

August and
September 2025



GRIDIRON

The Magazine of the Parish Church of
Saint Laurence Upminster

£1



Holy Cross Day - Picture from Easter activities

Service Times

The service schedule may change at short notice. Please refer to Porchtalk or contact the Parish Office for up-to-date information.

Sundays

Holy Communion 08.00
Sung Parish Mass 09.30
Sunday Schools 09.30
Evensong 18.30

*(see Parish Diary
for details)*

Weekdays

Wednesday Morning Prayer 08.45
Mass 11.00
Evening Prayer 16.15

Footsteps

This Service for pre-school children and grown-ups normally takes place monthly on a Monday at 09.30 in the Lady Chapel. Due to the school holidays the next service is on **29th September.**



Additional services on Saints' Days are shown in the Diary in the back pages.

Baptisms and Wedding Banns

These are administered during public services.
Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Confessions

By appointment with the clergy.

**Please inform the Parish Office or Revd Susannah
of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit.**

See back pages for useful telephone contact numbers

www.upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Office ☎ 01708 220696

parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk



From the Rector

As I write this we have just hosted one of our regular annual visits to church for a local school – in this case, for a group of children aged five and six who were enormously excited to have the opportunity to explore the church. As part of the visit I always give the children an opportunity to ask any questions that occur to them – and there is often a good range of astute questions to keep the Rector on her toes. Those that particularly stood out from this visit were: ‘Why do we have churches?’, ‘Why was Jesus important?’ and ‘Why do people pray in church?’

The architecture of a church building like ours is intended to send a powerful message – in its difference from the surrounding buildings, in its longevity and in the way that its design draws our eyes upwards. It reminds us that the faith celebrated therein is something that transcends and encompasses everything else, something that endures, and something that draws us to consider the most profound truths and meanings of our lives. For all that a historic building can generate complications and expense, it also offers a great deal, particularly when it can be left open. Beyond the life of the community gathering for worship, the building has a mission of its own in providing a space through the week for a whole range of people – for those lighting a candle, sitting quietly, looking around, spending time with their children in the Children’s Corner, learning the organ, remembering loved ones, seeking peace or guidance – through the week people come in for a whole range of reasons, and I am enormously grateful that we can offer this and for the team of people who make it possible.

It is important for all of us, even and especially those of us who have been committed Christians for many years, to be able to step back sometimes and look afresh at essentials – to consider the questions at the heart of our faith and to think about what our church is for and why we attend church. Thinking about these things can particularly help in the moments when we are feeling jaded in some way, or struggling with something – returning to the basics can bring clarity and a greater capacity to set non-essential concerns aside.

I am planning to run an Enquirers’ Course during the autumn, using videos and discussion to explore some of the basic building blocks of Christianity. The times

and dates are being agreed with those who have currently expressed an interest in attending, but if you would like to know more about this or any future course, please let me know. You would be welcome whether you are very new to thinking about Christianity or whether you have been a Christian and a churchgoer for many years – the journey of faith is a work in progress for us all!

With my prayers and best wishes

Susannah

Are We There Yet?

by Christine Clifford

No, but we are making steady progress with our Building Improvements Project. It's not a catchy title but it does what it says on the tin, which is making changes to our Grade I listed church building so it is fit for use by our congregations, visitors and the wider community in the 21st century. Among many improvements identified we need to install an accessible toilet and refreshment/meeting facilities; this will be done in phase 1, as well as refurbishing the sacristy and choir vestry (phase 2).

We're now in the position that the architect's plan goes to the PCC's July meeting and, if agreed, a faculty (the Church of England's planning permission) can be sought. Once that is granted, applications can be made for grants to seek to top up the funds already raised. [A plea for help: is there anyone who has experience of bid writing? Please let Susannah know.]

The time all these processes take can be frustrating, with the biggest delay being Covid, and further delay caused by the recent heating issues. However patience is a virtue and we trust that we will get there in the end. All offers of help - joining the small sub-committee, ideas for fundraising, useful contacts - are hugely appreciated. Many hands make light work.

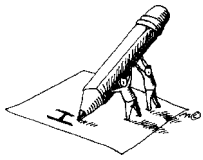
Many thanks to all those who have supported recent fundraising activities. Please keep an eye on Porchtalk for details of future events and please hold this project in your prayers.

Donations can be made as follows (please reference your donation 'BUILDING IMPROV'):

Account name: PCC of Upminster

Sort code 60-22-06

A/c number 13064185



From the Editors

Dear Readers

As I write this it has been the hottest week of the year and we were very lucky that the Parish Barbecue (June 21st) was graced with lovely weather. Let's hope that the weather continues (although not as hot as it has been!) to shine down upon St Laurence and all its parishioners.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Revd Neil in July. We wish him well in his new role.

Elsewhere in the magazine is a report on the heating situation in church. It has been resolved but not without a huge amount of behind the scenes work by Christ Mowat and Revd Susannah. Please take some time to read the article as it gives an insight into the processes that are required in order for things to happen to our beautiful church building to keep it safe and warm for the future.

Arlette Wiggins, Editor

From the Parish Registers

MARRIAGE

We offer our congratulations to and pray for:

21st June Simon Bennett and Danielle Emery

INTERMENT OF ASHES

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

25th June Rosemary and Dennis Watkins

October and November Magazine Deadline

Items for inclusion in the October and November edition of *Gridiron* should reach the editorial team by **Friday 5th September**. 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 **October and November** Magazine will be on sale from **Sunday 28th September**.

**You can advertise in Gridiron from as little as
£11 per issue. Please contact the Editors on
gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk**

Hobby

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Recently I've spent a lot of time on the beautiful West Sussex heaths, where I've been lucky to encounter an animal which always gets my heart beating as it speeds past: the Hobby. Around about now, high in a twiggy tree-top nest, two eggs will be laid. The proud parents have flown all the way from the Congo Basin to raise their family in the Sussex countryside.



Hobbies look debonair and dashing. With their black 'eye mask' and drooping 'moustache' there's a touch of Zorro about them. And, like that enigmatic swordsman, Hobbies are famed for their speed and dexterity. Superficially the Hobby looks similar to the Peregrine, which, along with the Kestrel, makes up the trio of falcons that breed in Sussex. But Peregrines are very different birds. They started raising their families way

back in April and adult Peregrines are up to four times heavier than a Hobby. Peregrines hunt by putting their weight behind their attack, whereas Hobbies use aerial agility and acceleration; the ninja to the Peregrine's sumo. The Hobby's slender scimitar wings slice the air as they twist, turn and tumble to pluck their victims from the sky in their talons.

These victims are the reason for the Hobby's 4,000 mile journey from Africa, and for their late egg-laying. The birth of the hungry Hobby chicks is perfectly synchronised with their food supply, which is most abundant in Sussex skies in July and August. Hobbies specialise in catching the uncatchable; swallows, martins, swifts and dragonflies - all accomplished aviators themselves, who probably thought they were invincible whilst airborne. Watching a Hobby hunting is watching an accomplished predator at work.

Here's my favourite piece of Hobby trivia: in 1946 Mr Adolph of Langton Green, Kent, had an idea. Presumably, with a name like that, the preceding seven years had been a tough time for Mr Adolph, but now he was free to unleash his incredible invention upon the world: a game which involved flicking wobbly model footballers up and down a tabletop. This game, he insisted, would be a great hobby for boys and he named his invention just that: 'Hobby'. But when

it came to registering the name, the Patent Office said that 'Hobby' was too general a term. Instead, Mr Adolph took the scientific name from his favourite falcon. And so the agile Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) became forever linked to wet Saturday afternoons flicking headless Crystal Palace midfielders around the dining room.

Congratulations!

On the 6th April the congregation were invited to celebrate the birthdays of Linda Lockwood and Debbie Stewart with cake and coffee after church. Thanks go to Jean Keen for the fabulous cake.



Summary of PCC Meeting held on 12th May 2025

by Beryl Speed

This was the first meeting following the APCM. Clive Edwards was appointed as Vice Chairman, Tony Bloomfield as Treasurer and Beryl Speed as Secretary. Deborah Masterson was co-opted onto the PCC.

It was agreed to close the Wright Fund Trust as the income is no longer sufficient to carry out its purpose. The funds will be applied to the General PCC account but continue to be restricted to expenditure for the upkeep of the churchyard.

Various works required at 6 Gaynes Park Road were discussed. A decision on these will be made once quotes have been obtained.

It was agreed to move the website hosting to a new supplier which would result in improvements to the service and a decrease in costs.

A paper on Microsoft's non-profit programme was discussed. It was agreed to implement the first three stages of this which would reduce monthly costs and increase the effectiveness of our Digital Estate.

The Charity of the Month for September will be the RNLI and for October Parkinson's UK. The remaining months of the year have already been filled.

A meeting with the DAC heating adviser has resulted in a recommendation for new gas boilers to be installed. It is likely that an interim faculty will now be granted but all paperwork needs to be resubmitted. This includes a Net Zero Checklist which has been completed and a 15-year plan which has been drawn up for St Laurence to move towards net zero carbon.

Priorities for improvements to the Main Hall were established. The windows and gents' toilets will be dealt with first. The kitchens in Derham and Hurford Halls are to be upgraded. A quote for work on Derham was accepted. Further information is awaited on the requirements for Hurford.

Other matters discussed included the appointment of an Associate Priest, ways to encourage more people to attend the APCM, Rectory alarm, registering as a Fairtrade church, the first Building Faith service, expansion of care home services when possible, architect's plans for building improvement project, church energy audit, signs of woodworm, results of asbestos survey, testing of lightning conductor, hall hire charges. Reports were given on finances, all routine matters, the proceedings of Churches Together and Deanery Synod, plus

news from the uniformed organisations. The importance of finding more people willing to serve as Deanery Synod representatives was stressed.



Building Faith - A new, informal early morning service for primary school aged children with their parents/carers with refreshments, prayer, Bible story and building blocks activity. September 7th and October 5th, from 8am to 8.45am in the Main Hall, St Laurence Church. For more information please contact the Parish Office: parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk 01708 220696.



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Ride & Stride for St Laurence Church and the Friends of Essex Churches Trust

Rob Brabner

Please Put Your Walking Boots On!

Once again St Laurence is planning to support 'Ride & Stride' for 2025. The event is scheduled for Saturday 13th September, between 9.00am and 5.00pm. We will be seeking sponsorship from the congregation for our team of walkers visiting churches in the Chelmsford Diocese.

Funding raised from our supporters is distributed on a 50/50 basis between St Laurence and the Friends of Essex Churches Trust who grant aid for repairs and improvements to churches of all denominations in Essex and the five Metropolitan Boroughs within Chelmsford Diocese. Though the churches do not have to be C of E they do need to be within 'Churches Together In England'. St Laurence PCC allocates funds raised from this event to the Building Fabric Fund.



Last year the St Laurence walking team visited some local churches on one Saturday and the following Saturday went up to London, visiting 20 City churches, not all of them open, though quite a few were. Those that took part had a very enjoyable day - including Ruby who rather cheated as she has four legs and a tail!

You can help if you are available on 13th September and are up to walking around local churches. If not you can still help the team by your financial support: sponsorship can be for an amount for each places of worship visited, or by the most popular method, a fixed amount for the day.

This year, though a route has not yet been decided, we could be venturing into Leytonstone/Leyton/Wanstead Park, i.e the starting point will be easy to get to by public transport, with safe walking and an area where there are enough churches to visit to justify everyone's support.

For more information speak to Rob Brabner on 01708 457578 and also visit the Friends of Essex Churches Trust website www.FoECT - they have a page dedicated to the Ride & Stride event and how it works.

Update: The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Rob Brabner

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is the scheme that allows churches that are listed to claim back the VAT on repairs and improvement works. As VAT is charged at 20% this is hugely significant for historic churches and in particular for our own church of St Laurence as we fundraise for the Building Improvements Scheme.

The Government, has had considerable pressure from Conservation and Heritage groups, as well as MPs, to continue with the scheme. However there has been only partial success.

The Government has extended the Scheme by one year from March 2025, capping it at 23 million pounds, down from 42 million pounds, and there is a cap of £25,000 per individual place of worship. This decision will make it much harder to achieve the Building Improvement target at St Laurence, increasing costs by 20% for all funding above the £25,000 ceiling. There is also the uncertainty of whether the scheme will continue at all beyond 2026.

Holy Days – from Parish Pump

6th August: The Transfiguration of Jesus

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From our mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

15th August: 'Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?'

The Church responds with a resounding 'Yes' to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. (Usually, her feast day is on the 16th.)

An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.'

The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. 'For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus.' Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, 'Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see.'

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in Our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.

29th August: The beheading of St John the Baptist

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people

also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised Him in the Jordan at the start of His ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

21st September: St Matthew

Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

29th Sept: Michael and All Angels

Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry Cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) weighing souls. Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

Revd Neil Barrett

On Sunday 15th July we bade farewell to the Revd Neil Barrett - with cake, of course, in true St Laurence style! Neil came to us in Lent 2024 for what was intended to be a short placement as part of his curacy, but he ended up staying at St Laurence to complete his curacy and also for some months after that. He is now beginning the next stage of his ministry in the United Benefice of Christ Church, Warley and St Mary's, Great Warley. We wish him well and thank him for all that he contributed to life at St Laurence - not least through inspiring sermons, thought-provoking conversation and his famously dry sense of humour!



Parish Barbecue 21st June *by Debbie Stewart*

A big thank-you to everyone who supported our Parish Barbecue on 21st June. With your help we raised a magnificent **£799** towards our Building Improvement Project.



Despite the 31 °C heat it certainly looked like everybody was enjoying themselves - especially when the ice creams came round! Running an event such as this takes quite a lot of advance planning and a real team effort on the day and so our special thanks go to Keith & Chris for manning the barbecue; Nigel for drying out the sound system so that we could have some background music; John, Rosie, James & Rob (setting up); Carole & Christine (raffle), Jean & Sarah (Bar), Deborah & Beryl (Tombola); Margaret & Frank (Penny Memory game); and myself (catering and generally running round like a mad woman).





We have had lovely feedback from those who attended and it makes the hard work needed in holding such an event worthwhile. That said, we are a very small team and we really do need more of you to step up and join us if we are to continue to run any social events at St Laurence. I make such a plea every time I report in *Gridiron* (and for several years at the Annual Meeting) but with no success. Of course we greatly appreciate any help given on the day itself but we are desperate for others to join our team and share the load regarding planning, procurement, advertising etc. If you enjoy coming to these events then I urge you to go further and join our team. It is not just a matter of fundraising, it is about making a real difference to the fellowship of our wonderful St Laurence Church family.



‘Let there be heat’ and the path to Net Zero Carbon

by Chris Mowat

In 2020, the General Synod of the Church of England resolved that all parts of the Church should become net zero by 2030 in order to reduce our carbon footprint. This would entail making changes to our buildings, adopting new behaviours and, where possible, switching usage to renewable sources. A laudable aim but not easy in a church such as St Laurence, being of ancient heritage and a Grade I listed building.

As many of our readers will be aware, the gas boilers heating the church broke down in January and since then we have had no heating whatsoever. Our heating engineers declared that the boilers were beyond repair and an immediate application was made for an interim faculty (emergency permission) from the Chancellor of Chelmsford Diocese through the Diocesan Registry. A faculty was needed because one cannot make changes to an Anglican church involving anything which is of a permanent nature. The process also requires the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to comment on the nature of an application before the Chancellor rules on the same.

The Chancellor ruled on the 7th February that (1) ‘she was not sufficiently persuaded that sufficient consideration had been given to the net zero requirement’; (2) our heating engineers, who had provided a report on the system, were not sufficiently independent; (3) the DAC Heating Adviser (DACHA) had indicated possible alternatives that had not been sufficiently researched and (4) more evidence was needed to grant an Interim Faculty.

As frustrating as all the above was, the congregation, well wrapped, up continued to worship whilst we looked to resolve the issue.

Thanks to our architect, who has supported us all the way, he was able to recommend an independent heating expert who visited the church and then produced a detailed report analysing all the possible options and costings. The options included replacing the gas boilers, air-source heat pumps, air to air heat pumps, ground source pump, electric heating or a hybrid system. The capital outlay costs ranged from £25,000 to £280,900 with electric heating running costs estimated at £18,300 per annum. Eye-watering sums and well beyond the average parish church. His recommendation was to replace the gas boilers as a sensible way forward allowing us time and money to look long term in achieving net zero.

With this report to hand, various meetings with our Archdeacon, drafting a 15 year plan for the PCC to move towards net zero and then finally having a meeting with the DACHA and the DAC Secretary, we began to make progress. The DACHA at the meeting soon realised that heat pumps, electric heating etc were not viable alternatives and was satisfied that the gas boilers should be replaced. This was subsequently supported by the DAC and the application paperwork was re-submitted to the Diocesan Registry. Owing to the sad and unfortunate death of the Registry Clerk, there was some further delay but the paperwork went before the Chancellor on the 12th June and in the light of the DAC's recommendation and the Archdeacon's assurances, she granted the Interim Faculty on the 13th June.

Our heating engineers had always said St Laurence was a priority job and true to their word, they started work in the boiler house on the 19th June and the new boilers were actually installed on the 20th June (the hottest day of the year so far!). They were finally connected to the system and fired up on Wednesday 25th June when the work was completed.



It has been a long drawn-out process with many hurdles to overcome but we have achieved new heating for the Winter thanks to the efforts and support of our architect, the independent heating consultant, our own heating engineers and the Archdeacon of Barking. Behind the scenes our Rector Susannah has pulled her hair out, fired off emails, chaired meetings, cajoled other clergy for comment/views to achieve the result we now have. In the meantime, the PCC has actively looked at ways of reducing our carbon footprint across all our buildings and the 15 year plan is a reality.

The resolution from the General Synod has undoubtedly caused tremendous problems for many churches and speaking personally I speculate on whether the very tight timescale for net zero is achievable throughout the land. However, we look forward to a warm church again.

Transformed by the Cross - Edith Stein, Jewish by Birth and Christian Martyr, St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross - celebrated on August 9th

by Rob Brabner

Edith Stein was born in 1891, the youngest of 11 children, to devout Jewish parents in Breslau, Germany. Her father died when she was just 2 years old. At the age of 14, Edith stopped praying, rejected her family's Jewish faith, and became an atheist.

A brilliant student, she searched for truth in academics, receiving her doctorate in philosophy *summa cum laude* in 1916. Though society would not allow her to follow her dream of becoming a professor on account of her gender, she worked as an assistant at the University of Freiburg for Edmund Husserl, a renowned philosopher who established the philosophical school of phenomenology. Through her writing on philosophy, Stein quickly became one of the university's top minds.



'This Is the Truth'

On a summer evening in 1921, Stein stayed awake all night reading the autobiography of St Teresa of Avila. The following morning, she said to herself, 'This is the truth.'

She was baptised and confirmed as a Catholic in 1922. She wanted to immediately enter St Teresa's order, the Discalced Carmelites, but her spiritual advisor would not allow it just yet. Instead, she taught at a Dominican school for girls living within the world but devoting her life to prayer and study. Over the years, she wrote several works on philosophy, marrying the school of phenomenology with her Catholic faith.

In 1933 the Nazis' Aryan Law barred Jews from teaching in Germany. After spending over a decade in academia, Stein was forced to resign. She said 'I had become a stranger in the world ... It dawned on me that God had laid His hand heavily on His people, and that the destiny of these (Jewish) people would also be mine'.

Religious Life

Stein's spiritual adviser finally allowed her to enter the convent in 1934. Her mother cried when she heard that her Jewish daughter was entering Catholic

religious life. Even though Stein wrote letters to her mother weekly, she never received any response.

Stein took her final vows at the Carmelite Convent of Cologne in April 1938, becoming Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Over the following months, the Nazis' desire to eliminate the Semitic race became more and more apparent as they burned synagogues and forced Jewish citizens to wear yellow badges. On New Year's Eve 1938, the Carmelite prioress had Stein smuggled out of Germany and into the Netherlands to the Carmelite Convent of Etch in the hopes that this would spare her life.

But the Nazis began imprisoning Jewish citizens in the Netherlands in 1942. Not long before her arrest, the Carmelite sisters devised a plan to try and save her life, but Stein protested, saying, 'If I cannot share the lot of my brothers and sisters my life, in a certain sense, is destroyed.'

She wanted to die with her people and offered her certain death as a sacrifice for the salvation of others. She said, 'I ask the Lord to accept my life and my death ... so that the Lord will be accepted by His people and that His Kingdom may come in glory, for the salvation of Germany, and the peace of the world.'

Martyrdom

Stein and her sister, Rosa, who had also converted and entered the Convent, were arrested by the Gestapo in August 1942. Stein's last recorded words were spoken to her sister saying, 'Come, we are going for our people.' Several days later, they were sent to Auschwitz and killed in a gas chamber.

Pope St John Paul II canonized St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), a patron saint of Europe on 11 October 1998, saying, 'The mystery of the cross gradually enveloped her whole life, spurring her to the point of making the supreme sacrifice ... The true message of suffering is a lesson of love. Love makes suffering fruitful and suffering deepens love.'

Edith Stein did not let hate have the final say. Through her acceptance of the Cross, she offered her suffering to God for the salvation of others, transforming her senseless death into a message of love and redemption over death and despair.

The article is from the Catholic website 'The Divine Mercy'



On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

Get set . . .

- Add Saturday **13 September 2025** to your diary
- Source sponsorship from friends and family
- www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride for further information or scan the QR code



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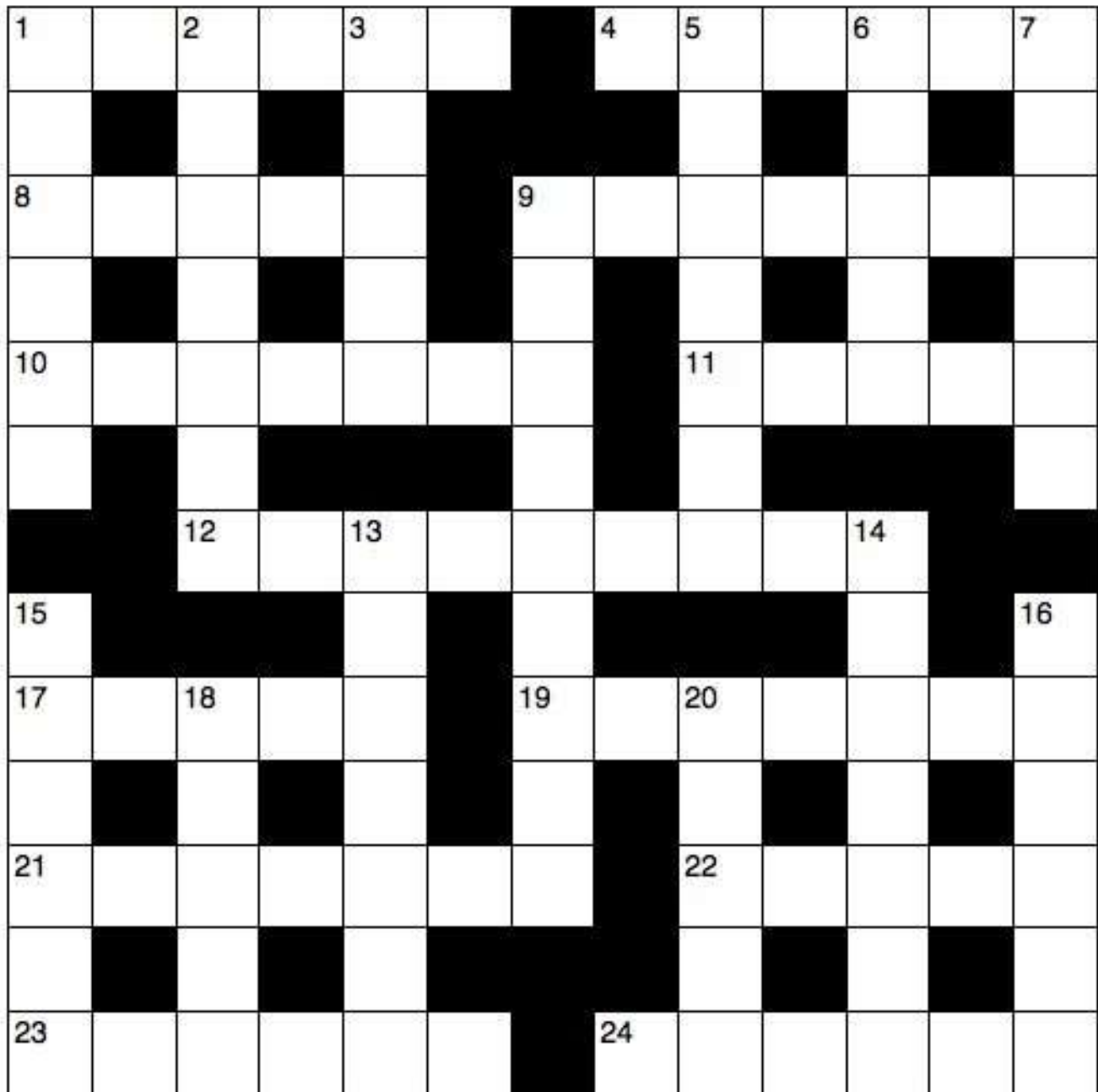


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Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)

- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
- 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
- 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
- 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
- 15 See 12 Across
- 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
- 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
- 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

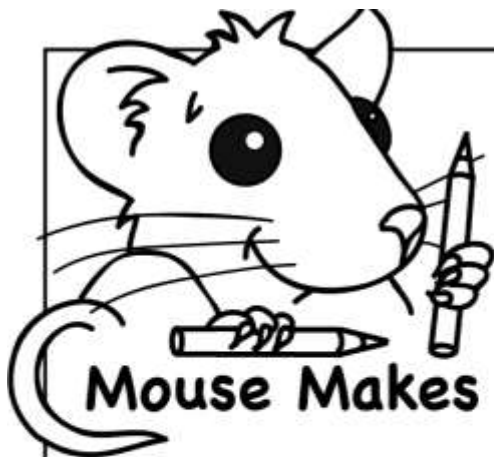
Answers to June/July Crossword

ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.



Mouse Makes

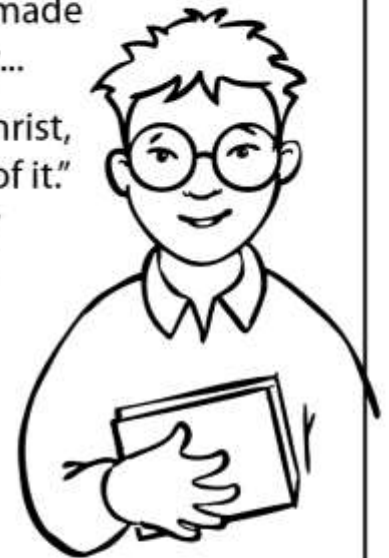
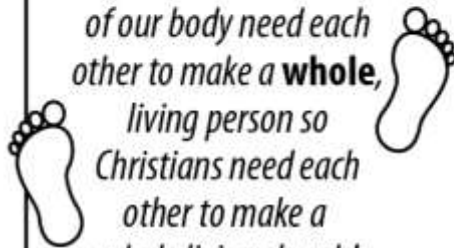
"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

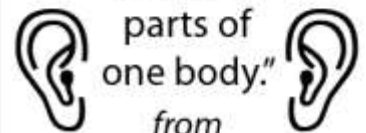


Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!



"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."

from Romans 12:1-7



Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



Charity of the Month

August – Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders

MSF is an international humanitarian organisation providing medical care in more than 70 countries. Since 1971, they have been treating people caught in complex crises and chronic



healthcare emergencies around the world. From their paediatric nurses to their off-road drivers, they are experts at working in fast-moving and highly-insecure environments. So, whether it's launching a rapid response or delivering community care, they go wherever they are needed most.

In 2023, they admitted more than 1.3 million people to their hospitals and held more than 16.4 million consultations, including at mobile clinics and in refugee camps.

Their vital work often hits the headlines when there's an emergency such as an earthquake, war or disease outbreak. However, their teams are also running long-term medical programmes for vulnerable groups cut off from care, or speaking out about unseen suffering and the policies that cause it. Around the world, 365 days a year, they are there even when the cameras are not.

September – RNLI

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. Powered primarily by kind donations, their search and rescue service has been saving lives for over 200 years.



Lifeboats

They are a charity founded upon and driven by their values of selflessness, courage, dependability and trustworthiness, with volunteers at their heart.

The vast majority of RNLI people are volunteers - ordinary people doing extraordinary things - supported by expert staff, all working together to help communities at home and abroad save lives. The RNLI relies on thousands of dedicated volunteers to run their lifesaving service. Separate from the coastguard and independent of government, they are a charity with one aim – to save everyone.

And Finally....

The Parable of the Prodigal Son...and the Young Curate

Gervase Phinn, author of a number of books about his time as a School Inspector in Yorkshire, has many good stories about his time visiting schools, the young pupils and sometimes about their teachers.

A young Curate was addressing the primary school assembly, relating the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The story of how the younger son had squandered all his father's money allocated to him, had returned home, penniless, ashamed and repentant. His father, was exultant to welcome him home with tears of joy in his eyes and had run to meet his son, had given his son the finest clothes, sent his servant for his best sandals, and to have the fatted calf to be killed for the welcoming feast to celebrate his son's return.

Meanwhile the older son was less impressed, and would not enter the house. 'I have worked like a slave all these years for you, yet you have never even offered me as much as a goat for a feast for my friends. Now my good-for-nothing brother, who has spent all your money, turns up and you kill the fatted calf for him'.

'Now, children,' said the Curate, 'Who do you think was the happiest of all?' There was a forest of hands. He picked a small girl in the front row.

'The father!' she cried.

'That's right, and who do you think was the saddest and most disappointed about the son's return?'

Before he could pick anyone, a boy from the back shouted out, 'Well I reckon 'fatted calf can't 'ave been too 'appy'.

Image from Free Bible images



Parish Diary for August

See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times

Fri	1 st	10.30am Morning Coffee
Sun	3 rd	7th Sunday after Trinity, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Mon	4 th	<i>Jean-Baptiste Vianney, curé d'Ars, spiritual guide, 1859</i>
Tues	5 th	<i>Oswald, king, martyr, 642</i>
Wed	6 th	Transfiguration of Our Lord
Thurs	7 th	<i>John Mason Neale, priest, hymn writer, 1866</i>
Fri	8 th	<i>Dominic, priest, founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221</i> 10.30am Morning Coffee
Sat	9 th	<i>Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921</i>
Sun	10 th	Patronal Festival, 4.00pm Patronal Festival Cream Tea, Main Hall, No Evensong today
Mon	11 th	<i>Clare of Assisi, founder of the Poor Clares, 1253, John Henry Newman, priest, 1890</i>
Wed	13 th	<i>Jeremy Taylor, priest, teacher of the faith, 1667, Florence Nightingale, nurse, social reformer, 1910, Octavia Hill, social reformer, 1912</i>
Thurs	14 th	<i>Maximillian Kolbe, friar, martyr, 1941</i>
Fri	15 th	10.30am Morning Coffee
Sun	17 th	The Blessed Virgin Mary, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Tues	19 th	7.30pm Adventurers' Leaders Meeting, Parish Office
Wed	20 th	<i>Bernard, abbot, teacher of the faith, 1153, William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, 1912, 1890</i>
Fri	22 nd	10.30am Morning Coffee
Sun	24 th	Bartholomew the Apostle, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Wed	27 th	<i>Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387</i>
Thurs	28 th	<i>Augustine, bishop, teacher of the faith, 430</i>
Fri	29 th	Beheading of John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Coffee
Sat	30 th	<i>John Bunyan, spiritual writer, 1688</i>
Sun	31 st	11th Sunday after Trinity, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom

Details of dates, times and venues of all meetings and events need to be recorded in the Parish Diary (Parish Office 01708 220696)

Parish Diary for September

Mon	1 st	<i>Giles, hermit, c 710</i>
Tues	2 nd	<i>Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901, 1942</i>
Wed	3 rd	<i>Gregory the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 604</i>
Thurs	4 th	<i>Birinus, bishop, 650, 8.00pm Choir Practice</i>
Fri	5 th	10.30am Coffee Morning
Sat	6 th	<i>Allen Gardiner, missionary, founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851</i>
Sun	7 th	12th Sunday after Trinity, 8.00am Building Faith, Main Hall, 11.00am First Communion Meeting, Parish Office, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Mon	8 th	<i>Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Accession of King Charles III, 2022, 8.00pm CM&FG Meeting, Parish Office</i>
Tues	9 th	<i>Charles Fuge Lowder, priest, 1880</i>
Thurs	11 th	8.00pm Choir Practice
Fri	12 th	10.30am Coffee Morning
Sat	13 th	<i>John Chrysostom, bishop, teacher of the faith, 407, Ride and Stride Day</i>
Sun	14 th	Holy Cross Day, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Mon	15 th	<i>Cyprian, bishop, martyr, 258</i>
Tues	16 th	<i>Ninian, bishop, apostle of the Picts, c432, Edward Bouverie Pusey, priest, 1882</i>
Wed	17 th	<i>Hildegard, abbess, visionary, 1179</i>
Thurs	18 th	8.00pm Choir Practice
Fri	19 th	<i>Theodore, archbishop, 690, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sat	20 th	<i>John Coleridge Patteson, bishop, and companions, martyrs, 1871</i>
Sun	21 st	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Tues	23 rd	7.30pm PCC Meeting, Parish Office
Thurs	25 th	<i>Lancelot Andrewes, bishop, spiritual writer, 1626, Sergei of Radonezh, monastic reformer, teacher of the faith, 1392, 8.00pm Choir Practice</i>
Fri	26 th	<i>Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army, 1942, 10.30am Coffee Morning</i>
Sat	27 th	<i>Vincent de Paul, founder of the Lazarists, 1660</i>
Sun	28 th	15th Sunday after Trinity, 9.30am Harvest Festival Parade Service, 12.30pm Harvest Festival Lunch, 6.30pm Evensong on Zoom
Mon	29 th	Michael and All Angels, 9.30am Footsteps in Church
Tues	30 th	<i>Jerome, translator, teacher of the faith, 420</i>



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