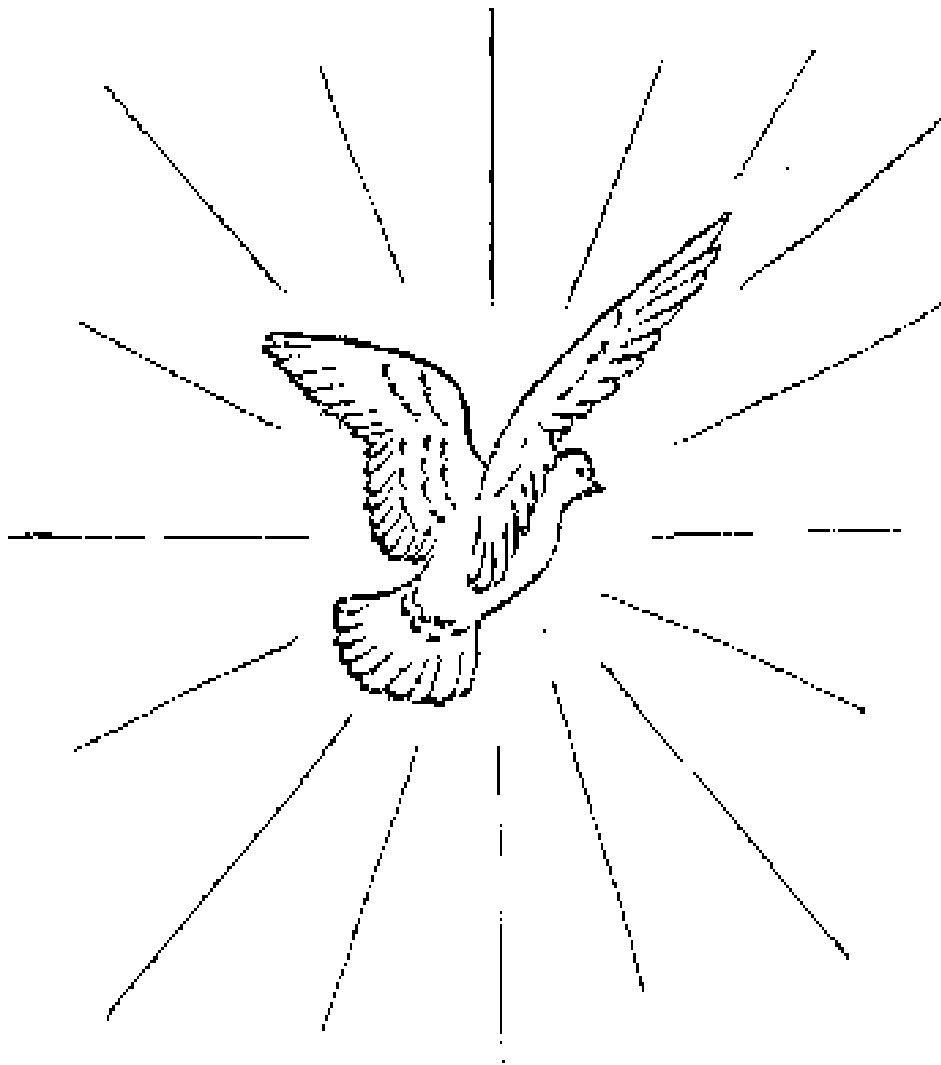
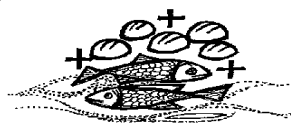


All Saints' Croxley Green Parish Magazine

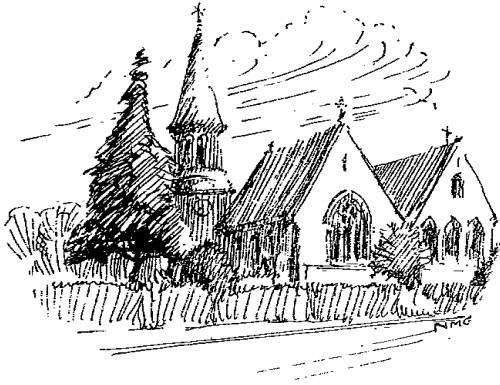


ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



GIVING IN GRACE

Price 50p



All Saints' Croxley Green

Sunday Worship

- 8 am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Communion
11.30am Family Service (third in
month only)
6 pm Evening Service

Weekday Services

- Tuesday - Morning Prayer
Saturday
Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion
(10.30am first in month)
Friday 10.45am Holy Communion
at Croxley House
Friday 2.30pm Holy Communion
at Chalmers Court (third
in month)

The Church is Open Daily for private
prayer and meditation.

The Parish Office is open for enquiries
from 10am to 12 noon, Monday to Fri-
day. Answerphone available outside
these hours. Tel: 772109

Parish Administrator: Mrs Judith Man

**Applications for Holy Baptism, Banns
of Marriage, Communion of the Sick,
etc,** should be made via the Parish
Administrator who will be in the office
from Tuesday to Friday.

Website: www.croxleygreenallsaints.org

Email: office@croxleygreenallsaints.org

Vicar:

Revd Miriam Muga (day off Mon.)
The Vicarage WD3 3HJ

Tel: 772109

Assistant Curate:

Revd Mary Kingsley
19 The Cloisters, Rickmansworth
WD3 1HL

Tel: 771172

Reader:

Mr David Williams (day off Wed)
2 Nunfield, Chipperfield WD4 9EW

Tel: 263007

Honorary Priest:

Revd Canon Charles Parry
45 Windmill Drive WD3 3FF

Tel: 771037

Churchwardens:

Mr Chris Oke
8 Sycamore Road WD3 3TD

Tel: 220782

Mrs Diane Galloway
54 Windmill Drive WD3 3FE

Tel: 770392

Verger: Sister Mary Bittles
19 Chalmers Court WD3 3AB

Tel: 771275

Sacristan: Mrs Jo Squire
Leafield, Little Green Lane WD3 3ST

Tel: 241537

Parochial Church Council:

Secretary: Mr Brian Clemow
3, Watford Road WD3 3DL

Tel: 07973 249407

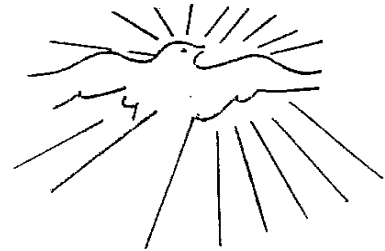
Treasurer: Mr Freddie Alnutt
76 Winton Drive WD3 3QT

Tel: 240483

June 2011



Revd. Miriam writes:



Dear Friends

By the time you read this letter I hope that most of you will have had a personal visit by one of our *Giving in Grace* visiting team members or at least have a date in the diary for someone to visit. If this is not the case please let me know. I hope that you have found these meetings interesting and helpful. I really appreciate the warm welcome you have given to those visiting and your willingness to share your thoughts and ideas about how our church might develop to enable it to continue to be a place where people can come and know God's presence. Thank you also for being prepared to review your financial support to our church, this is equally as important in ensuring that our church continues to meet our needs and those of people who may not attend church regularly but appreciate its presence at key points in their life.

The comments and ideas that you have shared will form a basis for our discussions at our Parish Day (please be assured the comments and ideas you have shared will not be attributed to individuals by name), which will take place on Saturday 2nd July starting at 9.30am. Please put this date in your diary, as it will be an important meeting where we identify priorities for inclusion in our Mission Action Plan. This is an opportunity for you to have your say and help shape the future of All Saints' Church. Please pray about this day that God will help us to understand His purpose for our church. Reflect on the words from Jeremiah, Chapter 28 verse 11, 'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.'

May we be open and receptive to the plans God has for our church and us as individuals and may He give us courage and confidence to make the changes to achieve this.

With my love and prayers

Miriam



Parish Register and Records

BAPTISMS

1st May 2011 Ella Louise ELKINS, daughter of Kevin and Donna

FUNERALS

21st April 2011 Harry PEPPER (aged 81) of Whitegates Close

3rd May 2011 Elsie Muriel SPARKS (aged 85) of Springfield Close

10th May 2011 Margaret Peggy HOLROYD (aged 90) of
Windmill Drive

June Readings

5th June Easter 7

OT	Ezekiel 36 v24-28
NT	Acts 1 v6-14
Gospel	John 17 v1-11

12th June Pentecost

NT	Acts 2 v1-21
NT	1 Corinthians 12 v3b-13
Gospel	John 20 v19-23

19th June Trinity Sunday

OT	Isaiah 40 v12-17 & 27-end
NT	2 Corinthians 13 v11-end
Gospel	Matthew 28 v16-20

26th June Dedication Festival

OT	1 Kings 8 v22-30
NT	Hebrews 12 v18-24
Gospel	Matthew 21 v12-16



Giving in Grace

Every time I write or say those three words I feel really uplifted, GRACE is such a fantastic word, those connotations of gentleness and firmness, humility but not obsequiousness, charm, but not smarminess, courtesy and carefulness. All those characteristics, which we see in Jesus, as described by the Gospel writers.

Our *Giving in Grace* initiative is now well under way, after many months of preparation the team can see its work bearing fruition. Many of us will have visits in the diary and are prayerfully considering our giving of time and talents and our financial giving. The Sunday for returning pledges (if you haven't already returned them) is Sunday 12th June, Pentecost Sunday. That is a very important date in the Church's Year, our birthday party, and on 26th June, All Saints' personal birthday, we will be announcing the financial results of the *Giving in Grace* programme. The *Giving in Grace* team will be evaluating the programme as the summer goes on, so any feedback would be really useful.

Mary Kingsley



Pray for Giving in Grace

We thank you Father for the work of Giving in Grace as we approach the Thanksgiving Service on 12th June, with its opportunity to offer to you the decisions we have made in response to your love. May you have blessed each of the visits that have been made, and our reflection on the teaching we have been given. May the completed Response Forms offer all that you need to use in our life at All Saints' Church. May your will be done.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Needs in the community for us to pray for in June:

*for the people engaged in commerce and trade in Croxley Green
for the well-being of all businesses in these challenging economic times*

for firms providing essential services

for the small businesses

Charles Parry

Increasing Popularity

Our children's workshops are getting popular. As the date for the last one approached (Saturday 9th April) the number of applications for children kept rising until it reached 83. "How are we going to cope?" was the question we asked ourselves. On the day 75 children actually arrived and, as far as I could tell, both they and the helpers all had a wonderful time. The children's exemplary behaviour was a great help to the running of the event. Having lots to do helped too: The Easter story was told by Revd. Miriam in an interactive way and the many related craft activities were integral to the success. At the end of the morning there was fun and games in the hall, including an Easter egg rolling contest using the real hard-boiled eggs decorated earlier – really exciting!

The remaining workshops for this year will be on the following Saturdays : 16th July, 24th September and 10th December. We look forward to these events when the children and our enthusiastic team of helpers can have further fun and learning together.



David Williams

Ecclesiastical Poaching?

It has come to our knowledge that our Rural Dean, Revd. Gavin Collins, will be leaving his Christchurch, Chorleywood parish to be an Archdeacon in the diocese of Portsmouth. We note that the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Revd. Christopher Foster, was until recently Bishop of Hertford! Revd. Collins will have the unusual title, 'Archdeacon of the Meon' – the Meon is the Meon valley and the areas of his archdeaconry will be Gosport, Fareham, Bishop's Waltham and Petersfield.

More seriously we thank Revd. Collins for his work as Rural Dean of Rickmansworth Deanery and wish him and his family every blessing in the new situation.

David Williams



Mothers' Union

Mr. Mike Coleman of the Rickmansworth Waterways Trust came along to our May meeting to talk about the Trust and give a brief history of canals. He began by explaining why the Trust had been formed. It was started twenty years ago to teach children about the heritage of waterways and the mills found along them. For younger children there are programmes teaching them about canals, and for older children teaching them boating skills such as helmsmanship and looking after boats generally. Many of these groups are disadvantaged or autistic children, giving them experience of being responsible for looking after a boat and being independent. The Trust also runs the Rickmansworth Canal Festival, which has been going successfully for nineteen years, and brings in much-needed revenue.

He then went on to give a short history of canals which have been around for about 250 years. The Industrial Revolution, speedily developing with the coming of steam, brought about much of the development of canals. Factories and mills were mostly built near coal mines and water, as coal could be most easily delivered by water. The Duke of Bridgewater saw the Canal du Midi while on a visit to France and he was inspired to build his own canal – the Bridgewater Canal. This was a very successful move which made him very wealthy and showed others the value of canals. Previously, goods were transported by horse, but one horse pulling a boat could move more goods and with less damage. For example, Josiah Wedgwood had been transporting his goods by horse, often resulting in costly breakages, but these could now be safely carried on boats. So much was the potential seen that there was a rush to build canals, and some control was needed.

By the late 1800s there were over 3,000 miles of canals, paid for with money invested by speculators. A toll was paid to pass through the locks and this was very profitable. Eventually, there was a network of canals linking up with all the main ports which led to increased exports.

While Victorian engineering was a marvel, they did not fully understand how locks worked as the system then was less efficient than the present one. Surprisingly, the first concept of locks was that of Leonardo da Vinci. The coming of the steam engine greatly affected the use of canals as a means of transportation, as the people who had owned boats, but were also wealthy enough to own houses, now had to sell their houses and go to live on their boats. Because they missed the colour of their gardens, this led to the colourful canal craft we see today. Mr Coleman brought along a model of a narrow boat which showed the cramped conditions in which those families lived.



Nowadays, canals are mainly used for leisure and by people who want to live on boats. They are mainly run by British Waterways, which in turn comes under the influence of DEFRA, which affects the money available to manage them. However, there are moves to make more of the natural attributes of the waterways such as bird life, which it is hoped will lead to charities becoming involved; this (hopefully) bringing more money and stimulating interest in nature. A very informative talk, and one which led to much reminiscing by members about their memories of our local canal.

Jean Spencer

Congratulations to Lorna Mellor, who has been a member of our branch for 60 years. This is half the lifetime of our branch – on 4th September we will be celebrating 120 years of the All Saints' branch of the Mothers' Union, at the 9.45am Parish Communion followed by lunch in the Church Hall. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Future meetings

Friday 3rd June: Flower arranging – Mrs Jean Scott

Saturday 11th June: Deanery coffee morning, 10am -12 noon in All Saints' garden (or hall if wet). Tickets now available. Anyone is welcome to come, as with all our meetings.

The Other Saint Alban

We all know about St Alban, the first British Christian Martyr, whose feast will be celebrated on 22nd June. But did you know there was another St Alban, also a martyr for his Christian faith, and who also had an association with the town of St Albans?

Alban Roe is a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. He was hanged in 1642 for being a Catholic priest, which then counted in law as treason. His story is to say the least unusual.

This Alban was born in Suffolk in 1583 and named Bartholomew. He was educated at Cambridge University and was an ardent Protestant. On a visit to St Albans he was told about a Catholic imprisoned in the town gaol (presumably the Abbey Gatehouse) and visited him to convince him of the error of his ways. Their conversations took an unexpected turn when Bartholomew found the arguments of the Catholic more convincing than his own, which led to his conversion to Catholicism. He went abroad to France to train for the priesthood.

He was described as having a cheerful and sociable disposition, but an explosive and unpredictable temperament. He was expelled from one congregation for insubordination but entered another and was ordained in 1615. He took the religious name of Alban.

Alban joined the Catholic missions in London and was twice quickly arrested and deported. Nothing if not tenacious, he was back again in 1625, was arrested and imprisoned, first back at St Albans and then in the Fleet Prison, London for the next sixteen years .



Security at The Fleet was somewhat minimal and he was allowed out during the day provided he was back in his cell at night. Alban pursued his missionary work but as he did not have a church he went into alehouses where he played cards with the customers. The stakes were not money, but short prayers. He also received visits from a number of people, many of whom he converted.

In the 1640s religious and political tensions rose and Alban was transferred to strict confinement in Newgate prison in 1641 and tried for treason in 1642. Alban relished the trial, in which he played to the gallery, while making no secret of his desire for martyrdom. The jury was said to have taken about a minute to find him guilty.

On the day of his execution Alban was dragged on a hurdle through London to Tyburn (now the site of Marble Arch). He mounted the scaffold and is said to have exclaimed: "Well, here's a jolly company!" He took over the proceedings by preaching to the crowd about the meaning of death then asked the supervising Sheriff if he could save his life by turning Protestant. When the Sheriff said he could, Alban remarked: "See then what the crime is for which I am to die and whether religion be not my only treason?" He told his former gaoler: "My friend, I find that thou art a prophet; thou hast told me often I should be hanged."

Alban was beatified by the Pope in 1921 and canonised as a saint in 1970.

In reflecting upon his story, we can be thankful that Christians in Britain no longer have such bitter divisions and can honour all those of whatever tradition who were prepared to suffer and make even the ultimate sacrifice for their Christian faith.

Chris Fagan

Gardens Don't Grow on Trees



As you all know, one of the first things God did was plant a garden. It isn't clear who exactly looked after it though. Something I couldn't help reflecting on at the recent church gardening day. I come from a place called High Green in South Yorkshire. The next village along is Chapeltown. It has an impressive church, St John's and when I was very young, an impressive vicar who had among much else played cricket for Cambridge. Walking in the village one day he stopped to have a word with retired miner, Billy Bramall, who was tending the garden of his cottage. "It is truly wonderful", said the vicar, "what you and the Lord have wrought here between you." (He talked a bit like that.) "Thank you vicar", said Billy, but adding, "Though, 'appen tha'll remember what it were like when 'e 'ad it to issen."

Do you see where I am going with this? No? Want a bit more help? There is a clue in the second line. All Saints' is also blessed with a beautiful garden. I'm not sure who planted it, but keeping it looking good needs what Churchill would have called, and called for, 'blood, sweat, toil and tears' (all four literally for me as it happens if tears rhymes with tares), or my mum, 'elbow grease'.

A small band of stalwarts answered the call to sweat and toil on 7th May and laboured mightily. Notice particularly though the word 'small'. We do need more gardeners. They need not have green fingers but must be ready to muck in and get 'down and dirty'. Do you think that's what God wants? If not, expect signs and portents at the next gardening day. Anyone prepared to risk it? It's 15th October by the way!



John Galloway

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June Diary

1 Wed	11am 2pm 8pm	Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court Cell Church in the Committee Room Cell Church at 4, Old Barn Lane	
2 Thur	9.30am 8pm	MU Corporate Communion Ascension Day Service	
3 Fri	2.15pm	MU – Flower Arranging – Mrs Jean Scott	
5 Sun	Easter 7 8am 9.40am 9.45am 11.30am 4pm 6pm	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Little Saints in the Committee Room Parish Communion Baptism Launch Service for Week of Guided Prayer at St Mary's, Rickmansworth Evensong (BCP)	
6 Mon	7.30pm 8pm	Cell Church at 45, Windmill Drive Cell Church at 107, New Road	
8 Wed	11am 2pm	Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court Cell Church in the Committee Room	
9 Thur	9.30am 8pm	Holy Communion PCC Meeting	
11 Sat	10am - 12 noon	MU Deanery Coffee Morning in All Saints' Church Garden (or in the hall if wet)	
12 Sun	Pentecost 8am 9.45am 12 noon 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Holy Communion followed by lunch Taizé Service	

15 Wed	11am 2pm 8pm	Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court Cell Church in the Committee Room Cell Church at 4, Old Barn Lane
16 Thur	9.30am	Holy Communion
18 Sat		Croxley Revels
	2pm	Wedding – David King and Emma Mason
19 Sun		Trinity Sunday
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.45am	Parish Communion
	11.30am	Family Service
	1.30pm	Baptism
	6pm	Evensong (BCP)
20 Mon	8pm	Cell Church at 107, New Road
22 Wed	11am 2pm	Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court Cell Church in the Committee Room
23 Thurs	9.30am Evening	Holy Communion London Walk (Half Crown Club)
25 Sat	1.30pm	Wedding – James Turnbull and Zoe Cannon
26 Sun		Dedication Festival
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.40am	Little Saints in Committee Room
	9.45am	Parish Communion
	12 noon	Parish Barbecue followed by Songs of Praise (No service at 6pm)
28 Tues	12 noon	‘Who’s For Lunch?’ at the Red House
29 Wed	11am 2pm	Cell Church at 19, Chalmers Court Cell Church in the Committee Room



Dates for your Diary in July:

2 Sat	9.30am	Parish Day
3 Sun	11.30am	Blessing of Animals Service
	6pm	Service of Prayer for Healing
10 Sun	12 noon	Communion followed by lunch
16 Sat	9.30am	Children's Workshop
17 Sun	11.30am	Family Service
	4pm	Choral Evensong & Prizegiving
24 Sun		Lunch in the hall for Sister Mary's 50th Anniversary of her Church Army Commissioning
26 Tues	10.30am	Seniors' Outing to Henley on Thames
30 Sat	morning	PCC training

Announcements

THANKS from George Porter for all the cards, visitors and good wishes he received on his 100th Birthday and to David Williams who came along to represent All Saints' at his celebration tea party on Sunday 3rd April at Burford House.

THANKS from Jean Walford and Angela Lee for visits and cards that they have received and they are both making good progress.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES Thanks to all those who helped raise £312 this year. Yet again, beating last year's amount.

Jane Colbourne

CROXLEY REVELS: Saturday 18th June. All Saints' will be having a stall at the Croxley Revels with a children's theme. We are looking for help with setting up the stall in the morning, manning the stall during the afternoon and dismantling the stall afterwards. If you are able to assist during the day please sign up on the list at the back of the church or contact Lyndon Palmer 01923 720856. We look forward to seeing you there.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH BARBEQUE



**Sunday 26th June
@12 noon**

**Adults - £7.50
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Children under 5 - FREE

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For details
please speak to
Benjamin Weitzmann
(779966) or
Diane Galloway (770392)

LONDON WALK on Thursday 23rd June. The Half Crown Club will be joining one of the organised London Walks, in the evening. Details from Diane Galloway 01923 770392.

CHALMERS COURT, Scots Hill: On 25th June from 10am to 4pm, there will be a Table-top Sale and Open Day with Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Tombola, Hook-a-Duck, Golf Game, Beat the Goalie, Raffle and lots more! Refreshments will be available. All welcome. They regret there will be no on-site parking.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Are you free one weekday each month, to deliver lunch to house-bound residents of Croxley Green? It takes about one and a half hours, from collecting the meals in Rickmansworth, delivering round Croxley, then returning the hot box and delivery book back to Rickmansworth. For further details, please ring me, *Jane Colbourne*, volunteer co-ordinator, on 01923 441808.

Seniors' Summer Outing to Henley-on-Thames

On **Tuesday 26th July** there will be a coach outing to Henley-on-Thames departing from All Saints' at 10.30am and returning around 5.30pm. Lunch will be at the Toby Carvery, Stafferton Lodge, Maidenhead. Afterwards we shall travel via picturesque Marlow to Henley where we shall have the afternoon free to explore the town and have tea.

There is a River and Rowing Museum which is well worth visiting and an opportunity to enjoy a short river trip.

The cost is £16.50 per person which will cover the coach, the meal and all tips. Please feel free to publicise this amongst your friends and neighbours.

TO BOOK contact the Parish Office Tel:772109 by Friday 3rd June.

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The Oboe and the Lost Sheep

One of Bach's most popular works is the pastoral music, 'Sheep may safely graze.' It is part of a secular cantata where the composer, using flutes, illustrates the tranquility and security of the flock under the watchful eye of the shepherd. When Bach wanted to portray the lost sheep and his dilemma, he chose another woodwind instrument: the oboe. It has one of the most distinctive sounds in the orchestra.

As Bach muses on the parable of the lost sheep in his church Cantata 21 ('I had a great affliction'), he turns to the oboe and first violin. In the opening Sinfonia, the arabesques of the oboe depict the lost sheep wandering the bare hillside, far from the comfort of the flock. Twice the music seems to come to a close on discords with the oboe uttering a cry of desolation. Wailing passages of falling seconds paint a picture of the sheep alone and bereft. It sings out again in the aria that follows the chorus. The soprano describes the downcast heart, and the oboe adds its notes of sadness and despair. That is caught up in the heart-rending tenor recitative, 'Why God have you turned from me in my need?' The mood begun by the wandering, desolate oboe dominates the first part of this cantata.

Then in the second part Bach portrays the Good Shepherd coming to find and redeem the lost sheep, and now the mood is one of triumph and joy with the chorus 'Worthy is the Lamb.'

Bach wrote this beautiful and moving cantata in Leipzig in 1723, inspired by St Luke's parable of the lost sheep. That sheep joins the lost coin and the lost son to show how Jesus searches out for those in the darkness and sadness of life to bring light and redemption. In his setting Bach has the oboe sound out the plight of the human soul, lost and wandering, but also the great joy when the lost is found. That for Bach was the Good News of the Gospel. As we listen to this cantata today, almost 300 years later, we can capture again that Good News and claim it for our own.

Parish Pump

God's Lavish and Abundant Grace

John Bunyan believed that Christians are saved by grace. It was what everyone said. The thought left him pretty miserable, though.

God is gracious, he knew, but how gracious, exactly? When he really thought about it, he felt profoundly depressed. And that made him wonder: *'My peace would be in and out, sometimes 20 times a day; comfort now, and trouble presently.'*

'But one day, suddenly this sentence fell upon my soul, 'Thy righteousness is in heaven'; and methought withall I saw, Jesus Christ at God's right hand; there, I saw my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever I was a-doing, God could not say of me 'He wants my righteousness', for that was just before Him.

'I also saw . . . that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better; nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse; for my righteousness was Jesus Christ Himself, the same yesterday, today and for ever. Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed, I was loosed from my affliction and irons, my temptations had fled away; so. . . went I home rejoicing, for the grace and love of God.'
John Bunyan

Saved by grace ALONE was what sent Bunyan home rejoicing. What a difference one word makes!

How could that one word make such a difference? Salvation is not about us being given something called grace but that we are like a cutting taken from one plant - 'life in Adam', the bible calls it - and grafted onto a totally different plant: Christ whose characteristics can become ours as we grow in Him.

And we are like seed in a fruit. Christ bore the death penalty of sin for us on the cross; in him we bore it too. Then when Christ was raised from his undeserved death and declared righteous by God: so we in him were given new life and declared righteous. As Christians

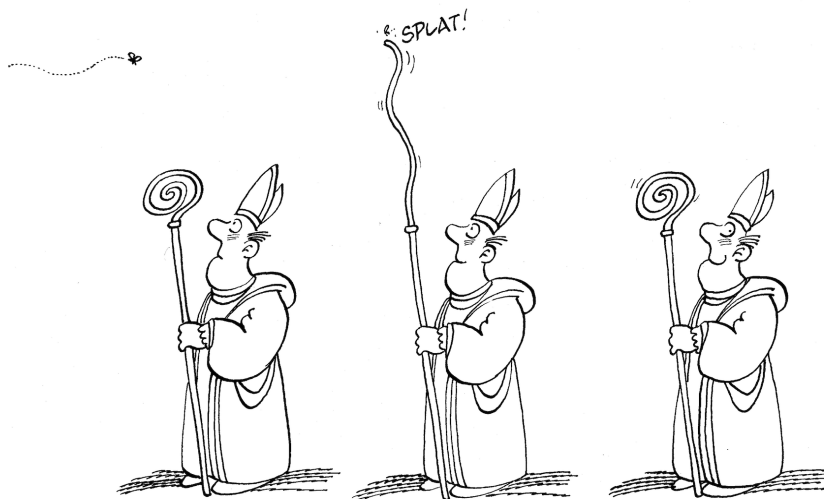
we are hidden in Christ, and all that is his, is ours. When God sees us, he sees us in Christ, his beloved and in Him we are blessed.

Bunyan ceased to fear that he was not right with God, when he heard: 'Thy righteousness is in heaven'. He saw that his hope and his confidence were not dependent on his feelings and actions - they were in the risen Christ. What joy! That message turned Bunyan into the most winning evangelist of his generation. Thousands became Christians through the happy message that God does not merely help by giving 'grace' but by totally accepting repentant sinners in Christ.

Security in Christ! What joy and confidence it gives! Grace is not about good feelings and doing to get God's blessing. That leads to living in servile obedience to God. Bunyan's discovery was that believers are united to Christ, knowing and loving him personally; knowing the Father as 'our' Father; being known and loved as God's children. It is not that we get 'grace': we get Christ which is far better!

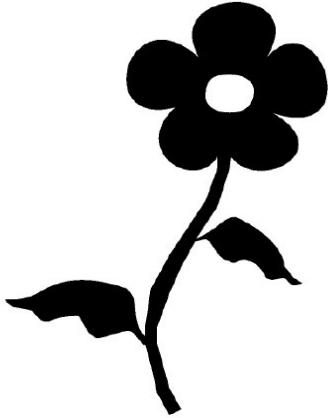
Jo Gardner

.....



Parish Pump

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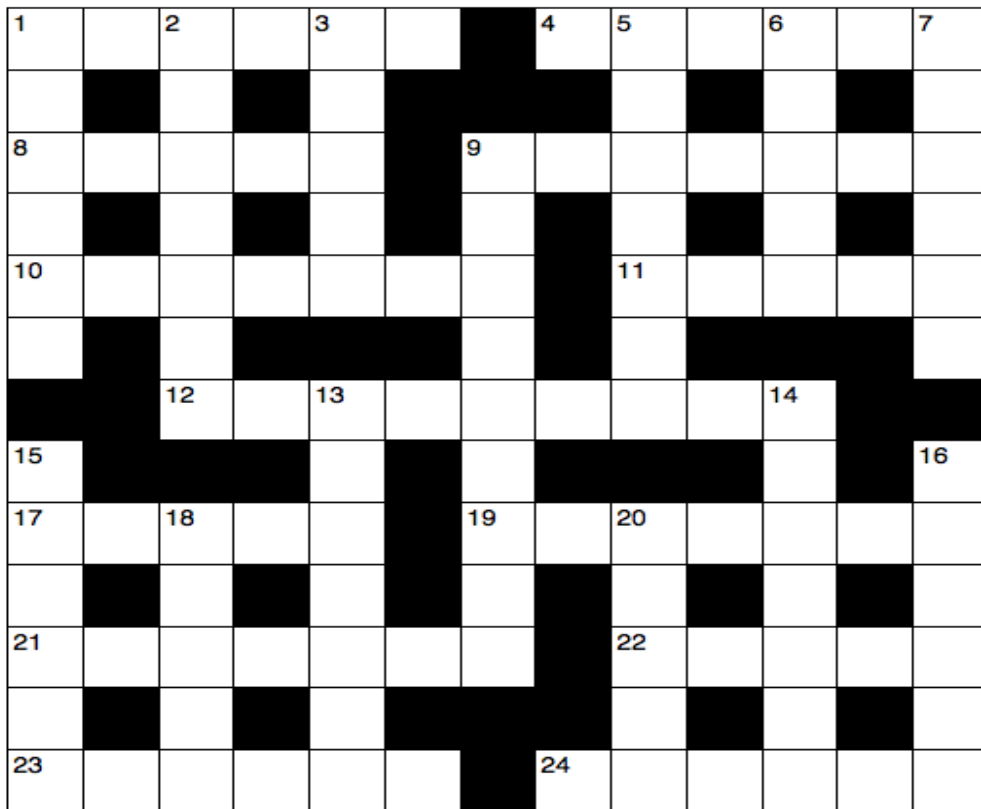
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Crossword



Clues across:

1. Surprise attack (6)
4. Place of learning (6)
8. Weary (5)
9. Periods with no food (7)
10. Fortress (7)
11. Where Saul went to consult a medium (1Sam.28.7)
12. Propitiation (9)
17. Turn away (5)
19. Prophets or mediums (7)
21. Wedded (7)
22. Long weapon (5)
23. Musical beat (6)
24. Aromatic herb (6)

Clues down:

1. Fasten (6)
2. Catholic priest's cap (7)
3. He ...with the enemy (5)
5. Contend (7)
6. Possessed (5)
7. Sheen (6)
9. Lie (9)
13. Large flightless bird (7)
14. Abilities (7)
15. Agricultural technician (6)
16. Dormant (6)
18. Ahead of time (5)
20. Passageway (5)

Answers on page 24

Parish Pump (amended)

Is a Computer Masculine or Feminine?

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance, is feminine: 'la casa.' 'Pencil,' however, is masculine: 'el lapiz.'

A student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?' Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending money on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ('el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.

The women won.

Parish Pump

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Contributions should reach one of the above by the 'copy date' as below. Copy in the form of emails or on a disc are very helpful but do not always work, so please provide a paper copy as well.

copy date:	12 June	for	July
	17 July		August
	14 August		September

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR: Mrs Joan Bovington (address above)

This month's cover is a David Williams design

Acknowledgement

Unless otherwise stated, pictures are taken from Parish Pump or else they are produced by members of the magazine team.

We encourage articles from a wide range of contributors and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors.

Answers to crossword on page 21: Across: 1. Ambush, 4. School, 8. Tired, 9. Famines, 10. Citadel, 11. Endor, 12. Atonement. 17. Avert, 19. Oracles, 21. Married, 22. Lance, 23. Rhythm, 24. Hyssop. **Down:** 1. Attach, 2. Biretta, 3. Sided, 5. Compete, 6. Owned, 7. Lustre, 9. Falsehood, 13. Ostrich, 14. Talents, 15. Farmer, 16. Asleep, 18. Early, 20. Alley.

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