

2Gather

Parish Magazine of the East Dartford Benefice

**CHURCH IS NOT AN
ORGANISATION YOU JOIN; IT
IS A FAMILY
WHERE YOU BELONG,
A HOME WHERE YOU ARE
LOVED AND A HOSPITAL WHERE
YOU FIND HEALING.**

Contents

Hello everyone.....	3
Why do they do that? Collared.....	5
Esther's Journey to Ordination.....	8
NEW Men's Brunch	12
Book Reviews by Andrew Carr	13
Everyday Faith – Mandy Young.....	15
Little Parish People.....	17
Bible Bites.....	18
Picture Parable	19
Mouse Makes	20
St James the Least of All	22
NEW St Ed's Café Menu	25
The Rochester Dragon	26
Crossword	27
Anna Chaplaincy by Mandy Brown	29
What we have been up to?	30
Christmas 2024	35
Getting in touch.....	36



Hello everyone

One of the best things about my job is that I get asked lots of questions. What do I think about this? Why do I believe that? How would I explain the other?

There's always this assumption that 'the vicar knows best' and it's a bit of a mission to persuade people that actually, though I have been blessed to have

been given the time, the space, and the resources, to really reflect on what I believe and why, I don't actually know everything! That said, I reckon I could give a good account of where I stand on a number of major theological issues and why I stand there.



I've always believed the task of a minister is not to tell others what to believe and so create a church full of mini-me-s, but to walk alongside them, pray with them, just to be there for them, while they work out their faith for themselves. Gone are the days, thank the Lord, when everyone was in church on Sunday in their best clothes. Don't get me wrong, I'd love everyone to be in church on Sunday but because they choose to be, not because of cultural expectations. One of the reasons many adults avoid church is because they were compelled to attend as children and to sit still on uncomfortable pews for what felt like hours, never allowed to challenge or discuss. It put them off for life. They think that is what church is - a joyless place of indoctrination. How sad is that?

But church is a place to grow, a place to learn about yourself about the world, about God. And in that learning and growing will come the capacity and the desire to worship. Church is a place where difficult subjects should be addressed, not avoided: where is God when it hurts? Where do we go when we die? When we ask questions, we are not undermining our faith, we are building its foundations on the rock which will hold when the storms of life come. And come they will.

God bless, Mandy

Don't be cross with God

Now Jonah was cross with the Lord.
He thought He'd forsaken His word!

And so, he was really quite mad.

For Nineveh'd turned from its ways
And spared itself God's wrathful blaze;
Jonah thought that it made him look bad.
He withdrew from that place and its folk

And sat by himself for a sulk.

God came for a chat, by and by.

God said, "come along, Jonah!"

"Don't be glum, nor a moaner!"

But Jonah just wanted to die.

God thought that He'd give him a sign,

He grew, overnight, a large vine
To give shade to the old prophet's head.

Then it withered next day

He was scorched by sun's ray!

And pleaded, again, to be dead.

"Now stop all this hopeless self- pity!

"It's a vine, not a stonking great city

"That's full of such innocent souls!"

"Stop this self-obsessed sorrow,

"And then get up tomorrow,

"And focus on My – not your – goals!"

By Nigel Beeton

Why do they do that? Collared...

A vicar, as usual on a Monday morning, pops into the local primary school to answer questions about the Christian faith.

The children are unusually shy and a bit too quiet so the vicar asks her own question: 'Boys and girls, why do you think I wear this collar?' she says pointing to the little band of white around her neck.

The children are all thinking deeply and then, with a sudden burst of excitement as he realises he may know the answer, a little boy pipes up: 'because it kills fleas and ticks for up to three months!'

Why do clergy wear collars? What do they represent?

Well, first of all, it's worth noting that, even in the Church of England, not all clergy do wear a collar. Whether you do or not is often determined by your personal tradition (high or low church) and your view of the priesthood.

So the best I can do is explain why I wear a collar. And for me there are two key reasons - one personal and one public - and both are equally important.

Firstly, the personal reason - a clerical collar is for me a symbol of obedience and of humility. It reminds me that I have made vows to those set in authority over me, namely Bishops, and through

their direction, I have made vows of obedience to God. Some will say but you should only obey God, and of course they're right. But one of the great risks of faith can be the tendency for us to do what we like and then say 'well, God told me to this or that'. It may sometimes be correct but it is a position hugely open to abuse too. The collar won't make me obedient - it has no magical quality - but it serves as a constant reminder that my calling is do as God wills, not as I will. Those set over me help me to discern what that is. Obedience and humility. Those qualities don't mean I don't have a mind of my own, of course I do, but the collar guard against a too-tempting spiritual arrogance that can come with our calling.

The second reason is the more public one.



The thing to remember here is that the Church of England is pretty unique. A parish is a legally defined geographical area of the country. And the whole country is divided into such parishes. Everyone lives in a parish, whether or not they come to church; whether they have different faith or no faith; whether they sleep in a palace or under a bridge. Every person in the parish in which I serve has a right to my care, my prayers, my attention, and that is the beauty of the Church of England parish system. I love it.

But without the collar there is a bit of a problem. Most people don't come to church and therefore would never know I was their priest if I didn't wear a collar. The collar is a very well-recognised symbol of the church's presence in and for the whole community. People know what it stands for. If they see me and they need to talk they

know, I hope, they can talk to me with confidence and in confidence. The trouble with only wearing a collar on a Sunday morning is then your role is only obvious to those who come to church and who know you anyway. It stands against the parish system which I hope I have explained above. That's why not wearing a collar at all raises big questions for me about who and what we are for - that little bit of plastic carries huge theological significance and for me at least make the church the Body of Christ look beyond itself and not get away with existing only as a club for the initiated.

Hope that makes sense. And who knows, maybe that little boy had a point. I haven't had fleas in all the time I've been ordained.

God bless,

Mandy

†OMICS by Tom Gould

Priests
Father Tom





Messy[®] Church

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22ND
SEPTEMBER

4PM-5:30PM

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SONGS

FOOD



CRAFTS

COME AND JOIN US @ ST ALBAN'S
CHURCH FOR MESSY CHURCH AND
LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING KIND!

Esther's Journey to Ordination

Ten years ago, I was at a Christian Summer Camp with my son and his youth group. We attended a talk called "Called to be Collared", which was given by Sean Doherty a lecturer at St. Mellitus College in London. I didn't think I was called to be collared but I was inspired by Sean's recommendation for a two-year "Beginning Theology" course. I prayed about it and spoke to my minister and a few others, and we agreed it would be a good idea. So, I applied and within a month I was on the course.

I had just turned 40 and I hadn't studied since secondary school, where I didn't do very well, so I was nervous about how I would get on. As it was I did well and felt myself and my knowledge expand as we learned and discussed together.

The college enabled students of Beginning Theology to mix with Ordinands (studying to become Deacons and Priests). We had evening meals and worshipped together. It was wonderful to get to know different people's journeys. On the final evening of the first year, (before we broke for summer) my tutor Eileen asked me if I thought I might be

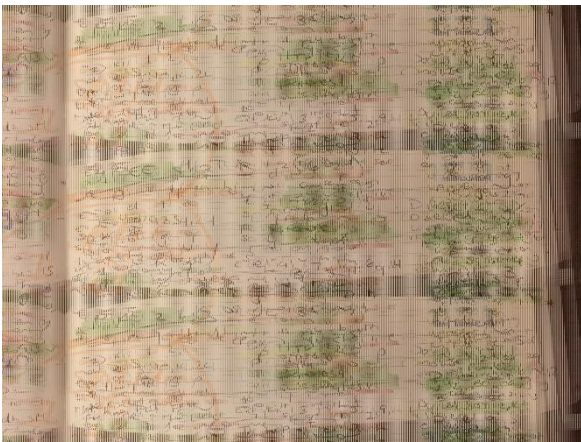
called to be ordained. I said absolutely not. But something happened that summer that changed my mind, and my life.



We went again to the summer camp, and I supported Sean, as he gave the same talk he had previously. But this time it was different. As he spoke, I felt like a brick wall had collapsed on me, it was as if the wall gave way, and I saw that I could be a priest. I was gobsmacked because although Eileen had suggested it, I genuinely did not think it was for me. Now suddenly I had to investigate this.

The formal investigation phase is called the "discernment process". The discernment process means that, together, with God, me and the church are working out if this is the right thing: is God calling me, into

the Church of England? There were many questions that needed to be explored on a practical and spiritual level. At the time (it's changed now) there were nine selection criteria, which me and a person allocated to me called a DDO (Diocesan Discernment officer) discussed and reflected on.



The discernment process was probing and made me question myself and my call. I meet three separate assessors and even had a psychological assessment. The whole process was rigorous and took three years! In that time, I battled some of my inner demons: *why would God call me? I'm divorced, who would want a divorcée as a priest? Does God call women? I'm not smart enough!* And on and on it went, and while God was working in me, I was also meeting my DDO and trying to convince him that I did believe that God was calling me to be ordained in the Church of England. It was not

easy to convince someone of something that I was not convinced about myself! But what I did know was that God was calling me to 'the next step'. So, I kept trusting God and taking the next step.

Towards the end of the discernment process I met with my Bishop, Graham Tomlin. Graham sent me to the final assessment, the Bishop's Advisory Panel, known as the BAP. This meant staying at a retreat centre with a group of other hopeful candidates. There we had three interviews with the three BAP assessors. We also gave a short talk and lead a group discussion. We were being observed the whole time. As I was not entirely sure if I would be put through, I held lightly to my hopes, finding it easier to be myself, and enjoy the two nights away from home, eating food that I didn't have to cook. I have no idea how and why I was so relaxed, but I was. I even went jogging in the mornings!

A few days later, Bishop Graham called to say I had been recommended for training at St. Mellitus College to study Theology and Mission. It was a huge relief and exciting. Initially I began doing a diploma, but I enjoyed the academic work more than I expected and did

quite well. Sean suggested I request to upgrade to a degree, which I did, increasing my essays by an extra third. I loved it, even though I was also working full time. I would honestly say that the way I coped was taking one full day off, doing no work or studies. Taking that sabbath day, has become a way of life for me now, and keeps me more able to manage life's ups and downs.



some of the closest friends have come from that period of time.

After I finished my degree, I had the summer off, and was ordained Deacon in September 2021, at Rochester Cathedral. The following day I attended St. Alban's where I began my curacy and was

welcomed into our two churches: St. Edmund's and St. Alban's. In my next article, I'll share some of my reflections on being a curate.

Halfway through the three-year degree Covid happened and the doors of the world were slammed shut. We found ourselves trying to navigate the new online world. Suddenly we needed to attend online lectures and read books from online digital libraries. It was an interesting and difficult time, but I loved studying. I loved the lecture weekends away with my cohort (before Covid) where we would study, eat, learn, talk, and pray together. It really was a fantastic period in my life and



Rev. Esther Rose

Note: If you'd like to know more about calling or vocation, discernment, or any of the things I've mentioned please feel free to chat to me, Mandy Young, Mandy Brown, or our Reader Andrew Carr. We certainly all have different experiences and perspectives on the discernment process.

Dust if you must

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself, will make more dust.

By Rose Milligan

Men's Brunch

First Saturday | every month
St Edmund's Cafe
9:30am - 11am

You are welcome to join us for breakfast, a cuppa and a chat at St Edmund's Cafe. We will also have guest speakers and the opportunity for discussions on a variety of subjects, what would you like to talk about? Let us know on 01322 311201.

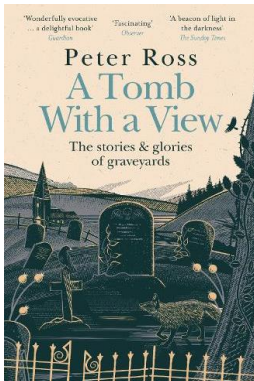


For information or to let us know you are coming, please call 01322 311201

Book Reviews by Andrew Carr

A Tomb with a View

Peter Ross (£10.99 paperback)



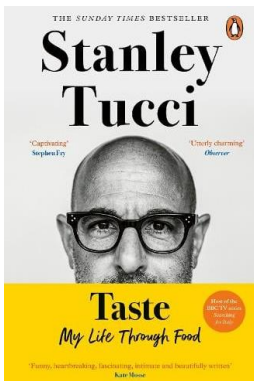
A meditation on visiting graves/graveyards by a fine Scottish journalist. Exploring around the country, he finds no end of fascinating stories about those who maintain them, those visiting to remember those there, and those looking for famous/infamous graves.

To give too much away would be spoilers too many, but a couple of stories – one concerning David Bowie, the other a woman called Phoebe Hessel – may be sufficient to help you decide to read it...

If you visit Southwark Cathedral, you may come across an unusual graveyard nearby called Crossbones. Some 15,000 are buried in unmarked graves mostly women and girls who, because of their 'profession', were ignored by society and excluded from church over several centuries. Each Hallowe'en there's a vigil to remember them accompanied by Bowie's song 'Starman' in part because in death, Bowie was named 'Angel of the Outcast.' Phoebe Hessel (1713-1821) aka 'The Stepney Amazon' is interred at St Nicholas', Brighton. Aged 15 and in love with a soldier, she successfully disguised herself as a man and served with him in the Army for some 17 years until seriously wounded in battle, she gave the attending army doctor a shock... I love this book and recommend it.

Taste: My Life Through Food

Stanley Tucci (£9.99 paperback)



A fine book by a fine actor about fine food (including their recipes), life, love and loss.

Best known, amongst many films, for 'The Hunger Games' and 'The Devil Wears Prada,' Tucci, an Italian-American, covers the sad death of his first wife, his meeting his second, and his own battle with cancer with wit, intelligence and insight. That alone would make it a good read. This guy can write.

But it is the theme of taste (a sense he lost as a result of the cancer – but mercifully regained) and of food's ability to bring people together that makes it so compelling – warning you are

likely to be hungry having read it. For a non-cook such as myself, I suspect I could follow the recipes of his favourite dishes (and occasional drink – Bond fans may balk at his Martini concoction!) and produce something edible, so if you're feeling brave...

His story about filming in Iceland for the tv series "Fortitude" is fun because he assumed that fermented shark meat was served at every meal and was thrilled to be proved wrong. Again, I loved this book and recommend it, especially if you love cooking and eating Italian cuisine.

THIS TOILET HAS BEEN
TWINNED
St Edmund's Church



**WITH A LATRINE IN
NIGERIA**

Latitude: 10.36397, Longitude: 12.86483
Garaha, Hong



SCAN ME
to learn more



1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.
By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.
Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

Everyday Faith – Mandy Young

How long have you been part of the church and what roles have you held?



I came to Dartford in July 2019 and was here for six months before Mark left. A couple of months after that, in March, Covid happened. So, it was a tough first year. I arrived to be a community priest, with a focus on community engagement, and though I've since moved on to be priest-in-charge, and then vicar of the benefice, in my heart I still believe all clergy should be community priests. The most important thing the church can do in this fractured twenty first century is model a truly inclusive community as a sign and symbol of the Kingdom of God. That's our calling - to be the body of Christ and look beyond ourselves to the cries of others.

Is it a good thing being a single benefice; what are the strengths about our two churches coming together?

I think it's been a very good thing - there's been a few hiccups and there will many more, no doubt. But we really are beginning to grow together in a very natural and organic way. We're sharing gifts and insights and laughter and worries and so our family grows as any family should - through shared experiences, and with the ties of love that bind no matter what. The great strength I think, again, is that in the very difficulties of working out how to 'be' together we are modelling how community happens when not we, but the grace (and patience) of God is in the driving seat.

What do you like best about your job; what not so much?

I love building relationships and conducting baptisms, weddings, funerals; welcoming newcomers to our church and seeing them become part of who we are; preaching and teaching and celebrating the Eucharist. I love being out and about, meeting people where they are and encouraging them to become who God sees when God looks at them. Tougher for me is dealing with issues relating to the 'business' side of the church life. It can sap the energy but, against the usual platitudes, I still believe the church is the building as well as the people - place is important, it make our faith incarnational, so the buildings do matter.

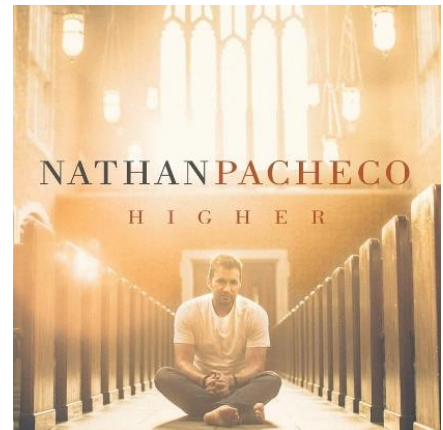


Three favourite hymns/songs...

I'm a 'hate music, love the noise it makes' kind of person, and for me it's the words of hymns and songs that move me. Be Thou My Vision has such theological depth and the words are truly beautiful.

I like Dear Lord and Father - I don't love it - and those lines 'where Jesus knelt to share with thee/ the silence of eternity/interpreted by love' are perfect. It sums up faith - like Job, we don't know all the answers, why people hurt, and sometime the universe seems silent on the big issues, but looking through the eyes of Jesus, we can interpret the world through Communion with God who is love.

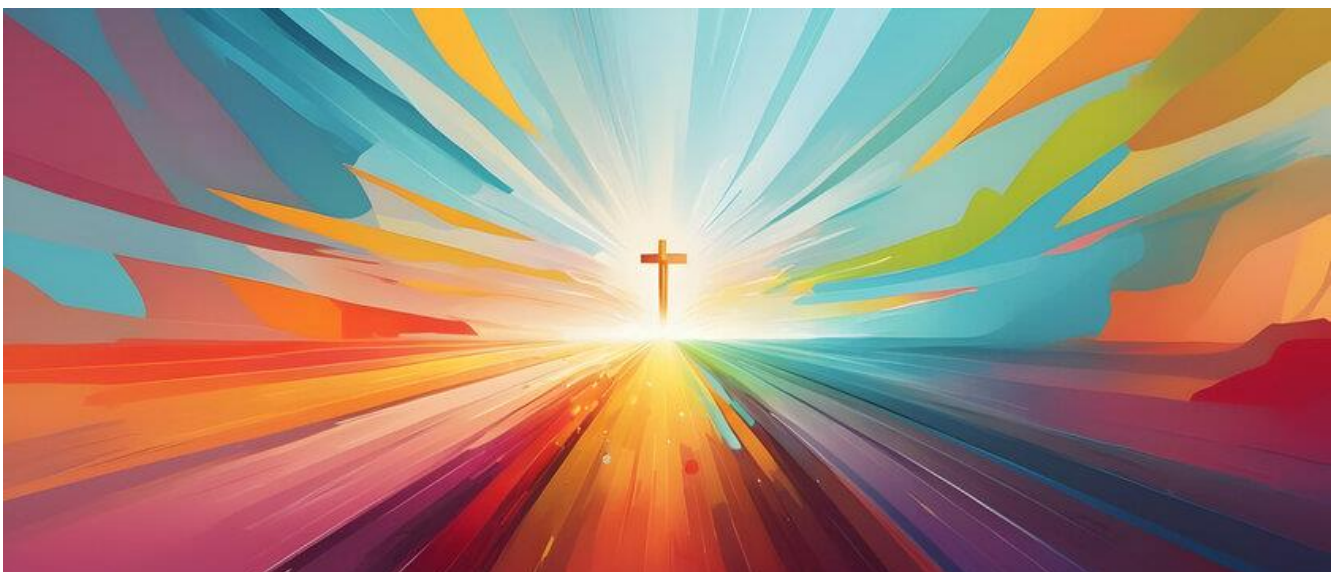
Oh, and anything by the gorgeous Nathan Pacheco gets a big tick from me.



How would you sum up your faith?

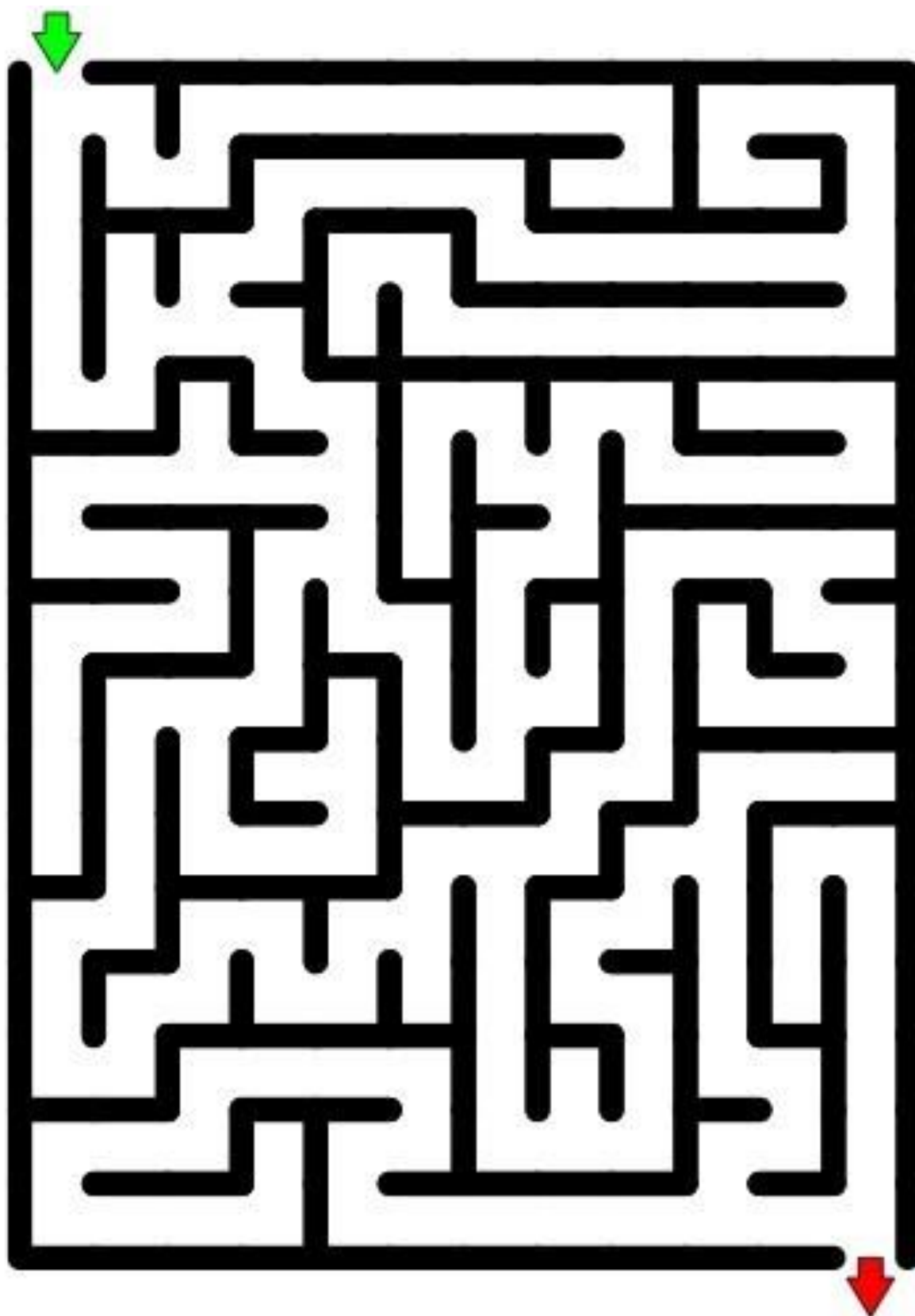
I became a Christian because of Jesus and I'll die a Christian because of Jesus - not the Christ of the Church which has been tamed and polished by the historical church but the rebel itinerant, Jesus of Nazareth, who inspired, healed and transformed lives wherever he went. Nothing and no-one has ever captured my heart and mind and soul as much as this first century radical non-conformist, who carried within him the Kingdom of God.

We forget that the Kingdom of God is not something we need to build - God is everywhere and where God is, the Kingdom is - but something we need to reveal through our own lives, and then help others, starved of meaning and purpose and love, to find God in their lives too.



Little Parish People

@ Alban & Edmund



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom.
A vineyard owner went to the marketplace
at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

I'll pay you the normal
wage for a day's work.



He went out again
at 9 o'clock ...



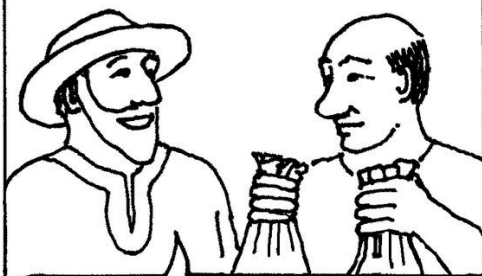
and 3 o'clock ...

and again with just 1 hour
to go before sunset.



I'll pay you a fair wage

At the end of the day..



Pay the last workers first.

They were given a
whole day's wage..



and so were those who
had worked all day.



You paid them the same
and we worked all day!



My friend, you agreed
to work for a day's wage



I want to give those
who were hired last
the same as you got.



Can't I do what I want
with my own money?



Or are you jealous because
I'm good to others?



Jesus concluded...

So those
who are
now last will be
first, and the first last.



The gardener and the Vine

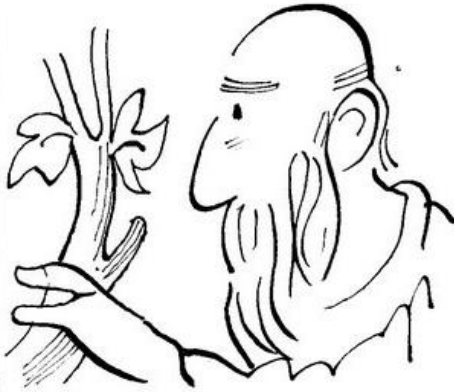


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

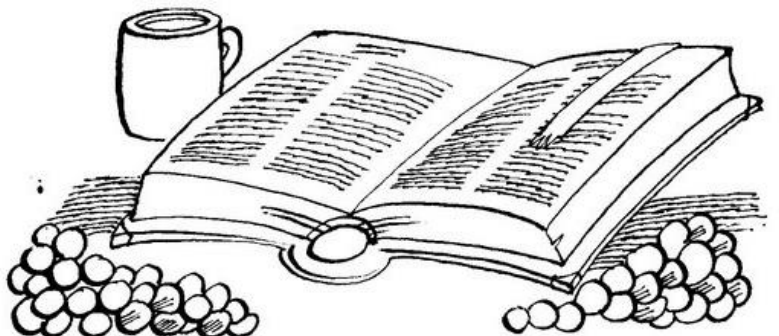


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...

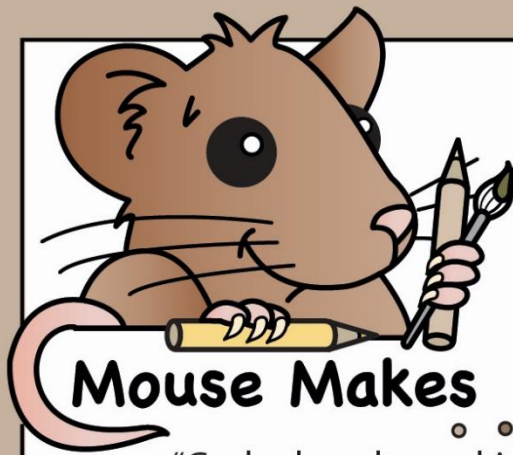


...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
_____ you, O God!
May all the peoples praise you!
The land yields its harvest;
God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons.
He provides you with
plenty of _____. He fills
your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
the Lord our God.
He gives us autumn and
spring _____
at the right time.

He makes sure that we
have the harvest at
just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!



We have two fantastic toddler groups, Wednesdays at St Alban's church from 8:30am, and from Friday 20th September at St Edmund's church every Friday from 9am. Lots of great toys, meet new people and have lots of fun. Please do let people know about our group.



LITTLE EDZ

AT ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

TODDLER GROUP

FREE NEW GROUP
GREAT TOYS
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
STORY TIME
GAMES
EVERYONE WELCOME

St James the Least of All

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



The perils of 'standing in' for another vicar

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

THIS TOILET HAS BEEN
TWINNED

St Alban's Church



**WITH A LATRINE IN
MOZAMBIQUE**

Latitude: -19.2726, Longitude: 33.3459
Zembe



SCAN ME
to learn more



1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.

By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.

Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

The Sun *by Mary Oliver*

Have you ever seen
anything
in your life
more wonderful

than the way the sun,
every evening,
relaxed and easy,
floats toward the horizon

and into the clouds or the hills,
or the rumpled sea,
and is gone—
and how it slides again

out of the blackness,
every morning,
on the other side of the world,
like a red flower

streaming upward on its heavenly oils,
say, on a morning in early summer,
at its perfect imperial distance—
and have you ever felt for anything
such wild love—
do you think there is anywhere, in any language,
a word billowing enough
for the pleasure

that fills you,
as the sun
reaches out,
as it warms you

as you stand there,
empty-handed—
or have you too
turned from this world—

or have you too
gone crazy
for power,
for things?

NEW St Ed's Café Menu

MENU

FOOD

Rolls/Paninis/Sarnies

	1 filling + salad £2	2 fillings + salad £2.50
Bacon		
Sausage		
Egg		
Cheese		
Ham		
Soup & buttered roll		£2.50
Cup-a-Soup & buttered roll		£2
Buttered toast (per slice)		£1
Jam portion		25p
Beans on toast (2 slices)		£2.50
Scrambled egg on toast (2 slices)		£2.50
Cereal & Milk		£1.50
Homemade sausage rolls		60p
Biscuits		30p
Crisps		60p
Fruit		30p

DRINK

Tea*	60p
Coffee*	60p
Speciality Coffees	£1
Canned drinks (various)	£1
Bottled water	£1
Children's drinks	60p
Squash	20p

*Bring your own cup and save 10p on tea/coffee

SPECIALS (when available)

Thursday Lunch	£5
2 course meal / Tea or Coffee	Please book in advance
Homemade cakes	50p per slice
See specials board for other offers	

FOOD ALLERGY NOTICE

If you have a food allergy or a special dietary requirement, please inform a member of the serving team. Thank you.

@ST EDS



Draco Roffensis: The Rochester Dragon

Commemorating 900 years of Textus Roffensis

1st June - 21st September

Draco Roffensis: The Rochester Dragon has been inspired by illuminated artwork found within the pages of Textus Roffensis. The dragon will take flight at the Cathedral from **June 1st to September 21st**.

Draco Roffensis has been designed by celebrated artist Wendy Daws. Made of 12,500 gold, silver and copper foil sewn onto wire panels, it is suspended above the Nave.

The underside of the wings features quotes from Textus Roffensis and are made from recycled materials from 'Tape' a recent exhibition at Chatham Dockyard by Numen/For Use. The embossed foil scales have been decorated by community groups and visitors to Rochester Cathedral.

Alongside *Draco Roffensis* will be a programme of events celebrating Textus Roffensis. Textus 900 will culminate in the premiere of a new lightshow by Luxmuralis inspired by manuscripts, illustrations and the culture from dark ages through early Middle Ages.

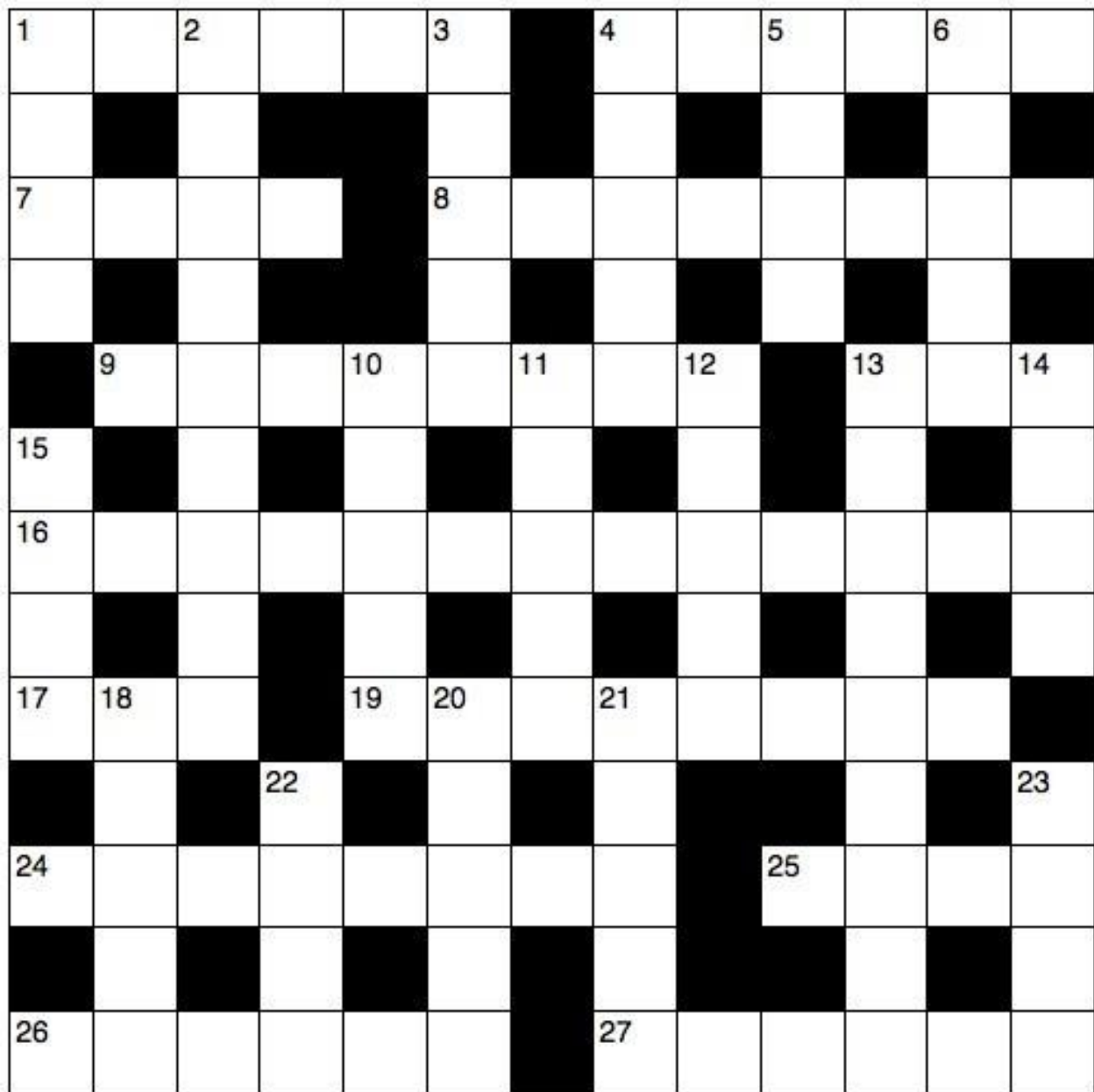
Textus Roffensis is one of the most important Medieval manuscripts in England. It was written in Rochester in the 1120s by monks at the Priory of St Andrews. Amongst its contents are the earliest English laws recorded dating all the way back to the 7th century. In 2022 Textus Roffensis was added to the prestigious UNESCO Memory of the World UK Register.

"I am truly honoured to receive this commission to celebrate Draco Roffensis and delighted for the opportunity to create an artwork for Rochester Cathedral to mark this special occasion. I'm excited to work together with so many different communities, to help create the embossed foil scales, an integral part of the design that will bring the dragon sculpture alive!"

— Wendy Daws

Rochester
CATHEDRAL
Growing in Christ since AD604

Crossword



Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)

4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)

7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)

8 See 19 Across

9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)

13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

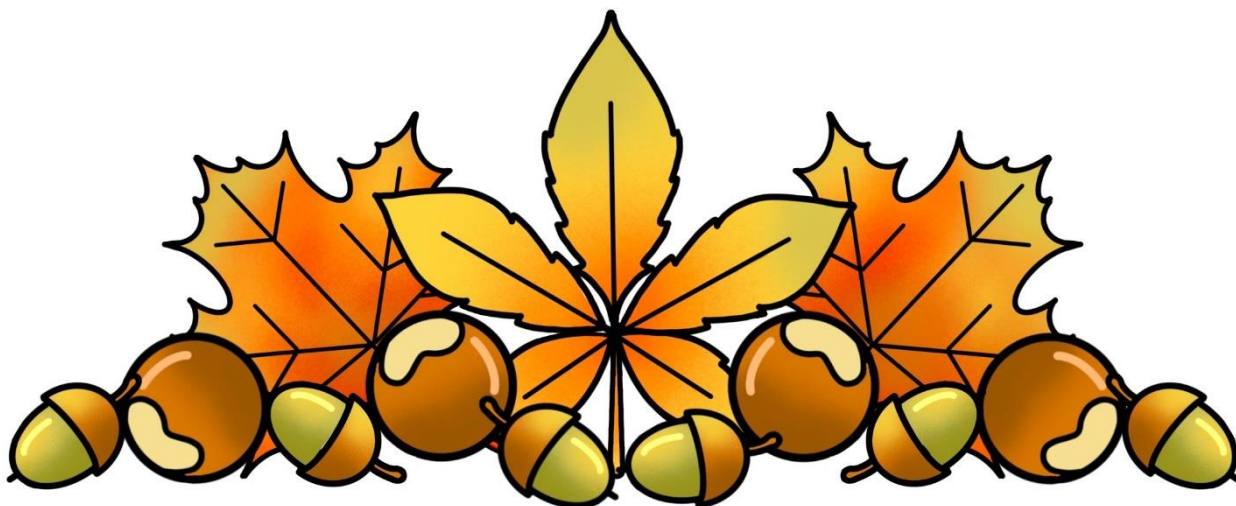
16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 36



Anna Chaplaincy by Mandy Brown



Friends and colleagues gathered at Bishops Court in Rochester to celebrate and commission new Anna Chaplains.

It was and is a privilege to have been one of those people to have completed their training and join the country wide network of Chaplains.

Anna Chaplaincy (named after the prophet Anna from the gospel of Luke) is a gentle interdenominational ministry serving the needs of older people. The ministry tries to tackle the stigma and marginalisation experienced by older people within our society.

Coming alongside and walking with people of faith or no faith Anna Chaplains and their colleagues, Anna friends, reach out to those living in care homes or the community. They are also there to support carers who may experience isolation and challenges hidden behind closed doors. There is so much that could and should be done to improve many people's quality of life.

Over the coming weeks Rev Mandy Young and I will be exploring and discerning how we may best serve the older people in the community of East Dartford. Like all ministry no one person can do everything, so one of the first tasks is to build a team of people who feel Gods calling to serve our church and community in this way. Has this article got you thinking that you might have an hour a week or even longer to offer? If so, please have a word with me so we can have an informal chat about what it means to be an Anna Friend and be part of the team.

Please hold this ministry in your prayers, thank you.

Mandy

Revd Canon Mandy Brown
Anna Chaplain for East Dartford Benefice



WELCOME TO CHURCH!

SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

TWO COURSE MEAL*

£5 per person
12-12:30pm
@St Edmund's
Cafe



*Free tea or coffee INCLUDED

You are welcome to stay and join the Over 60's Group for Bingo after lunch!

Please call 01322 311201 to book lunch.

East Dartford Benefice
St Edmund &
St Alban
www.dartfordchurches.org

ST EDMUND'S

Scripture through Art

Wednesdays at 7pm - 8pm on Zoom

Prayer, bible reading, YouTube clip, Art and Music



East Dartford Benefice
St Edmund &
St Alban
www.dartfordchurches.org

QUIZ NIGHT

PET Service

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST
3PM @ ST EDMUND'S CHURCH



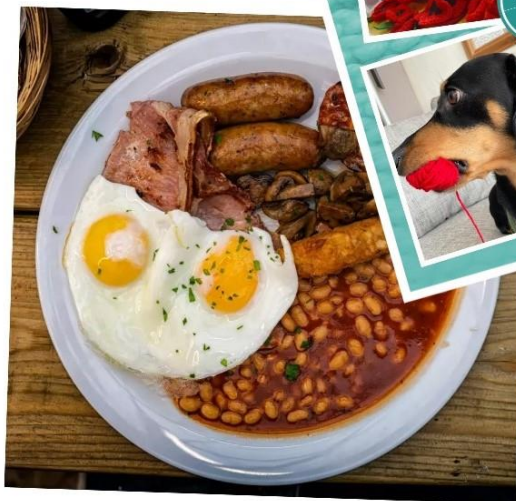
All creatures great and small welcome.
Let's get together and thank God for the animals and pets
that bring such joy to our lives.

St Edmund's Church, Living Well Centre, Temple Hill, Dartford

Men's Brunch

Join us for a 'Full English',
a cuppa and a chat at
St Edmund's Cafe.

First Saturday, every
month from 10am -
11:30am. Let us know you
are coming on 01322
311201.



St Alban's Knit & Natter

Join us on the 1st & 3rd
Saturday of the month, learn to
knit (or crochet), learn to chat
(can we learn that!), have a
coffee and let's chat about
'Ladies who brunch'.



10am - 11:30am
@ St Alban's Church



KNIT & NATTER







PICCOLLAG



THIS TOILET HAS BEEN
TWINNED

East Dartford Benefice



**WITH A LATRINE IN
NEPAL**

Latitude: 27.6773, Longitude: 85.995117
Aagra VDC, Makawanpur



SCAN ME
to learn more



1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.

By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.

Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

HEY!

IS IT TOO EARLY TO TALK
ABOUT CHRISTMAS? YES!!!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

Save the date!

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW ...



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



*Shirley reminded them they were going out
there to praise the Lord, not to kick ass*

Getting in touch...

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mandyyoung612@outlook.com

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Canon Mandy Brown | 07772 121277

Reader: Andrew Carr carr176@btinternet.com

Parish Administrator: Debbie Westerby (except Thurs)
albanandedmundonline@virginmedia.com

St Edmund's Centre Co-ordinator: Janet Jones (except Fri) stedmundsdartford@gmail.com

Church Wardens : Lorraine Bathgate (lorraine.bathgate@hotmail.co.uk)

Roy Brown (roydfc@icloud.com); Alan Jobling (alan.jobling1987@gmail.com)

Segun Abraham (segunabraham@mail.com)

www.facebook.com/eastdartfordbenefice/ | www.2dartfordchurches.org

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.