



**St Mark's Parish Magazine
September 2024**



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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
26 September 2024

All contributions to the editor by
Monday 16 September 2024

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

I always feel that September is a month of new beginnings, and often new beginnings come after something else comes to an end. A few weeks ago children and parents geared up to the end of term, the end of the school year, perhaps even the end of schooling for some! Perhaps a period of employment ended before the summer break. As different things come to an end, new beginnings will be ahead – new classes, university, college, retirement, moving to a new house, new relationships, a new job with new challenges and I am sure you can think of many more, perhaps some you are experiencing yourself.



I wonder how many of these things however exciting they are may be, actually fill us with apprehension or anxiety, and how many we run towards with excitement and vigour, or perhaps a mixture of both. Yet each new day has the opportunity for something new, something exciting, a new chapter to embrace. A chance to invite God into those new beginnings, and to ask Him for his strength, support, encouragement and guidance.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5.17). This verse, written by St Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, is an incredible promise for all who choose a new beginning, a fresh start, in Jesus Christ. A promise for anyone, not those who have it all wrapped up and sorted, or know the bible chapter and verse, or those who are ‘perfect’ in every way, but for anyone to come and be a new creation in Jesus Christ.

Change can be scary, can be daunting, can feel like stepping into the unknown, but in Christ we are changed and continue to be changed as God works both for us and in us. What an incredible gift that is, a gift for the here and now, for us to receive. God longs to do a new thing in all our lives.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing for this month ahead as you reflect on the endings and look forward to new beginnings.

With every blessing,



CHURCH NEWS

SMART

The SMART meeting on 1 August 2024 was the first of our "Getting to Know You" meetings where members of the SMART group tell us more about their background (where they grew up, their family, something of their life to date, and additional interesting anecdotes) in a light touch interview style.



The first people we met with were Veronica Shepherd and Sylvia Weatherald (see picture). Our thanks to them both for volunteering to be interviewed. The next "Getting to Know You" meeting will be on 7 November.

Bruce Cousins

FOOD IS A BASIC NEED



You have probably read in the weekly news sheet our regular reminders about the shortage of donations for our local foodbanks. I know from personal involvement with one of the local foodbanks that there really is a great need within the local community.

Reigate is not exempt from food poverty and we can all help in a small way to prevent this. The foodbanks all work in similar ways, basing food parcels on a standard shopping list. (You can access this list on the St. Matthew's Redhill website).

For our celebration of harvest this year, I am hoping that the St. Mark's family will be able to gather an abundance of tins! Tinned vegetables, potatoes, fruits, meat or vegetarian casseroles and tinned meats are always needed.

I envisage putting up our window shelves and inviting everyone to bring and arrange their contribution of tinned items on the shelves on Friday 4 or Saturday 5 October. It would be wonderful to see the shelves piled high for our Harvest Festival on Sunday 6 October.

I hope you will be happy to rise to this challenge. Tins, tins and more tins! Please do not bring any perishable foods or out of date items.

Thank you.

Valerie Jones



News from the Church of England

End the 'scandal' of the need for food banks, General Synod hears

Public policy needs to address the 'root causes' of rising levels of poverty, the General Synod heard in a debate where members voted to express concern over increasing levels of dependence on food banks.

Synod members noted the 'major contribution' to social welfare being made by churches and others in the provision of food banks but said some organisations providing emergency food aid were being driven to 'breaking point' by demand.

Members welcomed help that was provided under the previous Government to less well-off households but noted that this had not solved dependence which is being driven by 'serious inadequacies' in the social security system.

The Synod voted to back a call for the Church of England bishops to press the Government for a review of the adequacy of social security provision and consider the feasibility of introducing an 'Essentials Guarantee.'

The Guarantee would tie the rate of benefits to the cost of essentials, measured annually through an independent process.

The Synod voted further to urge the bishops and in particular those in the House of Lords to engage with the Government and "strongly encourage" the Government to do "everything possible" to bring about an immediate end to the two-child benefit limit.

Introducing the debate, on the Sheffield Diocesan Synod motion, Ven Malcolm Chamberlain, from the Diocese of Sheffield, told the Synod that the need for food banks was "nothing short of a scandal".

He quoted figures from the Trussell Trust charity that their food banks had distributed more than 3.1 million emergency food parcels during the year ending in March.

This was the biggest number of parcels ever distributed in a single year, he said, and nearly double the number distributed five years ago. More than a million of these were to households with children, he added.

He said The Children's Society expects the number of children living in poverty in the UK to reach five million this year.

"Foodbanks are an essential provision, but the Trussell Trust and others agree that they and other social initiatives are not a satisfactory way of tackling the underlying problem of poverty in our society," he said.

“Public policy needs to go further upstream to address the root causes.” He added: “Poverty is causing too much suffering and damage for us to simply accept it as an unavoidable inevitability.” “Despite the financial challenges, we are not a poor nation incapable of caring for our most vulnerable citizens.”

The debate heard several speakers from across the country giving examples of churches providing help to people struggling to cover basic costs.

The Rev Claire McArthur, from the Diocese of Coventry, described the need in the poorest areas of the diocese and spoke of the extent of the support provided by churches to destitute people and struggling families.

“It is heart-breaking that families are struggling,” she said. “As churches we build relationships with the families and thankfully they are reaching out for help when their own support networks have been exhausted. Through our pastoral care and frontline ministry and importantly trust, our local churches are stepping in, but we have limited resources and capacity. Something needs to change.”

The Rev Mae Christie, from the Diocese of Southwark, said: “How can we live in a modern society where children regularly go to bed without food in their bellies where parents have to seek support to buy nappies and baby wipes?”

“As Christians we believe that all children bear the image of God and are a gift from God. It is our responsibility then as adults to encourage their flourishing and care for them.”

The wording of the Sheffield Diocesan Synod on food banks and inadequacies in social security is as follows:

That this Synod, mindful that the fourth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is to “transform unjust structures of society”:

- a. *note the major contribution to social welfare being made by the churches and others in the provision of food banks*
- b. *note with concern that levels of dependence on food banks have been increasing and that inflation is making the situation even worse*
- c. *note further that 2/3 of those who use food banks have disabilities or long-term health conditions who find it nearly impossible to navigate the benefits system and be supported adequately, and so applaud the incredible ministry and example of these churches and others who tirelessly run food banks, whilst lamenting and acknowledging the incredible personal and financial cost to this, which is driving some organisations to breaking point.*
- d. *believe that this dependence reflects serious inadequacies in the social security system*

- e. *note that the Trussell Trust has said: "we stand on the edge of a precipice with a clear decision to make: either we accept food banks as a 'new normal' or we work to create a more dignified, compassionate and humane society where everyone has enough money for essentials"*
- f. *welcome the Chancellor's intervention to help the least well-off households with their energy bills but note this will not remove the problem of increased dependency on foodbanks*
- g. *call on the House of Bishops to urgently engage with HM Government, in particular the Secretary of State, to press it to review the adequacy of current social security provision and consider the feasibility of introducing an Essentials Guarantee.*
- h. *Believing that all children are a gift from God and bear the image of Christ, urge the House of Bishops and in particular the Lords Spiritual, to use every opportunity available to them to engage with the new Government and strongly encourage them to do everything possible to bring about an immediate end to the two child benefit limit, which disadvantages families and forces large numbers of children into the use of food banks or to otherwise go hungry.*

The General Synod voted 274 in favour; against 1 and 0 abstentions.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 – Be the Change

FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 will run from the 9th of September – 22nd of September.

It's 30 years since Fairtrade products first hit the shelves and this year for Fairtrade Fortnight, they are spotlighting how YOU can Be the Change, by choosing Fairtrade every time. 30 years of Fairtrade sales have meant over £1.7 billion in Fairtrade Premium. That's given more power to farmers, driving real change in their communities.

Their goal is more than people just being aware, it's about them encouraging an active choice to support over 2 million Fairtrade farmers and workers across 58 countries, wherever possible, to ensure they can earn a fairer wage.

This year's campaign will highlight that however big or small a purchase this Fairtrade Fortnight, you have the power to #BeTheChange.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>
<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>



S · M · O · A · T

40 YEARS OF OVERSEAS AID

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 280091

QUIZ NIGHT

**SMOAT WELCOMES BACK HELIER DREUX
WITH HIS MUCH ACCLAIMED ILLUSTRATED QUIZ**

£15 TICKET INCLUDES CHILLI SUPPER

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024

**DOORS OPEN AT 7.15PM FOR 7.30 START
ST MARK'S CHURCH CENTRE, REIGATE**

**We will be funding a project in Malawi which supports
children orphaned by AIDS.**

**TABLES OF 8 - BRING A TEAM OR JUST JOIN A
TABLE ON THE NIGHT**

For tickets email chair@smoat.org.uk or go to
www.smoat.org.uk to find a link to TicketSource



Changes

Although our voting in the recent election seemed to indicate that we voters wanted "Change", perhaps in general ways most of us are resistant to change. Our world and environment are changing so fast we sometimes think "Stop! I want to get off!"

Sometimes we have to accept change as a result of the alteration of our circumstances, age or health. As we get older, it is comforting to visit old buildings and churches, watch old films and even browse in books we have read before, as they are examples of what we remember of the past, in so far as they haven't changed.

Consistency can often be admired, and politicians are criticized if they change their minds. We can feel that to stick by what we have always believed is being strong-minded and to be applauded. Even if we begin to doubt some of our earlier beliefs, we feel we must be strong and not be open to new ideas.

Nevertheless, I believe we should listen to others, not necessarily continuing in our own earlier convictions. It can be a strength to be prepared to change our mind as situations change and as we change.

Situations, places and people change over the years. As my daughter-in-law reminded me, Marcus Aurelius' favorite poet, Heraclitus, once said "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man." Even if buildings we knew as children are still there as before, they will look smaller as we have grown larger. But those buildings may have been altered or knocked down and we ourselves have been changing, too. How lucky it is if a married couple or 2 friends have each changed in the same way and so can still be easily together after years go by.

It is remarkable that some leaders do not shine as stars until they are offered the opportunity of the change to being in charge. One's underlying basic faith should remain, even as we change, but maybe we need to change our views on aspects of that faith, such as the acceptance of women priests and the marriages of those of the same sex?

I suppose there are many things we are not certain of, and what is so important is to listen to others, as they will be on a different stage in their journey in life than we are. Although this may do nothing to change our views, it will bring us closer to that other person, which must be a good thing. When I went to the Holy Land last year with fellow Anglicans and Roman Catholics, we also had with us a Muslim to be sure of his views, too.

To sum up, I do hope we can grow to accept changes more and more as they become necessary in our lives.

Ian Archer



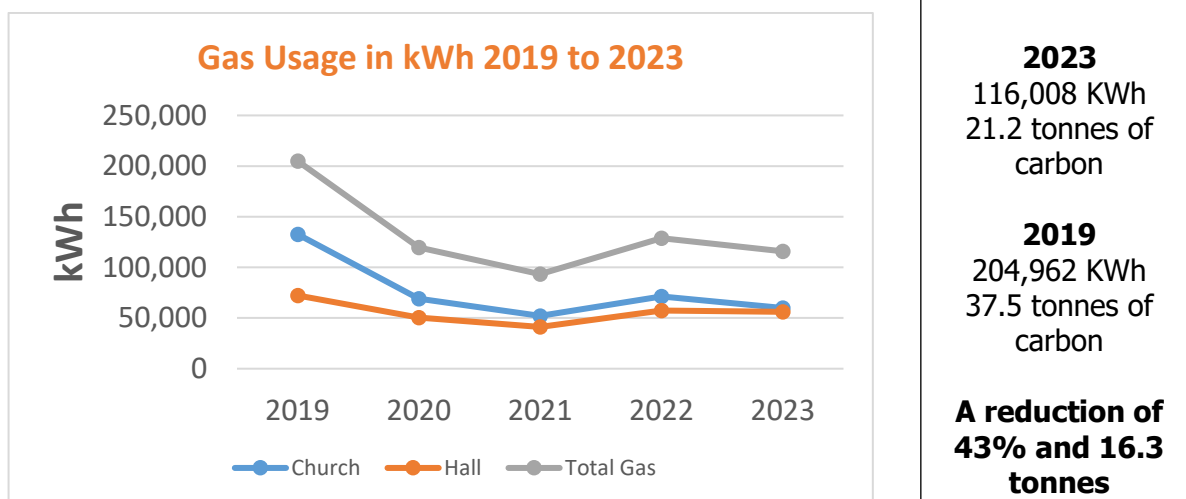
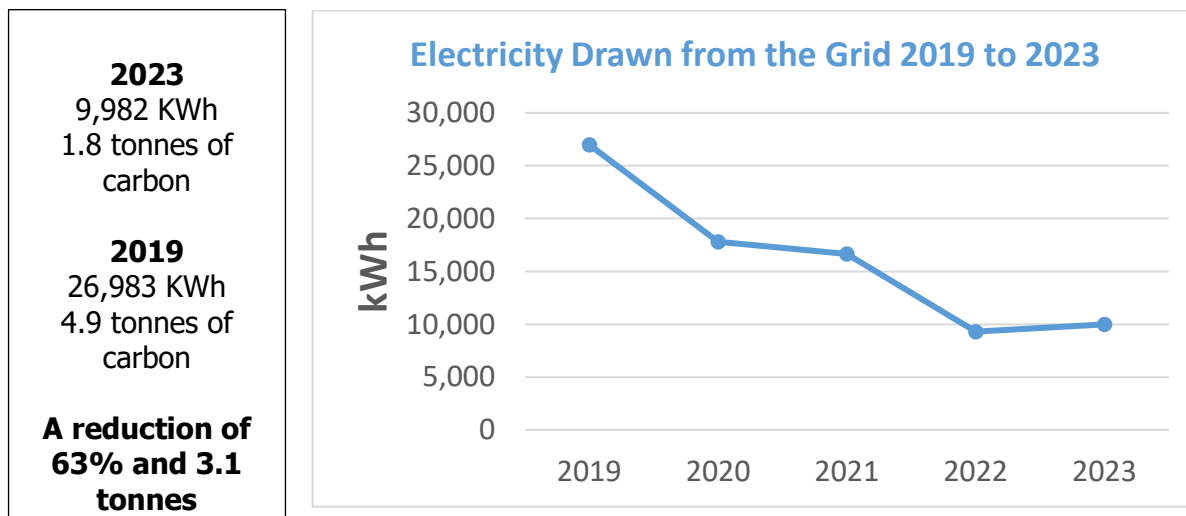
Aiming for Net Zero Carbon by 2030

Here at St Mark’s we are committed to aiming for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and we have made good progress so far:

- Installing solar panels and batteries to reduce electricity drawn from the grid
- Converting more lighting to LED in both the hall and church
- Holding services in the hall on “Green Sundays” to reduce gas consumption
- Installing remotely operated thermostats to monitor heating more closely
- Using the hall rather than the church whenever possible

The next step is to replace all the church lighting which currently uses expensive halogen bulbs with fittings which will use LED bulbs. The cost of this project will be almost £20,000 but we have been accepted onto a matched grant scheme being run by the Church of England so only have to raise £10,000 of that ourselves.

These graphs demonstrate how much we have achieved in the last few years through a change in mindset and a conscious effort to get to Net Zero by 2030. More information will be available shortly on how you can help us go further!



CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st September 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm Family Service

Thursday 5th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 8th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 11th September 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 12th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 14th Sept Holy Cross Day

Sunday 15th September 16th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 18th September 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 19th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 21st Sept St Matthew, Apostle

8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 22nd September 17th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Wednesday 25th September 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 26th September 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 29th September St Michael and All Angels

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

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.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2024

Wednesday 2nd October 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 3rd October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
2.00pm SMART

Sunday 6th October Harvest Festival
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm All-age Harvest Worship
5.00pm Harvest Supper

Wednesday 9th October 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 10th October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 13th October 20th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 16th October 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 17th October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Friday 18th October St Luke the Evangelist
Saturday 19th October 8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 20th October 21st Sunday after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 23rd October 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 24th October 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 27th October Bible Sunday
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Taizé Prayer

Monday 28th October St Simon and St Jude, Apostles
Thursday 31st October 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.



Old Crocks

All too soon it will be the time for the Old Crocks Race. As a boy my father saw his first "horseless carriage" late at night and ran home in terror. Those ancient carriages decorated by ladies with wide hats made possible by ridiculously long scarves, both evidence of the never-ending search for romance as demonstrated by Kenneth Moore in that light-hearted "Genevieve".

Last month I found myself in the company of a young trainee doctor and a recent graduate in Physiotherapy. Conversation wandered widely and soon they were steaming past our thoughts like an express train alongside the Old Crocks. At the time it seemed a new experience for me; no subject was beyond their examination. Even belief had a new twist to it. Just think of it. The younger one was not born till I had been retired ten years! My earlier life flashed by leaving me stranded. I am definitely past my sell by date. There was a time when age brought wisdom but today it only brings redundancy. The progress of technology has left us Old Crocks stranded like a sailing ship on a lee shore.

I am currently filling a hole in my education by reading "The Road to Wigan Pier" written in 1937. You probably read it in your late teens. If so you will remember it. Perhaps one should bear in mind that the new industrial towns were not driven by any social ambition but by the economic change from the domestic industry to the factory system and the wider demand for coal. The first part deals with the incredibly unacceptable living conditions of the poor in the early twentieth century. The next part covers the appalling conditions for workers in the mines with so little understanding by the rest of the population. This is followed by a detailed investigation of the housing market concluding that there simply was not enough physical housing to cope with the population. I am reading on.

His attention to detail and supporting evidence leaves little doubt that what Orwell describes is reality and not fiction. Interestingly he devotes one section to the universal dependence of society on coal, a fossil fuel. Without it few activities could be supported and then additionally, of course it was the main fuel in homes for both heating and cooking. He understood our dependence on fossil fuels perhaps better than we do. He also touches on the consequent pollution but not quite so far as making the connection to climate.

He sets out the excuses of his times for allowing such poverty in an essential industry, such as "they know no better", "they don't feel it like we would", "it's the result of laziness! They should find work". This, at the time of the Great Depression. There seemed to be no understanding that the wealth of so many was built on the backs of near slave but essential workers. And this was the thirties not the black days of the nineteenth century.

His descriptions are drawn mainly from Wigan but fit the template of most northern towns. One must remember that in the south at that time there was first the boom in twenties semi-detached estates followed in the thirties by the same with cavity walls. These privately financed developments to some extent allowed a movement away from inner slums but carried the same problems of improving the social conditions but with longer, expensive journeys to work and the shops. Anonymity and another consequence resulted from sprawl.

Of course, things are much better now. "You may be hungry but there is social security, the TV, charity shops and food banks". Until recently those with more than two children were accused of lack of responsibility, but now the traditional population of the West is declining, the cry is for more children; by others of course. Most problems are the fault of others, but population decline never solved the housing problem. The reason there is, of course, immigration, but "we don't want immigrants!" they say.

His section on the state of housing though painting a very much worse situation than today also suggests similarities. The law exacerbated the severe shortage of houses for workers. Families often lived in two rooms with leaky roofs and mould with rising damp, just as shown on TV News today. Restricted diets still bring ill health and social tensions. Today, as then, building levels are generally recognised on all sides to be far too small but developers prefer to build four or five bedroom detached for the rich who can pay for (surplus?) space whilst "affordable housing" is so cramped that that its future may well be more slums. The solution is still more new towns in Green Belts.

In that respect Orwell notes that although the behaviour of the poor is formed by living conditions, their replacement by estates perhaps surprisingly does not seem to result in happiness. This is a complex problem which today as then evokes much discussion but little action.

I have concluded that besides the fact that old models break down more often than new ones, that today's Old Crocks have too much time to think. "More work is needed for the over nineties!" The rest of society has too much to do with their own plight or ambitions, be it promotion or consumption, to have time for the future whether, it be poverty or climate change.

Old Crocks ponder on the future but haven't the time or energy to do, "owt about it!". Perhaps basically mankind lives in the present and has never been good at foresight. Along with the natural world we wait to adapt rather than to act. But not every plant or animal does adapt, only the fittest or most flexible. As with the poor we have treated the natural world with too little respect and perhaps like the dinosaur, not to mention the over nineties, we have had our time.

Harry Ingram



All in the month of September

It was:

75 years ago, on 1 Sept 1949 that the Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer, Gene Autry, nicknamed the 'Singing Cowboy'.

70 years ago, on 15 Sept 1954 that the iconic photograph of Marilyn Monroe's billowing skirt as she stood over a New York subway grate was taken during filming for *The Seven-Year Itch*. The event was staged as a publicity stunt.

60 years ago, on 4 Sept 1964 the Forth Road Bridge opened in Scotland. It links Edinburgh to Fife across the Firth of Forth. (A second bridge, the Queensferry Crossing, opened in 2017 and largely replaced it.)

40 years ago, on 10 Sept 1984 that British geneticist Alec Jeffreys discovered genetic fingerprinting, also known as DNA profiling. It allowed criminals to be identified from hair, blood, or sweat left at crime scenes. It also allowed families to trace their lineages or determine the paternity of children.

10 years ago, on 18 Sept 2014 that the Scottish independence referendum was held. The citizens of Scotland voted to remain in the UK rather than becoming an independent country. (Independence: 44.7%; Remain in the UK: 55.3%)



Prayer for September 2024

Lord, here we are in September – a beautiful month at the end of the summer, but before the autumn has taken hold. A month of excitement and new starts for many, a month when courage is needed for our children and young people.

And Lord we pray for courage, compassion and integrity for our new Prime Minister and our new government. We pray for justice and peace in our country and in the world.

Help us Lord, to know that you are Lord of September; you are Lord and giver of every new month, every new day, every new minute. Help us to put our trust in you for our adventures and for our mundane everyday routines.

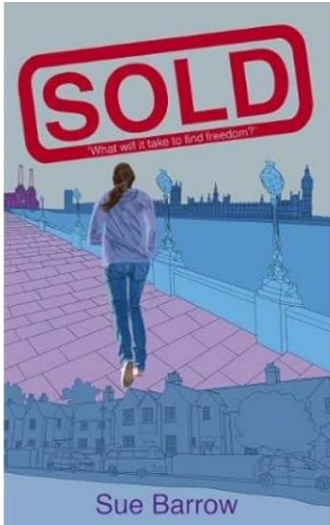
You are our generous, loving Father and promise that you will never leave us or forsake us when we trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Book Reviews



Sold **By Sue Burrow**

15-year-old Roza thinks she's leaving Albania for better things in the UK. As she arrives, she realises her father has sold her to get out of debt.

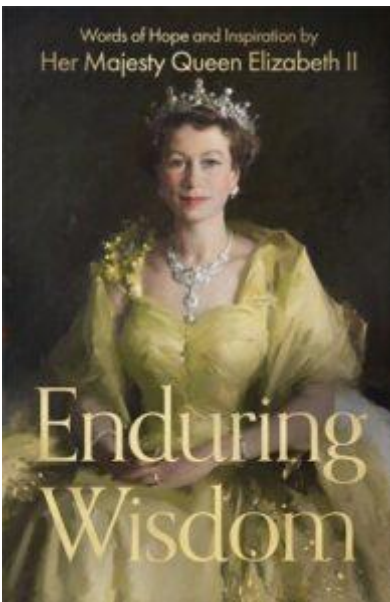
Adelina and Jozif Braka now consider Roza their property. They work her hard, beat and starve her, and refuse to let her go out. But she must tell people they are her parents. She runs to the police, but the Brakas produce a forged birth certificate. She is dismissed as attention-seeking and

returned to them for punishment.

She doesn't think life can get much worse. However, when she tries to escape, she's sent to a holding house full of other enslaved girls.

This is a book written for young people aged 12 and up but don't let that stop you reading what is an engrossing, fast paced plot. Horrific and based on the very real modern slave trade in young people and adults.

Sarah Cousins



Enduring Wisdom – Words of Hope and Inspiration **by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** **By Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

A unique anthology of over 80 inspiring quotations from the late Queen's Christmas speeches, offering an intimate insight into the values she embodied and faithfully promoted throughout her 70-year reign.

This treasury of quotations speak of the qualities that were closest to her heart: courage, empathy, forgiveness, hope, humility, love and respect. These are the qualities that she encouraged in others and that she hoped would endure among all people of goodwill, whatever their religion or race.

Including seven memorable portraits – one from each decade of her reign – this exquisite giftbook offers an inspiring tribute to a world leader whose wise and gracious influence will live in our hearts forever.

Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it.
Email office@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese> .

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

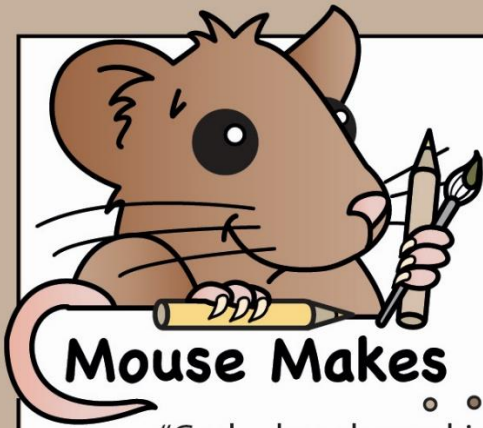
After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
 _____ you, O God!
 May all the peoples praise you!
 The land yields its harvest;
 God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
 giving you rain from heaven
 and crops in their seasons.
 He provides you with
 plenty of _____. He fills
 your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
 and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
 the Lord our God.
 He gives us autumn and
 spring _____
 at the right time.

He makes sure that we
 have the harvest at
 just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
 NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
 FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
 BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

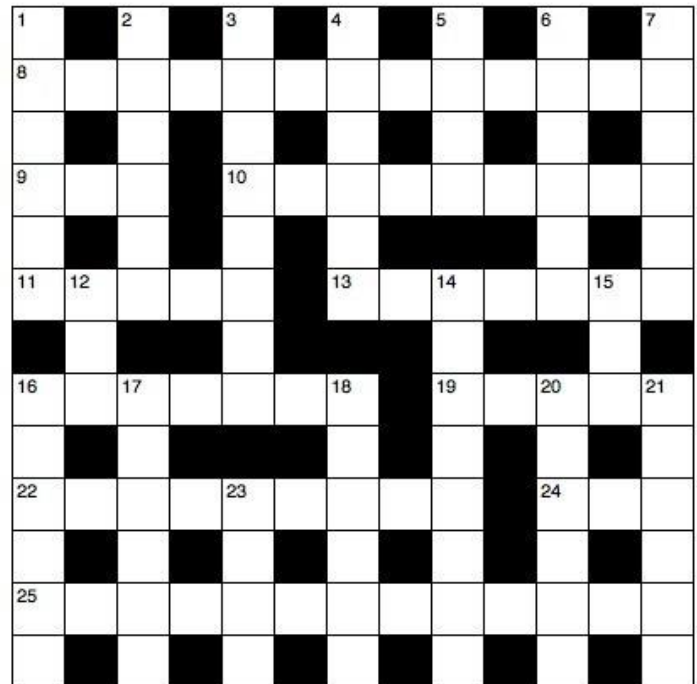
Find the words from the questions too!

September Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)



Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
 2 See 24 Across
 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

August Answers

ACROSS: 1 John 3 And James 8 Near 9 Omission 11 Theocratic 14 Asleep 15 By-path
 17 Stalingrad 20 Backbone 21 Baca 22 Whose eye 23 Seth

DOWN: 1 Jonathan 2 Heavenly 4 No meat 5 Justifying 6 Maid 7 Sins 10 Acceptable
 12 Marriage 13 Shadrach 16 Plenty 18 A bow 19 ECHO

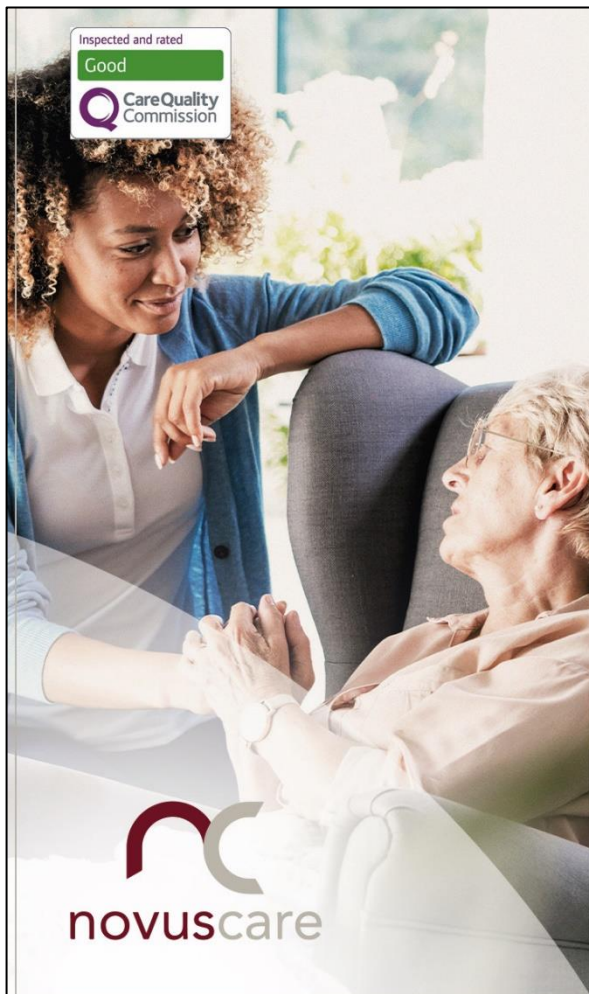
Puzzles

September Sudoku

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

August Solution

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



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