

St Mark's Parish Magazine

August 2021

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Your Views & Contributions

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Hopefully as you read this month's letter we are slowly and cautiously coming out of the lockdown restrictions that have been part of our lives for so long. We are able to do some of the things we took for granted before, and as we begin to socialise more, travel, and catch up with family I think each one of us will discover that the coronavirus pandemic has changed us in some way. Some have tragically lost loved ones through this time, some have lost jobs and incomes, some have been furloughed whilst others have been working harder than ever. Some have lost precious planned events; family parties and celebrations, baptisms and weddings have had to be re-scheduled. Exams, holidays and a whole host of other things precious to us have been lost too and that will have taken its toll on all of us.

Yet there are many positives too. Many of us have gained a new appreciation for the countryside around us; we have noticed nature and wildlife in a way that we had not noticed before. There's been a wonderful sense of community, neighbours looking out for each other and generosity of food for the food banks. And for some, life has slowed down a little allowing time to reset patterns of being. As we begin to come out of the restrictions though we need to pause. To take stock and to mourn the people, events and time lost and to be thankful and grateful for those things that have been positive. To take time to reflect, "Where has God been in it all?" Of course, he has been there but sometimes we just need to look a little harder to see him and sometimes we just need to slow down in order to be able to see and recognise his hand at work. In Deuteronomy 31.6 we read, "...the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." And I believe that's true.

So, as we look forward over these warmer summer months, as we begin to dare to plan and consider what the future will look like for each one of us, let us try and find ways of taking the positive things we have learned and experienced through the lockdown months forward with us. To be thankful and grateful for what we have and can do, and to remember that God is always with us. We have been through an incredibly tough time in our lives and now, wonderfully, there is hope and a positive future ahead of us.

With my best wishes



5 things we have learnt about Truth in a pandemic

I'm involved in a project rooted in the Church of England's St Albans diocese, north of London. We bring together people from a range of backgrounds and faiths to address the question 'Where is Truth now?' A vital issue for us from recent months has been 'How has truth fared during the pandemic?' Here are five key points.

Truth can save your life

Knowing the truth about the Covid-19 virus and vaccines gave vital protection during the pandemic. The advice of scientists, health professionals and researchers has been widely sought out and debated. But we've also seen a rise in conspiracy theories, anti-vaccination campaigns and growing confusion as people challenge the extent of the pandemic, and whether Covid-19 is really a threat. Social media algorithms stand accused of spreading misinformation faster than reliable facts and corrections.

Truth comes from trust

Knowing who to trust is one of the fastest growing challenges facing anyone wanting to know more about the pandemic and its causes. While faith in doctors and scientists is generally good, trust in politicians has remained low, and scepticism and confusion are growing.

Truth can be found on your doorstep – but not always

Local information has become more important, especially during lockdowns. But with local newspapers and radio in decline, neighbourhood social media networks have been taking their place, spreading information – not all of it verifiable and sometimes incorrect. Often, it's fear that drives our response to the stories we read. We eagerly consume stories highlighting a new 'threat' from Covid or scapegoating people not keeping to the lockdown rules. We respond emotionally, 'with our gut' – rather than our brain or intellect.

Truth has to be valued and protected

Reliable, trusted journalism has been at a premium. ITV News journalist Julie Etchingham defended the role of the media during Covid-19. The news presenter, a practising Roman Catholic, explained: "Many in our front-line services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf."

In December 2020, Yorkshire Post editor James Mitchinson, published his response to a reader who believed social media posts over his newspaper's reports. The open letter, headlined 'Do not believe a stranger on social media who disappears into the night' sets out the contrast between verified public interest journalism and disinformation posted online.

Truth can be complicated – and that's ok

Throughout the pandemic, politicians have spoken about 'following the science.' This, they have said, has guided their decision making. Yet scientists can have a range of views, based on similar research findings. It's in the discussion and debate that scientific truth arises.

People accept that the 'scientific evidence' is not always straightforward. We know that truth can be complicated, from our own daily lives. So politicians who level with their electors about the complexity of the decisions are often received with more credibility.

In continuing to ask the question "Where is Truth Now?" our modest project is helping to keep the conversation going – and encouraging others to do the same.

Editor: By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Church News

Church Gardens

We are planning working parties to get the garden areas cleared of weeds. Gardening skills are not required as some parts just need tidying. If you can spare even an hour, we could make the gardens, car park and War Memorial looking as they should – well cared-for. Saturdays 31 July and 14 August are the dates (with more to follow if necessary) starting at 9.00am until 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided. Please telephone either of us if you can help.

Patricia Bird (01737 247941)
Elizabeth Davis (07944 232816)

News from the Church of England

First ever General Synod elections ad campaign

The first ad campaign to encourage people to stand for election to the General Synod has been launched in a drive to attract a broad range of voices to the Church of England's national decision-making body.

A 90-second film, a short explanatory animation, and a dedicated webpage have been created ahead of elections later this year. The advertising and information campaign – the first in the 50-year history of the General Synod – forms part of the Church of England's vision of becoming a younger and more diverse Church.

William Nye, Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council and of the General Synod of the Church of England, said: "We are praying that the leadership of the Church of England, including bodies like General Synod, may become more representative of the people of England – and that means younger and more diverse.

"This campaign has a very clear message which we hope will reach everyone in the wider Church: if you want to be part of making decisions affecting the whole Church of England and debating matters of national and international importance, this is your chance. Will you stand?"

Annika Mathews decided to stand for Synod after initially attending as an observer.

"I found it really interesting meeting people from across the breadth of the Church of England and listening to the things being talked about and finding out more about how the Church functions at a national level and within its governance," she explained.

"There were a variety of things spoken about during my time on Synod – climate change, food poverty, the Anglican Communion, and knife crime – to name a few."

The planned elections to the General Synod were originally due to take place in the autumn 2020 but will now take place in the autumn 2021 after the term of the current General Synod was extended for one year under a provision in the Coronavirus Act 2020.

Read the full article at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/news-releases/first-ever-general-synod-elections-ad-campaign>

Two Boys Learning on the "Farm"

Brian and Bill were walking home from school on a Friday evening, though it was a long way and they had heavy satchels. This was before laptops and the text books were thick and heavy. This habit had begun during a bus strike, but they so enjoyed the conversation that they had continued to walk most days. School life was dissected along with the strengths and weaknesses of the masters, but sport and current affairs featured high amongst their interests.

Brian said: "I picked up a book in the library last week entitled *Animal Farm*." Bill replied: "Isn't that the one by George Orwell about the operation of Communism? We have it for set reading next year." "Yes, well, I thought I would take a peep. It's very short and doesn't take much time unless you think about it," said Brian. "You would enjoy it."

On the Monday afternoon Bill said, "I found that book in my local branch library and read it." So that was the subject of the next walk home. Bill said, "Certainly the first part could have been a straightforward condemnation of the way man treats animals but that was only by way of a parable of the way men treat inferiors. The poorly fed and housed animals point to the condition of labour in a weak labour market, receiving only the lowest or market wages and in those days workers suffered unemployment, with little social security. If labour had been treated with some respect there would have been no Communism."

"Ah, but aren't you overlooking the history?" said Brian. "The French Revolution, if not the American Revolution, was a threat to the whole order of Europe with its kingdoms and a social structure where the landowners and the elite ran everything. Ever since, to this day, this has been the reason for the fear of Communism, perhaps because in principle, if not the real world, it has much to be said for it, unless you are part of the elite."

"Getting back to the book," said Bill, "it does set out the way good intentions including the exercise of democracy can still end up as a totalitarian state. Notwithstanding the good prospects painted by the pig prophet 'Major' (Marx or Lenin?) with the song 'Beasts of England' and put into practice by 'Snowball', it is the evil 'Napoleon' who grasps power and becomes totally corrupted. But the book covers so much. There is the hammering out and documentation of agreed principles (as in the States), a flag (the Red flag, or Stars and Stripes?), the creation of a national song and the formation of an elite cadre to organise things. Also as things develop there is the transfer of power to this central cadre, in this case the pigs, and I must not forget the spread of false information and even the rewriting of history, all in the book and most of which can be seen in the Russian experience."

"Very true," said Brian, "but of course some of those things can also be found, for example, in our biased press, more interested in a slanted story than reporting the objective truth. The tribalism which exists in the pigs is no different from some tribalism to be found here today. And we must not overlook the good aspects. The animals work together towards a shared objective without personal gain, and produce better results in a happier environment where all are valued. Of course, the tragedy is that it did not last. Once the less socially motivated get into power they are corrupted by it and direct themselves to their own advancement. They end up exploiting the rest and even forcing self-confessions followed by executions.

"You need to be careful not to advance theories which are not on the Examiners' checklist or you will fail your GCSEs," said Bill. "Even in school, free thought can be unfashionable!" "Watch out," shouted Brian, as Bill walked off the curb into the path of a passing cyclist. Brian pulled him back. "We need to get home in one piece."

After a pause crossing the road, Brian continued: "What you say may be true, but it's a very good read and provided I show the evidence I think my ideas will score. Anyway, the animals' condition becomes no better than under the farmer. There are even false admissions and executions. The slogan 'Four legs good, two legs bad,' becomes 'Four legs good, two legs better.' 'All animals are equal!' becomes 'All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.' This is a return to the previous values."

"You seem to have it taped," said Bill. "Not at all," said Brian. "There is much more to it as you will find on your second reading. Orwell's real view of Communism and Capitalism is encapsulated in a scene near the end. I will read it to you. The pigs have invited local farmers to a game of cards. They drank beer and two speeches were made, the first by a farmer:

'Between pigs and human beings there was not, and need not be, any clash of interests whatsoever. Their struggles and difficulties were one. Was not the labour problem the same everywhere?' Here it became apparent that Mr Pilkington was about to spring some carefully prepared witticism on the company, but for a moment he was too overcome by amusement to be able to utter it. After much choking, during which his several chins turned purple, he managed to get it out. 'If you pigs have your lower animals to contend with,' he said, 'we have our lower classes!' He congratulated the pigs on the low rations, the long working hours, and the general absence of pampering which he had observed on Animal Farm.

"So Orwell thought there was little to choose between those despots and those operating in the market. By the way," Brian continued, "whilst at the library I looked up George Orwell, or rather what was written about him. He was born in India but brought up by his mother in England. He hated boarding school but liked Eton. He then had five and a half years in Burma as an officer in the Imperial Police, but returned to England where he spent sometime in the East End as a tramp and had another spell amongst the poor in Lancashire. Then he went to Paris and discovered the poor there

also. He did a bit of teaching at Hayes High School, but became a correspondent and writer. As an author he is very highly regarded and many of his writings reflect his experiences.”

“What an unusual life”, said Bill. “He saw such different sides to life and I suppose that gave him a perspective few of us can match, or are too afraid to do so. There is certainly a lot of understanding of human nature and culture behind his writing.”

“I wonder why they set it for GCSE?” asked Bill. “Well, I suppose they think it good to make us think, and even think for ourselves, Brian.”

Harry Ingram

Sorry!

What an important word in the English language this is, as it is usually the start of a reconciliation after a conflict. So rarely is it said in politics, or indeed in so many other walks in life. It is seen as a weakness whereas it surely is a word of strength. So many conflicts have both right and wrong on both sides, so it is vital for someone to make that first move. It can save a friendship, a love affair and even a marriage if it is used often enough, and so often the other party will say sorry, too.

We all sin but forgiving others is sometimes so difficult but so important, too. In the Lord’s Prayer we ask for our sins to be forgiven as we forgive those who sin against us. I find it more difficult to forgive others when anyone I love has been hurt or offended rather than just myself. Also I usually find it difficult to forgive politicians and those in authority when I feel they are behaving as I would not wish. But if I am rational it is only God who is to judge them, and us, in the long run, not me.

If we feel really bitter about life in general, or someone else, let’s take it to God in prayer and blame him, if necessary. He can take it!

We must also get round to forgiving ourselves so that we can take a step forward into the rest of our reformed life

So I feel sure I should say sorry more often than I have done and do all I can, in my own way, to forgive my fellow man and woman.

Ian Archer

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2021

Now that more services are taking place again in Church, this is our plan for August and September 2021 – subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

Sunday 1st August	9th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Thursday 5 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Friday 6 th August	Feast of the Transfiguration
Sunday 8th August	10th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Thursday 12 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 15th August	Blessed Virgin Mary 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Thursday 19 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 22nd August	12th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online 12.30pm Holy Baptism
Tuesday 24 th August	St Bartholomew
Thursday 26 th August	NO SERVICE OF Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 29th August	13th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Thursday 2nd September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 5th September 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

4.00pm Family Service

Tuesday 7th September 8.00pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 9th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 12th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Tuesday 14th September Holy Cross Day

Thursday 16th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 19th September 16th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Tuesday 21st September St Matthew

Thursday 23rd September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 26th September 17th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Wednesday 29th September St Michal and All Angels

Thursday 30th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

Celebrating National Allotment Week

The 9th–15th August 2021 marks National Allotment Week and this year the theme is 'Plotting for the Future'.

The National Allotment Garden Trust has teamed up with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens to help local authorities and individuals understand the importance of allotments for the community and to help people live happier, healthier lifestyles.

The National Allotment Society is holding virtual events this year on all sorts of topics from composting to money saving tips which is great for anyone who grows their own. Go to nsalg.org.uk for more details.

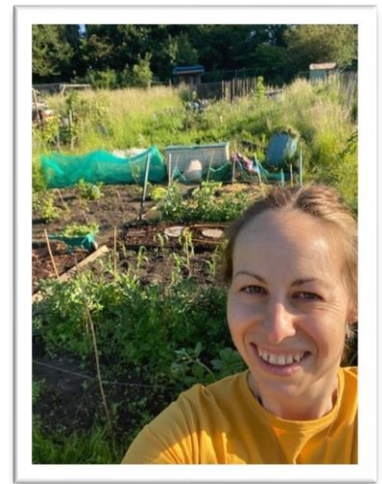
As an allotment owner, I have come to know the pride, disappointment and hard work of owning an allotment not to mention the cost of setting one up but the sense of achievement from eating your own food is fantastic. And from an environmental perspective the food miles from your own fruit and veg is pretty low, it makes eating seasonally a doddle.

As an allotment owner I look at the world a little bit differently since taking it on, so here are my revelations:

- Vegetables grow slowly, weeds grow fast! When I am waiting for my plants to grow it seems to take forever but weeds seem to pop up in days, especially after a few days of rain and sunshine. I am sure there is a metaphor in their somewhere...
- Insects and birds which are friends in my garden are not welcome on my allotment. My children and I spend ages feeding the birds and spotting snails in our garden, we welcome and make homes for them. But, when I spot a snail decimating my small, fragile vegetable plants, then it is time to invite them to move along please.
- Otherwise, allotment owners are a friendly bunch. There is a rather vibrant social scene at my allotment and when the weather is good, the homemade rhubarb gin is out and the barbeque is hot.



- Muddy fingernails are a badge of honour. I hate dirty finger nails but after a few hours at the allotment, they are a sign off a good job, well done (I've invested in a good nail brush too).
- Being out in nature early in the morning is good for the soul. Ok, so I did know this already but it is good to be reminded.
- Allotment keeping and gardening can create flow which is good for you. That feeling when hours pass and it feels like 5 minutes when you are really focused on what you are doing is really good for our mental health and this is one way to get into flow.



I am sure many of the magazine readers are keen gardeners and even a few fellow allotment owners so feel free to share your tips and pictures at magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk. I've included a few of mine.

Environmental News

A Structured Approach to Climate Change

How to clear up the mess after WW2 was the question? Nor were the concerns only with the effects of the war. No one wanted to go back to the conditions of The Great Depression, or in Germany hyperinflation. It was not simply a question of resettling millions of displaced persons and replacing destroyed cities and towns. There needed to be sources of finance to enable economies to be restored. The US appreciated that it was in everyone's interest that recovery should be widespread, and made provision for huge loans, Marshal Aid, to governments. But what about private enterprise and trade?

There were few rules about cross border settlements and few ideas on how to prevent either the spread of inflation or recovery from recession. Most currencies were wobbly. But monetary economics was the specialism of John Maynard Keynes who led the British delegation to Breton Woods, the famous meeting of the great powers. Keynes had published his General Theory of Employment Interest and Money and was widely accepted as the guru in such matters, but not universally and he had continued trouble with the Americans who preferred a more domestic approach to finance. Nevertheless, out of Bretton Woods came The International Monetary Fund (IMF), The European Payments Union, The World Bank and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), which actually solved trading disputes but has devolved into the G7 with its photo shoots. Many of these organisations survive to the present day. Perhaps they are some tribute to Keynes who was sick when negotiating and died shortly after.

The point of this is that you do not solve problems by agreed targets with no plans for their achievement, none of which is binding. A successful structure (and even the above organisations do not have a road map of complete success), requires International Co-operation of high quality which takes full account of the facts on the ground, the interplay of motivations and national self-interest. Only in that painstaking way may we find a road out of the evident threats of Climate Change.

The more one knows about the difficulties and consequences of eradicating fossil fuels, the easier it is to understand what an enormous economic opportunity is there in replacing them and from making other changes. Last month I touched on the many problems in making change. This month I touch on possible ways of overcoming them.

Individuals: I suppose the first step is to gain almost universal acknowledgement by voters of the overriding need for action and to understand their part in it. We need to accept that as individuals we have to face the kind of problems outlined last month. Greta and David Attenborough are just two who are attempting to educate the public on the effects of climate change, which are sometimes hard to grasp. Extinction Rebellion understands, with Green Peace, that without positive action the problem is unlikely to be recognised. But demonstration is unpopular. It inconveniences people, so already legislation is on hand to curb their activity.

Interestingly there was a report recently that over 50% of those in the US were in favour of making users of fossil fuels pay the full climate cost of using them. In Africa, I believe, the problem is widely understood and in this country the younger generations have been educated about the problem. Unfortunately we do not have the time for them to take the lead.

But Bill Gates touches on the need for voters to understand the need for change and to press governments to deliver it. Not all of the population will be able to afford the expenses of change and those who can, have to recognise that it is as much in their interests as those of the poor for all to meet the relevant standards.

Companies and business: My article last month outlined one or two instances where business resists the necessary changes. It's a question of stick and carrot. Mark Carney as a banker understands the use of loan requirements and open reporting by companies covering their actual performance against CC objectives. If you don't comply you don't get the loan. He says that whilst Governor of the Bank of England he recruited many central banks to this policy.

But unfortunately in this case, banks are not the only source of finance. Trillions of dollars flow in and out of Tax Havens, only part of which is controlled by banks. President Biden is feeling his way towards an answer. As yet the proposition that international companies should pay a worldwide rate of 15% tax on their profits may be only a start to committing overseas sources to only make loans on green criteria. This is an important loophole to be filled. And compliance will be difficult. Inevitably

more control than this from governments will be needed. As Bill Gates recognises, governments need to take the initiative in sponsoring risky research into areas such as carbon recovery, making the equivalent to concrete and steel without a carbon content.

There has to be an underlying legal base identifying what is and what is not acceptable in relation to the use of fossil fuels. Carney's idea of restricting the use of finance and Gates' view that governments must support probably also requires the provision of sanctions to ensure that rules that are laid down to eliminate the use of fossil fuels are observed. If all this smacks of interference in free trading then you are right. But this is not a political question aimed by those opposed to enterprise. It is a necessary way to divert the use of fossil fuels so that a new economic model can emerge and business itself can survive. That survival is also dependant on getting to grips with climate change.

Governments:

Over the last thirty years, Governments of all colours have a very poor record of facing up to climate change. In this country and Europe as well as the States, yes, electric power from Wind Farms on land but mainly in the sea have flourished by normal standards. This is an achievement but unfortunately it is nowhere near enough. The size and scope of development required is too much for the normal pace of change. Much more needs to be done on the basis of what we know and even more in the way of innovation. Yes, you may call it a Green Revolution.

International Co-Operation.

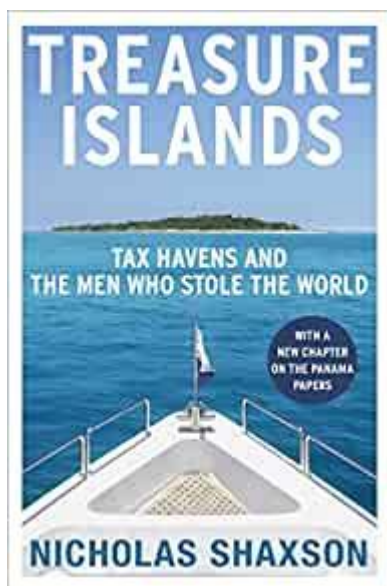
This is a bad time for international cooperation. Clearly the USA, China and Russia need a new relationship and mutual respect, unlikely to come about naturally. Most countries in the world in one way or another are, and will be, influenced by their own relationships with the two giants. Germany is the good example with its increasing dependence on Russian oil, whilst wanting to remain close to the USA. Much will depend on Biden and the Chinese response. It is high time The Breton Woods Experience was taken out and dusted down.

Overall: Being realistic, in the particular case of climate change, it does not entail some kind of compromise. What we know of the science and the speed and direction as well as the consequences of climate change shows that reducing the output of carbon into the atmosphere, which affects us all worldwide, to net zero, is an absolute so there is no scope for some deal which can become stuck between change and going on as before.

Harry Ingram

Book Review

This month: *Treasure Islands* (The Bodley Head, London)



NO! it's not by Robert Louis Stevenson; there is an "s" on the end of 'ISLANDS'. It's by Nicholas Shaxson and it is a seminal work in this field.

It should be compulsory reading for those of all disciplines at University as a means of introducing students to the way the "real world" works. It should also be of interest to those who see taxation as no better than legal robbery, so they know how it is done. So tax avoidance and evasion are not exactly reading for the beach, but the style is both factual and one of discovery, which might be the envy of many crime writers. It is really a history of finance, mainly since WW2, but sometimes delving further into the roots of international tax

avoidance.

Why read this book? Well, it's topical. It sets out an understanding of the obstacles in the way of Joe Biden's attempt to tax all the big internationals with profits above 10% at a minimum CT rate of 15%. He wanted 25% but we would not support that. It's a huge task taking on the most powerful, and the book explains why.

Shaxson begins with some statistics. More than half of world trade passes through tax havens, to avoid tax in both producing and home countries. Over half of bank assets are held abroad and also one third of total investments. In 2010 the IMF estimated that the balance sheets of small island financial centres alone added up to one third of world GDP. These facts are almost unbelievable. Eighty three of the 100 largest US companies have overseas subsidiaries. What was once an illness of the rich, is now a pandemic.

The requirements for a good tax haven are several: a low tax rate is an obvious one (and these sometimes differ from those charged on residents): security is a must. You can't have a revolution or some democratic investigation of the financial operations. Secrecy is very high on the list. No foreign revenue authorities can be allowed to understand the underlying facts. A strong legal system is desirable so that contracts may be certain. Some tax havens have ultimate recourse to the Privy Council in London. Even robbers fall out.

These considerations partly explain why so many havens are to be found in Crown protectorates and other past colonial islands and Nicholas does not let the City of London off lightly.

The Havens maintain they provide a legitimate service in avoiding the double taxation of profits in two countries, but that is already provided in most instances by double tax agreements between most countries.

The bad effects of these havens are many and arguable. They include the deprivation of developing countries as well as our own, of the tax resources they badly need for economic and social purposes (sometimes with help from the leaders of those countries). Havens distort economies in favour of large companies making use of havens. A small company has to develop whilst paying the taxes imposed at home whilst the big company shelters its profits from tax and at the same time has access to funds well beyond the reach of small companies. This unhealthy accent on tax avoidance reduces the entrepreneurial and risk taking motivations central to economic advance. Why make things, when easier profits are there on guarded financial transactions? And there are many other distortions set out quite apart from the moral issue of avoiding tax, leaving the burden of public expenditure whether defence, Health or Social Security, on the middle classes.

Furthermore, offshore funds are a means of laundering illegal profits and also the obtaining of funds for illegal purposes. Russian oligarchs love them. It's a minefield.

This is a detailed well researched book full of hard won evidence and case studies for the sceptical. It's not an easy read but its revelations are central to an understanding of the world we inhabit and the problems facing anyone, including Joe Biden, in trying to make the world a better place.

Thanks to Harry Ingram for this month's book review. If you would like to recommend a book for next month, please email magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Reader recipes

Something special for the summer months and fantastic for using up the home grown tomatoes and cucumbers.

This recipe serves 4 or more in small glasses or bowls.

Gazpacho

Ingredients:-

- Bread – 1 large chunk of stale bread, fresh is fine or pitta also works
- A drizzle of olive oil
- Ripe Tomatoes – 6 large beef or failing that a big handful of vine or cherry tomatoes
- Medium Cucumber – peeled, seeded and roughly chopped
- 1 Clove of garlic
- 1tbsp of red wine vinegar
- Basil to serve



Method:-

1. Blend together the tomatoes, cucumber, garlic and red wine vinegar with a food blender until almost smooth.
2. Cover and refrigerate until chilled.
3. Meanwhile, in a pan, add olive oil to coat the bottom, then add the bread and cook until golden brown and crisp. Remove from heat and serve with the gazpacho soup.
4. Add olive oil and basil and enjoy!

This recipe was kindly shared by Ian Archer. If you have a recipe you would like to share, it can be anything, send it to magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.

Puzzles

August Sudoku Puzzle

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

July Solution

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

Level Up Laptop Refurbishment

Do you have an old laptop sitting at home unused?

Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead need your help. Level Up Reigate & Banstead is a project that provides refurbished laptops for children and young people who need them for home study. They are in need of 500 laptops.

Laptops are donated by the community, refurbished by volunteers and distributed to children and young people via local schools and charities.

Your laptop must be running Windows 7, 8 or 10 and have at least one USB port. Please note we are no longer accepting phones or laptops with Windows XP or Vista.

All laptops will be securely wiped or have hard discs removed and destroyed. They are then refurbished before distribution.

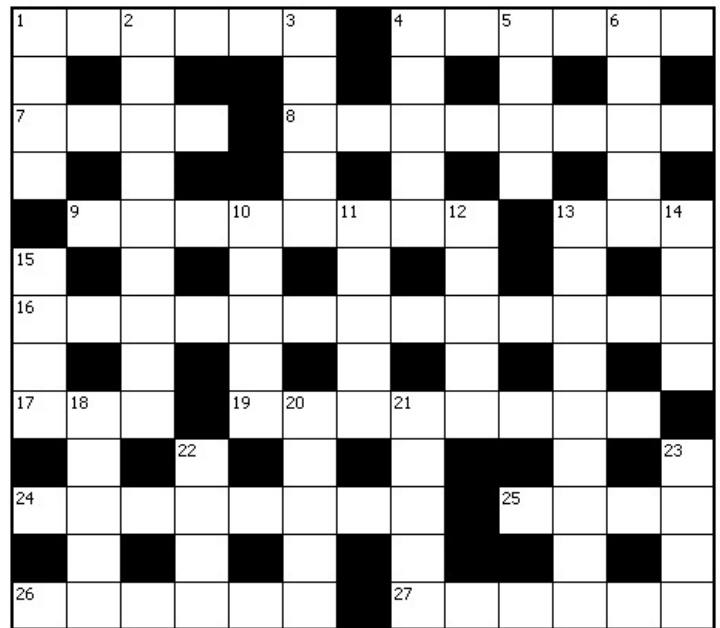
To find out how to give visit: <https://www.varb.org.uk/level-up/>

August Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 Of Moses (6)
 4 'You have been weighed on the — and found wanting (Daniel 5:27) (6)
 7 Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (John 2:11) (4)
 8 Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2) (8)
 9 Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection (Acts 23:8) (8)
 13 South London Mission (1,1,1)
 16 Sure of one's own ability (2 Corinthians 11:17) (4-9)
 17 'At this the man's face fell. He went away —, because he had great wealth' (Mark 10:22) (3)
 19 Airs used (anag.) (8)
 24 'The Lord is my —, I shall not be in want (Psalm 23:1) (8)
 25 'He has sent me to — up the broken-hearted (Isaiah 61:1) (4)
 26 At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
 27 Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, — Blessitt (6)



Down

- 1 Ridicule (Luke 18:32) (4)
 2 Encased in strapped-on light shoes (Song of Songs 7:1) (9)
 3 Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
 4 'Father, give me my — of your estate' (Luke 15:12) (5)
 5 Assistant (4)
 6 On a par (John 5:18) (5)
 10 Credo (anag.) (5)
 11 Beaten with a rod (5)
 12 The fourth of Job's 'comforters', who deferred making his contribution because of his junior status (Job 32:6) (5)
 13 Chosen as a temple attendant, he was described by Ezra as 'a capable man' (Ezra 8:18) (9)
 14 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where - and rust destroy' (Matthew 6:19) (4)
 15 Employs (4)
 18 Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (Matthew 11:21) (5)
 20 Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
 21 Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
 22 Recess at east end of a church (4)
 23 One of the nine sons of Beriah (1 Chronicles 8:15) (4)

July solution

Across:

1 Dove 3 Offender 9 Alcohol 10 Loses 11 Horam 12 Oprah 14 Archbishopric 17 Samuel 19 Dwarf
 22 Lacks 23 Imagine 24 Military 25 Revd.

Down:

1 Drachmas 2 Vicar 4 Fellow-soldier 5 Eglah 6 Despair 7 Rust 8 The mob 13 Scofield 15 Chancel
 16 Ordeal 18 Upset 20 Alike 21 Elim



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