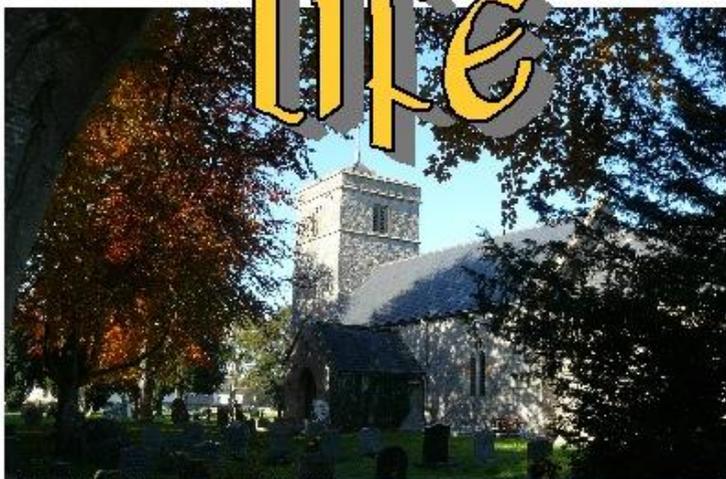


January 2022

Life



swcd-churches.org.uk



Magazine aims to reflect the life of the church and to encourage the growth of the Christian faith in all our readers.

LIFE MAGAZINE EDITOR

Roger Harmsworth rogerwilliam@talktalk.net 01458 445291

Articles for the February edition are due by **Sunday 16th January**

Editorial Notes

You may have noticed the inner cover has got a new look to it.(paper versions) This is now in the hands of our Rector Ana, so in future if anyone feels there is a change to be made on the back or front inner covers, please contact Ana. I am very grateful to her for taking this on.

All our benefice churches are featured on this month's front cover, with Street Parish in the autumn, a snow topped Mission church, St Andrews floodlit, and a look back to when Walton were celebrating a Royal event.

It has been a busy week or two in our churches, and the back cover shows some of the events. Starting from the top with the very popular 'Big Breakfast at Compton Dundon village hall, Alison Tolson our Ordinand about to snuff out the candles after her self organised 'Blue Christmas' service, offering 'a quiet and thoughtful atmosphere' which I enjoyed from my 'technician table'. Then there is Suzie Williams and some officials from the Sea Cadets at their carol service and presentation evening in the Parish church, Walton's Christmas Altar display, a number of our mission church members at the Crib service, and lastly some willing hands making up the 'Jesus Rocks' which were hidden around Walton and Compton Dundon.

Finally; the price for the Life magazine remains at 50p per copy or £5 for the year. I hope you have enjoyed them during 2021.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Covid free New Year from the editor and all the team.

Roger Harmsworth.

Rector's letter

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” 2 Corinthians chapter 9 verse 8.

Dear Friends,

‘This year I will...’, I wonder how many of you have begun this year (or previous years) with words or thoughts like this?

The break from ‘normality’ some of us have enjoyed over the Christmas period can give us time to stop and reflect, time to step back from the busyness and distractions of ‘the everyday’ and spend some time thinking about the bigger things and issues in our lives. As a result, we can come into the New Year with resolutions, really meaning to do things differently, whether we promise ourselves we will slow down, find a new job, read more, get fit, or even just go on that much delayed diet!

Yet, as all of us know, it is far harder to keep resolutions than to make them. Over the years I have lost count of the number of my New Year’s resolutions that haven’t made it even into February, but still, despite that, I am a great fan of what lies behind them.

Jesus so often encouraged people to think and act differently to the usual ways in which they thought about and did things. Through parables, teaching and miracles, the Gospels tell us the ordinary people, fishermen, farmers, tax collectors and soldiers Jesus spent his time with were encouraged to see a different way and consider taking a different path. And we still are!

Whilst New Year’s resolutions aren’t mentioned in the Bible, there are plenty of stories of people’s lives and futures transformed by an encounter with God. In amongst the resumption of our ordinary lives this month, let’s look for the new and different things that God may be calling us to in 2022. As the verse above reminds us, those He calls, He also equips. With my love and prayers, Ana.

New Year, New Sermon series!

Starting on 9th January, we begin a short series called 'Being Church'. I wonder, if people in the street were asked to describe what the church was, what might they say? Is it the beautiful buildings in which we worship? Is it the institution represented by Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy? Is it a place to get baptised, married and buried? Is it something else?

When the New Testament writers wrote about the church, they actually described it very differently. For them, church was active and all about people and their relationship with God. Being church was about being the people of God and doing the things of God.

Over eight weeks we will explore some of the things that characterised the church as described in the bible and reflect together what that has to say to us as the church family in Street, Walton and Compton Dundon. Ana Lawrence

Electoral Roll

Do you belong? One of the joys and frustrations of the Church of England is we don't really have a membership as such. The nearest we come to it is the electoral roll (ER) which can be joined by anyone in the parish and anyone who regularly worships at church.

As three parishes in the benefice, we have three electoral rolls which we try to keep up to date. If you are not sure if you are on the ER, please have a word either with a church warden or the church office to check and get a form to join if needed.

Ana Lawrence

Walton matters

When they (Magi) saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew. 2. Vs 10-12. N.I.V.

Thank you to Compton Dundon for a wonderful big breakfast and for allowing us to have a charity stall. We raised £130 from crafts made by Jacky, Jane, and myself and chutney from Mags. Well done everyone.

A few of us had a fun afternoon writing our Christmas cards together. Not sure how many cards were written but lots of talking and a bit of singing went on over mulled wine and mince pies. So much nicer to make a start together.

Our coffee morning on the 9th December had a lovely festive feel. The Church had been decorated and I thank the marvellous team of elves that rallied yet again. Ana played the violin and Hilda on the piano, leading us in carols and a thought for the day. Mince pies and good company, what more do we need.

We have had electric sockets put in the clock tower ready for the return of our clock so we hope it won't be much longer before it takes pride of place.

Our organ was tuned last month and the organ tuner left us a little note which I thought I would share with you.

'Organ tuned and attended. Blower oiled. Easter egg (now in bin) and tea light removed from inside organ case.'

Bearing in mind the organ wasn't played last year, I'm not surprised a few notes were a little flat but we have no idea how the Easter egg or the tea light managed to get inside.

Last but by no means least, Sunday 12th December we had a Christmas themed messy Church. Lots of crafts, angels, Christmas trees, stained glass windows, colouring and a beautiful large picture and lots of fun games. Refreshments and carols to sing. A lovely afternoon, thanks to Ana, David and the team.

Sandra Gristock



Compton Dundon News

Come And Meet Each Other!

Compton Dundon St Andrew's Church has been enjoying organising opportunities for the village (and beyond) to get together, share news and views and support one another. Particularly poignant now that rules are tightening and social occasions are beginning to have a different feel.

At the end of November our ever popular 'Big Breakfast' took place in the Village Hall, a most welcome return after missing out last year.

Many breakfasts were served and there was a range of stalls to browse selling Christmas goods. Many thanks to Sandra and those from Walton who manned a stall full of lovely gifts.

Our coffee mornings, on the first Wednesday of the month, are proving popular with many villagers and it is lovely to welcome regular visitors from Street too. On the very first day of December we enjoyed Ana's word, followed by singing several carols and tucking in to some festive fare.

One lady commented, "I look forward to this each month. I hope you are carrying on after Christmas?" That is our plan!

We hope in the New Year there will be other occasions for outreach with shared village and church events.

St Andrew's is floodlit (see front cover) from St Andrew's Day onwards (November 30th) throughout Advent and always brings to mind for me the second of Jesus's 'I am' statements: 'I am the Light of the World.' John 8:12.

In our Monday evening 'Explore' house group sessions we have been studying and discussing some of these 'I am' sayings, including 'I am the Bread of Life,' 'I am the Good Shepherd' and 'I am the Vine.' It has been wonderful to share thoughts, reflections, and prayers with others from different churches in the Benefice. We look forward to meeting again after Christmas with a new theme.

Pat King

Flowers in The Mission Church

It would be good if some people provide and arrange flowers in The Mission Church this year and going forward. Traditionally we do not have flowers in The Mission Church during Lent, so perhaps we could have a list of people to arrange flowers from Easter Sunday. Just one display every two weeks would be fine. If you are interested in helping with this please contact



Pam Harmsworth.

Flowers in the Parish Church (Street)

We have different display opportunities in the Parish church, both in the structure of the church and the availability of artificial flowers which can supplement real ones when needed.



As the Mission church, the Parish church is open daily and it would be good if occasional visitors could be visually welcomed with a display of colour within the walls of our beautiful Parish church. So please talk to me if you would like to offer help with displays or donations towards flowers. Roger Harmsworth.

Woman's Day of Prayer

It was a great pity that we were not able to do this service from Vanuata in 2021. We hope that this can take place in **2022 on Friday 4th March**. The Society of Friends (Quakers) are happy to host this and plans are in hand so put this date in your Diary and I'll be in touch with more details later in the New Year.
Carolyn Dulborough

CHARITABLE GIVING AT SWCD CHURCHES IN 2022

With a new year comes an opportunity for us as a benefice, to once again consider how we should allocate our charitable giving.

These are tough financial times for our churches, but we are not alone in facing such challenges and it is good for us to still be able to continue to offer support to organisations, both in the UK and around the world, who are on the frontline of supporting those most in need.

As we did for the first time last year, we are again inviting church family members, from all of our parishes, to nominate charities that they would like to see their parish supporting. These nominations will be received and reviewed by the Stewardship group (made up of members from across the benefice) and then presented to each PCC for the final decision.

A reminder of the criteria that the PCC's have all agreed that will inform them when making the selection of organisations for support.

- Aiming for transparency for our donations, by generally supporting only UK registered charities.
- Wherever possible, supporting Christian charities, or if one cannot be found, supporting those who are in sympathy with our Christian ethos.
- Supporting a range of both larger and smaller organisations, whilst trying to keep the total at around 12 a year so that we have time to give them some benefice wide publicity each month through 'Life', in our services and elsewhere.

- Whilst recognising that each church will have different charities and areas of work they are particularly interested in, we want to try to encourage benefice support for a spread of organisations. These will be local, national and international, covering a range of areas including local needs, international aid and development, evangelism, the persecuted church etc. Each PCC agreed that it would also be great to try and identify at least one cause that we could support jointly across the benefice.
- Encouraging all our churches to aim towards 'tithing' their charitable support, however it is raised, so giving away sums equivalent to at least 10% of their previous year's income from church members.
- Encouraging church family members to be fully part of the process, including recommending charities and getting involved in other ways with the organisations we support.
- Unless otherwise agreed, limiting our support to a single year commitment at any one time. Each PCC is, of course, entirely free to agree longer term support at the outset or ongoing support in subsequent years for particular causes if they wish to do so.

So, if you have a charitable cause that you are passionate about and which you think might 'fit', please let us know!

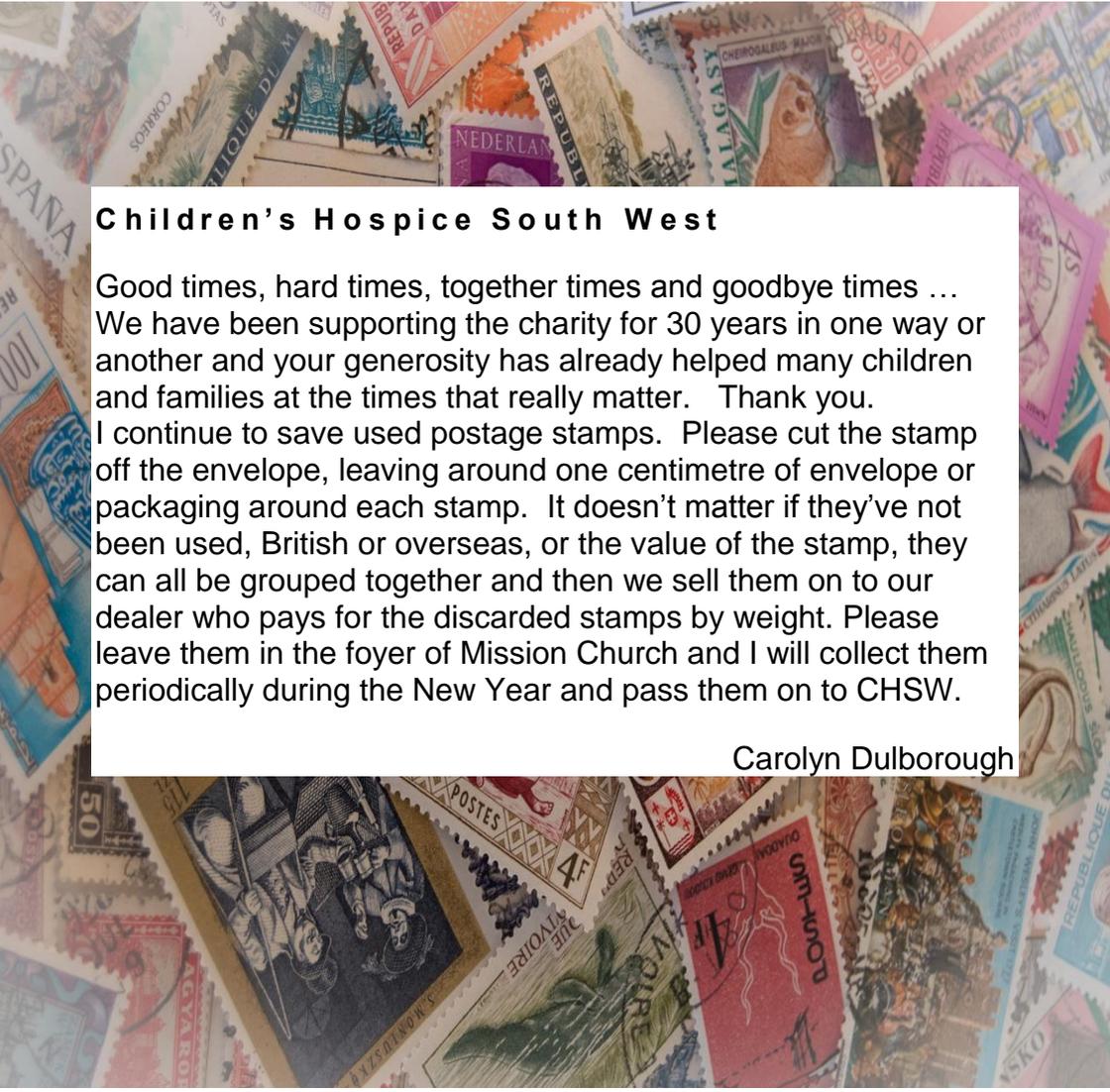
Giving your full name and the church where you normally worship, please let me have details of the charity you would like to be considered for a donation, including their website address and registered charity number if possible. Say a little bit about why you think they would be a great charity for your parish to choose and, if you are or have been personally involved with their work, do say something about that if you feel able.

Please don't leave this to others as we want to hear about all the possible charities we might donate to. Even if you think someone else might do it, even if you think that, as we've previously

supported them that will continue, even if you wonder whether anyone else would be interested, still let me have your recommendation, either by email (lawrencekv@aol.com) or via the Church office, by Monday 24 January 2022.

Thank you.

Kevin Lawrence (Mission Church) on behalf of the Stewardship Group



Children's Hospice South West

Good times, hard times, together times and goodbye times ... We have been supporting the charity for 30 years in one way or another and your generosity has already helped many children and families at the times that really matter. Thank you. I continue to save used postage stamps. Please cut the stamp off the envelope, leaving around one centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp. It doesn't matter if they've not been used, British or overseas, or the value of the stamp, they can all be grouped together and then we sell them on to our dealer who pays for the discarded stamps by weight. Please leave them in the foyer of Mission Church and I will collect them periodically during the New Year and pass them on to CHSW.

Carolyn Dulborough

Introducing OpenDoors @the mission

On Thursday 20th January, from 10am – 12.30pm we will be opening the doors at the Mission Church and you are all welcome!

Whether you want to come and chat, fancy a quiet, warm spot to read the paper or your emails (we have free Wi-Fi), are interested in tackling a board game or jigsaw, or just want to drink good coffee in a comfy chair, you would be equally welcome.

@OpenDoors, is, as its name suggests, is open to anyone, of whatever age, whether or not you think of yourself as part of the church family at the Mission Church or indeed any church. Come on your own or bring a friend, stay all morning or just pop in for a moment, whatever you fancy, you would be welcome.

I and others will be around to chat if you want to and please share news of @OpenDoors with friends and neighbours who may be interested
Ana Lawrence

We believe in marriage

It is exciting that a number of couples are preparing to get married in our churches in 2022. We have invited them to a special evening on Wednesday 26th January where we will talk more about what Christian marriage is all about and give the couples the opportunity to meet and ask questions of those from our churches who will be involved in their celebration.

Please pray for all those getting married and if you are aware of others who are considering tying the knot; please encourage them to talk to us about a church wedding.
Ana Lawrence

Fundraising and Stewardship

As you may have seen in recent editions of Life, the benefice stewardship team have been sharing some reflections on giving and church finances. In this month's article, we reflect on the differences between fundraising and stewardship.

Fundraising...is it fun?

Fundraising: "using one's time or talent to get other people to give money".

It is most often used to

- a) support a charity (e.g. raising money for Tearfund at the recent quiz night)
- b) raise money over a period of time for a certain project (e.g. a church roof repair)

Fundraising may be a lot of fun but can also be exhausting and time-consuming! The income also cannot be solely relied upon as there is no guarantee of how much will be raised at each event.

Stewardship...is it necessary?

Stewardship: "to give a share of one's own time or money to others".

It involves planning and budgeting, in order to set aside a regular amount so that essential outgoings can be met. For example, many of us have probably set up standing orders or set aside money regularly to pay for gas, electricity, water, or as a donation to charities.

In our Benefice...

At the beginning of each financial year our church Treasurers aim to work out what we need in order to meet our regular bills and commitments. In order to be able to pay these expenses, each

of our church members is encouraged to give a share of their own money. It is our church family, if you like, our household outgoings, and it is our responsibility. We then trust our PCC's to use the money wisely. This is Stewardship.

Watch this space for next month's update from the Benefice Stewardship Team.

Ana Lawrence, Yvonne Guerin (Walton), Steve King (Compton Dundon), David Yemm (Street), Jill Perryman (Street), Kevin Lawrence (Street).



Collection of £2 Coins

Thank you to all those who donated £2 coins during 2021. Together we collected 322 coins, making a total of £644. When the coffee morning money and a couple of other donations were added we paid in £780 to Holy Trinity Parish and Mission Churches funds, 10% of which is given to the Missions that we support. Roger and I will be collecting your £2 coins again during 2022. Please either let us have your £2 coins during the year or save them up and let us have them at the end of the year.

Pam Harmsworth



ECO-TIPS FOR THE HOME

I am part of the Eco-Church Group which is considering how we as churches can live more lightly on God's earth. I wondered whether an article on eco-tips for the home might be useful and thought provoking. I appreciate that many of you will know much of what I am about to say and practise it regularly, but at the risk of being repetitive, I am going to run through some eco-tips for the home. I am sure there are plenty more I could mention. We can always share tips, if you have any, please feel free to contact me.

A lot comes down to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; so it's great if we can cut down on using single use plastic. Supporting Fairtrade by switching to their products is also good. It was an interesting exercise to look through my kitchen and bathroom; I was a bit horrified to find so much plastic. These days, there are lots of alternatives to plastic, or ways of reducing their use so, with a change to our habits, we can become more eco-friendly.

Bathroom

It's good to stop buying shower gels and body washes in plastic containers, and switch to soaps in biodegradable packaging, some of which are Fairtrade too. Many companies sell shampoo bars and solid shower gels. Conventional toothpaste tubes are made from plastic and metal which are difficult to recycle. You can now buy toothpaste in pure aluminium tubes, which can be recycled, or in tubes made from sugar cane. Toothbrushes can be made in recyclable materials e.g. bamboo. You can buy lotions in bulk then put them into reusable dispensers. There are re-usable cotton buds available, that can be cleaned with soap and water. It's ideal to stop using any type of wipe, as they often contain plastic which clogs the sewers. There are some biodegradable ones available now, but if a flannel or muslin

square could be used instead, that would be better. Toilet rolls aren't all equal and some are sourcing wood pulp from areas of critical deforestation. Now available are recycled brands that will deliver in bulk so less packaging, or use the recycled brands in the supermarket. Even using the shower for one less minute saves about 10 litres of water.

Kitchen

Soggy old kitchen roll isn't welcome in recycling; if it's unbleached you could put some of it on your compost heap. The manufacturing of kitchen roll has a serious impact on deforestation and involves chemical processing; better to switch to an old-fashioned cloth or tea towel that can be laundered. Check out your fridge's rating; a modern A+++ fridge runs more efficiently, costing about £38 a year to run compared to a C rated one, which can cost £151. Only boil as much water in the kettle as you need; any excess could be stored in a flask next to the kettle for your next cup of tea or coffee. Some of the plastic that cannot be recycled through kerbside collections can be taken to certain supermarkets, or there is a container at Street Recycling Centre. If you are using plant based milks you could consider a raw milk maker that converts any grain, oat etc to milk, rather than using the Tetra packs. There are online sites or plastic free shops that allow you to bulk buy ingredients, washing up liquid etc which you can then store in your own containers. If you are not sure whether you can recycle something, you can check on recyclenow.com.

Written on behalf of the Eco-Church Group by Kay Savage (Street Churches) with acknowledgement to Lucy Siegle from the Times.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

You may recall, that during autumn 2021, churches from across the Glastonbury jurisdiction were invited to take part in a locally run but nationally developed course, 'Living in Love and faith'. This is part of a Church of England initiative to encourage church members to discuss and debate issues around human sexuality.

Suzie Williams, from the Mission Church, went along, and this is her feedback

I attended the course for two reasons. Firstly because I was acutely aware how out of touch I was with the course material and secondly because I wanted to know what the hierarchy of our church are thinking about the issues. The course was sensitively run by two clergy I personally trust and knew to be 'a safe pair of hands'. I knew a few of the group but not everybody. I felt the course met both those aims. It was a safe place to be introduced to people with different ideas about love and faith as I may never experience them personally. We read the bible together and wrestled together with the issues. I was in a group where everybody was respectful of another's opinion and felt very safe and held throughout the sessions. At times very emotional and at all times challenging but I am very glad that I did it.

The Deanery, responding to requests, are now proposing to run a further course and details of when it is and how to book can be found on the next page.

Ana Lawrence



Glastonbury Deanery Course

Session 1 Learning Together: Pastoral Principles & Identity

Session 2 Identity: How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender?

Session 3 Relationships: What kinds of relationships does God call us to?

Session 4 Human Sexuality: How do our bodies fit into all this?

Session 5 Life together: How do diversity and difference affect our life together as a church?



Session Details

Tuesday evenings 7-9pm in—person venue tbc (probably Glastonbury) 1/3, 8/3, 15/3, 22/3,
29/3

To book your place please email LLF.Glastonbury@gmail.com or phone 07421700242

Come and explore together in a safe, hospitable and confidential context

Further details from Jane Durham 07421700242 or

LLF.Glastonbury@gmail.com

M a n n a

Living in Love and Faith: join the conversation

Church communities across Somerset are being encouraged to take part in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward for the Church in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

There are a range of Living in Love and Faith (LLF) resources to help facilitate the conversations on a dedicated [Learning Hub](#). They include two versions of a 5-session course for local groups - one for youths and young adults and another for general use. They are designed to facilitate open, honest, and gracious learning and discussion among churchgoers across the country.

Churches have been asked to take part in the course by the end of April 2022 and to share their learnings, reflections and insights via the online hub or email. Individuals can also respond the same way. This is understood to be the most extensive undertaking of any church to hear and articulate as wide a range of voices, lived experiences and theological understandings as possible on these issues.

The course examines the six roadblocks - prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy, and power - that impair relationships, hinder our personal growth as Christians, and create barriers that stop our churches from growing into Christian communities of welcome and belonging. They draw together the Bible, theology, science, and history with powerful real-life stories.

Churches can go through the course themselves, or if they wish, utilise one of the 21 Bath and Wells facilitators. Find out more about LLF and how you can take part at

bathandwells.org.uk/living-in-love-faith.

The light of a star to guide us By Ruth Worsley, **Bishop of Taunton**

What will 2022 bring I wonder? Two years ago Covid was just a vague murmur coming from the East. How could we have known it would have such an impact or for so long?

How might this year be different? Well, there is much to look forward to. We expect to have a new diocesan bishop joining us. We will be celebrating 70 years of the Queen's reign. The World Cup is on... and we have a chance! And then there are all the other excitements of anniversaries, milestones and hopes and dreams we all have.

As we begin this new year my mind turns to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey which took maybe up to two years, and eventually found a King. Not the sort of king expected but One who opened up new horizons for the whole world. One who offers us love, forgiveness and a way back to God.

At this time when we are asking questions that search for deeper meaning, this seems a story which resonates. What sort of journey will you take this year? At a recent clergy pre-Advent retreat we were reminded that it is not so much us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes, or even if we slip from following in God's Way, He will never give up on us and will never let us walk alone.

This year, as last, we shall be seeking to dwell on some words from scripture and allow them to permeate into our being. The following verses from that passage, seem to offer us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4: 4-7

May you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year!

With love +Ruth

News

God calls everyone

In February, everyone is invited to join us for a week of exploring the many and varied ways in which God calls us during our lives.

The week will start on Sunday, 6 February with a launch service with Bishop Ruth and from Monday to Friday there will be on demand video content featuring people across the diocese talking about their experience of calling and sharing stories of calling from the Bible.

The week will close with online gatherings to reflect and celebrate all that the week has held.

Join us on our Eco journey

In the next few months, we will be following a number of the church communities in Bath and Wells, as they think about some of the environmental challenges they face in order to reach the Church of England target to be net zero by 2030.

One of those we have talked with is St Cuthbert's Church in Wells, who are considering changing their heating system to make it more sustainable, environmentally-friendly and cheaper to run. Keep up to date with our environmental news.

School's Jubilee trees

Each pupil at Old Cleeve Church of England First School has been given a tree sapling to plant along the Steam Coast Trail as part of the Queen's Green Canopy marking her Platinum Jubilee. The trees, donated by the Woodland Trust, are the latest in a long line of eco projects undertaken by the school and are encouraged and led by the school's caretaker, Keith Hunt.

Interview : A safe space to think, discuss, pray and reflect

Assistant Curate and Chaplain Ruth Motion shares her thoughts on the LLF course.

How did you find the course?

It was great, very challenging, but great. It really makes you think about yourself, your views and how you feel about others. It's really well written and the short videos are very thought provoking. Sometimes it was really heart-breaking to find out how some had been treated by churches in the past.

Was the course information clear?

It's very well set out and presented, even if you were leading it without a facilitator. We each had little booklets so we could follow the Bible passage for the week and see the questions which we were discussing. The videos and personal stories were so moving. They really make you think.

Any advice for someone considering the course?

If anyone is nervous about doing the course I would say 'don't be'. Yes it makes you think, yes you will be talking about all sorts of things that you would never normally discuss in a church context, but it's very well done. It gives you the opportunity, in a safe space, to ask questions that you may have had for years, but didn't want to ask. The media seems to have focused on only one aspect of the course, that of homosexuality, but it's so much more.

Do you think the Church will benefit from people doing the course?

Yes, hugely. Everyone has the chance to have their opinion heard and although any future decisions made within the Church of England may not please everyone, regardless of what they are, at least everyone has had the chance to think, discuss, pray and reflect.

Facing the New Year with Courage

'BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.' DEUTERONOMY 1:6 NIV

Without courage you're not living, you're hiding! Courage is what moves you forward; it's the muscle that makes your faith work. Faith by itself can be nothing more than a set of beliefs. Courage is what activates those beliefs.

Every Promised Land has giant sized problems, and you have to face them and defeat them before moving in and taking up residence. Notice three things in Deuteronomy Chapter 7, which God said to Israel about taking the Promised Land:

1. 'Your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God' (v.21). Your God is greater than any opposition you are facing.
2. 'Will drive out those nations before you'. God will go ahead of you. He will do for you what you cannot do for yourself, but you've got to show up for the fight.
3. 'Little by little.' Whether it's conquering your Promised Land or your character flaws, you can't do it all at once, so God works with you in one area after another. Life is not one big battle, then you march in the victory parade. No, it's a series of small daily victories required to defeat the enemies of your spiritual growth.

Twenty-three chapters later God is still telling Israel to be courageous (Deuteronomy 31:6). That's because courage is like oxygen, you can't survive without it. Courage is not the absence of fear, it's the conquest of it. Courage means doing it afraid; until you're no longer afraid. It means tremble your way to confidence! God promised to go with them, and go before them. Who does God walk with and work with? Who does He go ahead of and arrange things for? The courageous!

From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: ucb@ucb.co.uk

