

Volume 21
Issue 10

70p

October 2021



The Rock

**The Church Magazine for the
Aune Valley Benefice of
Churchstow, Loddiswell, South Milton,
Thurlestone with Buckland & Bantham & Woodleigh**

Aune Valley Benefice Business



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The Rock

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Cover Picture:
English
Harvest Scene
Photo by
Magda V on
Unsplash

Benefice Service

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY OCTOBER 31ST 11.00 a.m. Benefice All Saints' Day Eucharist

**Please bring your "Love in a Box" with you (see page 8)
Remember the clocks go back, don't get there an hour early!!!!**

Sunday Services - the New Normal

The Government is urging people to wear face masks and maintain a high level of caution when indoors in communal and/or crowded settings. As Christians we need to be mindful of one another, thinking particularly of the most vulnerable. As a result of these things we strongly advise people to wear face coverings in Church especially where there is a larger congregation and several visitors.

At communion, Daniel will continue to sanitise his hands and encourage others to do the same. He will continue to use intinction and thereby we will not need to share the common cup. The Communion rail will not be used instead people will come up individually to receive from Daniel and then return to their places.

This advice will be constantly under review.

The Benefice Online

The Sunday Service on YouTube led by Daniel continues with readings and intercessions recorded by Benefice members and recorded hymns for you to join in with. This enables those still unable to come to church to have the chance of "attending" a Benefice Sunday Service. It is reaching up to 70 households from across the Benefice and beyond each week. We would welcome more people to offer help with readings and intercessions. Link on www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html

Virtual Service of Meditation by Zoom - **Tuesday October 5th at 5.00 p.m.** Please contact Nell Stamp on nellstamp@btinternet.com for the Zoom link.

Other On-Line Sunday Services

Exeter Diocese: A Sunday Service on <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/sunday-services-to-watch-online>.

National Church of England: There is a weekly online Sunday Service on <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

BBC Radio Devon: Sunday Service at 8.00 a.m. and then at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_devon.

Free Phone Line The Daily Hope phone line is still available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** includes daily hymns, reflections and prayers and a recording of the National Church of England online Sunday Service

The next edition of the Rock will be published on Sunday October 31st

Copy deadline for the November edition of The Rock is **Monday October 10th**

General items to the editor: Liz Webb. Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, TQ7 3AG, e-mail: mewebbsite@btinternet.com

Parochial items to your Parish Magazine Contact (see Benefice Directory page 20)

It would be appreciated if copy could be e-mailed if possible.

Annual subscription £7 contact: Woodleigh: *Vacancy*; Thurlestone: Liz Webb (560090); South Milton: Cherry Bell (560526); Loddiswell: Susan Freeman (550437); Churchstow: Sally Cridland (856940)

Annual postal subscription, £17.50, contact Liz Webb (560090). (Cheques made payable to Thurlestone PCC)

The Rock is also available on cassette for the visually impaired - contact Jan Turner (560354)

Advertising: £48 for 12 months for '9cm x 8cm' or '18cm x 4cm' box. A single month advertisement may also be possible for one off events at **£8** for '18cm x 4cm'. Contact Elizabeth Webb (560090/mewebbsite@btinternet.com).



We hope you may still join us for the Benefice online Service, especially if you are unable to attend a service in your church

A SUNDAY SERVICE ON YOUTUBE led by Daniel
www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html



Letter from the Rectory

Moving forwards, together

The ending of Covid-related legal restrictions in July has provided us with much to celebrate. We are able to go meet family and friends without travel limitations. We can go to the theatre and to the cinema. We can even sing in Church! There is much to be thankful for. However we are also invited, individually and collectively, to reflect on how we exercise these returning freedoms. Many shops continue to ask people to wear face coverings and large numbers of people are complying with these requests. When it comes to attending Church, a mixed pattern is emerging. Within our own Benefice some worship takes place predominantly "unmasked", whilst face coverings are worn in other instances. So why is this the case? Surely one rule (or advice) fits all.

The reality is that one rule does not fit all, because each gathering of people is different. Some worshipping communities have decided that face coverings are not needed, particularly if their building is large and their congregation size is small. Other worshipping communities have decided that face coverings are still needed, often reflecting smaller buildings and congregations with a larger number of out-of-area visitors.

When it comes to Sunday morning worship it is vital that we do everything that we can to keep people "on-board". I know that there are a number of people, for very good reasons, who would feel unable to attend worship if some of the remaining restrictions were lifted. As the Church we are called to be a sacrificial people. It should be our duty and our joy to meet the needs of others before we seek to meet our own needs. Worshipping together is not to some act of "spiritual consumerism" whereby we only attend if it ticks enough boxes for us. Instead it the coming together of God's people, regardless of circumstances and situations.

Collective worship on a Sunday morning should be given a high priority by all who follow Christ. It is only by being together that we can be the Church. It is only by being the Church that we can be the people of God. It should not be about "I" but about "us". Not about what "I" get out of it, but about how "we" are shaped by it.

Of course there are a number of people who are still shielding and being cautious due to their own health or the health of family members. This article is **not** an encouragement to abandon that practice. I fully support your position and that is one of the reasons that we are continuing to record our weekly YouTube Service. Instead this article is a word of encouragement to those who are waiting for our Sunday morning worship to be just as they like it before they attend. Don't wait! Instead, come back now. It isn't perfect. You may be asked to wear a mask, we can't receive from the chalice at the Eucharist, we aren't engaging in quite the level of fellowship that we were before the pandemic. But we are here. We are here together. We are here together because of God and because of one another. We are here, in the words of Psalm 34, to "taste and see that the Lord is god"!

Daniel Hartley



We'd be grateful if you could send your Harvest Produce to

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Individual donations of money and/or produce would also gratefully received

Please contact Gerrie on 07759 683567 or Paul on 07746 937514

Thurlestone Telegraph



Sunday Services at All Saints, Thurlestone

OCTOBER 10TH (BCP), OCTOBER 24TH (CW)	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said)
OCTOBER 3RD 18th Sunday after Trinity	11.10 a.m. Harvest Eucharist (CW)
OCTOBER 10TH 19th Sunday after Trinity	11.10 a.m. Morning Worship
OCTOBER 17TH Stewardship Sunday	11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)
OCTOBER 24TH Bible Sunday	11.10 a.m. Bible Sunday Service
OCTOBER 31ST All Saints' Sunday	11.00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW)
NOVEMBER 7TH 3rd Sunday before Advent	11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)



Other Services & Meetings

EVERY WEDNESDAY	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
MONDAYS	7.15-9 p.m. Bible Study in the Meeting Room - contact Mike Hodges (01548 561124) for more information
THURSDAY OCTOBER 7TH & 21ST	5 - 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting in the Meeting Room

The monthly service at Bantham will restart in January See page 2 for information of online services
Please see the Church Notice Boards & www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services for variations and more information

Harvest Eucharist Sunday October 3rd

Please bring produce to decorate the church (see p3) to church on Saturday October 2nd or bring to the service. It will be taken to the Foodbank after the service. No out of date items please!

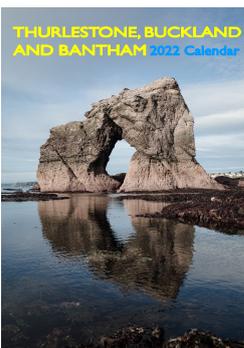
Stewardship Sunday October 17th

We are extremely grateful for all the financial help given over the past 18 months. If you are on the Church Electoral Roll, you will have received this year's Stewardship leaflet outlining how you can help financially or otherwise. Spare Stewardship packs are available in the Church and Meeting Room.

Liz

Social Activities in the Church Meeting Room

 <p>Everyone welcome for Coffee/Tea and a Chat</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.</p> <p><i>Donation in aid of Church Funds</i></p>	<p>If you have a child under 4 years old, we should be pleased to welcome you</p> <p><i>A chance for parents/carers to chat, while the children socialise</i></p> <p>starting October 7th</p> <p>THURSDAYS 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.</p> <p>If you are interested, please contact Liz Webb (560090/mewebbsite@btinternet.com)</p>	<p>Baby & Toddler GROUP</p> <p>accompanied by parents or carers</p>
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 	<h2>2022 CALENDAR</h2> <p>featuring photos of the Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham area entered in the Online Competition in June</p> <p>from Thurlestone & Bantham Shops</p> <p><i>in aid of Church Funds</i></p> <p>or by post, email thurlallsaints@btinternet.com</p> <p>Entry forms for the 2022 Photographic Competition available on www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/photo-comp-form</p> <p>More photos on https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/2022-calendar.html</p>	 <p>THURLESTONE, BUCKLAND AND BANTHAM 2022 Calendar</p>
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South Milton Grapevine



Sunday Services at All Saints, South Milton

OCTOBER 3RD	18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist (CW)
OCTOBER 10TH	19th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship for All Ages
OCTOBER 17TH	20th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist (CW)
OCTOBER 24TH	Bible Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Together
OCTOBER 31ST	All Saints' Sunday	11.00 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Thurlestone CLOCKS GO BACK!!
NOVEMBER 7TH	3rd Sunday before Advent	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist (CW)



The church is now open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

During this trying time of being very careful how we go about our daily lives, our church has remained open and well looked after, several visitors with whom I have spoken have been impressed at the quiet beauty and interest which is evident when they enter. Many thanks to the phantom path clearer, (JR) the approach to the church has been much enhanced by the work on the path. Also to the family of Mary Butterworth who have refurbished the seat.

Our services will continue to take place in the normal manner, albeit with a few minor precautions still in place. The Bell-ringers will sound out their message of a service about to begin, which, for several of our villagers is the sound of the normal events of village life. Our bell-ringers have been busy this summer, ringing for weddings, mostly at Thurlestone but nevertheless a joyous occasion for those who are being married with their guests and families present. A wedding here on September 19th will, we hope be a lovely occasion for Abi and Robert, we wish them well on their journey through life together

On August 25th there was a Memorial Service for John Mckillop. His family and friends collected at Church, tributes were paid to a fine gentleman of many talents. We heard about his time in the Navy and as a master sail-maker. The South window showed examples of his skill, his talent and some of the results of his efforts. His daughter Clare has followed in his footsteps and is, herself, a sail-maker in the same loft as Johnny worked at his craft. Sadly his son Paddy died several years ago, but Daughter Penny, who lives in remotest West Scotland, was at church to tell us about Johnny's life and loves. She was supported by a friend of the family, Chris Spencer-Chapman and Marion Brice read a lovely poem, which she was sure that Johnny would have appreciated.

Our harvest within the village and further afield will soon be gathered in, we need to think and pray for the farmers and their workers as they toil to gather in the crops for use in winter, both by their animals and by us humans. Our harvest celebrations will be over by the time you read this but on Monday 27th there will be a SALE of produce in the church porch at 10.00am, the remainder will go to St. Luke's Hospice.

As Autumn gets closer, we need to begin to think about those in our community who need looking out for. We can all just call in, or phone to show that they are not forgotten, and perhaps they need a little job doing or an errand run. There are one or two folks who do need a visit now and again, there are those of you who do this, for which we are all grateful.

A new family have moved into Springfield, we welcome them to the village and hope they will settle in and become part of our community.

Keep well and safe over these next months,

Luv Jan Turner

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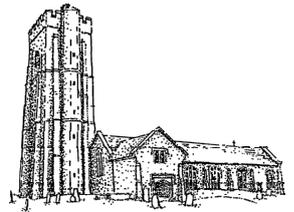
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Churchstow Chimes



Services at St Mary the Virgin, Churchstow

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH	7.00 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving
OCTOBER 3RD 18th Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
OCTOBER 10TH 19th Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Parish Communion (CW)
OCTOBER 17TH 20th Sunday after Trinity	11.00 a.m. Morning Worship
OCTOBER 24TH Bible Sunday	11.00 a.m. Parish Communion (BCP)
OCTOBER 31ST All Saints' Sunday	11.00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Thurlestone
NOVEMBER 7TH 3rd Sunday before Advent	11.00 a.m. Morning Worship



The church is now open from 9.00 a.m. until 5.30 p.m.

See page 2 for information of online services

Harvest Festival.

Thursday September 30th at 7.00pm. Do join us in Church for our Harvest Thanksgiving service, where we can admire the Floral arrangements and sing our harvest hymns, This is to be followed by a Bring and Share Harvest Supper in the Church Hall, a slightly more informal supper than our usual sit down meal, which is planned to return next year! Everyone is very welcome, Join us for either or both. Contact Judy 852428 or Trisha on 854833.

Return of the Whist Drives

The weekly Whist Drives have returned to the Church Hall on a Saturday and will commence at the earlier time of 7.00pm. We are looking for any new players, experience is not necessary as tuition can be given, a sense of fun is of more use as we do not take ourselves too seriously!!! The cost for the evening is £3 per person to include tea, coffee and biscuits. For more details contact John Woodley on 857916.

The Platinum Jubilee

We are holding a public meeting in the Church Hall on Tuesday 5th October at 7.30 p.m. to begin planning how Churchstow will Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in June 2022. On 6th February 1952 her Majesty ascended to the throne and became Queen Elizabeth II, On February 6th next year she will have been Queen for an incredible 70 years, and is the longest serving current head of state in the world, and one of the longest serving monarchs in the history of the world.

Please do join us at the meeting and let us begin to plan for this historic occasion..

Soup and Puds

The popular soup and puddings are starting again and the next one will be on Thursday October 21st in the Church Hall from 12 noon till 2.00 p.m. A choice of soups and bread rolls, followed by a choice of homemade puddings and tea or coffee all for £5 per head. All proceeds towards Churchstow Church. No need to book, just turn up! For more details contact Phyllis on 858836.

Activities & Events in the Church Hall

EVERY TUESDAY	5.45 - 6.45 p.m. Pilates Contact Julie on 07760764038
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH	8.00 p.m. Harvest Bring and Share Supper
TUESDAY OCTOBER 5TH	7.30 p.m. Platinum Jubilee meeting
TUESDAY OCTOBER 19TH	7.30 p.m. Parish Council meeting



Whist Drive
EVERY
SATURDAY
7.00 P.M.

£3 in aid of Church Hall
Contact John Woodley on 857916



Soup & Puds
THURSDAY
OCT. 21ST
12 NOON

£5 in aid of Church Funds
Contact Phyllis on 858836

Coffee Break



THURSDAY
OCT. 7TH
10.30 A.M.
- NOON

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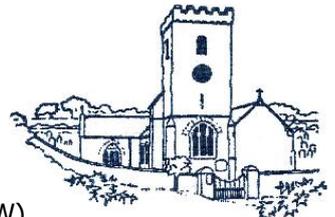
Tel: 01548 852243

Mob: 07971 027058

Services at Loddiswell

Services at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell

OCTOBER 3RD	18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
OCTOBER 10TH	19th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Family Communion (CW)
OCTOBER 17TH	20th Sunday after Trinity	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
OCTOBER 24TH	Bible Sunday	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
OCTOBER 31ST	All Saints' Sunday	11.00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Thurlestone
NOVEMBER 7TH	3rd Sunday before Advent	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship



The church is now open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

Woodleigh

Currently St Mary the Virgin, Woodleigh is not open for services or private prayer

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Love in a Box

This year the shoebox appeal will be for boxes to go to Eastern Europe through "Love in a Box" run by Children in Distress, which Thurlestone Church already supports. Hilary Jarratt, through whom the boxes are usually sent, has changed to this scheme as she, as well as some of our congregations, have become aware of the controversy about Operation Christmas Child. Samaritans Purse, which runs it, is committed to evangelism and often gives a Gospel storybook along with the box and invitations to attend a Bible course, even when the recipient is of another religion.



This appeal ensures that infants and children from the poorest families or in orphanages, hospices or hospitals in Romania know someone cares at Christmas. There is also the opportunity to fill boxes with senior citizens in mind, ensuring that those living alone or in care, are not forgotten. These special gift boxes will, for many, make the difference between a little joy and warmth or simply going hungry over the festive season.

Why fill a shoebox?

This appeal reaches out to Europe's poorest, the abandoned, the terminally or incurably ill; those with disabilities, those living with HIV or AIDS or dementia or the multiple challenges loneliness, poverty in old age can bring, showing that whatever their challenges there are still people who care.

Your shoebox, once filled with little gifts – perhaps a few things to keep them warm, clean and/or entertained – and wrapped in bright Christmas wrapping paper, will bring a little joy into people's lives. Each shoebox, once opened, will certainly bring smiles, wonder and delight to a child or pensioner living in dire circumstances. All too often, they are living in poverty and have come to expect little of the joy of Christmas.

Please help *Children in Distress* to fulfil the unique promise and commitment that each shoebox filled by you will be in the hands of a grateful child or pensioner living in poverty, before Christmas Day. You will make a real festive difference to every single parent family involved, each child and every pensioner with your "Love in a Box".



How to fill your Box

Boxes: If you have difficulty getting a box, Herring Shoes have promised 200 boxes. Please contact Hilary Jarratt (856303) if you need one. You can purchase a single flat pack shoebox at: www.baginboxman.co.uk for £1.34.

What to include: Sweets, Felt Pens, Soap, Flannel, Colour Books, Toothbrush/paste, Crayons, Brush/Comb, Puzzle, Ball, Yoyo, Toy Car, Toiletries, Balloons, Gloves/Scarf/Hats, Socks/Tights, Christmas Card, Hair Slides, Small Toys, Small Teddy Bear, Notebook, Pens/Pencils, Geometry Set

Please do not include: Medicines or medical goods, Gifts past their Use By Date, Second-Hand items, Money.

Finally: Wrap the lid and box separately with Christmas paper, attach a Shoebox label from the leaflet to the lid of this box, seal the box securely with elastic bands and include the £2.00 donation needed to see it to delivery.

Where to take you filled box

Please bring your box to the Benefice Service at Thurlestone on October 31st or they can be taken by November 1st to Kingsbridge Foodbank, who have kindly offered to store them until they are sent on to Children in Distress. Please contact Hilary Jarratt (856303) beforehand so that she can let you know a suitable time.

Can't send a box? We'll do it for you!

If it is difficult for you to fill and send a shoebox, Children in Distress has a selection of Christmas gifts you can purchase for a child, family, or older person:

Writing Set & Stationery for a Child (£10) ~ Hat, Scarf & Gloves Set (£10)

Family Toiletries Pack (£15) ~ Selection Boxes for 5 Children (£10)

Winter Coat & Shoes for Child up to 10 years (£40) or up to 16 years (£50) or Adult (£60)

Christmas Dinner & Small Toy(s) - 2 adults + 1 child (£30); 2 adults + 2 Children (£40); 2 adults + 3 Children (£50)

More information on www.childrenindistress.org/shoebox-appeal or post your order form to Children in Distress, Ladywell Business Centre, Suite 30, 94 Duke Street, Glasgow G4 0UW with a cheque or postal order.

If you wish to continue to support Operation Christmas Child, please see www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ but you will need to arrange getting your box to a local collection point.



**DIOCESE
OF EXETER**

**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON**

Diocesan News



Harvest

This October as our churches, schools and communities celebrate Harvest we are probably all more mindful than ever of how much we have to be thankful for this year. After the lockdowns and restrictions of the pandemic, just being able to gather together for this traditional festival, whether in a church or on a farm or in the open air, feels like a gift.

The food supply chain, which once we might have taken for granted, in recent months has felt more precarious and precious. We are grateful to our farmers and lorry drivers for working so hard to keep our supermarket shelves stacked and to our convenience store workers, many of whom (according to recent research) have barely had a day off since the pandemic began.

As the Church of England in Devon, we are using this autumn to take stock and plan a route out of the pandemic to help our churches and their communities be sustainable and fruitful going forward. We have called this our

Next Steps and it is inspired by the image of the vineyard at harvest time in the Bible, when Jesus says *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."* John 15.5



There is nothing like the sight of a ripe bunch of grapes, hanging on a vine, waiting to be picked, and we are fortunate to now have a number of good vineyards in Devon. Like a bunch of grapes, we know we are most fruitful when we work together and stay connected to God through our prayers, worship and studying the Bible. We all have a different role to play and different gifts to share, but like the individual grapes in a bunch, each of us is a vital part of our community.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is the importance of the people in our midst keeping us supplied with what we need – whether it is the volunteers running the local foodbank, the postal workers delivering parcels and precious letters, the convenience store workers staying open all hours, the lorry drivers or the farmers.

This October why don't you find time to write a card or say thank you to a "harvest hero" you know – you never know what fruit it might bear! You might also like to attend one of our Next Steps information and discussion events in your area, we would love to hear your views about the best way forward for our churches.

Find out more about the Next Steps and book a place at one of the events here: <https://exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/vision-strategy/>

Chloe Axford (Diocese of Exeter Communications Director)

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The Bible Matters

St Luke – the doctor who brought good news



This month we remember St Luke (18th October), the author of the third gospel and the Book of Acts. Throughout his writing Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is available to all people regardless of their gender, social position, or nationality. It is believed that Luke was a doctor, and he certainly sees the importance of healing in the ministry of Jesus and the Church. The signs of the presence of God's kingdom include the healing of sickness, hurts, as well as unforgiveness.

This is evident when Jesus sends out the 72 disciples in Luke 10, a reading for St Luke's Day:

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field...When you enter a town and are welcomed eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' (Luke 10:2,8). What challenges do we find in these verses?

Firstly Luke, as a **Gentile** (a non-Jew) recognises the revolutionary way outsiders are welcomed into the faith community, e.g. Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and Cornelius (Acts 10). How can we engage with those who are outside the community of faith? We have to avoid the tendency to regard ourselves as insiders! As we reach out to those who are ready to welcome the gospel, we have an opportunity to share good news and healing in the name of Jesus.

Secondly, as an **Evangelist**, Luke wants us to share the love of Jesus with all those we encounter. However, as these verses indicate, this has got to be rooted in prayer, if we are going to be led by God in our response to others. *'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in'* (Rowan Williams).

The Friend at Midnight

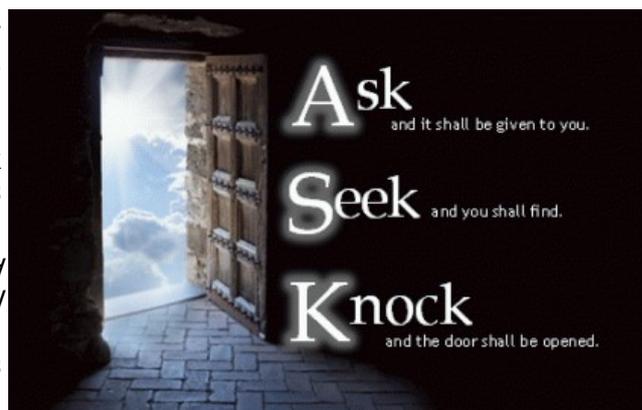
This month we are looking at the Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8). It is found in a passage where Jesus is teaching His disciples to pray.

Pray Shamelessly: The parable concerns a man coming to his friend at midnight and asking *'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'* (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality would mean this was not an unreasonable request.

But the friend refuses to help because everyone in his house is asleep. Jesus adds, *'though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs'*. Jesus uses this parable to encourage us to come in *shameless boldness* to our heavenly Father with our needs. In contrast to the parable, God is not slow in responding to us. It's not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently: Such confidence is the basis for persistent prayer: *'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'* All three verbs indicate a continual habit: *'Keep on asking... seeking...knocking'*. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly: *'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.'* Do we pray expectantly, believing that God delights in answering your prayers? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!



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God in the Arts

The Feast of the Tabernacles

For nine days at the end of September Jewish families will have gathered to celebrate the festival of Tabernacles. It is always a happy season as adults and children alike join for their Harvest feast. Many churches will be having their own Harvest Thanksgivings at the beginning of this month. We know this was a custom revived by Parson Hawker in the Victorian period, but its roots lie in that Jewish feast which Jesus Himself knew and celebrated.

Each family erects a tabernacle or tent in the garden or back yard. They will have their meals and spend time there, relaxing with one another. The roof of each tabernacle might have branches of trees covering it, hung with fruits and fragrant flowers. The children decorate the tent with drawings and pictures.

Because it is only a temporary building for that time of the year, and because the roof is fragile, it is a reminder of the journeying of the Israelites in the wilderness when their safety rested on the goodness of God. It was God who watched over the people then. It is God who watches over them now and watches over the earth, so that it is fruitful, providing food for their health and happiness.



This feast is the subject of this month's picture by Simeon Solomon. He was a Jewish artist, born in London in 1840 into a family of artists. He made his own reputation through meeting the Pre-Raphaelites and the poet, Swinburne. Solomon was a colourful character of that period, whose life sadly ended in poverty and alcoholism. But this wood engraving was made early on in his life in 1866. It is part of a series illustrating Jewish customs, which Solomon provided for 'Leisure Hour.'

We see an elderly person on the left making his way into the tent, and at the other side a mother leading her children. The walls outside are adorned with palm branches and inside the tent a feast of fruits and food await them. The young boy seems hesitant, wondering what he will find and clinging to the hand of his mother. But all is well, for inside other members of the family are there to welcome them.

Solomon conveys the domesticity of this feast, and the young boy outside reminds us that Jesus Himself would have celebrated this feast with Mary and Joseph. They would also have gone up to Jerusalem to join the thousands of pilgrims there, as Jesus was to do later in His adult ministry. Each pilgrim would carry a branch of myrtle, palm and willow in one hand and a citrus fruit in the other, symbols of the fruits of the promised land. The air would be full of hosannas and praises to God.

Like the Jewish families at the Feast of Tabernacles, we shall gather for our Harvest Thanksgivings. Like them, we shall thank God for His faithful goodness in the past. Like them, we shall look ahead to the coming of God's kingdom, where God who feeds us now in food and drink will nourish us eternally. Like them, we shall proclaim, 'O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the one who trusts in Him.'

(Picture: Scanned by Simon Cooke, <https://victorianweb.org/art/illustration/ssolomon/24.html>)





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St James the Least of All



When the film makers come to church

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble of going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmont was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*

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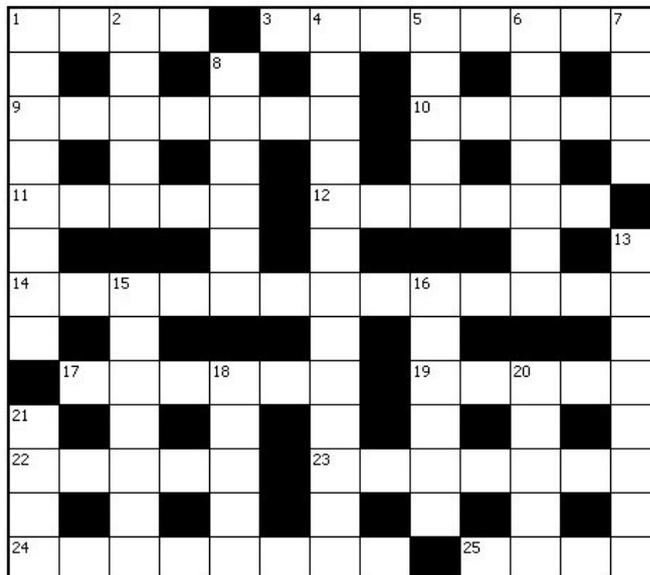
Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (8)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



Answers:

ACROSS: 1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton
DOWN: 1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA



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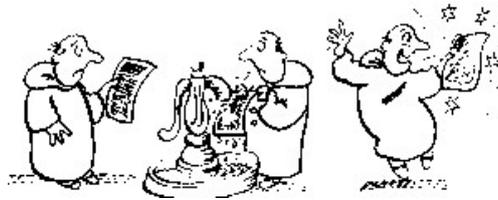
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Parish



Pump

Zacchaeus

(Luke 19:1-10)

I wanted to sit here
 And watch Him,
 Just watch the man Jesus walk by.
 Hidden by the leaves,
 Hidden from the loathing of my lifestyle
 I simply wanted to see Him
 From my tree.

As I searched for His face
 He found mine,
 Reached where I was and looked up,
 Looked into the heart of my being,
 And Jesus did not walk by,
 He came to me,

He spoke to me,
 A tree is not a hiding place, my friend,
 Believe me.

Come down from your tree,
 Come down and be different,
 Come down and change your world,
 Follow me.

Daphne Kitching



Thy Word

(Psalm 119:105-112)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
 And a light unto my way.
 Thy Word is right, and I will keep
 Thy Law from day to day.

Thy Word will revive my weary soul
 Afflicted it was, and astray.
 Lift me O Lord, and make me whole
 By Thy side, O Lord, I will stay.

Although the wicked lay a snare
 Thy ordinance makes me bold;
 Within Thy tenderness and care
 No devil can get a hold.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
 And a light unto my way.
 Thy Word is right, and I will keep
 Thy Law from day to day.

Nigel Beeton

God of Harvest

God of harvest,
 gardener supreme,
 you place us at the centre,
 feed us, equip us and,
 having provided for us,
 look to a different harvest,
 a fruitfulness of lives
 in service to you,
 and others.

God of harvest,
 feed us,
 prune us,
 harvest us,
 that our lives
 might bring glory to you.

Prove it

Prove it they cried that you're the Messiah
 Wouldn't He come as a conquering king?
 Not as a poor man riding a donkey
 How do you think we'd believe such a thing?

Wherever He went large crowds would follow,
 He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,
 The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,
 Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before,
 He fed the five thousand with fish and bread
 Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,
 He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin
 Rose up from the grave, what more could He do
 To prove of His love for all of mankind?
 Believe it or not – it's all up to you.

Megan Carter

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Sorry, Lord, I just couldn't make it

The bells ring out on Sunday morn,
O did you hear their call?
They call the faithful ones to prayer
To Church they summon all.

But Lord, I cannot come today,
I live a busy life,
Still, when there's something special
on
I'll try and send the wife.

It poured with rain last Sunday
An inch or two, I bet.
You surely can't expect me then –
I'd get my new suit wet.

Today the sky is blue and clear,
but the car's as black as ink.
And if I do not clean it soon,
What will the neighbours think?

You know I do my bit, dear Lord
I have a golden rule,
I sometimes send my kids along
To be at Sunday school.

But I really couldn't come as well,
There's grass to mow, and beds to weed
Shelves to fix, a dog to walk, and
Sunday newspapers to read.

And now this day has ended, Lord
How fast the weekends go!
I ask for faith and strength this week
For I feel (spiritually) quite low.

Inflame, O Lord, my feeble faith
My lamp burns rather dim,
For God depends on me, of course,
And I depend on Him.

Author unknown



"But, Mum, if the vicar wasn't coming here Trick-or-Treating, why did she still take the chocolates I gave her?"

What the young monk found

A young monk was assigned to help other monks copy out the old canons and laws of the church by hand. On his very first day he noticed that all the monks were copying from copies, not from the original. So, the new monk pointed out that if someone had made even a small error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all the subsequent copies.

The head monk said: "You make a good point, my son." So he went down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts were held in a locked vault that had not been opened for hundreds of years. Hours went by and nobody saw the old abbot.

Finally, the old monk returned, looking distraught. "We missed the **R** ! We missed the **R** ! We missed the **R** ! The word was... CELEB **R** ATE!"



RON

After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations

holding hats to collect contributions. People walk by, lift their noses at the man with the Star of David and drop money into the hat of the man with the cross. Soon, the hat of the man with the cross is filled and the hat of the man with the Star of David is empty.

A priest watches for a while and then approaches the men. He says to the man with the Star of David, "Don't you realize that this is a Catholic country? You'll never get any contributions holding a Star of David."

The man turns to the one with the cross and says, "Moishe, can you imagine, this goy is trying to tell us how to run our business?"

Business Plan

Two beggars are sitting on a park bench in Ireland. One is holding a cross and the other a Star of David. Both are



...if you have been affected by any issues raised in this sermon...

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