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September 2020

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# St Paul's Church Services

Sunday 10.30am (*in church and on YouTube*) Parish Eucharist

Sunday 4.30pm (*in church*) Evening Prayer

Tuesday 6.30pm (*on YouTube*) Evening Prayer

Thursday 10.30am (*in church*) Mid-Week Eucharist

If You are aware of somebody who is unwell, lonely, housebound or in need, please pass their information on to the vicar

Requests for Baptism, Weddings and Funerals should also be directed to Fr Matthew (whose day of rest is Tuesday)

## Prayer Calendar

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Marshalls Close

Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Massey Close

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Milton Grove

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Munro Drive

## Keep up to date at St Paul's :

Weekly emails: <https://mailchi.mp/3e89320c9615/stpaulsupdates>

Youtube channel for services: <http://tiny.cc/StPaulsYouTube>

Twitter for church/community news: [https://twitter.com/pauls\\_n11](https://twitter.com/pauls_n11)

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15568/>

Zoom meetings- please find link on weekly email

# From the Vicar

Greetings!

It is wonderful to see the Vision magazine resume after the summer break. I love the way Vision offers a space for the community to share their interests and thoughts on a whole range of topics – from discovering hidden gems in the local area, to making cakes and preserves, to the 'Lynette Interviews' – all as we get to know one another better.

My thanks to Wendy and Kim for this month's edition – and to all the contributors.

The end of August brought with it the return to in-person Eucharists in St Paul's church. The first service had one or two technical difficulties for those watching at home (all my fault I'm afraid!), but what a joy it was to bless the Easter Candle – with the promise of Baptisms to follow in the months ahead – and to share the Sacrament together. The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ "makes visible a spiritual grace", that is, it unites us as the body of Christ here on earth.

We are all in this journey of walking with Jesus Christ together: We are invited to serve him together, to pray together, to use our varied gifts together. Given all the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its impact, I am so glad we can face that together too, even though our personal experiences will each be different. If you are struggling, in any way – physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually over the coming months – please speak to myself or others in the community so that we can better live out our calling to be one Body, full of the love of our Lord.

I love the diversity of our people and our interests here in New Southgate and I look forward to reading this month's magazine to discover more. With a variety of articles in mind I've written an article on Artificial Intelligence: Something I find fascinating!

With my continued prayers,

***Father Matt***



## Our First service back in church



# Christopher Writes

## THE JULY 2020 DIOCESAN SYNOD

The July meeting of Diocesan Synod was very different from any previous one, being the first ever to be held on Zoom. The attendance was good, with around 120 people linked in at the peak.

In her Presidential Address, Bishop Sarah reminded Synod that the Church was not an institution: the Body of Christ is a network. She recalled Paul's vision of a radical, united and outward-facing community, living for the benefit of the whole body. She had been impressed by how, since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, the Church had reached out to the community in a great range of ways, for which she expressed her thanks.

Bishop Sarah also commented that Covid 19 had highlighted fault lines in society, and there had rightly been anger, frustration and pain over issues such as racial inequality. She called for racial equality and justice to be placed at the centre of the Kingdom of God, and expressed her desire for the Church, motivated by the love of Christ, to become both younger and more diverse.

This was followed by an extensive update on the coronavirus situation. Bishop Sarah recalled Jesus' admonition in Mark's Gospel, when He calmed the waves, to be of good faith. Churches needed to respond imaginatively to the current situation, and reopening decisions would need to be informed by local circumstances. She also warned of the need to plan for a second wave, which she believed to be very likely.

The Director of Finance followed, noting that the Diocese was concentrating on supporting resilience. There had been no cuts in either clergy numbers or resources. There had been some shortfalls in Common Fund payments by parishes, and some rent deferrals by tenants. The current 'reasonable potential likelihood' for the end of year financial position was a deficit of around £4million.

The presentation on Mission Statistics revealed a continuation of the slow decline in attendance over the last decade, and the continuing steady decline in baptisms, weddings and funerals. But it

is important to see these figures in perspective. Over 100,000 still attend Christmas services and there were around 3,500 baptisms last year.

This was followed by presentations and discussion of each of the main 2030 Vision priorities. The Bishop of London spoke on establishing Confident Disciples; the Bishops of Stepney and Kensington on Compassionate Communities; the Bishop of Islington on Creative Growth; and the Bishop of Edmonton on Connected Young People.

There was an unusually large number of questions this time, covering a wide range of topics, including curate placement policy; the process of establishing the coronavirus guidance; the deferral of the clergy pay increase; and the response of the Diocese to Black Lives Matter.

What difference did it make, meeting on Zoom? First and foremost, there was no possibility of any personal interaction with other Synod members (even electronically, as the 'Chat' function was disabled throughout). This was a real loss. Second, and perhaps inevitably, the meeting became rather more of a conversation with the Chair than would have been the case had Synod met in person. But it was a useful meeting nonetheless, and certainly better than no Synod.

**Christopher Ward**  
**Reader**



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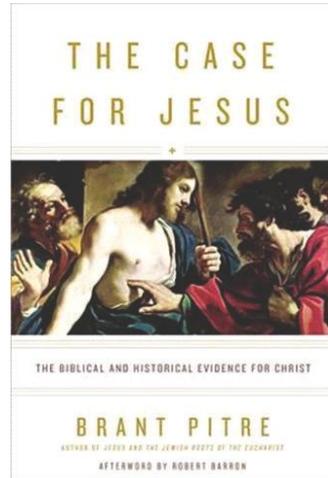
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# Claire's book group thoughts

A group of us have been meeting regularly over the last few months, over Zoom, to discuss the ideas in Brant Pitre's book, *The Case for Jesus*. It is an evidence-based discussion on the authorship of the Gospels and the historical evidence that supports what we know about the life of Jesus.



Back in June, we discussed who the Gospel writers actually were and why they wrote their version of the Gospel accounts down. We

looked at evidence that Matthew was the disciple Matthew, that he was a tax-collector rather than a fisherman and, therefore, could believably have been literate. We looked at evidence of Luke being a companion to St Paul, writing for a patron, and evidence for him having written the Acts of the Apostles too.

One of the most interesting aspects was looking at when the Gospels were written – many scholars have accepted for years that most or all of the Gospels were written after the Fall of the Temple in 70AD and therefore were relying on remembered testimonies or word of mouth. Pitre argues that if we accept that Jesus prophesied the Fall of the Temple rather than think that the Gospel writers must have known it had already happened, then the Gospels could have been written much earlier and just be recording Jesus's prophecy. A small detail to hang so much dating on!

It came up repeatedly that for many of our group it hadn't occurred to them to ask the questions. For those who grew up with school or Sunday School teachers telling them certain beliefs or interpretations, then questioning that just hadn't been a consideration.

It was refreshing to look at such familiar writings in an academic way and to try to understand some of them in the contemporary Jewish context.

Our second session focussed on the Early Church Fathers and also on the other existing 'Gospels' that have been historically rejected. It was agreed that the most interesting thing about the Church Fathers were that we didn't often get the opportunity to read those who were writing about the Bible in its early form. People read current commentaries sometimes or they study the actual text but not what early scholars had thought of it – particularly when scholars over a diverse historical area had agreed on many things. Some of the early church writers even knew the Apostles which gives their opinion extra weight.

We talked about what age the Apostles could have lived to, who they would have overlapped with in history. Interestingly, artists impressions viewed over many years, mean many of us had a shared image of what the Apostles looked like, including how old they seemed.

We also looked at the case for including or excluding the Gnostic gospels, writings from a group of first century Christians, and how their non-Jewish origin made them less plausible.

By mid-July we had moved onto the type of texts the Gospels were and the evidence for them being early biographies. Early Greco-Roman biographies generally omitted large sections of a life if they didn't know about it or it was not relevant to the things the subject had achieved. Also, there had been no need for chronology, it was not as important as getting down the events and achievements. The order of them was secondary to contemporary readers.

We chatted about things we'd liked to have known about Jesus's life; was he well liked? What did he look like? Did he go to school? Could he read and write? The mundane – what was an average day in his life like? His Baptismal experience and his state of mind.

We moved on to think about the expression 'Son of Man' and its meaning in context. Was Jesus claiming to be the Messiah? We discussed what the Jewish people were expecting and whether Jesus's actions and comments met those expectations. Fr Matt

shared a video clip with us of the changing boundaries in the geographical areas mentioned in the Bible and the spread and shrink of different empires. We thought about why Jesus was born where he was – even now an area of unrest and division. One of our younger members observed that humans need longer memories as we keep repeating the same mistakes over and over again!

We discussed our own favourite miracles in the most recent session and between us covered most of the famous ones; the woman touching the hem of Jesus's garment, the water into wine, walking on water, feeding the five thousand, healing the blind and the leper. We thought about the link between Jesus controlling nature and the creation story in Genesis and discussed how much the miracles were proof Jesus was divine. The Transfiguration was a trickier miracle to understand and led to a discussion on comic book superheroes and how 'Goodies' use their powers against evil.

All that deep content and we are barely half-way through the book! I can't speak for everyone but I think it's been a fascinating time to discuss the Gospels and our thoughts on the life of Jesus with each other. I love hearing everyone's different thoughts and interpretations of such familiar stories.

**Claire Betts**



## **New PCC Secretary**

The role of the Secretary is to:

Take notes during PCC meetings.

Keep a record of decisions made by the PCC.

Look after the notes from previous meetings.

Emailing round the PCC reminders of meetings & send round the agenda.

Although these tasks don't take long, these things help ensure we function well as a church, and make good informed decisions on behalf of the community.

*Might this role be for you for the next 12 months? Please contact Fr Matt via email or phone. Tentative enquiries welcome.*

# Your face mask and your dog

Face masks have been a big adjustment for all of us, but dogs especially may be struggling, warns the animal charity, Dogs Trust.

Dogs use our facial expressions to tell how we are feeling, so if they suddenly encounter people whose faces are covered, they could become confused, stressed, and even feel threatened. Their confusion may lead to a loss of obedience and cooperation with you.



Here is how to get your dog used to you wearing a face mask:

- Hold your hand over your face for a moment, speak reassuringly to your dog, and then reward him.
- Introduce your dog to your face mask, let him sniff it and let him see you put it up to your face, and then down again. Reward him.
- Put it on for a moment. Reassure and reward him.
- Put it on and move about the room, while reassuring him. Reward him.
- Gradually build up the length of time that you wear the face mask around him. Keep reassuring him. Reward him.

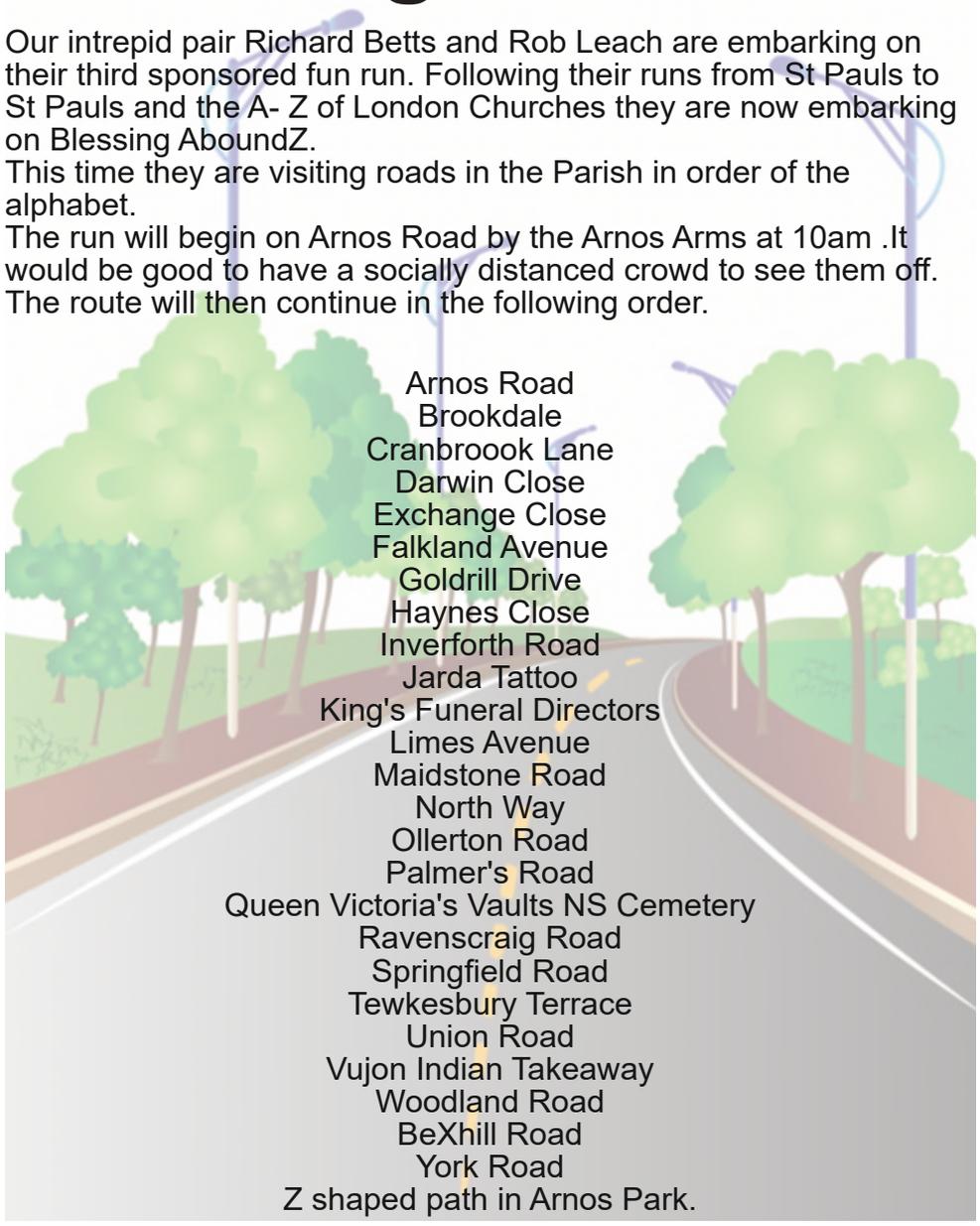
Expect that he may not be so quick to understand and obey you when you are wearing the mask – be patient. Don't take him into public places where many people are wearing masks, unless you absolutely have to do so. It could be very stressful for him.

# Blessing AboundsZ

Our intrepid pair Richard Betts and Rob Leach are embarking on their third sponsored fun run. Following their runs from St Pauls to St Pauls and the A- Z of London Churches they are now embarking on Blessing AboundsZ.

This time they are visiting roads in the Parish in order of the alphabet.

The run will begin on Arnos Road by the Arnos Arms at 10am .It would be good to have a socially distanced crowd to see them off. The route will then continue in the following order.



Arnos Road  
Brookdale  
Cranbrook Lane  
Darwin Close  
Exchange Close  
Falkland Avenue  
Goldrill Drive  
Haynes Close  
Inverforth Road  
Jarda Tattoo  
King's Funeral Directors  
Limes Avenue  
Maidstone Road  
North Way  
Ollerton Road  
Palmer's Road  
Queen Victoria's Vaults NS Cemetery  
Ravenscraig Road  
Springfield Road  
Tewkesbury Terrace  
Union Road  
Vujon Indian Takeaway  
Woodland Road  
BeXhill Road  
York Road  
Z shaped path in Arnos Park.

You will notice a bit of invention in order to keep it inside the Parish boundaries. It should take about 2 hours so the idea is that we should all meet in Arnos Park to welcome them home and gather for a socially distanced picnic in the park at 12pm. Fr Matt will bless some chalk which they will take with them and make a mark on each road they visit hence the blessing is carried around the Parish. If you live on one of the roads please look out for them and cheer them on their way. We will meet via the entrance to Arnos Park at the bottom of Waterfall Road under the bridge, over the brook and onto the grass near the dog agility area.

Of course the whole idea is to raise much needed money for the Church as our fund raising activities have ceased this year. You can donate in any way you are able. Fr Matt has set up a new gift aid way of donating online and a link will appear at the end of this article. If you wish you can donate at Church using the gift machine or just give money to myself or Fr Matt or any way you like. Just dig deep and make this great effort worthwhile. Let's cheer ourselves up by cheering them on and having a fun picnic in the park.

**Chris Robertson**

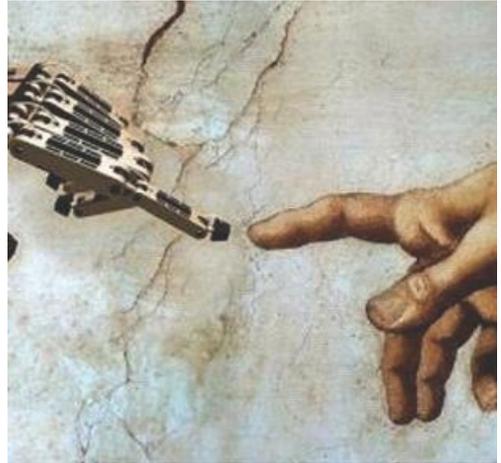
The link to the online giving option is: <https://www.give.net/20321719>

I've been told updates from the pair will appear on our Twitter page ([https://twitter.com/pauls\\_n11](https://twitter.com/pauls_n11)) too.



# Artificial intelligence (AI)

Have you ever had that sensation where your phone knows what you want to say in a text message even before you know yourself? Or where you've been thinking of someone who you've not seen for ages, only to see them pop-up on Facebook the next day? These kinds of experiences can be a bit unnerving to say the least and are usually examples of "machine learning". Machine Learning is where a computer system (such as your phone)



learns how to make better and better predictions about what you might want next; just like when Netflix cleverly recommends you a film based on your previous viewing habits (and the viewing habits of many others besides) – and picks you something which leaves you moved at how good it was.

Are you with me so far? Well, if a human being were to do what the computer system does in the above examples – or to give a few more tangible examples – predict the weather, predict the best route through a grid-locked New Southgate at 8am, or support doctors in diagnosing medical conditions – if a human did these things we would have to say they are exercising intelligence. If a computer does it: We have Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI has developed in leaps and bounds over the last few years and applied to various tasks – some good, some ambiguous and some downright unethical. Where AI meets ethics and the Christian faith is the area under discussion in a podcast two friends and I have been doing since January. We don't just cover the existing applications of AI such as those mentioned above (we talk about these in a cutting edge 'news' section in the recording), but we also explore some of the "What if..." questions too and what might be around the corner

for us as individuals and society in this brave new world.

If that catches your interest, please check out the podcast here:  
<https://soundcloud.com/user-996957551>

I'd be fascinated to hear your thoughts. If you're interested in podcasts you might also like to check out a brand-new current affairs podcast which is being recorded this month by Demi and a group of young people from the church. More information to follow.

*Fr Matt*



# Churches & young people in lockdown

Recent research by the Allchurches Trust has found that lockdown had one good result: it was “a major driver for churches to embrace digital opportunities and engage with families online.”

The research found that in recent months, more than half of churches have been able to engage children and young people through regular online worship; 46% have run family focused online activities for children and parents; and 31% have run online activities and challenges for young people. Similar numbers have reached out by phone and e-mail.

A spokesman for the Trust said: “What’s heartening are the many examples of churches that have quickly adapted to launch online activities ... when physical youth work was not an option.” The churches have been “creative in meeting the needs of the families and young people they work with” and “reaching others they may not previously have been able to engage.”

Around £1.4 million has now been given to more than 140 projects across the UK and Ireland since Allchurches Trust’s Growing Lives programme launched in May 2019. It is aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to help young people reach their potential. More at: <https://www.allchurches.co.uk>

# What is lockdown doing to us? – continued

Well, just as I was getting my head around venturing out into the big scary world out there, we found ourselves in total lockdown again, shielding Martin before going into hospital for his long-awaited hernia operation. So here was a bit more time to accomplish long overdue projects.

One was the re-introduction into the living room of a table that my Father had made back in the 1950s. Since my Mother's death it had been stored in the loft and then in the shed and had become stained, scuffed and some of the wood had split but the shape was unusual and I had something of a sentimental feeling that it should be put into use. Thanks to the internet, I managed to purchase the varnish stripper, wood filler, sandpaper and varnish and spent a few happy days in and out of the shed accomplishing the task.



That completed, I disappeared into the shed again. This time to make lavender wands (to sell at the Christmas Fayre) as Martin was overcome by the pungent smell indoors!

Last week I could not believe that Covid had brought me to the point of getting really excited about having a new washing line! My previous one had been gradually collapsing for a very long time and to manage to hang washing on it was a task in itself. Then, luckily, one of the arms snapped in half and even Martin had to admit that it was irreparable. To hang out washing now is a joy. But as I sat contentedly watching my washing spinning round and billowing in the wind I realised that it was good to find joy in such a mundane thing



Perhaps lockdown has taught me to appreciate the small, everyday events of life that are important but get taken for granted. We are indeed extremely lucky in all we have – food, shelter, jobs, security, friends, family – many have lost so many of these things. We need to learn to live from day to day and not eternally yearn for greater and more exciting things in the future. Not an easy task.

Finally, as we celebrate our Emerald wedding anniversary, we raise our glasses to all our friends at St Paul's and say thank you so very much for the flowers, best wishes, cards and for all your love and support

***Martin and Margaret***



# Out of Africa

I've always loved history; the actions and deeds of our ancestors, the great battles fought and the tales of invention and exploration continue to fascinate and enthrall even today. However, except for a general interest in my own family background, the genealogy of major figures was never particularly interesting – I even giggled my way past the long lists in Matthew and Luke of Jesus' background – all that “begetting”, the bible is full of it!

From a family point of view though, born in South Africa with a multitude of nationalities in the background, we were often reminded of our colourful heritage. My maiden name was BENGTON (no SS) obviously from a Scandinavian background, but with decidedly muddy coloured skin we were definitely more mixed up than that indicated. My mum's dad came from a Welsh background (he was a WILLIAMS) and her mother's family had French connections – they were on St Helena with Napoleon. There was also a Portuguese splash added to the mix somewhere and indeed St Helena played an important part in the blending as well. So, of course we always ticked the “mixed” box on any form we had to fill in over the years. The mixture has had its unpleasant side over the years – apartheid hit my parents more than us and prompted their move to England, where the underlying dislike of difference amongst the ignorant reared its head at various stages through life. However, my parents refused to be anything other than proud of their ancestry. We may be “Mixed-like a pudding” (the title of my mother's autobiography) but to them it made us more interesting, better people!

So, when the National Geographic started their Genographic Project in 2005 to map the human journey through the world's DNA I jumped at the chance to fill in the gaps. My son bought kits for my husband and I, we sent off the swabs and waited for the results and they were fascinating! As a female my results were based on the mitochondrial line as females don't have the Y chromosome. We compared it with my brother's results and there was very little difference in the results, just a slight variation in percentages as his results included male and female lines, All seven billion humans share one single, common maternal ancestor: A Mitochondrial 'Eve'

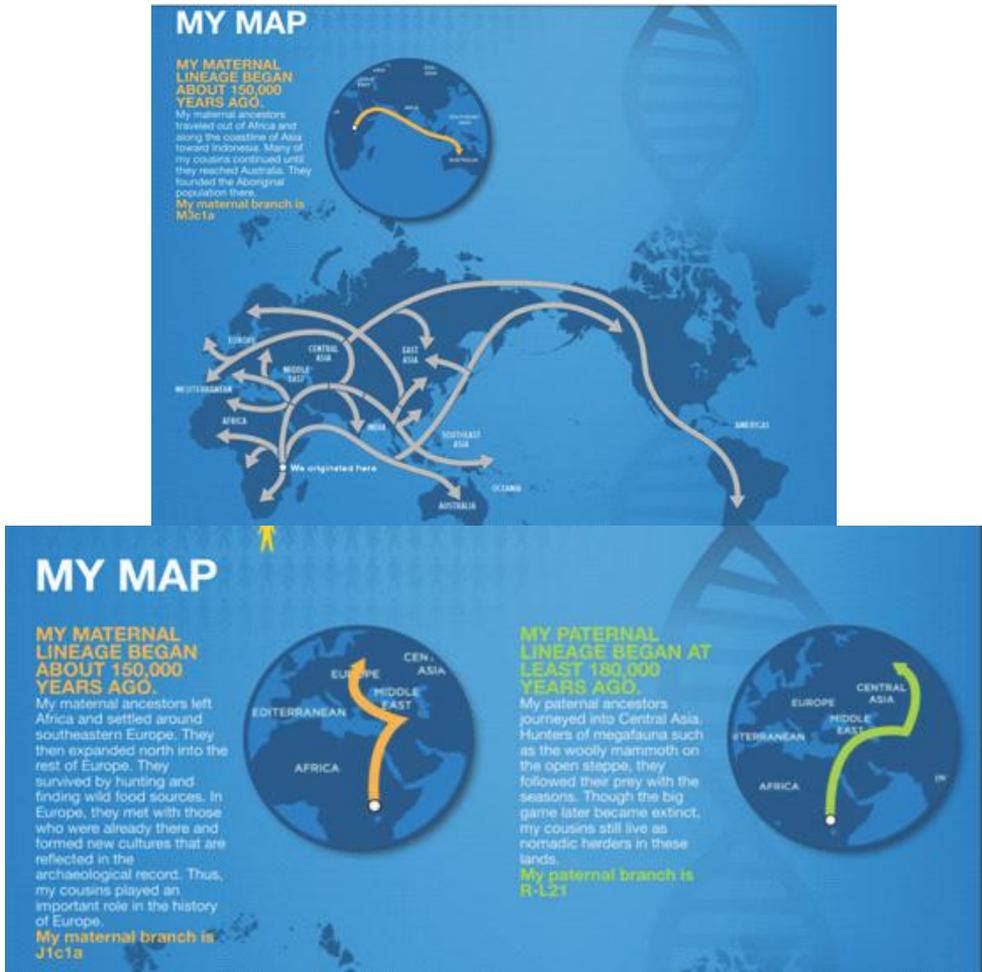
and her male counterpart a Y-chromosome 'Adam' and in fact any two individual people that have ever lived may share a match (an Eve or an Adam) at a more recent time over the last 120,000 years. So, my results looked like....



The Neanderthal bit was interesting it is only shared by people whose ancestors moved out of Africa in the years when both races were existing at the same time. Many Africans don't have any Neanderthal genes. The large percentage of Scandinavian markers clearly relate to the Norwegian background of my father's family and there are also definite hints of Southern Europe as well, but the Asian connection we cannot find. My brother's results also show Western and Central Europe so our French ancestors pop up there.

Of course, for my children they will also have my husband's DNA. His analysis was also interesting: he was 74% Great Britain and Ireland, 22% Scandinavia and 4% Southern Europe (his grandmother was French). His pattern pointed to many people of Scottish descent, even though as far as he knew he had never heard of anyone in his family who had originated from Scotland.

Looking at the journey of my ancestors out of Africa it is amazing to see just how far they have travelled:



The National Geographic project closed in June this year after gathering samples from all over the world. The results have been fascinating. There are dozens of articles about their findings in their archives if anyone wants to find out more. For myself I was just really happy to find out a little more about my “mixed” heritage. I am a real citizen of the world, a unique individual out of Africa, made by God!

**Wendy Pope**

# St Joseph of Cupertino

## - the awkward saint

### 18<sup>th</sup> September

Joseph of Cupertino (1603 – 63) should be the patron saint of all awkward people who mean well, but who drive those around them to distraction – especially their church leaders.

Joseph began life in a garden shed, because his father had sold the house to pay debts. Then he grew up wandering about open-mouthed – his mother despised him and called him 'The Gaper'.

Young Joseph's intense devotion to God led him to try and join the Capuchin monks – but he drove them crazy: forgetting to do what he was told, dropping piles of plates on the kitchen floor, and neglecting to tend the all-important kitchen fire. He was finally accepted by the Franciscans as a servant, and grew so religiously fervent that he was accepted as a novice in 1625, and ordained a priest in 1628.

As a priest he was devout, but apt to do anything – much to the irritation of his superiors. One problem was his repeated levitations, of which there were 70 reported instances. The most spectacular stories are of his flying to images placed high above the altars and helping workmen to erect a Calvary Cross 36 feet high by lifting it into place while he was hanging in mid-air himself. Such feats earned him the name of 'the Flying Friar' by admiring locals, but gave his superiors headaches. They were also disturbed by his habit of going into states of ecstasy, from which nothing could wake him.

Joseph's reputation for flying about and for occasional ecstasy drew the crowds: they were all eager to see what would happen next. What did happen next was that his superiors kept him in virtual isolation for many years, eager to contain this intensely emotional and erratic priest. In 1767 he was canonised, not for his levitations, but for his extreme patience and humility.

# London ‘more religious than the rest of the country’ says new report

London is more religious than the rest of the country, according to a new report published by the think tank Theos.

The report ‘Religious London’, shows that Londoners are significantly more religious than people living elsewhere in Britain, and the capital’s Christians are far more ethnically diverse.

The polling, conducted for Theos by Savanta ComRes, shows that: most Londoners are religious (62% identify as religious compared to 53% across the rest of Britain outside London)

Religious Londoners were 48% BAME (Black, Asian, minority ethnic) compared with just 27% of non-religious Londoners.

Christianity in particular was significantly more ethnically diverse in the capital - 31% of Christians in London are BAME compared with just two per cent across the rest of Britain outside London.

Theos also identifies further insights around the nature of religious practice, finding that Londoners are more intensely practising, more likely to pray, and more likely to attend a religious service than those outside the capital.

One in four Londoners attend a religious service at least once a month compared with 1 in 10 in the rest of Britain outside London.

Religious Londoners are twice as likely as religious people in other parts of the country to attend a service twice a month or more (31% vs 15%)

56% of London Christians pray regularly compared to 32% of Christians in the rest of Britain.

Christian Londoners are also more likely to say that they will donate to a charitable initiative than non-religious Londoners (76% vs. 68%); that they would help their neighbours with a simple task than non-religious Londoners (92% vs. 86%); and half of Christians (49%) and non-Christian religious adults (53%) say that they are likely to volunteer regularly for a local charitable initiative, compared to 40% of non-religious Londoners.

The report argues that London's leaders and policy makers should take more account of religious communities and their significant role in providing social welfare across the capital.

Theos director Elizabeth Oldfield said: "The great success story of London has been its ability to welcome and accommodate opinions from across the political spectrum. The city still has the capacity to shock us – and this is one of the things which makes London one of the most dynamic, complex and interesting cities in the world."

Savanta ComRes, who conducted the polling, interviewed 2,023 British adults aged 18+ online between 17th -20th January 2020 and 1,005 London adults aged 18+ online between 17th - 23rd January 2020.

The 'Religious London' report is available at:

<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2019/02/19/religious-london>

**Rev Peter Crumpler.**



The graphic features a purple circle on the left with the text "TALK TO US" in large white letters, and "If things are getting to you" in smaller white letters below it. To the right, on a green background, is contact information: a telephone icon next to "116 123" with "FREE" in a speech bubble and "This number is FREE to call round the clock" below it; an envelope icon next to "jo@samaritans.org"; a globe icon next to "samaritans.org"; and a white box with a black border containing the word "SAMARITANS" in green capital letters.

# NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISETH

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain.

These opening lines from this popular hymn conjure up a potent image for our faith. The death of the seed, and its transformation into a fruitful crop, are powerful images, as is the transformation of the tiny baby of the Incarnation into the Saviour of the World. And the pattern of our church year very much reflects the agricultural pattern reflected in the hymn, with the seed sown at the darkest time of year, and new life bursting out at Easter.

Looking out on my garden, though, on the cusp of August and September, I am reminded that Mother Nature has another pattern, too. This is the time of year when plants such as the hardy cyclamen, the garden amaryllis, and the colchicum, to name but three, come to life.



The very hot, dry summer weather this year has been ideal for such plants, as these pictures from my garden show.

And with these plants, it's not a question of a green blade arising from the bare earth; in a matter of a few days there emerges from nothing these magnificent flowers. They simply burst on to the scene in all their exuberance, in complete contrast to the mellowing autumn tones of other plants.

It occurs to me that there is a faith parallel in these plants, too. Paul's conversion on his journey to Damascus was not a slow steady progression, but a process as dramatic as the emergence of these late summer plants. They are a reminder to us as we work our way through the pattern of Church seasons that God can nonetheless dramatically break into our lives at any time.

**Christopher Ward**  
**Reader**

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# Pandemic amid millions of locusts

The six African countries where Send a Cow works face devastation, not only by the pandemic, but also the huge swarms of locusts which have destroyed thousands of acres of crops.

In response, Send a Cow staff have supported struggling communities by teaching them how to prevent the spread of the virus, as well as good hygiene.

Send a Cow is also providing radio broadcasts with information, and emergency food supplies and seeds, so that the farmers do not miss the next critical planting window.

Now Send a Cow is asking supporters in the UK if they could commit to a personal challenge like a run, cycle or climb, to raise funds, or maybe even simply donating on behalf of their business or family. One couple ran and cycled for 260 miles, raising £2000. "Whatever we can each do is greatly appreciated," says Send a Cow. If you can help, go to: <https://sendacow.org>

# Seeds of disappointment



Tomato blight has hit the allotment.



After plucking herds of weeds, enduring 1000-degree heat and waging war on a jungle of side shoots with my machete (snippers) my belief that my tomatoes would be safe from the dreaded blight inside the polytunnel suffered a great blow to morale.

Saturday's excursion to the allotment was fine, rumours surfaced "blight" had struck plots, but there my triffids were merrily starting to turn the many flowers they had made into fruit (which annoyingly just as they were ripening, was having a bite removed from each by snails). The tomatoes were accompanied by their friend the giant pumpkin creeping towards the door and I was just starting to wonder what we were going to do with it all! But by feeding day on Thursday there it was.... black spots on the leaves and stems had appeared and that was that! Ohh!!!

Once blight strikes the allotment and people don't deal with it quickly enough, it often spreads across the entire length, and with the damp weather we've had it seems it's come in the door like a thief in the night.

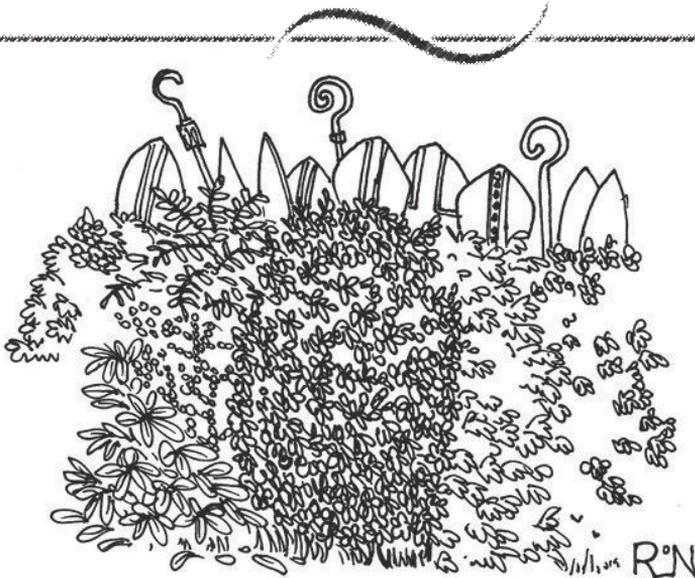
Tomato Blight- a fungal infection spread by spores, requiring damp warm weather conditions to flourish it travels on the moisture droplets in the air. Once it takes hold it can quickly spread, killing a plant within a week and rotting the whole crop. Treatment- burn everything the fungus may have touched.



It's so very disappointing, and frustrating that something can come along in the rain and kill the things you've put months of work into. Growing from seed, transplanting, watering, feeding and staking. With the years weather of VERY hot then meh! and the lockdown earlier on in the year meaning plants went in late (though those who put their tomatoes out early were hit by a late frost killing them off) we were only just starting to see fruit. You can get blight resistant tomatoes but those aren't 'Timothy approved' and as he's the money behind the operation what he says goes.

Luckily the spindly few tomatoes in the greenhouse at the other end of the allotment, where the blight hasn't spread yet are starting to buck up their ideas and show some signs of fruit and the tomatoes in the back garden are doing well, so we should have enough to make a batch of something..... however, none of that makes it any less saddening, I guess being struck by tomato blight is pretty fitting for this year, maybe next will be better.

**Kim Pope**



*The bishops had formed a  
'support bubble' all on their own.*

# Celebrating 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower

If we find it difficult to cross the Atlantic just now, it was even worse 400 years this month. On 6th September 1620, 102 determined Puritans climbed on board the Mayflower and set sail from Plymouth. They had 30 crew to steer them across 3000 miles of open, perilous ocean.

Those Puritans, or 'Pilgrim fathers', could never have dreamed that their journey would become one of the most influential in world history. Their

courage and purpose for the voyage would help shape the very history and culture of the USA.



The Pilgrim fathers themselves were in search of religious freedom and a new life. Years before they had rejected the Church of England, due to its Roman Catholic past, and in 1608 they had moved to Holland, where they could worship freely. But life was very hard there, and so the New World beckoned to them.

They had originally intended to use two ships, but the Speedwell sprang a leak shortly after sailing, and so they crowded as many as possible into the Mayflower. After a long and difficult 10 weeks at sea, they reached America, but could not reach their intended destination, Virginia, because of heavy seas. They finally landed in

Provincetown Harbor, Cape Cod, Massachusetts on 11th November.

That presented the next great challenge: the bitter, harsh winter of Massachusetts. Half of the Pilgrims perished that first winter, of hunger and cold. Without the help of the local Indigenous peoples to teach them food-gathering and other survival skills, all of the colony would probably have perished.

After months of hard work, by the 'Fall' of 1621 the tiny colony had its first harvest. They celebrated this great achievement with their new Indigenous friends. It became Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims had been convinced that God wanted them to go to the New World. They wrote: "We verily believe and trust the Lord is with us, and that He will graciously prosper our endeavours according to the simplicity of our hearts therein."

The Mayflower was one of the earliest pilgrim vessels, and so became a cultural icon in the history of the United States. This year, until coronavirus put a stop to things, many celebrations in the USA, England and the Netherlands had been planned.

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# Are politicians the oldest profession?

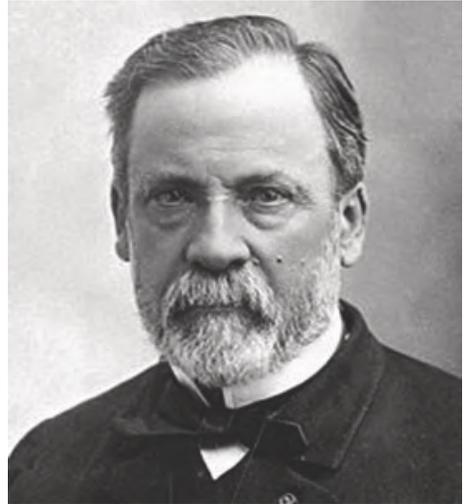
A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"

# Louis Pasteur – ‘father’ of microbiology

A tiny invisible thing that brings disease and death .... where have we heard that before?! But Louis Pasteur, who died 125 years ago this month, on 28th September 1895, was not interested in a virus from China, but in tiny living organisms that brought disease and death in other ways.



Pasteur made some outstanding breakthroughs. He discovered the principles of vaccination, and then created the first vaccines for

anthrax and rabies. His medical discoveries provided support for the germ theory of disease and nullified the theory of spontaneous generation.

But Louis Pasteur is best known for his invention of the technique of treating milk and wine to stop bacterial contamination, a process that was named after him: pasteurisation. In doing so, he saved the French beer, wine and silk industries.

All in all, this gifted French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist well deserves his title as the ‘father of microbiology,’ and to be seen as one of the three main founders of bacteriology.

# Courgette Brownies

## Ingredients

- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 300g granulated sugar
- 256g all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 64g unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 cups finely shredded courgette (do not drain)
- 1¼ cups semi-sweet chocolate chunks



- 1 -Preheat oven to 350f and prepare a 9'x13' pan with butter and line with parchment paper.
- 2 -In a large bowl combine oil, sugar and vanilla until fully incorporated.
- 3 -Add flour, cocoa, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Mix until combined. Batter will be very dry.
- 4 -Fold in courgette by hand. Allow batter to rest for 5 minutes.
- 5 -Add in Chocolate chunks and stir again. Batter should appear more wet. (if not, let it rest for 5 more minutes and stir again)
- 6 -Spread brownie mixture into the pan and bake for 25-35 minutes. Brownies are done when an inserted toothpick is removed with crumbs. There should not be wet batter on the toothpick.

# BOTANICAL PLASTER CAST TILES

- **What you will need:**
- Flowers
- Clay
- Plaster of Paris
- A bowl to mix that you don't use for other purposes
- A rolling pin (wooden kitchen one far more effective than stone craft rollers)
- A sheet to protect the surface you're working on



## **Roll your clay;**

Roll out a piece of clay ensuring that it has a flat surface (this part is crucial) Cut clay to the size of your desired tile.

## **Arrange flowers and roll out design;**

Arrange your flowers on the clay and position in a pattern you are happy with using a variety of different shapes. Place a piece of baking parchment on top of your clay tile. Apply firm but gentle pressure with the rolling pin, remove parchment straight away and check the indentations.



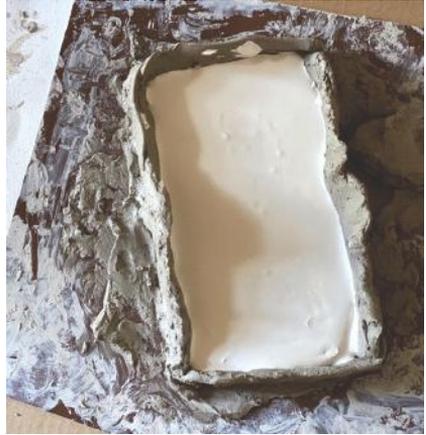
At this stage you can carefully press any buds that haven't gone in evenly (but be gentle about this and try not to touch the clay.)

**Remove flowers and any leftover debris;**

Remove the flowers, using a pair of tweezers gently remove any debris.

**Create border for plaster of Paris;**

Attach a border to your tile, either with offcuts of your clay or make a wooden frame, use your fingers to stick the edging pieces to the tile to prevent possible leaks.



**Mix your plaster;**

Mix up your plaster of Paris in a container you won't use for food purposes.

**Pour plaster and leave to dry;**

Pour the plaster of Paris mixture over your clay tile and leave to dry. This should take about 20 minutes at room temperature. When it feels set, gently lift away one of the side to check, when everything is set remove all clay from tile.



**Perform any last minute touch-ups;**

With some water in a bowl and a jay cloth gently remove any remnants of clay from your plaster tile, remembering that a light touch is optimal as you don't want to dull any of your flower details.

**Leave to dry and sand as desired;**

Leave to fully dry for a week. Before sanding and colouring if desired.

# Design-a-Bag!

Calling all young people (under 18). We are planning to sell reusable shoppers at our Christmas Fair this year but as they come in a distinctive plain, beige colour we need your help to make them more attractive. Could you come up with a design for the front of our bags. Your picture should fit an A4 sheet of paper



and use no more than 2 colours (plain black and white is acceptable as well).

We want your design to celebrate our church and school. It should make people want to use it throughout the year – so don't just do something Christmassy! What does St Paul's mean to you?

Make your design bold. Try not to use too many "fiddly bits" because they won't print well.

When you have finished your design, take a photo of it and send it to our email address: [Stpaulsvision6@gmail.com](mailto:Stpaulsvision6@gmail.com) by the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

We will choose the best to print on to the front of our bags. There may even be a small prize for those we print (and of course you can come and buy one at the fair.

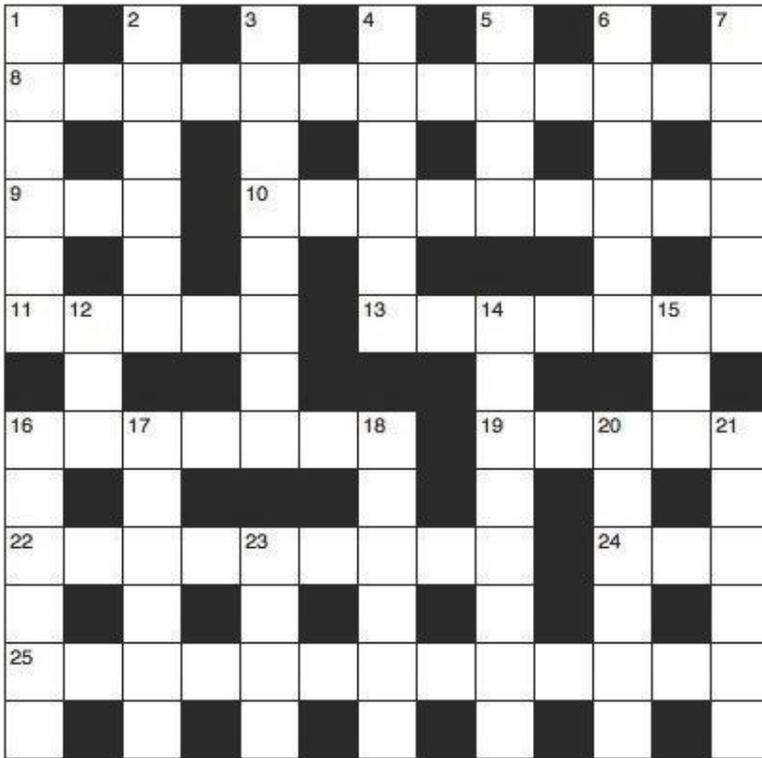
We look forward to seeing your lovely designs.

***Wendy and Kim***

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# July/Aug Answers

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**Test  
Your  
brain  
over a  
cup of  
tea**

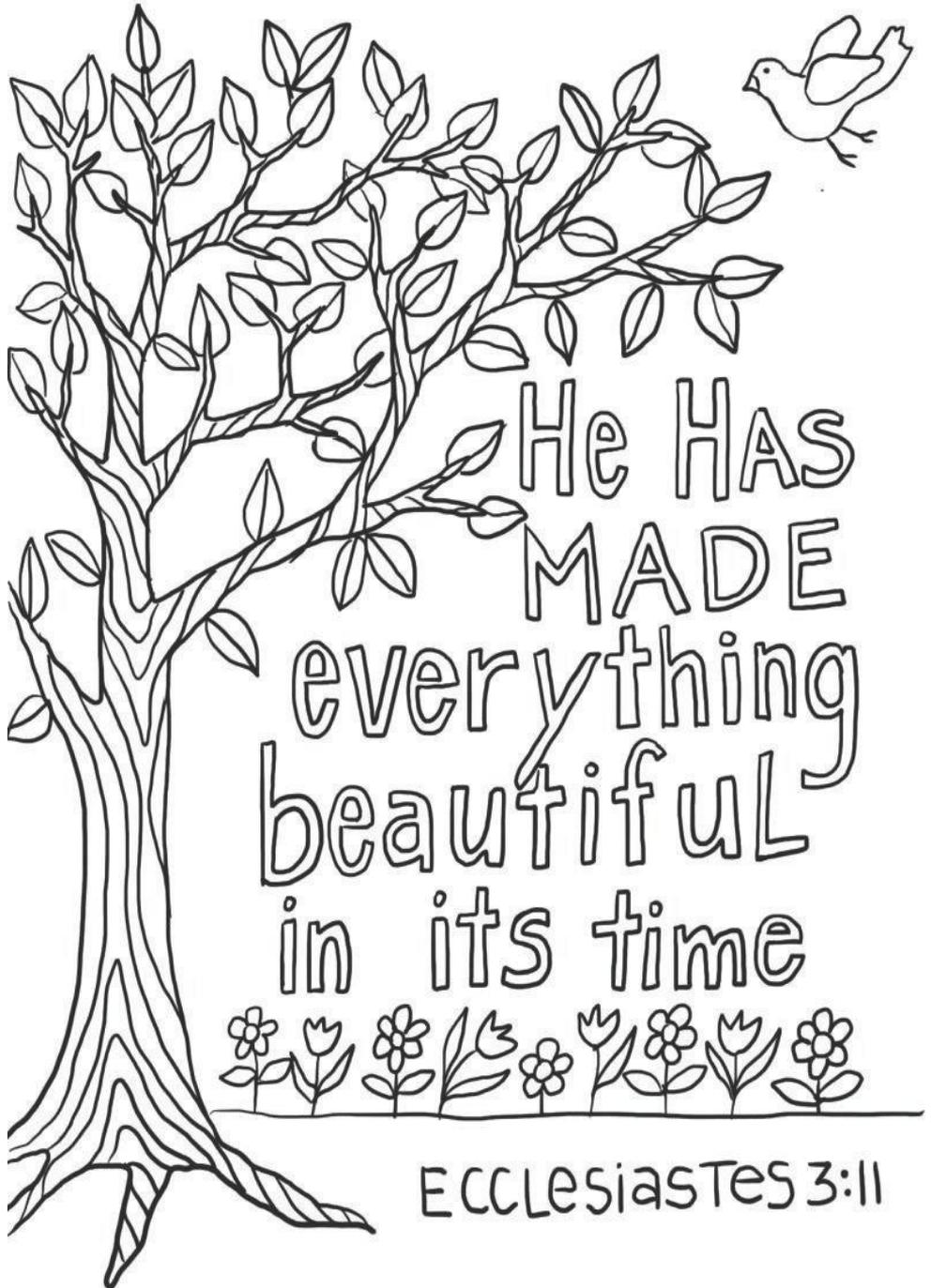
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## Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

## Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus —’ (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



He HAS  
MADE  
everything  
beautiful  
in its time

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

# And finally

It's been a funny old summer – a bit drifty, a bit fearful, a bit boring, certainly memorable (except I don't seem to remember much of it).

We've spent quite a bit of it in Lockdown for various reasons to do with age, health vulnerability and a commitment to keeping safe the elderly residents of the home where my son works. Through diligence they managed to keep the Covid virus out of the home, but we all had to watch we didn't inadvertently contract the virus and pass it on before we even knew it.

The efforts of the staff made me wonder how we really value life. There have been many reports of homes where the elderly died because they were old, because staff were encouraged not to resuscitate, because they were shunted out of hospitals with the illness – because it wasn't worth the manpower and resources when younger people **could** recover! Who decided this? Were those lives really worth less than others just because they had lived longer – “had their time”? Does the value of someone's life go down as we get older? Are all the people rushing about arguing about wearing a mask or not being allowed to go on holiday or to spread the disease if they want to because it is their “right” more valuable than any of us? Surely all our lives are just as valuable no matter what age, race or gender we are and we all have a right to live. It seems so sad that so many people have become so self-absorbed that they can only relate to a world where they are the most important thing in it.

Recently there has been a commendable desire to focus on the lives of black people, acknowledging (sometimes to the detriment of their cause) that Black Lives Matter. But really, shouldn't that be changed to ALL lives matter! After all, as I found out, we all originated in Africa. At our deepest levels we are all African, brothers and sisters under our skins. Let's be grateful for our lives and live them for as long as God gives us. For better or worst our lives are in his hands. Have a good September!

# Parish Directory

The Reverend Matt Harbage	St Paul's Vicarage, 11 Woodland Rd, London N11 1PN	07746 444179 <a href="mailto:matthew.harbage@london.anglican.org">matthew.harbage@london.anglican.org</a>
Reader	Dr Christopher Ward	020 8360 3828 <a href="mailto:wardcrm@btinternet.com">wardcrm@btinternet.com</a>
Church Wardens	Margaret Parker	020 8368 7998
	Shola Soyoye	020 8245 5574
Hon PCC Treasurer	Martin Parker	020 8368 7998
Hon PCC Secretary	-Vacant-	
Church Hall Lets	Claire Betts	020 8361 4842
Stewardship Recorder	S Hennem	020 8594 4228
St Paul's School & Nursery	The Avenue, Friern Barnet, London, N11 1NF Tel 020 8368 4839 <a href="http://www.stpaulsn11.org.uk/">http://www.stpaulsn11.org.uk/</a>	
St Paul's Young Church	Church Hall Sunday 10:30am	
Leader	Wendy Pope	020 8245 7663
24 <sup>th</sup> Southgate Scout Group		
Group Scout Leader	Francis Mudford	020 8368 3902
Beaver Scouts	Contact 07956 347495 or	
Cub Scouts	<a href="mailto:FrancisWMudford@aol.com">FrancisWMudford@aol.com</a> for details	
Scouts		
3 <sup>rd</sup> New Southgate (St Paul's)		
Brownie Pack	St Paul's Hall Mondays 6:00-7:30pm	
Brown Owl	Mrs C Bettiss	020 8368 7600
Rainbow Unit	St Paul's Hall Monday 5:00-6:00pm	
Leader	Mrs C Bettis	020 8368 7600