

www.thatcham-urc.org.uk

Have you found us
on Facebook? 



Dear Friends,



How are we all? It feels like we are emerging from it all even with the infection rates still high at the time of writing this letter. I hope you feel as I do that as a church family, we have come through this pandemic with our sense of **belonging** intact, with **new friends** and **members** joining us.

We have just **celebrated Easter** and its true meaning for us. Nothing could stop our celebration even with some caution. The resurrection of Jesus **changed everything** and caused the cruel cross to become a triumphant symbol of hope and new life (see the thatching of the cross pictures). The Easter story is the **crowning proof** of Christianity and the **pivotal** story of our faith. We are still in the Easter season and following Ascension Day on 26th May, we shall celebrate Pentecost on 5th June, with the gift of the Holy Spirit being given and the forming of the Church.

I recently heard David Attenborough talking about Planet Earth receiving a **huge impact** from a **large asteroid** millions of years ago forming a cloud of dust that spread all over the earth, which may have led to the extinction of the **dinosaurs**. In that same vein, 2000 years ago Planet Earth received **another huge impact**, this time from God, in Jesus Christ, born as a man who lived, died and rose again to reconcile us to God. And then only 50 days later, God again, through the power of the Holy Spirit empowered the birth of the Church. The Church was to be the body of Christ spread all over the earth. It is still **growing!** It is **indestructible!** Now that is a planetary impact!

Easter has been such a great opportunity to reflect and celebrate and share the good news of what Jesus has done for us in his

triumph over sin and the **defeat** of death. And now in the twenty-first century, long after that momentous 'impact' took place, we know for certain more than ever, that these historical facts are **proven** beyond doubt. There is historic **evidence** for the public ministry of Jesus, his crucifixion and death, his burial in a tomb and his resurrection from death. Roman sources also confirm that **the new movement** following Jesus did not stop after his death but continued and grew.

Can **we believe** such an astounding 'impact', that Jesus really died and came back to life again, and open a way for us to know God? Yes, we can, and I hope for many of us **our faith** confirms these truths, as though they were 'written on our hearts'.

The empty tomb, including the undisturbed burial linens and the many sightings of the resurrected Jesus provide firm evidence for **the resurrection**. Because the resurrection is true, it is the most **significant thing** in the world today. The empty tomb proclaims to us the glorious fact that life for us does not stop when we die. Death is not a wall, but a doorway. And eternal life which may be ours now, **by faith** in Christ, is not interrupted when the soul leaves the body, for we live on, forever. Jesus said "because I live, you also **will live**." And so, after that **incredible 'impact'**, everything was changed.

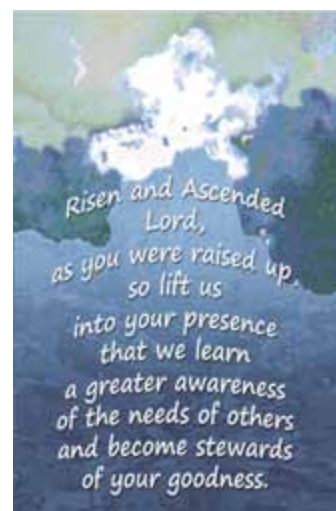
This is the **message** of Easter! But it's not over! Pentecost is coming, when we remember, as God promised, the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out to those first disciples. And so again, **everything changed**.

With love in the risen Lord Jesus Christ
John

Sunday Worship

MAY 10.30am unless specified

- 1 Revd John Lee, Communion
- 8 Revd John Lee
- 15 Karen Fakes
- 22 Revd John Lee
- 29 Diane & Nikki, Cafe worship



Elders Contact

Karen Fakes 868310	Alan Tarry 873642
Esther Lewis 861332	Jackie Tarry 873642
Gill Mossman 827103	David Weller 864551
Alan Mossman (Church Secretary) Evening 827103 Daytime 523240	Jackie Wood 874241

Printed by The Alpha Xperience,
148 Kings Road, Newbury, RG14 5RG
01635 523240
mail@TheAlphaX.co.uk

**Deadline for next issue:
Sunday 15 May**



FAMILY NEWS AND FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Adrian, Jackie, Abbie, Beth and Adrian's dad, following the sudden passing of Adrian's mum.

Many of our families have been suffering from covid, some worse than others: the Fakes family, the Lewis family, Mike, Ernie.

Alan T's hand operation went well and has healed up.

Muriel has 3 more great-grandchildren expected.

Margaret Wilson is recovering well and hopes to be back in church soon.

It was lovely to see Allan C's family at Easter breakfast and service.

Flowers from the church have been given with the love of us all to:

MARCH: Nikki, Sam, Ernie; Mike, Karen, Tess.

APRIL: Hilary, Esther, Amanda (for her mum)



Dear Father in Heaven, As we thank you for May, this most beautiful of months, we are aware that not everything in your world is beautiful; not every attitude or action is beautiful, or kind, or just.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world that we can sometimes feel overwhelmed. Help us, Lord to remember that Jesus came to bring all this brokenness together, to bring reconciliation and wholeness. Thank you that by His life, death and resurrection Jesus overcame death for ever. Thank you that He ascended into heaven so that the Holy Spirit could come to live in believers, to give strength and power and resilience, so that Your work goes on.

Thank you that nothing in all creation - no evil attacks, no illness, no human powers, no circumstances at all - can ever separate us from Your love. We will not be overwhelmed as we keep our eyes on You. We may not always understand, but we acknowledge You to be the Lord, who reigns over all - and we are thankful. In Jesus name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Loving and almighty God,

We pray for all who are working to combat the growing food crisis: for international aid agencies and local community organisations and in particular we pray for those in positions of power. May the leaders of the nations act with wisdom and compassion, bringing relief to those who suffer now and moving us towards a world without hunger.

We pray for our sisters and brothers caught up in a cycle of drought and hunger: for parents struggling to find food and seeing their children go hungry, for farmers seeing their crops fail and livestock die.

We pray for ourselves: may we share generously from the abundance that you have given us and join our voices with those who call for an end to poverty, that lives may be saved and rebuilt with hope for the future. May we act in your name Lord and be an instrument of your grace. Amen.

EMBRACE the Middle East

(extracts from Prayer Diary)

1 May In Aleppo, Syria, a decade of war has left unemployment high and resources scarce; medical services are too expensive for many. Please pray for the Pontifical Mission for Lebanon, which helps the St Vincent de Paul Association in Syria cover the cost of people's treatment.

8 May The East Jerusalem YMCA works with survivors of political violence. Through psychological, medical and practical support, they help people to improve their quality of life in the aftermath of trauma. One year on from the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip (10-21 May 2021), we pray for all who are affected by conflict.

15 May Today is the UN International Day of Families, and we pray for families living in the Cairo slum area of Ezbet El Nakhl, where the Salaam Centre works to build a healthier, safer society. One of the centre's projects provides medical care, counselling and legal advice for women facing domestic abuse.

22 May This week we give thanks for the rich diversity of Christian tradition across the Middle East. Although their challenges and pressures differ according to the local context, they are united by their faith and their compassion for those around them.

29 May Amid Lebanon's economic crisis, the Beit El Nour association is more needed than ever. Please pray for their project helping girls from underprivileged families, supporting them to stay in school or offering alternative education to those who have dropped out.

ST MUNGO'S EVEN LESSER

On the 20th day of April
In the Year of Our Lord
2022

To Uncle Eustace

Rector

St James the Least of All



Dear Uncle,

Your predicament does sound unfortunate. Surely, St James The Least Of All has the most difficult assortment of parishioners, etc, in the whole of the UK. May I make a suggestion.

Recind the decision to allot portions of the estate to individuals. It will no doubt unite the whole of them in arms (imaginary) against your person, but hopefully that will not last for many weeks. You will then be in a position to purchase some members of the ovine family.

Small flocks, consisting of one ram and four ewes, will suffice. One each of Herdwicks, Soays, Black Welsh Mountains, Lincoln Longwools and North Ronaldsays should provide enough mouths to keep the acreage sufficiently tidy.

Your nephew, Darren

P. S. Not to forget the Jacobs.

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL from The Rectory



My dear Nephew Darren

A Spring parish picnic is always a good idea - although you must bear some details in mind. First, whatever date you choose will turn out be the wettest of the year. English picnics are invariably eaten under umbrellas while

wearing Wellingtons and the sort of determinedly cheerful look that defies anyone to admit they would rather be home in front of the fire.

Second, no matter how early in the year, wasps will emerge from hibernation in huge numbers, and terrorise Mrs Hornby with the picnic baskets. And thirdly, someone will bring along their (hungry) dog. Last time Colonel Psmith's spaniel outdid herself: she leapt up, head butted a piece of Madeira cake out of Mrs Hornbird's hand - and ate the lot - before even a crumb could touch the ground. A good piece of field work, that.

Half-way through the afternoon, some over-excited member of the

party will decide to arrange a game of rounders. (Mr Poppinjay tried this one year, as in his youth he had been athletic. Fortunately, the ambulance got there quickly, and the ankle healed well.) Then the mothers who join in will completely ignore the ball sailing past them, while they discuss some burning topic of Mother's Union gossip.

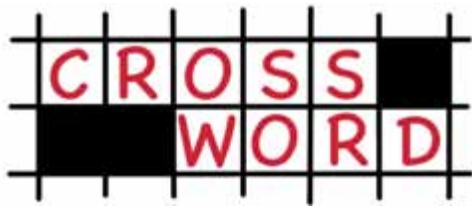
In the meantime, the young choir members, who were the reason for arranging the game in the first place, will have drifted off to the lake to throw stones at the ducks while no one is looking.

For our annual picnic, I use my own car, making sure it is so full of clerical robes and church magazines

that no one else can fit in. Throughout the day, I keep returning to it to make sure no one has broken in to steal the Communion wine - and taking the opportunity to catch up on the cricket scores. By the middle of the afternoon, I usually remember that some urgent duty, such as blessing a traction engine, demands my departure.

The rest of the party, by now soaked, cold and knowing the coach to take them home is still several hours off, only wish they had such demanding work to tear them away.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



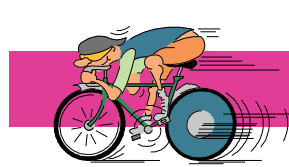
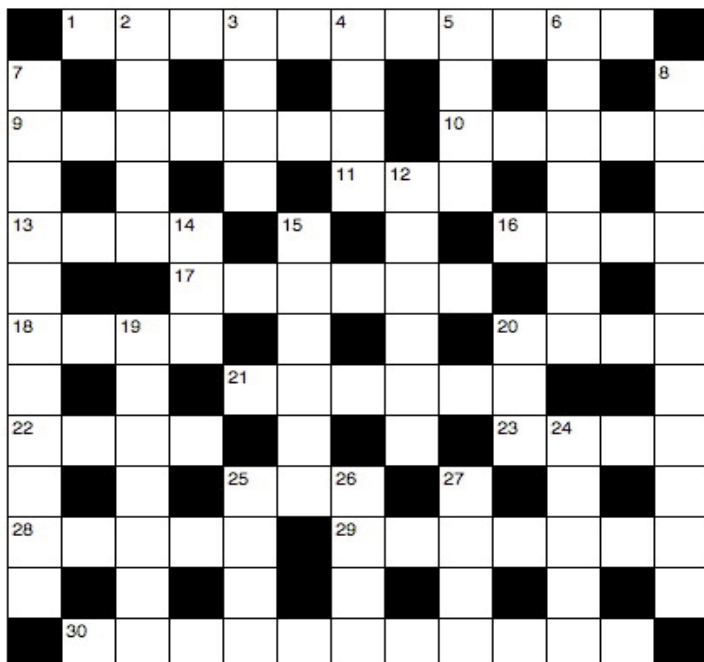
Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from—to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7)(4)
- 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)
- 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the— ,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)
- 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has(anag.)(3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)
- 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva(5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who— you'(Luke6:30)(4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Answers next page



News from our 'Roving Reporter'

On enquiries why El Salvadorians, as well as Afghans at the Regency Park Hotel,

There is a refugee crisis particularly in northern Central America.

El Salvador is 84.1% Christian, and 86.3% Mestizo (mixed race) population 124th (of 189) in human development index.

The International Rescue Committee give emergency cash relief and life saving equipment to people who have been uprooted, whilst UN Refugee Agency are struggling to support all those in need including 315,000 internally displaced.

In 2020, 14,999 people fled from EL Salvador and applied for asylum in other countries (70% rejected), whilst 64% are accepted in the UK and others allowed to appeal.

Graeme



Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

Looking again at Mary Whitehouse

Is it time to look again at the legacy of anti-obscenity campaigner Mary Whitehouse?

Although many Christians under 40 may not know her name, Mary Whitehouse was a high-profile figure from the mid-sixties until she retired in 1994. To many people, she was a figure of fun, often parodied and mocked in the media for her campaigns against obscenity on TV, in print and on the stage.

A recent BBC radio profile, 'Disgusted, Mary Whitehouse' based on 30 years of newly available diaries and letters, has led some to a reassessment of her impact.

Programme presenter Samira Ahmed raises a key question: "Mary Whitehouse's name became shorthand for anti-liberal prudery and censorship, but more than 20 years after her death, do her diaries reveal a woman who was ahead of her time in warning about the corrosive impact of internet pornography on society?"

The documentary reviews Mary Whitehouse's years of protests and records how she persistently lobbied MPs and ministers to draft legislation.

Her successes included laws criminalising the making of indecent images of children and controlling sex shops and the displays of pornographic material in

newsagents, and laws that regulated the sale of extreme content (so-called 'video nasties'). She warned about technology getting out of control, long before the internet was born.

As a teenager, I interviewed Mary Whitehouse in the 1970s, and asked about her faith and how this motivated her. She told me, "It's basic. I can't say any more than that. I couldn't have stood up to what I have if I didn't have a sense of commitment that God wanted me to do this work."

Many people saw Mary Whitehouse as a campaigner seeking to return Britain to 'Victorian values.' In fact, in many ways, she was warning about the increased sexualisation of society that the internet – then many years in the future – would bring. As journalist Samira Ahmed concludes: "Although some of Mary Whitehouse's religious beliefs were very out of step with modern Britain, she would see the impact of internet pornography on the young as exactly what she'd been warning against and support the current efforts to finally get it under control."

Baker's trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.
DOWN: 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

Economic Justice

Richard Lewney

"God said, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'"

So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God." (Luke 12:20-21)

Holy God, we confess the times when we have tried to grasp security by hoarding your gifts. We confess the times when we have tried to grasp life in all its fullness by medicating ourselves with another dose of more stuff. We confess the times when we have tried to grasp self-respect by acquiring the trappings of success. Free us, we pray. Give us an open heart and a generous spirit to respond to our neighbour in need, whether nearby or far away. Show us the part we can play in redeeming our economic system, bringing it under the rule of your kingdom.

All in the month of May

150 years ago, on 18th May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

125 years ago, on 26th May 1897 that Bram Stoker's horror novel Dracula was published.

100 years ago, on 27th May 1922 that Christopher Lee, British film actor was born. Best known for his many Hammer Horror films, especially his role as Dracula. He also played a leading role in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit. (Died 2015)

90 years ago, on 9th May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

60 years ago, on 25th May 1962 that the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during WWII.

50 years ago, on 28th May 1972 that Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 years ago, 27th-28th May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War. British victory.

25 years ago, 1st May 1997 that the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

15 years ago, on 3rd May 2007 that three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing while on holiday with her parents in Praia da Luz, Portugal. Despite long-running investigations costing millions of pounds, she has never been found. Her disappearance is the most-reported missing person case in history.

10 years ago, on 18th May 2012 that social media network Facebook went public. Its initial public offering raised \$16 billion – the third-largest amount in US history.

Wordsearch for May

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth".

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

Ukraine
War
Cease
Earth
Break

Bows
Shatter
Spears
Burn
Shields

Fire
Save
many

Lives
Crisis

Lord
Our
Rock
Fortress
Deliverer

Hope
In
You
Be
Still

Easy sudoku

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

Classified Ad: Wedding dress for sale. Worn once, by mistake. Call Stephanie.

M NEWS



Coffee mornings at the United Reformed Church have been going for 30 years

URC coffee mornings back for first time since lockdown

A CHURCH in Thatcham has reintroduced its long-established coffee mornings for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown came into effect.

The event takes place weekly at the United Reformed Church, but had a sudden unprecedented stop in March 2020.

A place where residents – many elderly members – could socialise and remain active in the community was empty for the longest period that it had ever been, but it's soon to return.

Minister John Lee has announced that the Tuesday morning meets will be back next month, every day from 10am to noon in the hall next to the Church.

He said: "It's been going for about 30 years, started by previous members of the church.

"There are regulars who come down and have done for many years. It is for people to bring their friends and get together in a safe and warm environment.

"It is a good place for people to come along. It means a lot to people."

He said that many people miss the church and look forward to events coming back to the premises, adding: "Some people who are friends of the church may not come on Sundays but they'll come on Tuesday."

"They look forward to when it starts up again."

Mr Lee noted that churches had been particularly cautious in reintroducing events, but believed that it should now be safe enough to return – though there will still be some members who will still be nervous to attend.

He said that, on return, attendees can remember those who have been lost to the pandemic.

Mr Lee said: "Sadly, a few people have been lost to Covid or other serious health issues, which were delayed because of Covid."

"I think four to five people that were regulars have since passed away."

"It'll be interesting to hear how people will react to that."

The coffee morning will officially return on Tuesday, March 1.

Observations on the spiritual side of life:

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings. - Anon

Christians are like tea; their strength is drawn out by hot water. - Anon

Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church! - Anon

Some minds are like concrete - all mixed up and permanently set. - Anon

Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary. - Anon

Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive. - Anon

God doesn't want shares of your life. He wants a controlling interest. - Anon

Foodbank

We are receiving more requests for help from people in difficulties because of the increase in fuel prices and in prices in the supermarkets. We are keen that everyone in need is identified and helped. Many are too upset and embarrassed to ask for help. You may be their friend by referring them to the Foodbank. Ministers are able to do this by talking with the individual and submitting a Referrers' Form, then food can be collected from Thatcham Baptist Church Thursdays 1-3pm

Currently, the donations for the foodbank are much lower than last year. This has meant that for each of the last three months, we have distributed 3 tonnes more than we have received in donations. Obviously this is not sustainable.

Urgently Needed: Baked beans/ tinned spaghetti, Cooking Oil, Pasta Sauce, Sponge Puddings, Tinned Soup, Tinned Custard, Tinned Fish – Tuna, Mackerel, Sardines etc., Tinned Meat/Meat Meals,

Thank you for your support. With your help, those in our local community finding themselves in crisis, have somewhere to turn to for immediate support and a food parcel.

Sheila Moore, Churches Collections Manager,

West Berks Foodbank 07955 626621

Email: Churches@westberks.foodbank.org.uk



Around our church

FOUNDER OF OUR CHURCH, JOHN BARFIELD, HIS WIFE SARAH AND THEIR SON SAMUEL

John Barfield was the third of nine children of Samuel Barfield and Mary (née Sanders). He was baptized at Mildenhall, Suffolk, on 20th November 1772. The Barfield family moved to Berkshire when John's father was appointed as excise officer to the Aldermaston 'ride' (district). By 1795 John was in practice as a solicitor in Thatcham. He lived in a cottage belonging to Mrs Hannah Baily (an aunt of Francis Baily), possibly in the High Street. Later and certainly by 1841, he owned and occupied "Priory House" (The Priory) in Church Lane. John was married three times. His first wife was Elizabeth Leach from Suffolk: they were married in August 1795. She died in January 1819, apparently childless. Evidently, Elizabeth is buried under the front lawn of our church. John then married Mary Summers of Hammersmith in March 1820 but sadly she died in December of that year in childbirth. Mary is also buried under the front lawn of our church. John's third wife was Sarah Brooke, whom he married on 26th October 1826 at All Souls Church, St Marylebone. There were five children from this third marriage: John (junior), Samuel, Marion, Amelia and Edward. All except Edward were baptized in our church. Edward was baptized "at home" in 1835 (probably at Priory House by then).

In 1798, when Britain was under the threat of an invasion from revolutionary France, John Barfield took an active part in the formation of a Thatcham Corps of the Berkshire Yeomanry Cavalry. The only active service seen by the Thatcham Volunteers was in June 1800 when they were called upon to disperse a large crowd of people who were protesting in Thatcham about the high cost of food. Nevertheless, essential training was often carried out at the end of a day's work as an entry by John Barfield in his diary for Wednesday, 3rd August 1803 reveals: "Before 6 this morning left Ramsbury - got to Lambourn to breakfast - got

home to dinner at about half-past 3 o'clock - muster at Midgham Marsh". In 1808 he was served with a notice requiring him to appear at the Town Hall, Reading, to take the oath and to be enrolled in the Militia at Thatcham for five years or to provide a substitute.

John was a member of the Newbury Independent (Congregational) Church but in 1800 independent (dissenting) services were begun in a private house in Thatcham and this attracted his interest. In 1803 the cottage owned by Mrs Hannah Baily and occupied by John Barfield was being used for dissenting services. By the end of that year John Barfield had probably made the arrangements to purchase bricks from Dunston House for the building of an Independent Chapel in Church Lane in 1804. The site for this and much of the money for materials and construction was provided by Mr Barfield himself. In 1821 he drew up a trust deed which left £1,000 on his death to remain invested for the benefit of the officiating minister. In 1825 he had the old Church Manse (24 Park Lane) built as a permanent residence for the minister.

It is thanks to John and Sarah Barfield that the British School was built. By a conveyance enrolled in Chancery on 29th July 1846, two freehold cottages and one leasehold cottage, together with gardens, were transferred from John Barfield to ten trustees as "a site for a School for poor persons of and in the Parishes of Thatcham, Bucklebury and other adjoining Parishes". Sarah Barfield was, according to Revd Summers (father of Mary Summers above) "a talented and energetic lady, who is said to have collected £300 at Liverpool alone. It is said that after some difficulty she secured an interview with the great Duke of Wellington and appealed to him for help on the ground of the nearness of Thatcham to his estates. On the Duke addressing her with the words, "Pray be seated madam", she answered with ready tact, "I could not think of sitting down in the presence of so great a man". She then explained her errand, on which the duke exclaimed, "All the people in the country expect me to build their schools for them!"



He gave her a cheque for £5.

The British School opened in September 1847. Sarah Barfield was manager of the school from its inception until 1852. At that time there were over one hundred pupils on roll.

John died in 1851 while still residing at Priory House with Sarah (thirty years his younger). He was seventy-eight years of age. There is a wall monument in memory of him on the northern wall of the United Reformed Church. He is buried beneath the pulpit of the church. John was not only a material benefactor to Thatcham; he also collected and retained many local documents, without which our knowledge of Thatcham's history would be lacking in much detail. These documents became the property of Samuel Barfield, son of Sarah and John.

Samuel Barfield was baptized in our church by Revd Ralph Wardle on 31st March 1829. He was educated at University College School in London and followed his father into the legal profession, being admitted as a solicitor in 1850. It appears that he gained some practical experience in Thatcham before taking up a post at Austin Friars in the City of London. In 1865 he moved to the Temple where he remained in practice with Edmund

T Child until his retirement. In 1867 Samuel married Isabel Charlotte Martin, also a solicitor. They set up home at 67 Porchester Terrace, Paddington. Although he lived in London, Samuel retained a warm affection for his birthplace and visited the village whenever he could; after his mother died, he lodged on such occasions with a Mrs Annie Wheeler in The Broadway.

Samuel was very much interested in history. One of his particular pursuits was archaeology and he was especially interested in tracing the course of the Roman road through Thatcham. Much of his spare time appears to have been spent in the study of old things, especially documents. He was in fact a very efficient antiquarian and anybody today who takes an interest in Thatcham's history must of necessity be truly grateful to Samuel Barfield's extremely thorough and systematic recording of so much local history in his *Thatcham, Berks, And Its Manors*. His completed work was not seen by him in its published form. He was in the process of negotiating its publication with James Parker of Oxford (an acquaintance of over ten years) when he died at the age of seventy on 18th October 1899.

Samuel's executors approached Mr Parker to enquire as to whether he





IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF
A KIND AND LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN BARFIELD, ESQUIRE,
OF THATCHAM.

HIS STERLING, PIETY, BENEVOLENCE AND CHARACTER –
THE HIGH HONOUR WHICH CHARACTERIZED HIM FOR FIFTY-FIVE YEARS
AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION -
AND THE ACTIVE SYMPATHY HE MANIFESTED IN THE DISTRESSES OF OTHERS
AFFORDED A BRIGHT ILLUSTRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

AFTER A LIFE OF 78 YEARS, WHICH SHOWED THE GLORY OF GOD AND
THE GOOD OF MAN TO BE HIS MOTIVE AND HIS AIM,
HE DIED ON THE 5TH JULY 1851
AND IS BURIED IN THE VAULT BENEATH THE PULPIT IN THIS CHAPEL.

“HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH”

would edit the work as well as publish it. This request caused James Parker some apprehension at first but he willingly obliged and thanks to him the work of Samuel Barfield was

published in two volumes in 1901. Edmund Child described it as Samuel’s “labour of love”.

Samuel’s wife Isabel died in March 1901 and on her death a legacy of

£2,000 (less duty) from Samuel came into effect. Income from the invested money was to be used for the benefit of the poor of Thatcham and Cold Ash. Samuel and Isabel are both

buried at Kensal Green cemetery, London. There were, apparently, no children from the marriage.

RBT



The Churches of Thatcham invite you to

The Big Jubilee Lunch

Sunday 5 June 10am – 4pm

Kennet School Field, Stoney Lane, Thatcham

(inside if wet)





Family Games & Activities

Local Community Stalls

Free Barbecue in our Marquee

Live Music & Good News Stories
on our Stage featuring 8-piece band *The Sense*

Three Competitions with prizes presented by the Mayor of Thatcham:

- ❖ **Jubilee Crown**
Wear your crown with pride. The brighter, the better. Take part in the parade after lunch!
- ❖ **Jubilee Cake**
Bring along your cake. Enter it in the competition. Share it out after lunch!
- ❖ **Five-a-side Football**
Competition starts at 10.30am. Play for the honour of your team!
To enter a team, please contact us on 07922 170503 by 29 May.




Knit a corgi

Knit a corgi for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thousands of people across the country are buying in light brown and white wool just now, in order to knit up a corgi in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It is a fun way in which anyone with knitting needles can get involved in the coming celebrations.

If you google 'knitting patterns for corgis', you will find a wide variety of free patterns on offer. Knitted corgis could help decorate house windows, local shops and churches as the big day approaches.

Mothering Sunday



New granddaughter



John and Rachel are delighted to announce and share pictures of their new granddaughter Adeline Pearl Naraya Liamdee. She was born on 23rd March to Philippa and Own and is a beautiful little sister for Jasper. We thank God for her safe arrival.



Kennet Community Lunch

12.30–1.45 £3

Wednesday 18 May





Vintage Adventure



We invite you to join us at our
Vintage Adventure
 Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thursday, 19th May 2022
2:30-4:30pm

Thatcham Methodist Church
 (Chapel Street, RG18 4QL)

For the young at heart in our community
 Inclusive and dementia friendly
 Led by the Churches in Thatcham

Come and celebrate with afternoon tea and informal
 Christian worship at our street party!

Book your place: contact Karen on 07444 851606 or email
pastoraldevelopmentworker@outlook.com

Easter celebration



Roy travels to Boa Vista

BOA VISTA is one of ten islands that form Cape Verde (or Cabo Verde). It is situated in the Atlantic Ocean 280 miles west of Senegal, West Africa. Cape Verde has a population of just over half a million. Boa Vista is the third largest island, measuring between 18 and 19 miles across. It has about 14,500 inhabitants. The town of Sal Rei (salt king) is the municipal capital, situated virtually on the beach

in the north-west corner of the island. The climate of Boa Vista is very dry and much of the land is desert or semi-desert. Rainfall averages less than six inches a year but some trees do grow there, including date palms. Plants of various kinds are commonly seen alongside buildings, feeding on water from soakaways.

Most provisions are imported, including drinking water. Water for

washing is obtained from desalination. The only home-grown products appear to be fish and dates. Salt and urzela (a lichenized fungus producing a violet dye and used to make litmus) used to important exports. Tourism has now become the main export, chiefly for its splendid beaches which are ideal for all kinds of water sports and whale watching out from the shoreline. There are also several protected beach areas for the loggerhead sea turtle.

About 70% the island's population

is of mixed ethnicity, largely of Portuguese and West African descent. Their local language is a form of Creole, which has much Portuguese influence. Cape Verde was a Portuguese colony until 1975.

1. My hotel 'Ouril Agueda' in Sal Rei, Boa Vista. My room is on 4th (top) floor, immediately left of the name Ouril Hotels. All 33 rooms have a sea view and most of them were occupied (late March). The tourists are back!

2. View from my room – a café is



immediately right on top floor.

3. Estoril Beach at 8:45am from my room window.

4. Agueda Hotel reception – Warwick is standing and Eneida is behind the desk.

5. Avenida 4 Julho (Avenue 4 July), the main street in Sal Rei at 4pm on a Friday. Hence the motto – Cape Verde, no stress!

6. The top end of the main street is even quieter. Note the tower edged with blue.

7. The Church of St Isabel (visible

in previous photo), Roman Catholic. St Isabel (or Isabella) was born about 1271 in Aragon, Spain. She was a daughter of the King of Spain. At the age of 12, Isabel was given in marriage to Denis, King of Portugal. After the King died in 1325, Isabel retired to a Franciscan Monastery and gave much of her fortune to the poor and unfortunate. She also established hospitals and orphanages throughout Portugal. Her son Afonso became King of Portugal. St Isabel's feast day is 4th July, hence the name

of the main street in Sal Rei, Boa Vista.

8. In the Church of St Isabel, end of the morning service, 10 am.

9. Church of the Nazarene, just up the hill from St Isabel's, still in Avenida 4 Julho, I found this Protestant church. It is the largest denomination in the classical Wesleyan-Holiness tradition with over 30,000 churches and over 2.5 million members worldwide.

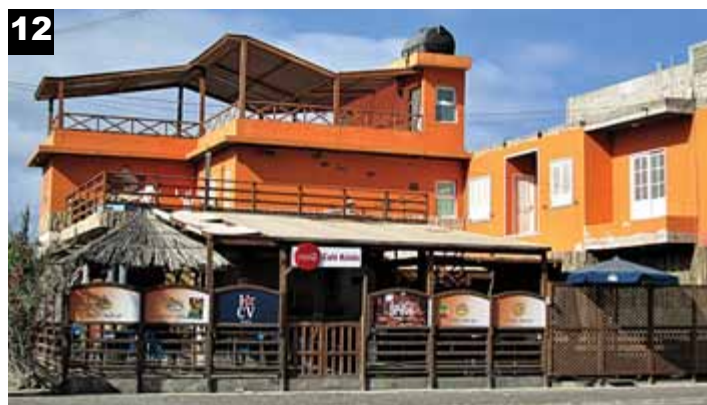
10. Church of the Nazarene: the service has just ended after some hearty singing. De Volta means 'Back

[to the Cross] and Faze nos regressar .. "let us go back" [to The Cross].

11. Revd Ivan, minister at the Church of the Nazarene in Sal Rei, with his wife Eneida. One day whilst walking in Sal Rei, I heard my name called – whoever know me here I thought – it was Revd Ivan who recognized me

12. One may come across some colourful buildings in Sal Rei. This one is a restaurant in the main street, Avenida 4 Julho.

13. Two more colourful buildings -



the barrier hides a building site on which a central park and other facilities for the public are being constructed.

14. The Post Office is recorded here because it took me 'ages' to find it, having been moved recently and the street map that I had was dated 2020. The Post Office counter was on 4th floor, 37 steps up and 37 down!

15. Street nameplates are not a common sight in Sal Rei, so I photographed this one. Rua Amizade means Friendship Street: the significance of the name lies in the

words Seixal/Boa Vista beneath the name. Seixal is a city that is situated on the opposite bank of the River Tagus (Rio Tejo) to Lisbon in Portugal. It is the twin city of Boa Vista island.

16. Quite a few trees in this street, where they absorb water from soakaways beneath the dwellings.

17. Dogs, owned by nobody and yet by all, are frequently seen on the pavements in Sal Rei. They also cross the roads seemingly with some traffic sense. They must get fed because they do not look hungry and do not beg for food, except perhaps outside

restaurants. The stony road surface can clearly be seen – no good for high-heeled shoes!

18. Greenery opposite the fire station in Rua Bom Sossego (literally means Good Peace & Quiet Street).

19. This attractively designed house in Sal Rei captured my attention.

20. Picture painted on the wall of a primary school in Avenue 4th July, Sal Rei.

21. In 1968 a Spanish cargo ship hit some rocks off St Maria Beach on Bos Vista's north coast. It was left there

and over the years since has been broken by the waves and rusted by time. It is now on the sightseeing trail for visitors to Boa Vista.

22. To reach the shipwreck on St Maria Beach, one needs to travel partway on roads like this one (you may ask - where is the road?) All part of the travel experience! My driver said he knew the way – I had to trust him.

23. Donkeys roam wild in this arid land. Somehow, they know where to get water.

24. More colourful dwellings in Sal Rei.



Mouse Makes

Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray: Our _____ in _____ hallowed be your _____ your _____ come, your _____ be done, on _____ as it is in _____ Give us this day our daily _____ And _____ us our _____ as we also have forgiven our debtors. And _____ us not into temptation, but _____ us from the _____ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13 to fill in the words.

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever" Psalm 136:1

I praise you Lord for...

I thank you Lord for...

I pray for my family and friends

I ask for...

I am sorry for...

"Never stop praying." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

I pray for the Church and world

May (20) Deborah Noble + parishpump.co.uk

Bible Bite A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...

When God first made the universe it was empty and shapeless. God said... "Let there be light!"

God separated the Light and dark.

On the next day, God separated the sky... from the sea.

On the third day God separated the sea... from the dry land. Then He made plants of all kinds grow on the land.

On the fourth day God made lights shine in the sky for day and night.

On the fifth day God filled the sea with all sorts of fish, and the sky with all sorts of birds.

On the sixth day God made all kinds of animals.

God told the people... "Take care of all I have made." God saw that everything He had made was very good.

On the seventh day God rested... and so did everyone else!

and then He made people, men and women.

a	k	u	g	m	l	a	n	d	g	e
v	n	n	w	b	i	r	y	n	s	b
c	i	i	o	q	g	n	i	t	y	i
s	g	v	m	d	h	h	n	n	d	r
p	h	e	e	a	t	a	o	f	w	d
e	t	r	n	y	l	i	g	h	t	s
o	r	s	r	p	t	s	m	s	k	y
p	s	e	p	a	r	a	t	e	d	r
l	v	a	e	v	e	r	y	o	n	e
e	a	r	g	o	o	d	a	r	k	s
y	c	f	i	s	h	m	a	d	e	t

Fight truth decay - study the Bible daily. - Anon

animals
dark
everything
land
made
people
sea
sorts

birds
day
fish
light
men
plants
separated
universe

creation
everyone
good
lights
night
rest
sky
women



'It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we hope to find lots of foreign coins'



... if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon ...

Health

Time to take some responsibility for our health

Did you know that nearly one half of the NHS budget is spent on diseases that could have been prevented? And that Britain's overall health budget is now bigger than the GDP of Greece?

So says the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, who has recently warned that the NHS cannot continue spending "vast sums" on lifestyle conditions that are "wholly avoidable".

Just one example is obesity. Obesity rates have doubled since the 1990s, with two out of three adults now overweight or obese. Our lifestyles have also become increasingly sedentary. The result? An eighth of the NHS drugs budget is now spent just on treating cases of diabetes, 90 per cent of which are caused by excess weight.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. - Anon

INTERMEDIATE

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

URC Wessex Synod: Sharing the Vision

3 ways to support Mental Health in the Church

Poor mental health affects all our lives. Mental health issues can affect anyone, at any time, and sometimes for no apparent reason. Not only that but the church is often at the forefront of engaging with the vulnerable. So, how can we best look after the mental health of the church while looking after ourselves?

Hybrid Church – 3rd May

Hybrid Church meet-up on 3 May at 7:30pm.

Zoom link: 892 8553 7599

Passcode 655777

Celebrate Together

Copies of Celebrate Together, the brilliant new, joyously colourful anniversary booklet by Sam Richards and Ruth White, illustrated by Mark Beech and put together by Sara Foyle, are available to order from the URC Bookshop. The book is free so please order as many as you can use. Please share this in your Synods, with committees and other networks so that the anniversary year starts in a celebratory fashion.

Local church packs

All churches will receive a pack in the next month containing worship resources, a drama, a quiz, posters and other resources to help with anniversary plans. The resources will also be available to download.

URC at 50: Worship Resources - All the details can be found at: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/> (scroll past the videos).

Discipleship: a resource for churches – new

In 2020, just as we all went into Lockdown, a small group of people at United Church Winchester began to put together a booklet entitled 'Discipleship: Know it. Nourish it. Live it.' In the following year the church engaged with this in 3 parts, with preaching and in small groups. This is what Tim Clifford has written for us: "United Church Winchester adopted the topic of Discipleship as a theme for 2021, with twelve services and six study groups using the material from the booklet. Services took place every other week during Lent/ Easter, May/

June, and September/ October, with study groups meeting in the week after the relevant sermon in church.

The feedback from the congregation and study groups was very positive - the topics were interesting, the subjects engaging, and together the reflection on our discipleship journey was very challenging! People especially enjoyed the audio introductions to each of the sessions (link in the booklet), the 'real life' video clips shown, and the opportunity based on additional material for further reflection privately between sessions. There was also a very popular online session called 'Going Deeper' (run by Revd Tim Searle) which provided a less structured open discussion about issues and questions concerning the relevant sermon.

The booklet and a similar approach is now also being used in other churches in Winchester, Eastleigh, and Romsey Circuit, and other Methodist Circuits during 2022. Meanwhile at United we continue to challenge ourselves on how we build true discipleship in our community".

You would not need to follow the same pattern in your churches, but the booklet may be a very good resource.

If you would like to purchase a booklet to look at it to see if this would be good for your church/es, please contact Tim Clifford at timclifforduk@gmail.com

Grants to support your ministry and mission

There are two small grants available from the Synod Youth and Children Work Committee and they are very simple to apply for. Simply write a short letter to the committee on church headed paper, explain the project/training, showing costings and explanations of how it is a mission based project and send it to your CYDO (Children's & Youth Development Officer).

Start-up Grants – up to £500 to support the creation of a new piece of work or project. Can be applied for every 3 years.

Training Grants – up to £250 to support churches receiving training to support mission.

The refugee

All that I was, I no longer am
All that I have, I hold in my hand
My home, my love, my world are all gone
One among thousands, I shuffle along.

Only last week I knew who I was
All that has gone, and only because
Someone in a land a long way away
Turned life into hell one terrible day.

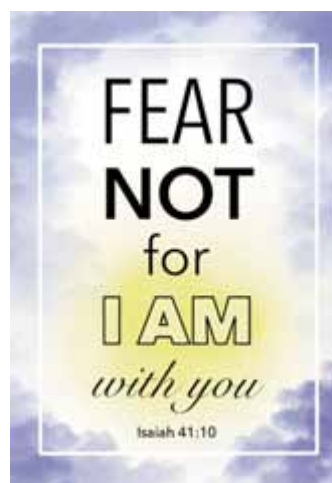
He started a war, his heart icy cold
He rained down his hell on the young and the old
I ran for my life for I had no choice
And nobody heard the fear in my voice.

Everything's gone, and all that is 'me'
Summed up in a word – the word 'refugee'.
I have no control, no say in my fate
Just one in a crowd, I stand and I wait.

Waiting for what? The future's unclear,
For armed men have taken all that I held dear
Along with my hopes, and all I had planned
All swept away by the tanks in my land.

One thing alone puts a smile on my face
A far nicer stranger has come to this place;
A bed for the night? A cup of hot tea?
And - best of all - someone who sees me as me.

By Nigel Beeton



Intercession for Ukraine



Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.
Lord have mercy.
Amen

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.
Amen.



Messy Church



Messy Church returned on Friday 22nd April and we were delighted to welcome 20 children with their parents and carers. The theme was new life and activities included making growing flowers, fluffy chicks, decorating biscuits and painting an Easter banner. Diane had hidden egg shapes in the church for the children to find which they could then exchange for chocolate mini eggs. The morning concluded with a short time of worship in the church where we sang two songs, and heard the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar together with the Easter story. The children were then invited to suggest things that they wanted to say thank you for.

Please have a look at the Messy Church display in the church.

A big thank you to Esther for organising (and recovering from Covid in time to be there!) and to Diane, Jackie T, Nikki and Gill for helping.



Facebook favourites

Please submit your Facebook favourites to thatcham.urb@ntlworld.com
Be sure to download them and then send as attachments – copying and pasting into an email will not work!

