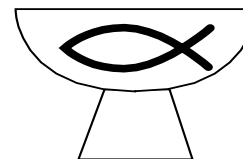
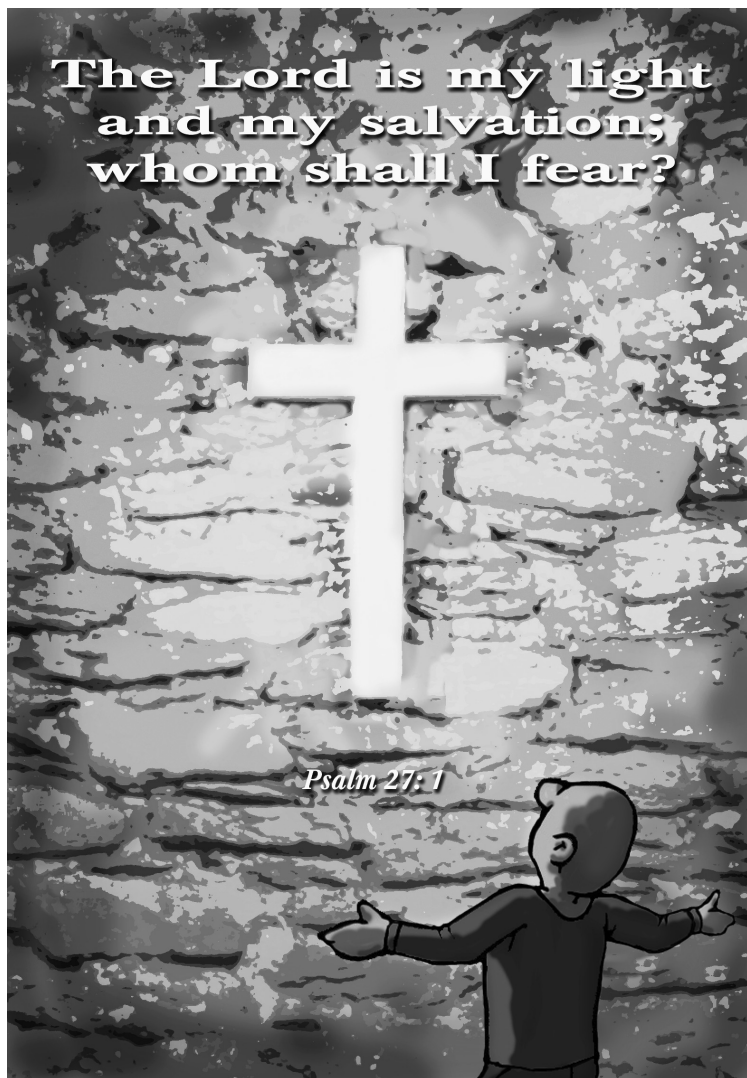


February 2024

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Barry Marsden (Licensed Lay Minister)	
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Eddie Ijeomah	07493 304447
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
District Churchwarden (SL):	
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07388 832233
District Churchwarden (SP): Frank Gerrish	07970 537572
Vergers (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651

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Revd Scott Lamb Monday

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<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk>

The Rector Writes:

Dear Friends,

At the start of every new year the church presents us with a selection of stories from the beginning of Jesus's ministry from the opening chapters of the gospel books. This year one of these stories struck me in particular: the call of the disciples in St John's Gospel. In all four gospels Jesus begins by gathering a group of friends and building a team, but in St John's gospel the tone is different to that of the other three. In this gospel, Jesus doesn't issue commands which are instantly obeyed but rather gives invitations which are accepted. The process of call is gentler and more nuanced. The disciples **find** Jesus and this discovery isn't so much the end of their searching as the beginning of a process of exploration. The disciples become followers in the context of conversation where there is space for questioning and time for relationships to develop. They are promised that there will always be more for them to learn and experience. The whole approach is summed up in the phrase "come and see" spoken by Jesus to those he calls and by his friends to each other: 'come and see' 'come, see for yourself' 'come, try this, what do you think?'"

It is with all this in mind that the Diocese of Oxford has chosen 'Come and See' as the title for its annual study course in Lent. The aim is to provide resources for discussion and reflection rather than material simply to learn and absorb. Using daily emails, weekly videos and written material the aim is to generate creative conversation at all sorts of levels amongst many different people whether they are having a look at Christianity for the first time or are long-established Christians. Last year we joined in this initiative for the first time with a good number of us signing up for emails or taking part in a study group after Mass. This year limited resources will mean fewer groups but I hope that many of us will still be able to join in either in person or online.

This year's Come and See theme is "The Way of Love," an exploration of a verse from St Luke's gospel: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." The course will unpack how these two great commandments of Jesus can give a rhythm and shape to our lives. The videos have all been prepared by school chaplains demonstrating the priority currently being given to this ministry in the Church of England.

Ash Wednesday will be February 14th so our group sessions will start the following week on Wednesday 21st at 12.30pm in St Mary's. The WiFi in St Mary's means that the session can be hybrid using Zoom as well as being face to face. Could you offer to share your screen with someone living nearby? In the meantime, please register your interest in the Diocesan website and sign up for your emails.

Fr Scott

FEBRUARY SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

Tue 6th	1.30pm	"Mulling it Over": Bible Study, chat & a cuppa (SL)
Sun 11th	12.30pm	Chinese New Year Lunch. Phone 01753 532425 to book. (SL)
Tue 20th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SP)
Thu 22nd	7.15pm	Deanery Synod (venue TBC)

Announcement of Appointment

We're delighted to announce that the Bishop of Buckingham has invited the Revd Andrew Wickens to serve as Team Vicar for St Peter's, Chalvey, as well as Chaplain to Slough & Eton Business and Enterprise College. Fr Andrew will be licensed on 22nd May in St Peter Chalvey. Fr Andrew is married to Caroline, a Methodist minister, and they have two grown up children living overseas. He is currently serving in Stoke-on-Trent and has previous experience in ministry both in the West Midlands and in Africa. He enjoys walking and cycling as well as travel and the arts. Fr Andrew says "I'm excited to be joining you in Upton-cum-Chalvey as I serve in the parish and in the school. I look forward very much to meeting with you."

Fr Scott adds, this is an incredibly positive development in the life of our Team. While Fr Andrew's ministry will be focussed in St Peter's in order to make the most of the school link in Chalvey, as Team Vicar he will be present across the three churches and I know that we will make him welcome. Fr Andrew will be living in the Parsonage in Montem Lane. Fr Andrew's skills and experience make him an outstanding candidate for this specialist post and he impressed everyone who met him when he came on interview. Please keep Fr Andrew and Caroline on your prayers as they plan for their move.

St Mary's News

No news this month.

Jean

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

These art classes are held in St Mary's, every Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and are open to all.

St Laurence's News

Now that the weather has become colder, St Laurence's Local Management Committee have been looking to action some of the recommendations put forward from an Energy Audit regarding our carbon footprint. The church boiler is over 30 years old and on its last legs. To pre-empt its demise and so that we don't have cold feet (excuse all the puns) we are considering ideas of zoning the church so that the Chancel is heated independently without heating the whole church for Thursday services and small meetings. Electricians and heating engineers with halos (using infra-red heat discovered by William Herschel) are being consulted as we speak. We have been promised favourable offers if we go with the Herschel company who can also gain publicity through our connections with their namesake. Work in progress, more news next month with the possible addition of heated cushions along with Big Ted who is communally shared with members of the congregation to love and to cherish from this day forward. . .

Don't forget the Chinese New Year Lunch on 11th February. Phone 01753 532425 to book.

Keep safe and warm.

Julie

St Peter's News

It was wonderful to see new and old friends at our Christmas worship across the Parish. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our bring and share lunch.

We have some new faces in the congregation, families with children have attended on regular Sundays. We hope this continues.

We hope to announce very soon, the name of the new priest joining our Parish. This is brilliant news for the future of our churches in Upton-cum-Chalvey.

I have noticed that new daffodil bulbs planted November/December last year, are pushing their way through already! Is Spring in the air??? Also, new trees will be planted by Slough Borough Council in the church grounds.

Repair work to the leaky roof has been carried out and the grounds are being maintained with the church being respected.

Three months have now passed since we began our sharing arrangement with the Romanian Orthodox Parish, and so far everything is going remarkably well.

Looking ahead.....

On 24th January, The Diocesan Advisory Committee will be visiting St Peter's to discuss our development proposals for the vestry extension project.

Sandra

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the March issue by **Sunday 11th February** at the latest!

Dave

1st February – Seiriol, saint of Puffin Island

You can find traces of old saints in most corners of the British Isles, but Seiriol is one of the only two saints connected to Anglesey, and certainly the ONLY saint connected to Puffin Island.

It was back in the 6th century that this gentle abbot first settled in Penmon, and built a little church. His ruined beehive cell still survives there today, as does the well from which he drew water, both for his own use, and also for baptising local people.

Like many other Celtic saints, Seiriol would have travelled by sea. So he felt comfortable near the coast on Anglesey, on low-lying land. Although he lived as a simple hermit, Seiriol soon attracted followers, and eventually he decided to establish a small monastery. He chose to build it on nearby Ynys Seiriol, now called Puffin Island.

That little monastery on Puffin Island saw some scary action in 632, when Edwin of Northumbria was chasing the Welsh king, Cadwallon, and ended up besieging him on the island. Cadwallon was finally conquered, and history moved on, but the monastic ruins of Seiriol's little monastery are still there today.

Seiriol seems to have been a purely local saint who never attracted a very great number of followers. The only known dedications to him are at Penmon and Puffin Island. But Seiriol's life and work are still a testimony today. He is a gentle and encouraging reminder of what an impact even a simple local Christian can achieve, by simply being faithful to Jesus Christ in the place where he is



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."

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.

Prayers of Love and Faith made available for use

A selection of readings and prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and asking for God’s blessing for same-sex couples can be used in Church of England services, following recent approval by the House of Bishops.

The final texts of *Prayers of Love and Faith*, commended for use in regular public worship or private prayer, can be used in regular scheduled services, such as a Sunday Eucharist or Evensong.

The *Prayers of Love and Faith* were developed as part of the outcome of a seven-year period of what was described as “listening, learning and discernment”, known as Living in Love and Faith. (<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>)

The House of Bishops has said it will consider pastoral provision to protect the conscience of those who wish to use the *Prayers* and of those who do not. It is intended that there will be wide process of consultation regarding the provision, to ensure that whatever is agreed serves to promote unity and has broad support across the Church.

Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

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.

Revd Dr Jo White

Food shortages are ‘likely’ this year

You might find some supermarket shelves empty in the coming months.

A combination of global conflicts, climate change and transportation issues are making it harder for food producers to get their products out of the field and onto your plate. And as at the end of last month (January), it got even more complicated, with the introduction of new checks on the goods coming from the EU into the UK.

Professor Chris Elliott of Queen’s University Belfast is a food security expert. He explains: “It’ll be about affordability but also availability, and the likelihood of empty shelves, particularly fresh produce shelves, in 2024 is alarmingly high.”

Professor Elliott said: “We are virtually totally dependent on other countries for most of our fresh produce, our fruit and our vegetables. We were reasonably self-sufficient in dairy, we were reasonably self-sufficient in poultry and eggs. But that’s also on the decline now, as a result of the collapse of some sectors of the food industry in the UK.”

According to the gov.uk website, just under half of the actual food on our plates is produced within the UK.

The cost of parking at your local hospital

Have you been a patient or visitor to a hospital this past year? If so, you are not imagining it: the cost of parking there has skyrocketed. In fact, parking charges for hospital patients and visitors have leapt by £50 million in a year.

Recent NHS accounts show that hospital trusts made nearly £146 million in income from patients and visitors in 2022-3. That is a whopping 50 per cent increase from the £97 million received the year before.

There has also been a major jump in the amount hospital staff have to pay to park. In 2021-22 the staff members paid just £5.6 million, which increased to £46.7 million in 2022-23. These latest figures have been met with criticism from Royal College of Nursing, which has slammed the growing cost of parking for staff.



‘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.’

Canon Paul Hardingham

Celebrating the now and future Creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. After creation's winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2024, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. In the face of climate change, we urgently need to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2024 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

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?

Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

The cost of parking at your local hospital

Have you been a patient or visitor to a hospital this past year? If so, you are not imagining it: the cost of parking there has skyrocketed. In fact, parking charges for hospital patients and visitors have leapt by £50 million in a year.

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Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN



On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lych gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

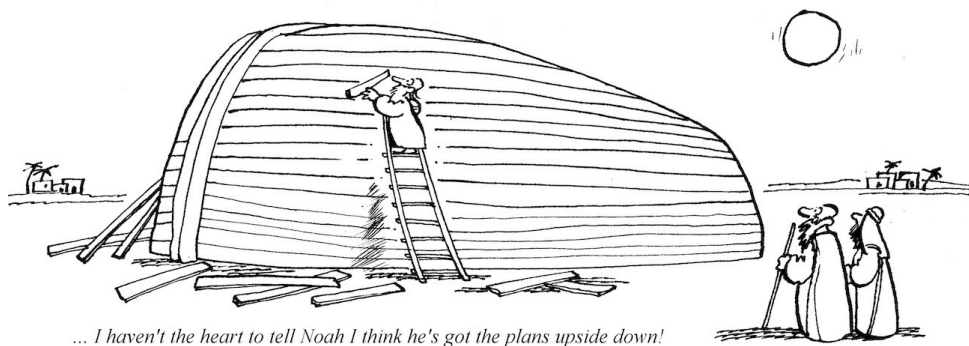
Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close *your* car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

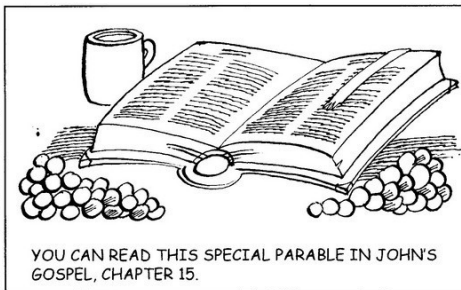
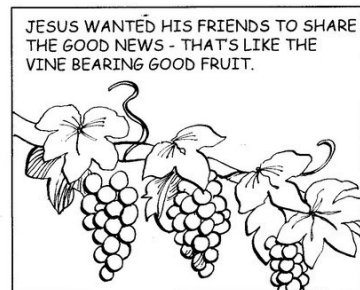
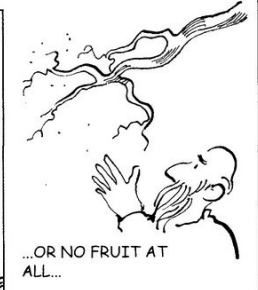
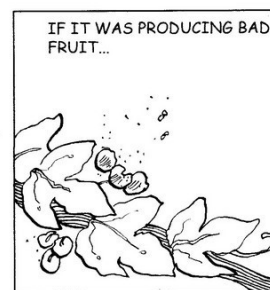
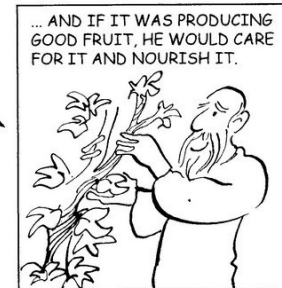
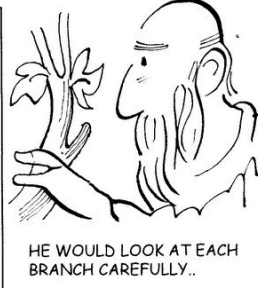
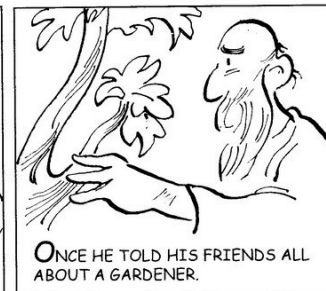
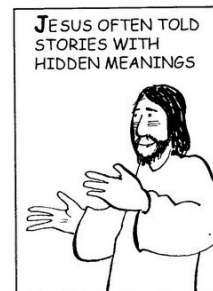


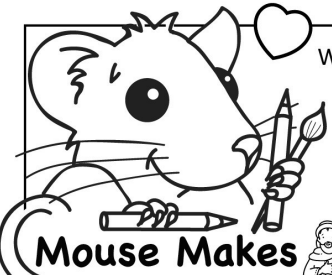
Shrove Tuesday Lentsherd

Lentsherd is an old Clovelly Shrove Tuesday custom. Historically the aim is to chase bad spirits away and drive the devil into the sea before Lent! This has been going on for many centuries. At dusk children start at Down-a-Long (a small pebbled hill) dragging their noisy tin cans tied together. When they reach the harbour at the bottom of the hill, all the children's tin cans are tied together and thrown into the sea (and then retrieved later). Afterwards there is a free pancake to decorate with toppings.

Alice Sanders

The gardener and the Vine





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

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?
_____ and _____

Romans 16:3

E E Z R E E L I Z A B E T H R
S V Q S L R Z J I B O A D A M
R E B E K A H O J R A O Q N O
U I S A A C A S A A Z P R N S
T H A Q N H Z E C H A R I A H
H R U T A E V P O A I E B H I
S A R A H L T H B M A R Y S D
P R I S C I L L A Q U I L A

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

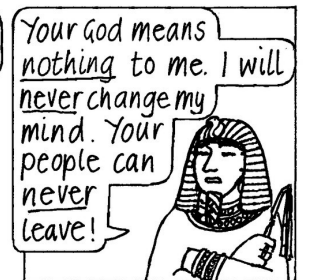
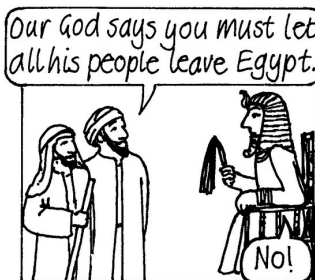
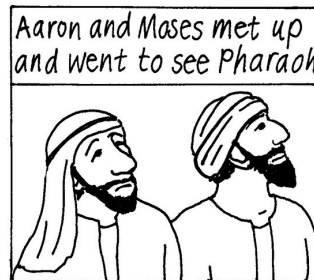
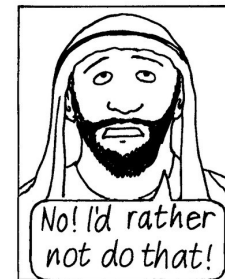
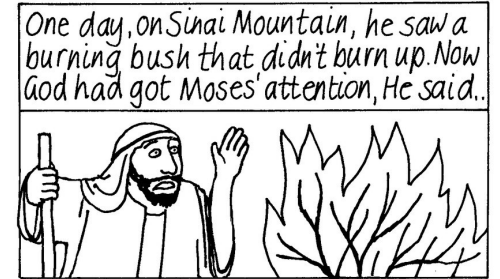
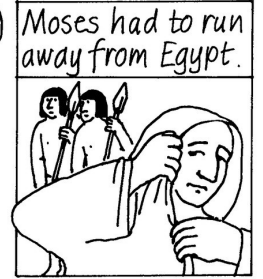
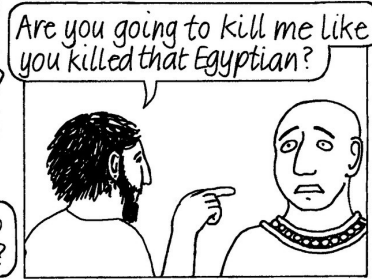
ABRAHAM
ADAM • AQUILA
BOAZ • ELKANAH
ELIZABETH
EVE • HANNAH
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JOSEPH • MARY
PRISCILLA
RACHEL
REBEKAH • RUTH
SARAH
ZECHARIAH

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.



Abandoned and helpless

If February is the month of love, shouldn't that include some compassion for animals?

The RSPCA reports that animal abandonment incidents have reached a three-year high. Latest figures for 2023 reveal more than 20,000 reports of animals being simply dumped by their owners.

Dermot Murphy, RSPCA inspectorate commissioner, says: "Behind these shocking statistics are thousands of vulnerable animals. Each one is a valuable life in urgent need of our help."

He goes on: "The combined effects of the pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has created a perfect storm, and means we expect more animals than ever will need our help this year."

Yet many rescue centres are already full to bursting, "so we are facing an unprecedented winter crisis. Our rescue teams are busier than ever. We need animal lovers to donate to help us be there for animals in desperate need."

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Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.
6.00pm Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)
Tuesday: 10.00am Eucharist
Wednesday: 12.30pm Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday: 11.00am Family Eucharist with children's group.
Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday: 11.00am Family Eucharist with children's groups.
Wednesday: 9.30am Holy Communion

Websites:

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