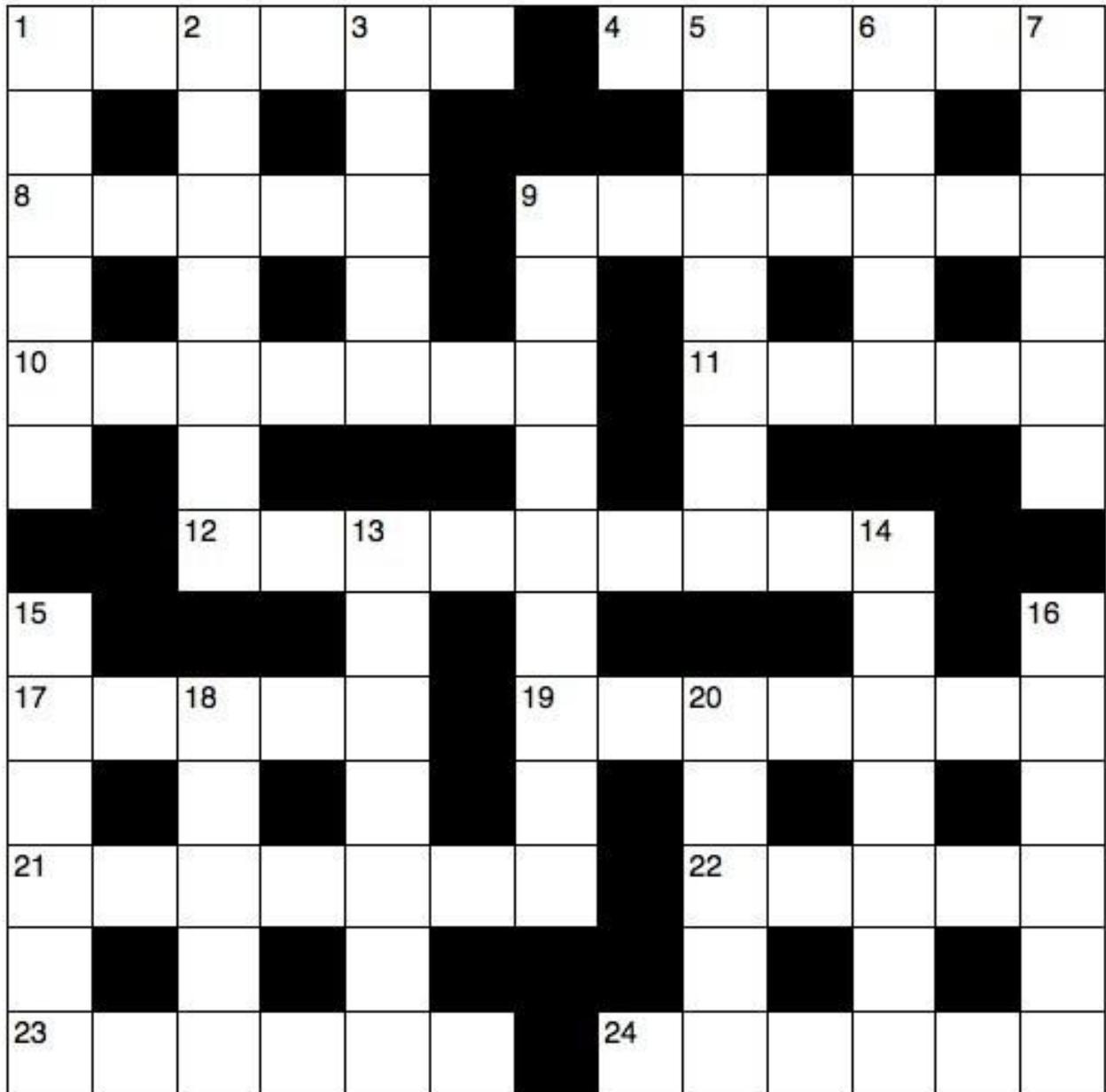
What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?
 Mark 10:46-52



Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?
 John 11:1-45



JUNE CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

Archbishop of York's Presidential Address to General Synod

It was "sobering and shameful" for the Church of England to be "confronted by the recent *Panorama* documentary", which looked at "a number of shockingly specific instances where sisters and brothers in Christ have experienced racism in the Church of England."

So said the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, in his recent Presidential Address to the General Synod.

He went on to say that the Anti-Racism Task Force set up by the Church last autumn had now published its "inspiring, challenging, and – God willing – far reaching report" to deal with the "institutional racism" found in the church.

"It identifies five areas where urgent action is needed, namely: participation, including appointments and shortlists for appointments; education; training and mentoring; work with young people; and governance and structures."

The Archbishop looked forward to the discussion of all this at a future Synod. "However, we couldn't let this group of sessions pass without acknowledging the scale of the challenge and the call to action."

The Archbishop went on: "I'm not standing here to defend our record. Nor am I saying everything will be ok. ...I'm saying that there is racism in the Church, and it must be confronted."

The Archbishop agreed with a statement by the Revd Arun Arora which said: 'Apologies and lament must now be accompanied by swift actions leading to real change.'

Some HOLY DAYS IN JUNE

22th June St Barnabas – The Encourager companion of St Paul

This month we remember the life of St Barnabas. His real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he is known by his nickname '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is still crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond and will we strengthen people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need? Be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be encouragers to others?*'

29th June - Feast of Ss Peter and Paul the Two most famous Apostles

St Peter, 'the Rock' (d. c. 64AD),



Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square, curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish.

Peter originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which His Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of 'binding and loosing', but Peter would be personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and he is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter

who first realised that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with Gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter's relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter's place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.) From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly door-keeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible.

In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selsey. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together.

St Paul, apostle to the Gentiles

Like Peter, Paul (d. c. 65) also started life with another name: Saul. This great apostle to the Gentiles was a Jew born in Tarsus and brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee. So keen was he to defend the god of his fathers that he became a persecutor of Christianity, and even took part in the stoning of Stephen. He hunted Christians down and imprisoned them, and it was while on his way to

persecute more Christians in Damascus that he was suddenly given his vision of Christ.

It was the decisive moment of Paul's life – Paul suddenly realised that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God, and that He was calling Paul to bring the Christian faith to the Gentiles. Paul was then healed of his temporary blindness, baptised, and retired to Arabia for about three years of prayer and solitude, before returning to Damascus.

From then on Paul seems to have lived a life full of hazard and hardship. He made many Jewish enemies, who stoned him, and wanted to kill him. Nevertheless, Paul made three great missionary journeys, first to Cyprus, then to Asia Minor and eastern Greece, and lastly to Ephesus, where he wrote 1 Corinthians, then to Macedonia and Achaia, where he wrote Romans, before returning to Jerusalem.

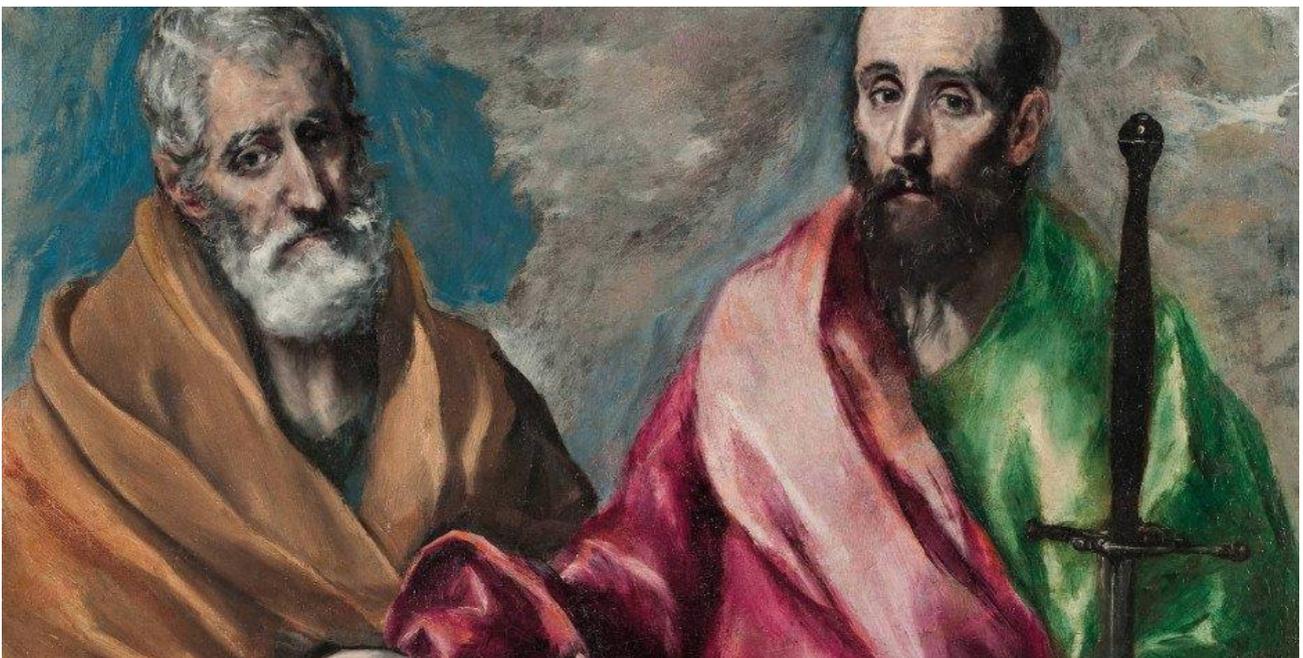
After stonings, beatings and imprisonment in Jerusalem he was sent to Rome for trial as a Roman citizen. On the way he was shipwrecked at Malta; when he finally reached Rome he was put under house-arrest for two years, during which time he wrote the four 'captivity' epistles. Later Paul may have revisited Ephesus and even have reached Spain. Tradition tells he was eventually martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero, being beheaded (as a Roman citizen) at Tre Fontane and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

The belief that Peter and Paul died on the same day was caused by their sharing the same feast day.

Paul was not only a tireless missionary, but a great thinker. His epistles played a major part in the later development of Christian theology. Paul's key ideas include that Redemption is only through faith in Christ, who abrogated the old Law and began the era of the Spirit; that Christ is not just the Messiah, but the eternal, pre-existent Son of God, exalted after the Resurrection to God's right-hand; that the Church is the (mystical) body of Christ; that the believers live in Christ and will eventually be transformed by the final resurrection.

It is difficult to overemphasise the influence of Paul on Christian thought and history: he had a major effect on Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and others. In art, Paul is depicted as small in stature, bald and bandy-legged, with a long face, long nose and eyebrows meeting over deep-set eyes. His usual emblems are a sword and a book. In England he was never as popular as St Peter, and ancient English churches dedicated to him alone number only 43.

The history of the relics of Peter and Paul is not very clear. Tradition says that Peter was buried at the Vatican and Paul on the Ostian Way under his basilica. Certainly, both apostles were venerated from very early times both in the Liturgy and in private prayers, as testified by Greek and Latin graffiti in the catacombs of the early 3rd century.



El Greco - "St. Peter & Paul" (1590-1600)

FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

In your time of need we'll take care
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