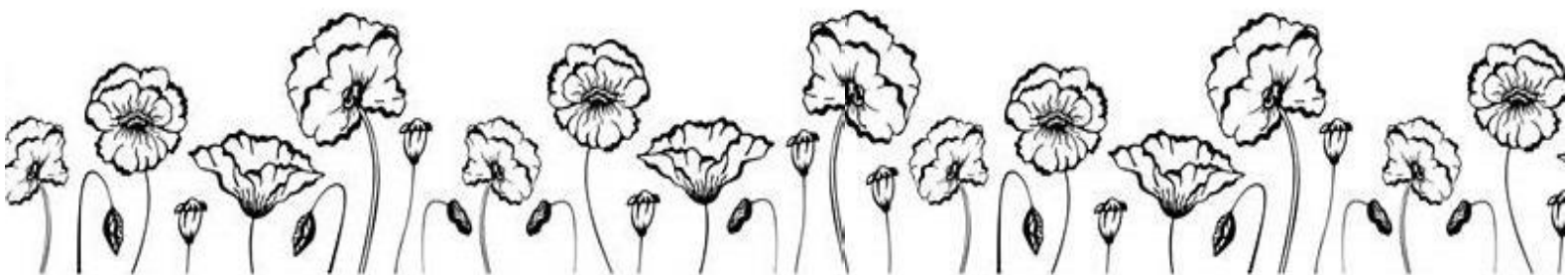




St Mark's Parish Magazine
November 2022



Vicar: The Reverend Martin Colton
Tel: 01737 241161 Email: vicar@stmarksreigate.co.uk
Assistant Curate: The Reverend Reginald Grant
Tel: 07385 832372 Email: curate@stmarksreigate.co.uk

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 2.00pm 01737 210785/ 07979 788601
Parish Administrator – Alexia Hartman E-mail: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk

READERS

Mr Ian Archer, 01737 242842
Mrs Sarah Cousins, 01737 789943
Mrs Susannah Dyde, 01737 221638

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Louise Wallis 01737 242129
Mr Ben Read, 01737 244440

DEPUTY WARDENS

Mrs Jane Artis 07831 269866
Mr Timothy Warren 01737 249388

SACRISTAN

Mr James Tanser 01737 767355

PCC TREASURER

Mrs Mel Crighton 01737 241100

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Nigel Perkins 01737 226632

PCC SECRETARY

Mr Terrence Hancock 01737 761178

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Mr Terrence Hancock 01737 761178

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr Terrence Hancock 01737 761178 (acting)

Visit our website: www.stmarksreigate.co.uk

Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome

In this month's issue

Letter from the Vicar	Page 2
The Two Minutes Silence	Page 3
Fellowship	Page 4
The Making of a Bomber	Page 5
Help your hedgehogs this autumn	Page 8
News from the Church of England	Page 9
All in the month of NOVEMBER	Page 10
Calendars	Page 12
Strangers and Friends	Page 14
Planting	Page 15
Mind changing	Page 18
Book Review	Page 19
Readers Recipes	Page 20
Puzzles	Page 21

Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from 4 December 2022
All contributions to the editor by Friday 18 November 2022

Email: Magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Meet the Parish Magazine Team

Editor: Helen Starmer *email: magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk 07525 370320*

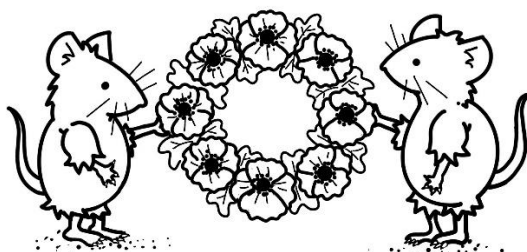
Website Link: Alexia Hartman

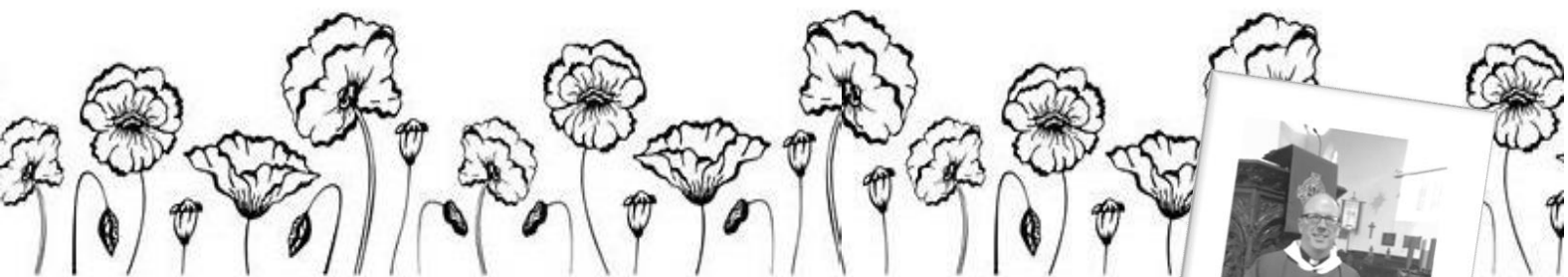
Advertising: Jane Artis *email: janeartis@hotmail.com 07831 269866*

Calendar Update: Parish Administrator

Crossword & Sudoku: Terrence Hancock

Proof Readers: Fr. Martin Colton, Terrence Hancock & Malcolm Toye





LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

November has always felt like the remembering month. We begin the month by celebrating All Saints' Day and then have our All Souls' Memorial service on Sunday 6th November at 6.00 pm. Then, of course, there are our Acts of Remembrance around Armistice Day.

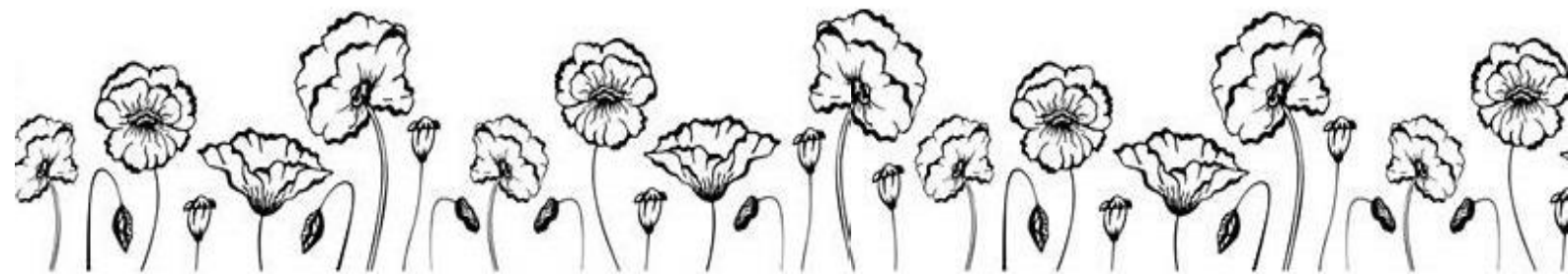
When we remember, it is often with the joy of a cherished time being brought back to our minds, but with the sadness that that time is now past – that it can only be revisited in our memories. The memories themselves bring a smile to our faces yet are often tied up with a ribbon of grief because some of the people at the heart of that memory have died. It is not always easy to do so, but it is important that we know it's okay to hold that joy and pain together – to find moments of light and laughter in the darkness – because both the joy and the pain come from the same source: love. If we didn't love, we wouldn't grieve.

Whilst the death of someone we love is painful, we may find ourselves grieving other things too. We might be struggling with all sorts of other losses at the moment. The loss of a relationship. The loss of who we 'used to be' before age, injury or illness changed things. Maybe we have had to leave a home or friends behind as our circumstances change, and their loss hits us more than we had imagined.

In our remembering we have to come to terms with a new way of being and not to get stuck in our longing for the past. Our remembering – however slowly we do it, however long it takes – must be part of our re-forming, our re-grouping, our re-emerging. As we go through this, we can be reminded that in faith God is with us and holding us. God is there when it feels darkest, and because he is there, there is light. Maybe just a flicker at first, but even a flicker of light makes a huge difference to our darkest time. As the light grows, it beckons us forward. However, the light doesn't deny our grief, rather it illuminates it and helps us to find new ways to be, new ways to live with and despite our loss, new ways to find the balance between joy and pain.

It is no accident, I think, that our season of remembering moves into our Advent season of waiting for the light – and ultimately the explosion of the light into the world at Christmas, the light that is Jesus. My prayer is that you will trust that his light is there for you, today and always. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1.5)

Every blessing



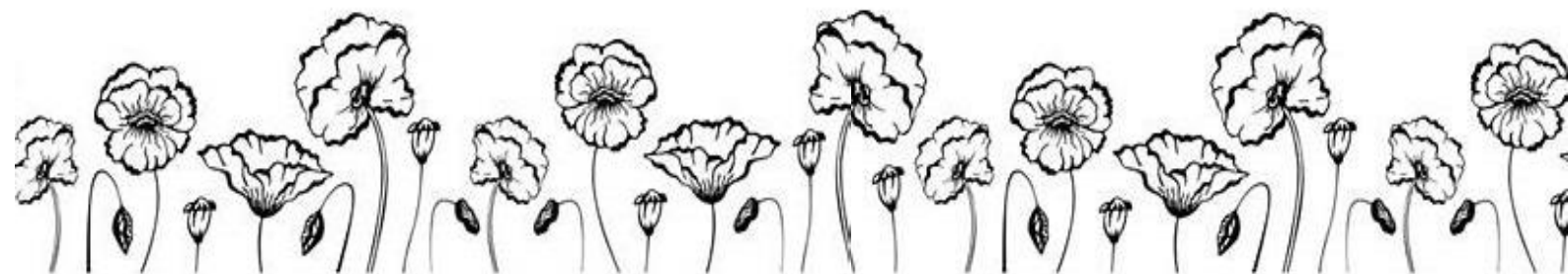
The Two Minutes Silence

In the month when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the Two Minutes' Silence is a significant act of remembrance. The silence provides an opportunity to remember those who have suffered in war and how we can work for a peaceful world. However, we can also find ourselves thinking about lunch or whether we've switched off our phone?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes of silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5.44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15.13). When observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we call to mind those who have laid down their lives.

In our busy lives, where so much clamours for our attention, silence gives us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. This is not just for Remembrance Sunday, as Jesus often withdrew to find silence to seek God (eg: Luke 5.16). Let's use silence in our lives as space to seek God's will and offer ourselves to him, just as those who gave themselves in conflict through the years.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'



Fellowship

This word seems quite posh, and not a very friendly way of describing what I am writing about. A Fellowship can be what professional people aspire to in their senior working life, hoping to become fellows of institutions. I think the word Fellow seems wrongly rather male and it has nothing to do with a ship.

Having said that, I think that a different form of fellowship is what many of us in our church value greatly after our Sunday morning Eucharist. Thanks to those kindly people who pour our coffee or tea for us we can sit down with whoever is round a table and talk about the troubles and joys in life that we each have. Some of us live alone and have little chance to share our thoughts with other members of our family or with our friends and neighbours.

We could not gather like this when isolated through Covid. Happily by broadcasting our church services to those at home was a great help to those who then could not come to church and since then many housebound people have been able to worship with us remotely.

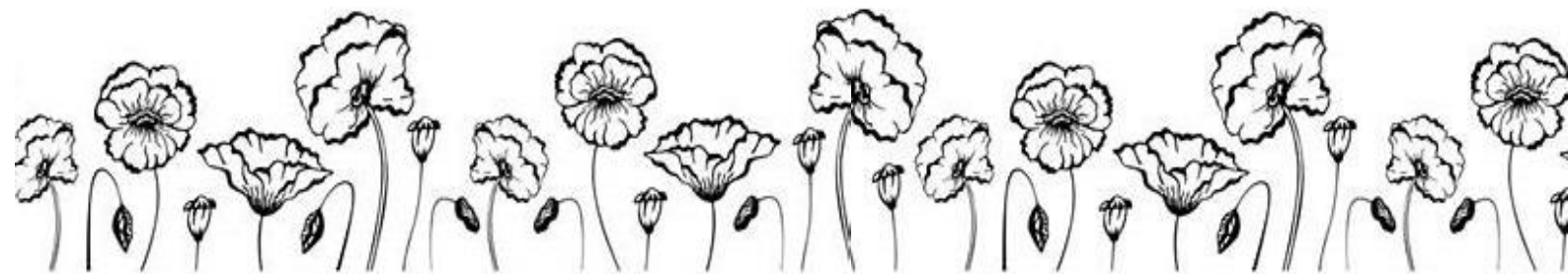
However for those people fellowship with fellow Christians is greatly restricted and whilst we can we should visit those confined to be at home. If we can't visit them we must ring those people from time to time to make them feel they are still part of our fellowship or community in St Mark's.

It is interesting that that our Grace, which we often say together, goes as follows:

**The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore.
Amen**

Maybe our gatherings after Church can become fellowships of the Holy Spirit?

Ian Archer



The Making of a Bomber

Jim gritted his teeth as the turbo prop Vanguard thundered down the runway. Take off was by far the worst. Even a dram or two was no defence against his inescapable shaking hands. He was on his way home to Scotland.

Jim, who came up through the ranks, was now top man of the operations of his London-based department. This was a tribute to his quick intellect and robust attitude in meetings and interviews. When Jim entered a discussion he used to begin in a soft voice with a question to which he already knew the answer and as he reduced the effectiveness of the opposition by successive questions, his voice took on a commanding tone which opponents found hard to respond to. Only then would he put his idea on the table like a bomb waiting to go off. Opponents almost felt the increase in temperature when Jim put his cards on the table. With his bullet head, craggy face, penetrating eyes, Scots accent and his quick silver intellect, every engagement seemed personal and he was recognised as the hard man of his generation. Jim turned discussion into open warfare of which there could only be one outcome.

Now in his middle years, Jim usually hung back till he could see which way the wind was blowing and then entered decisively to steer the result the way he wanted it. Now he was top dog he would get his young assistant to begin the questions and only intervene if there was opposition. But his very presence cast a feeling of cold apprehension on his meetings.

When in his native Glasgow, after plying them with good food and dangerous whiskey, Jim often took his guests and potential adversaries on a coach tour of the city, which he knew like the back of his hand and had stories to fit every site or occasion. On one tour he had pointed out a grime and smoke covered, old fashioned junior school with dusty playground almost on a busy traffic island in the Gorbals area. "That was my school," he announced with no pride. In that moment he perhaps revealed the very basis of his nature.

In the Gorbals as a small boy he had learned the hard way to make appraisals then get in the first punch and follow up hard to prevent any recovery by his opponent. He was no bully and more often than not his intervention was in support of some unfortunate set on by older boys. Over time the opposition evaporated and his voice backed by a penetrating gaze was enough. At his next school in Edinburgh he

combined sport with intense study but he never went to University because World War Two broke out.

His climb up the career ladder after the war was at first slow but then meteoric. His tactics in meetings described above, slowly made him the one you wanted on your side, and it was a surprise to many when they found themselves no longer leaders but supporting his views. That was when his career took off until finally, to his undoubted surprise, he was made "Head Boy!" of his department.

When the war began Jim had volunteered for the RAF and was selected for pilot training. From Airspeed Oxfords he was posted to a Wellington squadron. "Wellies" had been designed and built initially at Brooklands by Barnes Wallace. They were a twin engine medium bomber made with an aluminium web like framework designed by Barnes Wallace, with canvass stretched over; twin turrets at tail and nose with nothing on the beams or the top. By later standards, these were vulnerable planes but they were produced from 1937 throughout the war and became heavily used in night bombing. Their strength appeared from the way they withstood damage and still flew. Nevertheless losses were high and Jim became stoic about survival.

However, Jim was incensed when some boffin invented small searchlights to be fixed to the wings and directed at a converging angle in front of the plane. When the plane was at the right level and on course, the wing searchlights focussed together and showed that this was the place and time to release the bombs. They worked, but they also announced the presence of their plane for the flak to home onto, in effect, a sitting duck. In his dangerous and quietest Scottish accent Jim said what he would do to the boffin if ever he met him, and his mates believed him.

Early on a target was identified which was very difficult to bomb. The top brass thought the new invention was "just the job!" Not so Jim. On the night he was to fly third of three into the attack. By then the German gunners could be expected to have realised the offer of sitting ducks. Jim hung back and watched from a distance the first Wellington make its attack. Its bombs just hit the side of the target, and the plane suffered damage to one wing. The second plane had scarcely put on its search lights when it was simply shot out of the sky in a dramatic explosion not even releasing its bombs. Then it was Jim's turn.

Characteristically Jim had given the problem much thought. He had worked out with his navigator a way to minimise risk. The dual search lights would not be put on till the very last moment which meant the plane would be committed to its run before revealing its presence. If they were off target, they would simply abort. In the event his wing search lights immediately picked out the factory situated between two low hills. Jim was on course. Almost at once he ordered "Bombs away" and immediately pulled back the stick, banked and whilst gaining height watched the tracers fly past on the flight line they had left only moments before. The Wellington complained at the steep angle at which Jim took the plane in its sudden turn and climbed to gain

altitude. Just as it was completing its turn there was a huge bang somewhere in the fuselage but Jim was too occupied to more than register that they had been pranged somewhere. However, he did notice a dramatic drop in temperature reminding him that his face and back were running with sweat. That was a very lengthy, bitterly cold and exhausting journey back to base.

They climbed wearily from the Welly and only then noticed the holes on the fuselage; the shell had gone through and out the other side! He was still lucky. The lorry took them direct for debriefing.

The pilot of the first plane was fuming. He understood what a lucky escape he had had. The Wing Commander and other top brass amongst the planners congratulated them and said photos taken by the accompanying mosquito had shown direct hits which had destroyed the factory.

Turning to Jim the Wing Commander said, "I believe you nearly forgot to switch your search lights on?" The pilot of the first plane interjected, "And rightly so. Those search lights are simply suicidal." The Wing Commander continued to Jim; "but you put your bombs right on the target. Well done, I don't know how you did it." An answer seemed to be required. Quietly Jim replied in language not usually reserved for wing commanders, "And I am not going to tell you either. If you really are interested you're welcome on the next raid. You can get a good view from the front turret. Of course you may be blinded as I was by the search lights coming at you but the view of incoming flak needs to be seen to be appreciated. It seems to go right through you. I can't guarantee that you will tell the tale."

The Wing Commander did not take up the offer but said he understood the pilots concerns and he could see they must be over tired and ready for sleep. The first pilot interjected, "I expect to see those lights all night, but then never again!"

Of course, they both saw the searchlights again and again. Accuracy was improved certainly, but the first pilot eventually drew his short straw. Jim made sure he retained his navigator and only switched his search lights on at the very last minute and was credited with a cat's nine lives, and more. But he knew he had also been very lucky.

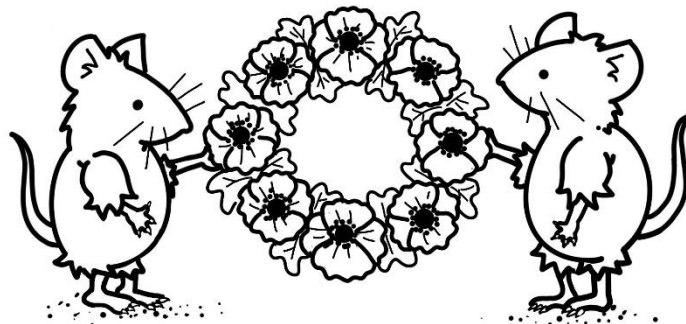
.....

Now boss of his department Jim and his assistant had had a particularly stormy meeting with the Treasury which had plans for certain legislation. In the end Jim took them through the proposals ponderously step by step setting out in no uncertain terms precisely why each step of the proposals could not work and underlining why. He said if the issue had been properly considered, its severe short comings should have been recognised. At one stage he apologised for using the expression "any fool should see that," then continuing, "but at the time, no other phrase seemed to fit the bill."

The Chief Secretary was furious. Jim listened to his outburst and then, after an interval, slowly let his penetrating eyes travel round the table centring in turn on each of the opposing officials, ending with the Chief Secretary. Only then did he drop his bomb. "This legislation is not fit for purpose and will not be implemented by me. Perhaps you will let me know when you have reflected on it and have a properly considered alternative." In the ensuing uncomfortable, stony silence, he took his time filling his briefcase.

Now he was recovering in the pub with his young assistant who passed him his pint and chaser and asked how Jim had the nerve to speak to the Chief Secretary in his "somewhat direct manner!" Jim fixed him with this penetrating eyes and said with a smile: "They should be grateful. So many elected politicians especially junior ministers with careers in front, see their role as a reforming one in accordance with dreams and Party interest. So often they are not up to understanding the realities of life and sometimes too lazy to find out or even listen. When they have thought about it they will appreciate I stopped them making fools of themselves. Laddie, if you were brought up in the Gorbals and flew Wellingtons, a Chief Secretary would mean nothing to you either, especially when he is wrong."

Harry Ingram



Help your hedgehogs this autumn

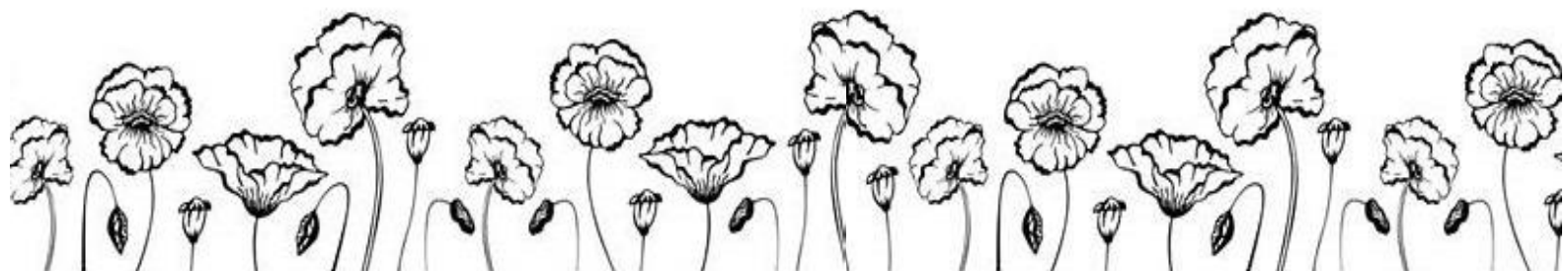
With our warmer British autumns, hedgehogs now tend to begin hibernation later – in December or January. In the meantime, it is critical that they build up enough body weight to get them through those lean, bleak weeks of January to April... so now is the time to help them, by feeding them.



The hedgehog is carnivorous and, in the wild, lives on a diet of beetles, earthworms and other invertebrates. But in the winter, the bugs are dead or buried, and the worms deep underground. So – a hedgehog would appreciate your help! But don't put out milk and bread – both are

actually bad for hedgehogs. Instead, they will thrive on tins of dogfood or non-fishy cat-food and water.

And while your spiny guests are noisily munching their dinner, you can prepare a bedroom, should they decide to move in. A nice deep compost heap will keep a hedgehog warm. It is also possible to buy hedgehog hibernation nests – ask our local wildlife centre or the RSPCA for details.



News from the Church of England

Youthscape charity and Church of England partner to reach more young people

The Church of England is to work with a youth charity to equip parishes to reach more young people with the Christian message.

A £1.29 million grant from the Archbishops' Council will fund work led by Youthscape to help parishes connect with young people and recruit and train church volunteers for youth work.

The Launchpad scheme, run by Youthscape, has already been successfully piloted in the Dioceses of Blackburn, London and St Albans. So far, the scheme has helped 140 Church of England priests to formulate plans to work with young people in their parishes.

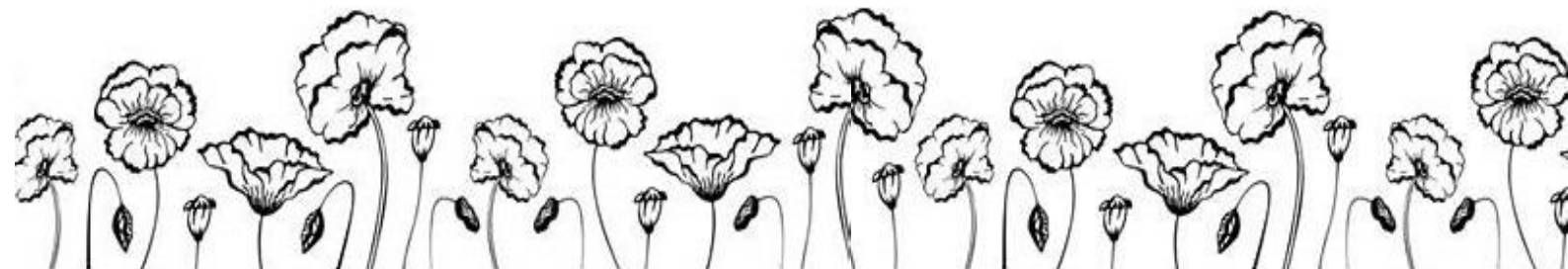
Under the new funding arrangements, the scheme will be expanded to 450 churches across 18 dioceses over the next three years with the potential to engage with up to 4,000 young people.

The grant will also fund training produced by Youthscape for up to 2,500 church volunteers to do youth work and resources to support youth work in up to 2,000 churches or groups.

Chris Curtis, Chief Executive of Youthscape, said: "We're excited to be able to serve the Church of England in this way and we are looking forward to working with parishes and benefices in every context – from rural to suburban and urban. "Young people have so much to bring to the life of the church and we hope our work will be part of our shared vision to grow younger."

The Church of England aims to double the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030 under its Vision and Strategy for the future.

Youthscape is a Christian charity supporting the church to deepen and develop work with young people. The Archbishop of Canterbury is its patron.



All in the month of NOVEMBER

It was:

175 years ago, on 4 November 1847 that Scottish obstetrician James Young Simpson discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. He helped popularise its use in medicine.

Also 175 years ago, on 8 November 1847 that Bram Stoker, Irish-born British writer, was born. He is best known for his Gothic horror novel Dracula.

125 years ago, on 15 November 1897 that Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, British politician was born. He was the Minister of Health 1945-51 who led the establishment of the National Health Service.

100 years ago, on 4 November 1922 that British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen. On 26 November he reached a second sealed doorway and discovered the famous treasures.

80 years ago, on 5 November 1942 that the WW2 Second Battle of El-Alamein ended. British troops led by Generals Alexander and Montgomery defeated Rommel's German forces in Egypt. On 10 November, Winston Churchill announced: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

75 years ago, on 20 November 1947 that the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, took place at Westminster Abbey in London.

70 years ago, on 1 November 1952 that the USA carried out the first successful detonation of a hydrogen bomb, in a test on the Pacific island of Elugelab, Marshall Islands. The island was completely destroyed and no longer exists.

65 years ago, from 16 to 26 November 1957 that the first London Film Festival was held, at the National Film Theatre. (Now BFI Southbank.)

60 years ago, on 20 November 1962 that the Cuban Missile crisis ended and US President John F Kennedy lifted the military blockade of Cuba.

40 years ago, on 2 November 1982 that Channel 4 Television was launched in the UK.

Also 40 years ago, on 30 November 1982 that Michael Jackson's album *Thriller* was released.

30 years ago, on 11 November 1992 that the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994.

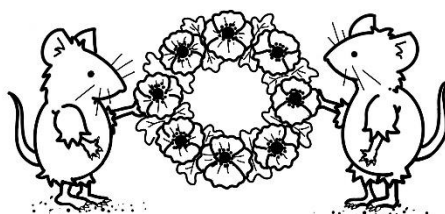
Also 30 years ago, on 20 November 1992 that the Windsor Castle fire broke out in a private chapel and spread to a large part of the building. Damage was extensive and took five years to repair, at a cost of £40 million. Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time to help raise the money.

25 years ago, on 17 November 1997 that the Luxor massacre took place in Egypt. Islamic militants killed 62 people (mainly tourists) outside the Temple of Hatshepsut archaeological site in Deir el-Bahari.

20 years ago, on 11 November 2002 that Microsoft founder Bill Gates pledged \$100 million to help fight AIDS in India.

Also 20 years ago, on 15 November 2002 that Myra Hindley, one of the notorious 'Moors Murderers' (with Ian Brady) died.

15 years ago, on 19 November 2007 that Amazon released its first Kindle e-book reader.



CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Tuesday 1st November All Saints' Day

Wednesday 2nd November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 3rd November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
5.00pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 6th November 3rd Sunday before Advent (*Green Sunday*)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in the Hall

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in the Hall and Online

4.00pm Family Service – in the Hall

**6.00pm All Souls' Memorial Service – in Church
and Online**

Wednesday 9th November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 10th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 13th November 2nd Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

9.45am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

followed by Act of Remembrance with Junior Church

Wednesday 16th November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

7.30pm Collation & Induction of Revd Anna Moore
as Vicar of St Matthew's Redhill

Thursday 17th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 20th November Christ the King

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 23rd November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 24th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 26th November 8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance in the Hall

Sunday 27th November 1st Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
with Junior Church

6.00pm Taizé Service

Wednesday 30th Nov St Andrew the Apostle

3.25pm T-Time Tales

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2022

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

Sunday 4th December 2nd Sunday of Advent (*Green Sunday*)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in the Hall
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in the Hall and Online
4.00pm Family Service – in the Hall

Wednesday 7th December 3.25pm T-Time Tales

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

Sunday 11th December 3rd Sunday of Advent
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 14th December Holmesdale School Nativities

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

Saturday 17th December 8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance in the Hall

Sunday 18th December 4th Sunday of Advent
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
6.00pm Carol Service

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

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service in Church
9.00pm First Communion of Christmas

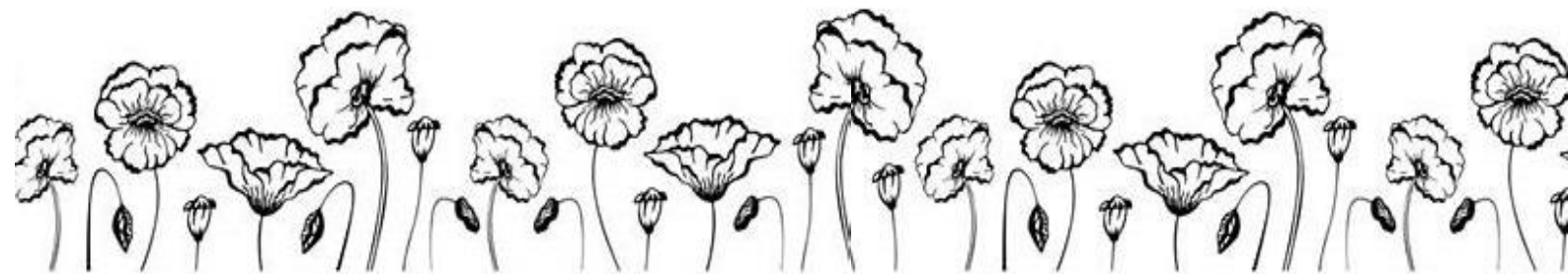
Sunday 25th December Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Monday 26th December St Stephen, First Martyr

Tuesday 27th December The Holy Innocents

Wednesday 28th Dec St John the Evangelist

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.



Strangers and Friends

As a nation are we somewhat reluctant to talk with others we meet for the first time? Although during the worst times of COVID we were often not able to meet each other, our concern for others seemed more acute than now.

I remember travelling on an extremely crowded train in a rush hour. It was standing-room only and everyone in the carriage seemed unfriendly to those around them. Then one lovely chap said in a loud voice: "I have a crossword here and need an answer to this question." Immediately people started to suggest the right word and started to talk in a friendly way with their neighbour. We just needed the crossword man to break the ice.

I think we are all tempted to keep to our clubs or groups who are of a like mind to us. We have become more isolationist, the Scots for Scotland, the Welsh for Wales and the English for England. Then with Brexit we have decided to do all we can to separate ourselves from the rest of Europe. We want to give all our attention to our part of our country. I suppose we cling to those of our faith in the Church of England or to any other faith that we might adhere to. We can feel afraid of those not like us, and perhaps fear unnecessarily the effects of their coming closer to us.

We try to welcome refugees with open arms but we can seem to do all we can to keep them out, whatever their need, and make it difficult to give them a speedy, friendly welcome.

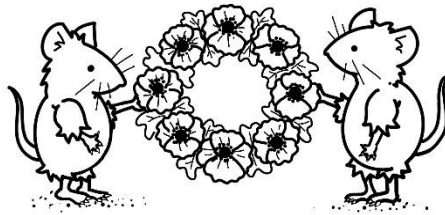
As Christians I believe we should all be concerned and friendly with all people, both those like us and those unlike us, and try to get to know others, listening to their troubles as well as sharing our lives with them. All of us have things to worry about as well, hopefully, as things to celebrate, and isolating us in groups in an effort to keep ourselves comfortable, does not seem to me to be a good way forward.

William Yeats said, "There are no strangers ... just friends you haven't met."

This makes me think of the Christian disciple called Ananias who was approached by God in a vision and told to meet Paul who had been blinded on his way to Damascus. Ananias replied to God, "Surely not. I have heard from many how much evil Paul has done to our people in Jerusalem and has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But despite his objection the Lord said "Go, because he is

the person I have chosen to bring my name to all the people of Israel.” Happily Ananias did as he was told, he laid his hands on Paul and something like scales fell from his eyes and Paul could see once more. So Paul was able to start his ministry, coming closer to those who became Christians, who accepted him just as he came to love those he had earlier seen as enemies. We just need to give others a chance by doing all we can to understand them even if, at first, we seem to be on opposite sides. Then we may well have a fellowship of the Holy Spirit which we ask for when we say the Grace.

Ian Archer



Planting

Whether agriculturalist, small holder or urban gardener, plants do not come magically of their own volition. (Apart from the self-sewn and weeds, always in the wrong place!) They have to be planted and several issues have to be addressed.

Firstly, is the climate suitable for the plant in mind and if not shall we use glass or plastic tunnels to change it? Secondly, time of year; is the rain fall suitable or must we consider irrigation. What about the soil; clay, sandy loam and what is the ph.? Then the ground has to be prepared, ploughed or dug and raked. Next, seeds have to be planted in furrows or drills or maybe, as with grass, broadcast. Then as they appear new plants have to be cared for, weeded, fertilised, pesticides used perhaps and so on. As any gardener knows there is a lot to consider before thrusting forth in hope.

It is interesting that the word plant is also used for real investment in buildings and other processes fixed to the ground.

But growth, whether gardening or driving the economy is an opportunity for change.

Similar requirements to those for growing plants have to be met for economic growth. The first requirement is sufficient, or perhaps new, demand for the actual product in mind. No entrepreneur will thrust forth without the expectation of profit. Forget taxation that only comes into play if there is a profit which cannot be sheltered. And is the demand likely to last or may it ebb away? If the former it may well be worth investing in new capital projects but those take time to get in place and are probably expensive. A real risk. If demand is short term then increased output may come from taking on more labour or working longer hours.

It may be that action has been taken to increase demand in the economy generally. But will that be taken up with expenditure on other items where inflation has raised the price? Or will other priorities such as rising mortgage repayments siphon off the extra cash? Some customers will worry about keeping their jobs rather than buying unnecessary products. If the economic climate is uncertain that neither encourages buyers nor suppliers to take risks.

If prospects look healthy for profit then sources of finance are needed. What will that cost? What is the rate of interest? High rates have to be paid before profit is taken. Higher rates are a disincentive to undertaking growth.

What is likely to be the cost of expansion? Are world prices rising?

The extra plant and, or labour has to be available for expansion. No trouble there in a situation of unemployed labour and plant. But if these are already fully employed the capacity to undertake investment or pay the increased costs of attracting scarce labour may be hard to bear. But its uncongenial to undertake new investment, to say the least, if the cost of old plant has not yet been recovered or labour has to be enticed from elsewhere by higher payments.

Before leaving conditions for growth a word or so on Quantitative Easing is relevant. This is the pumping of new money into the economy and may involve borrowing without a repayment plan. This was condemned by the traditionalists and sometimes the Bank of England itself but widely practised by the Cameron administration. It consists of the Bank putting more cash (in the wider sense) into circulation. This is to stimulate demand and get the economy moving. In a period of unemployment it can be the oil which increases demand and gets a pyramid of increased demand and growth going and which brings back labour and plant into production. However, in full employment it may simply set off a spiral of inflation (in old fashioned terms, more money chasing the same number of goods). To use effectively it should be directed at the area which it is proposed to grow (and not marginal constituencies). Furthermore care needs to be taken that it does not simply disappear into hedge funds producing little and widening income gaps as happened in the U.S. as well as here.

These are some of the considerations necessary for expanding growth, and what not to do. So far as I am aware there is still a gap between the understanding of macro-economic policies (the overall action taken by modern governments) and what happens in the soil where the enterprises grow (micro-economics).

It is generally accepted that the UK economy is not in a good shape. Before the Ukraine war or the onslaught of worldwide inflation the pound dropped by 12 % from January to March 22. That helped cause raise the cost of our food and other imports which later were also rising on world markets. It had already given rise to a record adverse Balance of Payments which in an earlier age would have had the financial press flying around the sky with concerns. Compared with other economies we have

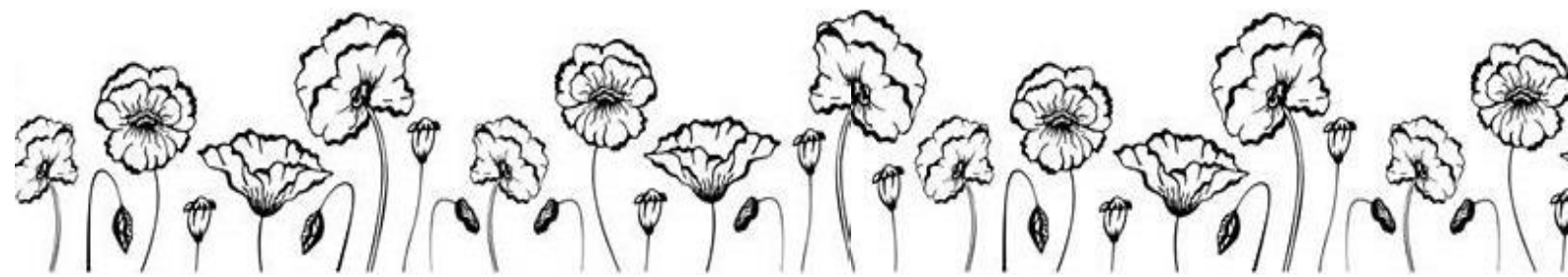
not come well out of Covid. But growth is an opportunity for change. It should not be squandered, as once seemed the case by returning to the past state of affairs; weak pound and an adverse balance. Clearly, we need to stimulate exports but that is not easy when much of the world has similar though lesser economic problems. We can seek to replace imports by things made here. But we should also be subjecting all change to the discipline of reducing the use of fossil fuels, by far the most serious problem.

It is likely that we shall undergo another dose of austerity (call it what you will) and then the question of how to promote growth will later emerge. When that happens it is to be hoped that coping with the necessary conditions and direction of change will receive some debate and attention rather than leaving it to hope.

Now is really the time to think of what needs to be done on the side of growth because it is evident that the whole shape of the economy needs to change not simply to restore our Balance of Trade with the world but to counter climate change, and that change can happen as a result of recovery, if we plan ahead. The shape of the growth is vital.

I will leave my reader to decide from the above how we deal with the current threat of stagflation and whether we are well placed to achieve positive growth, because, as well as economic, that is a political matter.

Harry Ingram



Mind-Changing

I suppose none of us want to change our minds. It is easier to go on thinking the same things we have always thought and if we change our minds in some way we see ourselves as weak, having thought differently before. In some ways we are then challenged to say, "Sorry, I was wrong!" This resistance to saying "Sorry" and to changing one's point of view is seen so often in politics, but it is not just the politicians who try to avoid such a word but the rest of us as well. Sometimes admitting one was wrong builds one up in the opinion of others rather than showing one as weak.

Some changes of mind are because situations or people have changed making any changes that we may consider more urgent.

Some mind-changing is of small importance but others can be life-changing affecting the next portion of our lives if not all the rest of those lives.

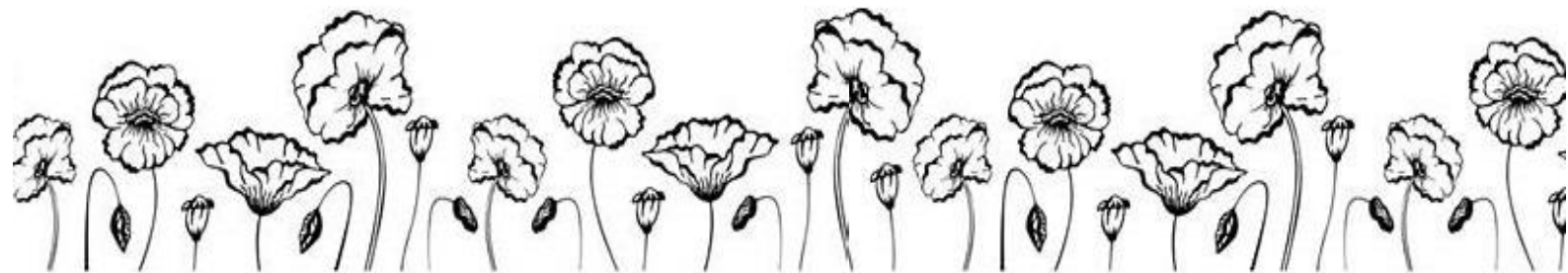
I think many of our opinions originate in our youth when either we follow those of parents or oppose those opinions that our parents shared with us. On the other hand we can be influenced by others who command our respect with their oratory or more importantly the example of their lives as seen by us. To change to their point of view we need to be able to trust the words they say and the actions they have taken which might so impress us. If they have acted in any way we think was wrong we must be convinced that they are determined to turn over a new leaf. What are their motives in life from now on?

Of course we may be influenced by not only live heroes but sometimes those who have already died and left us an example to follow.

Changing our point of view may upset our friends if they, too, don't see a change to be necessary. So in making the change we may lose some friends but hopefully gain new ones in their place.

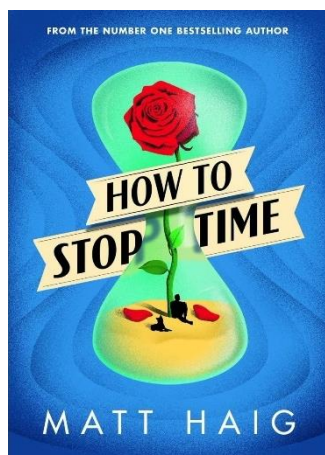
Could Judas have changed his mind at the Last Supper and support Jesus instead of betraying him? We don't know. St Paul on the road to Damascus must have upset many of his Jewish friends when he changed sides to support Jesus so valiantly, but he clearly acquired many Christian friends thereafter and his writings are an inspiration not only to those he was writing to, but to us all, even today.

Ian Archer



Book Review

This month we review: How to stop time



Reading for pleasure is such a wonderful pastime. It offers true escapism from the outside world and invites you into a place only your imagination can create. There is nothing more comforting than being cosied up in a big chair turning the pages of a paperback book and it is that joy which I found reading this book.

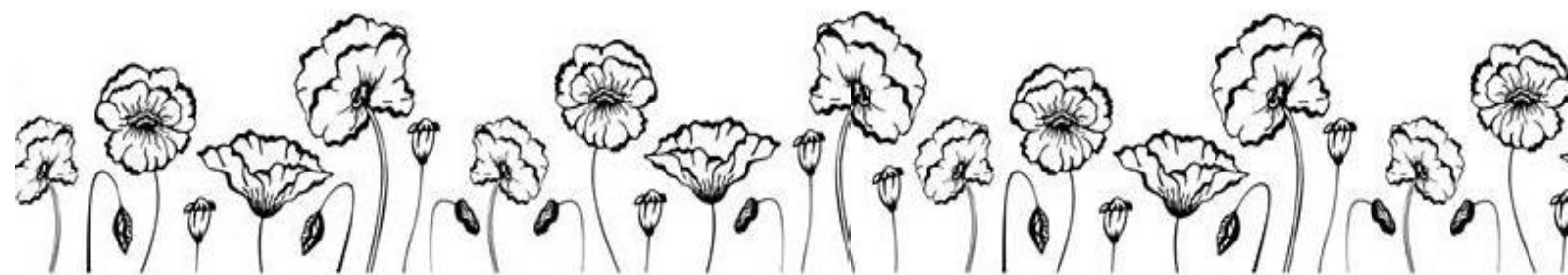
Written by Matt Haig an accomplished writer of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, this story takes you through time with a character called Tom who is inflicted with a condition which slows down the aging process. Whilst for most this seems like a fairy tale dream come true, for Tom the realities are much more difficult.

The lead character has to struggle through losing his loved ones including watching his mother die at the hand of witch hunters and his wife to the plague. He talks of struggling with getting to grips with the modern age and trying to understand his affliction.

Written from the perspective of Tom, he takes you through different eras in his life and shares the difficulties of loneliness, fear and being an outsider.

The author's description of life in each time puts you firmly there better than any virtual reality could. He describes the times and the people with fantastic detail and allows you to indulge your imagination fully.

I would recommend this book as an easy read for anyone looking for something fun to continue or restore a joy of reading a good book. Definitely work switching the TV off for.



Reader recipes

Comfort food for the cold days and nights

Pear Crumble

Ingredients:-

- 4 ripe pears peeled, cored and quartered
- 100g of dark brown soft sugar
- ½ lemon, juiced
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract

For crumble topping:

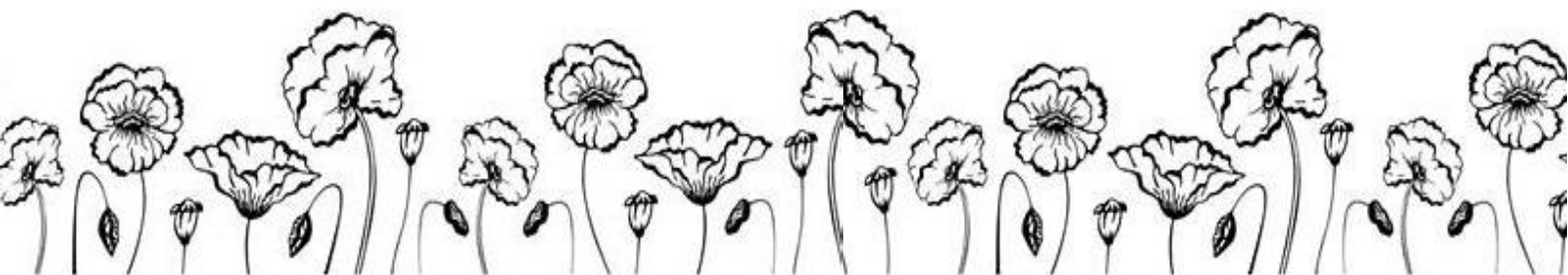
- 250g of plain flour
- 150g of cold butter, cut into chunks
- 75g of dark brown soft sugar
- 50g chopped hazelnuts
- Custard or Ice Cream to serve



Method:-

1. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 4. Lay the pears out in a medium ovenproof dish that fits them snugly. You don't want large gaps between the pears or you won't have enough topping to cover them. Scatter over the sugar and pour over the lemon juice and vanilla. Mix using your hands to coat the fruit well.
2. Tip the flour into a large bowl and rub in the butter using your fingertips until you achieve a coarse breadcrumb texture. Stir in the sugar and hazelnuts, then scatter this over the pears. Try not to pack it down too tightly, so that it remains crumbly when cooked. If you have any crumble topping left over, cook this next to the crumble in a small ovenproof dish (you can scatter it over the bowls of crumble later). Bake for 40-50 mins until golden and the pears are cooked through. Serve with custard.

Recipe taken from Good Food magazine. If you have a recipe you'd like to share email us at magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.



Brockham Choral

INVITE YOU to their concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 3rd December at St. Martin's Church Dorking, RH4 1UX.

Their performance, supported by the British Sinfonietta under the baton of Cole Bendall, will comprise HAYDN 'NELSON MASS', VAUGHAN WILLIAMS FIVE MYSTICAL SONGS, MOZART 'LAUDATE DOMINUM' and 'EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK'

Admission: Adults £16 in advance, £20 on the day, children, students under 25 in full time education £10.

Tickets By email brockhamctickets@gmail.com

More information and tickets at www.brockhamchoral.org



Puzzles

November Sudoku Puzzle

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

October Solution

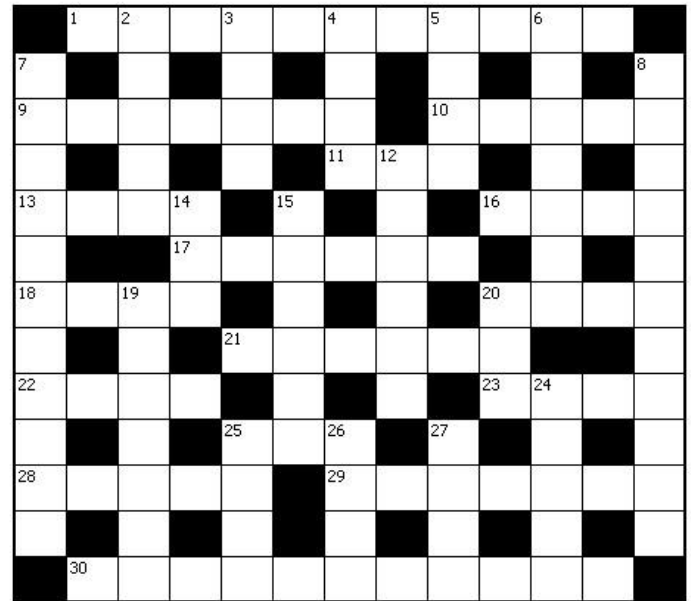
1	2	5	3	7	4	6	8	9
6	8	3	9	5	1	7	4	2
9	7	4	8	6	2	3	1	5
3	9	2	6	1	8	4	5	7
7	6	8	4	3	5	2	9	1
4	5	1	2	9	7	8	6	3
2	1	6	5	8	3	9	7	4
8	3	7	1	4	9	5	2	6
5	4	9	7	2	6	1	3	8

November Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all __, Lord of all __, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you __ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline __ (2,3)
 11 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
 13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but __ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin:
 'We must __ God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner,
 Eareckson Tada (4)
 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got
 into a boat and sat __ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 'No fear of me should __ you, nor should my hand
 be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according
 to the Church's calendar (11)



Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem __ how __ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the __ of God is eternal life in
 Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

October Solution

ACROSS: 1 Lawyer 4 Balsam 8 Caleb 9 Jehoram 10 Sparrow 11 Exile 12 Excellent 17 Act in 19 Endemic
 21 Slavery 22 Galal 23 Silent 24 Tarsus

DOWN: 1 Locust 2 Welfare 3 Ember 5 Athlete 6 Sarai 7 Member 9 Jewellery 13 Condemn 14 Temples
 15 Causes 16 Scales 18 Trail 20 Dogma



A HOME WITH A HEART
RESIDENTIAL ♦ RESPITE ♦ DAYCARE

We offer people in their retirement the opportunity to live in comfortable surroundings, in a relaxed and secure family environment, with the degree of care necessary to enhance their quality of life.

- ♦ Good wholesome, home-cooked meals
- ♦ Weekly hairdresser & regular chiropodist
- ♦ Large garden with patio, summerhouse & pergola
 - ♦ In-house entertainment
 - ♦ Social activities & outings arranged

88 Doods Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0NR
admin@ridgewayhome.org.uk

01737 242926

www.ridgewayhome.org.uk

Bullimores



ESTABLISHED
1928

Accountants for Life

- Tax
- Accounts
- Probate
- Inheritance Tax
& Executorship

Bullimores LLP licensed to carry out the reserved legal activity
of non-contentious probate in England & Wales by the ICAEW



For advice, call us on: **01306 880880** | Email: **partners@bullimores.co.uk** | Web: **www.bullimores.co.uk**



Looking for a care home for your loved one? Look no further!

The Reigate Beaumont is a home oozing charm and character, offering first-class 24-hour nursing and residential care in Surrey. Reigate Beaumont is proud of its beautifully maintained and nurtured award-winning gardens which both residents and visitors to the home can enjoy all year around.

The Reigate Beaumont has en-suite fully furnished bedrooms which can be personalised, beautiful lounge areas with stunning views as well as elegant dining rooms in a relaxed atmosphere. Our team of highly-qualified and attentive staff really focus on the individual needs of our residents with a bespoke care plan for each person. Our dedication to personalised care can be seen across the board - in our cooking, hospitality and organising activities for our residents.

For more information do take a look at our website
www.barchester.com/home/reigate-beaumont-care-home, send an email
to **Reigate.Reception@Barchester.com** or give us a call on **01737 225544**

Abbeyfield House at 34 Somers Road, Reigate is a friendly, happy place.

In our affordable family style house we provide a careful combination of independence with support, privacy with companionship.

Residents have their own rooms, furnished by themselves, with meals provided by our House Manager. We are part of the nationwide Abbeyfield movement but the Reigate House is managed independently by local volunteers to provide sheltered accommodation for active independent senior citizens at very reasonable all-inclusive rates.



Please call the House Manager (01737 247928) for more information.

Graham Williams Decorating

20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE / NVQ QUALIFIED / INSURED

Tel: 01737 646028

Mobile: 07985 940083

grahamw777@hotmail.co.uk

Interior and Exterior work

Free estimates



Stoneman Funeral Service

Head Office and Funeral Home
Doran Court
Reigate Road, Redhill
Tel: 01737 763456



An Independent Family Business
Est: 1865

PREPAID FUNERAL PLANS

ALSO AT

49 Bell Street Reigate
Tel: 01737 243164

ANTIQUE FURNITURE RESTORATION

**ALL ASPECTS OF
FURNITURE REPAIRS
AND
POLISHING
UNDERTAKEN
INCLUDING MODERN
FURNITURE
30 YEAR'S EXPERIENCE
FREE ADVICE AND
ESTIMATES GIVEN
CALL**

**STEVE PEACOCK
01883 743879**

SURREY HILLS
HYPNOTHERAPY
Samantha Rivett



SOLUTION
FOCUSED CLINICAL
HYPNOTHERAPIST

I CAN HELP WITH:

Stress ▲ Low mood
Fears and phobias
Confidence ▲ Motivation
Sleep problems
Pain management
Sports performance
Anger management
Weight loss motivation
Addictions ▲ and more...

Contact me on: 07549 017855
www.surreyhillshypnotherapy.co.uk

*Inspiring change, finding
solutions and creating positivity*