

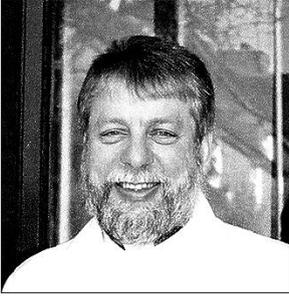
St Luke with St Mark Winchester



God
Provides



Parish Magazine
October 2020



from the Vicar

October 2020

The Reverend Mike Gardner

Dear Friends

The phrase '**keep your eye on the ball**' must be under much strain at the moment, with restrictions and guidance changing by country and county, on different days with different numbers and locations.

What are the constancies in our lives, what can we know for certain ?

Now there is a sermon topic or reflective contemplation, for later I feel !

But for now let's just deal with October, the nights drawing in [*gaining an hour on Sunday 25th as Summer time ends*] cold nights and crisp mornings. As we put the garden to bed for the winter so we bring out the woollies and bed socks from the back of the cupboard. The routine of the seasonal change just seems to happen and before you know it the first Christmas things are out in the supermarkets and other stores, next to Halloween treats wishing time away. I know there is much we would like to wish away at the moment but we mustn't lose sight of the many good times to come [*they may be different but what isn't*] .

As I hope by now you understand that I will be stepping back from 'work' that is ministering in and from St Luke's and St Mark's at the end of November, hoping to move up to Worcester in the new year [*February 2021*], so we are reflecting on a lot as we sort out and downsize, undertaking the 'last' of each event and meeting as we fast approach the day [*29th November*]. There will be time to say good-bye and thanks, but when and how now seem to be more 'up-in-the-air' than it was just a few days ago.

Planning for the future and living for each day

Mike



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4th October: St Francis of Assisi - Love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life. Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

Material from: Parish Pump

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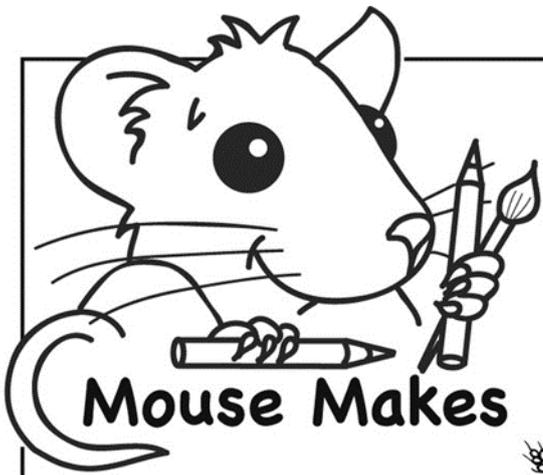
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May all the peoples praise you, O God,
 may all the peoples praise you!
 The land has produced its harvest,
 God, our God has blessed us.
 God has blessed us, may all people
 everywhere honour him.

Psalm 67:5-7

Can you find these harvest
 words in the hay bales?

- HARVEST
 THANKSGIVING
 PRAISE • GOD • BLESSED
 SEEDS • SOW • LAND
 PLOUGH • SCATTER
 SOIL • GROW
 CROPS • REAP



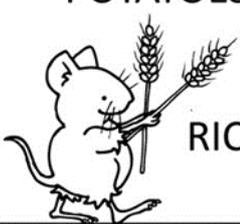
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Harvest Loaves

At this time of Harvest thanksgiving (Creation tide) why not think more about where our food comes from, and how we can help the environment, by reducing food miles where we can; growing and making more of our own food, or buying direct from local growers and suppliers. Why not try making this simple bread recipe.

Hedgehog rolls



Ingredients:

500g pack brown bread mix
25g butter
plain flour, for dusting
12 raisins
6 flaked almonds

Method

• STEP 1

Make the bread mixture with the butter following pack instructions. It's easiest to use a stand mixer but not difficult to do by hand. Leave the dough to rest for 5 mins, then knead for 5 mins.

• STEP 2

Cut the dough into six pieces. Dust the surface with a little flour and shape each piece into a ball by rolling it between your hand. Now make it hedgehog-shaped by pulling one side out a little and squeezing it gently into a snout. Be quite firm or it will bounce back.

• STEP 3

Put the hedgehogs on a baking sheet, cover with a damp tea towel and leave to rise for 1 hr.

• STEP 4

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Using kitchen scissors (supervise younger children), carefully snip into the dough to make the spikes on the backs of the hedgehogs. Press raisins in for the eyes and push a flaked almond into the end of each snout.

• STEP 5

Bake for 15 mins or until the rolls are risen and golden. Will keep for two days in an airtight container.



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TRAIDCRAFT NEWS – October 2020

Traidcraft Exchange (the campaigning wing of Traidcraft) are running their raffle this year with some wonderful prizes. First prize is a bespoke artwork by artist Cherrie Mansfield. The second is a glamping eco-holiday, and then there are extra prizes of Traidcraft hampers. You can buy your tickets online at www.traidcraftexchange.org/raffle

It will come as no surprise that there will be no charity Christmas card sale at the Guildhall this Christmas because of the pandemic. But fear not; charities will still be selling their seasonal stationery and produce, and Traidcraft is no exception. In fact, the new catalogue is hot off the press, and copies are available from Angela Cowans (contact details below) and online.

Whatever restrictions there are this year on Christmas shopping, the coronavirus can't stop us giving and sharing - we can have our festive treats all sorted out through Traidcraft, and still be ethical, organic and green. And generous! There are Advent calendars and gifts, ingredients for Yuletide baking, decorations and of course Christmas cards. And for the 25th, crackers, Christmas cakes and stocking fillers.

If ever charities like Traidcraft have needed us to think globally it is now, as communities across the world struggle to make a living whilst in the grip of COVID 19. Let's choose to make an impact in the way we shop, all the while enjoying first class produce. You can order goods as ever from Angela Cowans, on 01962 864432 or online at angelacowansa@googlemail.com.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

A LAUGH A DAY!

A few days ago, I received a very official-looking letter. On opening it, I discovered a notification that I had been called for Jury Service at Winchester Crown Court on such and such a day. Fill in this form (and delay not at your peril!) But I am 92 years old! There must be some mistake! Surely, they want Jurors under 76 years old?

My sister rang the office, to be told that they take names from the Electoral Roll. Just write and explain. Which I did.

They say that laughter is the best medicine.

When I was teaching at a boarding school in North Wales the girls were allowed to choose the hymn for Prayers on their birthday. It so happened one year that we had a new child whose birthday was soon after the term had begun. "What hymn would you like for your birthday?" I asked. "I don't know any hymns," she said. Then she remembered that her aunt had once gone to a wedding in a church and had brought the hymn book home by mistake. She had taught her niece one hymn. So, on her birthday morning we all solemnly sang, "Now the Day is Over."

"A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22. A good motto for the day.

Some years ago I was staying in a big house with lots of young people. There was a pantomime showing in the nearest town. Several car-loads were organized to take everybody to the theatre. Then I was asked to give up my seat to a girl from overseas. "She has never been to a pantomime," I was told. As a matter of fact neither had I because my mother had not allowed us children to see one; she thought that the jokes were vulgar. However, I stayed behind and guarded the house while everyone went off to enjoy themselves. So I wrote this song to cheer myself up.

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, so don't you grumble at a change of plan. The Lord loveth etc.and He wants to talk to you as Master to man. The Lord loveth etc. Your days of serving Him have barely begun. The Lord loveth etc.....And He'll surely talk to you as Father to son.

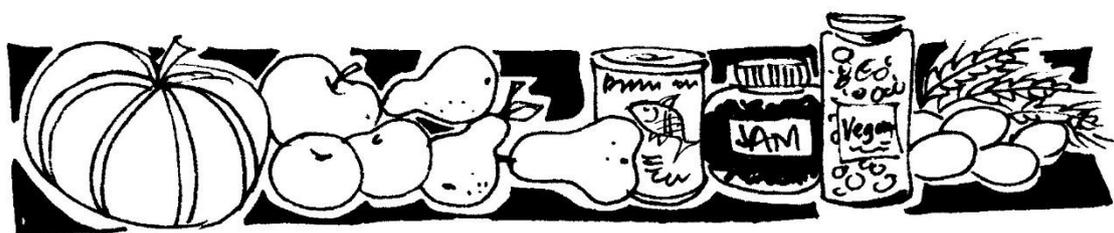
Laughter has the power to heal our bodies physically. As Shakespeare wrote: "*Jog on, jog on, the footpath way, and merrily hent the stile-a, a merry heart goes all the day, your sad tires in a mile-a.*"

Of course, being able to laugh at one-self is great gift. When we children were fairly small, under ten, my older brother had a large sheet of brown wrapping paper. I don't

know what he was going to do with it, but he brought it to me and furiously accused me of drawing a pin man in the centre. I just as furiously denied having anything to do with it. Mother came into the room to ask what we were arguing about. When the dastardly deed had been explained to her, she burst out laughing and confessed that it was she who had drawn the little man. We were flabbergasted; first that she would do such a doodle and secondly that she would consider it a laughing matter. But we had to forgive her.

And, being deaf as I am, I often get the wrong end of the stick. It causes quite a lot of hilarity. So a laugh a day, at my expense, is a good way to keep cheerful.

Kay Hassell



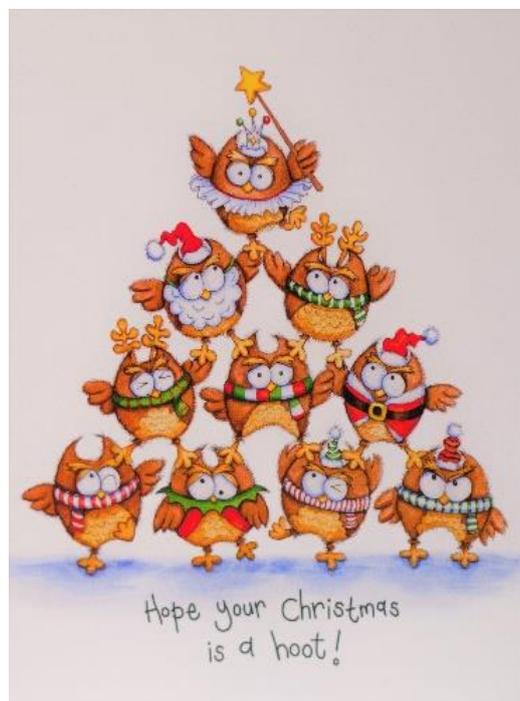
Charity Christmas Cards on the Move

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into Winchester Guildhall, the traditional Charity Christmas Card shop has relocated. The Tourist Information Centre was deemed too small to house all those cards as well as the TIC staff in these times of social distancing.

The former Whittards shop, just down the High Street from W.H.Smith, is the new all-singing, all-dancing Christmas Card destination. Opening on Monday 19 October, the shop will house a wide range of local and national charity cards to suit all tastes. An example of a local card in aid of the Southampton Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is shown here. Most of the cards in aid of national charities will be supplied by Cards for Good Causes.

The shop is also looking for volunteers to help man the unit; a lot of people will be needed to staff it every day from now until Christmas. If you think you could assist, please contact me, Cathy Wallis, on winchesterCFGC@gmail.com.

Season's Greetings everyone!



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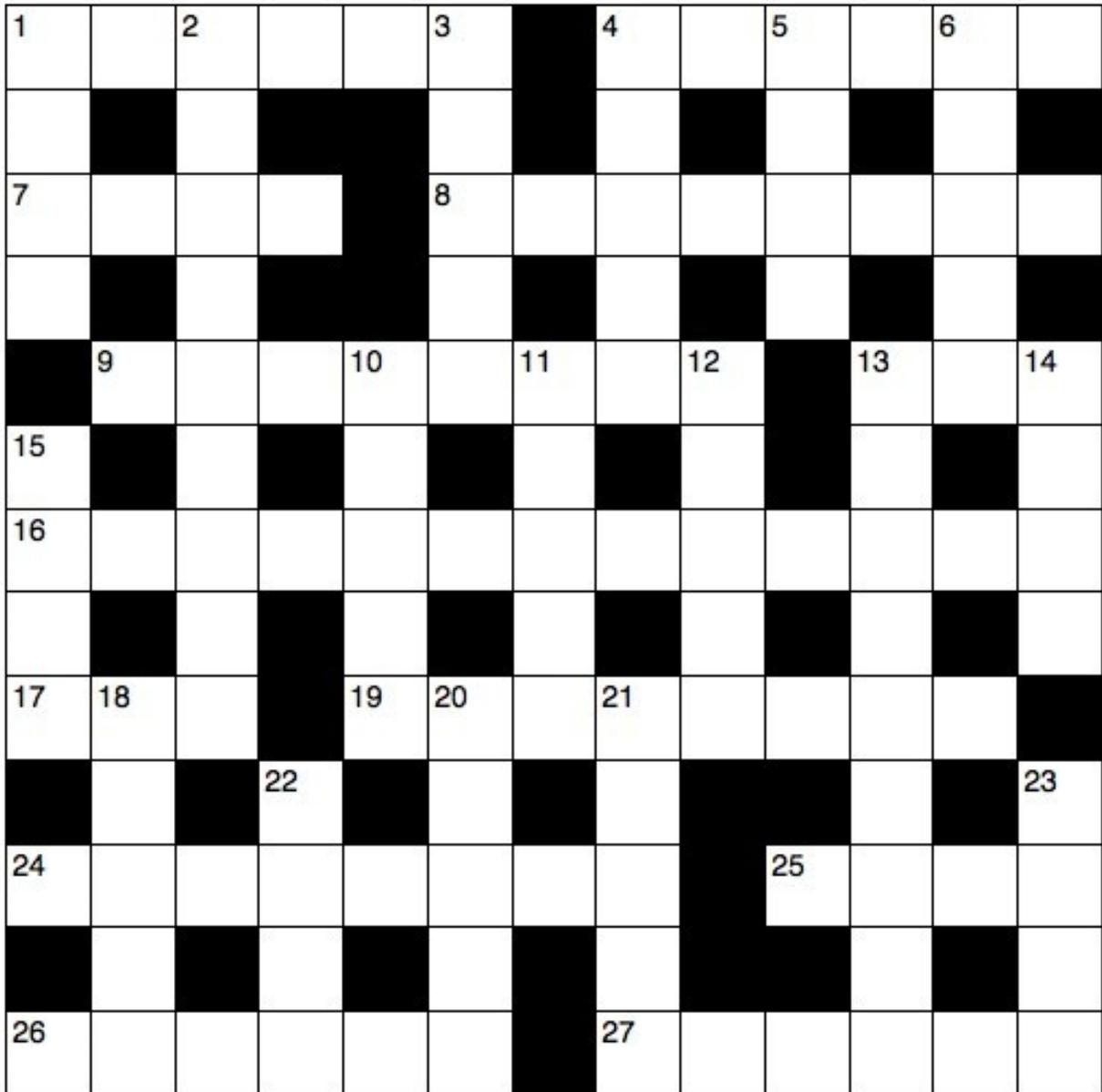
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CROSS WORD

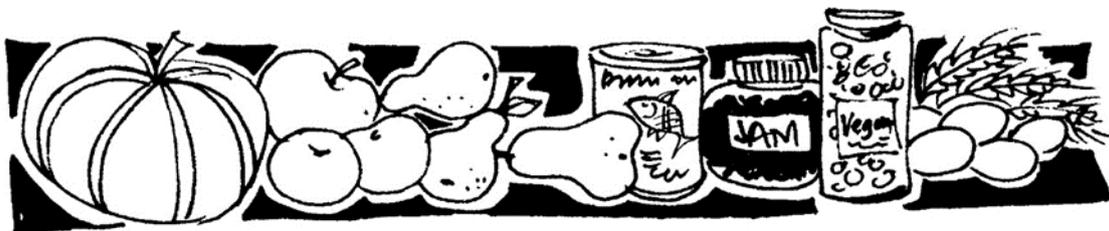


Across

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

Down

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



Steve Brine MP

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Steve Brine MP
Member of Parliament for Winchester



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Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

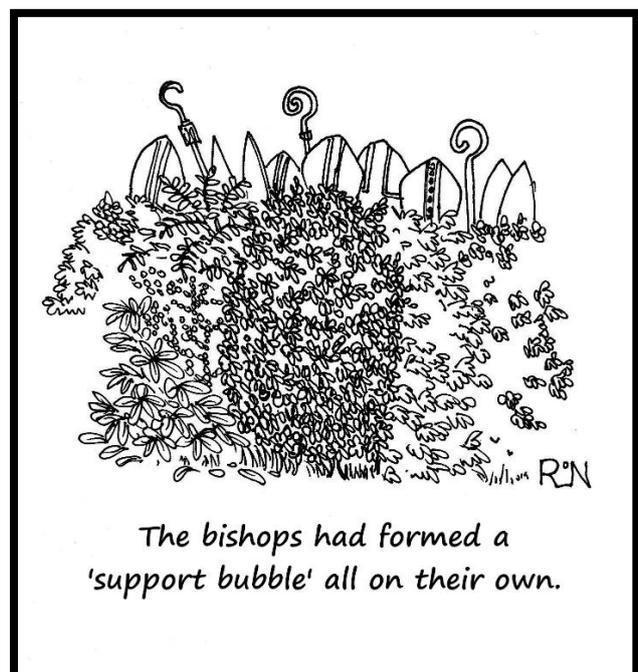
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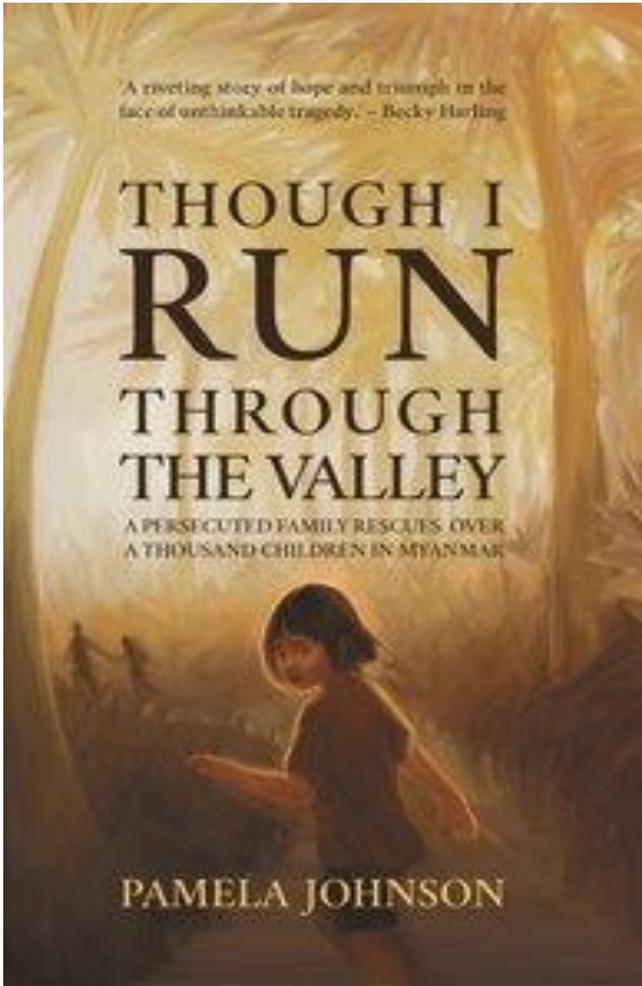


Ride and Stride 2020

Saturday 12 September was the annual Ride and Stride day, when people were encouraged to visit churches and chapels throughout the country, many of them seeking sponsorship, with the money raised divided between Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust, and the church of the rider/strider. Our parish has played an active role in this in recent years, with individuals riding and striding, and with a coffee morning at St Mark's backed by a quiz. This year, like so much else, things were different. We were not able to invite people into our churches, but we did welcome them to inspect the outside of the buildings and to register their attendance. Thirteen people made it to St Luke's and seven to St Mark's. We look forward to playing a more active role next year, though dependent perhaps on what buildings they may find there then!

Rosemary Dunhill and Anne Francis





Though I Run Through the Valley
by Pamela Johnson, Authentic, £9.99

At a time of ethnic cleansing and military dictatorship, being a Christian in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar brought huge risks and danger. Yet despite persecution, one family chose to use the weapon of love to combat evil.

'Though I Run Through the Valley' tells the incredible story of three generations of Karen Christians living out their love for God and each other by rescuing over 1000 children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval. Theirs is not a story of merely evading the enemy and surviving, but instead one of seeking out the vulnerable and teaching them how to thrive.

Daring to trust God against all the odds, this is the powerful story of one family's sacrifice over many years to protect and show the love of Christ to many lost children in Myanmar.



DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

Crossword Solution

