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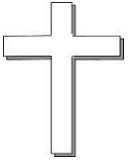
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In this month's issue

Letter from the Vicar	Page 2
Church Events – SMART	Page 3
Retirement	Page 4
Memories	Page 5
Eulogy for Marjorie Barnes	Page 6
Bishop of Croydon Consecrated	Page 9
Mars in Conflict	Page 10
Eco Awards	Page 12
Calendar	Page 14
Enough Wealth?	Page 16
Stagflation in the UK	Page 17
SMOAT BBQ Brunch	Page 21
Stop Press: Emergency!!	Page 22
What do we deserve?	Page 23
Looking Forward	Page 24
Reader Recipes	Page 25
Puzzles	Page 26

Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from Sunday 3 September 2022
All contributions to the editor by Wednesday 17 August 2022

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Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.



These words, from the poem *Leisure* by W H Davies were written over a hundred years ago, yet, despite the massive shifts in technology and culture we still cheat ourselves of time to "stop and stare". I can imagine the poet dreaming of a future time when technology might transform our living, slowing us down offering more leisure, more opportunities to reflect on what it is to be a human or just **to be**.

Confounding that dream, technology has done the opposite. It has filled our activities even more. We might stop and stare, but we stare at the TV, our laptops, our tablets. But we, as followers of Jesus, are encouraged to stop and stare. Jesus said: "Do not worry and labour? Consider the lilies of the field. They do not labour or spin. Yet, I tell you, that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these."

Take time, stop, stare and ...

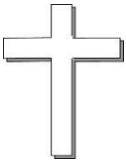
Pray (and prayer doesn't always mean to prattle on without leaving space to listen). Our lives are busy, frenetic and always on the go and God didn't create us to withstand that constant tsunami of information, technology and communication.

Take time. God offered us Sabbath; time, not exclusively a Sunday, when we can contemplate and pray deeply about things. We need to read our Bibles, sit silently and see that Jesus often went off to "a certain place" to pray with God, to reflect to make space for God and stop and stare. If Jesus needed that then we must follow his example.

So I encourage you to take space, take time, grasp opportunity to just stop, stare and see and listen for what God has for you: "a poor life this if, full of care, / We have no time to stand and stare." And "Consider the lilies..."

With my best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Church Events



SMART

SMART meets on the first Thursday of each month between 2pm - 4pm in St. Mark's Church Hall (except for those marked* which are outside visits). We welcome everyone of retirement age who lives locally and enjoys meeting others for interesting discussion and lively conversations, accompanied by suitable refreshments.

SMART is run by **Sarah Cousins** - 01737 789943. We are always happy to welcome new members and arrange lifts to the meetings and help. Please feel free to bring a friend to any of the meetings.

For meetings in the church hall there will be a charge of **£1.00** for tea and coffee etc. unless stated otherwise.

The SMART Programme for the remainder of the year is listed below.

***Aug 4th "TEA AT PRIORY FARM CAFÉ"**

SMART are going for tea to Priory Farm Café from 2.30-to approx 4pm

Sept 1st "WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MAISHA TRUST?"

Susannah & Keith Dyde will be sharing the latest news of the children and families at Maisha Trust in Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya.

Oct 6th "A VOCAL INTERLUDE"

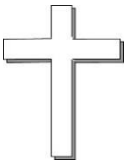
Bruce Cousins entertains with songs you may remember.

Nov 3rd "LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE"

Please bring one or two examples of what makes you laugh. Jokes , TV shows, what happened to you one day. What makes us laugh? Is there such a thing as a British sense of humour? Are French or African jokes different?

Dec 1st "CHRISTMAS IS COMING!"

Christmas carols with a lovely tea. Please bring a friend!



Retirement

“In this extreme heat wouldn't it be lovely to be retired and be at home rather than travelling to and fro for work?” “Will I ever be able to be retired with any hope of being well enough off (for my wife and)/(for me) living happily ever after?” “I like my job and wonder what it would be like away from my colleagues and me around my home all day long?” When I was young retirement was not something I bothered about. Earning a current income was much more my objective but once I was married it gradually became something Jenny and I needed to think about.

As the age of retirement approached, which was in my case bound to be at the age of 60 as they turfed us out at that age, we needed to think how we might survive financially and how our lives would inevitably change when we both might be at home together all and every day. My employers sent me on a pre-retirement one day course which painted a far from rosy prospect. Sadly some people are not able to retire and some just don't want to do so, especially if their work is their only interest in life and living fulltime with a partner is not what they want to do.

I was so lucky in that spending more time with Jenny is what I wanted and I had many interests that I had not until then been able to give enough time to. These included work as a Reader in St Mark's Church, work with the local Sea Cadets, work as Honorary Treasurer of the Uganda Church Association, the management of a home for retired nurses in Henfield and the care of a large garden and being available for my family and friends.

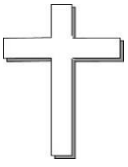
Before I retired some former colleagues who had retired had died within a few years of their retirement, whereas I have survived so long. There is no logic in this apart from luck and my having better health than them and the help of a loving family.

I wonder how many of us who are retired, planned activities beforehand.

I used to cycle to Redhill Station on my way to work some 3 miles each way every day so I thought after retirement I would instead cycle to Donyngs Centre, swim there and cycle back again, but I never did.

Retirement has been described as a retreat, going back, but it need not be so if we plan to remain active, even if it is only in a voluntary activity. If one is blessed with being able to be retired that time can be really positive if we give enough of it in the care and support of all those we know.

Ian Archer



Memories

The longer we live the more memories should be available to us. However, we become more forgetful as we get older and unhappily some suffer from some form of dementia. Happy memories are cherished by all of us, but unhappy ones can be transferred to the back of our minds and only return to us unwelcomely. But what we remember may not be as accurate as we think. Others present at an event at the same time as us might remember it differently.

Some of us are blessed with long term memories but are not so good at remembering recent events. How often I lose keys, spectacles and phones even though I put them down so recently. With her dementia my poor wife, Jenny, once put the car keys in the bread bin and her spectacles in the washing up bowl. Now, when I lose things sadly I have no one else to blame.

Memories are helped if written down or recorded in some other way rather than just relying on our own mental recollection. In writing his book "The Church of England in the Twentieth Century" Andrew Chandler, the historian, relied on written letters and other unchangeable documents rather than the word of the characters some years later, as one's memory can change without any of us realising it. In any case we would be more likely to forget bad things than good.

Even in a court of law one has the right to see one's statement written some months earlier before giving evidence at a trial, as by then our memory of the event might have lapsed or changed.

It is often difficult to remember names and this can be so important to those we meet at second or later times. The wonderful book "Green Dolphin Country" by Elizabeth Goudge tells the story of a young man in the 19th Century sailing to New Zealand and writing to ask the girl he loved to marry him. Sadly he had muddled her name with that of her sister so invited the "wrong" girl all that way. How many of us who dream can remember the dream when we wake up? So often such memories disappear but that's a good thing if it was a nightmare. But dreams can be a blessing for those of us who have them. Thomas Moore wrote:

"Oft in the stilly night,
'ere Slumbers chain has bound me,
Fond memory brings the light
Of other days around me."

Memories were so important to the Jews, remembering the Passover and the rescue of their ancestors from the Red Sea. Perhaps that is like our celebrating Remembrance Sunday even when we were not alive in either of the Great Wars.

Then each Sunday we celebrate the Eucharist, remembering Christ's Last Supper and his subsequent death and resurrection. In my small way I light a candle night and morning to help me remember my dear wife, Jenny.

So I close by my remembering that I must thank God for my memory, day by day.

Ian Archer

EULOGY FOR MARJORIE ALICE BARNES

Born 2 March 1929 Died 5 June 2022

Marjorie was born Marjorie Alice Poulten in Carlton, Melbourne on 2 March 1929. Her father, Bert, had emigrated from London in 1923 and met her Australian-born mother, Ethel, in Victoria. Together they had three children, Marjorie being the eldest of three girls. Times were very tough at the peak of the great world depression and there was no work available for Bert in Australia, so the young family took the long boat trip back to England in 1932.

Here they set up home in Laindon in Essex. Bert had been offered work through relatives. Times were still very tough, and there was also now a younger brother, Brian. Marjorie was hard working and serious, and did well at school. As the eldest of the four children, she often helped with the chores, and no doubt picked up her culinary skills around this time. She was particularly close to her sister, Beris; they travelled to school, and shared a bed together. Much later, Marjorie recalled cuddling a frightened Beris in the air raid shelter as the Luftwaffe threatened overhead. How terrifying that must have been for them both, although Beris would have been comforted by Marjorie's stoicism. Marjorie was a far stronger person than many might have suspected or perceived her of being.



After the war, the family had moved to Upminster, in Essex. Here she met Raymond, at the Young Conservatives, and they married at St. Lawrence, Upminster, in 1952. It was to be a long and happy marriage, lasting 63 years, with two sons, John and Keith. She would have loved to also have had a daughter, and later grandchildren, but it was not to be. She did love the extended family and always had a special soft spot for her nieces and nephews.

In addition to John and Keith, and while both were still young, Marjorie and Ray also brought up one of those nephews, Murray, for the first two and a half years of his life, following the breakdown of Beris' marriage. This averted an adoption, outside of the family, that was imminent. Her, and Ray's, intervention meant the world to Beris. It was never forgotten, and no doubt contributed to the bond that they always shared. Weeks before she died, Murray and his partner Katherine had the pleasure of visiting Marjorie at Ridgeway. It's a visit that I know they will both always treasure.

"She's beautiful," Katherine said, as they drove away from where Marjorie was so obviously being very well looked after. It is so, Marjorie was beautiful. An embodiment of the adage that beauty really does come from the good intentions within.

It was only in later life that Murray gained a fuller understanding of just how large a part Marjorie and Ray had played in his early years, and he was glad of the opportunity to reiterate just how much he appreciated what they had done for him, and for Beris. I know that Marjorie enjoyed that visit every bit as much as Murray and Katherine did. It meant a lot to her. To them all.

After leaving school, Marjorie worked for the Bank of England for a few years. She was not ambitious to have a career, and that happily coincided with bringing up John and Keith, and Murray too in time.

When she later did office work to support the family as the children grew older, she didn't really enjoy it. She also had a spell as a cookery teacher, much preferring the cooking to the teaching. Marjorie was a traditional homemaker by nature, enjoying cooking Sunday roasts and baking cakes, making jam and marmalade, and tending the large garden, with no little enthusiasm, and with great aplomb, it has to be said. Marjorie professed to have little time to engage in hobbies, but these were, in truth, great hobbies in themselves. Certainly, if anyone sought a recipe for jam or for marmalade, there really was no better place to venture. To say that Marjorie was an authority on the subject is a genuine compliment. She cared. The details mattered.

Marjorie was always willing to share her knowledge, whatever subject it may be on, with anyone who was genuinely interested. She had no noticeable ego. It was never about her. She was interested in Tudor history, the lives of the royal family, and the Scottish MacKinnon roots in her Mum's family tree. Marjorie had a particular soft spot for her pet cats, and they, always intuitive, equally loved her warm lap and affection.

In 1981, after being troubled by difficult neighbours, Ray and Marjorie left Upminster to start a new life in Reigate. They had always had a religious faith, and joined and played an active role in the community at St. Mark's, where they met and made friends with Jenny and me amongst others. Marjorie was a lovely person and a friend of mine for over 40 years. On coming to Reigate Marjorie and her husband Ray became staunch members of our Church and Marjorie was Secretary of the Mothers' Union of St Mark's for some years. Marjorie loved flowers, and she and Ray belonged to the Royal Horticultural Society and went to shows such as the Chelsea Flower Show.

She had a very strong Christian faith and as I believe she was close to God already, her transition at death must have been easier than it would be for some of us. Ray and Marjorie came to my licensing as a Reader in Southwark Cathedral in 1981. Ray served on the Management Committee of the Reigate Sea Cadets and

they both came with us to the dinner there to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in 2005. I visited them both for the years until Ray's death and then, often accompanied by Jenny, to just Marjorie.

In later years, Ray and Marjorie were able to celebrate their diamond anniversary together, and were proud recipients of a card from the Queen. By this time, the muscles in Marjorie's neck had collapsed, and she was becoming increasingly frail, so celebrations were understandably muted.

Ray passed away in October 2015 and, after a fall, Marjorie decided it was time to move into Ridgeway residential home. She spent the last five years of her life there and was happy, well cared for and treated with kindness. While she had to endure physical problems, and walked with a frame, she was spared the challenges of dementia and able to keep her mental faculties to the end. This meant that she lived through the visitor restrictions surrounding Covid with less impact than some, as she was at least able to keep in touch with relatives by phone.

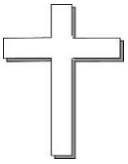
Marjorie's last social engagement outside Ridgeway was to David and Rosie's wedding blessing. Marjorie enjoyed the event and stayed to the end, despite falling out of her wheelchair beforehand. She always had a soft spot for babies, so was delighted to spend time with baby Mollie at the event. Marjorie had always valued being part of an extended family on both sides, and was proud to be a great-great-aunt to Ella, Darcie and Toby.

My visits to her at Ridgeway enabled her to receive Communion when she could no longer go to church. Sometimes we combined this with hospital visits that she had to attend. We usually met every 2 weeks except during the time of Covid when this was not possible. During that difficult time we kept in touch by phone. Marjorie would often ring me in the evenings around 9pm. Marjorie always had stories to tell and she had a remarkable memory, dates and all. She was proud of her Scottish ancestry and talked about members of her family on the other side of the world and of one who had become a bishop. She rarely talked of her troubles but was more concerned about the wellbeing of others. She liked reading copies of my sermons which I gave her from time to time. Also she enjoyed reading the church magazine and that of the RHS that Sheila Biggs often brought her.

Marjorie passed away on the morning of 5 June, having enjoyed watching the first three days of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on television. As a keen supporter of the royal family over multiple decades that would have meant a lot to her.

The last time I saw Marjorie and gave her Communion was just 4 days before her death and she was bright and cheerful on that occasion. As usual we had a period of silence when she thought about Ray and more recently I did of Jenny. We now keep John and Keith, her sons, in our thoughts and prayers in their bereavement. I have lost a dear friend, and the world is a poorer place without dear Marjorie.

Ian Archer



Bishop of Croydon Consecrated



New Bishop of Croydon with (from left to right) Bishops of Kingston, Southwark, Archbishop's Chaplain, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop of Woolwich

The new Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, was consecrated on Friday 24 June, at Southwark Cathedral, in what she described as a "spiritually uplifting and joy-filled" service.

Bishop Rosemarie is the Diocese of Southwark's first female Bishop and third black Bishop – the first being her fellow Barbadian countryman, the Rt Revd Wilfred Wood, (a former Bishop of Croydon, now retired); the second, the Rt Revd Dr Woyin Karowei Dorgu, currently serving as Bishop of Woolwich.

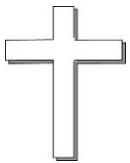
The consecration was attended by family, friends and parishioners, not only from the Diocese of Southwark, but from across the country, including clergy, bishops and local and international dignitaries. Well-wishers flooded social media with messages of congratulations, prayers and encouragement.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun said, "I am thankful that Bishop Rosemarie Mallett has joined the Episcopal Team as Bishop of Croydon. Bishop Rosemarie brings good local knowledge, having served as Archdeacon of Croydon, as well as a wealth of experience from her years as an academic, parish priest and heading the Diocese's Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation department. Her love and compassion for the communities she serves shines through and I look forward to working with her in the years to come."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said in a tweet after the service, "The grace and goodness of God was so visible at Rosemarie Mallett's consecration as Bishop of Croydon at Southwark Cathedral today. Praying for Bishop Rosemarie and the wonderful communities she serves."

Bishop Rosemarie said, "I feel completely humbled and privileged to be called to serve God as a bishop in his church and to lead his people as we work to build the kingdom in the Croydon Episcopal Area which stretches out into East Surrey. I am looking forward to getting to know more of the churches and church schools and para-church projects in the whole Episcopal area, and to offer my support to their mission and ministry."

In a moving and powerful sermon, the Revd Prebendary Sandra McCalla, Chaplain to the Bishop of London, said, "Today, you answer this onerous, yet joyful call to serve not just you but the whole body of witnesses, including those who have travelled across seas and continents to come and see what the Lord has done." The service was recorded and can be watched here: <https://bit.ly/3arLkI9>



Mars In Conflict

The Mars General Assembly had debated the serious state of affairs with the "Minor Martians" without conclusion. "Any Other Business?" asked the Chairman. "What about Earth?" said a Councillor. "Any news from there?" "Well, not really," said the Reporter. "One country has broken loose and inflicted untold horrors on another." I thought they had passed that stage," said the Councillor. "What's the problem?" "After one of the main power blocks had broken down several countries regained their freedom and are committed to full independence," said the Reporter. "I think I've got it now," said the Chairman. "The ex-big boy is trying to regain some of what was lost. It's a bit like our historic break with The Minor Martians twenty thousand years ago." "More so than you might think," said the Reporter. "Both sides have nuclear weapons and in the last resort may use them." "Good Lord, that's serious. That is what happened here."

The general seriousness of those weapons was well understood and there had been a lot of chat about getting rid of them. There were some reductions, but those who had them wanted to retain their advantage, so agreements were never struck let alone the necessary controls put in place. Things were allowed to just drift on. When trouble arose with the "Minors" we had a lot of chat about the

state of affairs, moral positions and who was entitled and who was in the right and what agreements were abrogated. But both sides became entrenched. They lost sight of the real risks and the "Minors" pressed the button. Then the balloon went up.

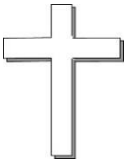
Half our population died at once and we had five years of nuclear winter and without daylight there was no natural growth. We ate mushrooms and seaweed. Many were carried off with all kinds of new deceases and many still live underground. Everywhere is desert. The population reduced further to crises levels.

"Mr Chairman, can't we leave Earth to its own devices and make a better shot at settling our own dispute?" asked another Councillor. "Well, I am adjourning this meeting for a week to give us time to consider in depth what to do. We have to absorb the position of the other side, but I can outline some of my own tentative policies." said the Chairman. "I propose to send copies of our old history to the other side with a paper pointing out the main influences, opportunities and mistakes. I shall set up 'safe houses' with neutral chairmen, and invite experts and politicians from both sides to attend with no agendas. My hope is that they will put on each other's shoes and begin to understand each other's points of views and find common ground. I shall offer to meet my opposite number but only on condition the meeting lasts four days at least, enough time to allow reflexion and thoughts about the long term, provision for ongoing talks before trouble arises, and so on. I shall also publish the true facts and avoid any rabble rousing!"

"Prime Minister, won't that only pass the advantage to the other side? They never tell the truth" asked a councillor. "Hmm," said the chairman," and not only them either. We have to understand this is a step-by-step approach. I believe the truth will penetrate the other side including their people. Call it trial by truth, if you like. I accept it is not without risks but no way am I risking another Nuclear Winter without the whole population on both sides understanding the consequences. It's true that we shall need to anticipate our opponents' responses and counter them. We simply have to expose the deeper consequences and common interests. My belief is that there is an answer and that we can find it."

After a pause the Chairman added: "By the way, how is Earth performing against Climate Change?" "Incredibly slowly," said the Reporter. "Ah well, no point in hoping they can show us the way then," said the Chairman. "Nevertheless, let's try to give them a hand. Get the Reporter to send three squadrons of flying saucers to show themselves on Earth, mainly Europe, The US and the Far East. No engagement. There is nothing like a perceived common threat to knock heads together. Then they might also deal with Climate Change. Meeting Adjourned."

Harry Ingram



The Diocese of Southwark achieves Bronze Eco Diocese Award

The Diocese of Southwark has been awarded the Bronze Eco Diocese Award. The award is the result of several years of dedicated work by nearly 150 churches and Diocesan staff who have engaged with the scheme which is run by Eco Church, an A Rocha project.

Bishop Christopher welcomed the news and expressed gratitude to Southwark parishes for this achievement: "Churches across the Diocese are, in their churchyards, building greener spaces for all the community to share in the biodiversity of the natural world. They are running awareness groups, bring and share events, installing solar panels and praying for the created world. These efforts have been recognised by this A Rocha award, without which the Diocese would not have won the Bronze Award, the sixteenth Diocese to do so out of forty-two," he said.

The Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, who has chaired the Diocesan Environment Working Groups, said, "This award and being on the Eco Diocese journey is a clear sign that environment issues are now firmly centre stage in our understanding and practice of the Church's mission and ministry. Our actions in this vital area are firmly grounded in our Christian understanding of God's love and care for all creation. I'm deeply grateful to the many people in the Diocese who have worked to get us to this point. As we all know there's a lot still to be done, but we are firmly committed to the journey."



Bishop Christopher announces the Award at Diocesan Synod

In a letter to Bishop Christopher and Bishop Richard, the CEO of A Rocha UK, Andy Atkins, said, "The Eco Diocese award is, we know, the culmination of months or sometimes years of hard work encouraging local churches to become Eco Churches as well as underpinning more of the Diocesan machinery (structure, policies, practices) with the missional remit of creation care. So, well done to you and your team." He continued, "It's very encouraging to hear that you have been engaging with young people on climate justice as this is such a key issue for them and one on which we know they want to see more leadership from the Church."

Diocesan Secretary, Ruth Martin, said, "The Eco Diocese framework is about far more than church and Diocesan buildings. It encompasses the way that we live out our mission as stewards of God's creation, in the training we offer to our clergy and licensed Lay Ministers, promoting and celebrating Climate Sunday and Creationtide, and celebrating the environmental achievements of churches and groups in the Diocese. I am very pleased that Southwark has achieved this milestone in our environmental journey."

Bishop Christopher shared the news with Diocesan Synod at the beginning of July, meeting at the newly built parish church of St Peter, Battersea. The journey so far:

- July 2019 Diocesan Synod approves Eco Diocese ambition with a target of 2025
- The Diocese of Southwark is 16th out of 42 Dioceses in the Church of England to win this award
- No Diocese has yet won a Silver award
- In the Diocese of Southwark, 147 churches are currently taking part in the scheme (40% of all churches in the Diocese)
- As of 25 May, 51 churches in the Diocese of Southwark have received an award:
 - 36 churches are at Bronze (including St Mark's) – 15 churches are at Silver
- Only 4 churches have received BOTH a bronze and silver award
- 11 jumped straight to silver award status
- We have no Gold awards yet



Quiz Night

Please come to help Charlotte Pelekani raise money to attend the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea

When: Saturday 24th September at 7pm

Where: St Marks Church hall, Alma Road RH2 0DA

Price: £10 pp which includes a chilli dinner (vegetarian or meat). Please BYO drinks

Maximum 6 per table

To reserve your table, and arrange payment, please email debbiepelekani@hotmail.com

There will be a raffle on the day, so please bring cash

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2022

Now that more services are taking place again in Church, this is our plan for August and September 2022 – subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

Thursday 4 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 6th August	Feast of the Transfiguration
Sunday 7th August	8th Sunday after Trinity
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Holy Communion with Hymns – in Church and Online
Thursday 11 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 14th August	9th Sunday after Trinity
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Holy Communion with Hymns – in Church and Online
Monday 15th August	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday 18 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 21st August	10th Sunday after Trinity
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Holy Communion with Hymns – in Church and Online
Wednesday 24th August	St Bartholomew, Apostle
Thursday 25 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 28th August	11th Sunday after Trinity
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
	10.00am Holy Communion with Hymns – in Church and Online
	6.00pm Taizé Service

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Thursday 1st September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 4th September 12th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

4.00pm Family Service

Thursday 8th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 11th September 13th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Wednesday 14th Sept Holy Cross Day

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 15th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 18th September 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 21st Sept St Matthew, Apostle

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 22nd September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 25th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

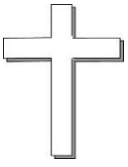
6.00pm Taizé Service

Wednesday 28th September 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 29th Sept St Michael and All Angels

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.



Enough Wealth?

I suppose it is natural for all of us to strive to have enough wealth to protect us and our loved ones from poverty and this is not a very easy time for many of us to achieve that. We would like sufficient for our comfort and enough for our retirement if we can be in a position to retire. If we are able to, we insure ourselves against any eventuality that could harm us in the future.

Wealth consists of somewhere to live, food and drink and healthcare. So much depends on money and the Romans had a proverb which said that "Money is like sea-water; so that the more a man drank the thirstier he became." We can see this today when the rich seem always to want more, and also more than their neighbour.

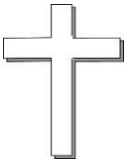
We might ask a young man, "What are your plans for the future?" He might say "I will get a good job, succeed, make my fortune, and then I shall grow old and retire and live on my money." "And then what?" we say. "I suppose that someday I will die." Our last stabbing question is "What then?"

Everyone must be aware that there is another world, and none of us know when we might find our way there. We can only take a day at a time.

Jesus was asked by a rich man who wanted to have his share of the family wealth early so he could make hay while the sun shone. Jesus saw the selfishness of the man and told the story of the man that just built bigger barns and stores for all his wealth but died as soon as it was complete. To start with, this fool never saw beyond himself. His conversations were all about I, me, my and mine, all aggressive pronouns. He should have shared his wealth with others.

We all need to ponder on these things, and while we are still here, try to find peace and joy in the world around us and in helping others whenever we can.

Ian Archer



Stagflation in the UK

Currently there is much speculation that stagflation is just around the corner. Terms like “stagflation” are often traded by the press but without explaining their meaning. Yet it is important that we all have some understanding of the economic state of affairs on which so much depends. This is not intended to be a political discussion nor a prescription to cure Stagflation, but simply an examination of a common media word rarely explained, and an attempt to partially examine the interrelated economic considerations against the particular facts. Some important areas such as changes in the performance of financial services in the City are not covered.

Stagflation is a condition where price inflation is accompanied by very little material growth or stagnation. Inflation is accompanied by stagnation. A cure must result in both reduction in inflation and some economic growth. In the current case inflation has been initiated by the world rise of the cost of essentials, such as house heating, food, petrol all of which have first claim on incomes. Because effective demand is expended on the cost of essentials, there is little left for other purchases which decline. General demand falls causing economic stagnation, whilst prices continue to rise. Currently inflation runs at 9.1%.

The causes of inflation this time were increases in the price of oil, gas and food. This has never been fully explained. Is world demand greater than before the pandemic or has supply fallen? Maybe it was difficult to return production to pre-pandemic levels. There will have been an increase in Eastern demand following pandemic recovery but that should only have restored the pre-pandemic situation. No explanation was given for higher food prices till the consequences of the Ukraine war were understood. Now other causes of inflation are emerging such as the price of motor cars and the reduction in UK milk production due to shortage of labour. The practical problem of stagflation is that attempts to deal with the inflation side is likely to make stagnation worse and attempts to deal with stagnation are likely to make inflation worse.

Furthermore, the income structure is not favourable to countering stagflation. A high proportion of those in employment are paid so little they qualify for social security. Reducing taxes will not help them. When people are managing on so little it is very hard to economise. It is recognised that pressure on these people immediately requires countervailing action by government to prevent serious hardship and disruption. That brings me to the other unusual situation for stagflation, which is apparently the full employment of labour. Job opportunities exceed supply. However, this signals not so much a vibrant state with fully employed factors of production, but the loss of labour sources over the last few

years, a natural result given the attack on immigration and labour from Europe. This shortage of labour places restrictions on the country to expand output and also means that any further increase in demand, perhaps through lowering taxes, is likely to result in higher prices (or even higher labour costs this time due to competing demand), rather than an increase in output.

A natural reaction to higher prices and falling real incomes is for the employed to seek to recover real income lost. It's a market reaction. Such demands for income stability by workers organisations rarely give a balanced outcome. The increases go to those who are the most successfully combined and in areas where strikes are most effective. These are unlikely to be amongst the poorest paid. So that as the spiral of inflation takes off further imbalances in wage rewards are inevitable. More support is required.

It appears that stagflation consequences will be worse for the UK than other European countries. This is attributed at least in part to low demand and low investment (of about 1.7% pa, much lower than in Europe), during the pre-pandemic years of austerity instead of growth. Not all the causes are outside of the UK.

Shortages of fossil fuels and food have given rise to high windfall profits in the power and supermarket industries. The recent windfall tax on fossil fuel producers was directed at drawing on such excess profits to compensate for price rises one way or another. But 91% of the tax is essentially remitted if the producer can show part of the excess is being invested rather than distributed. What would you do if you were such a producer? That does not appear to leave much for offsetting price increases and the question arises, how much of the remittances will go to countering climate change? No such connection was made in the provision for remittances.

One approach to the rise in the price of fossil fuels is to open new coal mines, or gas or oil wells. This has advantages in reducing dependence on world resources and in particular, Russia. (It may be that Russia gets there first and limits its supply of gas further). However, I have not heard that this will provide lower than world prices for the UK. Such responses are, of course, contrary to Climate Change policies which are to eliminate the use of fossil fuels. Similarly concentration on improving house insulation would reduce the need for fossil fuels. Another alternative would be to reduce the demand for fossil fuels by bringing forward the wider use of green alternatives, mainly wind and sun based sources. This would be cheaper and quicker than increasing oil, gas or coal and nuclear and is needed anyway. However, on its own this is unlikely to be enough.

Another suggested cure is the lowering of taxation to boost demand. There are two possible scenarios. Either cut taxes to boost demand first or cut inflation through higher interest rates and then cut taxes to boost demand. Neither action will help the lower paid who are below the income tax threshold. It will boost demand from middle income earners but essentially that will only counter to some extent the reduced demand due to stagflation. Either action will leave some more

profit in the hands of entrepreneurs, but they are only encouraged to invest if the prospect of profit is there in the first place; that is unsatisfied demand. That is hard to achieve in stagflation where demand for other than essentials is falling. Cutting inflation at first blush may seem the more attractive alternative but anti-inflation action, such as raising interest rates, usually results in a lowering of economic activity and austerity and thus adding to the stagnation side.

Proponents of lower taxes often combine this with “reducing” government and the lowering of public expenditure. They see government intervention as preventing enterprise from producing wealth. Back to the good old days. That assertion requires some historic examination. From early in the nineteenth century the UK balance of trade (broadly the balance from selling and buying goods abroad) has been adverse. The Balance of Payments, however, used to be usually positive (the balance of payments into the UK over payments out), because of financial earnings abroad. In the twentieth century we have always been struggling. We struggled to maintain the “Sterling Area” in the teeth of the ever-rising dollar and finally gave up. Curiously our best time was when we were in Europe! No, you have to look a very long way back to support such theses that cutting government intervention will bring about the pre-eminence of British enterprise.

On the other hand it will be hard for the wider population to accept that cutting taxes and moving in the direction of a Third World Country with severe reductions in public expenditure on health and welfare provision, less protection of food standards on imports, economies in the armed forces, just when security is fragile, and so on will make it all right again. Nor is the idea of severely reducing the role of government compatible with climate change. Although most of the change there needs to take place in the private sector, that change will need to be driven by governments and that requires resources and finance.

There is the concept that economic growth will cure both inflation and stagnation. In a period of recession with unemployed resources growing the economy would be sound. But if there is full employment as there is, then simply increasing money and demand will more likely cause further inflation. The trick might be to channel growth into export industries and those such as green energy where expansion is necessary and would be better done in this country than by buying in from abroad. Demand would come from abroad for exports and counter the problem of sterling mentioned below. We are not good at such selective investment. It smacks of interfering in the market. Furthermore, quantitative easing not only saved the banks it enriched them and is a good example of how to miss the target, whereas broadly the furlough scheme met its dual aims of relief and maintaining demand.

So is the UK doomed to return to being seen as the sick man of Europe? Of course, we would blame Johnnie foreigner rather than ourselves; inflation, after all, began abroad. However, our past struggles with inflation tell us that this path is a long one and usually only relieved by some unexpected change outside of government control. The snag with stagflation is that anything done to reduce inflation will have an adverse effect on stagnation and anything done to boost output is likely to increase inflation. To find a solution we may need a very good car driver who

can adjust speed and direction to the immediate conditions of the road whilst overall moving in the direction of "home". You have to get the economics right.

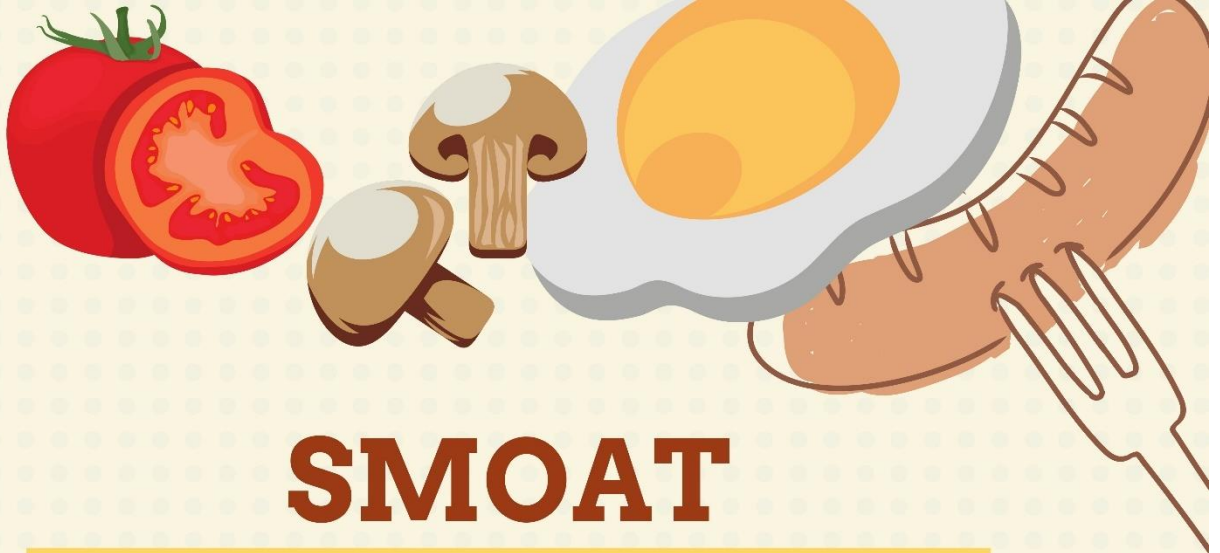
And I must not overlook perhaps the most serious additional factor. For some time now our balance of payments has depended heavily on inward investment. That sounds good. If foreigners are investing in our factors of production that will increase our future outputs at lower costs which is the way to generate income. Unhappily it has not been that kind of material investment but financial investment mainly in property. Hence the increase in London house prices which has spread throughout the kingdom not to the benefit of the young, who do not have their foot on the housing ladder. It has exacerbated the housing problem. But as the UK declines as a favoured place to safely invest with a good return, that finance will move elsewhere and affect the balance of payments adversely.

Already the value of the pound has declined by 12% since January which will have meant that the price of imports of food and fuel is that much higher. If stagflation sets in, that almost certainly means that the return from exports will decline whilst the outflows from imports of food and essentials will rise causing a further decline in the value of the pound. We have not heard a great deal in recent years of problems with the pound. If it falls further it is fashionable to put emphasis on the stimulus this gives to exports but we should not overlook that it raises the price of imports, which is our current problem. So, here we go again, another stimulus to inflation to add on to our present woes.

Quantitative easing, the increase in the money supply, can be a useful tool in increasing demand but unless it is used with the right direction can also be a cause of increased inflation. Actually, since inflation is a world issue it makes sense to consult with the rest of the world on what action should be taken. That would begin with a close examination of the causes and the part that fossil fuel producers play in this inflation. If there is a worldwide situation of windfall profits then policies to mop up this unexpected bonus and use it to reduce prices may be an answer. If it's pricing policy by producing countries then this is a geo-political issue with a different resolution required. At the least it should be possible to prevent the opening-up of new sources of fossil fuels. At best it may concentrate minds on how to do without fossil fuels and produce a strong expansion of wind and solar energy, the first requirement to save the climate. If it were possible, a stimulation of exports by selective investment especially in high tech and green products would not affect internal inflation and would boost the pound, clearly long overdue. That might also lower the price of imports.

So, the choice of action must remain with the government. This is the point at which it is usual to denigrate economists for coming up with diverse complex answers, but the pandemic should have cured us from thinking that we can do without experts. Because answers are not clear and immediate is no reason for thinking that amateurs whether writing for magazines or in positions of power are fully equipped to come up with simplistic answers which once again fail to understand the facts or interconnections.

Harry Ingram



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or

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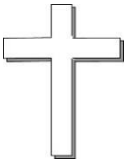
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STOP PRESS: EMERGENCY!!

Quite correctly the Media has quite rightly focussed on the facts and circumstances flowing from recent high temperatures. But I could hardly believe my eyes and ears when overwhelmingly the second priority was to see how we could reduce the impact of future similar events. But we shall always be behind the rate of change.

There seems to be no understanding that if the climate targets are not met, we shall soon discover that the natural environment is so skewed that it itself will begin to emit huge quantities of methane and carbon dioxide which will then produce an upwards spiral of pollution which will be out of our control. It's called the "tipping point". When one commentator referred to the long-term effects he was almost accused of scaremongering.

The key to climate control is the replacement of fossil fuels by non-polluting alternatives. Without that, other adjustments are fruitless. The three critical areas of pollution are China, the USA and Europe.

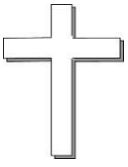
China is far in front as the worse polluter. It has largely taken over from the West the function of production. Although it has done much (probably most) to introduce green alternatives fossil fuels use remains hugely excessive.

Europe has shown understanding of the seriousness of the threat but has thus far fallen well below the action necessary for a cure. The UK has a good record of the introduction of wind farms and solar alternatives but still falls well short of what is required.

The USA, possibly theoretically the one most capable of change currently has governmental problems which seem likely to undermine any efforts it might wish to make.

In this scenario there is no room for views such as "if they won't change why should I?". Or again, "I agree with the threat, but I need to do something else first." Governments seem universally unable to deal with long term problems when inevitably there are also short-term serious priorities, but of a different order of seriousness. Nothing compares with the consequences of not addressing climate change.

Harry Ingram



What do we Deserve?

Do we get what we deserve in life? Whether it is good things or tragically bad ones, is life fair to us? Sadly we often have to realise that life is not fair. Some seem to have life always going their way while others suffer one tragedy after another.

I have enjoyed so many blessings in life, and to have survived to what one might think of as a ripe old age, I see myself as very lucky. I certainly can't claim to have deserved those good things, just as what has gone against me is not caused directly as a punishment for something I have done wrong.

As a young boy at boarding school, we built a camp in a bush near the school building and kicked over a lamp which set fire to the bush. I was beaten for that but felt this was fully justified. So in that case I suffered because I deserved to; I got my desserts. On other occasions in life I have had to suffer with no apparent sense of deserving that fate. Similarly, as I said, when things just go my way, so often that is by chance, not being anything I really deserved.

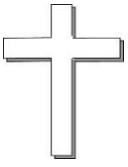
It seems to me that some people don't just have one "disaster" to contend with but several, one after another. Either this can cause a breakdown in some way, or in them receiving an inner strength to enable them to bravely battle on, hopefully with the help of others.

Many blame God for disasters, and he can take it, but I don't believe God causes disasters. However, I believe that on many occasions the person who suffers receives that inner strength from God, as hopefully He is suffering alongside us. When something good happens to me it may be just by chance, but I feel I must thank someone for it, so I thank God anyway.

In St Luke's Gospel Jesus asked the disciples if they thought the 18 who had been killed when the tower of Siloam collapsed were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem. "No," he said, "but unless you repent, you will perish just as they did."

This indicates that we aren't punished for our misdemeanours, but we are warned to repent of whatever we have done wrong.

Ian Archer



Looking Forward

We often have future events that we look forward to. If we expect them to be happy or joyful this can cheer us up but if they are seen to be threatening occasions this can cause at least some form of depression.

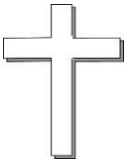
For children any event they are longing for seems to them to take years to happen but as we get older we can feel surprised at how quickly they come round. To have good things to look forward to gives us hope in that piece of future that we want. Sometimes the events turn out even happier than we had imagined whereas threatening items turn out to be less traumatic than we thought. In the dark watches of the night future events can seem more worrying than in the fresh light of dawn.

How good it is to share wished-for joys or threats with a loved one or friend. What a joyful time the disciples must have had during their 3 years with Jesus, but he frequently warned them of what the future might bring, both for him and his followers.

As Christians we are so lucky to be able to share our expected joys and threatening troubles with Jesus who is there to support us through thick and thin.

I suppose as we get older we should not count too much on future happy events or worry about too much about future troubles, but just take a day at a time. We can then take joy in it if we can or brave our troubles with the help of Jesus. Also, we must do all we can to make the journey of others a happier voyage for them to take.

Ian Archer



Reader recipes

Finding it difficult to keep cool this summer? Why not try this refreshing fruity mocktail!

Summer cup mocktail

Ingredients:-

- 1cm thick slice of cucumber
- 1 sprig mint
- few frozen red berries
- 120ml clear, sparkling lemonade
- ice



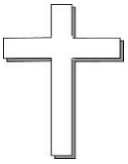
To garnish:-

- more frozen berries, chopped fruits, cucumber slice, mint, citrus – *all optional*

Method:-

1. Chop the cucumber and mint sprig into small pieces. Bring 200ml water to the boil in a small pan and then add the mint and cucumber. Turn off the heat and leave for 2 mins. Add a small handful of frozen berries, let them defrost for a minute, then crush them lightly with the back of a spoon. Strain the mixture. This will keep in the fridge for up to 24 hours and will be enough to make four drinks.
2. Pour 40ml of your strained mixture into a tall glass. Add a handful of ice and top up with 120ml lemonade. Garnish with whatever chopped fruit you like or some more frozen berries and mint leaves if you have them. Stir gently to combine.

Recipe taken from <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/summer-cup-mocktail>
If you have a recipe you would like to share, please send it to magazine@stamrksreigate.co.uk



Puzzles

August Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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August Crossword

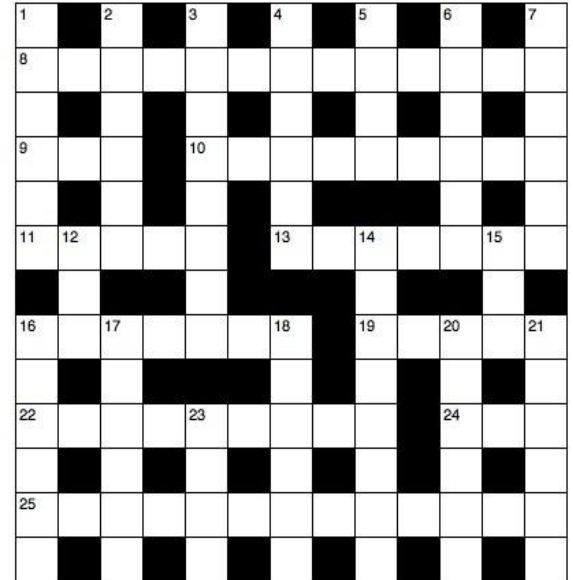
Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
 10 Single (1Corinthians7:27)(9)
 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)
 13 Treachery (2Kings11:14)(7)
 16 Of India (anag.) (2,3,2)
 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to — the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
 12 Run (anag.) (3)
 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)
 16 Earnings(1Corinthians16:2)(6)
 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1) (6)
 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state(Daniel11:4) (6)
 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
 23 This month (abbrev.)(4)



July Solution

ACROSS: 1 Wife 3 To battle 8 Obal 9 Disciple 11 Bitterness 14 Niacin 15 Attain 17 Passionate 20 Tertiary 21 Meet 22 Weakness 23 Deer

DOWN: 1 Woodbine 2 Feast Day 4 Orient 5 Accusation 6 Type 7 Eyes 10 Dedication 12 Gadarene 13 Ancestor 16 Esdras 18 Stew 19 Area



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