

# february 2021

*There will be snowdrops . . .*



## grapevine

## 50p

the magazine of st mary's church rushden  
& st peter's newton bromswold

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## grapevine february 2021

We seem to have moved into a period where commentators are strongly tempted to use weather terms to describe the state of the church and the nation. I can relate to that! My life seems to have been guided and prescribed by all sorts of maps for most of 2020! Richard Dalliston on p15 talks of there [eventually] being a thaw to come - in both the weather and the Covid-19 constraints on our lives. Some of that constraint is self-imposed and Steve's piece on p4 has at least the makings of a road map back to something we might recognise as freedom, and some useful pointers on stocktaking and targeting our generosity in both money and time. The fact that this year it may happen in step with the arrival of spring is something very much to look forward to.  
*Jude*



## Contents

Who's Who	2
From Steve ...	4
Editorial	6
St Mary's News	8-9
Newton News	11
Briefing	11
Thoughts & Prayers	12
<b>Readings for February</b>	13
So what else is happening?	14
From Richard Dalliston, Dean of Peterborough	15
Portrait of Charlotte Nobbs	16-18
Still walking?	19
Meet the Congregation	20
Looking Back to Old Grapevines	24
Crossword 375	25
<b>On Line Services &amp; Kids</b>	28
Belfry Gossip	29
Book Reviews	30
Mission Matters	31

## Items for the March grapevine

*should be sent by*

**Sunday 14 February**

Preferably by email to:  
[missjudecurtis@btinternet.com](mailto:missjudecurtis@btinternet.com)

## From Steve . . .



Dear Friends,

*In the Bleak Midwinter*—by Christina Rossetti—is a Christmas carol beloved by many, but I doubt if many of us find the bleak months of January and February their favourite months of the year. Short days, long nights and cold, wet weather do not get most of us singing. Add to that the restrictions and worries surrounding Covid and it's easy to be frustrated and feeling down at the moment.

Shortly after becoming a Christian in my late teens, I remember our pastor saying that if ever we feel down, we ought to do something to help someone else. I have not only remembered this advice, but over the years I have come to see the psychological truth it contains: when we do something for others, we both take our mind off our own troubles and connect with someone else—reducing our own sense of isolation, which is often depression's companion.

Many of us are familiar with the verses,

*“For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no-one can boast.”*  
(Ephesians 2.8-9)

It is so important to realise, in the deepest parts of our being, that God has saved us because he loves us, rather than because of anything we have done, or might do in the future. Created and loved by God is “who we are.”

Everything else follows on from that ... as does the very next verse

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* (Ephesians 2.10)

So, while God’s love for us is not dependant upon what we have done, his purpose for us is that we do good works, which God prepared in advance! God knew this lockdown was coming and he has things in mind for you to do—ways for you to serve him and others. We may not be able to do a lot of the things we are used to. We may have to step outside our experience and the things that we most enjoy, in order to do the jobs that he is asking us to do today. God still intends for us to “do good works”: Covid notwithstanding.

First of all, then, while honestly acknowledging what is impossible at the moment, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see what he is asking you to do for others — even if it is new and different and ‘not really your thing.’

But after considering others, don't fail to look out for yourself. While we find that doing something for others is good for our own mental health, I suggest that we have a duty before God to take care of ourselves: Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," while reminding us that we do not "live by bread alone."

So here are some daily exercises, to keep us fit:

**Communicate** [Buzby was right, "it's good to talk!"]

- Talk to God—and listen (prayer is real communication, with real results!)
- Phone someone — rather than email or text. The sound of a voice provides a better connection to a real person. Or try something new: skype or zoom!
- Send a card or note — it can be a physical reminder to someone that they are valued and not forgotten.



**Exercise your body and your mind**

- whatever our level of fitness, we must all make that effort to move: take a walk or run; turn on music and dance; do arm, leg and hand stretches while sitting.
- stretch your mind: read a Bible passage and meditate on it; read a good book; listen to a positive podcast (and not just the news!); do a crossword puzzle

**Give and Take** — finances and giving

- If you are in financial need, don't suffer in silence. Talk with someone you trust about your rights and any benefits to which you may be eligible. You could try:  
<https://www.mentalhealthandmoneyadvice.org/en/>
- Not all of us have been struggling financially. We may actually have a bit more money in hand, as we haven't been able to go out and spend as much as usual.
  - ⇒ Give to the Food Bank. If you have food delivered to your home, order a bit more and take it—or ask someone you know to take it — to the Food Bank or the Food Box at the Rectory.
  - ⇒ Many charities are suffering (including churches) due to the lockdown. Ask God how you should use your finances for his Kingdom.

*"God is our refuge and strength—an ever present help in times of trouble."*  
(Psalm 46.1) Reach out to him in trusting faith through prayer and scripture and reach out to others, however you can, in communion and fellowship.

Every blessing,  
Steve

## Still walking, eh ...?



It's ironic that the instruction to Stay Indoors has seen more people locally enjoying the simple pleasures of the great outdoors than ever - and doing it all close to home, and within that precious 'one period of exercise' a day! And this has coincided with Storm Christoph, flooding, perpetual rain, freezing temperatures, freezing fog, thick grey skies and more mud than you can cast a clout at!

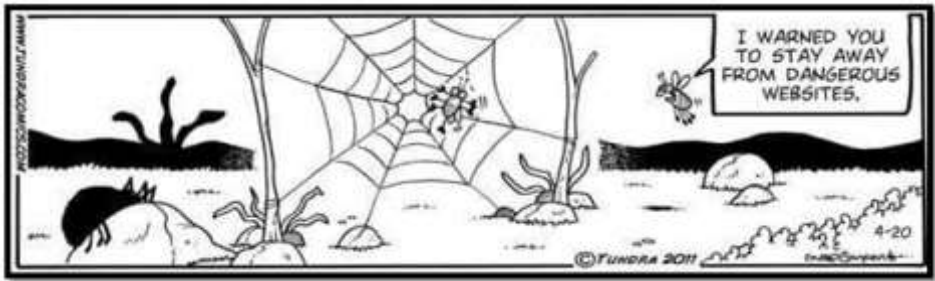
Spring 2020 got us in training with all that unseasonal sunshine, and Hall Park - as my nearest area of open space - is well-nigh saturated: not just on sunny mornings but come hell or high water! It's OK, I've got over having to share. But what a change from my personal horror of watching a nuclear family in Costa a few years back, sitting in a row with their eyes glued, individually, to a personal device. Not a flicker of body language to indicate that they weren't total strangers sitting in a row on the Tube. Instead I have been quietly overjoyed [when I can handle that] to see interactions with the simplest natural materials and environmental conditions. 100 ways with a muddy puddle, plus 3 under twos and 2 over 30s, had me enthralled, and I was [eventually] perfectly happy to walk through a few tonnes of mud and dead leaves to get round them.

It's amazing how far you can get by walking and taking notice of what's around you. I do know that's self-evident - and I might have mentioned it before - but it's still true. I have a new friend in my garden on a more or less daily basis. He [and I'm pretty sure about the sex of the specimen from the behaviour] has been named Silva, as in, "Hi Ho, Silver! Away!" - from old episodes of *The Lone Ranger*. He's spelt 'Silva' though because he's a Wood Pigeon. Get it?

Instead of the usual pinky-buff body and grey-beige wings, striped reverse dog collar and pale coral beak, Silva comes with pure white wings. This gives him the look of a small swan crossed with a large mouse: beak added.

I think he's beautiful but I do accept that few agree with my taste in reading material, clothing, hats or the maximum number of bookshelves allowed in one small house, so you may not agree. You may even think he's just a freak of nature. It's the nearest I shall get to a pet since my ancient cat, Damascus, died.

Silva is much less demanding - a regular supply of Luxury Bird Fat Cake,



sunflower kernels and the few breadcrumbs from my home-made malted granary loaves that I can bear to part with keeps him happy. He requires no grooming, ‘walkies’, cleaning up after, nor vet insurance. He will not pine if I ever get to take a holiday again.

Silva is a perfect example of ‘Less is More’. I’ve already accepted that this year’s Big Garden Birdwatch, next weekend, is a foregone conclusion. The yard is small. Wood Pigeons are big. My count may just be two - Silva and his, as yet, unnamed [and only occasional] companion. Although they don’t count for the BGB [they don’t actually land in the yard] there’s also the ‘Black Bird’ couple in the chimney stack opposite the study window. Every now and again I get updates from a neighbour on our study pair [to be a trifle pompous about it]: they are in clear view from both our windows albeit at a slightly different angle. They settled back in after the dramatic *launchfest* of several families I related in last year’s grapevine and have been there ever since.

I hesitate these days distinguishing between Corvids. Size isn’t everything! Neither is colour - the genetics are far more complex than during my childhood when a rook was a rook and a crow was a crow and I’d never seen a raven. Now it’s rows and crooks, cooks and cravens and any other linguistic permutation you can conjure. They are all steadfastly Corvids though and much of their behaviour is shared – beyond that it’s wise not to get too picky about birth rights [or rites].

A friend of my friend says that black birds mate for life and these two definitely have. I watched fascinated during the last weeks of unrelenting rain as they perched on the rim of the chimney pot in all weathers and undertook very efficient mutual grooming: they seemed particularly grateful for attention to the neck area. Under high winds they rocked slightly but carried on regardless. There are daily acrobatic displays, Corvid-versions of billing and cooing – and it’s not even the mating season!

Jude Curtis

# St Mary's News

## A Note about services in Church - see also p28 for a schedule of On Line Worship

As we go to press we have voluntarily ceased worship in church and will not revisit that decision till late February. This is not statutory but a wish to stand in solidarity with everyone else deprived of social contact in public buildings.

If that situation changes you will find up-to-date details **online at** [stmaryschurchrushden.org](http://stmaryschurchrushden.org).

## Housekeeping News from Steve

- **The cameras and equipment for livestreaming** our services have now been installed. We look forward to training a rota of people to work behind the cameras so that our worship services can be streamed live from the church building when we begin to meet together in person again.
- **On 18 January, the heating engineers began their repair of the boilers, and a new control board,** in the church building. The heating system should be fully repaired when we resume worship in the church building.
- **Hebrews for Lent.** As many of you know, Bishop Donald is an

excellent Bible teacher. He has produced a series of talks on the book of Hebrews for Lent study material. This will be available online and links to the material will be sent out in the 'Dear Church' emails. I would recommend them to any group or individual as a study for Lent and a way of looking more deeply at this New Testament book. SP

## Foodbank

The next few months will again be difficult for many – and especially those who rely on the help of the foodbank. I realise that we are not supposed to take unnecessary trips, so you may want to drop off items at the Rectory for the Foodbank on your way back from your own food shopping trip or as you go out for a daily walk.

Steve Prior



## St Mary's Church Office

While the times continue to be 'complicated', messages for the Church Office team may be left via email - [stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com), or on the office phone [01933 412235] as these are checked every few days. Notices will be put on the church website and requests for



## St Mary's News

posters will be fulfilled and put up in the porch and Church Hall.

For prayer requests, please phone or email Steve at the Rectory [312554/ sprior@toucansurf.com].

Sue Prior

### Thank you!

Thanks to St Mary's for the lovely surprise on my **Eightieth Birthday**. It is a lovely book, *Gloria Wagstaff* ... and a very **Happy Birthday** to **James Haseldine**, who turns **50** on **19 February**.

### The Children's Society

John's Quiz

**'Boys will be**

**Boys'** raised £274 for the Society.

Two winners scored 99 points and they were **Mrs J Piggot from Kettering, Mrs J Joyce from Wellingborough. Mrs L Porter from Tring, Herts** scored 97 points.

**John's new quiz 'OH' is now on sale** price £1 and can be obtained from **Pam Bailey or Joy Holloway on Rushden 318415.**



**Thank you** to everyone who supports the Society by buying this quiz. Joy Holloway



## Briefing

### Lent Lunches 2021

As you may already know, because **Rushden & Higham Ferrers Council of Churches** is unable to offer the weekly soup lunches for Lent this year, it will instead be holding a weekly prayer time on **Zoom each Wednesday from 1.00 to 1.30pm**, starting on **Wednesday 17 February** and led by a different leader each week – and also ones on **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday**.

Andrew Presland

### The Real Easter Egg

The UK's top supermarkets will not be stocking The Real Easter Egg in 2021. For the past ten years Tesco, Waitrose, ASDA and Morrisons have made room for it on their shelves, but the pandemic led to the supermarkets having a disastrous Easter in 2020 as people failed to buy. This year, supermarket buyers will be offering fewer brands, and the **Real Easter Egg, will not be one of them.**

So if you are one of the 80,000 people who usually buy a Real Easter Egg from a supermarket, or have friends who do, then spread the word: **Buy online!** Go to **meaningfulchocolate.co.uk** and find out how to do so in bulk. **grapevine will be happy to carry your details in the March edition.**

# Mission Quiz Answers and Winners!

## Answers to the 2020 Quiz

1 Zither or Cither 2 Wuthering Heights 3 Whistle-stop tour  
4 Whisky 5 Wetherby 6 Weather  
7 Together 8 Thistledown 9 Thisbe  
10 Thermostat.

11 The real thing or The real McCoy  
12 Stage whisper 13 Sophisticated  
14 Smithereens 15 Shish kebab  
16 Sheringham 17 Schism 18 Rule  
the roost or Hold/Take the reins  
19 Rotherham 20 Raise the roof.

21 Prehistory 22 Out-Herod  
23 Mother Teresa  
24 Mephistopheles 25 Memphis or  
Decherd 26 Masochist  
27 Machismo 28 Lutheran 29 Know  
the ropes 30 In this day and age.

31 Hypothermia 32 Historical  
33 Hispaniola 34 Herr 35 Heather  
36 Franchise 37 Fisherman  
38 Ethereal or Cherubic 39 Esther  
40 Empathised.  
41 Disinherit 42 Coherent 43 Chisel  
44 Cher 45 Catechism  
46 British Isles 47 Bellwether  
48 Aphis 49 Antihistamine  
50 A N Other.

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the quiz.

**The most common mistakes** were  
10 Temperature for Thermostat, 29  
Know the rules for Know the ropes  
and 40 Sympathise for Empathised.

Sympathised would be too long. As  
you can see I accepted five  
alternative answers.

**I must thank Susan Perkins of  
Higham Ferrers** for selling a large  
number of quizzes all over the  
country. I had **entries from Ireland,  
Northern Ireland, Orkney and even  
France.**

**We raised £335, which included  
some donations - another record.**

Of the 180 entries, 33 were all-  
correct, a further 28 with 49½,  
[usually a spelling mistake], and 36  
with 49 marks.

**The winners are Sue Steven-Jones,  
Stanwick: J Bradley, Skipton and  
Andrew Ashenhurst, Exeter.**

Other all-correct entries were  
received from: Ruth Ainscough,  
Pam Bailey, D Banks, G Chilton, MJ  
Clarke, Helen Cook, Charles and  
Shirley Curran, Valerie Downie, K  
Dunkerley, Sue Dyson, Ena  
Edwards, Eileen Foxcroft, Richard  
Freeman, Polly Helliard and Marilyn  
Fursey, Ronnie Hill, Dominica  
Jones, Mrs S King, Anne Leason,  
Mrs M Neill, Mrs VM Newey, Dr  
Helen Ougham, Yvonne Reid, Les  
Rendell, Tim Scott, Sheila Smith,  
Jeanne Spackman, Brian Stone,  
Audrey Titmuss, Richard Toosey  
and Jean and David Winfield.

*Peter Chamberlain*

## Newton News

### A New Grandchild

Andy and Rosemary Coulson are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their third grandchild, **Arthur Eric Andrew Coulson** on **15 January 2021**. His proud parents **Josh and Rebecca** are delighted.

*Helen Lines*



### Ride and Stride 2020

“Just a note to thank all of you who went that extra mile to make the Ride and Stride such a success [last] September. We are delighted to report that we have raised a fantastic £39,212 ... Another record breaking year!

... there were lots of deliberations as to whether we should encourage churches to take part ... but we knew that there was a great need to raise money for the NHCT ... we didn't embark on the mammoth printing and mail out that we usually do and relied on email and the web site. ...

We are looking to repeat this [in 2021] and we are planning and negotiating for a new user friendly website which will really help to keep everyone informed. We were helped by perfect weather on the day. Thank you to all ... who supported us and especially to

## Local interest

### Neighbourhood Watch :

#### Survey Result - Top 5:

#### Why people join NHW



- Concerned about community safety
- To actively help make their community a better place to live
- A rise in crime in their area
- They want to join a local scheme
- To belong to a community led organisation

#### Top 5: What they want from membership

- Crime prevention tips for the community
- Crime prevention tips for themselves and family
- Links to Neighbourhood Watch contact and/or scheme
- Ways to connect and improve the community
- Neighbourhood Watch national newsletter

Enquiries: contact  
[christine.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police](mailto:christine.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police)

those Riders and Striders and their sponsors who helped to raise so much money.”

*Liz Doherty and  
the Ride and Stride Team*

# Food for thought and prayer ...



## Quiet thoughts to begin Lent

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

*Isaiah 58:6-7*

... and a little wry humour

A Canadian choir director was teaching a new anthem: “Don’t forget”, he said, “You wait until the tenors reach the ‘Gates of Hell’ and then you all come in.”

*Philip Barron*

*[in Grapevine February 1996]*



... Between you and me, it’s the only way I can remember the PIN number!

# Daily Bible Readings for February 2021

*Half-way through this month, we will be in Lent, at which point I hope you will join me in reading through the Gospel of Mark, which will continue until Easter. For the first part of the month, in order to encourage and strengthen us, I propose reading and meditating on a few Psalms, songs and promises.*

Monday	1 February	Psalms 8
Tuesday	2 February	Psalms 13
Wednesday	3 February	Lamentations 3.19-26
Thursday	4 February	Psalms 23
Friday	5 February	John 10.11-18
Saturday	6 February	Luke 15.3-7



'You clothed me  
with joy, that my heart  
may sing to you and  
not be silent.  
Psalms 30.11-12

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7 February</b>	<b>Colossians 1.15-20</b>
Monday	8 February	Psalms 25
Tuesday	9 February	Jeremiah 31.31-34
Wednesday	10 February	Psalms 27
Thursday	11 February	Habakkuk 3.17-19
Friday	12 February	Psalms 29
Saturday	13 February	Psalms 30

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14 February</b>	<b>Mark 9.2-9</b>
Monday	15 February	Song of Songs 8.5-7
Tuesday	16 February	Psalms 42
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	17 February	Mark 1.1-9
Thursday	18 February	Mark 1.10-20
Friday	19 February	Mark 1.21-28
Saturday	20 February	Mark 2.1-17



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21 February</b>	<b>Mark 1.9-15</b>
Monday	22 February	Mark 2.18-28
Tuesday	23 February	Mark 3.1-19
Wednesday	24 February	Mark 3.20-35
Thursday	25 February	Mark 4.1-20
Friday	26 February	Mark 4.21-34
Saturday	27 February	Mark 4.35-41

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28 February</b>	<b>Mark 8.31-38</b>
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## So what else is happening . . ?

### Action Fraud - Coronavirus Vaccination Scams

Sadly as of 7 January 2021, **Action Fraud** had received 57 reports from members of the public who have been sent text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said: “Remember, the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam.”

### BT helps students

BT is increasing the free data allowance it offers to schoolchildren in lockdown and has pledged to zero-rate some educational websites, meaning that accessing the sites will not use up any data allowance. The Telecoms firm, which owns mobile operator EE, confirmed it would

offer unlimited data to pupils learning remotely, up to 20GB a month

i newspaper, 10 January 2021

### Sainsbury's teabags

Sainsbury's is launching its first plant-based own-brand teabags to stop 815m bags ending up in landfill every year.

From June the supermarket will launch the bags which contain plant-based plastic as part of the company's drive to halve plastic packaging by 2025.

i newspaper, 10 January 2021

### Where grapevine goes David Attenborough follows . . .

Obviously our concern last year as to how flowers did or did not appear on the fig tree as recorded in the New Testament caught the attention of the great DA. Episode 2 of his new TV series, **The Perfect Planet: The Sun** describes the interaction of fig tree and fig wasp in minute [nay agonising] detail. I won't spoil the story but you need to know that flowers are *inside* the nascent fig which is why we don't see them. Available for a long time I expect on **BBC iPlayer**. The production values for the whole series are staggering, but I hate to say it, we identified the mystery first . . . So who's going to knock Backyard Botany? Ed

## Lent – more of the same or a time for renewal?

Well, here we are once again on the cusp of Lent – traditionally a season of penitential preparation for the great feast of Easter; 40 days of self-discipline with the promise of a party at the end of it.

Except, of course, that this year is different. This year, we approach Lent having already been subjected to a period of almost unyielding restraint and self-denial. We have been deprived of so much that for so long we took for granted: the freedom to go wherever we wanted whenever we wanted; to enjoy unhesitatingly the company of family and friends; to shake hands, hug, be at ease with one another. As Christian people we have been permitted to “assemble and meet together” (at least after the rigours of the first lockdown were eased), but our offering of worship has been muted by the need to keep safe. We have been socially distanced, separated from one another, masked; no sharing of the peace, no common cup, no after-service fellowship or coffee (who thought we could mourn the church coffee?!), and, possibly worst of all, no singing. For all the beautiful music offered by our Cathedral choir and other musicians, Christmas without carols felt (at least to me) an especially harsh deprivation.

And it feels like such a long haul now – indeed we are fast approaching a year of life under Covid, and we are

all wearied of it. Like Narnia in CS Lewis’ *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, it feels as if this winter of the soul will never end.

Well, of course, like all things, this will pass. The programme of vaccinations is beginning to pick up pace and maybe by Easter, life will be that bit easier; the “thaw” will be underway, the spring will come and we may begin to breathe again.

In the story of Narnia, it is the return to life of the great Lion, Aslan, after a cruel death, that breaks the power of the White Witch and ushers in the end of Winter. CS Lewis is of course writing an allegory of the Christian story, and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

So as we brace ourselves for Lent, that extraordinary hope stands before us as a guiding light. New life will come – for our Church, for our society, for our world. It may not look like the old normal – and perhaps that’s a good thing – but God’s unconquerable love is offered to us all.

So may we embrace the challenge of this coming Lent, and not see it as an unbearable continuation of what has been, but a time to hope, pray and reflect on how, under God, things might be and (by his grace) shall be.

May he richly bless you this Lent.

*The Very Revd Christopher Dalliston  
Dean of Peterborough*

### Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – February 2021

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## Introducing Charlotte Nobbs

**O**ur Diocesan Gen<sub>2</sub> team welcomed a new member at the beginning of 2021 – Charlotte Nobbs. Charlotte has been appointed **Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler**, and we thought we would catch up with her to say hello and discuss her new role.

**Hi Charlotte – welcome to the Diocese! Please introduce yourself...**

I am Charlotte Nobbs, married to Charlie, with four adult children. We have recently moved to Earls Barton, having lived in Northampton for 20 years. As a teenager I led younger children and have never stopped, starting as a house captain at school, a Sunday school teacher, running a youth group and, after studying for a theology degree, training as a primary school teacher. My own children brought new contacts with families and opportunities for fresh expressions of church, including Messy Church, assemblies, puppet shows, gardening with children, parenting support groups, growing new leaders and new teams.



My husband is a vicar, so our family life was shaped by life in the vicarage, and I feel very privileged to have been given this view. It means that I have a certain admiration and compassion for clergy and for all they are called to do. I chose to work voluntarily alongside him and the church teams we were involved with, focusing on intergenerational church and reaching out to children and families who had no connection with formal church.

In the spare time, I enjoy theology, writing, pottering in the garden and sharing food with friends. I also love to run – and I am a raving extrovert!



**You have been appointed as Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler – can you tell us about what the role entails?**

I am working to enable churches throughout our diocese to find ways to bring good news to children and their families through connections with school, home and fresh ways of doing church. I am here to encourage and develop good practice, new initiatives and to support clergy, children's workers and those who volunteer through their church across our diocese.

**Is it nice to have finally started?**

I am delighted to have started. It is a dream job to be part of such a fabulous team to bring good news to our children in this diocese.

**Is it a role where 'no two days are the same'?**

I have been in post since the start of the year, so I am still finding my feet. So far, I have been working from home, with a few one-to-one walks, but mainly meeting people through Zoom and on the phone. A fun morning was filming an assembly on 'Building a Peace Den', with my cat making a star appearance! Never a dull moment!



*Continued overleaf*

**How will your role sit within the team?**

I am part of the Gen<sub>2</sub> team, and as well as having a lead on advising on children's ministry, I will have some shared responsibility for youth ministry. Much of my work will be to train others through the Children's Ministry Certificate, and to promote the vision of Growing Faith – a wonderful vision of interconnection between church, home and school.

**What was your background prior to joining the diocese?**

I have been a children's practitioner all my adult life, whether volunteering, being a mum or professionally. My degree is in theology and I worked as a primary school teacher. We moved from Durham in 2000 for my husband's first curacy at St Giles Northampton. We moved on to plant a church in Grange Park, connecting with community families and their children from babies through to top-end primary. I have been teaching RE to primary children, volunteering in the diocese to facilitate the Children's Ministry Certificate, and teaching on various mission enabling modules. I have a passion for the Church to connect

with families and children who do not attend formal church on Sundays, and to help them grow in the Christian faith together.

**What are your immediate aims in the role? It must be difficult to start during lockdown.**

It is very strange to start a job working from home, and away from the team. Even so, I am loving it already! I am meeting people, even if it is through phone calls, Zoom calls or one-to-one walks. It has been inspiring and humbling to hear about what churches are doing to connect with families in these very difficult times. I am reading various research papers, meeting with the Gen<sub>2</sub> team, preparing resources, gearing up to 'How do we do Easter?' and learning all the time.

**What are you hoping to achieve ultimately?**

I would love to enable parents to encourage faith in the family, and to see churches feel enabled to connect with families and children – not only within the church walls, but through school and partnership with other community groups. If this became a priority for churches – or at least as focused as adult ministry – then job done!

A host of useful information and resources to help you during this time can be found via [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus).

Visit [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events) to find out about our online events.

# Still walking . . . ?

## **COP26: The 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow**

“The Chadwicks are joining with a few other local families to organise **a pilgrimage to the COP26 Climate Talks in Glasgow in November 2021**. They are not walking to Scotland, but journeying the equivalent distance [353 miles] over the next ten months. **Would you like to join them?**

You can walk 353 miles, or work out the distance from your home, or create your own pilgrimage journey. It will be a really special time of reflection and prayer as we consider how God is calling us to respond to environmental issues. It's also a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy nature and stay healthy. All the details are here in this short video and on their website.

Check out: Video - <https://vimeo.com/491713792> or Website - [www.gettoglasgow.com](http://www.gettoglasgow.com)”

Steve Chadwick

## **Slow Ways**

I was really excited a few weeks ago to discover the Slow Ways initiative - an amazing project to connect hundreds of towns in the UK using existing footpaths. Sadly as the paragraph below indicates, given the pandemic, this is not the

right time to flood such places with well-meaning ‘pioneers’.

*“In light of the current situation with Covid-19 we have reluctantly decided to delay the launch of Slow Ways ... Walking and spending time outdoors are important for healthy lifestyles and wellbeing. Whilst walking locally may be encouraged over the coming weeks, promoting thousands of Slow Ways walking routes - many over 10km, inter-town and connecting with public transport - isn't viable in the current situation ....*

*We will be keeping a close eye on things and will launch as soon as it's safe and sensible. We will make sure that you have good advance notice of when this will be so that you can plan ahead.”*

Watch this space through their website - **slowways.uk** - and grapevine will carry any news.

## **Equally important ... is the deadline for CROW Law additions in 2026.**

This is the race to add unregistered footpaths and rights of way to the official list before they revert to private ownership and become impassable. More of this in March - when the mud may have dried up a bit!! Ed



## Meet the Congregation – Jackie Davis

Jackie was born in Willesden, north west London, on 2 April 1944 to wonderful parents and a teasing elder brother, who she loved dearly. Being towards the end of WWII, there was heavy bombing all around them and when one dropped on the school opposite, her Father decided to send the family to a cousin in Wootton - he cycled to see them most weekends. As a sheet metal worker he was more valuable at home than away with the troops.

Growing up was a happy time. She would go to dancing class twice a week: ballet, tap and acrobatics - but ballet was her favourite. She was hoping to go on to Ballet School when her father suddenly died. The family's world fell apart and over two years her mother's health also declined - she had pleurisy and double pneumonia, but thankfully recovered.

Jackie was going to Secondary Modern School at the time, where she was a top monitor and highly respected by the staff. When her father died she went off the rails: her whole personality changed from a nice girl to an awful smoking, swearing, obnoxious person [These are Jackie's words not mine! Ed] Needless to say she lost all her privileges, got six of the best on each hand, and her name went in the black book and she left school without any qualifications. The Careers Officer gave her two options: the biscuit factory or do office work - so Jackie chose an office, getting a junior position in a large electrical engineering company that had in-house classes for shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. It was a big company and there were dances, sports and other activities always going on. If nothing was organised they would have a party or go to the Jazz cellars - as a group of ten or so, someone always knew where to find some fun.

Jackie's next job was with aircraft company, Handley Page, in Cricklewood. Her boss was a retired RAF Group Captain and the staff answered to the MOD. She met her husband, Frank, there: meeting on 6 March 1964 they married, symmetrically, on 6 March 1965. There was a collection for an engagement present and then for a wedding present and also when she left to go to Essex. Jackie was in the loo when she overheard one of the women saying, "I'm glad she is leaving, I couldn't afford another whip round!"

They couldn't afford a house in London but there was a scheme where jobs were offered in various New Towns and the house came with it. So they



moved to Laindon, outside Basildon in Essex and into a lovely three bedroom house with bathroom, downstairs loo and underfloor heating. Real luxury in those days. Their first son, Jeff, was a few months old when they moved and it was all still very rural and just a very short walk from the infants' school and a modern secondary school. Their second son, Christopher, came along four years later.

During the strikes of the late Sixties, her husband was only working three days a week at Fords, so money was very scarce. A neighbour was happy to look after Jeff for her so Jackie decided to go back to work, and started a temporary job at Marconi in Basildon. After a few weeks it became a permanent position and meant working for the MOD again. She was there for three years, till she left to have Christopher.

Frank left Fords for a job at Rothmans, the cigarette company, starting in the Mail room but soon became a computer programmer and, eventually, a Senior Systems Analyst at BUPA. With the '80s recession he relocated to Head Office in Aylesbury - a difficult move away from the children's schools and a wide circle of friends.

The children grew up and Jeff married Lucy and lived in Rushden. Lucy was pregnant with Lily Rose and was at a family wedding when she went into premature labour. The baby was born 26 weeks premature and weighing only just 2 pounds. It wasn't a time for the usual rejoicing as she was on life support and not expected to survive. She had hydrocephalus, was baptised and the Consultant planned to slowly turn off her life support. Lily had other ideas and she continued to breathe on her own! Growing up was very difficult for her, but now she is a beautiful nineteen year old studying English, Philosophy and Sociology in Bedford and they are all so proud of what she has achieved.

From a year old Jackie looked after Lily and her brother, Oliver, on Tuesdays, and all these years after they still come for dinner with her on a Tuesday: fortunately it worked for them to form a 'bubble'. Christopher also has a son, George.

Jackie and Frank moved to Rushden in 2002, and after settling in they joined a Rushden Bowls Club, where they made several friends and had great fun. She also joined Higham Patchwork Club and made more friends -

## Those questions

### Biggest Influence

A Miss Talbot - a secretary where I worked. She was always cross with me, but taught me so much!

### Hobbies

Patchwork & Bowling

### Guest[s] to dinner?

Judi Dench and/or Tom Hanks

### What would you serve?

Roast Chicken dinner followed by  
Chocolate Surprise

### Favourite Place?

Home

### Proudest Moment?

Lily passing her exams

### Special Treat?

To see the ballet *Swan Lake*

### Favourite Bible verse ?

"... And now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love. But the  
greatest of these is love" <sup>13</sup>

1 Corinthians 13. 1-13

### Cont. from previous page

Jackie lost her husband in 2015, the year of their Golden Wedding. Her daughter in law was worried she might be lonely, so suggested she had a dog for company and - eventually - Harvey arrived and they

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are now inseparable. Jackie has also been involved as a volunteer at the Full Gospel with some lovely people.

Plucking up courage she started to come to St Mary's on Sunday mornings, where she has made more lovely friends. She tells us that St Mary's is a very welcoming church which you can feel as soon as you come through the door. She has joined a Home Group and is learning so much through the Bible study. She says she doesn't feel lonely as they all phone each other during the week, and is looking forward to the virus being under control so they can see one another again.

*Roving Reporter*



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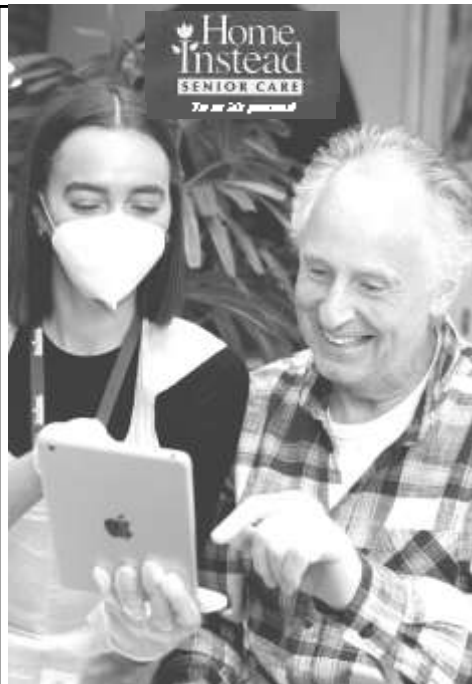
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# Looking Back at St Mary's Magazines

50 years ago

February 1971

Sister Le Lerre

... Thanks to the very many who sent gifts, messages, letters cards to her in her illness, for the love and prayers of her friends both in St Mary's and in the other churches in our town too. She knows they will understand she cannot thank them personally but she wants everyone to know how very grateful she is, and thankful to God for all His goodness.

WANTED

Six old mattresses for the Boys' Club Judo Class. Any offers to Mr J Bottoms, 3 Denmark Rd. Will collect. [Spring-interior mattresses are not suitable they are too "springy"!] For boys between 11 and 16, interested to learn judo, we meet in the Institute on Mondays from 7 to 9pm. Any fee? Yes - you pay before you can get out!

25 years ago

February 1996

Soper still on the stump at 93

On the last day of January, Methodism's most remarkable preacher celebrated his 93rd birthday. Even now Donald Soper, Baron of Kingsway speaks at Tower Hill on Wednesdays and in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon.

He began his Tower Hill stint in 1926, from a spot which allowed various kinds of people to come together who might otherwise never have mingled. Office workers came cheek by jowl with dock labourers and a sprinkling of tourists.

Today the voice carries less far but the mind is still sharp. He has never been afraid of what he calls 'the fellowship of controversy'

Phillip Barron



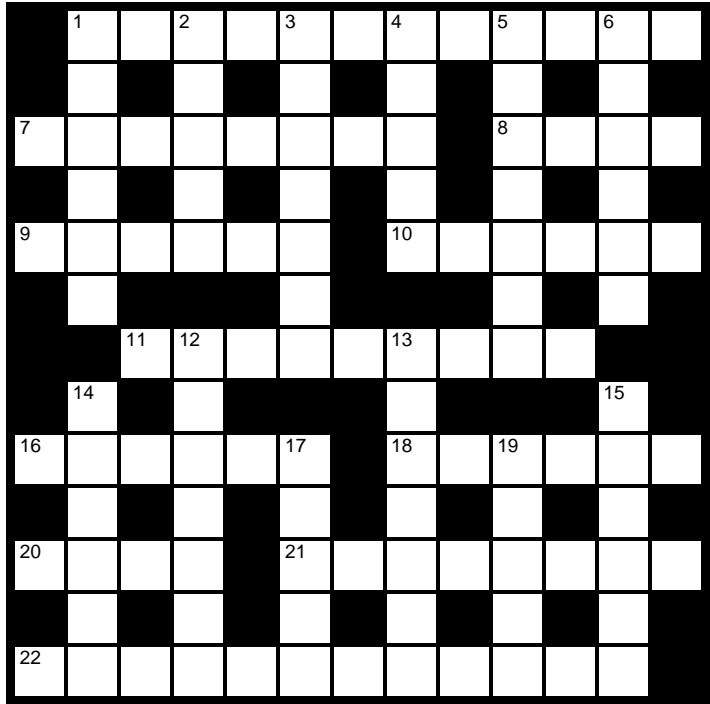
# Crossword No 375

## ACROSS

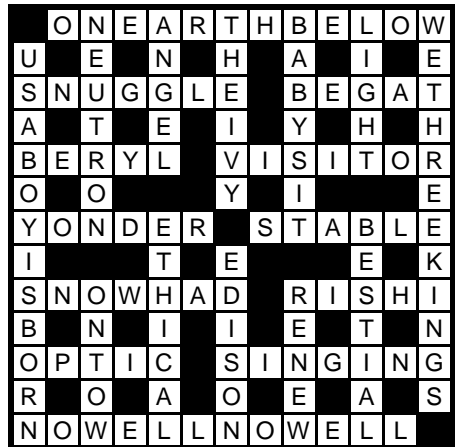
- 1 'O Jesus I -- --',  
(hymn) (4.8)  
7 High churchman  
(8)  
8 Lent eg (4)  
9 Junior cleric (6)  
10 -- of Eden (6)  
11 Ten days before  
Pentecost (9)  
16 London's Royal  
Victoria theatre  
(3,3)  
18 Song of --, Nunc  
Dimittis (6)  
20 Wife of Jupiter  
(4)  
21 Church statutes  
(5,3)  
22 '-- -- -- -- I love to hear', (hymn)  
(5,2,1,4)

## DOWN

- 1 'Earth to -- replies', (carol) (6)  
2 Ancient Sanskrit (5)  
3 Atonement (7)  
4 Prisoner-of-war camp (5)  
5 Raging fire (7)  
6 Church festival (6)  
12 Messiah (7)  
13 Book of the Apocrypha (7)  
14 'We -- the fields', (hymn) (6)  
15 Consolation (6)  
17 Spiny plants (5)  
19 Miraculous food (5)



## Solution to Crossword No 374





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# On-line Services - February 2021

**As you are aware, we are now in another lockdown situation** because of the new variant of the virus and its increased transmissibility. Although the Government has not dictated that places of worship close their doors, the PCC unanimously decided to keep the church building closed to services throughout the remainder of January and February. Towards the end of February, we will reassess the situation. Steve

**Services will continue on line as before.** To access these go to our website: [stmaryschurchrushden.org](http://stmaryschurchrushden.org) which displays both the **Facebook** and **YouTube** links. Click on which you prefer and you can join the following services in February:

- **Sundays:** 7, 14, 21, 28 - 10.00am - *Morning Worship*
- **Thursdays:** 4, 11, 18, 25 - 10.30am - *Thought for Thursday*
- In addition, because Lent begins in February, there will be **Music for Lent on Ash Wednesday**, 17 February at 7.30pm.



**Helen Smedley** - our Children and Families Worker - is carrying on her work online. She writes as follows:

“Hello! After the announcement of lockdown, our usual children’s activities going forward are going to be a little bit different, as well as some new activities and old favourites returning. Here's what you can find, and

when, on St Mary’s Facebook, for our children and families ...

- |                      |          |  |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| • Monday             | 10.00am: | <b>Bumps&amp;Babes</b> online  |
| • Monday <b>NEW!</b> | 10:20am  | [straight after bumps]: <b>Toddler dance</b> group, led by our littlest ones |
| • Wednesday          | 10.00am: | <b>Crafty Crafts</b>   |
| • Friday <b>NEW!</b> | 6.00pm:  | <b>Bible Bedtime Stories</b>   |
| • Sunday             | 5.00pm:  | <b>Sunday Club</b> online  |

We are also launching the **NEW Buggy Buddies!!** A chance to meet outside for a walk about and a natter! This is open to adults with children under the age of five in accordance with the government guidelines. If this is something you’d be interested in, or would like more information, message our Facebook page or contact me, Helen on 07495 304975.”

# Belfry Gossip

Once more we are in a situation where Sunday services are no longer being held in church and we are not able to ring the bells. Hopefully, with the ongoing vaccination process now taking place, this situation will not last for too long and we will be able to restart with Sunday service ringing again soon.

It was a special privilege to be able to ring for the Christmas morning Service, to celebrate Christmas - Jesus' birthday -, and make the town aware of this special time, but following that all ringing had to stop again.

Contact between ringers is still being maintained and a virtual practice on Ringing Room is held when possible while not able to meet in the tower on a Friday evening.

The Wellingborough Branch of ringers held its AGM virtually via Zoom, so no ringing, service or tea. The meeting reviewed 2020 with reports of the difficult year, financial situation and maintenance assistance. One new member was elected into the branch. The election of Branch Officers included retaining three of St Mary's ringers in the positions they previously held and gaining another on to the committee, so we are still well represented. A programme of ringing and social events for 2021 was presented in the hope that at some time during the year we can return to some form of normality and we are then ready. These were accepted subject to locations being available when required. News and other information from around the branch, and thanks to everyone for attending, concluded the meeting. With no ringing taking place a few ringers stayed on to chat for a while before ending.

At the time of writing our Tower AGM is still being considered.

*Tintinnabulum*

# Book Review



**Samuel Wells, *A Cross in the Heart of God*** (Canterbury Press, 2020 )

This is the time of year to choose a Lent Book to read in preparation for Easter. The author here is **Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields**, London, and has written over thirty books. His voice is familiar to listeners of the BBC's daily ***Thought for the Day***.

In his latest book he reflects on the death of Jesus and his own understanding of the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion. Lent is a good time to consider if we possess a coherent account of that message. Can we be witnesses to the reality that Good Friday really is the herald of good news?

He goes on to provide background information on the role of the Cross in Jesus' message and ministry. This leads the reader into some biblical theology, beginning with lessons to be learned from the Old Testament. Using examples from contemporary literature and films the point is made that the Old Testament is the Gospel: not just a prologue or prophecy of it.

Further examples of images we encounter in everyday life that are related to the Cross and that are also found in the Epistles are shared with the reader to illustrate the power of

the Cross in action, both among the early churches and in modern life.

The final chapters focus on the message of the cross as presented in the Gospels. According to its author this book has been written because "the cross is central, fundamental... but we're not quite sure what precisely it actually means".

A helpful, seven- week study guide for individual or group use is included. Overall Sam Wells provides the reader with a good companion for personal reflections during Lent.

**Matt N Williams, *Money Can't Fix Everything*** (Jubilee Centre)

I also commend this short book which contributes to the current debate on the shape of the 'New Normal'. The author, from the charity **Family Matters Institute**, presents research data to highlight the **very adverse impact of poor family relationships on the issue of poverty**. The title of this book contains a challenge to the contemporary thinking right across the political spectrum that assumes that spending more money can provide a complete answer to the poverty that is found in society today. *Tony Smith*

This month I would like to share a little about Tearfund: their work and aims - so many it would fill the whole of this magazine! Just a starter: Tearfund's Mission Statement in the box to the right.

“Our mission is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crisis and partnering with local Churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty”

Yemen is in the midst of brutal conflict, plus the virus, and this is a story of an ordinary family living there. *“Salha was a Wife and Mother caring for her family. One morning her husband Darwish was on his way to work when a rocket exploded just metres away from him. Darwish died from his injuries three months later. Salha soon became depressed: not only had she lost her husband and friend but all her financial stability. Life was hard: she lost her appetite, stopped doing all of her regular activities, even caring for her children. Grief became anger and she became violent towards her sons. They would leave the house as often as they could and beg for food. Salha slowly became more isolated. Friends and family gave up on her, calling her crazy. But Salha wasn't crazy. The violence, sadness and isolation were all manifestations of her depression and response to trauma.*

*Tearfund's local partner encouraged Salha to participate in one of the support groups they run in the community. Through these groups, people share and process their emotions and begin to heal from their pain. They are a lifeline to many. Salha began to talk about what had happened to her and things started to change. After three sessions she began to smile for the first time in a long time. It was here she found strength to begin again. “I will now take care of myself and my children,” she declared. Her sons had joy in having their Mother back - as one son said, “We never want to be away from our Mother now.”*

This story is on the Tearfund Website and shows both the love of Jesus and the practical help Tearfund give to those in need, whatever and wherever it is. The names of the family members have been changed.

If you would like to know more about the work of Tearfund and receive the free Magazine and Prayer Diary for January through to the end of May, I would willingly order it for you. [Edna: 01933 357253.]

Always remember however dark it seems at times, we have a great God - who is the 'Light of the World'.

Edna Wadsworth on behalf of the Mission Committee: Sue Eagles,  
Josie Smith, Sue Prior and Martin Compton

— The Back Page —

