

The magazine of  
Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

# Messenger



Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.



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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD

# May 2022



Search for: Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Why not visit our website: [www.holcombehawkshaw.org](http://www.holcombehawkshaw.org)

40p



**Rev. Paul Sumsion,  
The Vicarage,  
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BL8 4JN  
01204 888 060.**

**Emmanuel Church,  
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Bury,  
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**Emmanuel Church Centre**

**&  
Canon Lewis Hall,  
Longsight Road,  
Holcombe Brook,  
Ramsbottom,  
Bury,  
Greater Manchester.  
BL8 4DB**

**St Mary,  
Hawkshaw,  
Bury,  
Greater Manchester.  
BL8 4JN**

## **SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE**

Do you know anyone struggling to meet essential needs? Help may be available.

Visit this website for further information.

<http://www.bbrtrust.co.uk> or contact

Rev. Paul Sumsion 01204 888060

### **Notice Sheets**

If you have any announcements for inclusion in the leaflet which is given out at services each week Contact: Stuart Wilkinson, 0161 298 9009, Email: [notices@holcombehawkshaw.org](mailto:notices@holcombehawkshaw.org)

**Editorial:** Stephen Newhouse - [stephen.newhouse@sky.com](mailto:stephen.newhouse@sky.com). 01706 412657

**Copy** can be handed to Stephen Newhouse, sent by email to [stephen.newhouse@sky.com](mailto:stephen.newhouse@sky.com) or can be handed in at any service by the **10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.**

**Note:** The editor would be grateful for copy by e mail, or on disc, but typed or hand written contributions are always welcome.

## **Our charity number is: 1176184**

All correspondence will be assumed for publication unless you specify otherwise. Contributions may be edited. Ideas and opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the editor.



# Mayday Musings



**Every so often** people complain when members of the Church comment about issues of national and international importance, but what they often fail to acknowledge is that down the years the church and its members have taken stances which might well be uncomfortable for some members of society, but which are no less important. As always truth is at the heart of the views held by the Church.

In the last few months, we have thought a great deal about truth; we had a video sermon based on the way, the truth and the life, and in our Good Friday reflection, The Cross of Christ, we heard the great question from Pilate, *'What is truth?'* Truth in all its forms is central to all our lives, not merely in Church but in the wider community. History tells us that a society which rejects the truth is a society which is in danger, and is a society which is rejecting probably the most important ethical value which binds it together.

Down the years many different writers have considered the importance of the truth, from John Wycliffe who wrote in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, *'I believe that in the end truth will conquer'*, to Leslie Weatherhead in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century proclaiming, *'Nothing can ever destroy truth.'*

*'I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.'* Familiar words even if we've never had to say them in court. Unfortunately, in some people's eyes, truth can be manipulated to fit a particular point of view. Until recently we often heard about 'fake news', an approach taken by some to disregard the truth when it was uncomfortable. Half-truths, grains of truth, stretching the truth, trifling with the truth, all can be magnified and proclaimed as the truth, but they can never be the absolute truth. As Benjamin Franklin wrote, *'Half a truth is often a great lie'*, while Gordon of Khartoum said, *'if you tell the truth, you have infinite power supporting you; but if not, you have infinite power against you.'*

We know the one and only truth, that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. As he said before Pilate *'I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'*

There is no room, no place for anyone who plays fast and loose with the truth, picking and choosing some facts and disregarding other elements of the truth.

*Michael Burton*



26<sup>th</sup> May

## Augustine of Canterbury, apostle to the English

**Augustine**, a 6<sup>th</sup> century Italian prior, holds a unique place in British history. He became the 'apostle to the English,' although it was with great reluctance.

In 596 Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory to head a mission of monks whom he wanted to send to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. Augustine was not a bold man, and by the time he and his band of priests reached Gaul, they wished to turn back. But Gregory would not hear of it, and he bolstered their confidence by sending some more priests out to them, and by consecrating Augustine bishop. Finally, the little party, now 40 in number, landed at Ebbsfleet, Kent in 597.

It would be fascinating to have a detailed description of that first meeting between Bishop Augustine and Ethelbert, powerful King of Kent. Whatever Augustine said, it must have been effective, for Ethelbert granted the 40 priests permission to stay in a house in Canterbury. He even allowed them to preach to his people, while he himself considered their message of Christianity.

## Christian princess from Paris

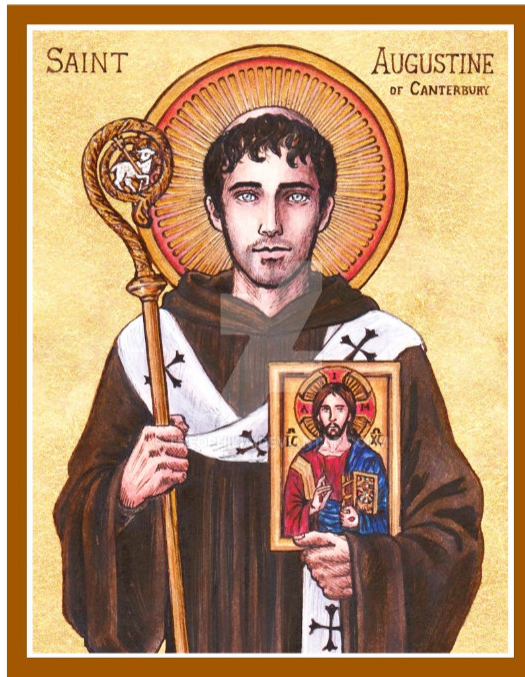
His wife, Bertha, was a Christian princess from Paris, but she does not seem to have played any role in the conversion of Kent.

By 601 Ethelbert and many of his people had been baptised Christians. The mission to the English was well underway. More

clergy, some books, a few relics and several altar vessels arrived from Rome. At Gregory's wise urging, Augustine decided to consolidate the mission in one small area, rather than try and reach all of Kent. So, Augustine stayed in Canterbury, where he built the cathedral and founded a school. He left only temporarily to establish a see in London.

Also, at Gregory's wise urging, Augustine did not destroy the

pagan temples of the people of Kent, but only the idols in them. In this way, familiar rites were taken over and used for the celebration of the Christian feasts. Meanwhile, before his death in 604, Augustine helped Ethelbert to draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon written laws to survive – and so influenced British law for centuries to come.





# God in the Sciences

## Humility

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floriensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.



In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to

tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19?

Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

\*For resources on this question, try the [Faraday Institute](#), BioLogos, and Christians in Science.

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

# Longest overdue library book has been returned - 313 years late



**If you have ever** been late in returning a library book, take heart: the 1704 copy of *The Faith and Practice of a Church of England Man* was recently handed back to Sheffield Cathedral.

A handwritten inscription inside reads: "This Book belongs to ye Lending Library in Sheffield Church 1709." It left the library just over 300 years ago.

Sheffield Cathedral's Reverend Canon Keith Farrow said that the family of a deceased woman who lived locally had asked in her will for it to be returned.

"Now it's come back home. It's a joy to have this little jewel back in the cathedral."

With overdue fines of 50p a day, librarians could have charged the family more than £54,000 for the book — which itself is worth about £300.

The canon joked: "We might have got a new roof or something. But I did promise I wouldn't charge them."

## Take a walk on the wild side!

**How neat do we like our gardens** to be? Full of manicured lawns, with immaculate flower beds?

Well, yes and no. A recent survey by BBC's *Gardener's World* magazine has found that more than half (54 per cent) of gardeners now include

'uncultivated areas' in their garden. And some 44 per cent of gardeners have also set up a wildflower area.

Certainly, Nature could use a helping hand just now. In 2019 32 per cent of us saw a butterfly in our garden. By 2020 that was down to 21 percent. By 2021, that was down again, to just 16 per cent.

Simple tips to rewild your garden:

Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides, which also kill 'good bugs', butterflies and bees.

Tolerate as much mess as you can. Leave wood and leaf piles for hedgehogs and invertebrates.

Set aside some room where grass can grow longer, and wildflowers can bloom.

Don't pull up all your weeds — they can be a critical source of pollen for bees.



## Working Parties

Emmanuel Church Centre Garden  
Wednesday 11th May 1.30pm to 4pm

Your help would be much appreciated.

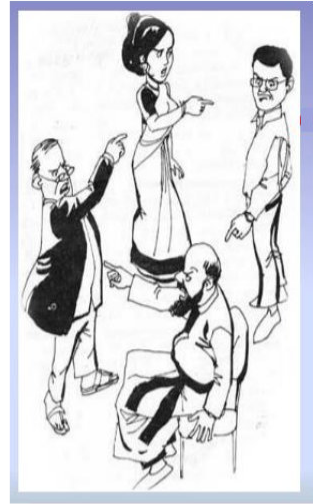
There will be a Working Party each second Wednesday of the month until October.

# Whose Job Is It, Anyway?

**This a story** about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody thought Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry at that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



## Parking space

**Angus was driving** down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."



## Not expecting this

**The young minister** took his wife to the Maternity Hospital and was told it would be a long labour. So, he agreed to ring at lunchtime for news. But when he phoned, he dialled the wrong number and got the County Cricket Ground. He said: "I brought my wife to your place early this morning. Is there any news?"

He was surprised to be told: "Yes, there are seven out and the last two were ducks."





**Results of the Elections held during the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 .**

**Copies Of the Annual Report and Yearbook are still available at each  
worship centre or can be downloaded from:**

**<http://www.holcombehawkshaw.org/news/yearbook.pdf>**

**Note: Sidespeople are now appointed by the P.C.C. at their first meeting following  
the A.P.C.M., (16<sup>th</sup> May). There is still time to have your name added to serve as a  
sidesperson. Please speak to a Warden or Deputy before the 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw**

### **Deanery of Bury in the Diocese of Manchester**

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of  
the above parish held on **25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

The following were elected as **Churchwardens:**

Name: **Peter Hardcastle**    Name: **Stephen Newhouse**

The following are **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod with one year to serve:**

Name: **Claire Baggoley**    Name: **Jean Houghton**  
Name: **Keith Jones**        Name: **Stephen Newhouse.**

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church  
Council:**

Name: **Rosemary Artley**    Name: **Julie Smale**  
Name: **Michael Burton**    Name: **Eddie Slattery**  
Name: **Richard Byrom**    Name: **Jo Sumsion**  
Name: **Penny Hanley**      Name: **Liz Webber**  
Name: **Ethel Houghton**    Name: **Tim Webber**  
Name: **David Lomax**        Name: **Jo Venn**  
Name: **Sheila Partridge**    Name: **Stuart Wilkinson**



# Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw

## **Parish Values** (behind what we do)

Generous Hospitality  
Growing Faith  
Worshipful  
Recognising and Responding to Need  
Compassionate  
Bible-based Teaching  
**Missional**

## **Mission Statement:**

Loving God, Loving Neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

## **Vision Statement:** (In broad terms, what we plan to do)

“In our Parish:

- We will be people who welcome others, serve the community and show love and care to each other.
- We want to provide inspirational worship that meets the needs of diverse worshippers.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging each member of the congregation.
- We aim to have buildings that are warm and welcoming ready to worship and glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out with God's love to people near and far, sharing something of the faith, hope and life we have in Jesus & seeing his universal church grow in depth of faith and number.”

The Parochial Church Council February 2014 & June 2021.

## War in Ukraine: Diocese in Europe and USPG launch Ukraine emergency appeal.

The Church of England Diocese in Europe and USPG, the mission agency, have launched an emergency appeal to get aid to people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine.

# DIOCESE IN EUROPE

Funds raised by the appeal will support Christian charities and churches carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war.



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

The appeal is for urgent help NOW, but the work will go on for many months.

The Church of England's Bishop in Europe, the Rt Revd Robert Innes says: "War is horrible. It injures, destroys, and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe.

"The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others.

"Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help."

# USPG<sup>+</sup>

PARTNERS IN  
GLOBAL MISSION

USPG's General Secretary, the Revd Duncan Dormor, adds: "Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine. We have launched this appeal in partnership with the Diocese in Europe to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and support church responses to the current crisis."

To donate to the Ukraine emergency appeal, visit <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com>

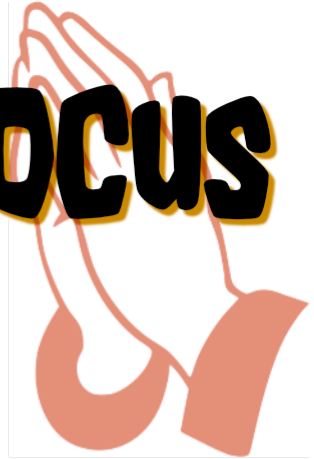
## The cost of petrol

Here is a sobering thought: petrol selling at 1.649p per litre in the UK is equivalent to £7.50 a gallon!





# Prayer Focus



**I read recently** an inspiring story of a couple of life changing events in one person's life that has led to the Hospice Movement.

That person was a woman, Cecily Saunders. She was a nurse and one day came across a man being taken by ambulance to hospital. She offered to accompany him and found him to be a Jew working over here in England having lost all his family in the Holocaust. As he had no one else to visit him she offered to and learned he was a dying man. In giving him her company, she began to realise how important it is to have someone to share that final journey. Listening became a vital part of the role she played and it began to attract the attention of the medical staff.

After he died, she was earnestly advised to further her studies and she became a doctor it was her knowledge of the importance of care, attention and also pain relief, that could be achieved in order to facilitate the best possible comfort for such patients, that became noticeable to a wider medical audience. She emphasised the importance of addressing the needs of the whole person – not just the symptoms and it gained her international interest. Later it was a Canadian doctor who invented the name 'Palliative' care.

The second life change event was when a patient she was nursing fell in love with her and she with him. Apparently, their courtship took place behind the doubtful privacy of hospital curtains around a bay window of the ward but, they married! She was an evangelical protestant and he a devout Roman Catholic.

When he died, he left a sizeable sum of money which was used to set up the very first hospice, St. Christopher's in London – it housed sixty beds. Cecily Saunders had developed this compassionate, yet unsentimental advance towards people in need and helped those caring for them, to realise the whole person and help meet their physical, spiritual and emotional needs, with loving care.

Cecily died in St. Christopher's at the age of eighty-seven. Her name may not be a familiar one, but her contribution to us is invaluable.

Thank God for those whose faith and works enlighten us.

Amen.

*Gloria*

May

**1<sup>st</sup> May**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

*John 21.1-19 : Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]*

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<b>9.30am</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>  <i>Rev'd Ian Fleming</i>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>All Age Worship</b>  <i>Rev'd Robert Airey</i>	<b>10.45pm</b> <b>All Age Worship with Holy Communion</b> <i>Rev. Paul Sumsion</i> <i>Rev Ian Fleming</i>

**8<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*John 10.22-30: Acts 9.36-43*

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<b>9.30am</b> <b>Morning Worship</b> <i>Rev'd Paul Sumsion</i> <i>Phil Biggs</i> <i>Reading:</i> <i>Matthew 25: 14 - 30</i>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Rev'd Paul Sumsion</i> <i>Phil Biggs</i> <i>Reading:</i> <i>Matthew 25: 14 - 30</i>	<b>10.45pm</b> <b>Holy Communion with Groups</b>  <i>Rev'd Vic Fletcher</i> <i>Lesley Stear</i>
<b>3pm Campfire Church</b>  <b>Activities, songs, worship</b>  <b>Inc. Parade Service</b>		

**12<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday**  
**2.00pm - Holy Communion -**  
**Emmanuel Church Centre**

**15<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<b>9.30am</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Rev'd Paul Sumsion &amp; Bob May</i>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>Morning Worship</b> <i>Rev'd Paul Sumsion &amp; Bob May</i>	<b>10.45pm</b> <b>Morning Worship with groups</b> <i>Ethel Houghton Jo Sumsion</i>
	<b>6.30pm</b> <b>Choral Evensong</b> <i>Rev Paul Sumsion Richard Byrom</i>	

**22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter John 14.23-29; Acts 16.9-15**

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<b>9.30am</b> <b>Morning Worship</b> <i>Rev'd Ian Fleming Rev Robert Airey</i>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Rev'd Ian Fleming Rev Robert Airey</i>	<b>10.45pm</b> <b>All Age worship</b> <i>Jo Sumsion Bob May</i>
		<b>6.30pm</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Rev'd Ian Fleming &amp; Rev Paul Sumsion</i>

**26<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday**  
**2.00pm - Holy Communion - Emmanuel Church Centre**

**29<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter John 17.20-26; Acts 16.16-34**

<b>Emmanuel Church Centre</b>	<b>Emmanuel, Holcombe</b>	<b>St. Mary, Hawkshaw</b>
<b>9.30am</b> <b>Morning Worship</b> <i>Rev'd Paul Sumsion Richard Byrom</i>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>Morning Worship</b> <i>Rev'd Paul Sumsion Richard Byrom</i>	<b>10.45pm</b> <b>All Age worship</b> <i>Rev Ian Fleming Ethel Houghton</i>
	<b>6.30pm</b> <b>Holy Communion 1662</b> <i>Rev'd Ian Fleming &amp; Rev Robert Airey</i>	

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**Please check weekly emails and website to confirm these dates.**

**You are invited to  
St. Mary, Hawkshaw**

## **“Sizzling Seniors”**

**Thursday  
May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**10am - 12noon**

**Every first Thursday of the month.  
Contact: Jane Fletcher for details  
or if you need transport.**

## **Drop IN**

**10am until 12 noon  
every Monday,  
at Canon Lewis Hall,  
Longsight Road, BL8 4DB  
welcomes anyone and everyone,  
who wants a “bit of company, a  
cup of coffee and a chat”.**

## **Quiet Morning**

**Tuesday  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
10am to 12noon  
Emmanuel Church Centre**

## **The Soup Company**

**A simple meal of bread and soup  
in good company!**

**12.30pm to 2pm**

**Thursday**

**12<sup>th</sup> May**

**Canon Lewis Hall,**

**Longsight Road, BL8 4DB**

**At 2pm there is the monthly  
Communion Service should you  
wish to stay.**

## **Afternoon Fellowship**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 2am**

**Emmanuel Church Centre**

## **Travellers**

**Adult and Toddler Group  
Wednesdays 1.30pm to 3pm  
during Term Time  
Canon Lewis Hall.**

## **The Cellar Youth Group**

**None during school holidays.  
(Years 7 & 8) in the Cellar,  
(Hawkshaw Church)  
at 7.30pm to 9.00pm.  
Thursdays**

**Passage & Prayer**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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# Passage and Prayer

The idea is to take a few moments out during each day to meet with God.

Keep these pages for the month and refer to them each day.

Read a passage of Scripture and spend a little while thinking on what God might be saying to you through it. Then pray for whatever is on your heart and mind, and perhaps include the things happening around the parish.

Each month, a new sheet will be included in the magazine.

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**Prayer for the week:**

Dear Father, you know me well, made in your image, a part of your will, you've seen my thoughts, know my words, you've laid your hand upon me. If I lay down in the dark of the night, closing my eyes to shut out your light, in my darkness you're there beside me, a loving father, a hand to guide. If I rise up on the wings of a bird, soar to the heavens, the depths of the earth, mountain or sea, high or low, there's nowhere to hide, nowhere to go. There's no hiding place from the presence of your Spirit. No hiding place from the searching of my heart, no hiding place from the hand that's there to guide me. For wherever I am, be it near or far, wherever I am, is the place where you are.

**Please include the following in your prayers each day:**

Those having fun at Campfire Church on Sunday afternoon.

**Readings for this week:**

John 14: 1 – 31.

**Sunday Reading:**

John 10.22-30

## **Passage & Prayer** **9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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### **Prayer for the week:**

You are the Father who welcomes home the prodigal who has wandered far. You are the Father who prepares a meal when others would simply ignore. You are the Father whose love extends beyond our thoughts or minds. You are the Father who knows our hearts and yet loves us as we are. You are the Father whose word we trust in whose presence we have no fear. You are the Father whose tender touch makes a wounded spirit whole. You are the Father whose only Son was born that he might die. You are the Father whose gracious love we celebrate this day.

### **Please include the following in your prayers each day:**

All of the P.C.C. members who have volunteered their time to assist with the running of the parish.

### **Readings for this week:**

Acts 11: 1 – 18.

### **Sunday Reading:**

John 13.31-35

## **Passage & Prayer** **16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

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### **Prayer for the week:**

Our walk with God is never a lonely walk, it is a family occasion, if taken in the company of God's children. If we lag behind, there are those who will turn and offer words of encouragement, hold out a hand and offer assistance over stiles and other obstacles, share refreshment, help us from our knees when we stumble. Our walk with God is never a lonely walk. It is a joyful experience, as along the path others join us, attracted by the company of God's children, singing the same songs of praise that angels sing, following a path worn down by tears and joy, and sacrifice. Our walk with God is never a lonely walk, for he walks with us, on a track that leads to a glorious destination.

### **Please include the following in your prayers each day:**

All those working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the parish.

### **Readings for this week:**

Acts 14: 1 – 31.

### **Sunday Reading:**

John 14.23-29

## **Passage & Prayer** **23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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### **Prayer for the week:**

It is not ours to know the time or place when you will return. We have enough to concern us in these present times, in the day to day business of living. But one thing is certain, of this I am sure, we are all a part of history, and history has a purpose, an end point, a destination, and we should live our lives as if that destination is ours also. Lives lived with purpose, watchful, prepared, in expectation. For if the time is hidden, it may catch us unawares, our temples full of unwashed linen, dirt and debris. Perhaps we'd better get the dustpan out, Lord, do some unseasonable spring cleaning!

### **Please include the following in your prayers each day:**

Those attending the Ascension Day service on Thursday at E.C.C.

### **Readings for this week:**

Hebrews 4: 14 – 5: 10.

### **Sunday Reading:**

John 17.20-26

## **Passage & Prayer** **30<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> Jun 2022**

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### **Prayer for the week :**

Our Gracious God, we give you thanks for Her Majesty The Queen as the platinum jubilee is celebrated all over the country and around the world. What an amazing achievement this is. Thank you for her life which she has dedicated to service and the example of her deep sense of vocation. May she continue to be blessed with divine guidance and continue to find enormous strength in her faith and feel the support of her family around her. May she be encouraged by the widespread celebration of this Jubilee and know how much she is loved and admired.

### **Please include the following in your prayers each day :**

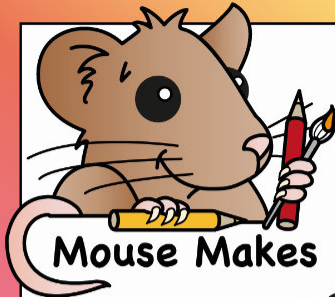
All those enjoying half term and the long bank holiday to recognize the Queen's platinum jubilee.

### **Readings for this week:**

Acts 19: 1 – 23.

### **Sunday Reading:**

John 14.8-17[25-27]



"Give thanks to the  
Lord for He is good,  
His love endures  
forever"  
Psalm 136:1

Jesus said,  
"This, then, is how  
you should pray:  
Our

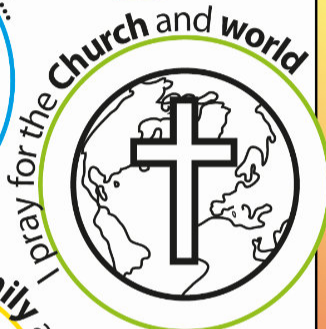
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
hallowed be your  
\_\_\_\_\_ your

\_\_\_\_\_ come,  
your \_\_\_\_\_ be  
done, on

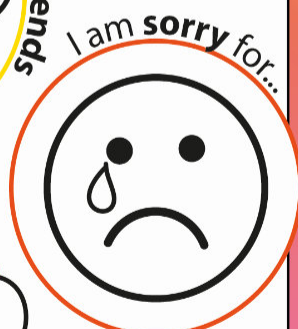
\_\_\_\_\_ as it  
is in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Give us this day our  
daily \_\_\_\_\_.  
And

\_\_\_\_\_ us our \_\_\_\_\_,  
as we also have  
forgiven our debtors.  
And \_\_\_\_\_  
us not into  
temptation, but  
\_\_\_\_\_ us from the  
\_\_\_\_\_ one."

**Read Matthew 6:9-13**  
to fill in the words.



"Never stop praying."  
1 Thessalonians 5:17



"Do not be anxious about  
anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God."  
Philippians 4:6





**Q: What is the witch's favourite school subject?**

**A: Spelling!**

**Q: What did one wall say to the other wall?**  
**A: I'll meet you at the corner!**

**Q: How does the ocean say hello?**  
**A: It waves**

**Q: What are the strongest days of the week?**  
**A: Saturday and Sunday. Every other day is a weekday**

**Q: Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants?**

**A: In case he got a hole in one.**

**Q: How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?**  
**A: Ten tickles**

**Q: What kind of tree can fit into your hand?**  
**A: A palm tree!**

**Q: Why did the skeleton go to the dance alone?**  
**A: He had no body to go with him!**

**3pm on the second  
Sunday of the month**

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

**We will be outside,  
so please dress for  
the weather!**

**Emmanuel Church Centre,  
(Canon Lewis Hall)  
Holcombe Brook. BL8 4DB**



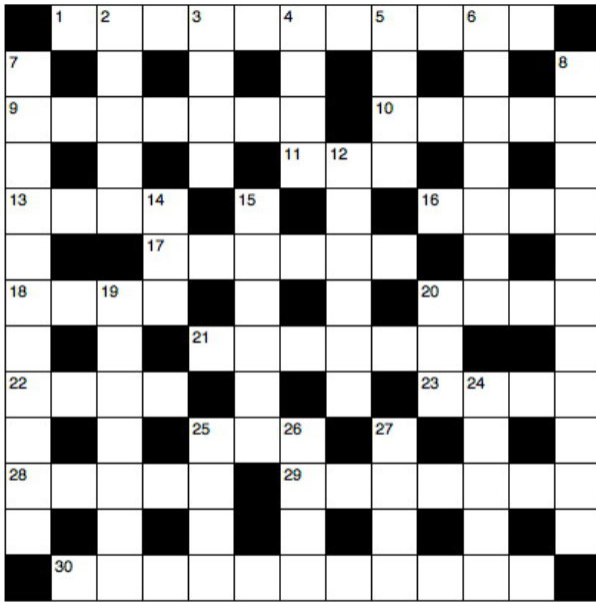
**Parish of  
Holcombe &  
Hawkshaw**



**Campfire  
Hot Chocolate  
Outdoor Activities  
Games  
Worship**

**With Parade  
for  
Uniformed Groups**

**[holcombehawkshaw.org](http://holcombehawkshaw.org)**



25 Has(anag.)(3)  
 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)  
 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)  
 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

### Down

2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)  
 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)  
 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)  
 5 Slip (anag.) (4)  
 6 'Take an awl and push it

### Across

1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)  
 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)  
 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)  
 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)  
 13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4)  
 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)  
 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)  
 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)  
 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)  
 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)  
 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)  
 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)

through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)  
 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)  
 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)  
 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)  
 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)  
 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on——!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)  
 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)  
 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)  
 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva(5)  
 25 'Give to everyone who— you'(Luke6:30)(4)  
 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)  
 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

## Solution page 27



**Wordsearch clues**  
**A prayer for Ukraine**

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6], but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

Ukraine  
War  
Cease  
Earth  
Break  
Bows  
Shatter

Spears  
Burn  
Shields  
Fire  
Save  
many  
Lives

Crisis  
Lord  
Our  
Rock  
Fortress  
Deliverer  
Hope

In  
You  
Be  
Still

**Solution**  
**page 27**

# Sudoku

## Easy

	3	7	1	8		4		
2				9	3	7		
5			2			6		
	5		8		6		2	
8		2	5		4	3		6
	7		9		2		5	
		3			8			9
		5	4	2				3
		4		5	1	2	6	

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## Medium

	2				1	4		6
9					3	8		
				4				3
	6		2					
	5						4	
					9		7	
6				2				
		3	9					1
8		1	5				9	

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## Solution page 27

# Those memorable school reports...

*What did your teachers say about your progress at school? The following were sent into the Daily Telegraph some years ago....*

- ~ One of my French reports simply said:  
‘Sheila attended the lessons’.  
- Sheila Blow, Surrey
- ~ My housemaster wrote: ‘He has an overdeveloped unawareness.’  
- Ian Jones, Wirral
- ~ A friend’s son’s report said: ‘By the time he has mastered French, he will be too old to cross the Channel.’ – M Knaggs, Dorset
- ~ My teacher observed: ‘The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell.’ - Colin Sutherland, Switzerland
- ~ My teacher was a realist: ‘I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best.’  
- Stan Proctor, Surrey



# Time to take some responsibility for our health

**Did you know** that nearly one half of the NHS budget is spent on diseases that could have been

prevented?

And that Britain's overall health budget is now bigger than the GDP of Greece?

So says the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, who has recently warned that the NHS cannot continue spending "vast sums" on lifestyle conditions that are "wholly avoidable".

Just one example is obesity. Obesity rates have doubled since the 1990s, with two out of three adults now overweight or obese. Our lifestyles have also become increasingly sedentary. The result? An eighth of the NHS drugs budget is now spent just on treating cases of diabetes, 90 per cent of which are caused by excess weight.

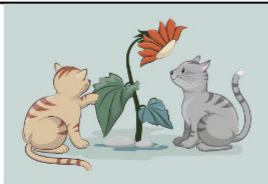


*Mrs Logan went for her atmoiser and  
Mrs Pugh went for hers...*

## Cats

**A Cheshire vicar** has two cats. Their names are

Ancient and Modern – because they are both hims.



## It was:

**150 years ago**, on 18th May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

**125 years ago**, on 26th May 1897 that Bram Stoker's horror novel Dracula was published.

**90 years ago**, on 9th May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

**60 years ago**, on 25th May 1962 that the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during WWII.

**40 years ago**, 27th-28th May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War.



# Where Jesus is now.

## The Ascension

This month at Ascension Day, we remember Jesus ascending to 'God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22).

It's a somewhat neglected Christian festival, taking place on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. However, this phrase is used in three different contexts in the New Testament.

## Sitting at God's right hand

Jesus occupies a position of power and authority at the centre of the universe, 'exalted to the right hand of God' (Acts 2:33). This position was secured by His death and resurrection, enabling us to experience the life of heaven, including eternal life, forgiveness, healing and the power to transform lives and communities. Is this our expectation and experience?

## Standing at God's right hand

Our experience of heaven is only partial because of the presence of suffering and disappointment in our lives. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, saw Jesus 'standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56), when being stoned to death. Do we see that Jesus is on the throne and has a purpose for our lives, even when we are going through setbacks and difficulties? As a result of Stephen's death, the church grew and the apostle Paul was impacted. Where do we see

the fruit of the suffering in our lives?

## Praying at God's right hand

Finally, we are told that Jesus is 'interceding for us' at God's right hand (Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is on our side at the heart of the universe and fully knows our needs when praying for us. He is for us, even when we feel defeated by the wrong things in our lives. How does this help us now?

So where has Jesus gone? Because He is in heaven, the Ascension opens up the possibility that we can experience the life of heaven, both now and in eternity.



East window at Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

## Ascension Day Service

Join with

Ramsbottom & Edenfield Team

St. Philip's Stubbins. 7.30pm

Rev Ian Fleming and Rev Paul Sumsion

# Upgrade for Car park

I am sure that all of you will have used Emmanuel Church Centre Car Park at some stage whether bringing a toddler to Travellers, a child to a baby ballet, to a uniformed group like Brownies Scouts or Guides or dropping someone off to a birthday party.

Perhaps you are of the older generation like myself and go to WI or Probus, Afternoon Fellowship or Mother's Union. If you are on your own you may have enjoyed soup at our soup company or attend the weekly Drop In. These are just some of the many activities that go on at the Centre alongside Church Services, Quiet mornings or visits to the wonderful Reflective Garden.

But what about the car park? We have put stone on it to improve it, but it is a health and safety hazard and those in wheelchairs, mobility scooters or use a stick find it impossible to cross and we have a desperate need for recognised disabled parking.

Hence we have started a fund to tarmac the whole area and have had a full report and costings for this work. The project manager has freely given of his time and expertise and after several visits on site has spoken to the E.C.C. Team.

Once full details are worked out and approval is received from the P.C.C. and the Diocese, the project is likely to come in at just under £50000 plus VAT. We have a small legacy towards this from a generous former

parishioner and we have sent in an application for a grant and will look at other funding opportunities, which will hopefully give us a little more, but we will still need at least half of this.

The price that we have will only go up, the longer it takes us to fund raise.

We have no spare cash in the parish and all costs have gone up.

Since Covid we have lost a lot of our cash giving as people did not come to Church during the Pandemic and some have not come back.

How can you help?

If you can give anything at all or can persuade a Hall user to donate or if you can point us in the direction of any benefactors we would love to hear from you.

We have set up a separate account as part of Holcombe and Hawkshaw P.C.C. and any cheques should be made out to that account and put E.C.C. Car Park on the back. This can be given in at any of our worship centres or sent to me:

Jo Venn  
11 Westgate Avenue  
Holcombe Brook  
Bury  
BL0 9SS

You can be sure that every penny will be well spent and all users of the Hall and Garden will benefit. Generations to come will be grateful to you.

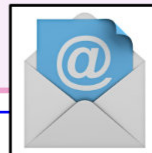
Thank you for reading this and we look forward to hearing from you

## Keep up to date:

Each Sunday there is a service at 10.45am at St. Mary, Hawkshaw which is "streamed live" on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time. Just visit our website

[www.holcombehawkshaw.org](http://www.holcombehawkshaw.org).

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to [stephen.newhouse@sky.com](mailto:stephen.newhouse@sky.com)



# Our addiction to plastic

**Take a good look** next time you go to the supermarket. What is the thing you see most? Plastic.



It is everywhere. Tight around the cucumbers, holding the groups of apples together, protecting the chickens, keeping the sausages in a neat line. The yoghurt pots are all plastic. And on it goes.... Milk, juice, water, pasta, rice, frozen fish.... Almost everything we buy comes with a layer of plastic around it.

In the UK we use around 500,000 tonnes of plastic packages a year just for our food, and we generate 7.7 million single-use water bottles.

## Eleven million metric tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans ever year

As Professor Steve Fisher of the University of Portsmouth points out: "Half of all plastic becomes waste within a year of being made, and the vast majority isn't recycled. Eleven million metric tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans ever year, a shocking figure which is estimated to triple to near 29 million metric tonnes by 2040, if nothing is done."

# Out and about on the roads? Remember the NEW Highway Code

**When did you last read the Highway Code?** Various 'fundamental' changes were recently made which will surely affect you.

For example, there is a new hierarchy of road users, where drivers now have new responsibilities to watch out for people who are walking, cycling, or riding a horse.

Another example is that cyclists are now advised to cycle in the centre of lanes in slower-moving traffic.

Finally, do you even know how best to open your car door? According to the Highway Code, you should use your hand on the opposite side to the door you are opening; for example, use your left hand to open a door on your right-hand side. This will make you turn your head to look over your shoulder. You are then more likely to avoid causing injury to cyclists or motorcyclists passing you on the road, or to people on the pavement.

Read all about the new rules at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>



# Crossword solution

From page 20

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

# Wordsearch solution

From page 20

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

# Sudoku solutions

3	2	7	8	9	1	4	5	6
9	1	4	6	5	3	8	2	7
5	8	6	7	4	2	9	1	3
4	6	9	2	7	5	1	3	8
7	5	2	3	1	8	6	4	9
1	3	8	4	6	9	2	7	5
6	9	5	1	2	7	3	8	4
2	7	3	9	8	4	5	6	1
8	4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2

From page 22

6	3	7	1	8	5	4	9	2
2	4	8	6	9	3	7	1	5
5	1	9	2	4	7	6	3	8
3	5	1	8	7	6	9	2	4
8	9	2	5	1	4	3	7	6
4	7	6	9	3	2	8	5	1
1	2	3	7	6	8	5	4	9
7	6	5	4	2	9	1	8	3
9	8	4	3	5	1	2	6	7

From page 22



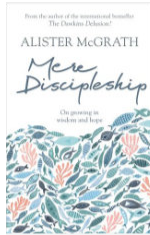
# A good read

## End of the Road?

By Michael Pfundner, Bible Society,  
£1.20

This handy booklet will reach people with the Christian message in just a few pages. It goes behind the scenes of Jesus' death and resurrection to look at the world-changing events leading up to Easter Day – and beyond. It points its readers towards the archaeological and documentary evidence of the real political and religious figures behind the Easter story in the Bible.

This short book is perfect for those who would like to know more about the history behind the Easter story, and can be used as a handout in Churches or during outreach.

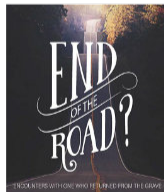


## Mere Discipleship – on growing in wisdom and hope

By Alister McGrath,  
SPCK, £9.99

In exploring Christian discipleship, Alister McGrath encourages us to move beyond a superficial grasp of our faith to discover its depth and riches. He sees discipleship as a process of growth in wisdom: we absorb a Christian vision of reality, allow it to percolate in our minds and then inform how we see things, think about them and act.

Helpfully drawing on the astute and illuminating insights of Dorothy L. Sayers, C. S. Lewis, John Stott and J. I. Packer, the author suggests how we can hold on to hope while journeying through darkness, and live meaningfully in a world where things don't always seem to make sense.

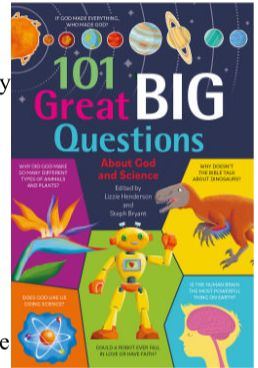


## 101 Great Big Questions about God and Science

By Lizzie Henderson and Steph Bryant, Lion Children's Books, £9.99

**Have you ever** wondered how the universe began, what the point of life might be, or whether God likes science? Then this is the book for you!

101 Great Big Questions asked by children with fascinating responses from leading experts in the areas of science, theology, philosophy and beyond! Explore questions about the universe from the Big Bang and beginnings to what might happen in the future.



Discover what the experts think about: could humans ever become mermaids? do other animals have religions? why the Bible doesn't mention dinosaurs? could Jesus get out of a black hole? and does God like aliens?

Read personal stories from world class scientists and theologians about their experiences of exploring their own big questions about God, life, and the amazing universe we live in.

Perfect for budding scientists, theologians, and all those curious about the really big questions of life. This exciting question and answer-based book for 7+ year olds to explore key questions asked by children about science-faith interactions.



## St James the Least of All

### On the perils of the church picnic

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

A Spring parish picnic is always a good idea – although you must bear some details in mind. First, whatever date you choose will turn out be the wettest of the year. English picnics are invariably eaten under umbrellas while wearing Wellingtons and the sort of determinedly cheerful look that defies anyone to admit they would rather be home in front of the fire.

Second, no matter how early in the year, wasps will emerge from hibernation in huge numbers, and terrorise Mrs. Hornby with the picnic baskets. And thirdly, someone will bring along their (hungry) dog. Last time Colonel Smith's spaniel outdid herself: she leapt up, head butted a piece of Madeira cake out of Mrs Horngirdle's hand - and ate the lot – before even a crumb could touch the ground. A good piece of field work, that.

Half-way through the afternoon, some over-excited member of the party will decide to arrange a game of rounders. (Mr. Poppinjay tried this one year, as in his youth he had been athletic. Fortunately, the ambulance got there quickly, and the ankle healed well.) Then the mothers who join in will completely ignore the ball sailing past them, while they discuss some burning topic of Mother's Union gossip.

In the meantime, the young choir members, who were the reason for arranging the game in the first place, will have drifted off to the lake to throw stones at the ducks while no one is looking.

For our annual picnic, I use my own car, making sure it is so full of clerical robes and church magazines that no one else can fit in. Throughout the day, I keep returning to it to make sure no one has broken in to steal the Communion wine – and taking the opportunity to catch up on the cricket scores. By the middle



of the afternoon, I usually remember that some urgent duty, such as blessing a traction engine, demands my departure.

The rest of the party, by now soaked, cold and knowing the coach to take them home is still several hours off, only wish they had such demanding work to tear them away.

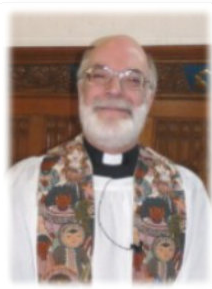
Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

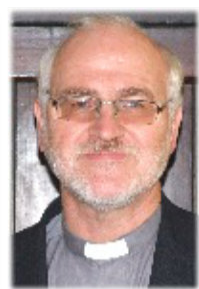


**Rector:**

Rev. Paul  
Sumsion,  
The Vicarage,  
Bolton Road ,  
Hawkshaw, Bury ,  
BL8 4JN  
01204 888 060.



Associate Minister:  
Rev. Robert Airey  
01706 224743.



Associate Minister:  
Rev. Vic. Fletcher  
01204 882750.

**Readers:** Mr. Michael Burton 01706 822664.  
Mr. Richard Byrom 01204 883110.  
Mrs. Ethel Houghton 01254 704758.  
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.

**Church Warden:** Mr. Peter Hardcastle  
Mr. Stephen Newhouse 01706 412657.

**Children and Families' Ministry Facilitator:**  
Mrs. Jo Sumsion 01204 888060

**Deputy Wardens:**

Emmanuel: Michael Burton and Susan Nuttall.  
Emmanuel Church Centre: Julie Smale and Jo Venn.  
St. Mary, Hawkshaw: Eddie Slattery and Ray Houghton.

**Hon. P.C.C. Secretary:** Penny Hanley, 07870 578632

**P.C.C. Minute Secretary:** Claire Baggoley.

**Hon. Treasurer:** David Lomax.

**Assistants to Treasurer:** Jenny Burton and Judith Horrocks.

**Gift Aid Secretary:** Judith Horrocks.

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Sheila Partridge,

**Safeguarding Officer:** Liz Webber,

**Standing Committee:** Rector, Churchwardens, P.C.C. Secretary and Treasurer.  
Other members to be decided by the P.C.C.

**Finance Team:** Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretary.

**Booking Secretary:** Emmanuel Church Centre & Canon Lewis Hall:  
Pauline Clare, 01204 885950.

**Booking Secretary:** St. Mary, Hawkshaw Penny Hanley 07870 578632



Curate:  
Rev. Ian Fleming  
07543213743

# Bible Bite

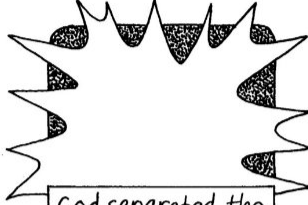
## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the  
Bible, and the start of time...

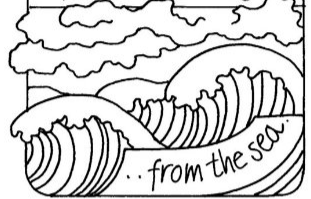
When God first made  
the universe it was  
empty and shapeless.  
God said...

Let there be  
light!

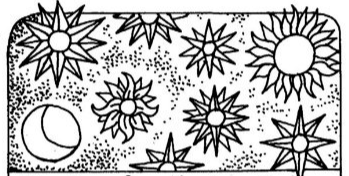


God separated the  
light and dark.

On the next day, God  
separated the sky...



On the third day God  
separated the sea...



On the fourth day God  
made lights shine in the  
sky for day and night.



On the fifth day God filled the sea with all  
sorts of fish, and the sky with all sorts of birds



On the sixth day God made  
all kinds of animals...



and then He made  
people, men and women.

God told the people....

Take care of all I have made.



God saw that everything He  
had made was very good.

On the seventh day God  
rested...



and so did everyone else!



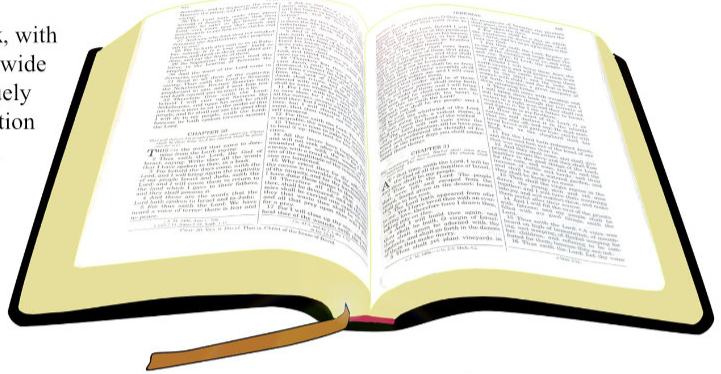
# Christian Basics: Understanding the Bible

**The Bible is a popular book**, with five billion copies sold worldwide every year, as well as a uniquely precious book. At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible, 'the most precious thing this world affords'.

The Bible isn't simply one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author - God Himself!

As the Word of God, it is the primary way by which God speaks to us. 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2

Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('the word of God in the words of men') and is a manual for life, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit, who helps us to apply its words to our lives: 'But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth' John 16:13.



The Bible can also be described as a love letter from God, as it deepens our relationship with Him. Jesus said: 'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life' (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better. Like a signpost, the Bible points us to the person of Jesus.

## Prayer-cards-for-comfort-and-hope

**More than a million** free prayer cards are being delivered to cathedrals and churches of all denominations to help people find comfort and hope.

The cards, which will be available for visitors in cathedrals and other churches, are designed to help people discover prayer – whether to express grief, loneliness, fear or worry, or simply to say thank you. They are among resources produced by the Explore Project, an initiative shaped by people's experience of the pandemic.

More details at:

~ <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/prayer-cards-for-comfort-and-hope/>