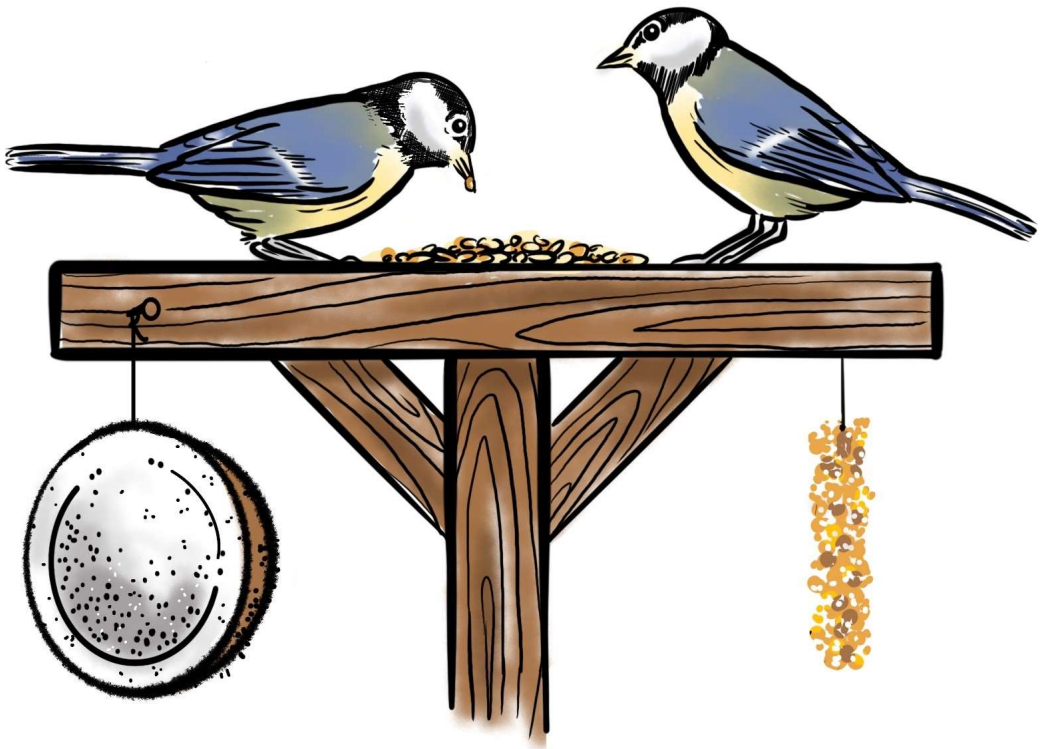


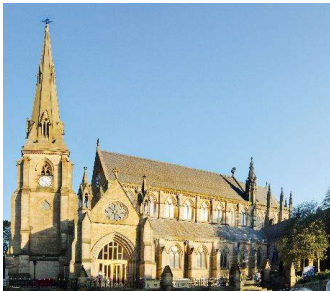
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Parish Magazine
February 2024

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester



Situated on top of the small hill at the centre of the town, Bury Parish Church stands at the heart of one of the ancient parishes of Lancashire. The present splendid building was opened for worship on 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation, in 1876, and is certainly the third - possibly the fourth - on the site. It is impossible now to know just when Christian worship began here, a thousand or so years ago.



During its long history, the Church has ministered to the town in many different ways. Bury Grammar School began life here in the sixteenth century, boys almost certainly being taught originally by clergy from the Parish Church. Parish Charities were set up to provide for the poor and sick.

The Rector was heavily involved in the growth of the town during the Industrial Revolution: much of the urban growth of those days took place on his glebe land. Sir Robert Peel, future Prime Minister and son of a local textile manufacturer, was baptized here in 1788. All of the dozen or so Anglican parishes in Bury were carved out of the original parish. The Church has had close links with the Lancashire Fusiliers (now part of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers) since 1873 and continues to be a focus for the whole civic life of the Borough.

Today, we seek to continue to offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities to the whole town which we are called to serve for Jesus Christ's sake. This magazine gives its reader a snapshot, in one particular month, of what is on offer. We are always eager to find new ways of witness and service and should be glad to receive any constructive suggestions.

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Email: burypcoffice@gmail.com Website: www.buryparishchurch.com

Address: The Parish Office c/o. The Rectory, Tithebarn Street, BURY, BL9 0JR

Parish Diary February 2024

Regular events

Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist (also on Facebook Live) and Sunday School, followed by refreshments served in the Blackburne Hall.

4.30pm Evensong

Wednesday

9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

10:30-2pm Church Cafe Open

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Study Group -see Cornerstone

(To receive the Cornerstone, email: julian.heaton_1@outlook.com)

Thursday

10.00am Tiddlers meet in Blackburne Hall

Friday

8.00am Dustbusters – church cleaning

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

4.00pm Junior Choir Practice during term-time

7.00pm Adult Choir Practice

Baptisms & Weddings

Speak to any of the clergy after the 10.00am service. There is a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations near the back of the magazine

Events during February 2024

2nd Friday Lunchtime concert: Northern Duo with Ilona Heburn (cello)

9th Friday Lunchtime concert: Wecan Huang (piano)

14th Church Cafe Opening

Ash Wednesday 11am Communion and Ashing, 7.30pm Eucharist and Ashing

16th Friday Lunchtime concert: Laiton Trumpet Quartet

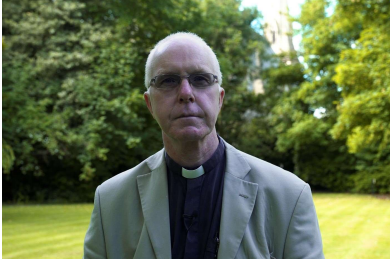
17th 12 Noon weekly Stations of the Cross start

23rd Friday Lunchtime concert: Lorna Day (soprano)

Weekly though February:

- Morning Prayer in Church at 9.30am on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Study Groups: Sundays at 8.45 am at Tim Hortons, Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the Narthex
- Sunday Evening Sermons 4.30pm in Bury Parish Church

From the Rector's desk



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There is much in this edition of the magazine about Lent. If this is what you are looking for, flip through until you find it. I thought I might write a few lines about things recently in the news.



The situation in Gaza is beyond awful. We stare at it or avoid staring at it, feeling helpless because there is nothing we can do and no leadership from the Bishops we can get behind, conflicted because this is about Israel and entering into dark thoughts about Israel without slipping into anti-Semitism is hard, and confused because we have been subjected to so much malign propaganda about Islam that we are poor at separating terrorism

from a faith we barely understand. Our solution is silence. And we realise that silence is a form of tacit support for violence. What can we do? What can we say?

One of the things we can do is listen to the Palestinian Christians in Gaza and West Bank. We can listen to them because we share a faith and understanding of God in Christ. Their very presence reminds us (and we need constantly to be reminded) that there is no straight line between being Palestinian and being in favour of violence. We need to remind ourselves that Jesus was born in what is now the West Bank and was a refugee from terror. We need to learn more. There is an Anglican diocese of Jerusalem. <https://www.j-diocese.org/wordpress/>. This site may also help <https://www.palestineportal.org/> for a wider ecumenical picture of Christian life in the Near East.

And we can do two other things. We can pray. Prayer is sometimes the only thing we can do. St Paul calls us to be persistent in prayer. And we can contribute. The route here is through the work of Christian Aid at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

The other issue that has struck me, and many others I think, is that relating to the Post Office



and the treatment of the sub-postmasters and mistresses.

Two things again caught my attention. The first is the issue of vulnerability. Institutions appear unable and/or unwilling to acknowledge fault, failure or weakness. One of the powerful lines in John's Gospel is when Jesus says 'the truth will set you free.' (Jn 8.32). It is an odd line and one we might struggle to make sense of. Apply it to this situation, when the application of truth would allow for the business to say that all is not well, not as intended, when spokespersons would not have to hide behind complex sentences so as to hide the truth, when parliamentary conversations could be forums for honest exchange of experience, then that saying of Jesus would indeed be liberating for all. Instead, we live in a culture where everyone is afraid of saying something that might end up in court. The harm, personal, familial, and trust in what should be a venerable institution, is catastrophic.

Truth is not just about right and wrong. It is about the tone setting for culture. Truth and vulnerability go hand in hand.

If vulnerability and truth matter, so does courage. It takes courage to stand up and be counted and in Alan Bates, the Post Master who refused to confess to something he had not done, who grindingly worked over years to gather evidence, who encouraged the wounded, the hurt, the humiliated, we have an example, maybe an appropriately Lenten example of sacrifice.

Part of being a Christian is to have the courage to stand up and be counted for the cause of truth. This true story is a sadly necessary one that reminds us that not all we are told is true and that we have the capacity and audacity to offer a different viewpoint.

May God bless you and our world, so that it becomes a place of peace, reconciliation, truth and courage.

With love and prayers,

Julian

Rector

K is for Kipper

F is for Friday and Friday means Fish. Historically, the Roman Catholic Church encouraged its adherents to abstain from meat on a Friday and the tradition of eating fish on that day is a fallout from that.



When I (Julian) grew up, Fish and Chips (and mushy peas, obviously) were a regular

treat after the weekly shop and probably the only time we had food that was not cooked at home. At the Rectory, we keep this fish focus although the joys of F&C bought from the local chippy are limited to very special occasions.

There is something about eating fish which makes us feel good. We are all conscious that meat is expensive, comes with complicated and unsustainable environmental costs and is problematic in terms of land use. Because we are aware of this, it is easy to think that we have a guilt-free pass when it comes to fish. There is, after all, lots of ocean. Fish is also healthy, with fewer health complications, with the

right sort of fat and nutrition and limited wastage. Right?

Would that it were. Have you noticed that salmon is way cheaper than it used to be? Likewise, prawns. There is a reason. Most of what we eat with these species is farmed. Most of what is farmed requires industrial amounts of chemicals to feed, protect health and encourage rapid growth, all of which flows into the wider sea.

Maybe you remember the whole debate about our fishing industry and its future? Through careful international agreements (and subsidies to trawler crews not to fish) the collapse of fish stocks in the North Sea has just about got back to sustainable levels. Industrial fishing elsewhere, however, has hugely depleted wider fish stocks and damaged the sea floors on which future fish are dependent for their food. Fish is not the free pass which we would like to think.

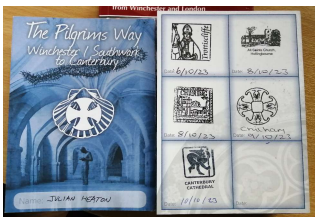
If we are serious about our care for the environment and serious about being good stewards of God's creation, what choices do we have? Can I still eat fish on a Friday? Ruth Valerio, a Christian

author on this subject, offers us a couple of ideas.

1. Look at the labelling on wherever you buy your fish (or ask the fishmonger if you buy from Bury's World Famous Market). See whether there is a label which claims that it comes from a sustainable source. Trust that, because lobby groups will monitor these closely.
2. If you want to pursue this further, add the Marine Steward Council (MSC) app to your phone. Buy fish that is on its 'Fish to eat' list and avoid fish that is on its 'Fish to avoid' list.

Thoughts from a Pilgrimage – starting point

We like lists. Shopping lists, holiday lists, lists of the '50 Films we must see/places we must visit/food we should cook before we die.' Lists mark our lives, ensuring that we are making progress.



Pilgrimage Passports are a bit like this. They are available before you set out and they provide space for you to mark where you have been,

stamps and dates which enable you to tick off the miles walked, and the churches visited.

In the case of the Pilgrim from Winchester to Canterbury, a full passport gives the pilgrim free entry to Canterbury Cathedral. On the Camino to Santiago in Spain, the full passport entitled you to a Compostella, a rather beautiful certificate.

Pilgrim Passports do something else beyond marking the miles and the places. They invite you into an invisible community of those who have walked the path before you. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of "a great cloud of witnesses" (Heb 11.40). As Christians, we are conscious that we are not the first to have heard these scriptures, sung that hymn, or knelt at this altar. Our faith pushes back against the individualistic ideas of our present world where the key point of reference is our own life. The New Testament is written in the plural and our faith is lived out in communion with those we can see and those who have gone before us.

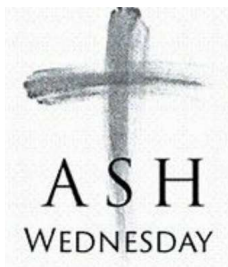
Many of us have books gifted to us at Baptism, Confirmation or at other points on our journey with

Christ. Hold onto these. They bind you to your pilgrimage so far and invite you to mark out your future steps as members of the cloud of witnesses.

Lent Services and Activities

*Ash Wednesday 14th February –
Easter Day 31st March*

We barely have time to catch our breath, dismantle the crib and take down the Christmas Tree after the Incarnation Cycle (Advent to Candlemas) when we crash into the Paschal Cycle (Ash Wednesday to Pentecost). Because time is so short we might be taken by surprise so here are a few ideas to help you make this Lent a time of deepening and conscious faith.



Ash Wednesday 14th February

11.00am Holy Communion and Ashing

7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Ashing
The solemn start of Lent. Weekday worship in church is something of a minority activity. It may be

something that you have never done. We invite you, this year, to change that habit and join us as we reflect on the traditional readings and accept, as a sign of penance, the burnt ashes of palm crosses on our foreheads.

Weekly during Lent:

1. Morning Prayer

This will be said in Church at 9.30am on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

However, given the distance between where people live and our church building, we encourage you to join in the Prayer of the Church via the Church of England website or, more conveniently, on the free Daily Prayer app available on Apple and Android.

Daily
Prayer

These have the full text and the option to listen to others praying, singing and reading.

People of the Passion

We will be looking at the People of the Passion, at the characters, Peter, Judas, Pilate and so on who appear in the story of Jesus. When we dig down into them, we discover that they and we are not too dissimilar. The walk through Lent is an opportunity for us to explore who we are and who God

wants us to be. These men and women hold up a mirror and help us see ourselves in a new light. There will be a booklet that the ministry team will produce for all of us. It will help us think and pray together, and be a resource not just for our Sunday worship but for the study groups and for our own time at home.

2. Study Groups

Sundays at 8.45 am at Tim Hortons for an hour

Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the Narthex for 90 minutes.

3. Sunday Evening Sermons

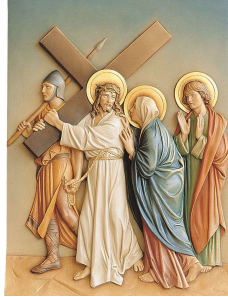
4.30pm in Bury Parish Church.

We have invited people involved in Ministry (Lay and ordained) to preach. Specifically, we have asked them to talk about a Christian author who has inspired them. Often we find a way of thinking about and living the Christian life that sustains us and never explore new insights and new ways. It will be interesting, inspiring and transformative to hear from writers and Christian examples who are entirely new.

5. Stations of the Cross

Saturdays at 12 noon starting 17th February in Bury Parish Church. 'Stations' as this devotion is often known is a way of prayer,

following both biblical and traditional moments in the last hours of Jesus from his sentencing to death to his being laid in the tomb.



At each station (there are 14 of them) we hear a portion of the Bible, think about and pray for particular groups of

people whose lives mirror in some way the theme of the 'Station' and pray together. If you have never walked the way of the cross, we encourage you to come along and join in as part of your own pilgrimage through Lent.

Church Cafe to open on Wednesdays

Starting on Wednesday 14th February 2024, the Church's coffee shop will be open each week from 10.30 – 2.30 p.m. with the Church closing at 3.00 p.m.

The menu will be:

- A selection of sandwiches "made to order"
- Fruit pie & cream
- Cakes
- Scones
- Tea
- Selection of coffees

There will also be the opportunity for visitors to have some “quiet time” in Church, to light a candle, or, if required, a tour of the Church with one of our volunteers.

There will be our normal Wednesday 11.00 a.m. communion service and this is going to revert back to taking place in the **South Chapel**.

The staff will all be Bury Parish Church volunteers and all the proceeds will go into the Church funds. Please see the additional article in the February magazine on “volunteering”. Pat Webber/Uden

Dustbusters

Many visitors to our church have commented on how clean our church is.

However, we really need more volunteers to keep it that way.



We are a small friendly group who come along every Friday morning 8am to 9am.

Could you spare one hour of your time to help? If so, please join us- you will be made very welcome.

Thank you – Again!

A very grateful Thanks goes, once again, to the team of people who shopped, prepared, cooked and served the very successful Christmas Lunch on 17th December 2023. To serve a three course lunch to a large number of people requires a lot of forward planning and an awful lot of energy. It was well received and very much enjoyed.

THANK YOU!

I would also like to say a huge, sincere, thank you to everyone involved with the wonderful harvest lunch served on 15th October. The food, which offered a choice for all dietary preferences, was outstanding, the dining room was thoughtfully prepared, reception and table service more than pleasant and the atmosphere extremely jovial. An event such as this does not ‘just happen’ so grateful.

Thanks to you all, Jean Sutcliffe.

Support the work of Bury Parish Church

You can donate to Bury Parish Church and the work we do by QR Code!



Knitted Easter Ducks



Are you willing to knit Easter chicks that will fit a small Cadbury's Creme Egg? If

so, we will provide you with a knitting pattern.

These can be done at home, or, if you need some help, then there will be plenty of people around during Sunday coffee to assist you. Perhaps you would let either Joan McVeety or Pat Uden know if you are willing to help.

The finished Easter chicks will be on sale in Church or in the Church Hall and all proceeds will go to the Church funds.

The Social Committee

Volunteers Required

You will have read elsewhere in the magazine that we are opening the coffee shop on Wednesdays between 10.30 – 2.30 p.m. with the Church closing at 3.00 p.m.

Please would you consider becoming a volunteer for part of this time – the hours set will depend on your availability? We are hoping that several people will

volunteer to help with this venture to enable us to set up a rota.

If you want to discuss this in more detail, please speak to Pat Webber or Pat Uden. If you are happy to volunteer, could you please email me on p.uden@talktalk.net

Eco tip – Enjoying Nature

This month's Eco tip is make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator.

Further ideas can be found at arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

Messy Church at St. Paul's

The Messy Church activities are held once a month at St Paul's School. All attendees receive reception biscuits and drinks, numerous activity materials, followed by sandwiches, fruit, cake and drinks before departing. Do go visit.

Music for February

4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)

10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist

Mass Setting: Josef Haydn: Missa
Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo
Hymns: 511 (T.490), 610, 379 (t. 337),
439, 676
Motet: Grayston Ives: Listen, sweet
dove
Voluntary: Percy Whitlock: Chorale
Prelude on St Denio

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns : 742 (I), 621, 762
Responses: Richard Ayleward
Psalm: 65
Canticles: Henry Ley / John Stainer
Anthem: Thomas Dupuis: Not unto us,
O Lord
Voluntary: Thomas Dupuis: Trumpet
Voluntary in C

11th February Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)

10.00am: Sung Parish Eucharist

Mass Setting: David Thorne: Mass of
St Thomas
Hymns: 2, 279 (T.207), 677, 281,
710(omit *)
Motet: William Harris: Holy is the true
light
Voluntary: Dietrich Buxtehude :
Toccatina in F, BuxWV 157

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 281, 239
Responses: William Smith
Psalm: 2
Canticles: Thomas Morley:
Fauxbourdon
Anthem: S S Wesley: Thou wilt keep
him in perfect peace
Voluntary: C V Stanford: At Eventide

14th February Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Voluntary: J S Bach: O Mensch,
bewein dein Sünde gross BWV 622
Hymns: 21, 120 (ii), 128, 123, 116
Mass Setting: Antonoi Lotti : Missa
Brevis
Anthems: Lenten Prose
Voluntary: J S Bach : Christe, du Lamm
Gottes, BWV 619

18th February First Sunday in Lent

10.00am Sung Parade Eucharist

Mass Setting: Hymn Setting
Hymns: 121, 118, 128, 123, 116
Motet: Thomas Attwood : Turn thy
face
Voluntary: J S Bach : Fantasia in G
minor, BWV 542

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 671, 14

Responses: Plainsong

Psalm: 119. 17-32

Canticles: George Dyson in F

Anthem: S S Wesley: Wash me throughly

Voluntary: J S Bach: Fugue in G minor, BWV 542

Hymns: 810, 321, 269, 714 (T.595)

Motet: Richard Farrant: Lord, for thy tender mercies sake

Voluntary: J S Bach: Prelude in C minor, BWV 546

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 131, 509, 135

Responses: Plainsong

Psalm: 135: 1-14

Canticles: ATB Chants

Anthem: Felix Mendelssohn: Verleih uns Frieden

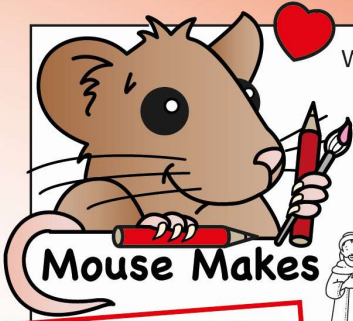
25th February Second Sunday of Lent

10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist

Mass Setting: David Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Readings for February 8.00 and 10.00am services 6.30pm Evensong

4	2nd Sunday before Lent	Colossians 1.15-20 John 1. 1-14	Psalm 65 Genesis 2. 4b-end Luke 8. 22-35
11	Sunday before Lent	2 Corinthians 4. 3-6 Mark 9. 2-9	Psalm 2 1 Kings 19. 1-16 2 Peter 1. 16-end
14	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17 2 Corinthians 5. 20b-6.10 Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21	
18	1st Sunday of Lent	Mark 14. 3-9	Psalm 119. 17-32 Genesis 2. 15-17 3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19
25	2nd Sunday of Lent	Matthew 16. 13-25	Psalm 135. 1-14 Genesis 12. 1-9 Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16



Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5



Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFU UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?



King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

The gardener and the Vine

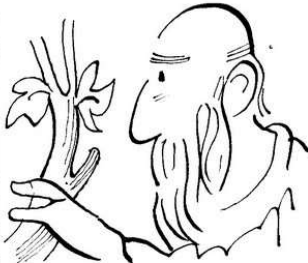


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS


ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES





HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...


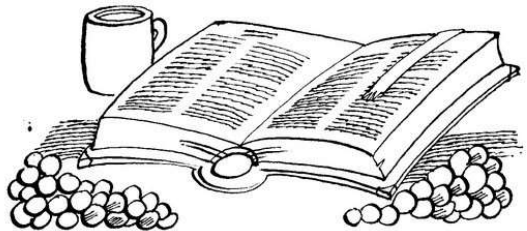



...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.

YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Friday Lunchtime Concerts

**Tickets :
£5.00 on the door**

**Café open
Refreshments
on sale
from 11.30am**



**9th February
Wencan Huang (piano)**



**16th February
Laiton Trumpet Quartet**



**2nd February Northern Duo with
Ilona Hepburn (cello)**



**23rd February
Lorna Day (soprano)**



<https://www.buryparishchurch.com/concerts>

1st February – St. Brigid's Saint day

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl!



Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity.

Training Update

Dear All, it's unbelievable that we're in 2024 already! I've been here at Bury Parish Church for a year now and it's been a great year of learning, formation and getting to know each of you.

Since my last article, I am now back in college for my final year of studies in Liverpool on Mondays as well as my formation training. So far, I've been back to the Hayes Centre in Derbyshire 3 times for what is called residential formational training, I'll explain a little more another time what formation is. I have another 3 residential to go before my hopeful ordination later this year, but so far, they've all been quite eventful and not just in the training that's been delivered! The first weekend away, back in October, was hit by massive floods in the Amber Valley, which happens to be where the Hayes Centre is!



On the second weekend away, Derbyshire was blanketed in a lot of the white stuff and most recently there was a weather warning for wind! Thankfully, none of these weather events affected the teaching on the weekends, which ranged from a weekend of thinking about the rhythms of life and self-care as well as spending some time in silent reflection! As is my hobby I decided to use this time to go for a silent(!) walk in God's creation exploring the local area. On the other weekends we were learning about managing effective change, reflective practice and most recently funeral ministry, thinking about the grief cycles as well as the practical sides of funeral ministry. Each of these areas has been very informative and somewhat eye opening, especially self-care as far too many clergy over work themselves leading to burn out! Something I especially would like to avoid!

This term, I'm doing an interesting module, which is called 'Missional Ecclesiology', essentially it is the theological perspective that emphasises the primary mission of the church as participating in God's mission to reconcile and redeem the world. There are some questions to think

about as part of the module and they are: - What is a ‘church’? How can we hold together fruitfully time-honoured approaches with new ways in a ‘mixed ecology’ of Church? It’s also about exploring and thinking about how to do new ways of church without losing tradition or existing identity of the church. It’s quite an essential part of my studies, helping to enable the Church of England (hopefully!) reverse the decline in attendance over the last few decades!



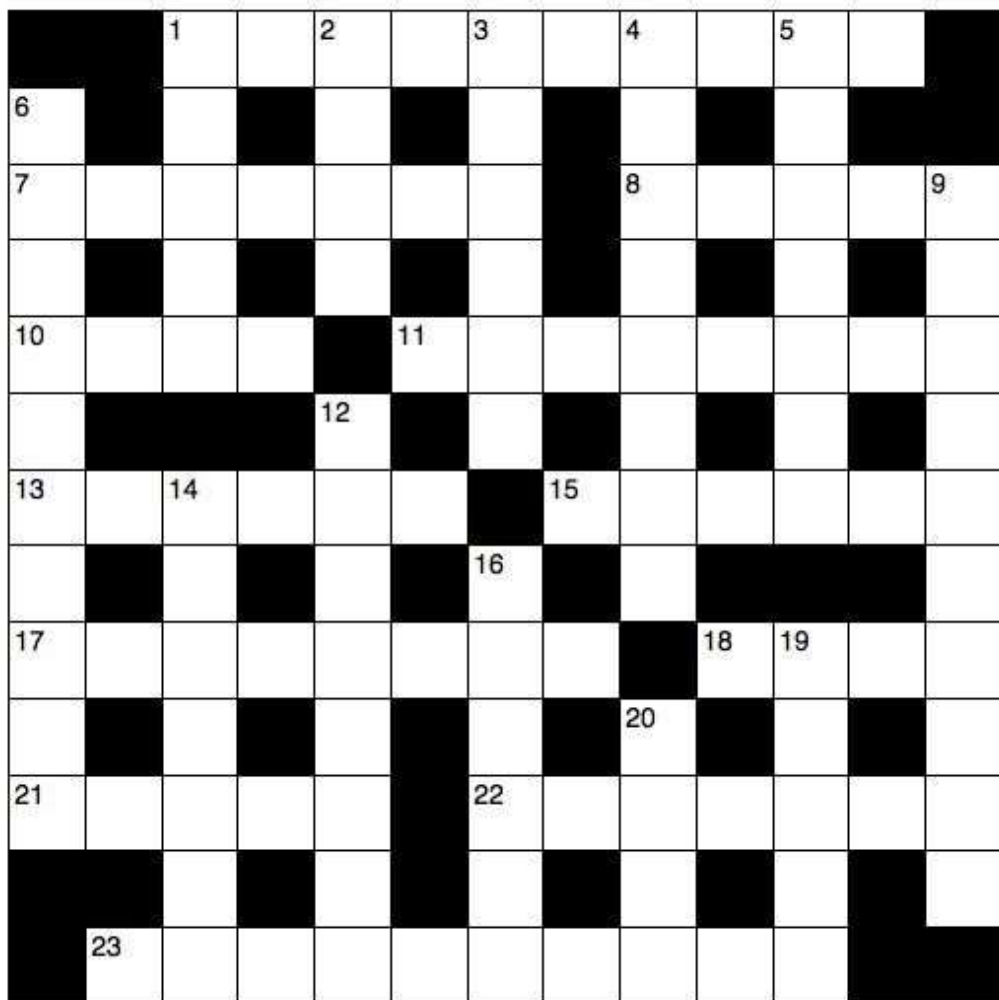
In addition to my studies, Jackie, Julian and I started a new service on Friday afternoons at St Paul’s, which we decided to call ‘Foot Prints’. Named to remind us that we are bringing the Gospel message to those in the Chesham Fold Estate and the surrounding area akin to Paul travelling around in the 1st century. It has been amazing to see so many children and families join us on Friday afternoons, and we pray that this continues to grow. If you’d like to get involved too, please do speak to me, Julian or Jackie.

Finally, you may recall when I joined back in February 2023 it was intended that I would be moving on to a new church for my curacy but as was announced back in October, I am serving my curacy here at BPC. I am truly excited to see what plans God has for me in my time here and I looking forward to continuing my formation as a Deacon and Priest under Julian’s tutelage and learning how to minister as I near ever closer to my hopeful ordination on 30th June! More details of my ordination will be communicated closer to the time for those who would like to attend.

In the words of Richard of Chichester, I pray that in 2024 we may come to know Christ more clearly, love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Craig





Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)

- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’ (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’ (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



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Flower Donations and Dedications



This month dedications are from:

Stephen Perry in memory of a dear friend, Pam Henrick, who died on 15th November 2023. These are particularly in memory of Pam's birthday on 9th February.

Joan Livesey, in loving memory of her husband Philip's birthday on 28th January.

Flowers Donated in Loving Memory of Brenda Tait, so sadly missed by Ray, her husband, and all the family, on the first anniversary of her death.

If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers that are arranged in Church in memory of a loved one or maybe to mark a celebration, here is what you need to do. To give you an idea, an average amount of the cost of weekly flowers is between £25.00 - £30.00.

- Put your donation in a white envelope with your name and a contact number on the front and mark it “flower donations and dedications”. Inside the envelope you need to write the dedication details and the date when the flower display is required. This should then be handed to **Jean Sutcliffe**, or to one of the Wardens for passing on to **Jean**.
- A list of dedications will appear in the magazine the following month.
- If you are a tax payer and have completed a Gift Aid declaration form, the Church can reclaim 25p in tax for every £1 that you donate. If you are not signed up for Gift Aid, then please put your donation in a pink envelope, and remember to complete the name/address details before placing it in the white envelope.

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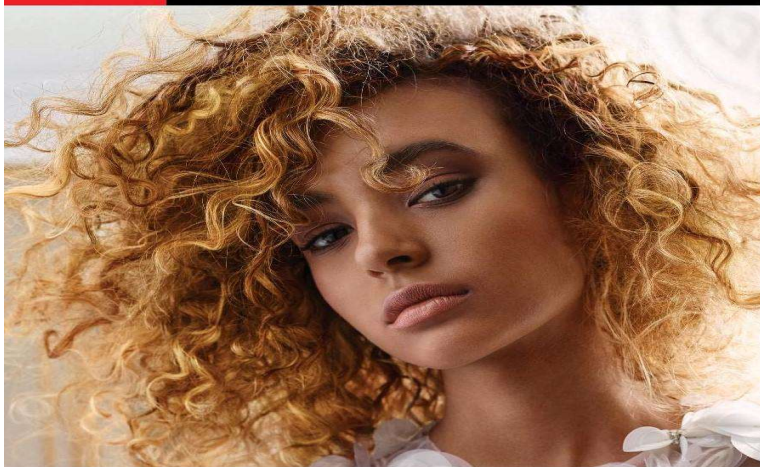
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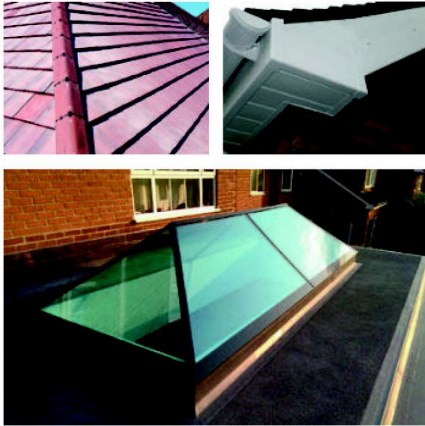
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