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Parish Magazine August 2020



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The Reverend Mike Gardner

from the Vicar

August 2020

Dear Friends,

The 'old' normal, would be to talk about time off or out, and refreshment, making space to recharge, ready for the new term, run up to Christmas via Harvest and All Saints ... but ... we are still not clear what and when we can have firm plans for the short and midterm future. What we do know is that if at all possible, we don't want more of the past four months.

Over the next few weeks, we [that is the whole Parish] will be reviewing what we can do in our buildings and across the community, to set out the options we may have in gathered and personal worship, Sundays and Mid-week. Alongside this, how and when, following Government and National Church guidance, we can welcome back groups and hirers to our building.

We still need to get the fundraising, via grants, events and local giving, to allow us to refurbish and extend St Mark's building before it turns sixty-five in July 2021[or maybe just after]. Please consider what you could do, to help with this. Then of course, the 'new' build of St Luke's has been simmering over the last six months, and needs just a few more ingredients added before serving to the wider community and planning. Exciting and concerning times lie ahead.

With all this in the pipeline we need to get our heads around patterns and timings of worship in shared buildings, as each closes for the works to get underway, so we need to do a worship survey as part of our 'Parish Mission Plan', to make the best of the changing situation. This will be done over the coming weeks and presented to the PCC, by the Ministry Team, when next it meets.

I hope for you, the unplanned 'garden leave' means you can take advantage of fewer summer jobs to do and relax a bit, for, when it all gets going again, it is going to be hard getting back up to speed, and, with short notice, as always, things will need to be done and in place.

As an old Boy Scout [which I am] would say "Be prepared!"

Mike



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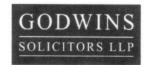
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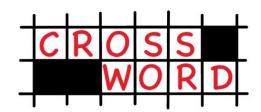
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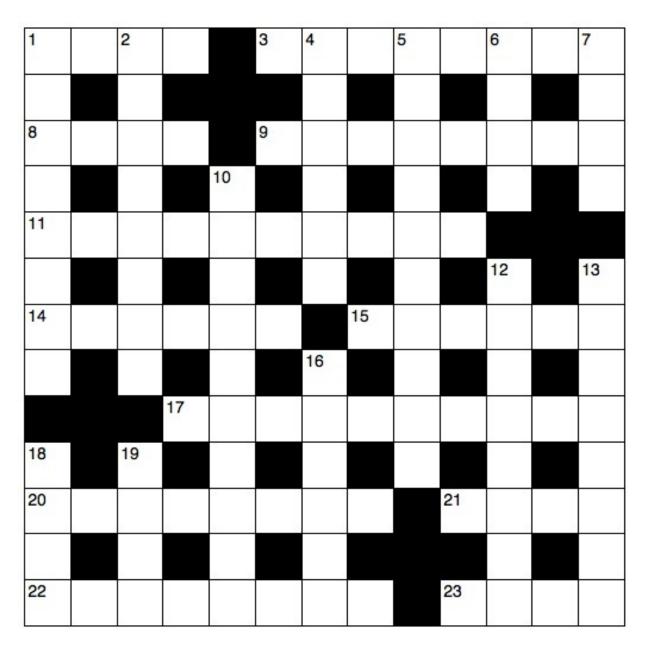
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Across

1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)

- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In 'The Pilgrim's Progress', the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20

(8)

- 16 'You have of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held -, and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)





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9th August Mary Sumner – founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.





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CRYPTIC QUIZ OF WELL-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS

Answers on back page

1. He's on his own.	10. He's fading out	
2. Maureen explains things.	11. Counting sheep?	
3. Missing both A and H.	12. At least he is employed!	
4. He made an impact.	13. He's slightly warm.	
5. She is very strange.	14. Holding back the tide?	
6. Just failed to complete the exercise routine.	15. Spoil the question.	
7. He must be crackers!	16. Almost divisible by 2.	
8. Why does he punish himself like this?	17. Won't allow this sea fish in.	
9. He's a ringer!	18. Lived inappropriately.	

COLOUR-BLINDNESS

Some random thoughts

When I was about three years old, we had a black preacher at church one Sunday. He came to our home for Sunday lunch. After the meal the grown-ups sat in the drawing room and I sat on the carpet looking up at this man who came from Madagascar. His face was as black and shiny as a lump of coal. He made faces at me and I made faces back at him. I loved him and have made funny faces ever since. His name was Robali-oela. (My spelling).

When I was about 11 years old, we had a lady called Dorothy Prescott staying with us. She was colour-blind. She came from a large family; she was the eldest, then there were five boys and another girl. One Christmas time, so the story goes, they were all sitting round the dining room table when one brother drew a half-crown coin out of his pocket. "Happy Christmas!" he said, handing the coin to the brother on his left. This brother picked it up, looked to his left and handed the coin to the next man. "Happy Christmas!" he said. So, the coin went round the table and came back to the first man. Honour was satisfied. Everyone had received half a crown. When Dorothy went shopping for clothes, she instinctively knew what colours went together by their shade, though I can't say her clothes were all that exciting. She was extremely well-read and in time she produced a book called "A New Day". There was a page to a day throughout a year with short Bible readings and quotes from

During the aftermath of the Second World War the people of Kenya went through a turbulent time when the Black community rose up and killed many of the White farmers who had been their masters. The White farmers went in terror of their lives. The Black terrorists were called the Mau Mau. One White farmer was seized and buried alive. Some years later I met his daughter, Agnes Hofmeyr (née Leaky), when she came to London. She had come to terms with his death and spent her life trying to bring peace and justice between Black and White.

many sources. This was a stand-by for one's morning devotions.

Rhodesia also went through terrible upheavals as the Black population rose up to claim their inheritance. The white Prime Minister, Ian Douglas Smith, declared a Unilateral Declaration of Independence or UDI. His son, Alec, was a hard drinking, hard living young man who took little interest in his father's political efforts. One day as he was driving home, he was shaken to the core by hearing clearly in his mind the words, "Go home and read the New Testament". He saw his own utter disregard for others in his self-centred living. A miracle happened. Alec rebuilt trust with his father and got to know the leaders of both white and black communities. He also made friends with Rev'd Kanodereka. They spoke together on many occasions, but finally Kanodereka was killed when he ventured into the bush on his own.

I was privileged to hear of these events through people who had known the key participants. I was quite sure I would always treat folk of another colour or race with respect. But oh dear, there was an incident seared into my memory of an occasion when I was at home in London and I went to the local public library. There was a long path leading up to a short flight of steps where the entrance was. I walked up the steps and heard nobody behind me. I went through the swing doors and contrary to all my training I did not look behind me before I let the doors swing back. To my horror a tall black man had come up silently; he must have been wearing rubber soled shoes. The doors swung in his face. He muttered a curse and I tried to run after him to apologize but he refused to listen. Perhaps he thought that any apology on my part would be insincere.

I have never been to Africa but Africa has come to my door step.

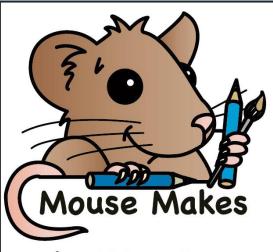
All my experiences with people of a different colour or race have been very challenging. At school, there were many Jewish girls who were refugees from Nazi Germany. They were all very clever. On the whole we all got on pretty well. But I used to ask myself why did God make that little country of Palestine so central to his plan for the world? The Jewish girls were all expecting to make that country the Homeland for all Jewish people.

There was one friend, a neighbour, who was a Holocaust survivor. Her name was Susan Pollack. She was a marvellous woman, about my age or a little younger. When the war ended, she, as a teenager, was taken from the camp to Sweden, then Canada to be given food and clothing and education. There she met her future husband who became a jeweller. In Britain they made a life for themselves and raised a family. Al had been so traumatised he could never speak about his horrific experiences in the concentration camps, but Susan took it upon herself to tell as many people as possible. She went into schools to tell the teenagers about Auschwitz and the other concentration camps. She also became a Samaritan. She was appointed MBE and was an outspoken fighter for peace and justice. I was grieved to learn of her death earlier this year.

Now I am 92 years old and still have much to learn. During the "lock-down" we have been marvellously looked after by neighbours who have been able to go out and about. And now I can! Suitably dressed with gloves and mask I can enjoy going into the mini-supermarket over the road. Will this be the way of life for the rest of my days? But more importantly, could the pandemic unite the world and help heal divisions? What a thought!

KAY HASSELL





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"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will **thank you:** I will **praise you** for ever and ever." Psalm 145:1-2





"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done." Psalm 19:1

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"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." *Psalm 119:105*

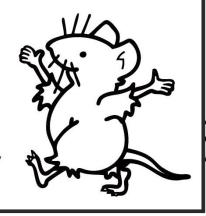
God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His." Psalm 24:1



Praise the Lord!

"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6





Give thanks!

"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will **praise** you. I will give You **thanks** as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."

Psalm 63:3-4

"The world and all that is in it belong



to the Lord, the earth and all who live on it are His."

Psalm 24:1

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An update from Winchester Churches Nightshelter

Thank you

Residents and staff at Winchester Churches Nightshelter would like to thank you for your support over the past few months. They have been challenging and uncertain times for us all which makes it even more touching that people have taken a moment to think of the Nightshelter and our residents. Loyal support has continued despite the difficulties, from donations of food and money to people giving their time to volunteer and fundraise. It has been particularly heart-warming to receive so much support from young people determined to do something positive with their time in lockdown. From the family of four siblings bouncing on their trampoline for 24 hours non-stop and raising over £1,113 to the moving email from a ten-year old girl desperate to help in some way. We have certainly felt our community behind us.

Throughout the weeks, our focus has been on keeping our residents, staff and volunteers safe. Together we have been committed to making new processes and procedures work for everyone. It has really has been a team effort.

Emerging from lockdown positively

Our aim is to inspire hope and transform lives. This continues whether there is a pandemic or not and our staff are busy working closely with residents to help them plan and make positive steps forward. Over the past couple of weeks, two residents have secured jobs within construction and one resident has completed their construction training.

Throughout recent months we have continued to offer counselling and psychotherapy to residents and been reaching out by phone to vulnerable former residents. This has been well received and time in lockdown has perhaps facilitated residents to make the most of these services.

Be a Home Hero

Calling all young fundraisers!

Be a Home Hero this summer and help people who are experiencing homelessness. You could have a clear out and sell your old toys, get baking and hold a cake sale, rehearse and film a talent show which you then show to friends and family, host a virtual disco or be sponsored to give something up or achieve a challenge.

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TRAIDCRAFT NEWS - AUGUST 2020

Traidcraft isn't just a channel for fair trade goods, it also heads campaigns, lobbies the government and challenges the big companies which dominate the food industry.

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- Brace yourself I know this is a word we are all tired of hearing, but Brexit is still happening, pandemic or not. Three years ago, it wasn't looking good for developing countries and their trade deals with the UK. But Traidcraft stepped in and made its voice heard. Now the government has agreed that after leaving the EU products from these countries will still have duty-free access to the UK market, and so jobs and small businesses will be saved. Result!
- The "Who Picked My Tea?" campaign highlighted the working lives of the women who produce the beverage we all know and love. All the biggest tea brands were challenged to be open about their sources, and this has led to greater transparency in the market. A step towards better pay and conditions for these impoverished workers.
- Traidcraft has for many years been bringing to light unfair treatment of small suppliers by the big supermarkets. Recently things have been looking up there has been a new EU directive banning these unfair practices, meaning that businesses who rely on prompt payment just to exist, have recourse to a regulator if the agreed trade conditions are violated.

All this is to say that when you buy from Traidcraft you are not only buying tea or chocolate. You are buying justice, better health and helping to free our brothers and sisters in developing countries from the threat of destitution. So, thank you for your loyal support over the years.

CRYPTIC QUIZ OF WELL-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS - ANSWERS

1. He's on his own.	SOLO MON	10. He's fading out	PETER
2. Maureen explains things.	MO SES	11. Counting sheep?	MATTH EW
3. Missing both A and H.	NO A H	12. At least he is employed!	JOB
4. He made an impact.	MARK	13. He's slightly warm.	LUKE
5. She is very strange.	HER OD	14. Holding back the tide?	A DAM
6. Just failed to complete the exercise	PILATE	15. Spoil the question.	MAR Y
routine.			
7. He must be crackers!	JACOB	16. Almost divisible by 2.	EVE (nearly
			even!)
8. Why does he punish himself like	CAIN	17. Won't allow this sea fish in.	BAR A
this?			BBAS
9. He's a ringer!	A BEL	18. Lived inappropriately.	DEVIL (LIVED
			backwards)



Steve Brine MP

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Steve Brine MP

Member of Parliament for Winchester



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