

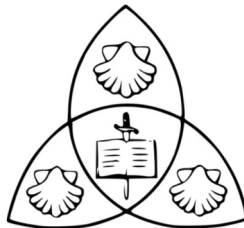
BUSHEY PARISH MAGAZINE

The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27: 1



**FEBRUARY
2024**



60 PENCE

God in Music:

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: the Nunc Dimittis

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of Christian music.

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the Magnificat, the Benedictus and the Nunc Dimittis.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, ‘Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.’ It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the Nunc Dimittis have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong – settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov’s setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the Nunc Dimittis. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: ‘a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,’ one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, “After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, ‘Now where on earth will we find such basses? They

are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!’ Nevertheless, he did find them.” It was one of the composer’s favourite pieces, and he asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his ‘ship of death gently towards the unknown region.’”

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas. Simeon prays them because his cup is now overflowing. He has looked on the salvation of God. Music allows us to look on that glory and salvation also, and Rachmaninov, in his moving setting, has captured the calm trust of that moment, which shines out like the brightness of the light of Jesus.

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MINISTRY TEAM

Rector of the Parish of Bushey: Fr David Stevenson
rector@busheyparish.org

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*The Parish Office on the first floor of St James's Church House is open as follows:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.30am-2.30pm; Wednesdays, 8.30am- 11.30am.
At other times, telephone calls may be redirected or messages left.*

PCC Secretary: Felicity Cox pcc_secretary@busheyparish.org

Safeguarding Officer: Gay Butler 07799 063404
safeguarding@busheyparish.org

Churchyard Manager: Greg Batts churchyard@busheyparish.org

Parish website: www.busheyparish.org webmaster@busheyparish.org

Parish of Bushey Livestream Facebook page :
<https://www.facebook.com/busheyparishlive>

YouTube channel

Search for "The Parish of Bushey" and subscribe. It's free.

Worship in the Parish of Bushey – February 2024

*All service information here is provisional and subject to change.
For updates, please check the latest pew-sheet, our website or social media.*

Sunday February 4

8am – Said Eucharist, St James’s Church
10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Sunday February 11

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Wednesday February 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY

12:30pm – Eucharist with Ashing, St Paul’s Church
7:30pm – Eucharist with Ashing, St James’s Church

Sunday February 18

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Wednesday February 21

3:30pm – Messy Church, St Paul’s Church

Sunday February 25

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Regular weekday services

Said Eucharist 12:30pm – Wednesdays in St Paul’s Church

Said Eucharist 11:00am – Thursdays in St James’s Church

Covid-19: Face-coverings need no longer be worn in any of our Parish buildings, though individuals may of course continue to wear them by choice. Please respect the hygiene decisions of others.

'Lenten Valentines'

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found: *'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'*



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QUALITY AT HOME CARE

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their salvation or deliverance, as story. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or *'I am who I am'* (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title *'the LORD'*. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: *'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today'* Exodus 14:13.

'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.'

(Eugene Peterson).

This month we are launching a short 'quiz' to accompany the series on the books of the Bible. This will be a regular feature that runs throughout the year.

Quiz on the Book of Exodus

1. Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?

- a. Pharaoh's daughter
- b. Pharaoh's maid; c. Pharaoh's wife

2. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?

- a. 5; b. 10; c. 15

3. What was the second plague?

- a. frogs; b. water turned to blood
- c. locusts

4. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?

- a. Dead Sea; b. Black Sea; c. Red Sea

5. At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet?

- a. Marah; b. Elim; c. Horeb

6. Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?

- a. pigeon; b. quail; c. turtledove

7. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?

- a. a star in the sky
- b. Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people
- c. a pillar of cloud and of fire

8. When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?

- a. from earthen jars; b. from his rod
- c. from a rock

9. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments
a. Mt Sinai; b. Mt Nebo; c. Mt of Olives?

10. What is the seventh commandment?

- a. Thou shalt not covet
- b. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- c. Thou shalt not bear false witness

11. What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?

- a. two cherubim; b. candlestick
- c. Aaron's rod

12. What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf?

- a. they wanted to make a statue to the Lord;
- b. they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery;
- c. they didn't know what had happened to Moses

13. What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle?

- a. Caleb; b. Bezaleel; c. Buz

14. Who was Moses' successor?

- a. Joshua; b. Caleb; c. Aaron

15. For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?

- a. 20 years; b. 30 years; c. 40 years

Answers on next page



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2nd February - Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Quiz Answers:

Question 1: a (Pharaoh's daughter)

Question 2: b (10)

Question 3: b (Water turned to blood)

Question 4: c (Red Sea)

Question 5: a (Marah)

Question 6: b (Quail)

Question 7: c (A pillar of cloud and of fire)

Question 8: c (From a rock)

Question 9: a (Mt. Sinai)

Question 10: b (Thou shalt not commit adultery)

Question 11: a (Two cherubim)

Question 12: c (They didn't know what had happened to Moses)

Question 13: b (Bezaleel)

Question 14: a (Joshua)

Question 15: c (40)

What's so special about Jesus?

The gospels record that people were astounded by many of the things that Jesus said. Even His enemies, intent on trapping Him, admitted: "No one ever spoke the way this man does." (John 7:46) Furthermore, "the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law." (Matthew 7:28-9)

For in Jesus, we find something without precedent in the span of human literature. While urging humility on others and while giving the impression of the ultimately humble person, Jesus' teaching and claims are basically *egocentric and completely focussed on Himself*. In ordinary life, that would get a person labelled as crazy or as a megalomaniac!

Just think of the few astounding claims Jesus made about Himself. "I am the Resurrection and the Life." (Jn 11:25) "I am the Bread of Life." (Jn 6:35) "I am the Light of the World." (Jn 8:12) "I am the Good Shepherd." (Jn 10:7,9) "... whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." (Jn 11:26) And – most staggering of all - "anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." (Jn 14:9)

CS Lewis comments on the inescapableness of Jesus' uniqueness: "There is no half-way house, and there is no parallel in other religions."

That Jesus cannot be ranked among a pantheon of religious leaders or prophets becomes further obvious when one reflects further on His claim of being at both the beginning and at the end of Creation and of History. He said: "I am the First and the Last" (Rev 1:17), as well as : "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Mt 28:18).

Clearly the disciples accepted this, as John begins his gospel with these words: "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God... Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.... and in Him all things hold together." (Col 1:16,17)

When we look at what Jesus goes on to say about the end of history, we are even more startled, as when He said of any person who follows Him: “I will raise him up at the last day.” (Jn 6:40) This was the local carpenter, remember! And when we note that throughout the Bible final judgement is a function reserved to God alone, it is astounding to register that Jesus says of Himself: “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.” (Jn 5:26—27)

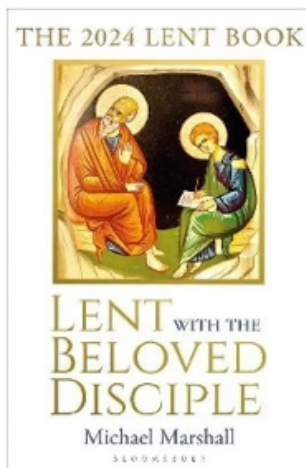
Yes, between Creation and the end of History stands Jesus. That also means, of course, and we note it with comfort, because everything in between is His also.

During this Lent, why not spend some time just quietly thinking about these claims of Jesus?

Lent with the Beloved Disciple - the 2024 Lent Book **By the Rt Revd Bishop Michael Marshall, Bloomsbury, £10.99**

The 2024 Bloomsbury Lent Book invites you on a six-week journey in the company of the ‘beloved disciple’ as found in the narrative of the Gospel of St John. As the only disciple to have stayed close to Jesus at every stage from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion at Calvary, John records certain subtle details and signs which indicate a deeper and far lasting significance.

Michael Marshall explores what these signs are and how, with prayerful reflection, they draw us ever more deeply into the personal, eternal and cosmic significance and awareness of all that Christ accomplished by His death and resurrection. Ideal for both individual use and for small group study.



What is the point of temptation?

'Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get ... his reward....' James 1:12

Temptation becomes a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block, when you realise that it's just as much an opportunity to do the right thing, as the wrong thing. Temptation just gives you the choice!

It's helpful to remember that God develops the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing circumstances in which we're tempted – to express the exact opposite quality! For instance, He teaches us to love by bringing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving you. God teaches us joy in the midst of sorrow by causing us to turn to Him for comfort and strength, when all our other supports are gone.

He develops peace within us, not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Peace comes when we choose to trust God in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid.

Likewise, patience is developed through circumstances in which we're forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse.

You can't claim to be good, if you've never been tempted to be bad; or be faithful if you've never had the opportunity to be unfaithful. Integrity is built through defeating dishonesty; humility grows as you refuse to give place to pride; endurance develops as you reject the temptation to give up. The truth is that each time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus.

Adapted from: UCB, The Word for Today.



Singing groups for people living with dementia

Herts Musical Memories delivers vibrant music sessions that are both fun and therapeutic for people with memory problems, people living with dementia and their carers.

Herts Musical Memories help connect people to their memories through singing. The sessions are based in music therapy and attending a singing session is a fun and stimulating activity, providing health benefits for both those living with dementia and their carers. Scientific research shows that group singing improves well-being and overall quality of life. With regular attendance it can improve sociability, increase self-confidence and decrease anxiety.

Most importantly laughter is a key ingredient to a Herts Musical Memories Session.

For your free trial session and to find out your nearest group please give us a call or drop us a line.

To book your session or for more information contact us on 020 8950 5757

**Email: admin@hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk
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Reflecting Faith: Memorial Stones

Last month we began to look at the outside of the church building. When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials, what did you notice?

The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person, date of death and perhaps their age. But the slightly more recent stones may well have included where the person had been born, lived, and who they had married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier people, as they needed to be large, to include all this information! As for the poorer folk, as cheaper stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one's place of rest, even with just the bare details.

With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stone mason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period. In different areas of the country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

Also, the 'floweriness' of the inscriptions grew over the years. What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, 'With affection', then 'With great affection', then, 'Greatly loved' and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most.

Meanwhile, by the early 20th century many churchyards were 'full', and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a 'cemetery' and was usually not the responsibility of the church. A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of 'the church', whether open or closed. Because people continued to want to be interred in 'holy land', eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities.

This month

Think about where you'd like to have as *your* final resting place. Whether you choose cremation or burial, is being in a set-aside 'holy place' important to you and to those who will visit?

Grave Maintenance – 30th December 2023

After weather earlier in the month affected the last attempt to clean/clear some of our listed graves, we were able to have a good turnout of volunteers to tackle some more and the rain held off. Saturday happened to coincide with Fr David's Birthday, so we also had Stuart and the Bell Ringers such that our Bells were ringing out across Bushey. We also flew the Aotearoa/New Zealand Ensign from the Tower in recognition and celebration.



Sue, Mike, Peter, Alan, Greg & Robin were able to tidy 4 of the listed graves Tomlins, Russell, Wests and Webb-Ware before stopping for well-earned beverages in Church. We have now cleared 9 out of the 15 Graves listed in the Bushey Churchyard and Church Trust. Cleaning some of the stonework is being held back for the future when we are certain of the correct treatments for the different kinds of materials in our Graveyard.



The next Grave Clearing is planned for Saturday 27th January, again for 2 hours from 10am. Anyone is welcome to join us and once we have cleared the listed graves, the plan is to work elsewhere in the graveyard starting in Section B of the Old Churchyard. Watch out for details in the Mailchimp and on our website.



Greg Batts (Churchyard Warden – St James)

Epiphany Messy Church



Magi



Saturday Morning Outside

A new flag
Full report next month



Churchyard Maintenance

Last Saturday of the month





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Friday 1st March 2.00pm

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Prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine



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“Jesus walks with us through our grief and isolation” - Church of England online service

Jesus accompanies those experiencing grief, loneliness, and sadness. That was the message of a recent national online service. In a sermon recorded at St Nicholas Church in Rattlesden, Suffolk, where she is Rector, the Rev Sharon Grenham-Thompson spoke of her grief for her teenage son Leo, who died in 2021.

But Jesus, she said, is the ‘Good Shepherd’, and He knows us “behind the outer masks we wear.” He calls us by name, and He will never cease to reach out to us. She said: “Jesus died in pain and loneliness upon the cross – and He understands our isolation and grief. This Jesus speaks to me. This Jesus doesn’t trivialise or deny my tribulations – He takes my hand and walks with me through them. This is Mary’s Jesus, my Jesus, and your Jesus.

If you are going through a time of grief and isolation, you can access the Church of England’s mental health resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources> or make a space to pray by lighting a virtual candle.



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Statement from the House of Bishops on the ongoing War in Gaza

The following are extracts from the Statement.

“We are dismayed that the place of our Saviour’s birth is once again wracked by violence, death and destruction.

We grieve that innocent children have been disproportionately affected by this conflict. Of the 1,300 people killed in the abhorrent terrorist attacks of Hamas on 7th October, 33 were children. Of the 250 hostages taken, 34 were children. In Israel’s exercising its right to self-defence, more than 18,000 people have reportedly been killed, over 40 per cent of whom were children. Thousands more have been injured.

We re-affirm our position of last autumn (31st October) that there is no equivalence between the atrocities of Hamas against Israeli civilians, and the right and duty of Israel to defend itself. We also want to be clear that we do not believe that the devastating loss of civilian life and humanitarian catastrophe resulting from Israel’s bombardment and siege of Gaza can be morally justified.

The nature and scale of death and destruction we are witnessing across the region is horrific and is inconsistent with the obligations of international humanitarian law as affirmed most recently by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2712. (15th November 2023).

“This war has claimed too many lives and destroyed too many homes. We appeal for the bloodshed and destruction to stop. An alternative strategy needs to be found that closes down on attacks on Israel from Gaza and ends the violence and blockade undertaken by Israel.

“Intensified diplomatic efforts should seek to secure the release of all remaining hostages, the protection of civilians and full humanitarian access to Gaza, alongside steps to establish a reinvigorated political track to address the overarching conflict.

“The Israel-Palestine conflict is more than another regional conflict, but one with both international and domestic resonances. The current war in Gaza risks sowing the seeds of the next several generations of vengeance and violence unless it is resolved equitably now. For this reason, we call on the British Government to appoint a dedicated Minister or Peace Envoy for the Middle East to work with other nations to focus diplomatic efforts and to signal a long-term commitment to support any future peace process.

“We condemn the fresh growth of antisemitism in Europe, a shameful feature of our Western Christian history that needs to be constantly rebuked. In schools, universities, on streets and in places of work and worship, antisemitism has been the root of so much racism. Once one group is allowed to be attacked, merely for religion, race or heritage it seems to open the gates of hell to all other forms of hatred.

“We condemn all those hateful voices stoking prejudice against anyone, for any reason and call on the church to walk alongside those from different communities. We also warmly encourage support for the Archbishops’ appeal for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

Archbishop urges Government to scrap two-child benefit cap

The Archbishop of Canterbury used his recent House of Lords debate on families and households to urge the Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap. The two-child benefit cap means that parents can only get child tax credit or universal credit for their first two children. The cap is for the third child and subsequent children born after April 2017.

Archbishop Justin highlighted research from the End Child Poverty Coalition which stated that, “removing the two-child limit would lift a quarter of a million children out of poverty.”

The Archbishop went on: “The unfair penalty applied to additional children affects their educational outcomes, their mental and physical health, and their likelihood to require public support from public services later on. It is not a good policy.”

Remembering Sir Ernest Shackleton

One hundred and fifty years ago, on 15th February 1874, Sir Ernest Shackleton was born in County Kildare, Ireland – into a family that was English in origin and had Quaker connections. Sir Ernest was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

His father, Henry, was a farmer, who then qualified as a doctor, and the family moved to Sydenham, London in 1884. Ernest learnt seafaring in the Merchant Navy, becoming in turn second mate, third officer and first mate, before certifying as a master mariner in 1898: this qualified him to command a British ship anywhere in the world.

Expeditions he led included the *Nimrod* (1907-09), the *Endurance* (1914-17) and the *Quest* (1920-22). He was also on Scott's earlier *Discovery* expedition, but was invalided home early. From early on he had health problems, and the medical officer on the *Nimrod* expedition believed he had a hole in the heart.

Shackleton was described as spiritual but not religious. While crossing the mountains in South Georgia with two others to complete his heroic rescue of the crew of the *Endurance*, he and his companions said they were aware of a fourth presence, which they called 'providence', walking with them.

Although Shackleton did not make any major discoveries or register any notable firsts in Antarctica, he took part in some amazingly courageous enterprises and, although he was largely overlooked for many years, is now regarded as one of the giants of polar exploration, always admired by his crewmen. He died of a heart attack on the *Quest* at the age of 47 and was buried – at his wife's request – in the graveyard of the English church at Grytviken in South Georgia.

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Supporting those in need on Church Action on Poverty Sunday

This year Church Action on Poverty Sunday is on 11th February, when Christians around the country are urged to remember those in real need.

Perhaps one of the most serious impacts of poverty is the dire state of homelessness. The numbers are staggering. More than 300,000 people are homeless in the UK; 119 families in England are made homeless every single day; and 140,000 children are currently without a home. The figures are the highest on record.

When you picture a homeless person, he or she will probably be a rough sleeper; but rough sleeping is only one manifestation of homelessness, and not the most frequent one.

Homelessness ranges from living on the streets, to living in emergency accommodation, in women's shelters, and in other temporary accommodation.

Homelessness is not always a visible problem. But the cost-of-living crisis, record rents hikes, stretched local services and withdrawal of emergency Covid measures have led to more people falling into desperate positions than ever before this past year.

Green Pastures is one organisation who is working to enable Christians to make a difference. It has been housing the homeless for 25 years, and it exists to help Christians do their bit to tackle the growing homelessness crisis.

Green Pastures has grown to now house more than 1500 formerly homeless people across the UK, in more than 100 towns and cities. To fund property purchases, Green Pastures has raised more than £47 million in funding, through everyday people who lend them some of their savings and receive interest in return. This model enables the organisation to buy property and work in partnership with local ministries to directly impact the lives of people in need.



Kev (pictured left, with Green Pastures partner, John) lives in a Green Pastures home in Cumbria. At a visit, without prompting, Kev said, “This home saved my life, in fact this man saved my life.” For those facing homelessness, it starts with the life change of a safe and secure home. Tenants like Kev are also offered compassionate wraparound support, pathways towards recovery and independence, and the opportunity to know Christ for themselves.

With many more people in need waiting for help, this month is a great time to consider how the Church can make a significant impact. You can find out more about Green Pastures’ work, and how you might get involved, at <https://www.greenpastures.co.uk>.

Why tea is “the drink of getting things done”

The drinking of tea has found an unexpected new champion: James May, the former Top Gear presenter. Speaking recently on Radio 4, he said: “I’m just worried that the cult of coffee is going to destroy tea. And I don’t like coffee, it is just rubbish. I like tea.” He added: “Tea is the drink of getting things done.”

How did tea get so embedded in UK culture? Food historian Polly Russell says the answer lies in the Industrial Revolution of the mid-18th century. “Tea became less expensive and at the same time you had agricultural wages slumping, and agricultural workers literally not able to buy food, to buy fuel, or to afford a hot meal. So, tea became a way of having something hot and restorative – often with sugar – and that habit then also translated into the urban, as the industrial revolution expanded into our cities.”

And so it was that “tea became absolutely central to the diet of the working poor.” And this provided the basis for the idea “that tea and sugar were fuelling the industrial nation.” James May argues that tea drinking is still fundamental to “bringing everyone together and ensuring happiness as well as productivity.” He believes: “Tea in the British workplace is more than a drink, it’s a social glue. Britain is falling apart because we don’t drink enough tea.”

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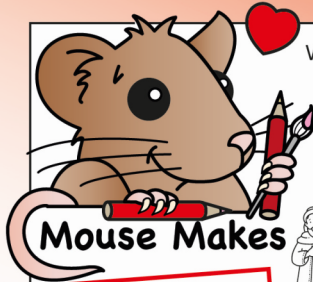
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The Children's Page



Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

St Paul's Church, WD23 2EQ

Organist	Martyn Lambert	01923 903365
Stewardship Officer	Mrs Marion Golding	07787 538232
Hall Bookings	Jill Macey	07736 680501

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsBushey/>

Messy Church

Contact: Mrs Jane Groushko, 07974 771342

Parish Magazine Editorial Team

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Bushey Parish Magazine is published monthly, in hard copy (price 60p) and free online at www.busheyparish.org under "News".



100 Club winners in December

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for December
Ron Pearce (£60); Joan Greatbatch-Wood (£40);
and Stephen Greengrass (£20).

*For more information about the 100 Club,
contact Clare Humphreys on 020 8950 6352 or see
www.busheyparish.org/parish-100-club*

St James's Church, WD23 IBD

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From the Registers

BAPTISM

"We welcome you to the Lord's Family"

December 17. 2023

Genevieve Parry

Sebastian Parry

BURIAL of ASHES

"Ashes to Ashes..."

December 19.2023

Bernadette Lees

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - February 2024

Wednesday February 7 and Wednesdays throughout February

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT + BARGAIN TABLE-SALE

St Paul's Church, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Followed by Said Eucharist (12.30pm)



Tuesday February 13

DINNER and QUIZ EVENING

Blue Check Restaurant, Bushey 6:30pm for 7pm

St James's Tower Appeal - see back page for details

Wednesday February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

12:30pm – Eucharist with Ashing, St Paul's Church

7:30pm – Eucharist with Ashing, St James's Church



Saturday February 17

SATURDAY RECITAL

St James's Church, 12.00 noon

See opposite page for full details.

Wednesday February 21

MESSY CHURCH

St Paul's Church, 3.30pm



Saturday February 24

GRAVE CLEANING

St James's Churchyard 10am

ST JAMES'S CHURCH BUSHEY
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SATURDAY RECITALS 2024

12 noon	17th February	Neo Hung	Piano
12 noon	2nd March	Dominika Mak	Piano
12 noon	20th April	Eugenia Russell	Organ
12 noon	18th May	Wind and Words	
12 noon	8th June	Purcell School	
12.30	22nd June	Fumi Otsuki & Gisela Mayer	Violin and Piano
12 noon	20th July	David Price	Organ

Please join us at St James's Church for Recitals.
Coffee will be served from 10.30am and Light Lunches from 12.30pm.
Recitals last for about 45 minutes. Free entry, donations welcome.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH TOWER APPEAL QUIZ AND DINNER

Tuesday 13th February 2024

6.30pm for 7.00pm

At Blue Check Restaurant



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