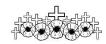


St Mark's Parish Magazine
November 2024



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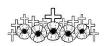
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ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr Terrence Hancock

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Donations to cover the cost of this publication are welcome



In this month's issue

Letter from the Vicar	Page 2
Church News	Page 3
Give to Go Green	Page 5
News from the Church of England	Page 6
Fate	Page 8
War and Peace	Page 8
Calendars	Page 10
The Chicken Farm	Page 12
Prayer for November	Page 13
Book Reviews	Page 14
Salad Days	Page 15
A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church	Page 16
Mouse Makes	Page 17
Crossword	Page 18
Puzzles	Page 19



Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from 28 November 2024 All contributions to the editor by Monday 18 November 2024

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations." (Deuteronomy 32.7)

At the Taizé service in October, this verse was part of the First Reading. During the silence in this service, my thoughts hovered around the concept of "memory" and how key this



is to human development. From infancy we learn the consequences of our actions by experience – for example when we touch something hot and it causes us pain we know not to do it again. It is the memory of the pain associated with the action that deters us from repeating it. When we find something that brings us joy, we want more of it.

Of all the gifts God has blessed humanity with, undoubtedly, our memory is the most precious. Remembering connects humanity with its past and the past is the key to the future. Inventors build on proven knowledge and understanding to imagine new possibilities. Ecologists study observed phenomenon to predict future patterns. Historians document events, for better or worse, and sociologists interpret their impact on society. Learning from the past helps us to shape a more informed future, even if life throws up new challenges.

In these autumn months the Christian church joins in with wider national and international commemorations. Black History Month in October and Remembrance Day in November offer occasions to recognise the contribution of specific groups of people who have changed the course of people's lives by their sacrifice, to acknowledge the human propensity for transgression and to ensure that our current and future actions build on the thoughts etched in our memories towards making a better world.

Remembering is a key theme in any major religion. Did you know that the word "remember" occurs 240 times in the Bible? In the Old Testament as the Israelites, God's chosen people, wander the wilderness in search of the promised land, they are continuously urged to remember God's faithfulness. Remembering helps to connect them with who they are and to redefine their purpose, that they may be sustained as they travel on. In the New Testament, Jesus commands those who would follow him, "Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11.24-25). As Christians gather for Holy Communion, we remember who God created us to be and are re-membered into Christ's body, one with Christ and one with each other. Wherever in the world we are by our remembrance, we become stronger in our faith.

With every blessing,

Monta



CHURCH NEWS

Harvest Festival

Tins, tins and more tins was the challenge set for this year's Harvest Festival. And the parishioners of St Mark's did not fail to deliver.

The tins were used to decorate the window shelves and other areas of the church during Harvest. Thank you to Valerie Jones and her team of volunteers who helped decorate the church so beautifully.

However, this could not have happened without the generous support from our parishioners that kindly donated these items for St Matthew's Food Bank.

The foodbank at St Matthew's is able to carry on, year after, because of continued community wide support.











COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch goes from strength to strength. We now regularly have over 50 guests and many helpers. The helpers range from drivers, cooks, to servers.

All the guests receive a roast lunch, dessert and drinks. They continue to feedback on how they look forward to this as not only do they receive an amazing for £7.50, but they also have an opportunity to catch up with new and old friends.

I would like to thank everyone involved; we can continue to grow this monthly event with more volunteers for all the roles. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.



Some photos taken at Community Lunch on Sunday 13 October where the Mayor and Mayoress of Reigate and Banstead were in attendance.

GIVE TO GO GREEN

St Mark's is fundraising for £20,000 this Autumn



How much do we need to raise?

The lighting project that we want to carry out will cost £19,676. We need to raise half of that amount, which is £9,838, and Give To Go Green will then provide the other half.

What will the project achieve?

We need to replace the current lighting system in the church with a new, energy efficient LED system. This will **reduce carbon emissions and save money** in the future as the electricity requirement for the new lighting system is much lower.

How can you help?

You can make a one-off donation at services or online, or you can give weekly. And you can come along to our dedicated events!

You can donate by using dedicated card readers that will be in the church and hall at each service from the 29th September. Or you can scan the QR code below any time or by coming into the church office.

We must raise all donations in the 6 weeks from 29th September to 9th November. And all donations must be electronic: cash and cheque donations will not count towards our total.

What happens if we raise too much or too little?

We're determined to reach our total but if there's a deficit we'll replace a smaller number of the lights. If we raise more than our target we will put the surplus into a restricted fund for future eco church projects.

What are the autumn fundraising events?

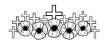
A **Candlelit Concert on 20th October** with a fabulous line-up including St Mark's Singers and organ recital from Fr Martin

Any questions? Please contact Treasurer Mel Crighton, any of the Clergy or Wardens, or Sustainability Committee member Sophia Oliver through the parish office.

Give to Go Green donations go a long way! Each donation is worth more than twice its original value due to match-funding and savings on bills. Donate via the QR code (right) or dedicated card readers.







News from the Church of England

Southwark Celebrates Black History Month

On Saturday 5 October, The Diocese of Southwark held its 17th annual thanksgiving service to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, presided over the service and gave an address recognising and celebrating the contribution of Southwark's Global Majority Heritage church communities.



During a special mission weekend, Archbishop Justin visited the diocese for a range of events in parishes of different contexts and traditions — including the Cathedral — as part of a programme focused on prayer, deepening discipleship and growing faith.

This year's BHM event in partnership with The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education was inspired by the role of music in the scripture: *My soul shall sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteous* (*Psalm 119, v172*). Entitled 'Music at the Heart of Change,' the event included a eucharistic service followed by a panel discussion exploring the profound positive impact music has had on the black community and its power to transform worship and enhance witness – bringing hope, healing, restoration and justice.

The Very Revd Andrew Zihni, Dean of Gloucester preached. During his sermon, Andrew said, "There is something about music that simply transforms, that brings hope and provides a space for healing... all of us are the musicians of God's love."

During the service there were performances by St Saviour's and St Olave's School Gospel Choir and The Nigerian Chaplaincy Worship Team, based in south London.

The first reading *Job 42.1-3, 6, 12-17* was read in Tamil by The Revd Canon Prem Dhanaraj, Honorary Canon and member of the Diocesan Racial Justic committee, and the responsorial psalm was read by The Revd Cordella Dawson, Vicar at St Philip, Norbury. Prayers were led by students from St Saviour's & St Olave's School.

Following the Archbishop's address, attendees listened to a panel discussion facilitated by The Revd Canon Roxanne Eversley, Dean of Cultural Diversity. Archbishop Justin was joined by The Revd Andrew Mumby (Rector at St Peter's Walworth), Sophia Jones (Communications Consultant), Joseph Gilder (Director of Music at St Saviour's and St Olave's C of E School) and Karen Gibson MBE (Founder and Conductor of The Kingdom Choir).

The discussion focused on exploring the powerful impact and influence music has to bring about change in various contexts – each panellist answered a series of questions and was invited to share their own personal testimony and connection with music.

The Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett – lead bishop for racial justice said, "This year's service was an opportunity for us to come together in unity to worship, sing and dance as we celebrate the power of music.

"The national BHM theme: 'Reclaiming Narratives' – marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of black history and culture and our service enabled us to listen to the diverse musical narratives of the Church across all its traditions.

"We are thankful to the Archbishop for his presence and are grateful to have welcomed back Andrew, who shared deeply encouraging words during his sermon. This is a time where we can surely come together and celebrate the rich diversity that is Southwark, as we reflect on music and its power to restore hope and transform our lives."

The day concluded with everyone singing in unison to a chorus of '*How Great Thou Art'*.



Fate

Do we believe that whatever happens to us in life was bound to be so? It was just our fate. As Christians we might be led to believe that all our life, our joys, our successes, our failures and our tragedies were bound to be so as they had been preordained by God. Non-Christians can feel the same in that they feel they have no choice in that what happens was bound to happen anyway.

But such a belief takes away the responsibility of us all to do all we can to improve our individual situations.

We all know that life is not fair in that some of us have been given very different patterns of life, but whatever pattern we are landed with still leaves us with choices as to which path to take in every difficult situation.

As Christians we can thank God for any blessings that we have received and do our best to tackle all problems that lie in our paths as best we can. When tragedies occur, we often want to blame someone and if no one else is around we can try to blame God although I would say it is not really his fault. We can all wonder as to how guilty Judas Iscariot was. He betrayed Jesus, just as many of us have betrayed him since then. Judas' reasons may have been for greed, or to try to make Jesus do the will of Judas rather than the will of God. But we don't read that he blamed God for the temptation that he had received and taken such a tragic course.

So often in life we have the choices of which actions to take and looking back at them there will be some we are pleased about and ones that we regret. But I would say that none of those decisions were pre-ordained but our true choices of our way forward.

Whatever way our pilgrimage takes let us resist the temptation to blame someone else, or even God, for any wrong steps we take.

Ian Archer



War and Peace

John Lennon wrote: 'Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace.' But on Remembrance Sunday, we should reflect on war past and present, and consider the real way to peace.

The way of war: 'What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill.' (James 4:1-2). James reminds us that war has its basis in our own hearts, with the selfish desires that exploit, bully and kill others to get our own way. Sadly, when nations allow these inner selfish attitudes to determine their policy the result is war. Only God can establish true peace.

The way of peace: Isaiah, 2,700 years before John Lennon, also imagined a future of peace without any war: 'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Isaiah 2:4).

Only Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can bring true peace to our lives and world. Jesus did not experience the horror of battle, but He did die an horrific death at the hand of the Romans. He gave His life sacrificially, as He took God's anger at our sin on Himself and went on to conquer death in His resurrection. He did this out of love for us, and calls us to love others in the same way: 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' (John 15:13).

How can we demonstrate such love ourselves? We can be confident in God's plan to bring an end to all wars when Jesus returns.

Parish Pump



Poem Words to Remember

"We will remember them"

The years of remembering go by,
Accumulating name after name
As wars and conflicts continue
In a world, deaf to the lessons of history.
But through the negativity of November
A different remembering brings hope and meaning.
Words of the world's Creator,
Words to make sense of chaos
And bring order and peace in the end.
"In this world you will have trouble,
But take heart!
I have overcome the world."
Words of Jesus.
We will remember them.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Saturday 2nd November 9.00am Garden Tidy Session

Sunday 3rd November All Saints' Sunday – "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

Wednesday 6th November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 7th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

2.00pm SMART

Sunday 10th November 3rd Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church **9.45 am** Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

and Act of Remembrance

1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 13th November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 14th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 17th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

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

4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 20th November 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 21st November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 24th November Christ the King

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

4.00pm Taizé Prayer

Wednesday 27th November3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 28th November 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 30th November St Andrew, Apostle

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 DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st December 1st 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 4th December 3.25pm T-Time Tales

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

2.00pm SMART

Sunday 8th December 2nd **Sunday of Advent**

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

1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 11th December 3.25pm T-Time Tales

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

Sunday 15th December 3rd **Sunday of Advent**

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

4.00pm Messy Church

Thursday 19th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church Saturday 21st December 8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

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

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service

9.00pm First Communion of Christmas

Weds 25th December Christmas Day

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

Sunday 29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

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.



The Chicken Farm

It was a large farm with two big runs and smaller ones for specialist breeds. Each run had its top cock which made a loud racket each morning both welcoming sunrise and hurling insults at its competitor. Each king cock made promises and encouraged the hens in other runs to find ways through the wire to come to him.

In each run there were also many minor cocks some of which had delusions that they could be top cock one day and others were sycophants of the present leadership. Some of the more nosey or peckish hens each day would spend time cackling on about what they saw as interesting bits of "Run News," much of which was pure or even impure, imagination.

The major cocks realised that there was some vague connection between the eggs produced by the hens and the feed which arrived, thrown from a large can twice daily. But they were never quite sure how this worked. Nevertheless, they felt that their own standing was influenced by the number of eggs which the MAN gathered daily. So, they were always encouraging more output with sometimes desperate measures and heart felt appeals to the worker hens.

In turn the hens were perplexed. Their understanding of how the run worked was even more sketchy partly through ignorance or from listening to the messages put about by the major cocks, his minor cocks, or the mindless chatter from other hens. They somehow felt that they had to follow what they heard. It was their duty or justification to produce those eggs. They suffered the continual disappointment from not being able to rear the eggs into chicks but they kept dutifully at it, convinced that their major cock was the only true leader. Some criticised, others sucked up to him but most grumbled but accepted him.

The more "peckish" of the hens were always clucking about what they did not understand or boasting about the food they ate and their main concern was to get the interest of their fellow hens. They focussed on some dramatic version of a particular event or point of view without trying to tell both sides still nonetheless still tell the whole story or identify a solution. They were attention seeking.

Sometimes a few hens would find a way through the wires and then ran up and down the length of the other run seeking entry to the far better food they had been told was there. Occasionality, they got in only to be disappointed.

Major cocks of the smaller runs were even more vocal with promises of more and better food and often they were quite wild in their claims and opinions accompanied by running in irregular circles abusing the major cocks spouting whatever they thought would please most of the hens. Sensible hens ignored them but there was a surprising number which were taken in and became more and more were discontented from

being shut in or anything else which passed their fancy. On one occasion the "MAN" picked up a noisy cock of a specialist run and with a strike of his extended claw chopped off the noisy cockerel's head. But it jumped away and ran vigorously but silently in ever more erratic circles. That brought an end to his constant crowing and protestations.

Occasionally a number of hens would cease laying eggs at the same time and egg production dropped alarmingly. Even the "MAN!" seemed concerned and might even take some chickens away even though they protested vigorously. They never came back. The head cock of the run would also be alarmed thinking his authority was being challenged in some way and he would respond by chasing the hens round his pen, demanding attention and more eggs.

There was one perennial subject which enlivened both major runs. That was what would happen if the wires came down and the two "flocks" merged together? The major cocks were expected to fight and no doubt minor cocks would take sides. The hens speculated on who would be the winner, some apprehensively, some excitedly such a major conflict took place, as it had in their history, then, after a long period of fighting, the outcome had been some minor cock who was powerful, promised much but delivered only chaos. He would be cock of the walk till a more level-headed successor emerged.

Such is the nature of politics and the Press.

On reading those interested may make their own interpretations of each section of the text. Those are always the best. But should they need assistance the Editor will refer them to the headless chicken who is well up on "the Run."

Harry Ingram

Prayer for October 2024

Dear Lord,

November can be a dreary month. Even the first syllable is negative and reminds us of all the things we are missing; the long light days, summer breaks, blossom and fresh green leaves.

As we walk through the dark days, help us to remember that You brought light into this dark world. You sent Jesus, who is that light in person, Your positive who overcame all negatives by His death on the cross.

November leads us closer to the time of celebration of His coming. Lord, thank you for Jesus.

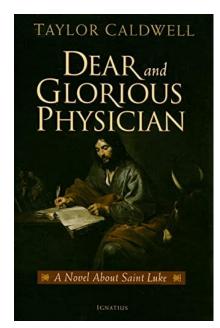
Thank you for November! In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Book Reviews



Dear and Glorious Physician By Taylor Caldwell

I have just read this world-famous novel about the life of St Luke, whom we know as the author of his Gospel and of Acts.

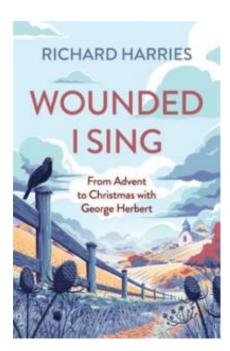
He was known in those times as Lucanus, a Greek and was brought up by his stepfather, a roman governor in Antioch, who sponsored him to train as a doctor in Alexandria and apparently Luke became one of the greatest doctors of that ancient world. He did not meet Jesus.

Taylor paints him as a man who loved, knew the emptiness of bereavement and travelled through the hills and wastes of Judea wondering "What Manner of Man was my God?",

and visited Mary, the mother of Jesus and many other early Christians to find out.

I found it a fascinating book, both painting the Gospel writer's life and the life of Greeks, Romans and Jews of that time. Sadly, the author has since died but she has also written of the life of St Paul and of Judas Iscariot.

Ian Archer

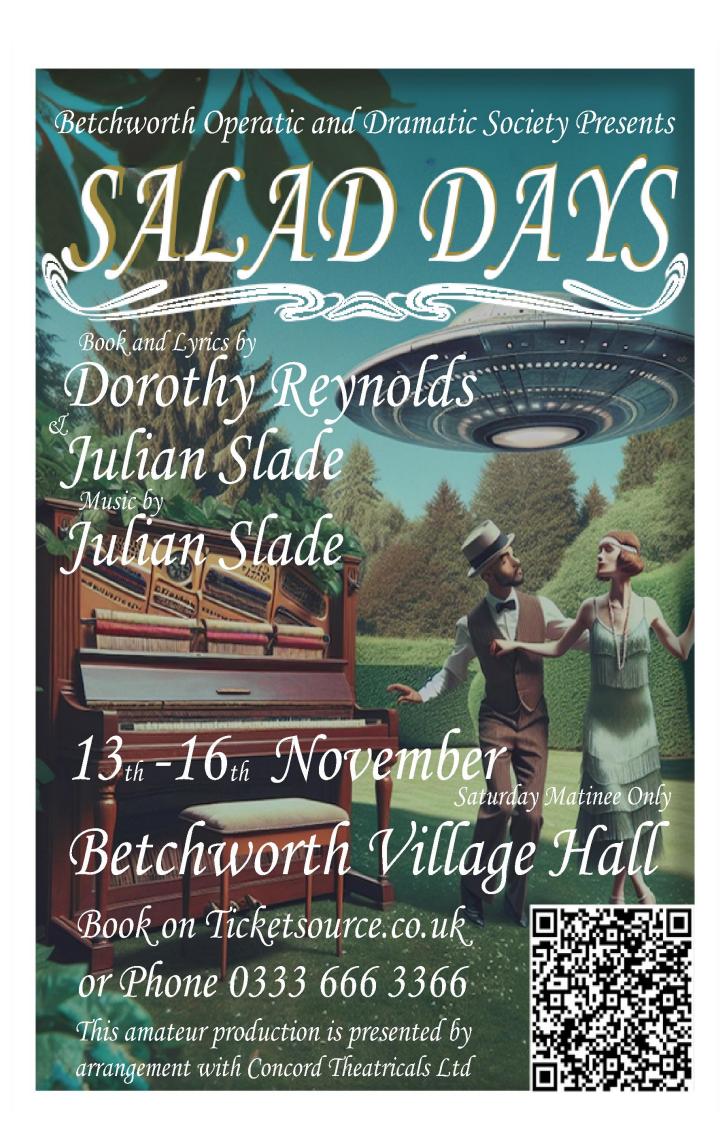


Wounded I Sing — From Advent to Christmas with George Herbert By Richard Harries

Prepare your heart for the joy of Christmas in the company of one of the best-loved poets in the English language. George Herbert is widely regarded as one of the greatest devotional poets the world has known. Here Richard Harries reflects on 24 of his greatest poems, six for each of the four weeks of Advent, including 'Redemption', 'The Country Parson' and 'The Temple'.

The result is a book that readers may want to return to over and over again, whether during Advent or in any other season of the year.

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

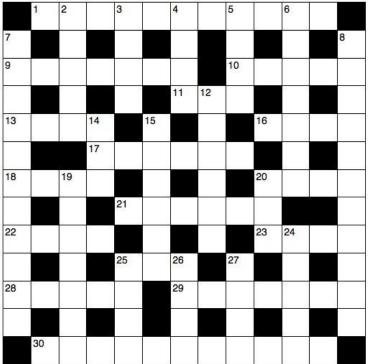


November Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)



Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to -' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

October Answers

ACROSS: 1 Deacon 4 Appear 7 Wits 8 Heavenly 9 Argument 13 Mob 16 Broken-hearted 17 Ran 19 Suddenly 24 Obstacle 25 John 26 Enable 27 Market

DOWN: 1 Dawn 2 Afternoon 3 Nehum 4 Again 5 Prey 6 All to 10 Users 11 Ephod 12 Trace 13 Metalwork 14 Body 15 Eber 18 Alban 20 Uncle 21 Dream 22 Stab 23 Gnat

Puzzles

November Sudoku

		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		

October Solution

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