

October and November  
2020



# GRIDIRON

The Magazine of the Parish Church of  
Saint Laurence Upminster  
£1



*Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints*

*All Saints' Day, 1<sup>st</sup> November*

## Service times

Said Mass	Sunday 09.30	Wednesday 11.00
Said Evensong	Sunday	18.30 via Zoom
Private Prayer	Sunday	14.00 – 16.00
Private Prayer	Thursday	10.00 – 12 noon

**IMPORTANT: Please pre-book your attendance at Mass in accordance with the following timings in order to be sure your request is received:**

Email Joanne at: [parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk) by 11am on Wednesday for the following Sunday, or by 12 noon on Monday for the following Wednesday.

Or if you do not have email, phone Deborah on 01708 760485 by 6pm on Wednesday for the following Sunday, or by 12 noon on Monday for the following Wednesday. Thank you.

**Evensong via Zoom** contact Revd Susannah for the login details at: [susannah.brasier@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:susannah.brasier@upminsterparish.co.uk) by 10 am on Saturday for that Sunday.

**There is no need to pre-book for Private Prayer** but you may be asked to wait a while before entering at busy times.

**NB:** Due to the pandemic services and events may change at short notice. Efforts will be made to communicate changes as far in advance as possible.

<b>Baptisms and</b>	These are administered during public services.
<b>Wedding Banns</b>	Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.
<b>Confessions</b>	By appointment with the clergy.

Please inform the Parish Office, Revd Susannah or Fr Roy of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit. See back pages for useful telephone numbers.

During the initial Covid-19 lockdown, and continuing now as some restrictions are lifted, many people have risen to the challenge of caring for others. *Gridiron* is looking for stories of how the pandemic has been for people in different situations. Perhaps you have been particularly close to the efforts to control the pandemic or its effects in nursing or supporting the bereaved; maybe you have volunteered to sew scrubs or deliver food parcels or medicines. You may have telephoned people in strict isolation or begun corresponding with those in nursing homes. You may be a recipient of one of these kindnesses. Whatever your role we would like to hear from you. Please send your thoughts to us at [gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk)



## From the Editors

Dear Readers, This edition is again brought to you without reports on many of our usual events, nor do we have photos of shared celebrations, and there is no information of forthcoming services as we are unable to plan for the longer term. Yet without all this, we have, like many others, continued to be *Church*: Jean and Sarah Keen organized a Cupcake Sale in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, Keith and Beryl Sharp were surprised with the delivery of afternoon tea to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary, Adventurers' have met on Zoom and produced posters for the external notice boards and The Children's Society ran a plant and gift sale. Some of you have volunteered your time to charities or to those most vulnerable by shopping or delivering medicines and some have taken on multiple tasks to enable our church building to open. All these things show that being a disciple of Christ is not just about going to Church on a Sunday. It is rather about how we live everyday, and how we try to do good things for others and for the world in which we all live, how we work towards the day when *God's kingdom will be on earth as it is in heaven*. Amen.

*Joanne Chapman, Editor.*

## From the Parish Registers

### BAPTISM

*We welcome into the family of the church and pray for:*

6<sup>th</sup> September    Oliver James Axtell



## December and January Magazine Deadline

**Items for inclusion in the December and January edition** of *Gridiron* should reach the editorial team by **6<sup>th</sup> November**. We would prefer to receive items by e-mail at [gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk). Paper copy is acceptable but should be submitted to us as early as possible. The **December and January Magazine** will be on sale from **29<sup>th</sup> November**.

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## From Fr Roy

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

There can be little doubt about it – this has been a very different year. In Church and indeed across much of the country, the things we had planned have had to be put to one side whilst we, with much of the world, have endured a prolonged period of enforced restrictions on our daily lives.

Many people have had to work from home. Some have enjoyed this experience so much they are now reluctant to return to the commute to the office. Family celebrations have been curtailed and public worship in our churches was halted.

Now, these restrictions have begun to be lifted. We can now meet in Church in limited numbers. We can visit friends and family in a controlled and careful manner and some social activities are now permitted. Slowly we are learning how we might live with this virus that has so affected all our lives. We are also learning that things can and do change very quickly. Indeed, as I write this early in September, I am aware that it may be out of date by the time you read it.

Bishop Peter has recently written to Church leaders about this period of restriction. He described this as a wilderness experience. He reminded us that this is God's world and that He is in control, not us. Bishop Peter went on to say that in the Bible, we read how it was often in the wilderness that God's people learned much about themselves and about our heavenly Father. Indeed, Jesus Christ himself spent a period of time in the wilderness.

For the past few months we have been in a sort of wilderness. Upminster may look the same as ever, but nothing is as it once was. St. Laurence Church still stands, the grounds are well-tended. Our use of the building, however, has been severely limited. Our lives have not been ours to control. At present, whilst we are able to offer our worship in Church, only a limited number of people can attend. These are very strange times and it is a very strange land in which we now live.

Psalm 137 contains the wonderful line I began with: 'how can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?'. The people of Israel were in a wilderness, in exile in Babylon. They lamented the loss of the Temple in Jerusalem. They

longed to return to sing their hymns, to raise their voices in praise to God. So do we.

Times may be different right now, but we must continue to be Church. We must find new ways to serve the people of Upminster, to walk with them through the difficult times, to rejoice with them in the happy times and support them in the everyday events of life. Our building may not be open as much as we would like, but the church has not gone away. In these difficult and strange days, we must continue to pray. Pray for those who live in this town. Pray for our businesses which provide employment for many of those who live here. Pray for our schools and childcare facilities. Pray for health care professionals, for care homes and for all who support this town in so many practical ways. Finally pray for each other as we all search for ways to tell the good news of Jesus Christ, to sing his song in this strange land.

*Kerry Shipley is a minister at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Collier Row and a leader of the current Course in Christian Studies. The following is the third in a collection of her ponderings and poems 'Thoughts along the way'.*

## Light of the World

Light of the world, you ask if you may come in  
And make your home in us.  
So we open the door,  
Just a crack, mind you.  
We let you put a foot across the threshold  
And an arm around the door.  
Thus far and no further, our fears say.  
This is my home, not yours;  
You are a visitor here.  
Sit there, be quiet,  
Don't put your feet on the furniture,  
Don't spoil the carpet with the blood from your wounds.  
But the door is open now;  
I can't shut it without pushing you out or letting you fully in.  
It's uncomfortable with the door open.





## **Planting a future** *The Children's Society Committee (St Laurence Branch)*

Many hours of television and column inches in the newspapers have been taken up with the wide-ranging impact of Covid-19 on the world's present and future. It has impacted us all in different ways, emotionally, physically and financially.

How then can we support those who are already disadvantaged? How can the Government give the financial support needed by so many people? The challenges being faced by young people and their families are ever present and, in many cases, growing worse.

It is with this in mind the Committee decided to hold a small, socially distanced fundraiser to try and aid the ongoing help given by The Children's Society and to keep that work in the minds of our community, ensuring a more positive future for our young people. So, plants were raised and gifts donated, marquees erected and bunting hung.



After a rather wet and windy afternoon, the good sum of £363.50 was raised (with more to come in from the Society's contactless card reader). Gill Roome has also been selling her handmade cards throughout lockdown and has donated the wonderful sum of £123. Every pound given helps a family in

crisis, aids the Society to campaign for change and champion the vulnerable in our community. Enormous thanks go to all those who helped before, during and after the event. We are grateful to the Shayle family who donated the fabulous gift items. We hope to have another sale before Christmas. Don't miss it!



Finances are strained and it is difficult for many people to donate as perhaps they did. However, invaluable support can be given by supporting the campaigning work. It is through this work that children on Free School Meals were able to access the Food Bank during school holidays; currently the Society is working to maintain free meals for migrant families and monitor local councils' spending of the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme. This is emergency money for families in crisis. In this way, they are looking out for all members of

our society. If you are able to help, please look at the website:  
[www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

In May, we were looking forward to holding the Annual Box Opening. Unfortunately, this was cancelled. We are waiting for guidance from the Society and will let you know how boxes can be collected as soon as we know more.

Christingle this year will be a different adventure! As yet, we do not know how this will look. Various options are being explored by both the Society and St Laurence. This is such a joyous event in our calendar and one we know has a positive outcome for all. Further details will follow.

Once again, thank you to all who support our Committee. We believe in the work The Children's Society undertakes with young people and the work tackling policy at Government level. They need our support, we need yours. Thank you.

## **The Children's Society Christmas Cards**

Due to Covid-19 and the possible difficulty in selling The Children's Society Christmas Cards after Sunday Mass, I have decided to place a confirmed order. If you wish to purchase cards please look at the website <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>. If you do not have access to this please contact Katie Bowman on 01708 640133 and I will be happy to give you a leaflet. Once I have received all card orders I will then send a group order to the Society. All orders need to be sent to me by 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Katie Bowman.



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[mlgourley@talktalk.net](mailto:mlgourley@talktalk.net)**

# The National School and the British School in Upminster

by Rob Brabner

The National School adhered to the Church of England and the British School was for the Non-Conformist faithful.

Before Upminster became a developed urban suburb with the coming of the railway at the turn of the twentieth century, there were basically two main religious groups – either Church or Chapel. The choice was between the Parish Church of St Laurence and the Non-Conformist Congregationalist Church who met in the Old Chapel opposite Upminster Windmill.

In the mid-nineteenth century it was the Christian religion that led the way for the education of children. The Elementary Education Act in 1870 was the first legislation for compulsory education for children aged between 5 and 13 years in England and Wales; this was long after the Christian denominations had taken responsibility for children's education.



**The National School:** In 1848 Mrs Branfill gave a piece of land in Hall Lane (later Station Road) in order for the school to be built. It adjoined Chestnuts Garage and stood where the former NatWest Bank was. The cost of the original school building was £530, plus £42 for the architect's fees, the money having been raised from voluntary

contributions - no doubt many from members of St Laurence. The school was opened on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1851 and could accommodate 100 children.

The description of the building from *The Story of Upminster* reads:

“The edifice, which comprises a school and a master's house, is in the Tudor style, built of red brick, with white dressings to the windows etc., the copings and ornamental parts being of Caen stone.

At the north-west angle, upon an open bell tower, a slated spire rises to the height of about 50 feet. The two principle gables are surrounded by dragons, and there are several monastic heads and figures distributed about the building.”

The school was enlarged in 1897, increasing accommodation to 126 pupils. It



later became known as the *Old Boys' School* - indeed I would have been one of the last of the 'Old Boys' - having attended while the Bell Primary School was using the last classroom left in the building. The building was demolished in the mid-1960s, the schoolmaster's house was left derelict, and I remember a few of us young scallywags used to break in to make mischief.



**The British School:** In 1849, on a site almost immediately opposite the National School, a Mr Edward Dawson of Aldcliff Hall, Lancaster, gave this land to the Upminster Building Committee for the purpose building the British School. This seems to be the site of the former Barclays Bank and adjoining shops. The site had previously been

part of the Mill lands. The school was opened on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1851, one month before The National School.

The building was of malmstone with cement dressings to the doors and windows, and was surmounted with a small turret on the front gable. There were no residential apartments, but the schoolroom was spacious and airy and considered large enough for 150 children. The building became neglected in the 1930s and Essex County Council declared the site surplus in 1936. It was sold at public auction for £6,400 in 1937 and demolished the following year.

*Credits: The Story of Upminster, Book 2, Historic Buildings (1). Images of England - Upminster and Hornchurch by Tony Benton, first published 2004.*

## A Prayer for your school

Loving Father, thank You for all who are part of our school. Please grant them Your encouragement, wisdom and peace. Strengthen teachers with heavy workloads. May they be firm, yet patient, expecting excellence but forgiving mistakes. May they support their students, playing to strengths, helping with struggles and motivating them to do their best. Comfort and restore those living under shadows of unhappiness, abuse, pain or fear. May many find faith discovering their identity in You and knowing Your amazing grace in their lives. Please pour out Your blessings upon our whole school community. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Prayer Sourced from <https://www.prayforschools.org>*

# Billy

by George Craig



Everybody in our village, just south of Aberdeen, liked our Billy. He and my father were cousins, but had grown up together like brothers. He was an integral part of my childhood. He was someone who knew all there was to know about the places to set creels - lobster and crab pots - where to put nets, and how to do that in mountainous seas, standing in a tiny

boat just visible from the cliffs. I also knew him as one of the funniest human beings I've ever met. Yet even as a very small child, I knew something else about Billy - he'd been rescued from Dunkirk.

He'd had a hard war. I'm pretty sure that he was wounded more than once, and he certainly saw dramatic and unpleasant action - serving for the whole war - and in many ways never entirely recovering from it. But the Dunkirk experience was clearly - for him and for everyone else - something special. Even today most people know something about the extraordinary story of how, between 26<sup>th</sup> May and the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1940, nearly 340,000 troops were miraculously saved from capture, by being lifted from the French coast by a motley flotilla of naval and private vessels.

What could have been remembered as a massive defeat - which it was - is actually remembered so differently. It's remembered for the heroism of the crews of the hundreds of small boats, people who put their lives on the line - indeed many of them gave their lives - to bring the army home.

It's surely the improbability of the thing that makes it so special. The heroes were just ordinary people, responding heroically to extraordinary circumstances. Billy never forgot that, and nor should we.

*Lord, we marvel at the example of those who were willing to risk their lives to save others at Dunkirk. In an often selfish age we are grateful for the reminder that it's in our service to others that we can make a real and lasting contribution to the world. Amen*

Article sourced from *Prayer for the Day*, volume II. First broadcast on the BBC on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Copyright by Watkins, an imprint of Watkins Media Ltd, 2016.

# Silence is Golden

by Clair Jaquiss

A friend of mine was training to be a priest in the Church of England. The course was about theology, church history, pastoral skills and spirituality. Wherever he would be placed after that course, he was learning to be holy and down-to-earth, spiritual and practical.

There was also a module that ran alongside the academic work, called the 'Personal Project'. It was one part of what they call 'formation' - moulding the person following the example of Christ. It had to be relevant to the life of the Christian minister and was assessed at the end like all the other modules. People took saxophone lessons and sang in choral societies; they learned sign language or made greeting cards.

My friend had a long discussion with his tutor about what he should do. He was in a pressured job. He still had his academic work. They concluded between them that, for three hours each fortnight, he should spend time in silence. Not praying or in spiritual reflection in any formal way - just time alone and silent: a void. Not easy when we feel we've got to fill all our gaps with words.

The mystic, St John of the Cross, wrote about the 'dark night of the soul'. This is often assumed to refer to the darkness of grief and sadness. God meets us there, too, but St John of the Cross's dark night of the soul was essentially a way of purification, where activity and speech are set aside - a darkness of nothingness where God is invited - where there is simply the silence of being.

*So we pray for the strength of mind to spend some time today in silence - without words or ideas, empty of images - to meet God without obstacles in the silence of faith. Amen.*

*From 'Prayer for the Day' Volume II (BBC Radio 4) published by Watkins Media Ltd 2016*



If you are helping others at this time, remember to still leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing - your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the innkeeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

# Churchyard Clippings or (Mulch ado about nothing)

*by Chris Mowat*

Having had a mild winter, we found that come late February/early March the grass in the churchyard was beginning to grow very quickly. Just as we had started to make an impression on it, Covid-19 struck and the lockdown guidance from the Church of England was that no volunteers could work in churchyards, albeit that “social distancing” was clearly not a problem as we were many metres away from the highway and members of the public.

We were stymied and for several weeks the grass grew again to a point where it was almost 2 foot high on the north-west side and generally the whole churchyard looked unkempt and almost derelict. Fortunately a quiet word with the Archdeacon allowed us to work again and since then, thanks to sterling efforts from the volunteers, we have achieved much.

Firstly, with no hall hirers, we were able to tidy up the car park and thanks must go to Nick Thomson who spent many hours working along the library wall to take out deep rooted shrubs and a small yew tree which was self- sown.

Clive Edwards then joined the team and with his sharpened billhook and chainsaw, he cleared all along the boundary between us and St Laurence House, opening up some gravestones which had been hidden for some years. His enthusiasm abounds.

Colin Jarvis and Rob Brabner have continuously kept the grass cut and shrubs trimmed.

In addition to the above, Keith Stewart, with his son James, have undertaken a clearance operation on many low hanging branches on the trees along the main path. This now means one can walk along the path without the risk of collision with a branch and this has also been appreciated by Mulleys who have found that their pall-bearers are no longer impeded. This ongoing work means that there is more natural light coming through.

All this work has created an enormous amount of debris to be disposed of. The initial thought was to have a number of controlled bonfires, but environmental concerns led us to think of alternatives. One was to hire a skip/s, but the cost of how many might be needed was not viable. Thanks to the generosity of past members of the congregation, we have a decent reserve of money for churchyard purposes. We have therefore invested in a shredder which is portable and a scaled down version of those one sees used by tree surgeons. It

has already paid for itself and an ever growing pile of mulch shows what can be achieved. Some of this mulch will be used to fill in holes around the churchyard but it is available to any member of the congregation for a small donation.

During the weeks we have been shredding, we have had the help of Nathan Boachie as a volunteer. Nathan is seeking to achieve his Duke of Edinburgh's Award and his volunteering hours in the churchyard have helped him in that aim. He is soon to go off to Imperial College London to read aerospace engineering and we wish him well in that regard. Thanks, Nathan, for all your help.

As I write this article there is still much to be achieved and the work goes on. However the churchyard is appreciated by many members of the public and it is thanks to everyone whose efforts continue to keep it neat and tidy.

Well done, chaps.



*These pictures were taken in late Spring when the team who keep the Churchyard tidy, safe and welcoming for visitors, had not been able to work.*





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# Struggling towards relinquishment

by Tony Collins

I confess, I am a petrol-head; I don't have the dosh to buy the cars that truly quicken the pulse, but buying and selling at the tragic end of the market as I do, I get a lot of pleasure from cars with toys – rear view cameras, wing mirrors which fold in when you lock your vehicle, decent air conditioning. Because the machines I buy are routinely six years old and the veterans of hard use from sales reps, these toys tend to break off in my hand, causing me unreasonable levels of irritation.

But the craving for the dream motor persists. I've had five in two years. "You change your vehicle more often than your underpants," observed my golf partner.

Thanks to their nifty algorithms, my Facebook feed is full of adverts tailored to my taste in cars. They know an addict when they see one.

Fourteen years ago, however, I married Penelope Wilcock, a lady deeply committed to another rhythm of life, for whom simplicity is not so much an aspiration as a world view. Pen has raised five daughters, served as a Methodist minister, conducted hundreds of marriages and thousands of funerals, and written more than twenty books, so she is no stranger to intense activity.

But she has set her face firmly, over the decades, towards the goal of minimalism, and – through the metamorphosis which occurs as you grow close to someone – I have been caught up in her wake.

Pen has succeeded in getting rid of most of her possessions. I built her a wardrobe, perhaps three feet wide, which contains virtually all she owns. Both of us have Kindles, which accommodates our love of books. Her goal is that when she dies it will take not more than a morning to sort out her estate.

She takes the same attitude to other matters. Her diary is uncluttered. She is generous with her modest income.

Now Pen has set out her ideas for living more with less in a new book, *Relinquishment*. Subtitled *Making space for what really matters*, it develops the premise that you cannot achieve simplicity in any sphere of life without relinquishment. Where your treasure is, there will be your heart, as Jesus observed.

*Article sourced from Parish Pump. Tony Collins has worked for most of his life as a publisher. He is now a literary agent.*

# Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

*by Christine Clifford*



The CWGC, originally the Imperial War Graves Commission, was set up during the First World War, with the remit of providing cemeteries and memorials to commemorate all those who had died in that war, and to keep records of these deaths and burials.

When fighting broke out and everyone thought it would be

over by Christmas (1914), casualties were buried where they fell. Sadly, the war dragged on, and land was fought over more than once. Graves were lost. The War Office did its best to keep track of burials, but was overwhelmed. At the same time, many families wanted their loved ones brought back to Britain for burial. The government decided that all who died overseas would be buried overseas, and from that came the need for an organisation to run this project.

Land was acquired for cemeteries and memorials, and became British territory wherever in the world it was located. The finest architects were employed to design these works, which included the headstones; these would all be the same size and shape, whatever the man's rank, as each had made the supreme sacrifice for King and country. Many bodies could not be identified so Rudyard Kipling, the poet who lost his only son, suggested the wording: *A Soldier of the Great War – Known unto God*. It is moving to wander along rows of such headstones.

Burials in WW1 took place close to the battlefields where men died, or next to field hospitals where men died of wounds, e.g. Etaples on the Channel coast. The less seriously injured were returned to Britain, and if they died of their wounds, they were buried in their home areas or in churchyards nearby; there was a hospital for New Zealanders at one of the big houses in Hornchurch, and those who didn't survive were buried in St Andrew's churchyard, their graves marked by the CWGC headstone. There are some of these in St Laurence churchyard, as there are in many towns and villages throughout the UK, and these are looked after regularly.

The system described above continued in World War II, and the CWGC still looks after all the cemeteries, memorials and headstones from both wars, wherever they are in the world. The aim is to provide a country churchyard setting, with grass and cottage garden plants and shrubs, where appropriate; in Rhodes, as in other such dry areas, the graves are flat and surrounded by pebbles. Some cemeteries are small, maybe 20 headstones, others are enormous – Tyne Cot near Ypres/Ieper with 1100 headstones and 30,000 names on a memorial wall being the largest. All have a Cross of Sacrifice, and larger ones also have an Altar of Remembrance. The standard of maintenance is very high, and many of the gardeners have worked for the CWGC for generations.

Bodies are still being discovered during building work, especially on the Western Front in France and Belgium. Efforts are made to identify these, and if successful relatives are invited to attend the formal burial in a CWGC cemetery. It means the name of a man on one of the Memorials to the Missing (e.g. Thiepval near Amiens, Menin Gate in Ypres/Ieper) can be removed. This information and much more, is available on the CWGC website – [www.cwgc.org.uk](http://www.cwgc.org.uk). I wrote to the CWGC in the 1980s to find out where a relative was buried. Now I would access the website for this information.



***At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.***

## **Kings Cuts Tree Services**

[www.kingscutstreeservices.co.uk](http://www.kingscutstreeservices.co.uk)

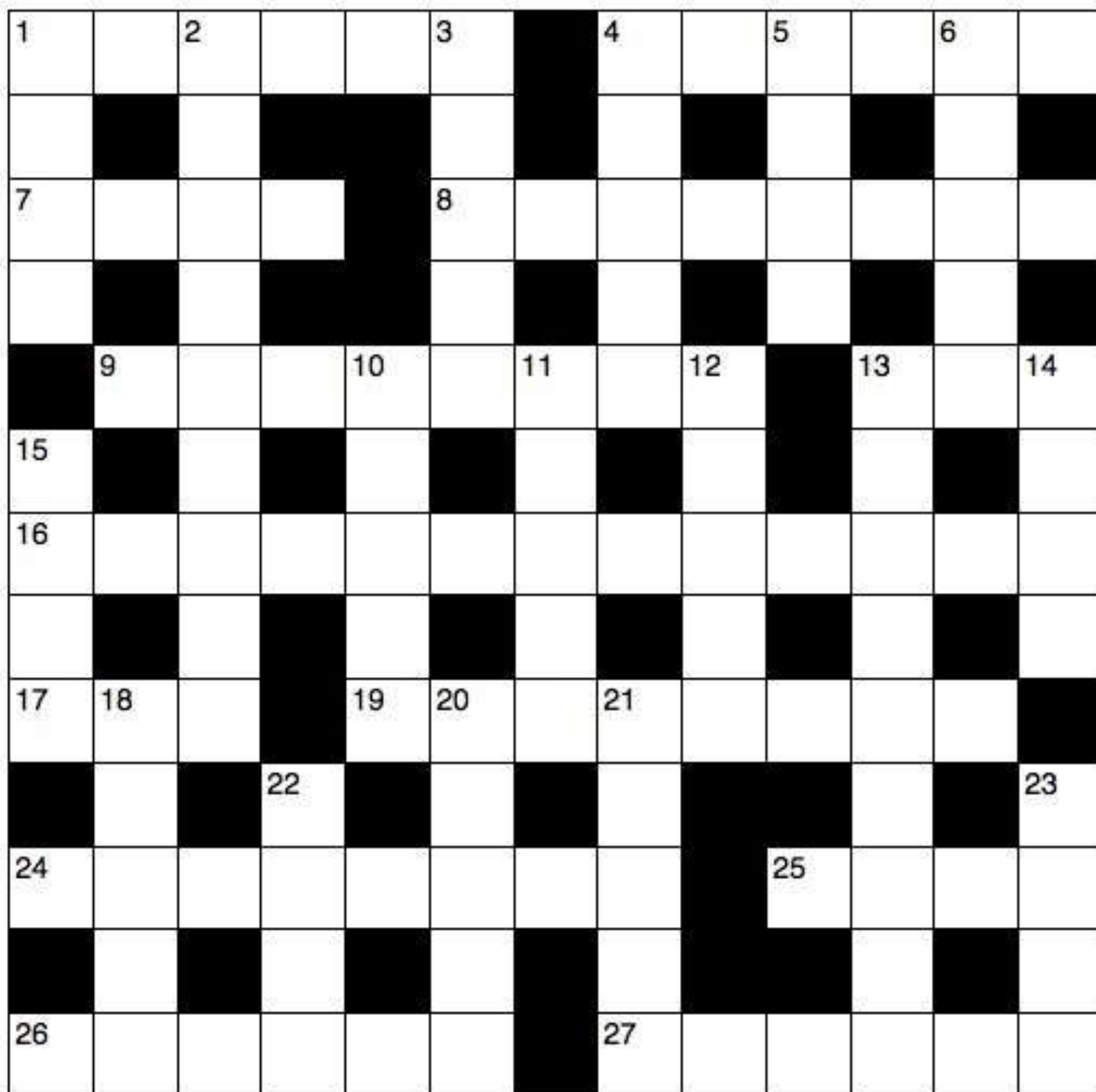
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### Across

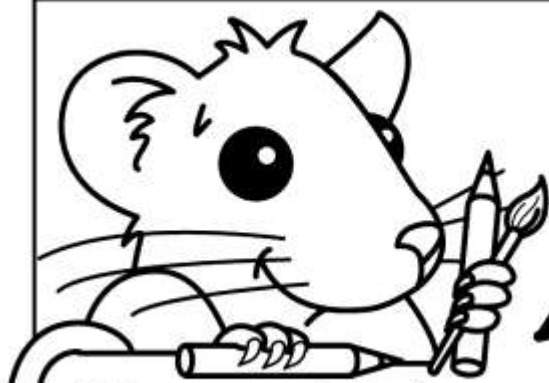
- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all \_\_\_\_\_ before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their \_\_\_\_\_ end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)

- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the \_\_\_\_\_' (Isaiah 61:1) (6,7)  
 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)  
 19 and 8 ' \_\_\_\_\_ a great company of the \_\_\_\_\_ host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)  
 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)  
 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)  
 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)  
 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a \_\_\_\_\_ !' (John 2:16) (6)

## Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)  
 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)  
 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)  
 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born \_\_\_\_\_' (John 3:3) (5)  
 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)  
 6 'He encouraged them \_\_\_\_\_ remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)  
 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)  
 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)  
 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)  
 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)  
 14 'This is my \_\_\_\_\_ , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)  
 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)  
 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)  
 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)  
 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)  
 22 Bats (anag.) (4)  
 23 'You strain out a \_\_\_\_\_ but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Answers to the August and September crossword: **ACROSS:** 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth. **DOWN:** 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.



## Mouse Makes

Jesus said:  
 "The kingdom of heaven  
 is like a \_\_\_\_\_ **seed**  
 that a man took and sowed in  
 his **field**. It is the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of all the seeds, but when it  
 has grown it becomes a tree,  
 so that the wild \_\_\_\_\_ come  
 and nest in its branches."

Read  
 Matthew  
 13:31-32

"GOD is the **one**  
 who gives seed to those  
 who **plant**, and He gives  
**bread** for **food**. And GOD  
 will give you spiritual seed  
 and make that seed grow.  
 He will **produce** a great  
**harvest** from your goodness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:  
 "You do not need more **faith**. There  
 is no 'more' or 'less'  
 in faith. If you have  
 a bare kernel of faith,  
 say the size of a poppy  
 seed, you could  
 say to this  
 sycamore  
 tree  
 "Go  
 jump  
 into  
 the  
 lake"  
 and it  
 would do it."  
 Luke 17:6

So the one who  
 plants is not important,  
 and the one who **waters** is not  
 important. Only **GOD** is  
 important because He is the  
 one who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3:7

Look out for seeds  
 in the  
 park  
 and  
 garden  
 and in your kitchen  
 store cupboard.



How many  
 different seeds  
 can you  
 find?



H A R V E S T W O E S  
 F I A F T P L A N T B  
 O F A I T H A T E E R  
 O O J E S U S E E D E  
 D E U L O U G R O W A  
 P R O D U C E S G O D

Find the  
 words  
 in **bold**  
 on this  
 page  
 in the  
 word  
 search





## Charity Appeal

The RSPCA has been overwhelmed this year by calls for help from people who are ill with Covid-19.



The animal welfare charity was swamped with 442,344 calls, and responded to 106,676 incidents of animals in need just between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> August. That averaged out at 790 incidents a day.

Such a volume of need was especially a challenge to meet, as the charity was working with fewer officers, due to 'furlough, shielding and ill health', a spokesman explained.

He went on: "As well as operating an emergency service, rescuing animals in need, RSPCA officers have also been collecting animals from the homes of people who have been admitted to hospital with Covid-19, who may not have anyone else to care for them while their owners are being treated."

The charity has now launched an emergency fund-raising appeal at: <https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/donate/coronavirus>



St Laurence Church  
Building Improvements

## St Laurence Church Building Improvements Project

Just a reminder that work is continuing with this project, and that your support and prayers are needed for its successful completion. The aim is to make the church more accessible to the congregation and to the wider community, and especially so by installing a toilet. For further information, see the church website.

So far, we have raised £200,000 of the £750,000 needed. To achieve the balance, we will be fundraising, and applying for grants from various organisations, as well as, of course, accepting donations of any size from members of our church and of the local community of which St Laurence is such an important part.

To donate, there are special envelopes in the church (cheques should be made payable to St Laurence Church Restoration Appeal) or online at: [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stlaurencerestorationproject?utm\\_term=3ZD485BP7](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stlaurencerestorationproject?utm_term=3ZD485BP7)

## And Finally...

Other pews had notices saying...

- Reserved for Elijah only.
- Jesus said Take up my cross,  
not this pew.
- Jesus sat the 5000 down in rows -  
But not this one.
- "You will find me  
when you seek me"  
Just not in this pew. Keep seeking.
- Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree  
to get a better seat.  
This pew was not it.



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<b>Director of Music</b>	Position vacant	
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