



August News Letter

We would like this monthly publication to be something that will lift your spirits. So as well as articles relating to our current situation, there are also articles, jokes and puzzles to keep you amused and smiling at this difficult time. We are distributing some printed copies of this 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. Copies will also be available at the service in Church.

News from the Ministry Team ...

Dear Friends,

I have been asked to write a short article to introduce myself to you. I can't tell you everything about myself here, so I am going to tell you something about why I believe in God and why I hope to be ordained in September.

I have always been fascinated by the world around me and by science in particular, but I realised as a child that there were questions that science could not answer. I worked out that there was no way of disproving the existence of an all-powerful God and, though I rather doubted that such a God existed, I found myself praying that if I were wrong and He did, He would reveal himself to me. Soon after that I had a couple of experiences where I felt aware of a presence with me that was so compelling it drove me to start trying to find out as much about religion as I could. My family didn't go to church, so it took me a while to understand what Christians believed and why, but once I did, I found the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus convincing. And if Jesus had been raised from the dead then there must be a God who had raised him, presumably the God that Jesus claimed to know as his Father. Eventually I decided that the only way that I could find out for sure was to try living as a Christian, and, as I did so, I found that many of my prayers were answered and I increasingly experienced that sense of God being with me, and my faith grew and my doubts receded.

Cont'd...

At first I thought I would have to be a nun or a missionary, but then I found out that there were other ways of following Jesus. I thought about being a vicar, but at that time women could not be ordained as priests. I decided I was called to be a scientist and spent some years researching extragalactic gas clouds until I got married and ended up as a full-time mother of three, and then as a carer for my mother and my aunt, both of whom had dementia. Somewhere in those years I trained as a Reader (now called Licensed Lay Minister) and as a secondary school teacher and I was happy working part-time in school and part-time in the parish. However, after my husband ended our marriage I had to teach full-time and had almost no time available for church beyond Sunday worship. I loved teaching but knew God was calling me to do more in church. So I talked to various people and began a process that took me to a selection panel and then to theological college. For the last two years I was back to teaching part-time, while training for ordination at Sarum College in Salisbury.

I'm really excited to be here in Wareham and am looking forward to learning a lot more about ministry, but most of all to having lots of opportunities to talk about my faith in Jesus to people both inside and outside the Church, and to encouraging people to get to know God better. Many thanks to all who have made me feel so welcome already and I'm looking forward to meeting more of you soon.

Yours in Christ,
Helen Williams

NEW WINE ONLINE (30 JULY - 3 AUGUST)

As with so many other events this year, the New Wine United Summer Gatherings are not able to take place this year. But the good news is that there will be an online event instead: **United Breaks Out**. So, rather than travelling to Peterborough, you can join in from the comfort of your own home! There will be sung worship, Bible teaching, webinars, children's and youth programmes, and more. This is an important time to hear from and connect with others in the wider church about how we respond to the current crisis, how God is at work, and how we can help to shape the 'new normal'. Stuart has registered as a Community Maker to encourage us to join in and connect locally, and share what God is doing. More details to follow. You can also find out more on the New Wine website: <https://www.new-wine.org/breaksout>

Transfiguration (A glimpse of Glory) - 6th August

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was – immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 – 19 – invariably the reading for this day.

Cont'd...

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

Thoughts and Reflections

Poems

The Slide

As I watch
She climbs the steps steadily,
Holding the handrail,
Her two-year old feet following each other
Rhythmically, unhesitatingly
To the platform at the top
Where she sits down
And freezes.

Holding tight to the sides,
Knees up, feet flat
She judders down a little way
Then looks up.
Her eyes meet my smile, my outstretched arms –
And she takes her hands off the edge of the slide,
Shooting forward with a squeal of delight,
Trusting the love she knows.

Lord, I have climbed so steadily,
I have come so far, in my own strength,
Holding on, holding back,
Sometimes freezing.
But I am your child,

Cont'd...

Today I will lift my eyes
And meet your smile, your outstretched arms,
I will lift my juddering feet –
And take my hands off the edge of the slide
Released to ride, by your Spirit,
Into the freedom of your will,
Trusting the Love I know.

By Daphne Kitching

The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!
No longer 'locked down'!
The people stroll out in the sun
The majestic trees
Sway in the light breeze
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!
We can walk in the park!
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!
We can chat to our friends
As our loneliness ends
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues
Which cease to amuse
But things are no longer so black!
As they sing in that song –
You miss what is gone,
But it's great when at last it comes back!

By Nigel Beeton

It shouldn't happen to a Vicar

On the perils of leaving the pulpit

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

When the churches reopen for public worship (whenever that is!) I hope you will come and take Evensong one Sunday. But, thinking of your visit last August, I would prefer you used the pulpit when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

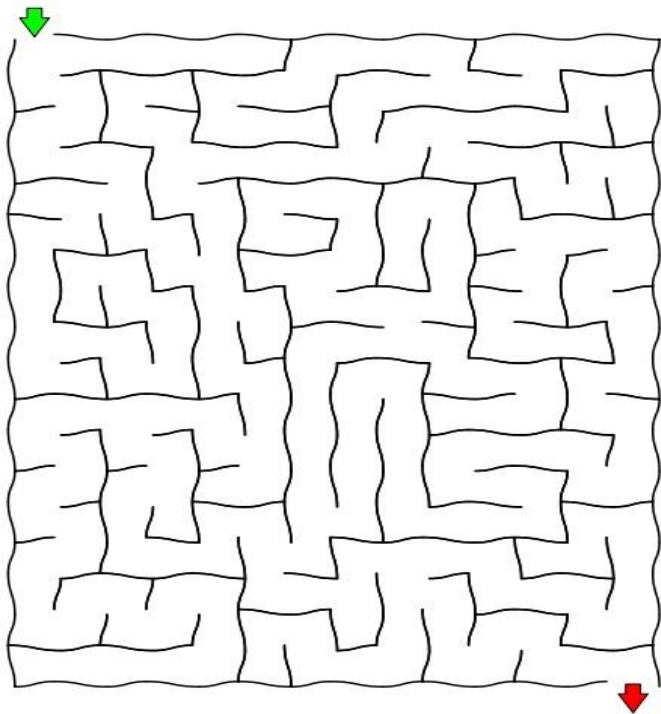
I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half-way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our verger was dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Puzzle Page

The Maze



Sudoku

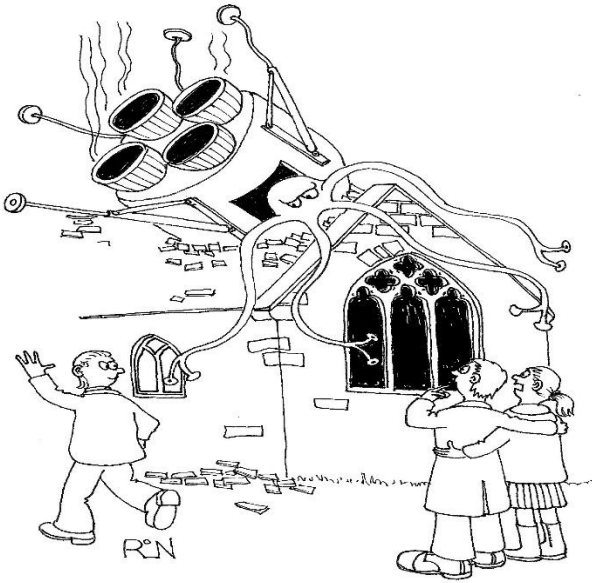
7				2	1			3
		8	3	5				
		4						
	9	1			4			
	6						2	
			8			1	5	
						6		
				3	8	7		
3			2	9				4

Word Search - Transfiguration

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

Transfiguration - Jesus
 mountain – Tabor
 Hermon - Caesarea
 Philippi – high - shine
 face – cloud
 transformed – white
 dazzling – Elijah
 Moses - dwelling
 mankind – Law
 Prophets - Peter
 James – John
 fear - glory

Something to make you smile!



As Lay Rectors, he reminded them, the chancel roof was their responsibility



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

Body Parts

A doctor in our village surgery often plays a game with his younger patients to put them at ease, and to test their knowledge of body parts. And so it was that one day, while pointing to my young son's ear, the doctor asked him solemnly, "And so this is your nose?"

Alarmed, my son glanced over to me and said softly: "Mum, I think we'd better find a new doctor!"

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) Day Off Monday 01929 288845

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

The Reverend Brigid Barrett (Officiating Minister) Day off Tuesday 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 will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am – 1pm please do contact Debs Barclay either by Email:

parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk or by telephone: 01929 550905