



St Mark's Parish Magazine

November 2019



THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

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Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome

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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from Sunday 1 December 2019
All contributions to the editor by Friday 22 November 2019

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

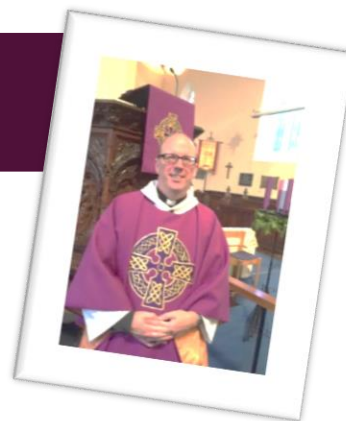
Think of the life of a tortoise. As it wakes from a deep sleep in springtime, it eats the best of fresh new salads and vegetables, warms up in the sunshine and filled with renewed vigour, charges around like a mad thing. Then after expending all that energy, our tortoise slows up and relaxes in the sun. Slowly, as the world around it cools and the sun is lower in the sky, dampness sets in and frosts tell of the winter approaching, our tortoise stops eating, and slows to such a rate, it becomes almost comatose as it denies itself any life or exertion during those cold months.

I am not suggesting that we are in any way like tortoises, but there is a similarity in life pattern, with our renewed springtime energies, slightly more relaxed summer periods and then the wrapping up warm in winter. During this period, we stay at home more, perhaps watch more television or enjoy more of a particular hobby, but we also have a lot more thinking time. We look back over the year, we look forward to Christmas festivities, make plans and lists and get used to the combination of cold and, hopefully, central heating.

In November the Church is very busy not only engaging with this, but helping us all to join in as we enter Remembrance-time. We remember those we have loved and lost at the All Souls' Commemoration of the Departed service on November 3rd at 6.00pm. Similarly, we remember those we have loved and lost through war on Remembrance Sunday 10th November. Two weeks later we remember and celebrate that Christ is the King and the following week we enter the time of Advent. We move from quiet sadness and grief mixed with gratitude for the lives of others, into a time when we remember that we DO have hope – not just for Christmas coming, but for the assurance of eternal life in heaven. Because Jesus came to live among us, became our King and assured us of his personal love, forgiveness and creating a place in heaven for each of us.

So, as we get used to the winter nights, remembering and grieving for those lost to us, let's not stop the journey there. We AREN'T tortoises! The world about us may be darker with less daylight hours, but the journey of the Christian year continues with us remembering that whatever has gone on before, whatever pains and sadness we have had and the lessons we have learnt from those experiences, we have hope. Christ is King and we do indeed look for his promised return. In the meantime we come together as part of his Kingdom in the "here and now" and work, pray and live together to make it a better place.

With every blessing.



In Flanders Fields

John McRae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Lest we forget



News from the Church of England

Modern Slavery – not in my back yard

As we head into the winter months and as the Renewed Hope Trust night shelters begin in early December, the Church of England has launched an anti-slavery campaign to remind volunteers to look out for signs of exploitation amongst homeless guests.

The campaign called 'Let's talk' launched by the Clewer Initiative, which is the Church of England's response to modern slavery, has sent out over 1,000 posters and materials to raise awareness of modern slavery and encourage people to seek support from the Modern Slavery helpline or local support services if they suspect people are at risk.

A report from the Modern Slavery Helpline in August 2019 said that 7% of the Helpline's modern slavery cases since their launch in October 2016 were linked to homelessness, which is why the 'Let's Talk' initiative is focusing on Night Shelters and Foodbanks.

The signs which they advise to look out for are:

- Unusual anxiety about people in positions of authority and extreme fear of being watched
- Working for no or little pay
- Working in the most common sectors for modern slavery such as construction and hand car washes
- Not being allowed to leave their place of work
- Having no control of their ID
- Being approached on the street, outside a shelter or at drop-in by someone offering work
- Signs of physical abuse or untreated injuries

Modern slavery is usually associated with big cities but it is thought to be under reported in rural areas, and so the Clewer Initiative gives guidance specifically for rural areas. The sectors where works are most at risk are food manufacturing, farms, hand car washes, the care sector and hospitality.

For more information: www.theclewerinitiative.org/rural and <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/homeless-people-risk-modern-slavery>

Local News



Reigate Probus Club

On the first Monday of every month members of Reigate Probus Club bid farewell to their wives and join their fellow members at Reigate Manor Hotel for comradeship, lunch and an interesting talk from a visiting speaker – topics have ranged from RAF Biggin Hill in 1940 to the geology forming Reigate Hill and the work of a Scotland Yard detective.

Not to be confused with Reigate Hill Probus Club, which has members of both sexes, Reigate Probus Club has historically been a men only gathering. Attracted by both their mutual and varied interests such as golf, bowls, photography and Surrey wildlife, to name but a few, this fraternity of retired gentlemen now boasts around 70 members. No specific fund raising activities are organised, but a collection is taken each month for local charities and last year just over £750 was raised in this way.

Probus is an international organisation for retired professional and business people (hence PROfessional and BUSiness) which started in a very modest way in 1966 with the aid of Caterham Rotary Club; in 1969 Reigate Probus Club was formed with the aid of the Rotary Club of Reigate with Andrew Glass largely being the driving force and it celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special lunch in July this year (2019).

Women are not entirely absent from Reigate Probus Club: coffee mornings for members and their wives and partners take place monthly at different local venues. There are also two Ladies Lunches each year in July and December. Not content with just the monthly meetings, members and guests go on outings and holidays together. Next year a large party will be visiting Venice and later in the year a planned holiday in the Peak District is already generating much interest.

Prospective new members are always welcome, so why not call the Secretary Malcolm Dewar on 01737 248601 for more information.

Geoffrey Piejus

Fundraising

SMOAT

On 5 October we held our annual Helier Dreux quiz and it was just as entertaining and tricky as usual. If you haven't been to one of Helier's quizzes before, you really must try it; a combination of cryptic crossword, logic and general knowledge, it really gives your brain a workout!

This year, we supported a great Faith in Action project in Malawi. In the city of Blantyre, situated in Southern Malawi, there is a rubbish dump where whole families, including children and babies, survive from scavenging for rubbish to sell. 350 people live on the rubbish dump and their scavenging merely allows them to survive. They don't stand a chance of moving away, their children won't be able to make futures for themselves and there are obvious health risks, particularly for the younger and older members of families.

Faith in Action's aim is to set these people up with business loans which will enable them to leave the rubbish dump for good. They have already set up two businesses (a restaurant and a grocery store) which have been very successful, each providing sufficient income for ten people to live and also hire accommodation away from the dump. Their next three businesses are planned to be a restaurant, a grocery store and an electrical shop. The average loan for each business is £700/£800. As with all projects offering loans, it will be a rolling project, as once loans are paid back the money will be available to lend to someone else.

We think this is a fantastic, sustainable and forward thinking project, potentially offering those 350 people a future.

We raised over £1,000 on the night and we will top that amount up from money we receive from regular giving, which will help two families to move away from the rubbish dump and enable them to have a future.



Thank you for your support.

Barbara Perkins

Local church events

Alternative Christmas Tree Festival

30 November 10.00am – 4.00pm

1 December 12.00pm – 4.00pm

St Michael's Church, Betchworth

Refreshments and homemade cakes, as well as a gift stall.

Brockham Choral Society Concert

30 November – 7.30pm

St Martin's Church, Dorking

Guest conductor – John Bawden

St Mark's Singers in Concert



**Join us for an evening of music and songs,
performed by the St Mark's Singers and friends.**

30 November – 7.30pm (Doors open at 6.45pm)

From popular songs to gospel, choral to swing, come and join us to celebrate the power of song.

A licensed bar will be available throughout the concert.

Tickets available from the Parish Office: Mon – Thurs
9.00am – 1.00pm www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarksreigate

Adults: £7.50, Children: £2.50 – drinks on arrival.

All proceeds go to St Mark's Church.

A Bumper Harvest Supper



It was fantastic to see so many of the St Mark's community at the Harvest Supper on Sunday 6 October. Almost 100 people, spanning the generations, came to enjoy a meal and entertainment afterwards. It is one of the few occasions when all of the church community can get together and it was a pleasure to coordinate the event for so many. It wouldn't have been possible without lots of help in the preparation, cooking,

serving and clearing away.

Work started first thing in the morning filling the hall with tables and chairs and laying them with banqueting roll, cutlery, glasses and flowers. The kitchen was used to its full potential with many willing helpers peeling, chopping, frying, stirring and mashing until all 100 portions of meat and vegetarian cottage pie were ready using every available tray. The bar was set up in the committee room, ovens were full to capacity and everything was ready to serve by 5.00pm. The cottage pie and peas were washed down with wine, beer or soft drinks and followed by chocolate fudge cake or lemon meringue pie.



A variety of entertainment was then enjoyed by all including comedy, music and dancing organised by Susannah.

The clearing up may seem like a mammoth task but with everyone helping to clear the hall, many helpers in the kitchen and that amazingly speedy dishwasher, it was all done in a flash.

Thanks so much to everyone for helping and making the harvest supper such a great occasion. In particular thanks to Leo, John, Keith, Blair, Louise, Barbara, Nicci, Frances, Julie, Tim, Ben, Susannah & Chris for all your time throughout the day.

Looking forward to many more events like this.

Mel Crighton

World Toilet Day



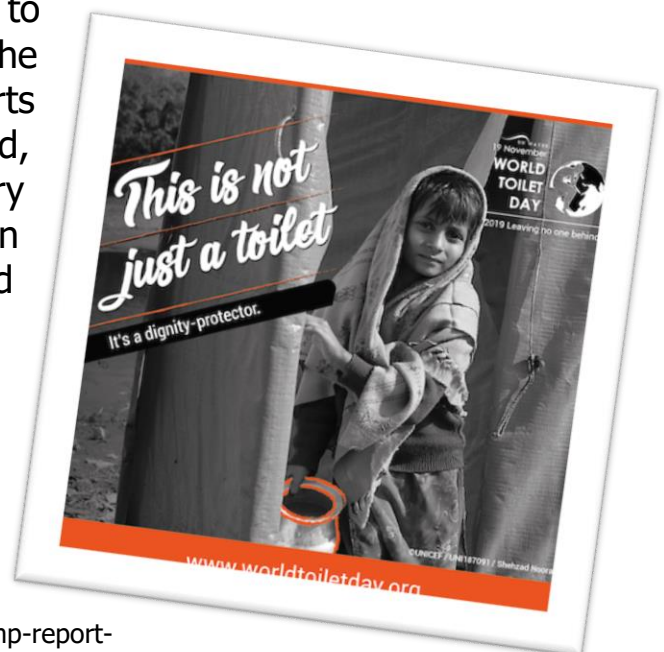
2019 Leaving no one behind

World Toilet Day is officially celebrated on 19 November. It was recognised by the UN in 2013 to raise awareness and inspire action for people living without safe toilets.

Today, 4.2 billion people live without safely managed sanitation, 673 million still practise open defecation and three billion lack basic handwashing facilities.¹ This sanitation crisis means untreated human waste is spreading diseases into water supplies and the food chain for billions of people. Inadequate sanitation is estimated to cause 432,000 diarrhoeal deaths every year.²

The theme of World Toilet Day this year is 'leave nobody behind'; people who live in poverty or war-torn areas are more likely to lack basic amenities. The UN has made its goal to ensure sanitation and clean water for all by 2030 but it is falling short due to lack of money, increased demand as water pollution rises and fragmented governance.

To help people who don't have access to basic facilities the UN wants to remove the taboo around sanitation and increase efforts to reach people who are more isolated, working with governments, within regulatory and legal frameworks. Every \$1 invested in sanitation saves \$2.50 in medical costs and increased productivity³.



1. WHO/UNICEF (2019): Joint Monitoring Programme 2019 update report: Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene:

https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/jmp-report-2019/en/

2. WHO (2019): <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sanitation>

3. 31 Hutton (2015): Benefits and costs of the water and sanitation targets for the post-2015 development agenda: https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/water_sanitation_assessment_-_hutton.pdf

Local Business Spotlight

Phonics Stars™ classes are here in Reigate!

Phonics Stars™ is a fun, educational and interactive club, which provides classes for children in the Early Years (2-5 years) and their parents or carers. The classes lay the foundations for learning in a fun, active and stimulating environment. Activities support children's transition into formal education and help with confidence and school readiness. Sessions are led by Becky, a qualified and experienced primary school teacher.



During classes, letter sounds are brought to life through play-based learning. Children learn the main letter sounds combined with engaging movements, actions and dance routines. Activities are not just focused on phonics, but support children's fine motor skills, coordination, understanding of number, communication and creativity – and they all connect with the main theme of the week.

Children and adults have great fun taking part in the lively 'Disco Dough Gym', SHIMMI (shake it, mark make it) pom-pom dancing, show and tell sessions and story time.

Classes are held at St Mark's Church Hall every Wednesday at 9.45 am.



REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST MARK'S

SUNDAYS

8.00am	Each Sunday	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am	1 st Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)
	2 nd Sunday	Parish Eucharist (with Story Telling)
	3 rd Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)
	4 th Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)
	5 th Sunday	Sung Eucharist (with Story Telling)
1.00pm	2 nd Sunday	Community Lunch
4.00pm	1 st Sunday	Family Service
	3 rd Sunday	Messy Church
6.00pm	1 st Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	2 nd Sunday	Taizé Prayer
	3 rd Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)
	4 th Sunday	Evening Prayer (said)

MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

8.30am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel (20 minutes)

MONDAY

9.30am St Mark's Toddler Group in the hall (term-time only)

TUESDAY

10.00am 3rd Tuesday St Mark's Buffers (in the church)

WEDNESDAY

3.25pm 'T' Time Tales (term time only)

THURSDAY

9.15am Informal Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel
12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) followed by tea or coffee
2.00pm 1st Thursday SMART

SATURDAY

8.00pm 4th Saturday St Mark's Social Dance

A Handy Pull-Out Guide to 'What's On' at St Mark's

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday 3rd November	All Saints' Sunday 4.00pm Family Service 6.00pm All Souls' Memorial Service
Monday 4 th November	9.30am Parent and Toddler Group (Resumes)
Wednesday 6 th November	3.25pm T Time Tales (Resumes)
Thursday 7 th November	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 2.00pm SMART 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Sunday 10th November	3rd Before Advent / Remembrance Sunday 9.45am Parish Eucharist & Act of Remembrance 1.00pm Community Lunch 5.00pm ROOTS Church (at Wisdom of God) 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Thursday 14 th November	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 16 th November	4.00pm Confirmation Service
Sunday 17th November	2nd Before Advent 4.00pm Messy Church 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 19 th November	10.00am St Mark's Buffers
Thursday 21 st November	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Saturday 23 rd November	8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
Sunday 24th November	Christ the King 5.00pm ROOTS Youth Club (Lower Kingswood Hall) 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 28 th November	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 30 th November	7.30pm St Mark's Singers Concert

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2019

- Sunday 1st December 1st of Advent**
4.00pm Family Service
6.00pm Evening Prayer
- Wednesday 4th December 3.25pm T Time Tales (last of term)
Thursday 5th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
2.00pm SMART
5.00pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 8th December 2nd of Advent**
1.00pm Community Lunch
5.00pm ROOTS Youth Club (Lower Kingswood Hall)
6.00pm Taizé Prayer
- Thursday 12th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
Saturday 14th December 7.30pm Buckland & Betchworth Choral Concert
- Sunday 15th December 3rd of Advent**
4.00pm Messy Church
6.00pm Evening Prayer
- Monday 16th December 9.30am Parent and Toddler Group (last of term)
Tuesday 17th December 10.00am St Mark's Buffers
Thursday 19th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona)
- Sunday 22nd December 4th of Advent**
10.00am Junior Church Nativity and Eucharist
6.00pm Carol Service by candlelight
- Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve**
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist
- Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day**
8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Family Eucharist
- Thursday 26th December St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**
No Service of Holy Communion
- Saturday 28th December 8.00pm St Mark's Social Dance
- Sunday 29th December 1st of Christmas**
No Evening Prayer

PARISH ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, GROUPS & CONTACTS

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Mrs Valerie Jones

CHOIR PRACTICE

Each Thursday in church - all parts at 7.00pm - other practices as notified

DATA REQUESTS

Contact: Parish Office – 01737 210785

HOME GROUP

Mrs Susannah Dyde

IONA COMMUNION – LUNCHTIME SERVICE

Every Thursday 12.45pm to 1.15pm followed by Coffee/Tea

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Mrs Louise Wallis

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Rosemary Absalom

SMART - St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team

Meetings on the first Thursday of the month

Mrs Sarah Cousins

ST MARK'S BUFFERS

Meeting in church on the third Tuesday of the month from 10am - 12noon

ST MARK'S COMMUNITY LUNCH

Paul Selvedurai & Mrs Alison Stagg

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL

Regular Lettings Secretary: Mrs Jean Hatton

Party Bookings & Church Bookings via Parish Office

ST MARK'S OVERSEAS AID TRUST - SMOAT

Chairman: Mrs Barbara Perkins

ST MARK'S SINGERS

Rehearsals Monday 7.30pm in the church – all welcome

Toby Garrod

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

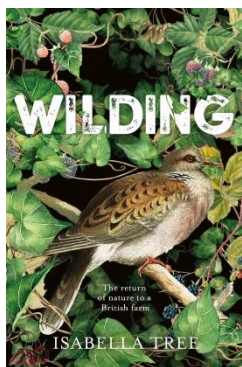
Ben Read

YOUTH WORK

Junior Church: Mrs Leonora Corden

Book Review

This month we review *Wilding: The return of Nature, by Isabelle Tree*



This book is not only a good read it is about a farm quite near here which you can, if moved, visit. There is the extra advantage that it is now available at Redhill Library.

Conservation probably interests most of us but here the word restoration hardly applies and some farmers and locals would refer to its creation as destructive. Most conservation centres on the tidy outcome of Victorian landscaping. Conservation in the countryside may conjure up large gardens such as The Lost Gardens of Heligan, being returned from neglect to the original inspiration. Or it may stir up pictures of the countryside as we recall it as children or young people. For some conservationists that is certainly the case. All that is given short shrift by this remarkable experiment, which began in 2001. This book sees the true natural state of the country as wild and apparently randomised through an extremely complex interdependent natural order. It is certainly controversial throughout.

Knepp farm, rejuvenated by the demands of the Second World War, first became dependant on subsidy, then when milk prices began to fall the farm fell steeply into the red. What to do? The first inclination was to move to more efficiency through growth in size and even more modern methods, but its new owners could see that on this heavy clay and marginal land, nothing could counter the world over production of food and milk. The EC had already recognised this through new policies and changes in the requirements for subsidy. These recognised that some land needed to be put to other uses such as conservation.

So farm machinery was sold to satisfy the overdraft and the farmed land purged of excessive nitrogen and other artificial chemicals. Over-farming had resulted in soil degradation. Then it was left. Leaving things alone became the main driving force and quite soon plants, insects and birds were seen which had been very rare locally and near extinction. In spite of consultation and explanation leaving the land to develop itself did not please local farmers.

This experiment is a sector of natural science new in itself. The Dutch and others had experimented successfully in some ways in even more difficult circumstances but they were impressed by what they saw at Knepp.

Did you know that the roots of trees such as the oak not only have roots which spread for a hundred yards less than a foot underground, but have necessary fungi which spreads out to miles beyond? This and many other revelations delight and inform.

The book also challenges long established views on what forests looked like before the early Britons. The generally accepted concept of overarching forests dominated by trees is put to flight. Unusual animals, such as Exmoor ponies, longhorn cattle, red deer and especially the Tamworth pig were introduced in small numbers to demonstrate the connection between animals and the historic forest environment which was also consistent with the evidence of very old native trees such as the oak.

But the main impression remains the magic of creation through doing nothing at all. It is a story of rewilding. You could go there. I have been, but that was when playing cricket for the local team. Almost in prehistoric times, I hear you say! I am sure the square will not have been preserved!

This month's book review was kindly provided by Harry Ingram. If you have a book you'd like to review, please get in touch at magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.

BUCKLAND & BETCHWORTH CHORAL SOCIETY

Christmas Concert

Saturday 14 December at 7.30pm
St Mark's Church, Alma Road, Reigate RH2 0DA

Get Christmas off to a sparkling start with a programme of Festive music, readings, solo pieces and traditional Carols. BBCS, under the direction of Richard Moore, is offering an exciting Christmas programme, which includes Bob Chilcott's *On Christmas Night* and Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax*. There will also be opportunities for everybody to get into the Christmas mood and join the choir singing some of their favourite Carols.

We are delighted to introduce Reigate Camerata and the Choristers from St Mary's Merton. We warmly welcome back Soprano soloist Harriet Burns and organist Ian Tindale.

Tickets £15 including a glass of wine & mince pie
(Students £7.50 and U12s free)

Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.com
or on the door www.bbcsinfo.org



Letter to the editor

Aunt Alice

We were on an early autumn holiday on the East Coast of the USA staying at a place called Bar Harbour where the rich from New York and Philadelphia go to escape the hot humid summers. A bit like in India the Brits migrating in summer to the Himalayas to avoid the heat. But that is another story.

We next planned to visit friends near Hamilton in Canada and drive the St Lawrence to the east coast and back to Bar Harbour. We set off early on what was to become an epic journey. Several roads were under repair and in northern USA that means miles of broken road with no diversion bumping along and sometimes beside working vehicles. That was slow and uncongenial. We were very tired as we entered Niagara to briefly view the falls, then on again. Dusk was falling.

Surprisingly, they seemed to drive faster in Canada than the States but maybe the roads were better. Then I took a wrong turn off the main highway and after a helter-skelter down a winding road, joined another and did not even know which way I was facing. So we called at a house. After a long wait it was opened a crack tentatively and I told our story. Having given directions the owner advised us not to do the same thing again. "You are liable to get a gun thrust into your belly", he warned.

We arrived at Al and Myra's very late and over supper it was hard to keep the eyes open, but it seemed important to plan what to do the next day. We could go back to Niagara, to Toronto, which seemed a long way away, or visit Aunt Alice in the lakes. It sounded like next door.

Now we had had enough of cars and roads and we finally opted for Aunt Alice. Late next morning we set off in Al's car and after about six hours' drive arrived at an inlet. Al disappeared and returned by water in a small boat. Having loaded four people and several cases, the water almost lapped the sides. The outboard roared and the nose of the dingy lifted high with the stern apparently below water level, the water kept away by the thrust from the bows. The horrendous noise lasted more than half an hour. Broad water changed to an unending series of wooded islands, some almost joined together and as the boat subsided to an even keel we could see an island with a substantial cabin on it and perhaps the same area of surrounding rocky land. We had arrived and there to welcome us in the rosy light of evening was a slim elderly lady with long hair: Aunt Alice.

We seemed to be in a sea of islands. This particular island was not one but two very small ones. We were warned not to step from a short bridge which joined the islands because there was a nest of water snakes there. "They are more nervous of you than you are of them," said Aunt Alice. Speaking for myself, I think she was wrong about that.

The house was not plush but comfortable with a well-equipped 1950s kitchen very suited to the simple life. The living room held no TV but there was a radio and several bulging bookcases. Everywhere was tidy but "lived in". Alice seemed interested in our travels and evidently in an earlier existence she had travelled widely. But we were tired and very glad to get to bed.

We awoke early next morning and Chris and I rose early to enjoy the best of the day. However, Aunt Alice was up before us and now we were able to meet properly. She was small and very thin but for her late eighties, not frail. She had that relaxed upright stance often found in athletes and I marvelled that she could possibly be so old. She spoke quietly but with some authority. She asked if we would like to see the wild life and when we agreed she took us to a skiff drawn up on the small shore and pushed it into the water. I stepped forward to take oars but very quietly she would have none of that. Soon we were moving silently and smoothly from her long relaxed strokes, and she spoke in a quiet, gentle voice at one with our surroundings giving a slow commentary on what we saw.

Aunt Alice was a fount of knowledge and she revealed many of the mysteries of this wonderful lake. She exuded a kind of peace, at one with her environment. There was no restlessness to be elsewhere, just an acceptance of the hard winter aspects of her life for the joy of her chosen existence.

It was the early autumn fall, the trees dressed in reds and yellow with some green still surviving. Sometimes the trees arched above us inter-twined to make a tunnel and all around floated the colourful leaves brilliant in the early morning sun filtering through the trees. Sometimes we had to gently move the branches from our path. There was a background of duck conversation but it was so very peaceful.

The boat glided smoothly sometimes amongst weed, and at others through reeds. Fish frequently popped up to see who was intruding before dashing off to spread the news. We were amongst other islands surrounded by all kinds of geese, duck, moor hens and other birds I did not recognise. Most ignored us moving effortless and gracefully out of our way. Tranquillity was everywhere and we felt part of this new life.

Then the peace was shattered by a huge noise from the sky and a sea plane brushed past almost touching the trees. Not far away we saw the spray of its landing before it motored off somewhere. Not long after again a similar noise announced the arrival of a very powerful launch seeking its summer home, its

wash disturbing the wildlife. This happened intermittently throughout the morning. "The week-enders arrive", said Alice in disgust, oh for Monday. Why couldn't they be satisfied with their cities and fine houses or the big roads for their fast cars? Well, I suppose they too were seeking peace, perhaps unaware of their effect on the wildlife and their fellows.

It turned out that Aunt Alice lived here on her own for most of the year taking cover only in the depth of the severe Canadian winter. Her provisions she collected by skiff from a "drug store" (probably we would call it a small supermarket) on an island not far away and she took delivery of oil a couple of times a year. Not for her the local doctor or any of the other apparent necessities of old age.

That afternoon, even we accepted Aunt Alice's assurances that the water snakes were harmless and we swam in the mellow water. Aunt Alice did not join us. The sunset was glorious.

The next day we reluctantly said goodbye and folded ourselves into the dingy and so back to Hamilton to begin our journey along the St Lawrence. Over the next few days we pondered on Aunt Alice's choice of location, reciting the loss of conveniences though knowing the quality of her simple life and devotion to her surroundings had modern values beat to a frazzle. In two days she had given us a vision of a peace to take with us through life. I often wonder.....

Harry Ingram

Reader's Recipes

We are taking a break from Reader's Recipes this month but we want to bring it back in December. Please share your favourite recipes, the ones which always work, the ones that taste the best and the ones which are great for special occasions.

Please email them to magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk, share them with the Parish Office or leave them at the back of the church in an envelope FAO: Helen Starmer.

Many thanks.

Environmental Views

Plus ca Change, plus c'est la Meme Chose

I don't often reminisce but when I do it's usually about how things were better then. Occasionally I think about the past world of work; that period when I meant something, made decisions, did things. Mainly, I suppose, it's when I struggle with modern technology that I feel left behind. It's far more comfortable to stay with the things I understand. Once when change was slow, age was wisdom. Now it's more often ignorance. We have little of value to tell our grandchildren about their ever changing future.

Yet so often countries, as well as individuals, reach out to a singular, perhaps romantic view of the past as a guide or justification for what to aim for: what to expect from the future. If this were based on an objective view of the past then maybe at least we might learn from past mistakes. But more often it is a kind of idealistic almost romantic past which is being peddled. How much better it was when we had an Empire. How much better when we were a world free trader. The latter sounds achievable and desirable so long as you forget things like Imperial Preference and just how that came about, or study the actual reality.

When considering a future course of action it is, of course, difficult to start from a completely blank sheet. However, it is often to dodge the issue if we assume we can go on as if nothing has changed or manage minor adjustments or that we can recapture some romantic past. Yet instead of analysing the actual facts of the current position, that is often how we approach our problems.

To tackle the problem of the environment it simply will not be enough to tinker with the way we currently do things. Let us face up to it. No longer is climate change debatable; it has started. Glaciers have melted, the ice at the North Pole will soon be gone and the South Pole is shedding ice at a fast rate. Sea levels are rising; climate has changed, sometimes quite dramatically. North American hurricanes are worse than ever and the recent typhoon in Japan was the worst for decades. Species are threatened, basic requirements for life such as insects and bees are in decline. Half of European species of bees are threatened. Encroaching desert is moving people. And so on.

The status quo has had twenty years to react and has done little relative to the size of the threat facing us. We all know that now. Yet newspapers, at the same time as acknowledging the reality preached by Extinction Rebellion, are not promoting realistic action, such as a carbon tax, for example. Instead they assert the lack of

realism against any proposed actions such as limiting car and air travel. Yet that is the new realism. If not that action, then we need something of similar impact which someone else will not like. We need substantial and decisive action. We have to change. It is the defenders of the status quo who have their heads in the sand. We are behaving like old men unable to conceive of the new future. Our Parliament has declared climate change to be an emergency. Can you spot the resultant action?

Can humankind make radical changes in our values and behaviour? At present the answer seems to be a resounding "NO!" Individuals will defend their right to use a car and take air flights for overseas holidays and so on. There will not be a majority for radical change. Politicians in all countries will carry on debating subjects such as Brexit, human rights and protecting national interests and going to war. Where is the will to change a nightmare into a positive dream?

To end on a bright note I considered a dream of a positive future. The result, I thought, would be a good laugh for my readers. Well, that is positive. We can all do with a good laugh. But then I thought this is no laughing matter. Perhaps history can offer something.

I recall as a child noticing a car in a front garden up the road raised on bricks, the wheels stored elsewhere. It was there from 1939 to 1945. At that time petrol was only available to those in qualifying occupations. We had dug holes in our gardens for air raid shelters, and used them. We had dug up the rest for vegetables and "dug for victory" on new allotments. Rationing aimed to provide everyone with just enough of the basics whilst avoiding waste and curbing price inflation. Many goods were simply not available. Surtax and Excess Profits Tax were attempts to counter profiteering. Public discipline in air raids was announced by the blare of an air raid warning. We queued up to be fitted with the dreaded gas masks, with thoughts of when we would need to use them. That was enough to chill the bones. After raids we cleared up the worst of the mess, buried the dead and soldiered on. We thought how much worse it was for "our boys" actually fighting the war. This was total war.

There was a greater rate of innovation and production than ever before. New planes and military equipment were produced in prolific quantity by women who before had never been to work outside of the home. Against this, democracy had to be suspended. The coalition required total commitment to the common cause. Compromise was not in the frame. The threat from Hitler was far too real and imminent.

Yet all was not negative. Cinemas defied common sense and were full. The Windmill never closed. That's a naked fact. Dance halls were packed. People talked to each other on the buses. In the evening, we enjoyed cards by the light of a candle. Abroad there was a sense of common purpose. The Dunkirk spirit sloped over into the Blitz.

For us today the value of this example is that it demonstrates what can be done when the necessity is recognised. It does not provide a template but it is an invitation to identify similar radical solutions which will fit the current case. Though the fact of global warming is now generally accepted, for many the urgency has not yet struck home. The concept that there is a point of no return and the consequences of that is indeed a difficult one to grasp.

Meanwhile when they demonstrate, at least Extinction Rebellion is thrusting home an essential message. The need for radical change appropriate for the war we are now unconsciously part of.

The last gasp of the contrast is that we are a small island and whatever we do can only have a minuscule effect on changing world conditions. That is true until you consider that these days there is a potential for understanding to rapidly sweep worldwide. Extinction Rebellion is now present in many countries. Appropriate radical action might well be adopted elsewhere. Good examples can be decisive. That is our role.

Harry Ingram

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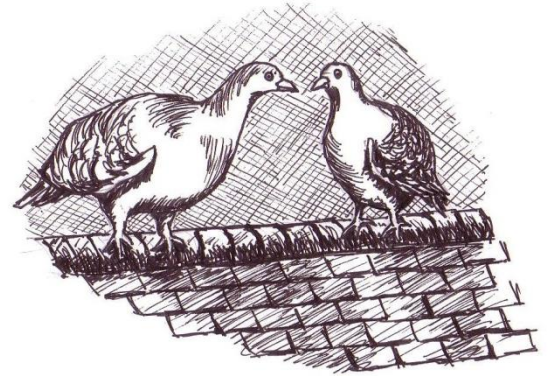


Candlemouse Returns

*Another Tale about a Church Mouse for younger readers
Written by Sarah Cousins and illustrated by Roger Lloyd*

Where the Saints are

Hallo, my name is Candlemouse and I live in St Mark's Church near the railway station in Reigate. I'm as small and as quiet as a mouse can be, so most people don't notice me, which gives me plenty of time to see them and the things that they do!



November is full of falling leaves, smoky bonfires, fireworks and fun. Did you know that November 1st is also All Saints Day? Well what is a **saint**? I remember asking my dad that once, shortly after my granddad had died. I was feeling very sad because I missed my granddad who used to light very exciting bonfires out of fallen leaves and branches. Sometimes we cooked sausages on the bonfire if it was a small one and they always tasted better than sausages cooked indoors even though Grandma said they were burnt!

When I asked why Granddad died, my dad said that Granddad's body had worn out and that he didn't need it anymore because he would be given a new one when he arrived in heaven. Then I asked what heaven was like and could I visit Granddad there? Dad said that you couldn't visit heaven but you could go there one day to join Granddad and all the saints who live there. I said that All-the-Saints sounded like a football team and Dad said that if it was it would be the biggest team ever with millions and millions of people on their side.



“Really,” said Dad, “Everyone is on God’s side who has promised to follow him and play according to his rules. The people or saints in heaven are like the supporters who cheer on the players who are the church or saints on earth. We on earth can’t join the saints in heaven until we have finished playing the game here on earth. Christians believe that death *isn’t* the end of the game; it is simply the end of one game and the beginning of another even more exciting one.”

*Story and prayer copyright of Sarah Cousins
and illustrations copyright of Roger Lloyd.*

Let’s pray

“O when the Saints
Go marching in
Now, when the Saints go marching in
Yes, I want to be in that number
When the Saints go marching in!”

Don’t let me miss out now Lord!
I want to be a saint on earth
Before I’m a saint in heaven.

Amen!!

Puzzles

November Sudoku Challenge

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

October Sudoku Solution

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

November Crossword Challenge

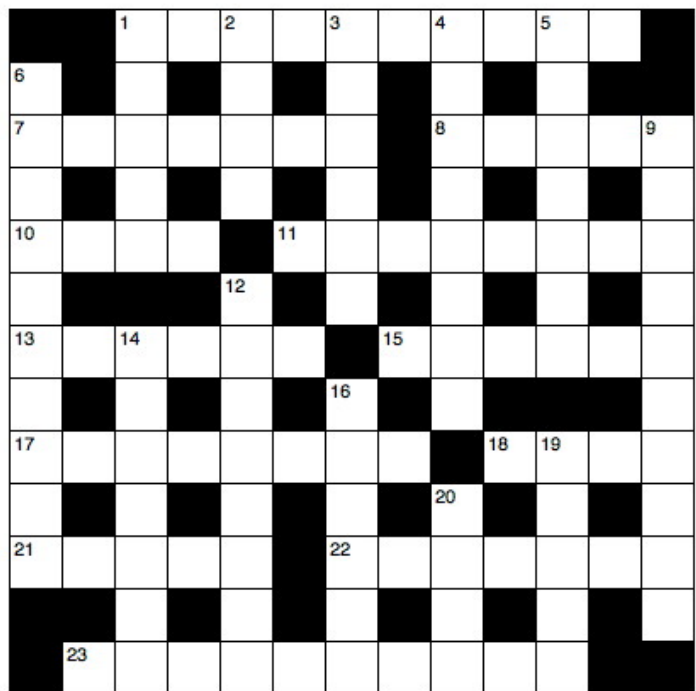
Biblical clues are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across



ACROSS: 1 Bartholomew 9 Evil one 10 Adore 11 Ran 13 Oreb 16 Zinc 17 Entail 18 Hung 20 Lehi 21 Joshua 22 Pity 23 Wide 25 Age 28 Alarm 29 Partake 30 Sennacherib

DOWN: 2 Alive 3 Took 4 Over 5 Onan 6 Emotive 7 Jehoshaphat 8 Melchizedek 12 A light 14 Beg 15 Strong 19 Not have 20 Law 24 Iraqi 25 Amen 26 Epic 27 Free

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