

Issue 1

October 2020

# The Bewsborough Parish Post

A newsletter for the Churches in Barfreestone, Coldred, Eythorne & Elvington with  
Waldershare, Shepherdsweil and Whitfield



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## A Prayer for Harvest

Almighty and gracious Father,  
we give you thanks  
for the fruits of the earth in their season  
and for the labours of those who harvest them.  
Make us, we pray,  
faithful stewards of your great bounty,  
for the provision of our necessities  
and the relief of all who are in need,  
to the glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Welcome and Thank You!

by Revd. Sean Sheffield

Welcome to the first issue of our new Parish newsletter, The Bewsborough Post, which I am hopeful over the coming months will become one way in which we can feel closer to one another as we share life in the Parish, our rich and unique worshipping communities and with one another. Somewhere that we can share what God is doing in our lives, where we are seeing Him at work, and also share some laughs, some challenges and perhaps some ideas for good food along the way!

As I start with a “welcome”, I also want to say thank you. Thank you for your continued prayers as Ruth, Noah, Phoebe and I prepared to join you here through the summer months. Thank you for the many cards and gifts (you will be pleased to hear the Orchid is still alive.... unfortunately the same cannot be said for the wine..... that hasn't survived!) Thank you for helping us to settle in so quickly and to feel so warmly welcomed, we feel truly blessed to be here and are excited to be joining you all as we set off on a journey exploring this new season of ministry together, and what God might be calling us to.

I realised as I came to finalise this first issue, that as much as I wanted to share some thoughtful insights about the future, a reflection on the time of year or on some favourite or seasonally relevant passages of scripture; many of you know very little about me or my family. And so, although as we journey together over these coming months and years you will find out much more about me, I thought a few words by way of introduction were appropriate.

I was born in Nottingham, and yes that does mean that I am a fully fledged Nottingham Forest fan; although the glory years I remember as a young boy of Peter Shilton and Tony Woodcock seem to be long behind us!

Fast forward through the years of school, first jobs; including NatWest Bank, a spell in the Royal Navy (following my father who spent 20 years in uniform and on board a variety of ships), car sales and also returning to University as a mature student to study Applied Physiology. I finally stumbled into my career of over 20 years in Call Centre management. It was in the formative years of this career that Ruth and I met, working in the same place, way back in 1995.

You may well have noticed that through this ‘potted history’ I haven’t mentioned my faith or God yet, that’s because I had not encountered Jesus in a way which had impacted me or my life. That all changed in 2009 when I met Jesus in a particularly powerful way, through the love of a Church community, the Alpha course and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Over the years that followed I became increasingly involved in ministry with our Church and local community, and during this time God blessed us with our wonderfully energetic children, Noah (9) and Phoebe (6). The addition of a wayward Dalmatian and Sprocker Spaniel were entirely our idea! Then following a stuttering and winding journey of discernment I ended up at Trinity College, Bristol training for Ordination in 2015.





And so here we are; having spent 3 wonderful years in Dover, a place we have come to love, enjoy and call home. Once more following God's call on our lives, to be with people and communities that we love being part of; and it is an absolute wonder, a joy and a privilege to be with you and the communities of Bewsborough.

So, as I wind up this, rather longer than expected, introduction, I wanted to offer a final thought.

Whilst I was preparing to come here, thinking of you all and praying for the Parish and the communities that we were coming to join; the words of the prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19 often came to mind:

**'I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have the power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.'**

This prayer speaks to me of the assurance we have, as we hope in Christ, of being in the faithful, healing love of God through all the joys, wonders and sorrows of life. And as this came to me, and still comes to me, so does the confidence and knowledge that as a Parish you have been guided by the power of the Holy Spirit in moving forward. And so I would urge all of us to continue to trust for such leading and discernment in the days, months and years to come as we seek God's will together for us and for our communities.

Let us continue to press into God, and claim that promise of love and living life in all it's fullness as we seek to make Christ known in our communities and be joyful, energetic, loving bearers of the Gospel message of hope that we carry. God will help us and enable us to do all manner of things by the grace of His Holy Spirit.

God bless!



## A Harvest READING

from the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 13, verses 3 to 9

And he told them many things in parables, saying:

'Listen! A sower went out to sow.  
And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path,  
and the birds came and ate them up.  
Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil,  
and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.  
But when the sun rose, they were scorched;  
and since they had no root, they withered away.  
Other seeds fell among thorns,  
and the thorns grew up and choked them.  
Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain,  
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.  
Let anyone with ears listen!'

## Some THOUGHTS for Harvest

by Harvey Richardson

Harvest Festivals, this year, will not be the same. We shall miss the opportunity to gather at Church in large numbers to celebrate and give thanks, to sing those old familiar hymns, to meet socially at Harvest Suppers or the local Barn Dance! Harvest will not be the same.

But let's use this strange Covid time, with its enforced restrictions, and look at things with fresh eyes and listen with fresh ears - 'Let anyone with ears listen!' (v.9)

What lies at the heart of Harvest festivities and how does it relate to our faith?

- **Is it essentially a time to express our heart-felt gratitude to God for the beauty and bounty of the world?**
- **Is it an opportunity to commit ourselves to care more for the environment of this precious planet (heeding the warnings of David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg and others)?**
- **Or is it something we always do, our 'tradition', without which 'things just wouldn't be the same'?**

I read this recently - 'The greatest enemy of faith is not atheism but conventional religion, practiced by rote or out of a host of social, psychological, ethnic, and other factors wholly foreign to divine revelation.'

Perhaps, now is the time for us to make sure we don't collude with conventional religion, that 'greatest enemy of faith'. Harvest Festivals are of course Christian celebrations whose essential meaning and purpose are found in the life of Jesus Christ, the 'divine revelation' - 'Let anyone with ears listen!' says the Lord Jesus.

The Bible Reading, above, the Parable of the Sower, even with its references to crops and weeds, fruitful earth, natural growth, harvests, is surely about the ways of God, his divine revelation in Jesus Christ - nothing less.

In the later verses 18 to 23 which follow the Parable, the disciples are initiated into a great mystery which lies at the heart of this 'divine revelation', and here are just five observations (space precludes any more!):

### 1. The Kingdom of Heaven - a mystery, not a place

The Kingdom of Heaven is indeed a mystery, but it is God's 'rule', 'dominion' and 'power' wherever the heart of Jesus Christ holds sway over human hearts. [Of course you don't need me to remind you that the Coronavirus can also be described as a 'mystery' holding its sway over the whole world. But the 'Covid mystery' could not be more unchristlike, for it brings its own 'rule' of fear, anxiety, suffering, pain and death - all those things which are the polar opposite of Christ's loving heart].

### 2. Fruitful seeds?

Then, we notice that three times out of four, the seeds of this Kingdom do not bear fruit.

### 3. The desire for understanding

This may be because we humans have an insatiable desire to explain everything, even God, to our satisfaction, to have total control and understanding. The tiny seed sown by the sower represents God's mysterious way of love which is continually and freely scattered throughout the world, but we so often want to take it to ourselves, to control it, to have power over it. Jesus likens this to the power of the Devil!

### 4. Roots

It may also be because we have no roots to our faith!

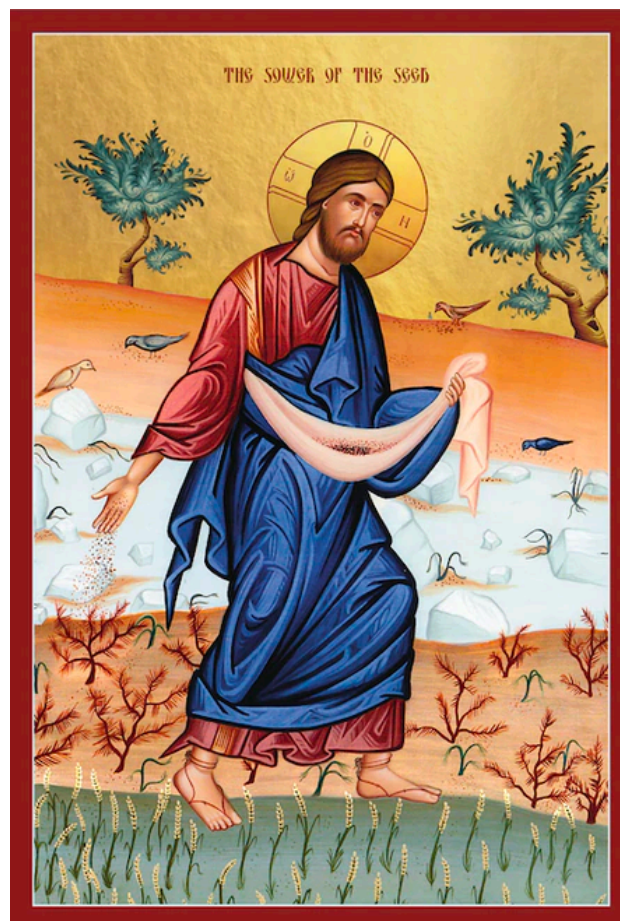
Perhaps now is the time to ask if our commitment to Jesus Christ and his loving heart for the world is superficial, more like the man who built his house on sand, less like the one who built on rocks. If we make our religion 'conventional' or a convenient 'past-time', God's seeds of love will not take root in us.

### 5. Thorns

But it may also be because anxieties, worries and other 'encumbrances' become like thorns to choke our faith! Often we want to say Yes to the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, AND Yes to worldly success, comfort and enjoyment, but a divided heart will surely make us sterile, despite our best intentions!

So, amid the enormous pressures of today's unprecedented troubles and fears with Covid-19, this Harvest Parable helps us to hear and to see what our real business in life should be. For me, I must allow Christ to expand his reign and take root in the good soil of my heart. With Coronavirus infections rapidly increasing, may I use this moment to allow the Christ 'virus' to infect all four quarters of my being: my body, my emotions, my intellect, and my will.

Then there will be a rich Harvest indeed!





Each month we will share the words and some insights into favourite hymns, selected by members of our worshipping community.

First up this month is Revd. Stewart:

Dear Friends.

Thought I'd make an early contribution to the 'My Favourite Hymn Article'.

In truth I am hesitant to disclose such a thing because revelation of a 'favourite' anything can reveal quite a lot about our inner selves (I'm aware that several reading this have qualifications and experience in psychotherapeutic counselling, you have my number if anything that follows raises professional concerns!).

Two hymns vie for the position of 'my favourite'. The first is "Crown Him with Many Crowns". I'd like to say my penchant for this hymn is love perhaps for the book of Revelation, specifically Ch. 19 vs. 12 by which it seems to be inspired or the majestic splendour suffusing its prolific prose. But no, I simply stand in awe of the line "creator of the rolling spheres ineffably sublime". What a line! I happen to own a trusty refracting telescope and have spent many hours observing the heavens but however long I had to describe what I saw, never would I have come up with "rolling spheres ineffably sublime". Well done Revd Bridges.

But sorry Revd Bridges top spot has to go to "O Come O Come Emmanuel". Why this? The import and theology? Hmm well it certainly does speak of the longing we share for the advent of God among us in times of waiting and so often suffering, for our hope in forgiveness, freedom, joy, security and strength found ultimately and uniquely in Christ.

Yet this is not the whole or even much part of it. In truth the feeling of wonder, comfort and inspiration it inspires in equal measure is mysteriously and unaccountably bound up in the metre and melody of its words and tune. Yes, a key part of our worship is the word and its interpretation so carefully prepared and received week by week.

Yet this is not the whole or even much part of it. In truth worship can so often speak of our indescribable longing for an encounter with God found mysteriously and unaccountably bound up in bread and wine outpoured, in communion with those that have come before us, those present and those that will surely follow. If we attempt to describe such things, to crystallise them in comfortable terms neatly circumscribed by human logic we so often lose the divine spark which gives them life in the first place. For me this hymn does not seek to describe such things it just notes that they are.

I'll leave you with the first verse in the original Latin and the interpretation by J. M. Neale (no apology for using out of season)

Veni, veni Emmanuel!  
Captivum solve Israel!  
Qui gemit in exilio,  
Privatus Dei Filio,  
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.

O come, O come Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel  
shall come to thee O Israel

I'll expect a call from you psychotherapists soon, I'm in most afternoons, you have my number.

Pax et Bonum, Revd. Stewart



Our second entry for favourite hymn this month is from **John Reynolds**, who says:

“The refrain of this hymn is particularly apt for our mission here in the Parish”

**“Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord if you lead me. ....”**

### **Here I am Lord**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
**Here I am, Lord. ....**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
**Here I am, Lord. ....**

If you have a favourite hymn that you would like to see featured, please get in touch with Sean.



# RIDE+STRIDES for Churches

by Sarah Hindle



On a glorious Saturday 12th September, Jennie Bradshaw and Sarah Hindle, both members of St Nicholas congregation, set out to do the “Five Church Walk” (normally held in May) round the footpaths, fields and forests north of Ashford. The instruction from the web pages for the walk proved slightly less than adequate so we had to map read – a challenge but fun. Much better were the descriptions of each of the churches and their histories, both from the website notes and complimented beautifully by reading about each church from

Jennie’s 1942 edition of a guide by Arthur Mee.

Starting from St Peter’s at Molash, we got slightly lost on the first “leg” to Challock, where the beautiful though very isolated church of Ss Cosmas and Damian is situated a mile or so from the actual village. It took us nearly two hours to get there walking through parts of the King’s Wood. From there, we walked through rolling landscape, with views across Eastwell Manor estate, to Boughton Lees where we were able to visit the lovely little chapel of St Christopher. A delightful feature inside was a wooden carving of Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus, a rare depiction of Mary and Joseph shown as a couple.



## Carving of Mary, Joseph & Jesus at St. Christopher’s Chapel, Boughton Lees



Walking on past a game of cricket on the village green, we arrived at All Saints Boughton Aluph. Here we picnicked, and met other walkers, including ladies walking part of the North Downs Way, families, and had our only meeting with another Ride and Strider, a young man hoping to cycle round some 40 churches.

Finally we set off on the last leg,

climbing high up to walk along the edge of King’s Wood, past Godmersham Park, where we had to miss out visiting the church as time was getting on.



We began the long descent to Chilham, past the castle and ended our walk at St Mary's on the edge of the village square. Having parked one car there, it was a quick journey back to Molash to collect the second, and return home, for a long bath and early night!.

Sadly, all but one of the places of worship were closed, and with no-one to greet us we had to sign off our own small achievements at each church. Nevertheless, it was a lovely day.

Proceeds (£75) have been dispatched to the Ride and Stride Treasurer, half of which will go to St Nicholas at Barfreestone whilst of course the rest supports Friends of Kent Churches, which provides small grants to churches, and from which St Nicholas itself benefited last year as part of the conservation work completed in 2019.



**A jolly couple at Challock!**

"How perfect everything was; the balmy autumn day, the domes and hollows of the Downs, capping with trees..manmade old and beautiful homes and churches, plus the hedgerow bounty to eat along the way. Hard to believe what a mess the world is in when you walk through hours like that - but perhaps one might receive it as a God-given intimation of a possible life-affirming harmonious future if we could but collectively choose to go that way."

Jennie



TO:

Sarah

## Pause for Thought - Foundations and Roots

by Ruth Sheffield

I grew up in a Christian family and have pleasant memories of what, back then at least, was referred to as Sunday School. I remember singing songs, being told stories from the Bible and drawing or making things that reminded us about the stories. It was fun and it gave me a good basic knowledge of the Bible from a young age.

I was confirmed in my very early teens, happily convinced that God was real and that I was ready to become a fully fledged Christian in my own right.

As my teenage years continued though, it didn't take long for me to fall away. Although my immediate group of school friends went to the same church as me, there was a world outside of church that was becoming more interesting to me. I didn't stop believing, but I just couldn't see the relevance of Christianity to my everyday life. For a long time, I'm sad to say, I forgot all about God.

It was through an Alpha Course back in 2009 that I finally realised what had been missing in my life. Actually, what had been missing even in those early years growing up in a church environment.

Being a Christian, to me, had been a concept. Something I did, not something I experienced. Even when I'd prayed, fully in the knowledge that God heard every word, being a Christian had been an entirely one-way practice.

I'd gained plenty of knowledge from all those Bible stories, had sung many hymns and worship songs, attended plenty of church services, but I had never experienced an actual spiritual connection with God. I had no experience of a tangible, personal relationship with him.

In all those early years, I had never understood that a deep, two-way connection with God was even possible. Of course I knew about the sacrifice that Jesus had made by dying on the cross, I even thought I'd understood why he'd done it, but the main part of the puzzle had been missing for me for all that time. Was it just an oversight in those years, was it assumed that I understood? Or was it that the churches I grew up in were missing the main part of the puzzle too?

The Alpha Course helped me to see things differently. I found out that a spiritual connection with God isn't just possible, it's essential.

I found out that I have a Heavenly Father who has a unique plan for my life, tailor-made just for me. I found out that I have a brother in Jesus, one who was prepared to give his life so that I could have an actual relationship with the Father. I found out that God's Holy Spirit isn't just in the pages of the Bible or in liturgical wording, he's active within me and around me all the time.

I discovered that opening my heart to God when I pray enables me to actually feel his Holy Spirit with me. That when we pray with others, the presence of his Spirit can be felt by us all. That when we pray with someone and ask for God to heal them, he either heals them, or the Holy Spirit gives them comfort in the form of God's peace, depending on his will for them in that moment.

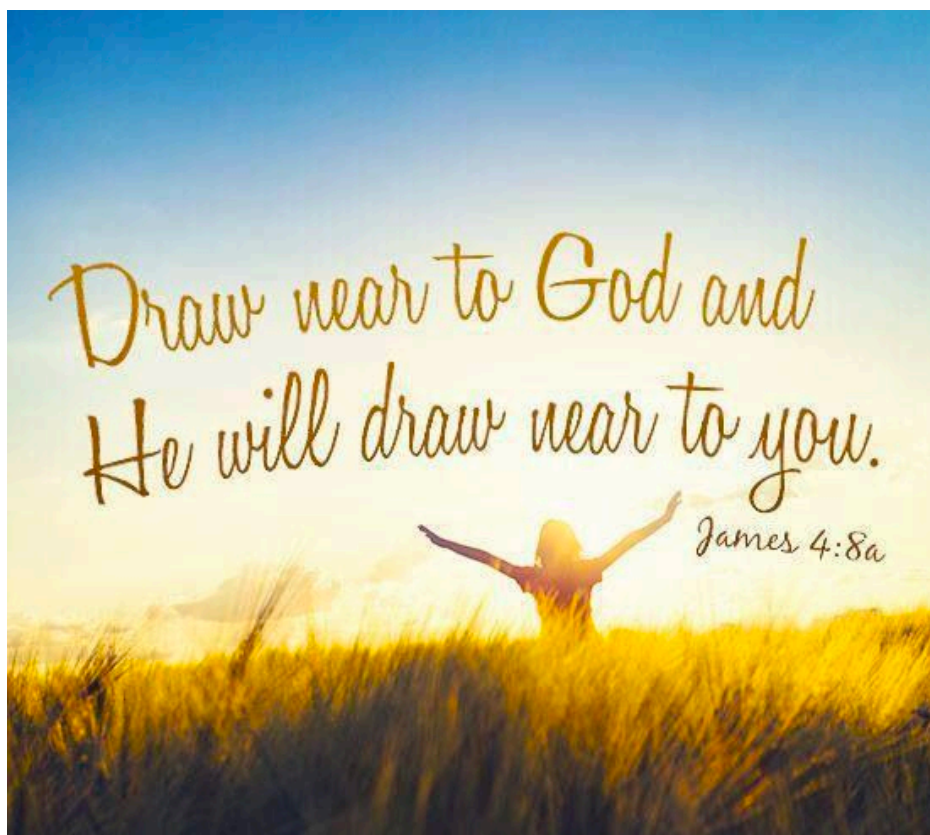


Without realising, in my early years I had been exactly like the man who built his house on the sand, exactly like the seeds whose roots were choked by the thorns. But perhaps not in the obvious way.

I understood the idea of Jesus being the rock, the sturdy foundation for the surviving house. I just didn't know that a personal relationship with him was what held it all together. I understood the idea that the roots being choked by the thorns were those who heard about Jesus but let others' steer them away. I just didn't know that the only way roots can grow is through experiencing a living, breathing relationship with God.

I've come to learn that I can only truly walk in step with the Lord if I'm spiritually connected to him, if I'm in a relationship with him. I've realised that what God wants most isn't for us to know about him, it's for us to know him. To open our hearts to receive his spirit, to be brave, to be bold, to be God's people with God's power within us! To see our families, our friends, our neighbours, our communities changed, through the power of the Lord.

Through our own planning, our own strength, we can achieve very little. But by walking in step with the Lord, by being spiritually connected to him, being guided by him, discerning his plans for us, with his power within us, so much more can be done!



# Butternut Squash and Potato Soup

By Jenny Hunt



**Serves 8**

## Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1-2 fresh red chillies (deseeded and finely chopped), **or** ½ tsp dried chilli flakes (add more or less according to taste)
- 2 tsp coriander seeds, crushed
- 1 butternut squash (about 750gm/1lb 10oz) peeled, deseeded and roughly chopped
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped
- 2 tomatoes, skinned and diced
- 1.7 litres (3 pints) hot vegetable stock
- Salt and pepper

## Method:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pan, add the onion and fry for about 10 minutes until soft. Add the chilli flakes and crushed coriander seeds to the pan and cook for 1-2 minutes.

2. Add the squash, sweet potatoes and tomatoes and cook for 5 minutes. Add the hot stock then cover the pan and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.

3. Whizz the soup in a blender or food processor until smooth. Add the seasoning and reheat to serve.





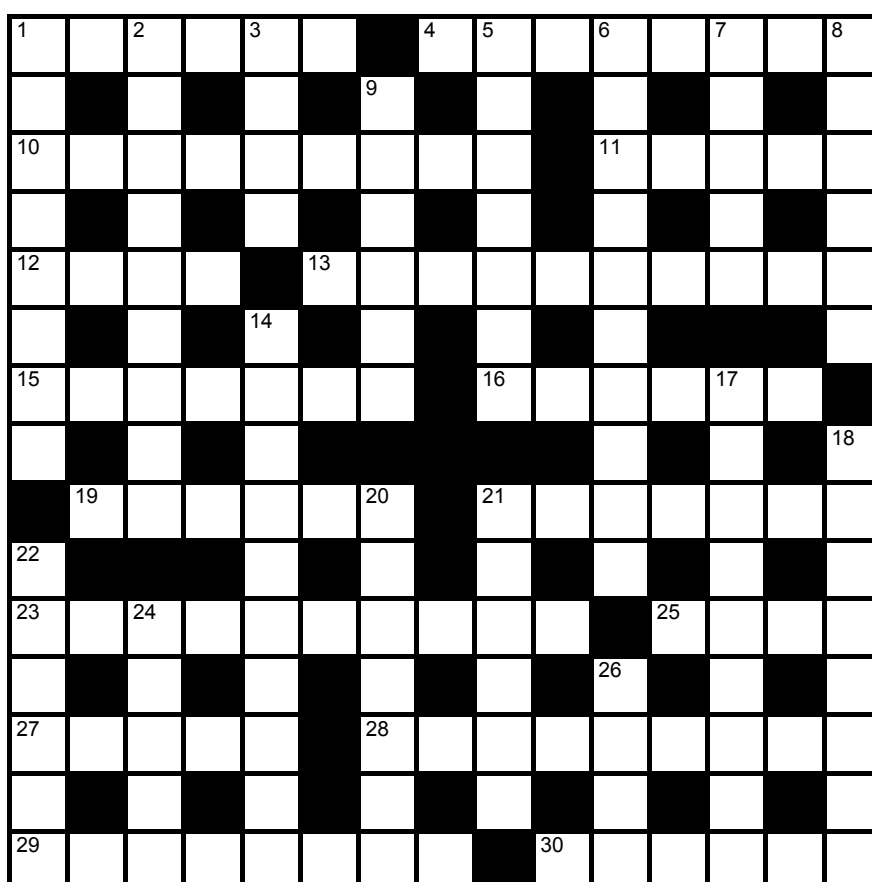
# Puzzle Corner

## Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)  
 4 Seemed (8)  
 10 New Testament book (9)  
 11 Unit of length (5)  
 12 '...it is a \_\_\_\_ thing  
 the king requireth'  
 (Dan 2:11) (4)  
 13 Contemplation (10)  
 15 Abigail supplied David  
 with one hundred  
 clusters of these (7)  
 16 A son of King David (6)  
 19 Concurred (6)  
 21 Light sources (7)  
 23 Propitiations (10)  
 25 A false god (4)  
 27 Gather (5)  
 28 Abimelech was hit by  
 this (9)  
 29 Instructors (8)  
 30 Hastily (6)

## Down

- 1 Skilled animal  
 workers (8)  
 2 Inspiring (9)  
 3 Compass point (4)  
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah  
 said not to listen to  
 these (10)  
 7 Jewish leader (5)  
 8 'He is proud, knowing  
 nothing, but \_\_\_\_\_  
 about questions and  
 strifes of words...'  
 (1 Tim 6:4) (6)  
 9 Bread makers (6)  
 14 In this year of King  
 Nebuchadrezzar's reign,  
 Nebuzaradan arrived in  
 Jerusalem (10)  
 17 Ancient city of Og, King  
 of Bashan (9)  
 18 Stringed instrument (8)  
 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)  
 21 Tiny amount (6)  
 22 Jesus did this with  
 authority (6)  
 24 Last letter of the Greek  
 alphabet (5)  
 26 Province of the Roman  
 Empire (4)

**Solution in next month's issue!**

# What's On in October?

## Sunday Worship

Sunday October 4th		Trinity 17	
09:00	St. Nicholas	<b>Harvest</b>	Revd. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10:30	St. Andrew's	<b>Harvest</b>	Revd. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10:30	St. Peter & St. Paul's	<b>Harvest</b>	Revd. Sean Sheffield
10:30	Whitfield Village Hall	Village Praise	Derek / Tina
18:00	St. Pancras	<b>Harvest</b>	Revd. Sean Sheffield
09:00	Zoom Online	Morning Prayer	Revd. Sean Sheffield
Sunday October 11th Trinity 18			
10:30	St. Andrew's	Methodist Liturgy	Revd. Catherine Wagstaff
10:30	St. Peter's	<b>Harvest</b>	Revd. Sean Sheffield Derek Bilbrough (Deacon)
10:30	St. Peter & St. Paul's	Eucharist	Revd. Philip Buss Jenny Groombridge (Deacon)
09:00	Zoom Online	BCP Morning Prayer	Richard Webster
Sunday October 18th Trinity 19			
09:00	St. Nicholas	Eucharist	Revd. Sean Sheffield
09:00	St. Pancras	Eucharist	Revd. Stewart Carolan-Evans
10:30	St. Peter & St. Paul's	Service of the Word	Revd. Sean Sheffield
18:00	Zoom Online	Compline	Revd. Sean Sheffield
Sunday October 25th Last after Trinity - BIBLE SUNDAY			
10:30	St. Andrew's	Eucharist	Revd. Sean Sheffield
10:30	St. Peter's	Eucharist	Revd. Brian Duckworth
10:30	Zoom Online	Eucharist	Revd. Stewart Carolan-Evans

It is the intention that as we explore new patterns and rhythms of worship on Sunday, and at other times during the week, that the online service will continue on Sunday where possible. We are very aware that for those of our valued worshipping community members who are still shielding or unable to come to one of our Parish Church buildings these services are a vital ongoing community connection. Revd. Sean will continue to work with others and explore ways in which we ensure that we offer something online.



## Harvest services

Although things are a little different this year, and our usual Harvest celebration services are likely to be smaller than we would normally expect, we will be collecting donations as normal.

All donations will be left in Churches for 72 hours in line with Covid-19 guidelines to ensure no Foodbank staff are at risk when collecting.

Donations of **non-perishable** food goods can be made at the Harvest services as detailed in the October planner. They will then be distributed to the support agencies and services as follows:

St. Peter's  
St. Pancras



St. Andrew's,  
St. Peter & St. Paul's



St. Nicholas'



## 22nd October 7.00PM - APCM

The Annual Meeting will take place in the Eythorne Resource Centre at 7pm on Thursday 22nd October. Please do come along to support this as we talk about the year in our Parish. We are also hoping to offer Zoom as an alternative way of joining the meeting. If you would like to join via Zoom please contact Revd. Sean.

## Other Resources



CANTERBURY  
cathedral

For Morning Prayer,  
Evening Prayer and  
Choral Evensong  
why not head over to  
the Canterbury  
Cathedral **YouTube  
Channel**



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

**Watch this space for further upcoming online events such as:**

**Weekly Bible Study Lite** - a time to come together, grab a coffee share thoughts and insights about the Bible, and where we are seeing God working on our lives.

**The Great Big November Quiz Night** - as it says on the tin..... a quiz, but BIG! An opportunity to get that grey matter working!



## Listening and Discerning on the Way

### **What are we noticing**

of God's movement at this difficult time?

### **What are we learning**

as we reflect on how God seems to be moving?

### **What might we let go of or allow to die**

so that we may enter a new future with God?

As a Parish we are being invited to join in with a deeper conversation and initiative that Bishop Rose has initiated across the Diocese.

The Coronavirus and lockdown period has had many of us pondering many things during what can only be described as extraordinary times. So, during the period leading up to Advent we are being asked to enter into a time of discernment as we seek to listen to God and to each other.

During this period we are being invited to take time individually, in groups, as Church and Parish communities to take time to consider three simple (but dare I say it) challenging questions. And as we prayerfully discuss and share our thoughts together, to give some feedback to the Diocese as we look to shape our future together.

The three questions, are the ones in blue above. So please be praying and thinking about what these questions raise for you. Discuss and reflect on them with friends, and with those who you worship with.

Over the next couple of weeks there will be opportunities to talk in bigger groups (whilst not mingling after services of course) so that we can see where God may be leading us into the future.

If you don't have the opportunity to speak with Sean about something that is on your heart, please call him and let him know.

Let's journey together with these questions through October and see what the future may hold for our Parish.

**And finally.....**

# WHERE ARE MY KEYS?

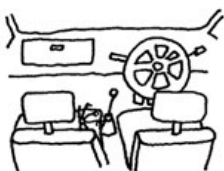
A GUIDE FOR CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICIALS



IN THE  
VICARAGE DOOR



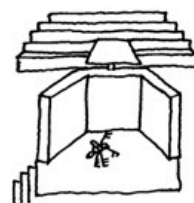
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ON THE  
PHOTOCOPIER



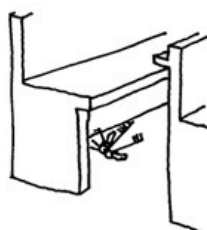
IN THE  
PULPIT



IN THE  
BIN



IN THE  
PUB



UNDER A  
PEW



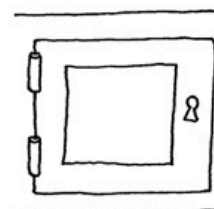
IN THE CHURCH THAT  
HELD DEANERY SYNOD



ON THE  
HOOK



ON THE SOFA OF  
THE BAPTISM FAMILY



IN THE  
SAFE



IN THE DOG'S  
BASKET



UP THE  
TOWER



IN THE CHILDREN'S  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
BOX



WERE THERE EVER  
REALLY ANY KEYS?



IN YESTERDAY'S  
CASSOCK



WHEREVER YOU  
LAST SAW THEM

Cartoonchurch.com

**If you need anything at all please do not hesitate to get in touch:**

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Or pop along to The Vicarage in Whitfield!

get in  
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