

December 2020
January 2021



GRIDIRON

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



Service times

Said Mass	Sunday 09.30	Wednesday 11.00
Said Evensong	Sunday	18.30 via Zoom
Private Prayer	Sunday	15.00 – 16.30
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 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 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: Owing to the pandemic, services and events may change at short notice. Efforts will be made to communicate changes as far in advance as possible.

Baptisms and Wedding Banns Confessions

These are administered during public services.

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

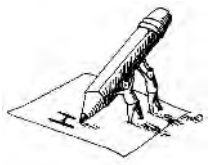
By appointment with the clergy.

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.

Follow the Star Christmas Lights Sponsorship.

A trail of lights and illuminated stars will be put up in the yew trees along the church path and lit every night during Advent and Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a light please email parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk or telephone Susannah on 01708 220174.





From the Editors

Dear Readers

Well, I had my editor's blurb all written and then Lockdown 2 was announced! Susannah and the team had to cancel Wednesday and Sunday Mass for 4 weeks and try to think of other ways to celebrate the various important church events during that time. By the time this *Gridiron* is published we hope that things will be clearer.

The choir sang during Sunday Mass on 1st November and it was an emotional time for those in church to hear after such a long time. It's such a shame that the lockdown announcement has put paid to them singing again for a while. However, the choir have done some recordings which will be available on various media.

During these very uncertain times it is good to know that the church is still open for private prayer on Thursday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

Arlette Wiggins, Editor

From the Parish Registers

MARRIAGE

We offer our congratulations to and pray for:

26th September Callum & Rebecca Mitcham

February and March Magazine Deadline

Items for inclusion in the February and March edition of *Gridiron* should reach the editorial team by **Friday 8th January 2021**. We would prefer to receive items by e-mail at gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk. Paper copy is acceptable but should be submitted to us as early as possible. The **February and March** Magazine will be on sale from **31st January 2021**.

Christmas Foliage for the church

Cheryl Hale

Depending on developments in the restrictions during this COVID-19 pandemic we are hoping that we will be able to decorate the Church in preparation for Christmas on Monday 21st December. It would be really helpful if we could have donations of foliage to give the church the extra lift and make it look more beautiful. Any donations can be left in the tower area after the service on Sunday 20th December or on the morning of Monday 21st.



From the Rector

I am writing this on 31st October, as we await the news of a possible month-long lockdown, and what that will look like. By the time you read this, things will of course have moved on some way. Hopefully the infection rate will be slowing – but at present it is very hard to know how and when the pandemic will end. This year has been a rollercoaster of uncertainty for everyone – whether worries have centred around health, isolation, employment and finances, disruption

to education or other concerns.

In this edition of 'Gridiron' you will find details of Christmas services – but please check details of those with me or on the website/Facebook nearer the time, as obviously they will be subject to whatever restrictions are in place. It will be very difficult, of course, if we cannot celebrate Christmas in many of the usual ways. Yet, whatever the situation, Christmas will not be 'cancelled'. Jesus has still been born. The Word has still become flesh and dwelt among us. God has still come among us, to show us that we are not destined to perish, but are called to eternal life.

This might be a good year for reflecting on all the uncertainty and upheaval that lies behind those texts that we hear at Christmas each year. In the story of Adam and Eve, we hear the pain of humans who are separated from God and from what life could be. The prophets spoke of a Messiah amidst the pain of exile, of conflict, of social injustice and political unrest. The angel Gabriel brought news of a pregnancy to a young, unmarried woman in a society where she would face stigma and gossip. That woman ended up placing her baby in a manger in a town that was not her own, because the Romans decided to call a census. The baby was visited by shepherds and Magi, all shaken out of their normal circumstances by stars and angels. The baby and his family were driven into exile by the wrath of a jealous king.

In all this, and despite all this, God comes into the world. It is important that he comes into situations of uncertainty and chaos, to people who are partly at the mercy of forces that are beyond them. It shows that his salvation is for all people and all circumstances – but perhaps especially for those whose lives are not going quite as they would have hoped.

There is a verse of 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear' which is not always sung, but which seems particularly important for the situation of many this year:

'And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!'

There is much that is uncertain and much that may feel overwhelming. Christmas does not promise that all of that will instantly improve and feel better, but it does promise that God is present, that God loves us, and that ultimately, nothing can separate us from that love.

With my prayers and good wishes for you all

Susannah

Are we there yet? St Laurence Church Building Improvements Project

This age-old question asked by children on a long journey could well be posed about our Church Building Improvements Project. It has been going on for a long time, but that is offset by some of the things which have happened along the way, the latest of which is COVID-19.

We have made progress with our aim to make the church more accessible to the congregation and the wider community, particularly by looking at installing a toilet, and work is continuing despite lockdowns and restrictions. However COVID-19 has caused a huge upheaval to every aspect of all our lives, and it may well impact on our plans. Whatever the situation, please continue with your support and prayers.

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

Advent and Christmas Worship at St Laurence

Public worship on Sundays and Wednesdays will resume as soon as possible after the November/December lockdown. Please contact the clergy or the Parish Office for updates.

The church will be open for private prayer on Thursdays 10am-12 noon and Sundays 3-4.30pm. Morning Prayer and Coffee is held on Zoom at 10.45 on Saturdays.

Please note that advance booking is required for all in-person services and events. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please book from the beginning of December. To book, please email parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk or phone 01708 220174.

We will endeavour to follow the schedule below as far as possible, though may need to make changes if COVID-19 restrictions require.

Links for Zoom services will be published in the weekly congregational email. If you do not currently receive these emails and would like to do so, please contact Susannah.

Videos for Advent and Christmas will be made available on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel. If it is possible to livestream services, these will also be publicised via these means.

Sunday 29th November

7.00pm Advent Prayers on Zoom

A service of readings and prayers for Advent

Sunday 6th December

6.30pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Sunday 13th December

Time tbc National online Christingle service (partially filmed in St Laurence) – please see the article elsewhere in the magazine about Christingle

6.30pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Friday 18th December

6.30pm J.S. Bach Organ Works XIII – a recital by Richard Brasier
Available on YouTube (Channel: Richard Brasier Organist)

Sunday 20th December

7.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Prayers – on Zoom

A traditional service telling the story of Christmas

Wednesday 23rd December – No Mass today

Christmas Eve

2.30- Church open for visitors – all invited to come and light a candle in front of the crib. Please

5.00pm book for a half hour slot – you are welcome to turn up at any point during that time.

Christmas carols will be playing.

You might like to bring a gift (unwrapped please – no food) as a present for needy children, to leave under the Christmas tree

11.30pm Midnight Mass (First Mass of Christmas Day)

Christmas Day

9.30am Parish Mass – *Children are invited to bring a present to show*

Saturday 26th December – No Morning Prayer today

A Message from Callum & Rebecca Mitcham

We had a great day which included a lovely ceremony at St Laurence, especially given the circumstances. The church was integral to getting the day to even happen and we can only thank the willingness and pro-activity of all involved at St Laurence. We managed to work through the protocols in place but the biggest thing was getting the licence done so quickly, which I know may not have happened without Susannah's intervention.



Father Roy's service was well-delivered and humorous at times, especially given what was happening in the world and attendees having to wear face masks! It really helped break the ice at points, especially as we were both very nervous! The church really did go above and beyond to help our day live long in ours and, I'm sure, others' memories.

We have settled into married life now, although we are still trying to find room for all the presents!

Archibald Campbell Tait – the first Scottish Archbishop of Canterbury (1811-1882)

English anticlericalism goes back long before Wolsey (one has only to read the ballads of Robin Hood), but Wolsey's grandiloquence certainly seems to have provoked a feeling among the laity of 'Never again!' Lay depredations on church property in the sixteenth century were not *just* due to the greed of courtiers – one senses a real glee in cutting the clergy down to size after the way they had overplayed their hand in the late Middle Ages. The feeling remained primarily moral, social and ceremonial and not, as in France, primarily intellectual or political (though MPs have retained a suspicion of clergymen – whether it be the Whig MPs of the 1830s detesting reactionary clergymen or reactionary MPs of the 1930s detesting William Temple).

But certain clergy, in every generation, have managed to diminish, not increase, anticlericalism. One of the greatest was Archibald Campbell Tait, the first Scottish Archbishop of Canterbury, serving from 1869 until his death in 1882.

His experience of ill-health had begun early in life. Born with club feet which are bent double, he underwent a painful procedure to straighten them out when he was eight. Two of his eight elder siblings had died young, and as a child Tait had a bout of scarlet fever. He recovered, but one of his brothers did not.

Tait had succeeded the renowned Thomas Arnold as headmaster of Rugby School in 1842 and during his time at Rugby he survived rheumatic fever in 1848, prior to becoming Dean of Carlisle in 1850. Tait had married Catharine Spooner, daughter of the Archdeacon of Coventry, in 1843. Tragedy struck again in 1856, during a period of around five weeks, five of their seven children died of scarlet fever, all girls between two and ten years old. A son and daughter survived. Two daughters were born later. Tait became Bishop of London later in 1856 and immediately set out to work on his two great aims: to make the Church of England the church of the poor and the nation as a whole. He was a man whose sympathies had been enlarged, not narrowed, by suffering.

Tait caused a good deal of scandal amongst conventional friends by his insistence on evangelistic work, going so far as to preach in the open air to gypsies. These friends often said of him: 'Behaving like a Methodist!' Sadly tragedies continued. He suffered a series of strokes in 1869, bringing him close to death. Craufurd, his only son, having followed his father into the Church,

became seriously ill in 1877 and died in May 1878 and within six months his wife Catharine died. Tait himself died on 3rd December 1882.

His life was written by his chaplain and son-in-law Randall Davidson, himself a great favourite of Queen Victoria. He was also to become Archbishop of Canterbury, indeed the longest serving Archbishop, and the first to retire and not die in office.

From Tait's prayer on being appointed Bishop of London:

O Lord! grant that Thy Church may take no injury through my fault. Give me vigilance over myself first, next over others. Enable me to arrange my days and all my time so as to have ample time for prayer and study of Thy Word. Give me wisdom – give me holiness – give me strength of mind and body – give me kind consideration for the feelings of those around me – give me boldness – give me decision.

Most of the above is extracted from 'A Book of English Belief – Bede to Temple' compiled by Joanna M Hughes and published by SCM Press, London 1989. Additional information gathered from the internet by Rob Brabner.

We Won't Have A Christmas This Year *by Verna S Teeuwissen*

We won't have a Christmas this year, you say
For now the children have all gone away;
And the house is so lonely, so quiet and so bare
We couldn't have a Christmas that they didn't share.

We won't have a Christmas this year, you sigh,
For Christmas means things that money must buy.
Misfortunes and illness have robbed us we fear
Of the things that we'd need to make Christmas this year.

We won't have a Christmas this year you weep,
For a loved one is gone, and our grief is too deep;
It will be a long time before our hearts heal,
And the spirit of Christmas again we can feel.

But if you lose Christmas when troubles befall,
You never have really had Christmas at all.
For once you have had it, it cannot depart
When you learn that true Christmas is Christ in your heart.

Light in the Darkness The Children's Society Cttee (St Laurence Branch)

The year 2020 has presented us with difficulties and challenges previously unknown to us. Deep worry and loneliness have affected a great number in our society. Those closest to us can seem hard to support because we are unable to make that physical contact we all need so much.



When this situation was new to us, we were able to look for the positives; to appreciate the warmth of our community. However, as time has gone on we appear to have become a little more insular and have, perhaps, lost a little of our warmth.

It is for this reason The Children's Society Committee wanted to forge ahead with Christingle. It is always such a beautiful and uplifting service. How could we spread that Christingle light when we are unable to meet in person? We all need some light in our current darkness.

We hope what we have come up with will be an easy and fun idea for everyone to enjoy.

A short video will be released by St Laurence in preparation for Christingle 2020. The video will illustrate the work of the Society and provide an opportunity for worship, to pray and give thanks for all those connected in any way to the charity. It will also provide a link to The Children's Society's national online service on 13th December. Part of the national service has been filmed in St Laurence. The filming took place recently with Joanna Forest, the best-selling classical soprano. It was a real honour for our Parish Church to be involved in this way.

Prior to this, we will be preparing and delivering Christingle kits to all those who would like to make and display a Christingle in their window, ready for lighting on 13th December. If you would like a kit, please email: clive-edwards@btconnect.com. Photos of your lit Christingle can be sent to the Parish Office so that we can create a video montage for display on our church website and social media.

The Children's Society shop and the committee are working together to create a shop Christingle window display; kits will be available for people to buy from the shop.

Like many charities, The Children's Society has struggled to fund the many projects that are needed now more than ever. Instead of providing collecting candles, a link for donations will be provided in the video and with the Christingle kits.

We hope that you will embrace this idea and that, despite the disappointment of being unable to be together in church, we can feel united by our show of Christingles lighting up our houses for our neighbours to enjoy and bringing back a small sense of community.



The Children's Society

Christingle

**Join us to share the light
at our Christingle**

Join our Community 'At Home' Christingle celebration and bring hope to more children's lives.

Christingle kits from The Children Society Shop
or 01708 640335

Video link: www.upminsterparish.co.uk

Light your Christingle and place in your window on:

13th December 2020

christingle.org

© The Children's Society 2020 Charity Registration No. 221124 XTC157ej0820 XTC008d_20

This is from a 1933 blotter book kept in the Tythe Barn,
Upminster

ST. LAURENCE, UPMINSTER

Rector ;

Rev. HYL A H. HOLDEN, B.A.

The Rectory, Upminster

Assistant Priest : Rev. F. C. BAYLEY, 22 Cranborne Gardens

Rector's Churchwarden :

Mr. E. E. NEWTON, Hampstead, Esdaile Gardens

People's Churchwarden :

Mr. J. S. KYDD, Avoca, Ingrebourne Gardens

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Daily Services— Holy Communion, 7.30 a.m. Thursdays, 6.45 a.m.
Saints' Days, 6.45 and 7.30 a.m. Evensong, 6 p.m. Fridays,
Litany, 12 noon.
Other Services as special notice.

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Sunday Services— Holy Communion, 8 a.m. Choral Eucharist,
9.30 a.m. 1st Sunday in month, also 12 noon. 2nd Sunday
in month, also 7 a.m. Mattins, 11 a.m. Catechism, 3 p.m.
Evensong, 6.30 p.m.

.....

Confraternity of Blessed Sacrament. Ward of Holy Grail, 1st
Wednesday in month, 8 p.m.
Notices of Banns of Marriage and Baptisms to be sent to the Rector.

Fyodor Dostoyevski (1821-81)

sourced by Rob Brabner

Russian novelist. Described as combining a vivid realistic narrative with psychological insight. Major works include, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, books that reflect concern with guilt and religious faith.

Quotes: -

- What is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love.
- The darker the night, the brighter the stars, the deeper the grief, the closer is God!
- If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and to get to know a man, don't bother analysing him, his ways of being silent, of talking, of weeping, of seeing how he is moved by 'noble' ideas; you will get better results if you just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he's a good man.
- The soul is healed by being with children.
- Nothing in the world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing is easier than flattery.
- I say let the world go to hell, but I should always have my tea.
- Talking nonsense is the sole privilege mankind has over other creatures. It's by talking nonsense that one gets to the truth! I talk nonsense, therefore I'm human.
- Right or wrong, it's very pleasant to break something from time to time.
- The awful thing is that beauty is mysterious as well as terrible. God and the devil are fighting there and the battlefield is the heart of man.
- To love someone means to see them as God intended them.

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Car-less!

by Lance Jackson

Some members of our church may have noticed a couple of electric scooters parked outside the church recently. It seems the only way for my wife and I to get about in comfort.

After over 60 years of owning cars, motor cycles and classic cars, old age has finally caught up with Joan and me.

An early hockey injury which damaged a knee cartilage put a stop to motor cycling, much to my mother's relief, so, after National Service, I enjoyed tinkering with classic cars with much help and enthusiasm from our son Giles who has spent a successful career as a research engineer at Ford's.

Sunbeam Talbots were my favourite car, followed by E-types, but as time progressed my sight deteriorated and I had to declare my problem to the DVLA. At the time of writing this (October), I still await their response to my licence renewal. I doubt I shall pass their eye test which Specsavers will carry out on their behalf in due course.

With Joan's arthritis and my breathlessness (after two lung cancer operations), stair lifts became a necessity and my beloved cars had to go.

We are both very lucky and thank God every day for relative good health for a couple of mid-eighty year olds.



Harvest photos

by Rob Brabner



Local Churches – A walk around Upminster & Cranham

by Rob Brabner

Sadly, with the current restrictions on churches, it was impossible to arrange a full day's walk for the annual 'Ride & Stride' in aid of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and also for St Laurence.

Nevertheless, we did arrange a limited 'Stride' around the local churches and we did invite the other church congregations to join us, although none of them took up the invitation.

It was good to have four of us, reasonably socially distanced, despite the constant chat, keeping to a leisurely pace as we headed on our way. Our four walkers were Lorraine Beeton, Diane Merron, Maureen Gourley and myself to record arrival times at the eight churches we visited.

Susannah had very conscientiously set up the 'A' board outside the South Door in case any Ride and Stride visitors were visiting our own church. This enabled any potential visitors to sign in. This year we were not participating in "Heritage Day", so it was a very long shot if anyone would come, and indeed this was to prove the case.

The walking team decided to head to Cranham via Station Road, so first popped over St Mary's Lane to St Joseph's and then on to Trinity URC in Station Road. I was aware that, apart from St Laurence, St Joseph's were also holding church services, but also noted that according to the poster at Trinity URC, they were also resuming some form of church service on 6th September. None of the other churches we visited were having church-based services, though no doubt they were all holding online worship.



After Trinity URC, we visited Upminster Methodist Church and made our way up Hall Lane until we came to the playing field just past the Tithe Barn. We were fortunate, as the weather was pleasant and the ground was not too wet, so we cut across the playing fields, avoiding plenty of football training and also quite

a few matches going on. Dodging dog walkers and rugby posts, we made our way over to Avon Road. At the junction with Severn Drive we turned left to visit Cranham Baptist Church, which was also closed, and returned to Avon Road then

went on to St Luke's Church. We decided not to visit St Peter's RC Centre in Front Lane as this is no longer a regular place of worship, although it is very much in use for other church activities for the Cranham Roman Catholics.

We proceeded down Front Lane, to eventually cross St Mary's Lane, turn left at Wantz Bridge and walk up The Chase to visit All Saints', close by Cranham Hall.

Our route then took us along the public path, across the very shorn farmland. We then made our way to Argyle Gardens, and turned into Springfield Gardens, avoiding the temptation to call on Tony and Linda Edge as we passed their house. We eventually arrived at Upminster Baptist Church, our final destination. A member of



the Baptist congregation drove in to the car park and we had a brief chat to say hello and explain what this disreputable group of four were doing outside the church. Our conversation confirmed that the Baptists were still at the stage of online worship and have not yet resumed services in church.

Overall, a very pleasant gentle morning spent, and I think it was very worthwhile to keep 'the flag flying' for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and their very important work in funding repairs and improvements for all the mainstream Christian denominations in Essex and the five Metropolitan Boroughs which are still within the Chelmsford Diocese.

Half the sponsorship funding we raise at St Laurence does come back to us from the Friends, and always makes a worthwhile contribution to the parish's Fabric Fund. We should also bear in mind that, no doubt when the time is right, St Laurence may be making an application to the Friends for a grant towards the Building Improvement Project.

For more information about the Friends of Essex Churches Trust do visit their website: www.FoECT.org.uk. There you will find plenty of interesting information on their activities and the churches they have supported.

If you have not supported our parish walkers, please see me, the Rector or Jean our churchwarden. Sponsorship forms have been sent by email, but are also available in church.

My contact information: Rob Brabner – tel no 01708 457578 (with ansafone) or email: robertbrabner@icloud.com

Update – 2 messages on the justgiving site from donors

Anonymous £50.00

A much-needed charity for these wonderful buildings to help them offer an oasis of calm and peace. Especially in these recent times!

Anonymous £20.00

With best wishes for a safe but enjoyable expedition in these peculiar times. From one of the *indoor* folk - hoping there will be some photos of your highlights! Go well.

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Come Closer

Come closer,

Come,

Come to me,

Come and see,

Come and see a man,

A man who spoke to me.

Come,

Come and see,

Come and see the dance of three,

Three together in unity,

Unity of heart,

Unity of mind,

Unity of purpose

Do not stay far off,

Don't look from a distance,

Come,

Come and see,

Come closer and see,

See the colours of divinity,

*Twirling, whirling with
passionate love,*

*Enjoying each other's
company,*

*Stretching out hands to
include you in,*

Come,

Come and see,

Come closer and see,

The miracle of Christ in me.

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 poem above is from a collection of her ponderings and poems 'Thoughts along the way'.

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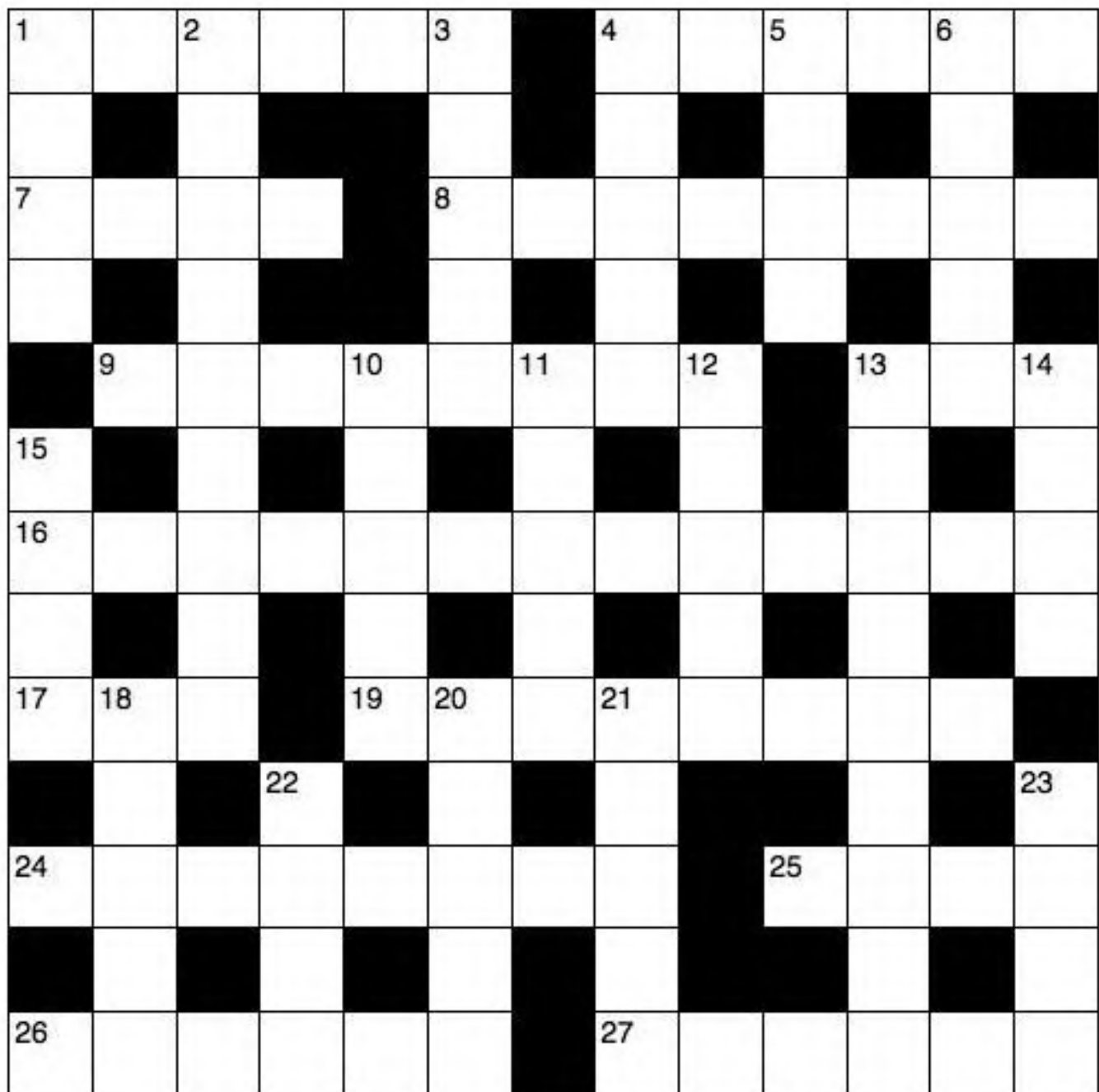
All Souls – 1st November 2020



Although there was no All Souls' service this year, Susannah and Father Roy read out the names of those to be remembered during private prayer on Sunday 1st November.



Crossword



Across

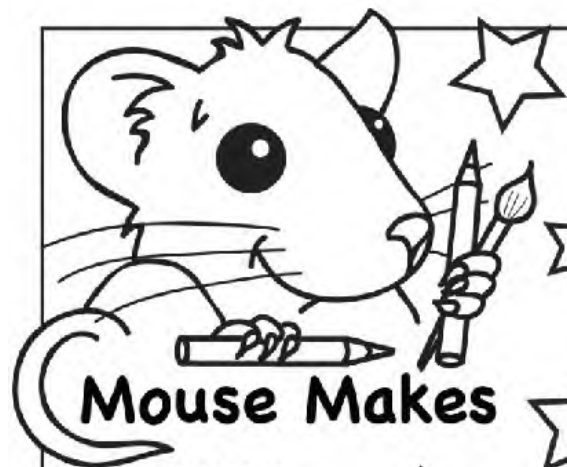
- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Answers to the October and November crossword: **ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market. **DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.



"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom
God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas
story in Luke
1:1 - 2:21



A picture to colour
for Christmas. Colour in
one star each day as you
count down to Christmas!

Crisis at Christmas

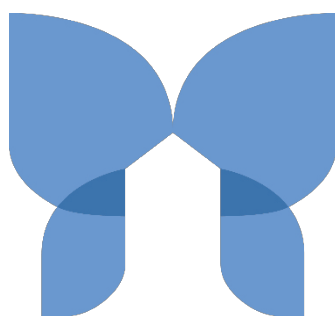


Each year Crisis supports thousands of people who are homeless. And now, as the harshest time of year approaches, they're getting ready to help people again. Social distancing means they'll be doing things differently, but they'll be looking after as many people as they possibly can. And the spirit of a Crisis Christmas will be exactly the same. They will treat people with care and respect – giving them that warm Crisis welcome, so they get their dignity back and feel ready to take on life again.

This Christmas their frontline teams will be providing food and festive treats. They'll be on hand with emotional and well-being support, offering everything from Christmas games and advice to volunteer befrienders. Nutritious meals, somewhere to stay, help for the future – it will make such a difference to people.

Presents for under the Christmas Tree in church

This year there will be no Crib Services on Christmas Eve but the church will be open. Please look at the poster detailing Advent and Christmas Worship at St Laurence elsewhere in the magazine. Any presents put under the tree (unwrapped and no food please) will be shared out between Home Start Havering, Little Havens Children's Hospice and Changing Pathways (new name for Women's Refuge).



Little
Havens

And Finally....



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."



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