

www.thatcham-urc.org.uk

Have you found us on Facebook? 



Dear Friends,



The four-part Easter drama commencing with the Crucifixion and Resurrection is over, concluding with the celebration of the **Ascension** and then **Pentecost** which introduced the **Holy Spirit** to the stage. Then on came **Trinity Sunday**. And just like any fitting end to a dramatic production the **principal players** come onto the stage for acknowledgement and celebration of their huge accomplishments. Our Trinitarian God, who is God the Father; God the Son – our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – and finally God the Holy Spirit, have now revealed themselves fully for their love, power and purposes.

Heaven had invaded earth; the Church was born and human history was changed forever. The Father has shared all that he has with the Son, the Son has revealed the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit who continues the Son's work and glorifies him, **shares with us** all that he has received, even to this very day.

For our journey of faith, the New Testament gospels and letters reveal the beginning of our understanding of the **Trinity**, as an intimate and overlapping relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Such an epic **script of love, of redemption and life** could only have come from the **Kingdom of God**. Our Christian belief is rooted in this story, and our belief only has value if it gives us life and faith. Our God has to be experienced. We cannot explain it, and we don't have to. We only have to accept it, trust and believe it – in other words, experience it.

Now here is a picture, as some would say, of the second greatest experience that can happen on this planet.



The travel writer Bill Bryson commented once on one of **his greatest** experiences. He arrived at the **Grand Canyon**, but frustratingly found the whole area shrouded in a fog so dense that it hid the celebrated panorama he had come to see. Hugely disappointed, and after waiting, he was on the verge of leaving, when **the fog slowly lifted** and there before him stretched a view that left him lost for words. He wrote that, "nothing prepares you for the Grand Canyon, no matter how many times you read about it or see it pictured, when you experience it, it utterly **takes your breath away**."

When the fog clears on our understanding of the great Easter experience and we see God's love, purposes and significance for everyone, extending for all **time and beyond**, it takes our breath away. It is **exhilarating**, to see clearly how much the God of the universe **actually loves us**. It is a life and faith that offers each of us peace with purpose and hope amongst our troubles. Most of us may not ever see the Grand Canyon, but whatever the immediate future looks like in these uncertain times, come rain or shine, or fog, I hope it's a peaceful and uplifting summer for all of us.

With love in Jesus Christ, clearly the Son of God
John

Sunday Worship	
JULY	10.30am unless specified
3	Revd Keri Eynon, Communion
10	Alan & Gill Mossman
17	Revd John Lee & church band
24	Revd John Lee
31	Café Worship in the hall led by Jackie Wood and Karen Fakes
AUGUST	
7	Revd Keri Eynon, Communion
14	Revd John Lee
21	Samantha Coney
28	Revd John Lee



Elders Contact	
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**Deadline for next issue:
 Sunday 14 August**

FAMILY NEWS AND
FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Lillian Loveless is in Basingstoke hospital suffering from pneumonia. Rosemary King has gone back into hospital in Rowan Ward, Prospect Park Hospital, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst RG30 4EJ. We pray for them and all those who are caring for them.

We heard from former members Ken & Caroline Taylor that one of their daughters, Eleanor and husband Alan had a baby girl in March, so we rejoice with them in their happy news.

Flowers from the church have been given with the love of us all to: Margaret Wilson and Norma Soper



Dear Creator God

We thank you for Your wonderful creation. Your Word tells us that in the beginning You worked and then You rested when Your work was done. You didn't rest because You were tired, but because You saw that Your completed work was good. So, the seventh day became a time of celebration and blessing. Help us, in these days of non-stop, sometimes intrusive means of communication, to follow Your pattern - to work and then to rest; to be restored and blessed by You. Help us to keep one day - Jesus' Resurrection Day - special for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country.

Over 5.2 million people have fled their homes to escape conflict in Ukraine. This is the fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II.

An additional 7.7 million people have been displaced internally within Ukraine and over 12 million more have been affected in the areas hardest hit by the war. Humanitarian needs are increasing exponentially.

We're working with 3 partner organisations in the ACT Alliance to offer assistance to internally displaced peoples and to refugees:

- Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in Ukraine and Hungary
- the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Poland
- Swiss Church Aid (HEKS) in

Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, So far, HIA have reached 26,187 people with lifesaving aid, shelter, truckloads of food (345 metric tons), water, sanitation and health support, as well as offering vital information for refugees and internally displaced people.

Through the DEC emergency appeal, Christian Aid has donated £1 million for trauma first aid kits and £1 million for urgently needed medical and pharmaceutical equipment, items and supplies, for Ukraine, through our partner Crown Agents. Our partner is working directly with Ukraine's Ministry of Health to supply these kits to those caught up in the fighting.

EMBRACE the Middle East

(extracts from Prayer Diary)

3 July Please pray for the students at the Nazareth School of Nursing, training to provide the highest level of care for their future patients. Embrace is helping the school buy training manikins so the students can perfect their skills.

10 July The Pontifical Mission for Palestine is helping Scouts in the Gaza Strip develop their leadership skills. This World Youth Skills Day (15 July) we pray for this important work, which brings Muslim and Christian Scout troops together and ensures girls and boys can participate equally.

17 July Women in three rural Egyptian communities are benefiting from the Life Schools run by Think and Do. Please pray for the Life School, which provides literacy and numeracy classes to women who have missed out on education, and helps them develop political awareness and knowledge of their rights.

24 July This week we remember all those who have left a legacy to Embrace in their will. We give thanks for their compassion, and pray that their lasting generosity will have a positive impact on the lives of disadvantaged people in the Middle East for many generations to come.

31 July Please pray for the Fairhaven School in Alexandria (see picture left), which provides education and vocational training for children and young people with learning disabilities. They also campaign for wider recognition of disabled people's rights.

ST MUNGO'S EVEN LESSER

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

To Uncle Eustace

Rector

St James the Least of All



Dear Uncle,

What a roller-coaster of an event the old oil painting stirred up. However there may be a way of using it to the advantage of St James the Least of All.

There sits on my bookshelf, every letter you have ever penned regarding the 'antics' shall we say, of clergy, parishioners, villagers, etc. of the parish. Surely they could be considered 'treasures'. Both the people and the papers.

Consider the income that could result, if they were published! And the thirteenth Duke may even benefit from the sale of a copy, signed by yourself, and generously donated to the tenth.

Your nephew, Darren

ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL from The Rectory



My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is

what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in renditions of 'Shine Jesus, Shine' and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying 'Thieves will be forgiven', although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening, I hope your forgiveness still operates. Especially as they also stole your favourite guitar.

Last year, we had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the

church's 400-year-old oak door to get in. Shame about that. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the 19th century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn't even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into - although as far as I can remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of

Civilisation as We Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on the premises, and a few even speculated about the possibility of having strategically placed land mines about the place. Mrs Beaufort offered to lend us her fierce Pekingese, and Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Across

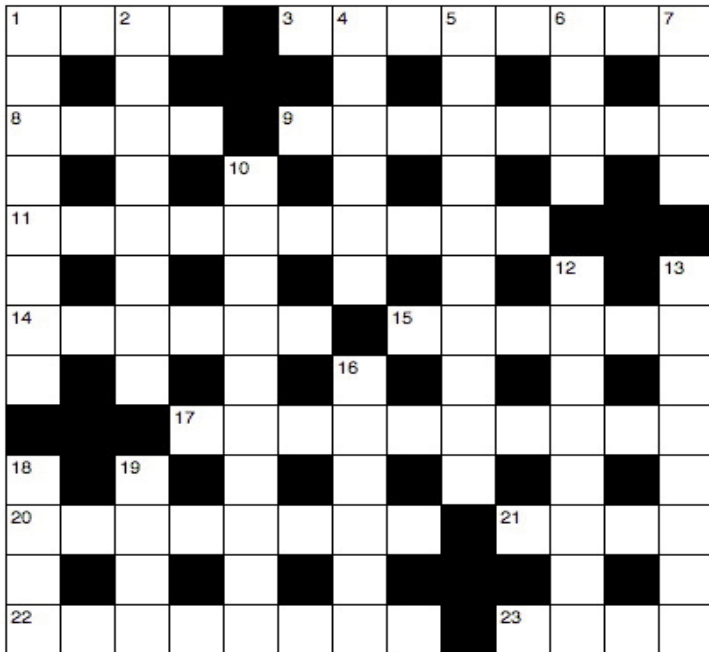
- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my —' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in —' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer. It's called a 'clothes-line'.

Answers next page



Modern science around the house

- 1. If it's green or it wiggles, it's Biology.
- 2. If it stinks or explodes, it's Chemistry.
- 3. If it doesn't work, it's Physics.

The Church Library

Some people love reading, and read several books a year, if not in a month. Maybe you have books, paperbacks or downloads on Kindle earmarked for holiday reading. Perhaps your home is full of books, old and new, and you may find it difficult to pass on/recycle old favourites. Do you have favourites in Christian literature?

Jesus calls us to love God with all of our hearts, minds and strength (Matthew 22:37-40). We are to love him with the mind that we have been given. We are not to be 'know-it-alls' and show off our knowledge, but we are called to grow in what we know and to build up our knowledge as Christians. 'Reading Christians are growing Christians', said John Wesley.

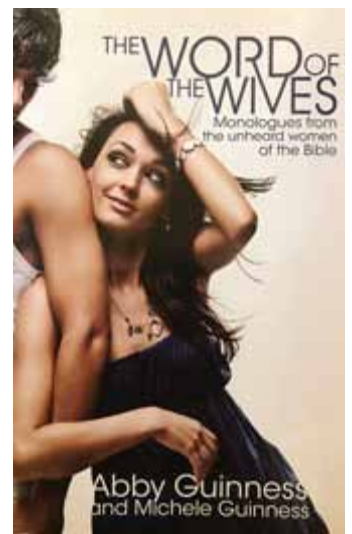
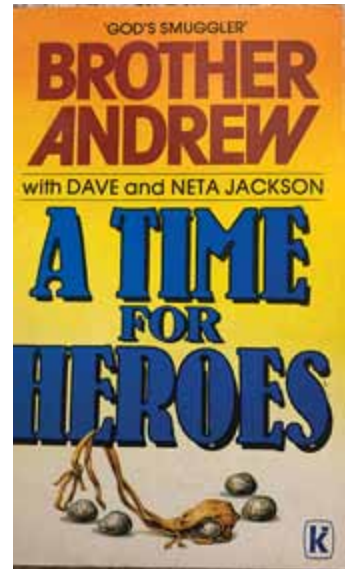
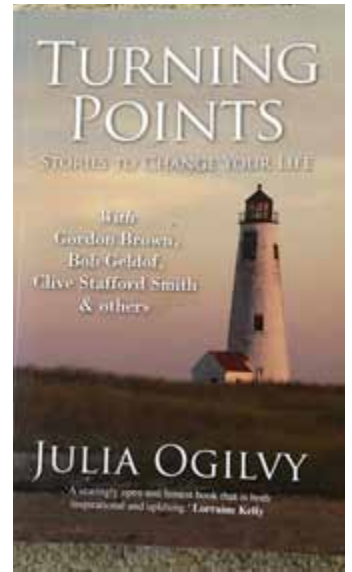
Of course there are other ways to increase our understanding and knowledge, but for readers of the Bible and Christian books what better way is there to grow in faith, share our faith and be ready to 'give an answer for the reason for our hope' (1 Peter 3:15).

Our church is developing a library of Christian books – not just Bible commentaries, but biographies, books which answer big questions, books about Christian life and discipline, testimonies of lives transformed by the gospel, and humorous books. Thank you to those who have donated books already. There are many newer publishers (e.g. Aslan, 10 of Those) and I have taken advantage of special offers on their stalls at Christian festivals to add to our library.

The library will be up and running this summer in the vestibule, with extra books in the parlour. There will be a simple system in operation for borrowing books – more details coming. Look out for recommendations in future newsletters.

Do have a look and see if there is something that you find interesting, stimulating and will help your faith to grow.

Rachel



Kennet Community Lunch
12.30–1.45 £3
Wednesday 20 July

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Saturday 10th September

For more information please visit our website:
berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride

Commitment
for Life

Prayer for Zimbabwe

Wilbert Sayimani

Lord God, in pursuit for justice, freedom and civil liberties, we pray for the leadership of Zimbabwe. Give them wisdom, vision and a desire for justice.

We bring before you men and women serving prison sentences for crimes they did not commit. Men, women, and children struggling to put food on their tables as all their means of survival have been thwarted. Lord, we pray for the eroding economy of this land. Weed out all corrupt elements to prepare for the kind of governance that you desire.

We pray for those risking their lives crossing borders in search for greener pastures elsewhere, which for some remains a "pie in the sky" even when they get there. We bring before you those dying in hospitals or at home with no access to drugs or better facilities.

We do not forget those sacrificing their own lives for the sake of others. Doctors, nurses, teachers and all other civil servants fighting for the good of all. You are a good God and you hear the prayers of your people.

Hear us Lord and come and heal Zimbabwe. Amen.



On Saturday 9 July 2022, from 10am to 12noon, come to Gill & Alan Mossman's home and have

Coffee and Bacon Rolls

What better way to start a Saturday!

Gill & Alan Mossman
19 Victor Road

No charge – donations for Thatcham URC Refurbishment Fund



INTERMEDIATE

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

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Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

DOWN: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.

Wordsearch for July

10th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers and fishermen worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

ERJOCBTAOPCRSAO
CSPUSKASRRNDYS
CFNRLRIGKFCATGA
YRSYSYEMPNNHINE
SEWMCLGRYOAFLIA
BBLACITCARPHAKF
VMSHVAITSFLRTRL
HESEADRHEIAPIOO
IMUNPTWCAOIEPWA
WENVIRONMENTSPT
ARDHUNDREDSHOPS
LLABOLGYSEMRHLR
EIMYMERCHANTOOKH
MNYCARIPARSIMRN
KCERWPIHSPPSMJ

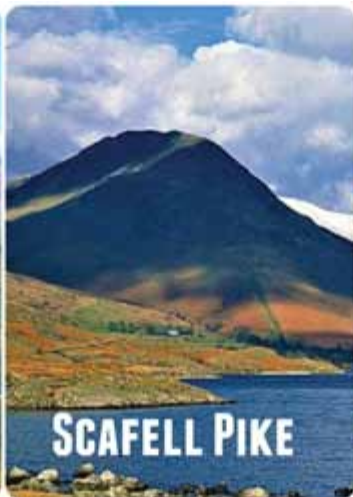
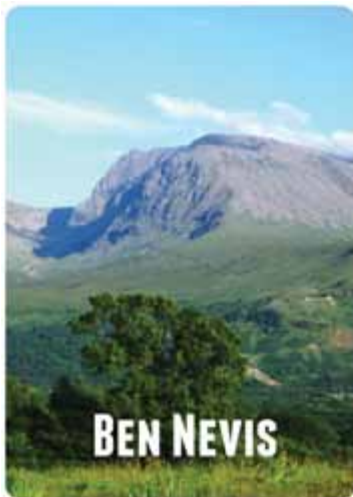
- July Harsh
- Sea Working
- Sunday Remember Environments
- Pray Piracy
- Give Shipwreck
- Thanks Hundreds
- Merchant global
- Seafarers Port
- Daily Chaplains
- Hospitality
- Shops Friendship
- Economy practical
- Afloat

Easy sudoku

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

Whoever said "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a large spider disappear in the bedroom.

Rachel and Abbie take the Three Peaks Challenge



On the 26th July, we will be completing the 3 Peaks Challenge in aid of 2 brilliant charities that are important to us. The challenge requires us to climb the 3 highest peaks of Scotland (Ben Nevis), England (Scafell Pike) and Wales (Snowdon) all within 24 hours.

Rachels charity is St Peters Hospice, a local charity that provides care and support to adults who are living with progressive life-limiting illnesses in Bristol and the surrounding areas. 'We will be donating specifically to the Hospice @ Home team, who, at the most stressful time that a family or anyone can go through, manage to keep that little bit of normal, whilst caring for your loved one with dignity at home and providing respite and relief for all involved. We were fortunate to experience and witness the support, kindness and familiarity that those friendly faces provided when things are just that bit harder. All in memory of my Auntie Margie, the person who would undoubtedly be following me from Scotland to Wales in her hiking boots, offering the usual reassurance, wise words and endless love and support that we all knew her for.'

Abbie is supporting Macmillan, one of the largest UK charities, supporting individuals and families dealing with Cancer diagnosis. 'My reason for supporting this charity is because of the amazing work and support of the staff on the Nightingale Macmillan Unit, Royal Derby Hospital. Unfortunately, earlier this year, my Granny fell ill suddenly and required the care of the palliative support unit. The staff not only made sure she was comfortable, but also supported my family through this difficult time. I'm doing this challenge in memory of my Granny and to raise as much money as possible for this charity.'

We are both excited (and nervous) to take on the challenge! Any donations will be gratefully received and will be equally shared between the two charities.

Should you feel that you would like to donate, we have a Just Giving page (www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/a-r-3peaks22) or contact Jackie or Esther.



Humour

The old ones are the best

- I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.
- How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- Why do you have to "put your two pence in".. but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going ... Taxes?
- Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
- How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
- If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- Why do doctors leave the room while you change??? They're going to see you naked anyway.
- Why don't toasters have a setting that says 'burns the toast to a horrible crisp', which no decent human being would eat?
- If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
- If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
- Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window? Maybe you have halitosis?

Finally; HOW DID THE MAN WHO MADE THE FIRST CLOCK, KNOW WHAT TIME IT WAS?



Friday 22 July
10.00 to 12.00

messychurch@
thatcham-urc.org.uk

All in July

150 years ago, on 1st July 1872 Louis Bleriot, French inventor, and aviation pioneer was born. He developed the first practical headlamp for cars and was the first person to fly across the English Channel.

100 years ago, on 28th July 1922 that Jacques Piccard, Belgian born Swiss oceanographer and engineer was born. Developer of deep-sea submarines, and one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth.

90 years ago, on 19th July 1932 that Lambeth Bridge in London was officially opened.

80 years ago, on 22nd July 1942 that the Nazis began the mass transportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland to the

Treblinka extermination camp.

Also 80 years ago on 31st July 1942 that the British charity Oxfam was founded. (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

75 years ago, on 9th July 1947 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

65 years ago, on 6th July 1957 that John Lennon and Paul McCartney met for the first time at a church hall in Liverpool, where 16-year-old Lennon was performing with his skiffle group the Quarrymen. 15-year-

old McCartney joined as a rhythm guitarist shortly afterwards, and the pair went on to form the Beatles.

60 years ago, on 10th July 1962 that Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was granted a US patent for the three-point safety belt for vehicles.

50 years ago, on 21st July 1972 that Bloody Friday took place when the IRA exploded 22 bombs in Belfast, killing nine people and injuring 130.

25 years ago, on 1st July 1997 that the UK returned Hong Kong to China after more than 150 years.

15 years ago, on 1st July 2007 that smoking was banned in all enclosed workspaces in England.

10 years ago, the Summer Olympics were held in London.

For the last 15 (?) years I have had a flyer of Craig yr Aderyn on my notice board which contains things I want to remember and my BUCKET LIST. It is the only thing on my bucket list for that; obviously there are things I would like to do and see but they are not really that important. Craig yr Aderyn is, was: we finally made it to the Mossman's pad in Llangollen, the metropole of northern Wales.

Another list is my TO-DO LIST. That is considerably longer than the bucket one. One of the things on that list is to make a contribution to the URC Newsletter that I so enjoy reading every month. I thought my stay in Craig yr Aderyn would be ideal to tick off an item on both lists. So here we go.

Friday May 6th we met up with Mike and Christine who are visiting Holland for our national windmill day and the Floriade. I am sure they will write about this trip. It was lovely to see them. On Tuesday the 10th we got in the car at 05.30 hrs, barely made it in time for the 10 o'clock ferry from Dunkerque due to heavy traffic at Antwerp. We picked up mother (in law) in Wash Water and continued to Llangollen. The trip was with nice intervals: 3 (4!) hours on the continent, breakfast on the ferry, 3 (2,5) hours and cuppa in Wash Water and another 3-ish hours to Llangollen where we arrived around 18.00 hours. We were very happy to arrive in broad daylight; I am used to street lights EVERYwhere. And NO such winding roads ANYwhere near Hoofddorp. The cottage is great, it felt like home very soon.

On Wednesday we went into Llangollen. I thought it was a hamlet but it was heaving: 3 tourist buses, loads of touristy shops, a lot of

activity going on. A lady in the shop where we bought a Welsh oggie (ah, pasty, Rich undiplomatically said) told us that normally there a 6-8 buses with tourists, so she thought it was quiet. She also said there are people from all over the world visiting Llangollen, including Japan. I am beginning to understand why. We had a cup of tea in the restaurant on the bridge crossing the river Dee. The scones were too big a temptation. We were pleasantly surprised and found them better than those at Polly's in Marlborough. And a lot cheaper! (We were in England at the end of March). At the moment Richard's mum is boiling soup. We discovered the wild garlic in the garden and I just went picking some to add to the soup. In Holland the plant is called daslook, das=badger, look=allium plant family. The German name is Bärlauch (Bär=bear, Lauch is the Dutch look): bears apparently eat this plant when they wake up from hibernation. Maybe this is the same for badgers, I don't know. I do know it is very popular amongst people in Holland who like to use (wild) plants for cooking. In Germany it is being sold as a herb in the supermarket. We already tried it in the salad last night. It was excellent. It also goes well with butter, so that is the next project.

One of the other things I would like to mention is Every Day with Jesus, the daily devotional that Rachel is promoting to use. I totally agree with her. I have been using it since we went to some event with a group of elders. That must be over 25 years now? I started with Every Day with Jesus when the devotional was still written by Selwyn Hughes, founder of CWR (Crusade for World Revival). Selwyn is described by



George Carey (former archbishop of Canterbury) as a "giant in the faith". CWR has other publications too and at some point I changed to Inspiring Women every Day. And they do inspire me. It is a lovely way to start the day with. Every month has a new topic and another (female) author. This month Natalie Williams writes about 'Mercy Bringers', last month Naomi Aidoo wrote about 'Reflective routine and radical rest', something important for all of us. From what I understand there are free copies available at the URC; give it a go!

Thanks for putting the church service online. I do appreciate it. I am not watching it as faithfully as I have been in the past but it is lovely to be able to listen to the service if and when I can. Thanks once again. It is appreciated.

We are hoping to go to World's End this week. I am reading a book called 'Endstation' (last stop of a railwayline), written by someone from church in Hoofddorp. She would like some pictures for her website and it would be a good combination reading 'Endstation' in Worlds End. Also Dinas Bran is on our list, the remains of a medieval castle built in the 1260s and overlooking the Llangollen area. As are the aquaduct,

fish and chips, shopping requirement from home (shortbread, crunchy nut cornflakes, ...) etc. As it says in the leaflet: you won't miss the tv.

We are doing fine, by the way. Rich is still flying for KLM and also instructing at the KLM Academy in Eelde (Groningen) which he really enjoys. Anthony is working, Patrick will get his BSc in the summer (all being well). We are not sure whether he will continue for his masters degree. And I am still busy with seaweed, and more and more with church. So everything ticking along quite nicely.

As Cilla Black would say: Tara for now. Hope to meet again soon,
love,

Marieke (Brown-Boender)

For those of you who wonder who I am: I used to be an elder at the URC before moving back to Holland in 2000. I guess my most memorable contribution is the orange hair fundraiser for refurbishment of the church: my husband dared me to do this, promising a substantial amount of money if I were to dye my hair orange. So I did. I had to call Garnier for advise how to get it back to a less bright colour. My hair has had a normal colour since this experiment.

The denominational response to a squirrel problem in churches

On the Border between England & Scotland there were a lot of wee squirrels causing a problem

The English Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were pre-destined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist Church, the

squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist Church decided that they were not in a position to

harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Church of Scotland tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly

learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic Church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since

From the loft to the RAF Museum, Cosford – the story continues

You will recall that in the November edition of the Church Newsletter I relayed the story of a gas mask we found in the loft and further investigation revealed that it belonged to Hilary's Uncle Sidney, 207 Squadron, 5 Group flying in Lancaster's but who was sadly shot down and killed whilst returning from a raid south of Rheims in Northern France.

The RAF Museum at Cosford indicated that they would be delighted to receive it. After two abortive attempts to deliver the gas mask due firstly to the Pandemic and then the fuel shortages we finally managed a visit on the 20th April this year. To say they were pleased is an understatement, as they were absolutely delighted and the Museum Curator told us that it would not be going on general display but would be used for lectures and school trips and would only be handled by two specific staff as it was in extremely good condition and also being so rare.

After being supplied with tea, coffee and biscuits Hilary signed over the ownership to the Museum and after lunch we started our tour. Entry to the Museum is free and you only pay for car parking at £5 per car and despite offering to pay they very kindly gave us a car parking pass.

The Museum's vision is to inspire everyone with the RAF story, the people who shape it and its place in our lives. RAF Cosford, the site of the Museum was opened in 1938, delivering training to technicians and ground trade recruits. It is also home to the RAF's only official Air Show.

Originally intended as an Aircraft Storage Unit during a period of RAF expansion, RAF Cosford's remit was extended to include a Technical Training School to fulfill personal requirements demanded by the threat of war. The school of Technical Training opened first in August 1938 and this was followed in March 1939 by No. 9 Maintenance Unit, with the task of storing, assembling, repairing and issuing to operational units a wide range of aircraft types. During the Second World War the school trained over 70,000 airframe and engine fitters to meet the demands for ground trade technicians.

Also during the Second World War, RAF Cosford was home to 12Ferry Pilots' Pool, an Air Transport Auxiliary

unit, tasked to deliver new and repaired aircraft to operational units. From 1943 to 1945 the Pool was staffed solely by women and Marion Katherine Ogilvie Wilberforce commanded the unit. She gained her pilot's licence in 1930 and by 1945 was qualified to fly over 100 aircraft types, including Lancaster's and Mosquitos. She flew privately until her 80th birthday.

The site itself is vast with four display hangers and eight static aircraft which you are allowed to walk inside on certain days.

During our tour we saw Kevin Furniss' stunning First World War flying helmet, the oldest Spitfire Mk 1 in existence, Percy the Parachuting Penguin lucky mascot and the three iconic V-bombers.

(2nd Lt Kevin Furniss joined the Officer Training School following his education at Wolverhampton Grammar School. He gained a commission with the Staffordshire Yeomanry in 1915 before transferring to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) in 1916. He trained as a pilot and arrived in France in March 1917. Sadly he only survived four weeks before being shot down on 22nd April. He died from his wounds a week later and is buried in Cambrai Military Cemetery, one of 400 RFC casualties in that month)

The four hangers are enormous with outer walls that slide to enable planes to be moved in and out. Each hanger tell its own story as follows:

Hanger 1 – Transport and Training

All air forces rely on transport aircraft for moving troops and equipment. There is also a major requirement to retain a fleet of training aircraft to teach aircrews the wide variety of skills they must master before they can become operational. The Museum's collection of transport and training aircraft includes some of the largest and smallest machines flown by the Royal Air Force.

Hanger 2 – RAF Stories and Test Flight

The story of the Royal Air Force is woven into the history of the United Kingdom, from its formation during the First World War to the vital role it performs today as the nation's first line of defence. The function of the RAF, the world's first independent Air

Force, remains unchanged across a hundred years: its mission is to defend the UK, to attack if required, to support in times of humanitarian crisis and to move people and equipment quickly across the world.

Innovation has always been important to the RAF, keeping the service up-to-date with cutting edge technology. Key to this innovation is research and development. Prototype aircraft are built to test new designs and features. Some prototypes enter full production. Others are cancelled, but not before valuable lessons are learned from extensive testing.

Hanger 3 – War in the Air

Powered fixed-wing aircraft had been flying for less than a decade before their potential for use in warfare was realised. The RFC was established in 1912, before being merged into the independent Royal Air Force in 1918. For over a century, the RAF has been defending Britain's skies and projecting Britain's influence around the world. Although this hanger relates to the history of war it is one of the most interesting displays providing information that many of us are not aware of.

Hanger 4 – Cold War

The National Cold War Exhibition includes dramatic displays of aircraft surrounding storytelling 'hot spots' which explore the consequences of the unravelling of the uneasy alliance of Britain and the United States with the Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War. The relationship between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union was often very tense with a constant threat of nuclear war – but there was no direct military confrontation. This period, known as the Cold War, lasted until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

I hope you have enjoyed this very brief insight into the RAF Museum at Cosford and I am very grateful to Sophie, the Museum Curator for answering my questions and providing information for this article.

The Museum is very easy to find and if you ever get the chance to visit then do so as it is a fascinating place to explore.

David Weller
June 2022



The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand,
The garden blooms at her command,
Plants abounding everywhere
As fragrant perfumes fill the air.

Roses, geraniums, lilies too
Agapanthus with globes of blue,
Sumptuous colours in such array,
Their beauty takes our breath away.

To sit beneath the shady trees,
To listen to the humming bees,
As Summer wears her rainbow dress
We thank God for such loveliness.

By Megan Carter

Evening Sun

After a day of cloud and rain
The evening sun comes out again.
Forget the gloomy day that's gone,
And listen to the robin's song!

In the sunshine's golden glow
See the garden's floral show!
And nature, freshened, can rejoice
In sparkling colour, scent, and voice.

If your day is damp and grey
Know the cloud will go away –
The pouring rain will soon be done
And then will come the evening sun!

By Nigel Beeton



**Kids these days are looking for
more from their baptisms**

What the papers say...

WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON

From Daily Telegraph, 28th April 2022

Sister Andre, who lives in a care home in Toulon, France, is now the world's oldest person at 118, following the death of 119-year-old Kane Tanaka of Japan.

ITALIAN LAW REQUIRING CHILDREN TO TAKE FATHER'S SURNAME IS SCRAPPED

By Nick Squires, Daily Telegraph, 28th April 2022

Italian children will no longer automatically have to take their father's surnames, the country's Constitutional Court ruled yesterday, in a decision hailed as a triumph for women's rights. The court ruled that parents should be allowed to give their offspring either the mother's or the father's surname or both.

Until now, it has been mandatory for a baby to be given its father's surname, regardless of the wishes of its mother. The court in Rome said that such an obligation was "discriminatory and injurious of the child's identity". It also violated principles enshrined in the Italian constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights, the court ruled.

Italian women keep their maiden names after they are married, meaning that millions of mothers have surnames, which are not the same as those of their children. For the change to become law, it will have to be debated and approved by parliament.

Elena Bonetti, the minister for families, said the government was in favour of the reform.

"We need to give substance [to the decision]. It is a high priority and urgent task of politics to do so", she said. Campaigners and politicians hailed the court's decision as "historic" and said it represented a "revolution" in terms of gender equality.

"The decision of the court is an historic one for Italy and will end a law that was archaic and unfair", said Alessandra Maiorino, a senator with the populist Five Star Movement, which is part of the governing coalition.

Ivan Scalfarotto, the deputy interior minister, described the ruling as "a revolutionary step". He welcomed the fact that children's

surnames would be determined by both parents and said the reform should be approved by parliament as soon as possible.

The legal challenge to the status quo was presented by a couple from the southern region of Basilicata. "They are very moved and aware that they have helped write a new page in history", said Domenico Pittella, their lawyer.

SMOKING AGE COULD BE INCREASED TO 21

From Daily Telegraph, 21st May 2022

Under-21s could be banned from buying tobacco products in an effort by Sajid Javid to cut the number of Britons who smoke to 5% by 2030. A "radical" independent review commissioned by the Health Secretary is expected to be completed shortly and will recommend that the legal age to purchase cigarettes be increased, while new taxes are placed on tobacco company profits. The legal minimum age to buy tobacco was raised from 16 to 18 in 2007.

CIVIL SERVICE ALLOWS 'MORE THAN 100 GENDERS'

From Daily Telegraph, 28th May 2022

The Civil Service recognizes more than 100 genders, whistleblowers inside Whitehall have said. An investigation by this newspaper into HR culture within central government reveals that identity politics have infected all levels of the running of the country. One mandarin was told in his performance review to spend 5% of corporate working time in a "non-binary network", with a suggestion that he should attend a "gender-nonconforming book club".

KISSINGER WARNS WESTERN ALLIES AGAINST RUSSIAN DEFEAT

By Ambrose-Evans-Pritchard in Davos, Switzerland, Daily Telegraph, 24th May 2022

Veteran US statesman Henry Kissinger has urged the West to stop trying to inflict a crushing defeat on Russian forces in Ukraine, warning that it would have disastrous consequences for the long-term stability of Europe.

The former US secretary of state and architect of the Cold War

rapprochement between the US and China told a gathering in Davos that it would be fatal for the West to get swept up in the mood of the moment and forget the proper place of Russia in the European balance of power.

Henry Kissinger said the war must not be allowed to drag on for much longer and came close to calling on the West to bully Ukraine into accepting negotiations on terms that fall very far short of its current war aims.

"Negotiations need to begin in the next two months before it creates upheavals and tensions that will not be easily overcome. Ideally, the dividing line should be a return to the status quo ante [the situation before this year's conflict]. Pursuing the war beyond that point would not be about the freedom of Ukraine but a new war against Russia itself", he said.

He told the World Economic Forum that Russia had been an essential part of Europe for 400 years and had been the guarantor of the European balance of power structure at critical times. European leaders should not lose sight of the longer term relationship, nor should they risk pushing Russia into a permanent alliance with China.

"I hope the Ukrainians will match the heroism they have shown with wisdom", he said, adding with his famous sense of realpolitik that the proper role for the country is to be a neutral buffer state rather than the frontier of Europe.

The comments came amid growing signs that the Western coalition against Vladimir Putin is fraying badly as the food and energy crisis deepens and that sanctions may have reached their limits.

Eleven Republican senators and 57 congressmen in the US voted against the colossal \$40bn (£32bn) aid package for Ukraine, an early sign of fragmenting cohesion in Washington.

"I'm not sure the unity will last. We may not get the next vote", said Eric Cantor, former House whip and a key figure in sanctions policy against Iran. Nobody is sure whether the US is trying to punish Russia for its aggression or whether the goal is a subtler use of policy that gives the Kremlin a "route out of sanctions" if it changes course. The fundamental divisions over the West's war aims in Ukraine have so far been masked by an outpouring of solidarity and emotion but these rifts are coming to the fore.

HIGHER EARNERS MORE LIKELY TO WORK AT HOME

From Daily Telegraph, 24th May 2022

Working from home is the preserve of the middle-aged and wealthy, official figures reveal, as more than 80% of flexi-workers refuse to return to offices full-time. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) yesterday released a report on hybrid working which found most workers planned to continue work patterns enforced by the pandemic. The ONS also revealed that over a third (38%) of workers earning £40,000 or more were working from home and the office.

BBC FACING UP TO ISSUE OF FUTURE FUNDING

From Daily Telegraph, 24th May 2022

The BBC is "open-minded" about becoming a subscription service, its director-general and chairman said yesterday, as they acknowledged that the corporation faces an "existential question". Tim Davie and Richard Sharp said they were prepared to explore alternative funding models. "We have to be open-minded as the world evolves and say, Ok, what is the right funding mechanism for that?" Mr Davie told a House of Lords committee.

US METHODISTS FORMALLY SPLIT – OR TRY TO

From the United Reformed Church Reform magazine, June 2022

The US Methodist Church has formally split over questions of sexuality. The new Global Methodist Church was launched as a conservative breakaway from the United Methodist Church on 1st May. The organization of the new denomination has, however, been unexpectedly complicated by questions over rules governing the split.

Debates over the ordination and marriage of LGBT people have dominated the US Methodist Church for years. A special session of the United Methodist Church General Conference in 2019 was devoted to the subject and agreed a relatively conservative resolution but progressive members threatened to ignore it and conservatives threatened to leave.

The Global Methodist Church officially came into being on 1st May and invited annual conferences (the United Methodist Church's 53 regional networks) to start joining.

However, on 10th May, the judicial Council of the United Methodist Church ruled that annual conferences have no right or mechanism by which to leave. The denomination has a process allowing local churches to leave but none for conferences. The council said: "There is no basis in Church Law for any annual conference to adopt stopgap policies, pass resolutions, take a vote or act unilaterally for the purpose of removing itself from The United Methodist Church".

Keith Boyette, Chairman of the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church, told Religion News Service he was "very disappointed" by the ruling. He said that those involved had worked very hard to separate in a gracious and Christian way. "What is transpiring is exactly what we have tried to avoid", he said.

QUEEN'S NEW MILESTONE: WORLD'S SECOND LONGEST REIGN

By *Alannah Francis, The Independent*
13th June 2022

The Queen has become the world's second-longest reigning monarch after spending 70 years

and 127 days on the throne. The 96-year-old, who is also the world's reigning female monarch, has surpassed Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years and 126 days from 1946 up until his death in 2016.

The title of the world's longest-reigning monarch is retained by France's Louis XIV whose reign lasted 72 years and 110 days, between 1643 and 1715. Also known as Louis the Great, he succeeded his father as king of France on 14th May 1643, aged four years and eight months.

The Queen, whose coronation took place on 2 June, 1953, when she was 27 years old, became the longest-serving British monarch in September 2015 after she overtook her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria. Speaking at the time, she said the title was "not one to which I have ever aspired".

After her Platinum Jubilee, the Queen said she was "humbled and deeply touched" that so many people took to the streets to celebrate. In a statement released at the end of the four-day Platinum Jubilee, the Queen said: "When it comes to how to mark 70 years as your Queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first".

She added: "My heart has been with you all and I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family".

COFFEE-WITH- SUGAR DRINKERS END UP LIVING LONGER

Daily Mail Reporter, 31st May 2022

Drinking coffee may cut the risk of an early death by up to 31%, a study has found.

One and a half to three and a half cups of coffee a day - whether decaffeinated, ground or instant - leads to a lower likelihood of death compared to non-coffee drinkers, according to researchers.

A group of Britons followed for an average of seven years were least likely to die during that time if they had sugar in their coffee compared to those who did not and those who didn't drink coffee at all.

Those who liked their coffee sweet were up to 31% less likely to die from any cause, including heart disease or cancer, than non-coffee drinkers during the follow-up period if they had between one and a half and three and a half cups a day. Those who drank any amount of unsweetened coffee were up to 21% less likely to die than those who did not drink coffee.

Adults who took sugar added one spoonful on average. Results were inconclusive for participants who added artificial sweeteners to their coffee. For the study, researchers from the Southern Medical University in Guangzhou looked at data from about more than 171,000 Britons who took part in the UK Biobank study health behaviour questionnaire.

While the results, which were published in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, were adjusted for lifestyle, demographic and clinical factors, they do not prove drinking coffee was the reason participants were less likely to die.

NO END TO OUTBREAK IF PETS CATCH MONKEYPOX

From Daily Telegraph, 24th May 2022

Monkeypox could become entrenched in Europe if the outbreak jumps to pets, health officials have warned, as cases in Britain tripled to 57. All but one of the UK cases are in England, with the UK Health Security Agency identifying 36 additional infections in England to go with the 20 previously known patients. No cases have been reported in pets, but the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control warned that it was important to "manage exposed pets".

Do you remember Gateway in Thatcham?

On the 23rd September 1986, the Gateway Foodmarkets store in the Kingsland Centre, Thatcham opened its doors and local shoppers were able to experience the very latest in supermarket shopping.



Gateway was (at that time) one of the three largest supermarket chains in the country and its new 16,000 sq ft store was the feature of the Kingsland Centre, which was developed by Trencherwood Developments.

The new store had an extensive range of groceries with the emphasis on competitively priced branded goods, indeed Gateway was the largest retailer of branded grocery goods, which will be complimented by Gateway's own label range.

One of the great attractions of the store was its selection of fresh foods, for which it enjoyed a high reputation. These included greengrocery, fresh meat and poultry and an extensive provisions counter featuring cheeses, meats and delicatessen. In addition, shoppers were able to choose from a wide selection of frozen foods including high quality meat and poultry.

The new store also included wines & spirits and a cigarette kiosk. A feature was an area given over to non-foods, such as clothing, DIY products, household goods, toys, etc. The store had associated car parking facilities, with space for 228 cars, which was [still is in 2022] an added amenity for the town.

Manager of the store was (in 1986) Mr. Ray Cordery and 100 new full and part-time jobs were created (of which 30 were casuals).

Opening hours were: Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm. Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am - 8:00 pm. Friday 8:30 am - 9:00 pm.

DEVELOPMENTS AND TRADING PHILOSOPHY

Gateway Foodmarkets, a subsidiary of The Dee Corporation PLC, which then incorporated International Stores, Fine Fare and Carrefour, was then one of the three leading supermarket groups in the country.

In the financial year ended April 1986 it has a turnover of about £2 billion from its 745 supermarkets and superstores throughout England and Wales, employing about 36,000 employees.

Gateway's origins can be traced back to over 100 years when a r J H Mills opened a shop in Bristol. By 1900 he had formed a limited company but even in the 1950s the company had only 14 counter service shops each with an average of 500 square feet.

1958 saw the opening of the company's first supermarket and even in these early days the trading emphasis was placed on fresh foods and friendly, personal service.

By the mid-1970s the company has expanded to over 70 stores and in 1977 became part of a larger company - Linfood Holdings, which has since changed its name to The Dee Corporation PLC. It is since this date that Gateway's development and growth has really started to accelerate.

During 1979, the 104 retail stores, operated by the parent company's wholesale division, became part of the Gateway chain and for the first time the company could lay claim to being a nationwide chain, even though it still had only 200 shops.

In 1983 the north-east based Frank Dee Supermarkets were merged into Gateway and later that year 98 Key Markets stores were acquired - eventually to change their fascia and style of trading to Gateway.

In 1992 Gateway was rebranded as Somerfield's. Six years later it took over the Kwik Save chain of stores. In 2000 Somerfield suffered huge losses. In 2005 Somerfield was acquired by a consortium of private equity firms. Eventually in 2008 Somerfield's was acquired by the Co-operative Group, making the Co-op the country's fifth largest retailer.

RBT



Photo left courtesy of Newbury Today

Mousefest!



St Mary's Church, September 17-18th 2022

If you can help in any way, please let us know.

Esther Lewis- URC Kate Jones – St Mary's

Email thatchammousefest@gmail.com Tel 01635 861332

Locked in a shipping container

Open Doors, the organisation which works with the Persecuted Church, tells of the Christian singer, Helen Berhane, who was arrested for sharing her faith in her home country of Eritrea. She spent almost three years in prison, much of this time in a metal shipping container.

Because she would not deny her faith, she was beaten so severely she could not walk. Instead, during her time in the container, she wrote Christian songs, encouraged the other prisoners, and witnessed to the prison guards.

After Helen's release, she resettled in Europe and has written her prison memoirs in a small book titled, Song of the Nightingale. Describing her time shut inside the shipping container prison, she wrote:

"Sometimes I cannot believe that this is my life—these four metal walls, all of us corralled like cattle, the pain, the hunger, the fear. All because of my belief in a God who is risen, who charges me to share my faith with those who do not yet know Him. A God who I am forbidden to worship. I think back to a question I have been asked many times over my months in prison: 'Is your faith worth this, Helen?' As the guards continue on their rounds, I whisper the answer: 'Yes.'"

Sea Sunday – 10th July

Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.



It was bad enough your mobile ringing halfway through his sermon, without the ringtone being 'Christians Awake'



Not everyone has a natural gift for rural ministry



Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X to find the bible verse:

NXOXWXTXHXEREXA
 XRREXMXAXNYXOXT
 XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXGX
 SXTXHXAXTXJXEXSXU
 XSXDIXDX.WXEXRXEXE
 XVXEXRXYXONXEXOXFX
 TXHXEXMXTXOXBXEXW
 XRXIXTXTXEXNXJXSJU
 XPXPXOXSSXETHXAXTX
 TXSXEXLXF CXOXUXLD
 XNXOXTXCXOXNXTXAI
 XNXTXHXEXBOXOXKXS
 XTXXHAXTXWXXOXULX
 DBXEXWXXRXIXTXTXEXN
 XJXOXHXNX2X1X:2XSX

What did Jesus turn water into?
 John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law did Jesus heal?
 Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out to the disciples in the boat?
 Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise from the dead?
 John 11:38-44

How long had the woman at the synagogue been disabled?
 ___ years

What did she do after she was healed?
 Luke 13:10-13

Who did Jesus heal when his ear was cut off?
 Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?
 Jesus fed thousands of people from a few loaves and fish, not once but twice!
 READ Matthew 14:13-21 AND Matthew 15:32-39
 In each story... How many loaves and how many fish did Jesus have?
 How many people were fed?
 How many baskets of broken pieces were left over?

DID YOU KNOW?
 There are over **37** miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospels.
 How many of them do you know?

Find these words in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE
 DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE
 PARALYSED • WALK • SICK
 HEALED • DEAD • RAISED
 MUTE • SPEAK • DEMONS
 CAST OUT • STORM
 CALMED • WATER • WINE
 FISH • MULTIPLIED

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

July 22 © Deborah Oxley - parashamp.co.uk

2023 Synod Meetings – Save the Dates

Thursday 2nd February on
Zoom 6.30pm to 7.30pm 15
min break 7.45pm to 9.00pm
Tuesday 25th April on
Zoom 6.30pm to 7.30pm 15
min break 7.45pm to 9.00pm
Saturday 14th October In
Person all day venue to be
confirmed

Hybrid Church Meet-up – 6th July

Come along to YOUR space to share and learn. Share ideas and good practice. Hear valuable, experienced input. Gain inspiration on Children's and Youth Work, Community Outreach, Technology and Worship. For more information contact: jenny.mills@urc.org.uk or dan@media4ministry.co.uk Zoom meeting ID: 892 8553 7599 Passcode: 655777

Digital Resources for Worship

The URC has various resources available to Churches – have a look at what's available:

Daily Devotions - A daily email with a simple reading, reflection and prayer to help with discipleship. Also available in advance, as booklets to print off locally to give to those without internet access.

Sunday Worship - A weekly audio service sent by email with the full text of the service. Also available in advance, in text and MP3 format for local distribution to those unable to attend church.

Pulpit Supply - The weekly service in both audio and video format loaded into PowerPoint (and available in a format for those without PowerPoint), giving everything needed for worship. All a local church needs is its own copyright licences, a laptop connected to the sound system and a data projector. The services are available around a month beforehand and can be adapted to suit local requirements.

Worship Notes - A resource to allow Elderships, lay preachers (and ministers) to produce a high-quality service. Prayers, comments on the

readings which can help with building a sermon, and hymn suggestions all given for each week of the year with some Communion Prayers and Affirmations of Faith which might be used seasonally.

Coming soon - Small group resources based on series from the Daily Devotions daily reflections.

Available from <https://devotions.urc.org.uk>

Springs Dance Company Productions

Springs Dance Company invites churches to host a performance of the live dance tour A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance, in October 2022 and Journey of the Magi during Advent 2022.

Bring your community together to watch two exceptional new dance works performed by a company of five outstanding dancers.

For more information about these projects please get in touch by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or by calling 07876 752 910

Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website

<https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/>

Generating Income and Grant Applications

Sat 1st October 2022 – 10am–4pm in Bristol (in person). This ACAT course is for those who are looking to source funding for their church or for a church project. It has been designed to provide delegates with the skills and confidence required to identify potential sources of funding before successfully applying for it.

The day long course will cover such topics as: Objectives, permissions, and processes; What funders look for; Where funding sources can be found; Practical advice on applying for funding.

Further details and to book a place visit: <https://www.acat.uk.com/product/generating-income-and-grant-applications/>

Intercession for Ukraine



Ukrainian church leaders urge people to pray

A senior church leader in Ukraine has told the citizens that Russia's war on Ukraine "did not begin with missiles and bombs – it began with deception, untruth and lies." So says the head of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko).

"The Lord is now showing us how we must resist with the testimony of truth. Evil is evil, not just an alternative viewpoint, and war is war, not just some conflict. Rapists, looters and murderers are criminals, and what they are perpetuating is a genocide of the Ukrainian people."

The Metropolitan also said that Ukrainians knew that Russia had long had "evil plans to restore the tyranny of a rotten, overthrown empire."

But, he said "The Lord is with us in this struggle, because we are fighting for truth and goodness against demonic tyranny and resentment... We believe that our people will overcome all new challenges – that Ukraine will win its victory."

Meanwhile, the Primate of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, said that this Spring and Summer may well be the last for many, including himself.

He went on: "As the war escalates, and the enemy intensifies its offensive against Ukraine, I call on everyone to pray vigorously and tirelessly for the Ukrainian army, because the fate of Ukraine and the world is now being decided."



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!

