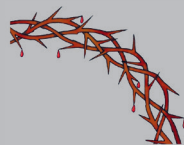


MILFORD Parish Magazine



MARCH 2024



ALL SAINTS' MILFORD ON SEA
ST MARY'S EVERTON

£1.50

The Parish of All Saints' Milford on Sea with St Mary's Everton

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MILFORD

Parish Magazine

WELCOME

to our Parish Magazine!

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue, with its news and views of the life and the people of our Parish.

PLEASE

Consider making a contribution to the costs of producing the magazine, which is a source of pleasure and a vital lifeline to so many in the wider community.

You can:

- Make a donation direct to the Church bank account:
Account: PCC of Milford on Sea
SCN: 40-30-36
Account number: 41212931
Reference: P Mag donation
- Enclose a cash donation or cheque (payable to PCC of Milford on Sea) in an envelope marked "Parish Magazine" and drop it in to the All Saints' Church office
- Put your donation in the designated cash box at All Saints' or St Mary's

THANK YOU

Valerie and Jackie, Editors
Please contact us for further information

ALL SAINTS' MILFORD ON SEA
ST MARY'S EVERTON

LETTER FROM OUR CHURCH WARDEN

THE LIGHT HAS COME

I wonder what you are like first thing in the morning? Do you leap out of bed ready to welcome a new day or are you more like me gradually coming to, battling unwillingly with the snooze function on the alarm?

On the last Sunday in March, we have to alert ourselves to losing an hour as the clocks go forward. Our initial reaction may be to begrudge the loss of an hour but, when we pause and consider it further, it is the sign of good news, as it means that we have enough day light to be shared throughout the day. A joyful sign of what lies ahead, a reminder of Spring and new life, light lighting up our way, bringing clarity and direction, a sense of purpose.

This month the Sunday morning of putting our clocks forward an hour coincides with a far more important event - Easter morning!! A time when we celebrate Christ's resurrection, a time to be joyful that God's love is so great that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, we all have the opportunity to respond to Him, to know God's light in our lives. A light that brings new life, guides us day by day and brings to each one of us purpose in our lives.





Jesus says in John 8 v12 *'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'* He also says in Matthew 5 v14-16 *'You are the light of the world....let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'* Our prayer for Easter is that, as we celebrate this special time, we will do that knowing the light of God's presence and purpose in our own lives and, in so doing, bring the love and light of Jesus to those around us.



Eddie Donaldson

PRAYER POINTS FOR MARCH 2024

Please pray for:

-  More people to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit working within them through reflection during Lent
-  Our Family Worker as she seeks to bring children, young people and their families closer to God through Jesus
-  Those living with illness or experiencing pain that they will feel God's healing hands
-  Those who are grieving that they will find comfort

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Julian Bevis • Josephine Warren

FROM THE MAGAZINE EDITORS

**Copy deadline for April 2024 issue:
THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2024 at noon.**

Publication date: Friday 29th March 2024.

Copy to **both editors** please -
vj kidd302@gmail.com and jackie.parker51@googlemail.com

Advertising enquiries to the Editors

All copy is (to the best of our knowledge) correct at the time of going to press, and represents the views of the contributor alone.

***Check notice sheets and websites
for up-to-date information.***



All Saints' and St Mary's web address:
www.allsaintsmilford.org.uk
or **www.stmaryseverton.org.uk**



ALL SAINTS' + ST. MARY'S
SHARING THE LOVE AND LIFE OF JESUS

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S - MARCH 2024

Hello, I'm Carol Rook and I became a member of St Mary's after the Covid pandemic.

My husband and I came back to the area in 2019 to be closer to our children after living in Suffolk for nearly 30 years. Whilst there, I was heavily involved in my village church where, with help from one of the young mums, I ran the children's activities for a number of years, was PCC secretary and treasurer and eventually became a Lay Elder. I had worn myself out with all of the practical things and felt that I couldn't get involved again.

When we moved I found it difficult to settle in any local church. I think I was afraid of being asked to do things again. Then the pandemic struck. We really struggled during the lockdown and I felt very 'lost'. As things started to ease, I took the opportunity to come to St Mary's for private prayer. When services resumed, I went along and was made to feel so welcome. This welcome set me back on my faith journey and now I am an active member of St Mary's, although not doing as many things as I had previously.

Alongside my work with the church, I am also a member of Hordle Parish Council which looks after Everton, Hordle and part of Tiptoe. This is a very interesting role and covers everything from planning applications to finding ways to deter people from letting their dogs foul public areas(!), from planting trees to pleading with Highways to fix our roads and many other tasks. Since I have been a councillor, we have installed a new play area for young children in the recreation ground, planted a community orchard and wild flower areas as well as more mundane things.

Sometimes it can be very challenging to carry out my civic duties without compromising my beliefs. It isn't always easy to 'turn the other cheek' and keep myself in check when people are not always willing to listen to reason. I have to constantly remind myself of the teachings of our Lord and the task gets easier. When there is a difficult situation, I do pray that he will lead me to say the right things and make the decisions that are best for our community.

I enjoy my role as a parish councillor but know I wouldn't do it so well without my faith to guide me. I look forward to continuing my faith journey with the help and support of my wonderful church family who constantly inspire and encourage me.

Let us thank God for his blessings and for being with us every day.

Carol Rook

All Saints' and St Mary's March 2024

Sunday 3rd March

9am	Morning Worship	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Worship Together	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>

Sunday 10th March, Mothering Sunday

9am	Holy Communion	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	All Together Worship	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Mothering Sunday Celebration	<i>St Mary's</i>

Sunday 17th March

9am	Morning Worship	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Worship Together	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>

Sunday 24th March, Palm Sunday

9am	Holy Communion	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	All Together Worship	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Palm Sunday Service	<i>St Mary's</i>
6pm	Prayer and Praise	<i>St Mary's</i>

Thursday 28th March, Maundy Thursday

6pm	Joint Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
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Friday 29th March, Good Friday

10am	Messy Easter followed by	<i>All Saints' Hall</i>
12 noon	Christians Together, Service on the Green	<i>Milford Green</i>
2pm	Reflective Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
10am	Prayer Walk from Everton Rec Ground to	<i>St Mary's</i>
10.30am	Good Friday Worship	<i>St Mary's</i>

Sunday 31st March, Easter Day

10am	All Together Easter Worship with Communion	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Easter Sunday Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>

Please check our website for the most up to date information as services can be subject to change www.allsaintsmilford.org.uk

All Saints' Church
Church Hill, Milford on Sea

St Mary's Church
Branwood Close, Everton

Come along to this day event for all women and enjoy teaching, worship, tips, tools and testimonies.

NIGHT- AND-DAY



Exploring 1 Peter 2:9-12, we will examine how Peter gives us a strategy and new perspective on how to live as a Christian: how to function and survive in very difficult circumstances, what it means to be 'born again into a living hope' and how this impacts our daily lives in 2024.

*Book
Now!*

13th April 2024

Registration 9.30 for 10am start
Prompt 3.30 finish

All Saints Church Hall
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light lunch)



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ALL SAINTS' + ST. MARY'

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FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

Back at the end of January we enjoyed our first Breakfast Church at All Saints'. It was a wonderful time of celebration as young and older came together to eat, worship and wonder together. As we were treated to bacon, pastries and cereal, and recalled the words of wisdom spoken to us by those older than ourselves, we also witnessed the exuberance of some of the youngest amongst us as they danced and played along to the worship music.



This season of Lent can lay heavy upon us. We find ourselves reflecting on those things that keep us far from our loving Father as we journey with Jesus through the wilderness. We recall his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and witness how quickly the love and joy of the crowd turns to hate, condemnation, death and sorrow.

And yet the sun rises on Easter Day, full of promise as:
*'Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive.'*
(I raise a hallelujah, Bethel Music Publishing 2018)

We're not there quite yet, there is journeying still to do, but how wonderful that we can live in the knowledge, proclaimed as we heard back in January by Simeon, that King Jesus truly is 'the light of the world'.

If you would like to spend some time pondering on the events of Holy Week, please do visit our **Experience Easter Prayer Spaces** in All Saints' church, prepared for children from the school, between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Or come along to **Messy Easter** followed by a service on the Village Green at 12noon on Good Friday.

We also have plenty of **All Together Worship** services in March:
Sun 10th March, 10.30am - Mothering Sunday
Sun 24th March, 10.30am - Palm Sunday
Sun 31st March, 10am - Easter Day



Easter Flowers and Lilies

Any contributions to our Easter display of flowers in Church would be much appreciated. Please hand in donations to the Office in an envelope marked 'Easter Flowers' as soon as possible, and ideally by Friday 22nd March.

It is our tradition to arrange a pedestal of white lilies dedicated to loved ones we have lost. If you would like an Easter lily in remembrance, please write the name of your loved one and enclose £6 for a lily in an envelope marked 'Easter Lily' and hand it in to the Office. The names of all those for whom lilies have been dedicated will be displayed with the floral pedestal.

Thank you.

All Saints' Church Flower Guild



OASIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Oasis Christian Centre has a strapline of 'More than a bookshop' and we would love you to find out just what that means.

Forty years ago, a small team of like-minded Christians in Romsey bought and renovated a Tudor building, 25 Church Street in Romsey. Renovations took four years and have never quite stopped, as the building became Grade 2 listed just over a year ago. This was just as the Trustees were starting to carry out further work in the cellar, side wall and roof. At the same time, almost overnight, materials doubled so it has been a busy time of reaching out for grants and donations.

However, from those early years we have developed a wide range of products from books and bibles, music, cards and stationery to our shelves of fairly traded gifts and wholefoods. We love to see customers old and new and enjoy hosting groups to have their own 'After hours' browse (with coffee and cake) and special discounts on purchases. With Mothering Sunday and then Easter fast approaching, feel free to get in touch for further details and book in. Of course, we love to see you at any time as we are open six days a week:

9.30am - 4.30pm weekdays and 9am - 4pm
on Saturdays.

Angie Nelson Oasis Romsey 017940 512194



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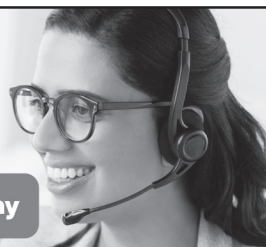
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Donna has worked for Oakhaven for eight years as a Health Care Assistant in the In-Patient Unit, allowing her passion for end of life care to benefit patients and their loved ones at the most difficult of times. Donna says 'We are there to support our patients with dignity and respect, both emotionally and physically. We laugh and joke, we pamper them, we sit and hold their hands and we listen.'

Donna is part of an amazing team at Oakhaven who all support each other 'we laugh, we cry and we get through it all together. I am so proud to work at the hospice.'

We are able to care for one in four people thanks to gifts in Wills.

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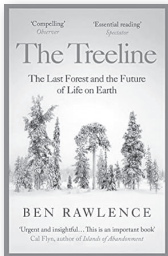
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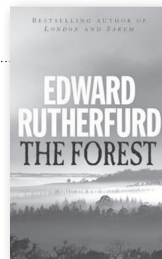


The Treeline (Nonfiction)

This book investigates the Boreal Forest and the Arctic Treeline. As author Ben Rawlence points out 'the Arctic Treeline is the frontline of climate change, where the trees have been creeping towards the pole for fifty years already'. He also explains that 'more than the Amazon Rain Forest, the Boreal is truly the lung of the world. Covering one fifth of the globe, and containing one third of all trees on earth, the Boreal is the second largest biome, or living system, after the ocean'. I was gripped by this sobering and thoughtful book. Whilst it is a detailed, tough read, it's not without hope for the future if, as Rawlence says, 'we all..... learn once again to think like a forest'. Have a look!

The Forest

Edward Rutherfurd's well researched historical stories are most readable, consisting as they do of linked chapters which can be enjoyed as discrete stories. Moving from the mists of time through history, there are nine sections in this particular novel, starting with The Rufus Stone, The Hunt, Beaulieu and so on.... Sound familiar? Yes, this is indeed The New Forest and a very interesting read. Most enjoyable.



These books (and MANY more) are available from Milford Community Library. Opening times: Monday and Tuesday 2pm - 4pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am - 12noon.

We have lots of lovely stock, thanks to all our donors in Milford and round about. Do visit us.

Jill Neill

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Services for March are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 3rd March 10:45am | Miss Rosemary Wells |
| Sunday 10th March 10:45am | Revd Barbara Jeffries - Holy Communion |
| Sunday 17th March 10:45am | Mr David Webb |
| Sunday 24th March 10:45am | Service to be led by the Church Stewards |
| Thursday 28th March 2:30pm | Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion - Revd Peter McNeill |
| Friday 29th March 12noon | Good Friday ecumenical service on the Village Green |
| Sunday 31st March 10:45am | Easter Day service with Holy Communion - Revd Barbara Jeffries |

MESSAGE FROM MILFORD BAPTIST CHURCH



The following is the imaginary testimony of a real person:

'I couldn't sleep that night. Not surprising, 'cos I was on Death Row, and the next day was to have been my turn. Well, I had led a rebellion and committed murder. There was just a slim chance. Every spring, at the Passover Festival, the Governor offers to release one prisoner as a favour to the people - anyone they want. Maybe my mates could persuade them to ask for me.

Even that faint hope was dashed in the early hours of the morning, when I heard that a bloke called Yeshua Ben David* had been arrested. He was from up north, a carpenter-builder or something, who'd turned travelling preacher cum wonder-worker. It was claimed he could walk on water, heal lepers and crippled folk - even raise the dead! This guy was very popular, and he'd only been arrested on trumped-up charges 'cos the religious bosses were jealous of him. The people were bound to ask the Governor to release him.

It was still early as the crowds gathered. It was difficult to make out what was happening from the prison cell, but then, to my utter astonishment, I realised they were shouting for me! 'Release Barabbas!' they demanded. 'Then what shall I do with this man who claims to be your king?' asked the Governor. 'Crucify him!' they yelled back, 'Crucify him!'

Before long, I found myself blinking in the sunlight, a free man. I joined the crowds as they surged out of the city towards Skull Hill, where Yeshua was strung up on a cross between a couple of thieves. I couldn't help noticing how different he was from other victims; he didn't curse and swear for a start. Somehow, despite the excruciating pain, he seemed more concerned for others than for himself. Looking up at him, I knew, deep in my heart, that he was innocent. He didn't deserve to die - I did. Slowly, it sank in. If he had not been on that cross, I would have been. He died in my place. I owe my life and freedom to him!' (See *Mark 15:1-15*)

Comment: Now I doubt if anyone reading this is as wicked as Barabbas, yet figuratively it was our place which Jesus took on that cross. The sinless Saviour died so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life. This Easter, let's thankfully and prayerfully reflect on that wonderful truth.

Jenny Yates

**Yeshua Ben David is Hebrew for 'Jesus, son of David'*



MILFORD BAPTIST CHURCH DIARY

Milford Baptist Church, 01590 645469 or chrisden1943@outlook.com

March

- 3rd Sunday worship at 10.30am with communion led by Tim Barry from Lymington Baptist Church
- 10th Sunday worship at 10.30am led by Geoff Coop from Ashley Baptist Church
- 17th Sunday worship at 10.30am led by Jenny Yates, Leadership Team
- 24th Sunday worship at 10.30am led by Chris Steadman, Leadership Team
- 28th Maundy Service at 7pm with communion led by Jenny Yates
- 29th Good Friday Service at 10.30am led by Rev Alan Harvey from New Milton Evangelical Church, followed at 12noon with the United Churches service on Milford Village Green
- 31st Easter Praise Service at 10.30am led by Rev Alan Harvey

Browsing The Times a little while ago, I came upon this interesting idea (within an article on dealing with stress), taken from *THE FIVE RESETS: REWIRE YOUR BRAIN AND BODY FOR LESS STRESS AND MORE RESILIENCE* by Dr Aditi Nerurkar (Pub: Thorsens)

'LIVE A LIFETIME IN A DAY'

This involves having the following six experiences on a daily basis:

Childhood - where you find time for joy or play

Work - either paid or unpaid, to create purpose

Holiday - to unplug and relax (preferably without your phone!)

Community - where you connect with those around you

Solitude - which means the opposite - and finally, at the end of the day

Retirement - which involves pausing and reflecting.

Lastly she has this advice - *'if this feels impossible some days, at the very least ask yourself: 'What's the one thing I can do for five minutes that will make me feel better today?'*



NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – ‘I BEG YOU, BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE’

World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 1st March 2024. It will be held at St Mary’s Everton at **2.30pm** and will be organised locally by representatives of the Christians Together team.

The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine, the land in which Jesus was born, ministered and died, and where the Christian faith began and is rooted.

This event is always popular and we do invite men and women to come on the 1st March. We will be joining with people in over 146 countries and islands around the world to pray with and for the people of Palestine.

Chris Steadman (on behalf of Christians Together)



MENMEET

Saturday 2nd March, 9am - Breakfast at Milford Baptist Church. The speaker is Ken Pimenta with an interesting testimony entitled ‘From the Moonies to Christ with Auntie (BBC)’. Book with Tony.

Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm - Retired Scientist, Ben Collins, will give a dynamic presentation about Climate Change and its possible effect on our local coastline. There will be the usual option of a pre-meeting meal (must be pre-booked).

All men are welcome.

More details from Tony Styles 07790 447090, stylest@hotmail.co.uk



MOTHERS’ UNION

Wednesday 20th March in All Saints’ Church Hall at 2pm



LIZ WEBSTER – will speak to us about her job Restorative Justice which brings together people harmed by crime or conflict with those responsible for the harm, to find a positive way forward.

FRIDAY AT DEL'S


Friday at Del's continues on 8th March, 10.30am at Keir Cottage, Barnes Lane. We are continuing to get inspiration from Pete Greig's book 'How to



hear God'. In this session we will be reading chapter 3 'Hearing God's word in prayer Lectio Divina'. The passage in Luke 24 v32 says: 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he (Jesus) opened the word to us?' Lectio Divina is an ancient approach to spiritual listening harnessing the power of imagination and meditation. The four traditional steps of Lectio Divina are Pause, Read (Lectio) and Reflect (meditation), Ask (Oratio) and Yield (contemplation), giving the acronym P R A Y. The group is made up of ladies from various church denominations and none so please come and join us and, as this is the last meeting before Easter, we will share a simple lunch together.

Del Jenkins 01590 642794

ALL SAINTS'
SHARING THE LOVE AND LIFE OF JESUS



TEA TOAST & TOYS

FOR PARENTS & CARERS
BUMPS, BABIES & TODDLERS

Tuesdays
during term time
9.15am-10.45am
All Saints' Hall
Milford

Suggested
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£1 per child

www.allsaintsmilford.org.uk/events

ST. MARY'S
SHARING THE LOVE AND LIFE OF JESUS



TEA TOAST & TOYS 2

FOR PARENTS & CARERS
BUMPS, BABIES & TODDLERS

Wednesdays
during term time
10am-11.30am
St Mary's Hall
Everton

Suggested
donation
£1 per child

www.allsaintsmilford.org.uk/events

NCF

COME AND JOIN US TO FIND OUT THE LATEST NEWS FROM NCF IN NAMUWONGO

The latest Trustee visit and Mission Trip to Uganda took place earlier in February. Yet again it was an amazing experience packed full of adventures and the full range of emotions that we've come to expect every time we spend time in the slums with the community that NCF serves. Progress at the Project is encouraging. We have many stories to share, and that is exactly what we will be doing on the afternoon of **Saturday 2nd March ...**

Project Update and African Tea

- 2.30pm - 4pm on Saturday 2nd March
- All Saints' Church Hall, Milford on Sea
- Latest news, photos, videos and personal experiences
- Opportunity to buy Ugandan crafts made at NCF
- We'll be serving Ugandan tea, coffee and homemade cakes
- It's all free, just come along and join in

Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you.



*Matthew, Nicola,
Sue, Liz, Steve
and John
(‘Friends of NCF’ Trustees)*



There has been a series of talks during the morning services in All Saints' entitled 'What will you be doing this time tomorrow?' Rebecca writes:

THIS TIME TOMORROW

Earlier in the year I was asked to share in church a little of what I get up to in my working week, how my faith impacts my work and how people can best pray for me. Now I've been asked to set out in writing my response, so here it is:

What will I be doing this time tomorrow?

Back in January I was meeting with Kate to begin planning our first ever Breakfast Church, which has now, as I write, just this morning taken place. I went on to talk about some of the other things I get up to in my working week:

- Leading groups for the parents and carers of babies and toddlers in Milford and Everton – and those with bumps. I pray for more bumps!
- Meeting up with parents individually during the week, often in their homes, to get to know them better, support them and, where appropriate, pray with or for them.
- I also spend time meeting with teams or individuals that volunteer to support the work with families
- Each week I spend some time in the school, supporting staff, leading or helping with worship or RE, or perhaps leading a workshop in the church for classes to visit.

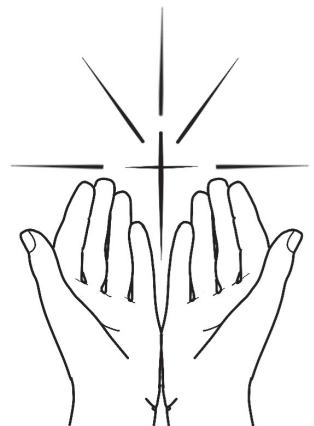
How does my faith impact my work?

If it wasn't for my faith I wouldn't be here, doing this role. I didn't really think I was the right person or had the required skillset. But I've learned to listen to God and to trust that he has everything in hand. I listened to his call to give it a go and this is where I am; loving this work which I've been called and equipped to do. When things feel out of my control, I just trust that God knows what he's doing even when I feel I don't, and if I listen to him in faith then all will be well.

How can people pray for me?

I shared how strongly I can feel the prayers for me and my work, and more than anything else I ask that they continue as we seek to bring children, young people and their families closer to God through Jesus. I asked for prayer specifically for my own children as they tread their own paths; that they walk in his light and find their own God-given purpose. And for myself I asked for prayers for wisdom and courage. Wisdom to seek and discern God's will both for me personally and my work; and courage to step out in faith and go with it – even when what he asks of me seems scary.

Rebecca Webb





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MILFORD ON SEA METHODIST CHURCH TALKS ABOUT ECO CHURCH

On Sunday 21st January 2024, the Church Stewards led the morning service and adopted the theme of 'Caring for God's world'. There were Bible readings from Genesis Chapter 1 and Psalm 8 as well as a poem 'Nature' by James Greene. Videos of 'Nature shines with beauty', 'Everywhere around me' and 'If the fields are parched' all fitted in with the theme.

There were two reflections: firstly on what we have done to God's world when issues such as food waste in the UK, global climate change and nature conservation were considered. We also gave thought to God's covenant with creation through Noah as expressed through the sight of the rainbow. Creation care is integral to the gospel. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live in his world and act as stewards of it for the benefit of all, not just humankind.

Our second reflection was all about Eco Church - what is that? Eco Church is a community of churches of all shapes and sizes and across different denominations. It provides a framework to support churches to take practical action of caring for God's earth. Churches sign up with A Rocha, a Christian environmental charity that runs Eco Church. Once registered, churches are invited to take an online survey to check on how they are doing and can gain Bronze, Silver and Gold awards to reflect their progress.

An explanation was given of the five key areas of church life upon which each church is rated:

WORSHIP AND TEACHING

MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH BUILDINGS

MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH LAND

COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

LIFESTYLE

Milford on Sea Methodist Church has signed up to the Eco Church community and is reviewing what it has already done and what more it can do to make the world a better place.

After the service, over a cup of coffee, the congregation were encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas on what initiatives we might introduce in the coming months. So, watch this space...

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Invasion of Ukraine by Russia – two years ago this February.

I am sure most of you will remember the shock and disbelief when we saw Russian tanks rolling towards Kiev on 24th February 2022. For those who had visited that country and had made friends there, tears and anxiety followed. I thanked God for WhatsApp as I was able to keep in touch with the young family Stewart and I knew in Kiev and were able to follow their flight from Kiev to the Polish border over several weeks.



We were also grateful that we, together with All Saints' church, had supported the mission work of Hope Now in central Ukraine and that the humanitarian and spiritual support was swiftly put into practice from Alpha House, the HQ of Hope Now in Cherkassy via Hope Now in Southampton.

In his monthly newsletter Jon Budgell, CEO of Hope Now, writes:

'During this time, Hope Now has served thousands of internally displaced people by providing prayer, food, warm clothing, medication, bedding and finance. That has only been possible with God's leading and the help of Hope Now supporters. Sad to say, the situation continues to look very grave but that does not deter the confidence and faith Ukrainians have of an eventual victory. Already our Team are preparing for summer camps and visits to distant villages. That preparation includes counselling courses for children attended by Sveta and Anastasia, Hope Now workers, to help us deal with the trauma so many children have had to endure so that parents can understand the actions and needs of their children. We still have hundreds of IDP's calling each week for food parcels and clothing that we are sending from the UK and all the recipients send their thanks to unknown donors who care for them, living so far away. They sometimes ask why are these people helping us. That question gives the opportunity of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

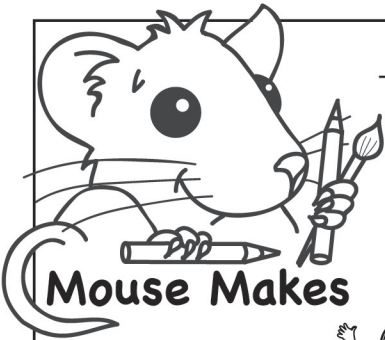
Jon concludes by quoting Paul's letter to the Romans 5:3 *'We rejoice in our sufferings, because suffering produces perseverance, character and hope and hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us'*.

Thank you for the love you show us and the people of Ukraine, many of whom you will never see but your love is shown.'

Libby Gillespie-Smith

Please contact me if you wish to send clothes or donate to the food Parcels project.





"I am the **resurrection** and the **life**.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



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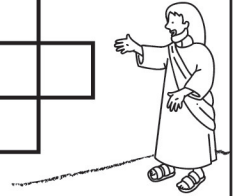
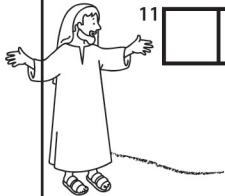
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



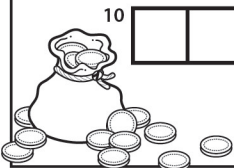
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



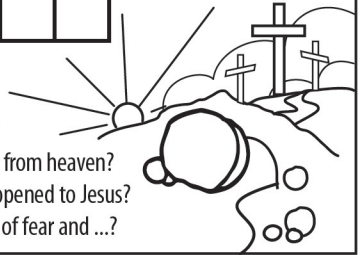
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



'GOD CAME TO ME IN THE HORRORS OF WAR' - Published by Bible Society, 21st December 2023

For more than 600 days, our colleagues in Ukraine have been taking aid, medicine and the Bible to people across the country, and increasingly to areas of fighting. Recently, General Secretary Anatoliy Raychynets returned from a trip to visit troops on the front line in woods outside Bakhmut. They met soldiers who were manning a cannon, but also reading Psalm 91.

'We were interrupted by shell explosions,' said Anatoliy. 'When I found myself in a trench next to a soldier called Kyrylo, he told me that two weeks ago we had come and given him a Bible.' Kyrylo told him: 'I have never been to church, never read the Bible, because I never had one. Here, at the combat positions, in short moments of silence, I started reading prayers from the Book of Psalms, as you advised me back then. I feel warmth inside me while reading Thank you for the Bible. It revived me to a new life, a life with God.'.....

'God works in an amazing way. His word is alive and active. Thank you that we have Bibles and are able to give them to people in different circumstances.' Thanks to your generosity, it has been possible to distribute some 700,000 Bibles across Ukraine since the start of the war. More will be distributed next year.

Bible Society newsletter sign-up - www.biblesociety.org.uk



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