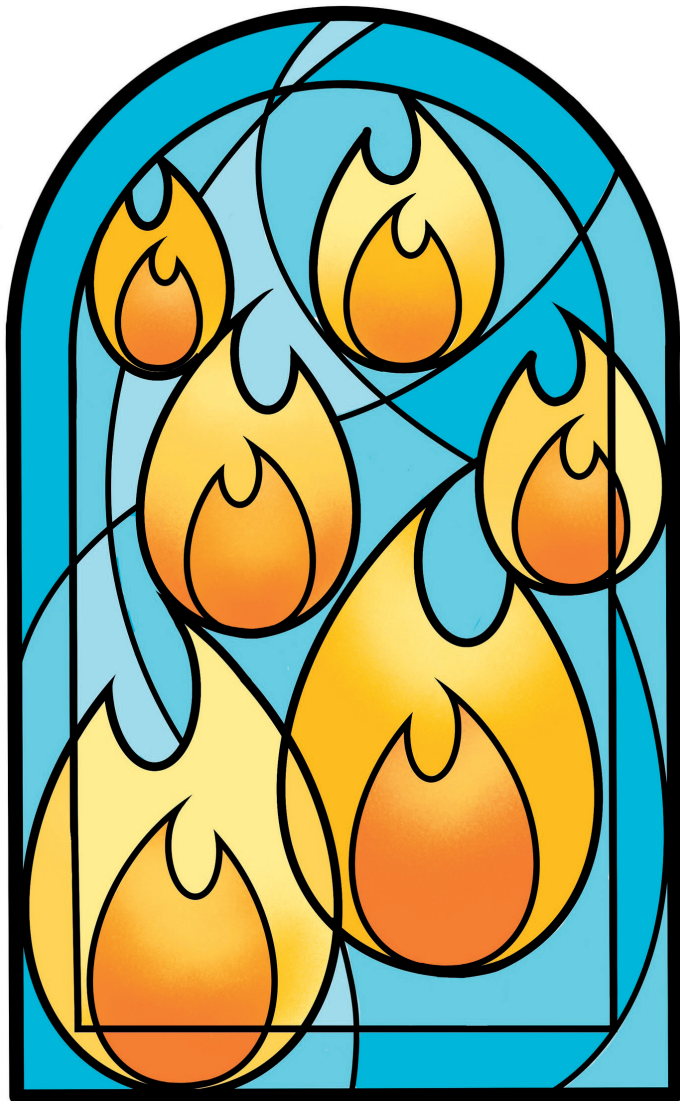


MILFORD Parish Magazine



MAY 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
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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

VICAR'S LETTER

*'Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act'
(Psalm 37:7)*

Last month we held our Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM), and this is a simple adaptation of my report for that meeting. The APCM is an opportunity to look back over the past year and give thanks for all God has done in and through His church. And there is SO much for us to give thanks for over the past year. The full APCM report shares just some of the many stories of God at work amongst us, growing His kingdom for His glory. The past year has also been a journey of patient endurance and much waiting (a word brought to us many months ago at our Prayer and Praise meeting).



Back in 2022, after much prayer and discussion, the PCC made a bold step of faith, committing to recruit both a Families and Schools Leader and an Associate Minister. We're delighted in seeing how Rebecca has flourished in the Families and Schools Leader role, and for the families we're increasingly seeing join us.

Yet, as I write this article, we're back out to advert for a fifth time for the Associate Minister role. Our Fallow Time at the beginning of this year provided opportunity for us to reflect on what it means to 'Be still' in the presence of God. Our journey this past year has required us to wait patiently for Him to act, to accept there is nothing we can 'Do' but to 'Be still' in the presence of the Lord and trust in His perfect timing. Yet so often, it's in the times of waiting that character is formed.

Mahatma Gandhi said *'Waiting on God is increasing our purity'*. As we studied the book of James last year, it challenged us to live out our faith in the everyday moments of life and drew us again to the importance of who we are rather than what we do. Who we are as people is always the more powerful witness of our faith. As we journey through times of waiting, do we allow or even embrace them as seasons in which God will change and transform us for His greater glory? What would it look like for me to increase our purity? What would need to change in me to better shine out God's glory?

Continued on page 2 ►

If the gold we can discover in our waiting is that we increase our purity and our holiness, then the waiting becomes worth every long, drawn out, painful moment of patiently enduring. Whatever lies ahead for us, may we be willing to wait patiently on God, allowing him to purify us in the process. I leave you with the lyrics of a worship song by Brian Doerksen.

*Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold*

*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for you, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for you, my master
Ready to do your will*

Tasha

PRAYER POINTS FOR MAY 2024

Please pray for:



- The peace of the Lord throughout our world today
- All those who live in abject poverty across the world
- All refugees, that they will find safety
- Those in our society who are struggling financially
- All who are homeless
- Those who are suffering from physical or mental illness and those who care for them

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Lola Howard • Christopher Dawson

FROM THE MAGAZINE EDITORS

**Copy deadline for June 2024 issue:
THURSDAY 8th MAY 2024 at noon.**

Publication date: Friday 30th May 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.**



BIBLE NUMBERS TO CALL UPON

- 1.** When in sorrow, call John 14
- 2.** When men fail you, call Psalm 27
- 3.** If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
- 4.** When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
- 5.** When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
- 6.** When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
- 7.** When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
- 8.** When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11
- 9.** When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23
- 10.** When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Cor. 13
- 11.** For Paul's secret to happiness, call Col. 3:12-17
- 12.** For ideas of Christianity, call 1 Cor. 5:15-19
- 13.** When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31-39
- 14.** When you want peace and rest, call Matt. 11:25-30
- 15.** When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90
- 16.** When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8:1-30
- 17.** When you leave home for labour or travel, call Psalm 121
- 18.** When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67
- 19.** For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55
- 20.** When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1
- 21.** How to get along with fellow men, call Romans 12
- 22.** When you think of investments/returns, call Mark 10
- 23.** If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
- 24.** If your purse is empty, call Psalm 37
- 25.** If you're losing confidence in people, call 1 Cor. 13
- 26.** If people seem unkind, call John 15
- 27.** If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126
- 28.** If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, call Psalm 19

Author unknown

Source: Association for Church Editors

All Saints' and St Mary's May 2024

Sunday 5th May

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 12th May

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

Sunday 19th May

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 26th May

9am	Holy Communion	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	All Together Worship with Baptism	<i>All Saints'</i>
10.30am	Café Church	<i>St Mary's</i>
6pm	Prayer and Praise	<i>All Saints'</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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCH

It won't be long before we can say summer has arrived but I wonder what that means to you. Sunny days is always our hope, holidays at home or perhaps further afield, but it might also mean enjoying picking your own strawberries or other fruit that comes in an abundance. We are blessed that most fruit is available in our shops throughout the year which is as well as I enjoy an apple a day, but also bananas and oranges which come to our shores from overseas where the sun is just right for them to grow. Fruit can be enjoyed at any time and in many ways, but more importantly it is good for us.

But there is a fruit that Paul describes in his letter to the church in Galatia that is even more important and that is the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit cannot be purchased from a shop; it is a gift from God. It is a very special fruit that we can enjoy when our lives belong to Jesus.

Fruit purchased at a store is good for us, but the fruit of the spirit is even better as it is at work in us to enable us to bless others by showing kindness, by being loving, and good. And what about joy, peace and patience. It will also help us to be faithful and gentle as well as enable us to be self-controlled.

As we think about this special fruit that we have been given, let us also consider how it can work in us to make us more like Jesus. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enable us to be good fruit for others to see and enjoy and for us to experience.

Ruth Shale



MILFORD BAPTIST CHURCH DIARY

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

May

- 5th Sunday worship at 10.30am with communion led by Simon Gray from the BU
- 12th Sunday worship at 10.30am led by Jenny Yates of the leadership team
- 19th Sunday worship at 10.30am led by Tim Barry from Lymington Baptist Church
- 26th Sunday worship at 10.30am led by Dudley Andrews, Home group leader

A Message From Gillian



I want to thank everyone who helped to make my final service at St Mary's such a very special day for me. For Tasha asking permission for me to lead an extended Communion service and for Archdeacon Jean and Bishop Philip giving their permission. It was wonderful to have members from All Saints' joining us in St Mary's, for Dominic returning to preach and Alyson joining us to record some of the service for Alastair Dunn who was not able to be there.

After the service nearly everyone came to the hall and Tasha was able to join us. The hall had been beautifully decorated and the coffee was served in china cups instead of our usual church hall ones. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the financial gifts and, although I have made no decisions at present, I think there will definitely be a time of retreat, probably at Crowhurst Healing Centre near Battle, a time at Sidmouth and maybe even an adventure further field! **Thank you all.**

As most of you know I am not moving away so I am sure I shall see many of you around but, until September, I am keeping a low profile!!

With my love and prayers for you all.

Gillian

FAMILIES AND

Last term was a busy time in school. Collective Worship's recognition of Lent and Mothering Sunday led into a special Easter service in All Saints' Church for Y3 and Y4 and their parents.

While Y1 and Y2 had enjoyed the Godly Play 'Faces of Easter' sessions, Y5 had the chance to reflect on the events of Holy Week through the Experience Easter series of prayer spaces in All Saints'. A similar series of spaces was also created by Family Tea families for those visiting St Mary's Hall during Holy Week.



On Good Friday, Messy Easter drew regular and visiting families into exploring the events of Holy Week as they made Easter Gardens, decorated biscuits, hammered nails and enjoyed a wide range of other craft activities. The wet weather meant that we processed to the church, rather than the Green, with our wooden crosses where several Milford pupils helped lead the congregation in a couple of songs. And then there was the joy of Easter!

SCHOOLS



Looking ahead into May and June, we are launching Breakfast Church at St Mary's in Everton each second Sunday. Adults and youngsters of all ages will be welcome to gather and worship together. Excitingly we're kicking off with a Baptism on Sunday 12th May at 10.30am. We hope you'll come and see what we're up to! All Together Worship for all ages continues at All Saints' every fourth Sunday at 10.30am with Coffee and Cake served beforehand.

Messy Church and Family Tea will see some date changes over the next term. A poster with dates is included but do please keep a close eye on our website www.allsaintsmilford.org.uk/events to check any last minute alterations.

We hope to see you at one of our events or services soon - and if you see me around the local area do stop and say hello!

Rebecca Webb
Families and Schools Leader



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
1000 Church Road
MILFORD

Upcoming FAMILY EVENTS

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FAMILY TEA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Mary's Hall 3-5pm Sunday 5 May Sunday 2 June</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">FAMILIES EXPLORING FAITH TOGETHER</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">ALL TOGETHER WORSHIP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Saints' 10.30-11.30am Sunday 28 April Sunday 26 May</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">A SHORTER ALL AGE SERVICE</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">BREAKFAST CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMING SOON St Mary's Everton 10.30-11.30am Sunday 12 May</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">A SHORTER ALL AGE GATHERING FOR EVERYONE</p>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Thursday 23 May</p> <p>All Saints' Hall 4-6pm</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">FUN FAITH FOOD</p> </div> </div>	

Check our website for details:
www.allsaintsmilford.org.uk/events



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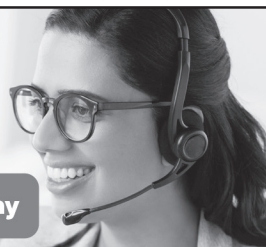
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NEWS FROM ST MARY'S - MAY 2024

Once upon a time, whilst enjoying a coffee at Cafe Church in 2022, Gillian Peard our Lay Minister mentioned that the Treasurer for St Mary's would be leaving in early 2023. Having been in the Royal Air Force for 35 years, I should have known better than to volunteer for the role!

I was duly endorsed by the District Church Council and, after some initial problems with the bank, we are now fully operational and able to pay bills 'online'. This saves us writing cheques, getting them signed, counter signed and then having the privilege of paying 40p per cheque! Income varies from donations, collections, Gift Aid, hall hire and social profits, together with Missionary projects, totalling just over £45,400 for 2023.

Expenditure covers Parish costs to the Diocese, and donations to Missions, where we have supported 5 main ones - Scripture Union, Mission to Seafarers, Tear Fund, the Church Mission Society and the Church Army. The Ripple Effect, Macmillan Nurses, the Salvation Army and the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal are also supported from direct collections in Church. There is also heating, lighting, insurance and repairs for both the Hall and Church. The grand total for 2023 was £43,200. I must admit I was anxious about the end of the Financial Year but the account balanced and, with the assistance of the Treasurer of All Saints' (our Parent Church), all the necessary papers have been independently examined and agreed - what a relief!

Our surplus for 2023 was just under £2,200 and it is good to report that both the hall hire and social aspects of our Church made a profit, which helps to foster our village community relationships.

The major concern for the future is that the Parish payment to the Diocese (Common Mission Fund) has increased together with the costs for the Church Office staff at All Saints', the Family Leader and the Associate Minister (yet to be appointed).

Our congregation averages 35 persons per week and the majority support our Church with Gift Aid which is a tremendous benefit for us. We are as economical as possible regarding heating and lighting etc but in the current financial climate are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. However, I must admit that whilst a lot of time is spent dealing with the accounts it is very rewarding and helps to keep our Church in a viable state.

There has recently been a Gift Day and people have given very generously, raising nearly £2,300 which will enable us to contribute more to the Common Mission Fund of the Winchester Diocese.

Dave Kirby, Hon Treasurer

BOOK REVIEW

Alis

by Naomi Rich

Written in 2007, *Alis* is Naomi Rich's first, and possibly only, novel. She was awarded a BA in English Literature from Newnham College, Cambridge, and a PGCE from Manchester University. For many years, she taught English at St Paul's Girls' School in London. She is particularly interested in seventeenth century Puritanism which loosely provides the setting for her novel.

Aged 14, Alis lives a contented life with her mother and father in the strict religious community of Freeborne. As is expected, she is obedient, honourable and dignified. She spends her days helping her mother with household tasks, tending to the sick and serving The Maker. In the future, she anticipates marriage to a young man of her choice, babies and eventually becoming, like her mother, a respected Elder of the community.

As the rules of the church become stricter, it is decreed that all pastors must be married. Alis is horrified when her parents tell her that she is to marry their local pastor. He is an 'old man' of 40 and not her choice.

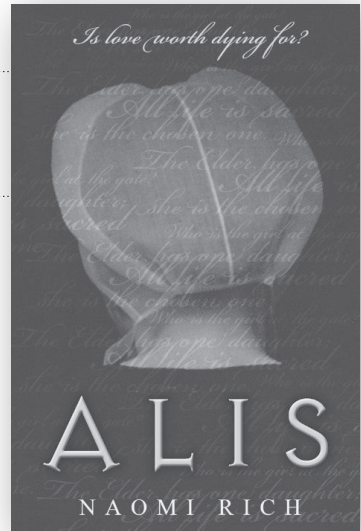
Her brother has already run away to the City, growing frustrated by the increasingly repressive rules of the community. She decides to follow him to try and find him.

It is dangerous and almost impossible for a young woman to travel independently and alone, and Alis faces huge challenges in the unfamiliar world beyond Freeborne. She knows no one and has nothing but, despite all this, she retains her faith, continuing to find support from The Maker, in her own way.

The story follows her path to the City, through many extreme dangers and eventually back home where she is wrongly accused of murder. She narrowly escapes the hangman's noose but is expelled from the community. The story ends as she leaves Freeborne for ever.

This strong novel is compelling, thought-provoking and relevant today, without being in any way judgemental. It is full of drama and adventure. It could be classified as a thriller or even a love story. But, more importantly, it is about a girl developing her own beliefs, questioning absolute authority and finding out what is really important in life.

Jane Miller



PASTORAL AND PRAYER SUPPORT

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3 NIV)

As a church we would hope to provide COMFORT to those in need and facing challenging times. Maybe this would be in the form of encouragement, a listening ear, signposting to other services and especially prayer. I feel privileged to be tasked with leading this newly combined team.

Together we seek to support those in need whether in our church family or not. Traditionally there has been a large pastoral support team. We are much more limited in what we can offer due to a significantly reduced ministry and lay team. However, we see many in our church family who care for others, and we would encourage you to reach out if you need support as someone who is caring for another.

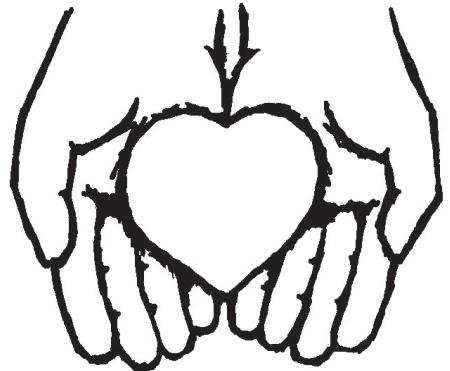
For some, contact with the pastoral support team will be an introduction to the Christian faith. It is therefore an opportunity to be missional and to invite people to get to know Jesus. For others established in their faith, we hope the support of a listening ear will remind them that Jesus is walking with them in times of hardship. I often return to Psalm 121, A Song of Ascents:

I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life: the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

The Team are Annabel Taylor, Carol Tyler, Maggie Hobday, Sue Forward, Rebecca Webb (Families and Schools' leader) and Frances Daniel (administrator).

Please do get in touch with us if you would like our help. You may also find the Prayer chain, which was promoted in the April magazine, useful. It is displayed in Church.

Annabel Taylor



NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 15th May in All Saints' Church Hall at 2pm



FIRST RESPONDER **John Blessing** will be with us to talk about being a first responder, to explain the defibrillator and to demonstrate resuscitation. Do join us - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

MENMEET

Saturday 4th May, 9am - Breakfast at Milford Baptist Church.

Paul Barnett, ex-CSI with Dorset Police, will talk about how he helped Jesus into the lives of some of the criminals he met. Book with Tony.



Thursday 16th May, 4pm - Walk and Pub Meal

Meet at The Chequers for a short walk around the marshes, followed by a pub meal. Meal must be pre-booked with Tony.

All men are welcome.
More details from Tony Styles
07790 447090,
stylest@hotmail.co.uk

FRIDAY MORNING AT DEL'S

We don't meet regularly now until October but we will be having a cream tea together in my garden on Friday 24th May at 3pm, an opportunity to relax, share news and pray together, if you wish. Even if you haven't been before, all ladies are welcome to come to Keir Cottage, Barnes Lane, Milford on Sea for this get-together.

Del Jenkins
01590 642794



.....

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.....

SONGS OF PRAISE AT KEYHAVEN 2024 will be on **Sunday 7th July at 5pm**. It's been tricky to find a date that fits with tides and avoids clashing with other events so it is a bit earlier than usual this year. Keep the date free – more information to follow.



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WHAT IS MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP?

Why not come along to the Village Green on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May between 10am and 4pm and you can find out. This is an event being organised between Christians Together in Milford on Sea and Everton and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

There will be a Cessna 150 aircraft on the Village Green where you can try out the pilot's seat for size. There will also be a flight simulator so you can try your hand at landing the plane!

There will be an opportunity to talk to people involved in Mission Aviation Fellowship so you can find out about the vital work that they are doing around the world.

This is an event for all the family, so come along regardless of your age. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

On Sunday 5th May there will be representatives of Mission Aviation Fellowship giving talks about its work at All Saints', St Francis of Assisi RC Church, and the Methodist Church. A similar talk will be given at the Baptist Church on a Sunday in June.

Alan Boyce

What is
MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP?
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- Refreshments served throughout the day
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- An event for all the family

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METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

Services for May are as follows:

Sunday 5th May 10:45am	Deacon Paul Wayne
Sunday 12th May 10:45am	Mr Rob White
Sunday 19th May 10:45am	Revd Peter McNeill - Holy Communion
Sunday 26th May 10:45am	Revd Eric Parker

The Bible Society's Dyslexia Bible

The Bible Society is one of the missions that the generous congregation at All Saints' regularly supports. The Society is committed to providing the Scriptures in a language and style which is accessible to everyone regardless of ethnicity, ability or age.

The new Dyslexia Bible has recently been completed in English so that for the first time there is a special version of the Bible for those who find reading difficult, especially books with small print which many Bibles have. Each book of the Dyslexia Bible is printed individually using dyslexia-friendly fonts and page formatting, making it easier for those with dyslexia to engage with the stories. There are nearly 6 million people with dyslexia in the UK.

Do contact the Bible Society if you have friends or neighbours who would find it helpful to read the Bible in their mother tongue. Every time you make a gift you are helping the distribution and translation of the Bible which can have a life-changing impact on lives around the world. On behalf of the Bible Society - Thank you!

website: biblesociety.org.uk or email: contactus@biblesociety.org.uk

Rosemary Marcuse



Grace to be not like porridge

O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge
Stiff, stodgy and hard to stir
But like cornflakes: crisp, fresh and ready to serve.

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WELCOME TO UGANDA



Greetings from the NCF team in Uganda and from the 'Friends of NCF' team here in Milford on Sea. This month we thought it might be good to share a little bit about the country where we operate. It can help to give some context to the whole NCF Project operating in the slums of Namuwongo.

Did you know ... In 1894 Uganda became a protectorate of the British Empire and in 1962 the UK granted independence. The nation is made up of over 50 Tribes. It is named after the Buganda kingdom which encompasses a large portion of the south of the country (including the capital Kampala) and whose language 'Lugandan' is widely spoken.

Uganda may look small on the map but it is almost the same size as the UK (236,000 v 245,000 sq km). It is a landlocked country with no coastline, however 26% of the land is covered by lakes and rivers.

Uganda has the highest density of primates and gorillas worldwide and is home to approximately 1100 bird species. That constitutes 50% of Africa's and 11% of the world's bird species count.

Almost half of the population is under the age of 15 and 78% of Ugandans are under 30 years old, making it one of the youngest countries in the world. Women in Uganda have an average of 7 children (African average = 5.1; Global average = 2.7).

41% of Ugandans live in poverty. Uganda hosts the largest refugee population in Africa (more than one million refugees have fled their home countries to seek asylum).

UNICEF estimates that 70% of people in Kampala live in slum communities. Typical issues here are unsafe and unhealthy homes, overcrowding, limited access to basic services (from clean water and waste disposal to health and education), and lack of secure land rights.

Uganda's orphan population is estimated to be over 2.5 million. Orphans typically face higher instances of malnutrition and illness, limited access to education and increased vulnerability to physical and emotional abuse. Malaria is a risk to over 90% of the Ugandan population and is the leading cause of sickness and death, especially in children.

NCF is helping to transform lives and give hope to a few of the orphans, slum kids and vulnerable women in one of these slum communities in Kampala. Education is at the heart of all we do. If you would like to find out more then please take a look at our website (www.friendsofnf.org), chat to one of the Trustees, or send an email to matthew@thebearleys.net

Thank you to all of our loyal and committed supporters. We couldn't do it without you. **'Change a life and change lives'**

Nicola, Matthew, Liz, Steve, Sue and John (Trustees)

News Update from Word for Life - Ccpur, India and Wells, UK

Extracts from Stephen Hawkins' Spring Newsletter:

Thank you so much for praying with us and for us. In India, in Diki's

hometown, the ARK has welcomed in many more people, especially during the present ethnic and religious violence. Yet despite the tremendous difficulties they face, our ARK family are continuing to experience God's goodness and faithfulness. The ARKies have grown in spirit and hope, not only in number. Lives are being transformed and families healed by God... through '*His mighty power He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead*' (Ephesians 1:19-20). The ARKies are indeed new creations! They are 'Easter People'! Praise the Lord! Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer and support.

Here in the UK, we are sorry for the lack of detail regarding the amazing journey the Lord has led us on in recent months. We are thrilled and excited at last to announce that Stephen is to be ordained and inducted as the new part-time Baptist minister in Wells United Church on 6th April 2024.

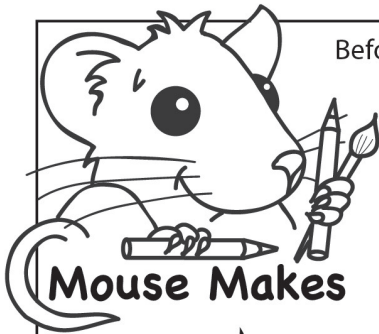
We see this as a wonderful Divine appointment, for the ARK ministry and personally. The theme verse for our wedding seems equally appropriate at this point in our lives too... '*This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes...*' (Psalm 118:23 KJV). We are deeply grateful for the experience Stephen gained with Wells Vineyard whilst studying at Moorlands. Following our time of 'statio', the deliberate 'holy pause' we gave ourselves, we have been worshipping at Wells United Church, a special ecumenical fellowship founded over a 100 years ago between (now URC) churches of Wells. The URC minister of the church retired last July and Stephen has been helping lead Sunday services and prayer meetings. At the same time, the Lord has blessed us with a growing local ARK team around us who have chosen to worship with us.

Over the last nine months we have been excited that the Lord is providing an Ark community in the UK as well as in India. We have felt an affinity between the foundational kingdom values of the Church, especially Christian unity and mission.

Please continue to hold all the Ark family in your prayers as Churachandpur remains under siege with national highways to the rest of India blocked. Food is scarce and internet and phone connections often cut. We thank God that Diki's family and the Ark family are safe Thank you for partnering with us in these difficult days.

For more information contact Libby Gillespie-Smith, Mission Support Team



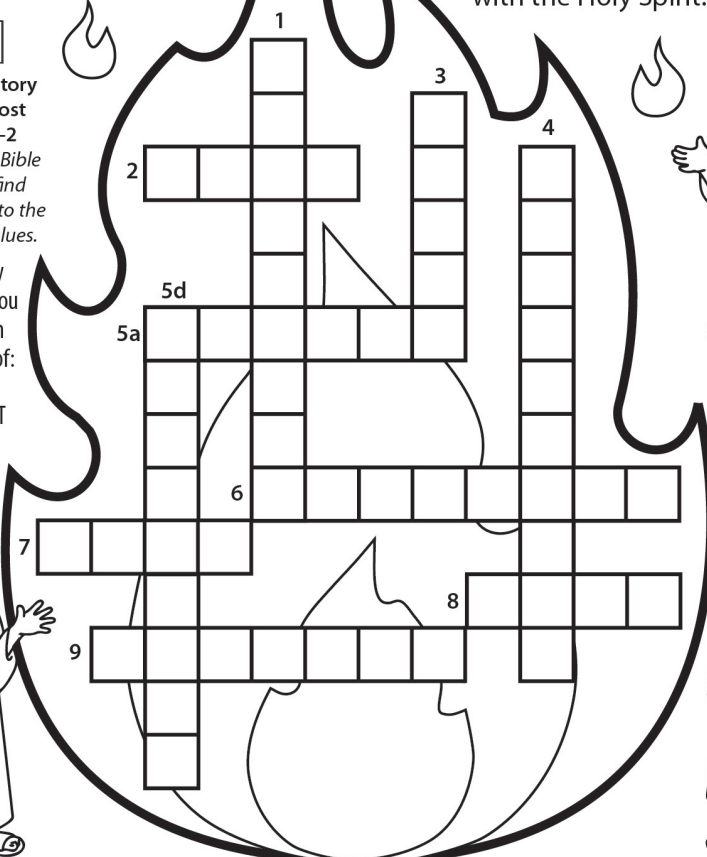


Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...*
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
**DAY OF
 PENTECOST**



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

On Wednesday 20th March, LIZ WEBSTER presented a riveting talk at our Mothers' Union meeting about her work - Restorative Justice - which brings together people harmed by crime or conflict with those responsible for the harm, to find a positive way forward.

She told us that Restorative Justice is funded by the government and is offered ONLY after the Ministry of Justice has pronounced judgement. Outcomes of Restorative Justice will not change the judgement sentence.

It is a completely voluntary decision by both harmer and harmed to participate in a face to face interview. The restorative facilitator meets individually with both parties at least three times before a face to face takes place at which the facilitator is also present. Liz Webster told us that the facilitator can act as an intermediary between the two parties if one or both do not want a face to face. This could be for example recording the questions and comments and forwarding these to the other party. Even if one party says that they do not wish to participate, surprisingly this can also help the closure process. One example Liz gave was that a lady just wanted to see the unmasked face of her harmer. This was sufficient to give her closure.

The government requires strict record keeping, and the figures show how successful the restorative process is - the feedback from both harmers and harmed has rated their experience at least 90% helpful. Furthermore, after their restorative justice experience, harmers seldom re-offend.

Liz Webster concluded her talk with a plea to us all to let others know about the restorative justice option which is not time dependent (it could be in connection with a case many years ago) and which also extends to family members.

*Lynne Kendal on behalf of
Mothers' Union*



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