

September Newsletter

We would like this monthly publication to be something that will lift your spirits and be thought provoking too! So there are articles, jokes and puzzles to keep you amused and smiling at this difficult time. Printed copies will be available in Lady St Mary Church and can be picked up at the 10am service and taken to people who do not have the internet and so if you can share it by posting a copy to a neighbour, being careful to practise all necessary precautions, please do so.

News from the Ministry Team ...

What did you miss most about being in church for services? According to our parish survey the biggest 'miss' was fellowship closely followed by music and singing. A full resume of the survey will be available.

Do we need the 'sacred space' of a church building to worship God in all his goodness? This is a question I found myself asking early in the lockdown when churches were locked. An article in Christianity by Liz Jennings (July 2020 pp 34-37) went a long way to answering my question. She found herself pondering "God in the everyday" during an Alpha course and explored how God works by examining a rag rug on the floor.

I too had found myself doing a similar thing with a rag rug, made by my grandmother many years ago, that I found when clearing out the summer house. It was dirty and neglected but still retained the colours of the clothes she had cut into strips before hooking them through a Hessian backing. Worn out trousers and skirts (in fact anything worn out that was a suitable fabric weight) were cut up and re-purposed into a useful rug that I well remember as a child, keeping my bare feet off the cold lino. There were many strips of grey, black and navy with a few splashes of bright colours making a central pattern.

Like Liz Jennings, I found myself in awe at how God takes all sorts of unprepossessing ingredients and makes something wonderful.

Other ideas include thinking of the water of life as you brush your teeth, the contents of your kitchen green waste bin becoming life-giving compost, your garden gate not only marking your boundaries but offering a welcome, the flower seeds that somehow grow and bloom where you didn't sow them. There are lots when you start looking.

Being back in church is great. On-line services and social inter-actions are also great and have kept us together through difficult times. But I challenge you to find more everyday things that help you see the wonder of God in action in the everyday world around you.

Every blessing, Brigid

What is a deacon?

On 26th September I am hoping to be ordained as a deacon, so this seemed a good opportunity to try to explain what a deacon is.

The word deacon is derived from the Greek word *diakonia* which is used for ministry or service. When the apostles found themselves overwhelmed with all they had to do, they appointed seven wise and Spirit-filled men to take on the organisation of the daily distribution of food (Acts 6:1-6). These men became known as deacons. When they were set apart the apostles '*prayed and laid their hands on them*'. This is one of the reasons that bishops lay hands on the candidates at an ordination service as they are set apart for particular ministries.

During the early years of the church a threefold ministry evolved, with bishops (*episkopos*) being the chief pastors, often having oversight of a large area. Next there were presbyters who were pastors of one church or a small group of churches, but answerable to the Bishop. In due course presbyters also became known as priests. Assisting the bishops and presbyters were the deacons. This order of ministry became established in the Roman Catholic church and, after the reformation, continued in the episcopal churches, including the Church of England, so that men and women may now be ordained into the office of bishop, priest or deacon. Those ordained are described as being 'in holy orders'.

St Paul told the church in Corinth that all should be done in 'a fitting and orderly way', (1 Corinthians 14:40), and this led to the idea of 'holy order' in which the church was organised in an ordered way, reflecting the order visible in God's creation, which in turn reflects the beauty of God himself. The use of the word 'holy' does not describe the holiness of the ordained, but the holiness of the arrangement.

Ordinands (those selected for ordination) are always initially ordained as deacons. Most, but not all, are then ordained priest a year later. Some go on to be ordained as bishops. But all clergy remain deacons, just as all bishops remain priests.

The focus of the ministry of a deacon is that of service. Deacons normally work for and with a parish priest as an assistant curate, serving the people of the parish where they are placed. The term 'assistant curate' describes the role of helping a parish priest, who technically is the curate, having received the 'cure of souls' from the bishop. Usually assistant curates are deacons for their first year, then priests for the rest of their curacy, but this year many of us are serving as 'lay curates', starting our curacies before our ordination.

Deacons are not allowed to preside at communion, to marry people, to pronounce the absolution or give a blessing. You may notice that if I am leading a service on my own I will use a slightly different form of words, asking for, rather than declaring, God's forgiveness or blessing, usually by changing 'you' to 'we' or 'us'. Deacons are permitted to conduct funerals and baptisms.

My ordination will be in Salisbury Cathedral, but due to the current restriction, with only 30 people present in total, so that we can only invite one guest each. I hope I will be able to invite you all to come next year when I am ordained priest. For this year I would value your prayers as I prepare for my ordination.

Helen Williams.

Thoughts and Reflections - Poems

Oberammergau

Megan Carter writes: "Oberammergau is a small village in Bavaria, Germany. When in 1633 bubonic plague was sweeping through Europe, a man travelling back home to Oberammergau for Christmas brought the plague with him. It spread throughout the village. According to local tradition, a vow was made that if God would spare them, the villagers would perform a play depicting the life and passion of Jesus Christ every ten years. The village was saved from all effects of the plague and the villagers kept their word and first performed the Passion Play in 1634. It has since been performed every ten years." (The 2020 Play has been rescheduled for May 2022, due to the pandemic)

Death stalked the streets in the Bavarian village
As the plague brought havoc, death and despair,
Europe was ravaged as millions died,
Neither man or woman or child was spared.

They gathered together in desperation
A vow was given – if they could be saved
A play would be made of the Saviour's life
This was the promise the villagers gave.

Miracle of miracles their village survived,
Not one more death their lives had been saved,
So every ten years this Play is performed
To honour the God who had come to their aid.

Prayers were made and the answer came
A heavenly lesson we too can own,
That He who dwells in ineffable light
Is also the One who brings blessings down.

By Megan Carter

Hilary Bond

I am delighted to say that on Sunday 6th September Hilary Bond will be licensed as a Pioneer Minister to this parish by Bishop Karen in the grounds of Holme Priory. Unfortunately due to the covid restrictions only 30 people can be present, but I know that Hilary would be most grateful of your prayers at this important time. It will be wonderful to have Hilary back in the parish with a greater role of seeking ministry in different places, carrying out much of this from Not Just Sundaes, when it re-opens. Of course, Hilary has been our Schools worker over the past few years whilst at the same time being Assistant Curate of Lytchett Minister and Upton, and she will continue in this role as well as actively taking part in some of our Sunday Services. I am sure Hilary will share more of her work as time goes on, please do keep her in your prayers. **S.E.**

Ride and Stride 2020

This year's Ride and Stride Event will take place on Saturday 12th September 2020. Ride + Stride 2020 will be taking place in Dorset, with slight modifications to be fully compliant with the COVID-19 restrictions. We hope that you will be able to take part or to support someone who is riding or striding for a Dorset church. Your Parish Organiser will have all the papers but please use the links below for a sponsorship form and more information

https://www.dhct.org.uk/documents/ride_and_stride/Letter%20to%20Riders-2020.pdf

https://www.dhct.org.uk/documents/ride_and_stride/Sponsorship%20form-2020.pdf

If you would like to sponsor one of the Clergy team or all! Please let our Churchwardens know.

Annual Parochial Meeting

On Wednesday 30th September we will be holding the Annual Parochial Meeting, which had been postponed from April of this year. This provides an opportunity to elect new Churchwardens (nominations need to be submitted in advance), PCC members and Deanery Synod members. Coupled with these elections there is a chance to reflect on the past year in the parish, and legally we are required to adopt the parish accounts, which the PCC approved in February. The reports will reflect back on the year 2019! but there will also be the opportunity to reflect a little on this year and look ahead to the challenges that we face. The meeting is to be held in Lady St Mary Church, 6.30pm, please do try and be there. S.E.

Holy Days

Michael and All Angels - 29th September

Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil. The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with Michael.

Enter All the Angels lead by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practise hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

By Canon David Winter

It shouldn't happen to a Vicar...

On how to survive a weekend away with the young people

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I think your idea for both our Confirmation groups getting together for a weekend away – socially distanced, of course - was excellent and our meeting last week drew most of the plans together. We didn't take any minutes, so let me record the decisions I believe we made.

Since all of us have to sleep far apart at the centre, I am prepared to spend the nights at a local hotel. By chance, I have found that there is a four star one only a few miles away, so I have booked myself in.

As the dining area in the youth centre may be cramped, I am also willing to have dinner each evening at the hotel, thereby creating more space for the rest of you. An additional sadness is that, since breakfast at the hotel is not served until 8am, I will not be able to join you either for your pre-breakfast dip in the nearby stream. It would be grossly unfair to expect you to pack lunch for me, so I will arrange for the hotel to provide me with a picnic hamper for one which I can have while you all enjoy your cheese and pickle sandwiches.

I think it will be an excellent learning experience if you prepare all the teaching sessions yourself, but be assured that I will always be on hand to give the advice of experience. That large armchair near the fire in the common room seems to be the best place for me to sit, so I can keep an eye on proceedings, while I take on the responsibilities for stoking the fire. This reminds me; do make sure that the young people are encouraged to saw enough logs each morning for me to fulfil my obligations.

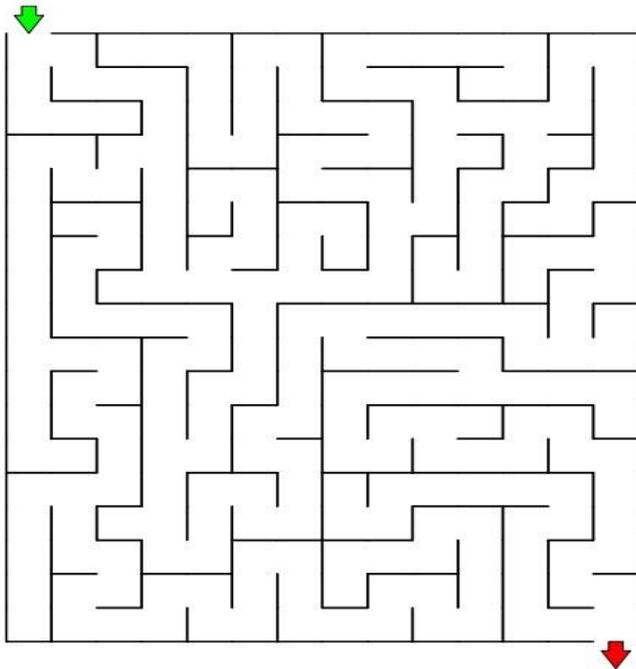
Naturally, my arthritis will prevent me being able to accompany you on your afternoon hikes, but I will cheerfully park my car wherever you leave the minibus, to provide a second vehicle in case of emergencies. I do not mind in the least waiting all those long hours until you get back; I have already found an attractive tea shop in the village.

I am fully aware that not sleeping or dining at the centre, not being responsible for preparing the teaching, nor being involved on the walks will mean that my contributions will be ever so slightly limited, but these are sacrifices I gladly make in order to give you further experience in your ministerial career.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Puzzle Page

The Maze



Sudoku

8								
7		9	5			4	8	
	2		7				5	
				1	6			
2								9
			4	5				
	3				7		2	
	1	6			9	3		5
								6

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Word Search

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

Thanks - Angels
 Church - Feast
 Michael - All
 Genesis - Messengers
 God - Sent
 Intervene - Garden
 Eden - Lot
 Gideon - Balaam
 Mouths - Lions
 Daniel - Archangel
 Gabriel
 Mary
 Mother
 Teaming
 Revelation
 Danger

Something to make you smile!



Today's hymns are based on last week's trend in petrol prices...



The Churchyard working party was never seen again

She knew she needed to be strong now more than ever. Head between her hands, her mind in turmoil. His words echoed relentlessly round and round, till the pounding made her head feel it would explode. Of course, she had promised, and at the time meant every word. "It is yours, I promise Mark". She held his gaze. Her reassurance calmed him, he smiled and walked out of the door. Beads of sweat formed at her temples and slowly ran river-like down her face. Her heart was racing. Her mouth was dry. Could she go through with it, the betrayal that would surely be discovered in time? She sighed and knew without doubt what she would do next. Reaching out tentatively at first, then with an urgency that shocked her. Her trembling fingers seeking the circular form on the table. Putting it in her mouth she wondered if she would ever be forgiven. There would never be a second chance, she knew, as she heard his voice again "That last Malteser is mine." By C Parrett

Contact information

Members of the Team are available for confidential help, support and advice.

Please contact:

The Reverend Canon Simon Everett (Team Rector) Day off Friday 01929 289236

The Reverend Stuart Cocksedge (Team Vicar) Day off Friday 01929 550972

Dr Helen Williams **Assistant Curate** (Licensed Lay Worker) Day off Monday 01929 288845

The Reverend Michael Young (Officiating Minister) Day Off Monday 01929 552582

The Reverend Brigid Barrett (Officiating Minister) Day off Monday 01929 553460

The Reverend Hilary Bond (Schools and Children's Worker) Day off Monday 01929 551219, working days in Wareham Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Parish Office opening times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 1pm
telephone: 01929 550905 or please do contact Debs Barclay any other time by
Email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk