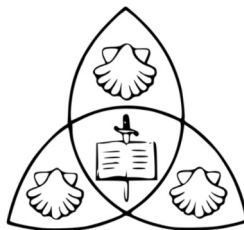


BUSHEY PARISH MAGAZINE



See P20

JANUARY 2024



60 PENCE

God in the Arts: ‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’

The Rev Michael Burgess begins a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.

Those words of the 18th century poet Christopher Smart remind us how faith and music have always gone hand in hand, faith inspiring the music and music expressing the faith. In this series we shall consider 12 pieces of music inspired by the Christian faith, beginning from its roots in the Old Testament.

Among the earliest references to music in the Old Testament is the song of Moses and the Israelites, thanking God for Israel’s deliverance in Exodus. There is also the music of the shofar, the ram’s horn, proclaiming God’s jubilee in Leviticus.

Hebrew music came into its own when performed in the temple. A small choir, using mostly strings and a harp, would sing from the psalms, that incredible collection of 150 hymns of praise God. All human life is found in the psalter, and inevitably they passed into Christian worship, through the monastic daily office of prayer and praise.

Possibly Psalm 23, ‘The Lord is my shepherd,’ is the most loved of the Psalms. St Francis of Assisi sang it on his way to visit the sultan. Most of us know the tune ‘Crimond’, while Howard Goodall’s setting became the theme music for ‘The Vicar of Dibley.’

Leonard Bernstein’s setting of Psalm 23, the ‘Chichester Psalms,’ set six psalms in their original Hebrew for solo voice, choir and orchestra. The middle movement begins with a boy soprano, or countertenor, singing a beautiful melody to the opening words of Psalm 23. Bernstein’s melody has a bluesy, Jewish feel, and is accompanied by a harp, as we remember David playing the lyre.

Suddenly the men’s voices interrupt the soloist’s song of trust with the words of Psalm 2, ‘Why do the nations so furiously rage together?’ But their outburst cannot halt the serene outpouring of the soloist which sounds out clear and strong amid the threat of war and division.

The movement leaves us with the melody of 'Adonai ro-i' in our heads and hearts, assuring us that, because the Lord is our shepherd, we need not fear, even in the darkest valley. Even when the world hurls the threats of Psalm 2 at us, God's goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life.

Crisis Appeal from 'Embrace the Middle East'

The Christian charity 'Embrace the Middle East' (Embrace) has launched a crisis appeal to raise support for its Christian partners in Gaza and Israel, as they seek to help those affected by the war. Embrace reports that the recent pause in fighting has given its partners on the ground time to take some action:

Al Ahli Hospital has been able to procure much-needed medical supplies, and some patients were safely transported to the European hospital in Khan Younis.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches has managed to get 300 food parcels to the Latin church in Gaza City, and it is currently procuring more to send to the Orthodox Church. But the DSPR has sustained huge damages to its building and a lot of the stock, including fuel, has been taken.

Caritas Jerusalem and the **Palestinian Bible Society** have also been supplies to those sheltering in the churches in Gaza City, including blankets and clothing. Like DSPR, Caritas has sustained huge damages to its building. The stories of people turning up to work are incredible - one nurse lost 13 members of her family, yet still came to treat people at the clinics over the weekend.

The charity asks of its supporters: "Please hold Israel, Gaza and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) in your prayers." More at: www.embraceme.org



MINISTRY TEAM

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

Lay Leader of Worship: Christine Cocks LLW@busheyparish.org

CHURCHWARDEN

Salome Jayaratnam
wardens@busheyparish.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Parish Administrator: Jacqueline Birch 020 8421 8192
Church House, High Street, Bushey office@busheyparish.org

Parish Finance Officer: Sinead English 020 8421 8192
Church House, High Street, Bushey finance@busheyparish.org

*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 – January 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 January 7 – Epiphany

8am – Said Eucharist, St James’s Church

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

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

Sunday January 14

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

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

Wednesday January 17

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

Sunday January 21

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

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

Please Note: St Paul’s Patronal Festival will be celebrated in June

Sunday January 28 – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church

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

Regular weekday services

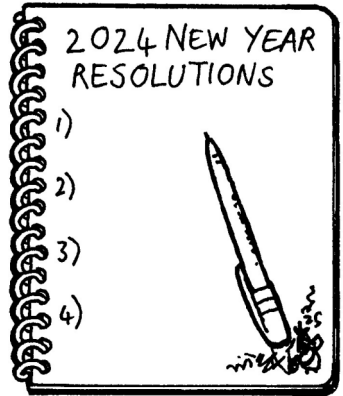
Morning and Evening Prayer are suspended until further notice.

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

From the Vicar - New Year Resolutions

Last year (2023) 30 million people in the UK made New Year resolutions, with health (28%), money (27%), family (24%) and self-improvement (21%) topping the charts for the most common resolutions. However, surveys suggest that most people lasted seven weeks before giving them up and 21% only lasted for a month before giving up.



What resolutions can we make that will last beyond January? At the start of a new year, let's remember Paul's words: *'I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings'* (Philippians 3:10). Like Paul, our resolution should be to know Christ deeper in this coming year.

'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Phil 3:13,14). Paul sees following Christ like an athlete running a race in the stadium. As any good runner, we mustn't look back. We cannot live on past successes, get bogged down by past sins and failures, or be bitter over past wrongs we've done, or had done to us!

An athlete strains every muscle to win the race. Like Paul, let's be single-minded in making Jesus our focus during the coming year in everything we do. What practical steps are needed if we are to go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading? How can we more effectively see Christ working in our workplace and career, or family and children?

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell says: *'I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.'* In this New Year, let's find our pleasure in the pursuit of knowing Christ better!



Need care but are worried about Covid-19?

Visiting Angels are continuing to deliver vital care and support in the community

We understand that Covid-19 is a major concern for our clients and their families.

We always have robust infection control measures in place, and with the additional infection control training we have provided, you can be assured we work to meticulous standards of hygiene.

Our high staff retention means our care teams are consistent which gives the best possible protection from infection. Because the same caregiver comes each week, even in the uncertainty of the current situation, there will always be the comfort of a familiar face.

We can help with shopping, personal care and companionship, to hospital discharge support and end of life care.

We can visit from one hour each week to every day, for as long as you need us to help with:

- * Companion & Social Care
- * Personal Care
- * Dementia & Alzheimer's Care
- * Post-Hospital Stay Care
- * Palliative
- * End of Life Care
- * Staff fully trained on infection control
- * Extensive stocks of PPE

We are taking every step to ensure that we keep our clients, their families and our staff as safe as possible .

Find out how a **Visiting Angel** can help
Call us on: 0208 049 4500

www.visiting-angels.co.uk/middlesex
middlesex@visiting-angels.co.uk

Visiting Angels. 
QUALITY AT HOME CARE

Holy Days: 1st January – The naming of Jesus

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January - eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. There is also the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became ' Ἰησοῦς (*Iēsoûs*), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke (1:26-33) told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because He will save His people from their sins."

6th January – Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She, of course, had visited Solomon, and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.





BALLET

MODERN

TAP

JAZZ

SINGING

HIP HOP

MUSICAL THEATRE

ACTING

find us on



BUSHEY'S MOST ESTABLISHED & POPULAR THEATRE SCHOOL

www.margarethoward.co.uk enquiries@margarethoward.co.uk 0208 421 8008



John Whiteman & Co LLP
Chartered Surveyors

As a firm of General Practice surveyors, we offer an unrivalled property service for the local community.

FW Lettings Ltd t/a
John Whiteman & Co

We have an active and qualified team able to deal with all aspects of Lettings and Property Management.

Please telephone us at any of the offices below and we will be pleased to arrange to meet with you to discuss your surveying or property management requirements.

www.johnwhiteman.co.uk

Professional Office
37 Pinner Road
Osney
Herts WD19 4EG

Tel: 01923 347748

Lettings & Property
Management
62-64 High Road
Bushey Heath
Herts WD23 1GG

Tel: 0208 990 1851

Leed & New Homes
80 High Street
Bushey
Herts WD23 3HD

Tel: 0208 990 0663

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

This is the first of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible, and this month we consider the first book, Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is primarily about beginnings. In chapters 1-11, it records the creation of the heavens and the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It is supremely about relationships; the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Fundamentally man has been created in the image of God, so that he can relate to God in a personal way: *'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them'* (1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendents (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.

As we consider 2024 stretching ahead:

Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless. - *G K Chesterton*

Miscellaneous observations on modern life:

Carpe diem. Seize the day. Make your lives extraordinary. - *Dead Poets Society*

Reflecting Faith: God's Acre

I thought we'd spend a few months at the start of this New Year considering the outside of a church building, and the gardens around it.

For many churches this will include a churchyard, though not necessarily. If your church does stand in a churchyard, then it may be what is known as a 'closed' one, meaning that burials and interments no longer take place other than within an existing family grave. An 'open' churchyard is one where burials and interments are still able to take place.

The maintenance for open churchyards is the responsibility of the church, whilst once closed (which, for Church of England churches, has to be agreed by Parliament) the maintenance is passed to the local or parish civil council.

These days, with the many financial cutbacks, Councils often try to refuse to take on a churchyard. But as it is a statutory obligation, they have no choice, and many will simply reduce the number of grass-cutting sessions to fit their slimmed budget.

Churchyards have not always looked as they do today, with memorial stones of varying shapes and sizes. Originally, they were simply left grassed and in towns this became one of the few green areas. People were buried there without any permanent marker being placed, nor any other official record of placement kept.

The thinking was that their life here on earth had ended and the person was now with God in heaven. Only those people in 'God's kingdom' would be allowed to be buried in the consecrated grounds, so anyone who had taken their own life, or unbaptised babies, would not be allowed.

Church buildings are usually built facing east - the place of the rising sun - and the people's entrance is on the south wall. This gives access to the churchyard from the south, and in European countries that means your first experience of entering the churchyard and the building is on its sunny side.

It was common practise to bury to the south of the church, as this was the lighter and warmer side. The richer and more influential folk would request to go as near to the altar - the Holy of Holies - as possible; even if that was outside the building itself.

Over the course of time folk wanted - and richer folk could afford - a marker for where their loved one lay. This idea of having a permanent marker reflected the attitudes at the time, of visiting the place of rest specifically marked. Not just to know where to visit and even bring a picnic for the family on a good weather day, especially in working busy town areas; but also, to recognise the importance of their loved one's life.

This month

Try and visit a churchyard with very old memorials. Have a look at all the different materials, styles, wording and embellishments. What message do they give to you?

Alternatively, if the weather is inclement, see what you might find inside....

Vestry cupboard that hid "precious" Welsh Bible

A Bible printed in 1620, one of the very first to be produced in Welsh, has been discovered by chance in a vestry cupboard in St Martin and St Enfail's Church in Merthyr, near Carmarthen. A former Merthyr churchwarden, Huw Evans, found the Bible forgotten and unrecognised among candles, communion wine and linen in the back of the cupboard.

Mari James, Library Development Officer at St David's Cathedral, described the 400-year-old Bible as "quite a treasure" and "a precious part of Wales' history of Christian worship".

Copies of the Bible, known as the Bishop Parry version, were distributed to all churches in Wales to comply with Queen Elizabeth I's instruction that everyone should be able to read the Scriptures in their own language. This was the main Reformation project in Wales, intended to consolidate Protestantism.

25th January - St Paul, the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

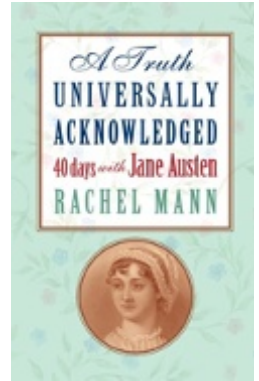
Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have

plucked out your eyes and given them to me!’ he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge that Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

A Truth Universally Acknowledged - 40 Days with Jane Austen **By Rachel Mann, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

Jane Austen – novelist, forthright letter writer, daughter, and sister of Anglican clergy – had a rarely-matched insight into human character. She exposed frailty, caprice, and pomposity, yet without losing a profound and compassionate understanding of human nature. Her life was profoundly shaped by the church and Christian spirituality, making her writings an ideal accompaniment for the 40 days of Lent.



Rachel Mann introduces Jane Austen, her world, and her ideas, and, for each day of Lent she offers a commentary on a short excerpt from Austen’s writing, to explore how her faith can illuminate ours.

Themes include: The Triumph of Love, Learning Wisdom, Seeing Beyond the Surface to the Truth, Knowing Where Your Treasure Lies, The Temptation to be Proudful and Prejudiced, The Pomposity of Religion, Privilege and its Limitations, Duty and Good Manners.

Parenting with Hope - Raising Teens for Christ in a Secular Age **Various authors, 10 Publishing £13.19**

Parenting teenagers can be a challenge. With so many cultural pressures on them, and so many influences vying for their attention, parents need a secure foundation for creating an environment where their teenager’s faith can flourish. On the basis that God is our ultimate parent, this book integrates sound biblical teaching, insights from developmental experts, and the author’s own experiences as a teacher and mother, to help guide parents through today’s most common concerns. Emphasizing principles over prescriptions, this book may help you build up your teens in God-honouring ways.



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
or visit www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk**

Update on Fundraising for the Repair of St James's Church Tower

Seasons Greetings

As 2023 draws to a close the Fund Raising Committee would like to circulate an update on how the year has gone.

Once the account is complete for the year, we should have raised in excess of £10,000; a commendable sum, but still far to go to reach our ultimate goal. This would not have been possible without the support of Committee, helpers and members of the community and beyond, in attending events, making donations, posters, items to sell etc. **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL.**

To set us off in 2024 the committee has provisionally booked two events for early in the year, a QUIZ supper in February and a BRIDGE afternoon and tea in early spring. However the current committee is standing down in January.

For the work to continue we need to establish **A NEW COMMITTEE.....** Please consider offering help to continue the good work already done. Contact members of the current committee - Gay, Marion, May or Sue, the Rector, Parish wardens, or the Parish Office for more details.

Wishing All a happy Christmas and new Year,

The Tower Appeal Committee.

The current exhibition is of Bushey Parish Vestments and Regalia, along with many Paintings of St James's Church, as part of Tower Repair Fund Appeal, and will end on 14th April. The Museum is open 11am - 4pm from Thursdays to Sundays every week.





The Parish Christmas Fair
at St Paul's raised over
£3000.



'Once in Royal David's City'
opened
St Paul's Carol & Crib Service

Service of
Nine Lessons
and
Carols
at St James's



At St James's Crib



St James Churchyard - End of 2023 Update

Over the past few months there has been a lot of activity in our Churchyard and I continue to be amazed how much Peter Manhire does maintaining the non-grave areas. He also painted the lychgate with help from Roy Golding.



Fr David and I met Shani Coleman, who is the Hertsmere Cemeteries Officer and they have planned some winter maintenance projects; the Pond has already been cleared. In 2024 we will be exploring planning some Biodiversity Projects with Hertsmere, with more involvement of the local community.

Thanks to Bushey Festival, who provided the financial support, the Village has been able to have a Christmas Tree on the Green, and lights across the lychgate and hedge. There was an official switch on at the start of Advent and St James's provided the electricity.



Finally, we have started to look after the Graves that are part of the Bushey Church and Churchyard Trust. There are 16 Graves that are included and at the time of writing 5 have been cleaned/tidied by a small team of volunteers who will tackle the remaining ones in 2024. This is important as we need to meet the requirements of the Trust Funds that are invested with the St Albans Diocese Board of Finance.

Greg Batts (Churchyard Warden – St James)

Why churchwardens love January

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay!
But they're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season is
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker -
They don't get that much sleep.
And overworked Churchwardens
And their sidespersons team -
Sure don't get time for boredom,
And only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over,
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over,
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure,
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!

By Nigel Beeton

Care in the heart of your own home

Are you or an elderly loved one looking for extra care and support at home in **Bushey** or the surrounding areas? Then our local carers are here to help.

Novus Care is regulated by the Care Quality Commission and can provide a qualified carer to support your loved one in their own home from just a **visit per week to around the clock live-in care.**

For more information or to arrange a care assessment please call: 01923 708907 or email hello@novus-care.com



Why funerals are going out of fashion

Fewer than half of the UK population now want their death to be marked with a funeral. So says a major new research report called *Love, Grief, and Hope: Emotional responses to death and dying in the UK*, by the religion and society think tank Theos.

The findings are based on polling commissioned from YouGov, and reveal significant changes in the ways that people in the UK are approaching death and dying.

Fewer than half of respondents (47%) said they wanted a funeral. Just over one in 10 (13%) of respondents who did not want a funeral said this was because they did not have enough money saved, but far more said they felt the money could be better spent another way (67%). Others said: “I don’t see the point” (55%) or “I don’t want a traditional service” (43%).

Existing polling from Sunlife indicates that direct cremation (or ‘take-away funerals’ where the body is taken directly to a crematorium without any service or other event) is now chosen for 18% of all deaths. This new polling by Theos suggests that this trend could grow further, translating into a potential crisis for the funeral industry as a whole. The researchers found that financial factors are significant in these decisions, but religious and spiritual adherence is even more influential: 76% of frequent worshippers said they wanted a funeral, compared to 38% who never attend.

Dr Madeleine Pennington, head of research at Theos, said: “It appears that the UK population no longer has a shared conviction on the importance of ritual frameworks to say goodbye. Market forces have a bigger impact on how we grieve, when we no longer approach grief itself through a ‘transcendent’ frame. In an age of declining formal religious affiliation, this is driving a significant realignment of British bereavement practices.”

Archbishop Justin Welby, commenting on the report, said: “It is shocking to discover that death may be seen as expensive, time-consuming and irrelevant, and that it is better just to move on.”

He calls for the Church to re-offer its “honed compassionate skills.” “We must re-open conversations, name Death, and think about how this compassionate caring can be re-shaped for this new world.”

Love, Grief, and Hope: Emotional responses to death and dying in the UK was written by Dr Madeleine Pennington with Dr Nathan Mladin, senior researcher at Theos. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 – 27th January

‘Fragility of Freedom’ is the theme for this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), as 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust explains that only “49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

“Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable, and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and we honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.”

There is guidance for HMD activity organisers across the UK this year, in light of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza and the impact this has had on community relations in the UK. Please go to: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

27th January was chosen for Holocaust Memorial Day, as it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Remembering Clarice Cliff

If you like ceramics, and enjoy colour, then you are bound to be familiar with the work of Clarice Cliff. Her glowingly vibrant plates, cups, teapots, and vases are world famous – and still loved.

She was born 125 years ago this month, on 20th January 1899, in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent. Clarice's father worked in an iron foundry, and her mother washed clothes to help feed their seven children. Clarice left school at 13 to work in the potteries. She so enjoyed the work that at 17, she moved on to the factory of A J Wilkinson in Newport, Burslem, to gain more experience. Soon she was modelling figurines and vases, keeping pattern books, and learning to hand-paint ware.

Clarice's talent was noticed, and then encouraged by one of the factory owners, Arthur Colley Austin Shorter. As the years went by, he enabled her to go to the Royal College of Arts and then study in Paris. He gave her her own studio, and later he married her.

Clarice's use of colour was immensely popular. Her brilliantly coloured plates, cups, vases, and teapots helped cheer people up during the Depression. Clarice's shapes were also eye-catching: sometimes 'Modern', with angular and geometric lines; sometimes 'Art Deco' – with abstract and cubist patterns.

By 1930, Cliff was Art Director at Newport pottery. She went on to have a worldwide impact, as her patterns, shapes and colours sold in large quantities in many countries. Her most famous quote was: "Having a little fun at my work does not make me any less of an artist, and people who appreciate truly beautiful and original creations in pottery are not frightened by innocent tomfoolery."

After Clarice's death, Wedgwood came to own the Clarice Cliff name. The world record price for a piece of Clarice Cliff is held by Christie's in London, who in 2004 sold an 18-inch (460 mm) 'charger' (wall plaque) in the *May Avenue* pattern for £39,500.

FRIENDS OF BUSHEY MUSEUM

Bushey Museum is open every
Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11.00am – 4.00pm. Admission free.

We're also online at www.busheymuseum.org

Come and see our latest exhibitions, especially a fundraising exhibition for The Tower Appeal at St James's Church Bushey, featuring a large collection of paintings of the Church, plus Vestments and other Regalia.

We will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 16th January at Bushey Community Centre, High Street Bushey WD23 1TT at 10:30am, and this will be followed at 11:45am by a talk from Stephen Mills on The Headstone Wetlands Project.

Bushey Museum & Art Gallery, Rudolph Road WD23 3HW



M. K. Ginder & Sons

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

"The Family Concern, Concerned About Families"

Serving the Community Since 1983

Since 1983 we have been looking after families from Watford and the surrounding areas at their time of need. We pride ourselves on being **the Local Independent Family-Run Funeral Directors** offering the **Complete Funeral and Memorial Service.**



Your nearest office is:

**492 Bushey Mill Lane
Bushey
WD23 2AS**

Tel: 01923 221661
bushey@ginder.co.uk

For Funerals and Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

Further details are available on our website: www.ginder.co.uk

Having a religious faith makes you happier

People who have a religious faith are generally happier and more resilient than atheists and other non-religious people.

That is the finding of a new study, *Keep the Faith: Mental health in the UK*, which has been recently published by the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life (IIFL).

The think tank was set up to study the part that religious faith plays in the UK. It was the first to focus exclusively on the link between people's faith and their mental health in the UK.

The survey included Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus, with nearly 70 per cent of them reporting a good psychological well-being, as compared with only 49 per cent of atheists.

As for happiness, just nine per cent of people with a faith said they were unhappy, as compared with nearly a quarter of atheists.

It was also found that believers feel they have more self-control, more life satisfaction, and more optimism about their future. Only nine percent of believers were pessimistic, as opposed to 30 percent of non-believers.

But it seems that practising your faith is important. Even among believers, those who regularly attend religious services are far more likely to report positive psychological wellbeing, when compared to those who rarely or never attend such services.

Overall, the IILF has concluded that the rapid secularisation of the UK has left many people with lowered resilience and lowered wellbeing.

As the author of the study, Dr Rakib Ehsan, says: "while the fast-paced secularisation of the British has been cited as a form of social progress, this appears not to be the case from the perspective of mental health".

World Leprosy Day 2024 – 28th January

World Leprosy Day is always the last Sunday of January. It aims to raise awareness of a disease that is at least 4,000 years old, making it one of the oldest diseases known to humanity.

Leprosy still exists! Around 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy each year, and many millions are living with leprosy-related disabilities, particularly across Asia, Africa, and South America.

The good news is that leprosy *is curable with a combination of antibiotics* known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT). This treatment is available for free across the world.

How did Christians first get involved? That began in 1869, when Wellesley Bailey, a teacher from Ireland, went to India to work. It was there that he saw the appalling living conditions and the social isolation of people with leprosy.

Describing this moment, he later wrote: “if there was ever a Christ-like work in the world, it was to go amongst these poor sufferers and bring them the consolation of the gospel.”

Bailey’s compassion and energy soon birthed The Leprosy Mission. At the time, there was no known cure for leprosy, and the bacillus that causes the disease was not even identified until 1874.

Yet that first year, Bailey’s friends raised £600, and Wellesley Bailey was appointed the first secretary of the mission. By the late 1870s the Mission was caring for 100 leprosy-affected people in north India.

Nowadays, Leprosy Mission brings healing, inclusion, and dignity to leprosy-affected people around the world. It now believes that “we can be the generation that finally ends the transmission of leprosy – our target is zero transmission by 2035.” It costs £24 to find and treat someone with leprosy.

More info at: www.donate.leprosymission.org

STRENGTHEN STABILISE STRETCH

Pilates classes in Bushey
Mat - Postnatal - Prenatal

REGISTER NOW

activ8pilates.com

activ8pilates@gmail.com



Toe-tal FOOT CARE

Graham Spendlove MCFHP, MAFHP

For all the family, for the treatment of corns, calluses, ingrown or thickened nails, nail trimming and other complaints.

All treatment is carried out in the comfort of your own home.

Book now on 07799 033974

LOCAL COMPUTER MAC EXPERT

- * MAC & Laptop Repairs
- * Virus / Spyware Fixed
- * Windows 7 / 10, Upgrades
- * Wireless Internet, Security
- * Data Recovery, Outlook, Email
- * Hardware Upgrades, Custom Pc's
- * Website Design, Software Support

.....
Fixed onsite Same Day

Microsoft Certified Engineers



Immediate Call out



07758 450396

P. BRANT & SONS LTD



MEMORIAL SCULPTORS

Office & Workshop:
5 Park Road, Bushey, Herts,
WD23 3EE
Phone/Fax: 020 8950 1804

**DISTINCTIVE MEMORIALS
BY CRAFTSMEN**
**DESIGNS & ESTIMATES
FREE ON REQUEST**

Hall Hire

The Parish of Bushey has two halls available for your party, meeting or function. All have kitchen facilities.

St James's Church House Hall

High Street WD23 1BD

churchhouse@busheyparish.org

St Paul's, John Stobbart Hall

Bushey Hall Road WD23 2EQ

Jill Macey: 07736 680501 or

jillmacey48@gmail.com

SERVING FAMILIES FOR GENERATIONS



We're here for you anytime.
Whatever your wishes or budget,
we can provide a funeral to suit you.

Hemley Funeral Directors
35 Harcourt Road, Bushey, Watford WD23 3PP
020 8950 7233



DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

dignityfunerals.co.uk/local

We're proud to be a Dignity Funeral Director, providing exceptional services to families across the UK.

Foot Health Professional Treatment for all types of Foot and Nail Conditions

- Medical Pedicure for the removal of Callus & Corns
- Treatment of Verrucae, Warts & Fungal Nail
- Therapeutic Paraffin Wax treatment
- Cosmetic Toe Nail Correction / Enhancement
- Manicure & Pedicures

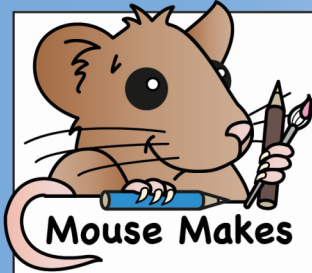
All in the comfort of your own home for an appointment call:

**Louise Manhire – MCFHP
MAFHP**

Telephone: 020 8950 2633

**Registered Member of The British
Association of Foot Health
Professionals**

The Children's Page



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

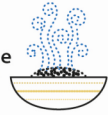


Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



 and -----
 Luke 2:11



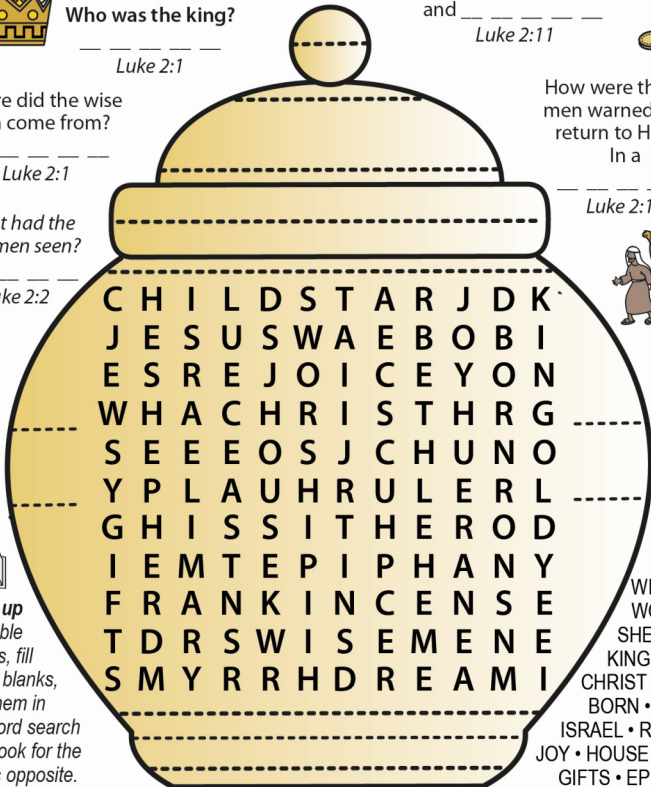
Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?
 the -----
 Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
 In a -----
 Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?
 a -----
 Luke 2:2



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

- JESUS
- WISEMEN
- WORSHIP
- SHEPHERD
- KING • JEWS
- CHRIST • CHILD
- BORN • RULER
- ISRAEL • REJOICE
- JOY • HOUSE • MARY
- GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

Jan 24 © Deborah Noble @parishpump

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

Please send all items by the 5th of the month preceding publication to:

magazine@busheyparish.org

Mrs Sue Baxter 07793 323571

Martyn Lambert 01923 903365

Advertising Liaison: Mrs Ingrid Harris

ingridharris51@gmail.com

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



100 Club winners in November

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for November
John Hodson (£60); Joanna Hewitt (£40);
and Peter Humphreys (£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

Bell Ringers Mr Stuart Brant 01923 330999

Finance & Stewardship Group Taiye Sanwo (Hon Treasurer)
Christine Cocks (CMF Officer)

Organist & Choir Director of Music Vacant

Church House hall bookings churchhouse@busheyparish.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/st.jameschurchbushey

From the Registers

FUNERAL

"Let light perpetual shine on them"

November 30. 2023

Joyce Crane

December 1. 2023

John Prested

December 7. 2023

Massimo Rotoloni

BURIAL of ASHES

"Ashes to Ashes..."

November 21. 2023

Emma Cootes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - January 2024

Wednesday January 3 and Wednesdays throughout January



COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT + BARGAIN TABLE-SALE

St Paul's Church, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Followed by Said Eucharist (12.30pm)

Wednesday January 17

MESSY CHURCH

St Paul's Church, 3.30pm



Saturday January 27

GRAVE CLEANING

St James's Churchyard 10am

St James' Music & Drama Society



Come and see your favourite Bushey and Oxhey drama group do what we do best - pantomime! Join Dick Whittington (and his cat) on their adventures to London, to sea and to a mysterious island, all in the name of driving out the rats and winning the heart of fair Alice, the Alderman's daughter. With plenty of laughs, music, dancing and sparkle, this is a show the whole family will enjoy!

All the booking details and dates are on the poster – see back cover

Smile Lines: Church-speak

MAGI: The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending a church service.

Auld Lang Syne



MESSY CHURCH @ St Paul's

Wednesday January 17th at 3:30pm
Theme: The Epiphany

St Paul's Church
Bushey Hall Road
WD23 2EQ



St James' Music & Drama Society Presents

Dick Whittington

The pantomime

Part of the Bushey &
Oxhey Community
since 1958

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th January 2024

7.30pm nightly, with 2.30pm Saturday matinee

Bushey & Oxhey Methodist Church

www.ticketsource.co.uk/stjamesmad | Box Office: 07930 185573



@stjamesmad | www.stjamesmad.co.uk