

The Benefice of St Anne, St Paul and St Augustine



St Anne's Church



St Paul's & St Augustine's Worship Centre

January 2023

60p

Who's Who in the Benefice

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St. Anne's

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For more information go to the web site at

www.stanneschurchleicester.wordpress.com

or

www.stpaulscommunity.co.uk

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PASTORAL LETTER

Happy New Year!

Over the past few weeks, every time I have looked at a Newspaper or Social Media (i.e. looked at my Facebook feed), there has been some sort of review of the year. Unlike some years, the news has been pretty bleak. Ongoing fall out from the 2020-21 pandemic, political changes and challenges, the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. And of course Wales and England being sent home from the World Cup!



However, as I look back on my 2022, it seems like a pretty normal year to me. With good things – the joys of day-to-day ministry, becoming Area Dean, spending time with friends and loved ones; and with some bad things – pausing my DProf, some mental health troubles, the deaths of much loved congregation members.

Yet the one constant, in the midst of the good, and the not so good has been God. I know that because of Jesus, the Emanuel, God with us, God has been with me, with us at St Anne's, St Paul and St Augustine, in the middle of the messiness of everyday life. And for this at the turn of 2023, I want to praise God.

At the turn of the year Psalm 150 is one that I am drawn to...

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness! (Psalm 150: 1-2)

You see that because life is messy, we can easily be distracted by the challenges and joys of living everyday life. Thus we push God away from his rightful place, at the centre of our lives. So this New Year, I am going to ask God to take his rightful place at the centre of my life. So that whatever 2023 brings, good or bad, he is the core everything. To do that we need to worship. Therefore in 2023 can I encourage you whatever the weather, to worship. **Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! (Psalm 150: 6)**

Personally I am going to do this by spending a bit more time in silence (hopefully every day). I had a go at this in Advent, but the I got rather side tracked by all the busyness of the Christmas preparations. So let's call it a New Year's resolution instead. You're very welcome to ask me next month how it is going.

Rev'd Liz Wilson



SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1 January 2023 (1st Sunday of Christmas)

11.00am Benefice Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's
11.00am Benefice Telephone Church, Tel. 033 3113 3356,
Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#

Thursday 5 January

12.00noon Lunchtime Eucharist, St Anne's Church and Hall

Saturday 7 January

4.00pm Children's Church, St Anne's Church

Sunday 8 January (Epiphany)

9.30am All Age Worship and Baptism, St Anne's
11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's
11.00am Benefice Telephone Church, Tel. 033 3113 3356,
Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#
3.00pm BCP Eucharist, St Anne's

Sunday 15 January (Second Sunday of Epiphany)

9.30am Eucharist, St Anne's
11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's
11.00am Benefice Telephone Church, Tel. 033 3113 3356,
Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#
6.00pm Evensong, St Anne's

Saturday 21 January

4.00pm Children's Church, St Anne's Hall

Sunday 22 January (Third Sunday of Epiphany/ Patronal Festival)

9.30am No Service
11.00am Benefice Patronal Festival Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's
11.00am Benefice Telephone Church, Tel. 033 3113 3356,
Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#
6.00pm Evensong, St Anne's

Sunday 29 January (Candlemas)

9.30am Eucharist, St Anne's
11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's
11.00am Benefice Telephone Church, Tel. 033 3113 3356,
Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#
6.00pm Evensong, St Anne's

Every Wednesday 9.30am Eucharist, St Anne's and 4.00pm 1st Week Christmastide Meditation, weeks 2-5 Following the Magi Meditation, St Paul and St Augustine's.

Every Thursday 9.30am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's

READINGS FOR JANUARY 2023



	Old	Psalm	New	Gospel
1 January				
Eucharist/TC	Num. 6: 22-end	8	<u>Gal 4:4-7</u>	<u>Luke 2:15-21</u>
8 January				
All Age Worship Eucharist/TC	Isa 60:1-6	72:1-9, 10-15	<u>Eph 3:1-12</u>	<u>Matt 2:1-12</u>
15 January				
Eucharist/TC	Isa 49:1-7	40:1-2	<u>1 Cor 1:1-9</u>	<u>John 1:29-42</u>
Evensong	Ezek 2:1 – 3 Ch 4	96	Gal 1:11-end	
22 January				
Patronal Festival TC	Jer 1:4-10	67	Acts 9:1-22 <u>1 Cor 10-18</u>	Matt 19:27-end <u>Matt 4:12-23</u>
Evensong	Eccles 3:1-11	33:1-12	1 Pet 1:3-12	
29 January				
Eucharist/TC	Mal 3:1-5	24:1-5, 7-end	<u>Heb 2:4-end</u>	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>
Evensong	Hag 2:1-9	132		John 2:18-22



CREATION MATTERS



Community Allotment:

In last month's magazine I explained about the new space that John Andrews and I are developing on the Ranccliffe Crescent allotments. Quite how it will take shape we're not sure...but we're confident God does!!

Over the next few weeks, we (John mostly!) will be working hard to create a sheltered meeting area, a greenhouse and such like. If this is something you think you'd like to get involved with, we would be super grateful – as would donations of wooden pallets, a chiminea and other garden related equipment. We would also be very grateful if the gardeners amongst you would grow seedlings for us in the spring, to get us started off with planting. Alongside all the practical work that needs to be done, we are planning to spend time at the allotment, praying together, and watching for God's leading. This will happen on alternate Saturdays beginning on December 31st, around sunset. We would love members of both churches to come and join us in this time of discernment, planning, building and sowing -if you would like more information about how to get involved please get in touch with Rev. Sharon (P) or John.

January:

"Is a time of journeys, of crossing over boundaries into new places...It is a season of reflection on the past and wise discerning for the future...Epiphany means a 'showing' or 'appearance'...The Epiphany story reminds us that God's love is revealed when people cross the threshold from known places towards each other". (The Celtic Wheel of the Year - Tess.Ward).

Save the Date...



Fair Trade Coffee morning at St. Anne's Hall on Saturday March 4th 2023. We are hoping to have Sarah Shepherd, founder of the Just Shop, joining us to speak about the Fair Trade movement, and bring some items from the shop for sale. To find out more or to place an order online go to <https://fairtrade.com>

A Prayer of Praise:

God of promise,
Praise to you that your hope does not fade
Or become tawdry as the baubles when the festivities are done.
Praise that your love cannot be put away in the box with the angels
For you came in darkness, and reached out to us.
And when the return of routine is contemplated with relief and in weariness,
As at the bottom of a tall mountain,
Praise for your promise of presence.
Amen.

If you would like to contribute something for this page, please send to
Rev.sharon.pioneercurate@gmail.com





Christmastide



**A Service of Meditation
St Paul's with St Augustine's**

**Every
Wednesday**

**at
4.00pm**

Following the Magi



**A Service of Meditation
St Paul's with St Augustine's**

**Saint Paul and Saint Augustine's
Worship Centre**

Sunday 22nd January at 11.00am

Sung Eucharist

To Celebrate

Afterwards there will be a lunch. The numbers will be limited to 50 and there will be a notice in both churches inviting you to come



The Menu

Vegetable Soup

Roast Meat
Boiled & Roast Potatoes.
A Selection of Vegetables

Various Desserts

PRICE
£10.00p



Afterwards the 100 Fund draw will take place

MY FAVOURITE HYMN BY PAUL HENRY

It is a popular hymn and is taken from Ephesians 6: 10-15



The Armor of God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I was a member of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade for over 40 years and this was their national hymn. It was sung regularly at parades and on special occasions during the year. It makes up the brigade badge and the reading and the badge hold fond memories. It enhances my Christian life.

Fight the good fight with all thy might Author: John S. B. Monsell (1863)

Tune: PENTECOST (Boyd) Published in 458 hymnals extremely popular.



1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be

thy joy and crown eternally.

3 Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.

God's boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove

Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;

lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.

Life with its way before us lies;

Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

God changeth not, and thou art dear.

Only believe, and thou shalt see

that Christ is all in all to thee.

ST PAUL'S WITH ST AUGUSTINE'S FUNDRAISING PAGE

The Table Top Sale held on December 10th raised £739 (including pre-sales of homemade and sales from the Community Hub) for Church funds with £100 being sent in support of the work of Street Pastors (see Street Pastors page on Website) and £100 in Contribution to Leicester Diocese.

The next Table Top Sale will be held on Saturday 14th January.



Any donations for the forthcoming Table Top Sale will be gratefully received – contact Dave 07800746121

The November 100 Fund draw took place after the service on 27th November at St Paul's and St Augustine's Worship Centre.

Winning Number

£50 100

Congratulations to the winner and remember you have to be in it to win it!

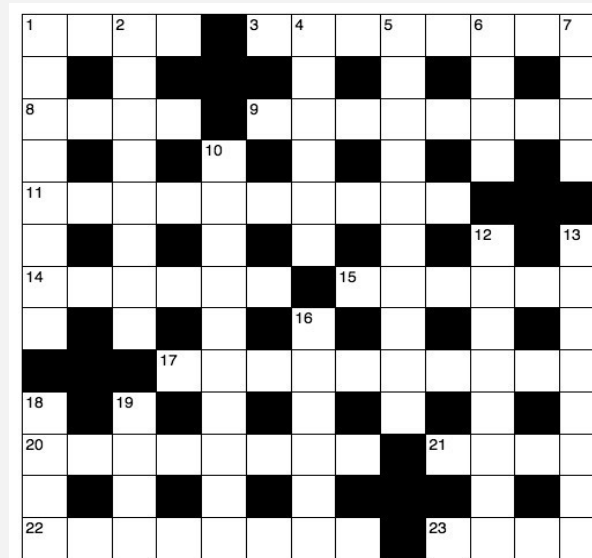
The following numbers are available:-

1, 10, 12, 23, 26, 27, 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 76, 79, 80, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 96, 97, 98 and 99.

The new 100 Fund year starts after the **St Paul's Patronal Festival Lunch/Grand Draw** on January 22nd – so don't be shy reserve your number (s) now!

*If you are interested in joining the 100 Fund then please contact Dave on 07800746121 or email dave1960king@hotmail.com

The winner of the December 100 Fund draw due to be held on Sunday 25th December will be announced in February's magazine



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



HOLY DAYS FOR JANUARY

- 1 The naming of Jesus
- 2 Basil the Great - champion of the Church
- 5 Simeon Stylites - one of the weirder saints!
- 6 Epiphany
- 8 Nathalan - an early farmer in Scotland
- 11 Mary Slessor – missionary
- 12 Antony Pucci - poor, plain and tongue-tied
- 13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers
- 14 Felix of Nola - saved by a spider's web
- 17 Anthony of Egypt - hermit who defied an emperor
- 18 Amy Carmichael, founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship
- 19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester
- 21 Meinrad (d 861) - victim of grievous bodily harm
- 21 St Agnes - child martyr of Rome, 304AD
- 22 Vincent of Saragossa - first martyr of Spain
- 25 The Conversion of St Paul
- 31 Maedoc of Ferns

11th January:

Mary Slessor of Calabar

Courage, vision and leadership are found in the most unlikely of places.

Mary Slessor was born in December 1848 into a wretchedly poor family. When Mary's father and both brothers died of pneumonia, Mary's mother struggled on to keep Mary and her two sisters alive. By the time Mary was 14 she was doing a 12-hour day as a jute maker.

Mary's mother was a devout Christian who read the family Bible to her daughters, and also the *Missionary Record*, a monthly publication from the United Presbyterian Church. The stories of the missionaries captivated Mary. She wanted to devote her life to taking the gospel to Africa. She was 25.

In August 1876 the Presbyterians sent her out to Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had ever yet set foot. Mary settled happily among the tribes. She learned their traditions, quickly becoming fluent in their language, Efik.

Over the years Mary put an end to many witchcraft practises, and she adopted every twin child she found abandoned. And she talked endlessly about Jesus Christ, the passion of her life.

It has been written of her: "Practically singlehanded she tamed and transformed three pagan communities in succession.

When in 1901 Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was appointed the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire.

When she finally died of fever in January 1915 the native Christian girls and women wept bitterly: "Our mother is dead. Everybody's mother has left us."

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

The Art of Ringing in the New Year

The Rectory
St James the Least
My dear Nephew Darren



I am sure I had warned you about church bells. They are simply not to everyone's taste. And the idea of switching on your recorded bells - no matter how digitally enhanced - at midnight for an hour, in order to welcome in the New Year, may have seemed inspired at the time, but considering that most of your inner city parish is Moslem, that you are surrounded on one side by a hospital and another by a care home for the elderly, it is not too surprising that the joyful sound was not well received.

But to be fair, we too had a small misjudgement on New Year's Eve. Our bell-ringers, who practise the art of campanology, and don't use electronic equipment, have always been something of a trial. They ring with great enthusiasm for half an hour before our services each week, but then as we are singing the first hymn, they emerge from the church tower, putting on hats and coats while loudly discussing who made the error in the middle of that morning's grandsire triples.

This New Year's Eve they met in the bell tower at 11pm to have some champagne, and then a period of ringing before further refreshment became necessary. By midnight, the champagne had so refreshed them that they somewhat exceeded their accuracy, and the village heard the New Year being joyfully welcomed by a set of eight bells being rung in an entirely random order.

I still managed to drift off to sleep, only to be woken three hours later by one bell being mournfully but persistently tolled. Finally, I felt obliged to go and find out why. I discovered Colonel Bradshaw alone in the bell tower. When the party had ended and the ringers trooped out, the Colonel had dashed back in to retrieve his hat. The others, ignorant of his absence, then locked the church and went home to their beds. That lone bell was his way of announcing his predicament.

At least I was able to reassure him that his six-hour vigil in the church tower partially made up for his absence from Mattins for the previous 12 months.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Parable of the Month

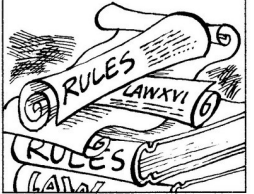


"Some
tough
talking"

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON AT LEAST ONE
OCCASION JESUS BECAME
VERY CROSS WITH THE
PEOPLE WHO MADE LOTS
OF RULES



YOU ARE BAD PEOPLE - YOU
GIVE A TENTH OF YOUR HERBS,
MINT, DILL AND CUMIN...



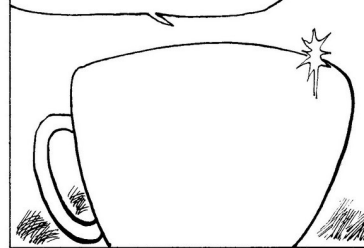
...BUT YOU FORGET
ABOUT JUSTICE, MERCY
AND HONESTY!



IT'S AS THOUGH YOU STRAIN
AT A GNAT - BUT SWALLOW A
CAMEL WHOLE!



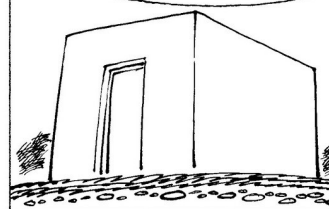
YOU ARE LIKE A CUP THAT IS
CLEAN ON THE OUTSIDE...



...BUT DISGUSTINGLY
FILTHY ON THE INSIDE!!



YOU ARE LIKE A
WHITWASHED TOMB -
SPARKLING CLEAN ON THE
OUTSIDE...



...BUT FULL OF MOULDY
OLD BONES!



JESUS DID NOT LIKE
PEOPLE WHO MADE IT
HARD TO FOLLOW GOD.

See Matthew 23.23-27

ST PAUL'S CONSERVATION AREA



St Paul's and St Augustine's Worship Centre sits within Leicester's newest Conservation Area. The 25th one to be designated in the city, **St Paul's Conservation Area** includes Fosse Recreation Ground, with boundaries on Fosse Road North to the east, and Church Avenue, Merton Avenue and part of King Richards Road to the south.

Among the landmark buildings in the area are the Grade II-listed former St Paul's Church on Kirby Road, which dates back to 1870; the late-19th century neo-Gothic St Andrew's Methodist Church on Glenfield Road East; the Estonian House on Fosse Road North; and several fine examples of late-Victorian and Edwardian villas and terraced housing. The area has a long history, with notable archaeological significance dating back to the Romans. It also offers a well-preserved built history of Leicester's suburban development over the last 150 years.

The suggestion to designate St Paul's as a conservation area was originally proposed by local residents and a consultation with local property owners carried out in late 2021 gained a 95% approval for the proposal from those responding.

Conservation areas form parts of the city that have buildings, local landmarks or other features of special historic or architectural interest that deserve to be preserved and enhanced. A new Character Appraisal and Management plan were adopted in June 2022, as well as enhanced planning controls – known as Article 4 Directions – to help protect the distinctive character of properties in the area.



Anyone can be lonely, and sometimes it is those we least expect. For example, although we often associate loneliness with older age, in fact those aged 16-24 were the most likely to report often or always feeling lonely in the Government's latest Community Life survey. Nevertheless, certain groups are more likely to feel isolated than others, such as people with long-term illnesses or disabilities, those living in economically deprived areas, new parents and people who have been widowed. So, by intentionally welcoming these individuals, churches' coffee mornings can make an even bigger difference. This is the goal of the Places of Welcome network – over 450 churches, community centres, libraries and other places of worship across the country open their doors at the same time each week for people to drop in, have a free hot drink or biscuit, and get to know others in their community.

"We've been waiting for this all week", Dave and Sharon at [St Paul's and St Augustine's Worship Centre](#) often hear on Wednesday afternoons, when they open their 'community hub'. Aware of the widespread isolation caused by Covid-19, they wanted to be able to help people to reconnect in an unpressured way. When they started, in September 2021, they wondered whether anyone would come. A year on, they now see around 25 people each week, and sometimes up to 40, including young families who are new to the area, older residents, and people who are out-of-work. As more people have started to come, the hub has started to offer more activities in response to people's interests. The sewing group made bunting to decorate the space, the knitting group has made poppies for Remembrance Day, while the young at heart gather around the pool table. The monthly table-top sale which [St Paul's and St Augustine's](#) also provides an opportunity for people to buy books, bric-a-brac and household items at really affordable prices. Not only does that draw more people inside the church, but it also provides the income to help keep the hub running. Once people start coming to the drop-in, Dave and Sharon are then able to point people to other activities which they might enjoy within the church or locally. They have also invited Police Community Support Officers and local councillors to offer advice and support. By just putting the kettle on and starting up conversations, [St Paul's and St Augustine's](#) are serving some of the most vulnerable people in their neighbourhood – giving them a place where they can just be, and be treated with the dignity and honour which Jesus would show them.

WEDNESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME 2023

1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

ST. ANNE'S HALL, LETCHWORTH ROAD 2.30PM



JAN 4 th	Tea and Chat
FEB 1 st	Bring and Buy
MAR 1 st	Bradgate Park Talk
APR 5 th	Easter Tea and Chat
MAY 3 rd	Lunch (Cold Food) 12.30pm
JUNE 7 th	Strawberry Tea
JULY 5 th	Ann & Robert's Garden
AUG 2 nd	Dogs Trust
SEP 6 th	Karen, Central Co-op, Fairtrade
OCT 4 th	Take Heart Leicester
NOV 1 st	Roxanne, Belly Dancer
DEC 6 th	Christmas Celebration Lunch

12.30pm. Please book your place in advance with Lesley or Hilary



KNIT AND NATTER

The knit and natter meetings is on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.

The 1st meeting in the New Year will be on 24th January

We look forward to seeing everyone that used to come before the pandemic took hold.

If you know of anyone who you think would enjoy an afternoon of friendship, and to just come along for a chat, please do invite them along.

They will be made very welcome.

Ann 2858581





St Paul's and St Augustine's
Saturday 14th January
10.00am to 2.00pm
Coffee Morning a donation will go to the USPG
Table Top Stalls In The
Worship Centre



Welcome to USPG – United Society Partners in the Gospel. Founded in 1701, we are the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.



Environmental degradation. Turbulent global politics. Gender injustice. The desperate flight of migrants. Forced displacement of people at record levels. USPG believes today's major challenges cry out for words and actions that express a love and solidarity that goes beyond narrow self-interest and national boundaries.

We believe the churches of the Anglican Communion are called urgently in mission to be communities of resistance and hope, witness to the healing power of Christ's love. So we invite you to journey together with us in rethinking mission, energising church and community and championing justice, which are our three strategic aims.

Whether you come to a vision for mission in the 21st century as a church leader or as an inquiring individual, we would be delighted to hear from and engage with you. So please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Records — Books — Clothes — Bric-a-Brac
Tombola — Home Made Stall.

Refreshments

SMILE LINES



Conscientious

A minister walked into his church office and found his eager young assistant minister had emptied a huge box of various teaching resources that had been sent to the church, including a Noah's Ark for the very young children. The assistant had most of the animals lined up along the desk, and he was searching for more. "Whatever are you doing?" asked the minister in bewilderment.



The assistant minister looked up eagerly. "The box clearly said: 'Do not use if seal is broken'. So - I'm looking for the seal."

Explaining birth

An expectant mother let her four-year-old place his hand on her tummy and feel the baby kick. The little boy was amazed and wondered aloud how the baby would ever get out. To keep it simple, the mother just said, "The doctor will help."



Her son's eyes widened: "You've got a doctor in there, too?!"

Amen to all that

When my young daughter said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). Then, for several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, she began to add: "And all girls."



This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity finally got the best of me and one night I asked her what she meant by it. Her response was simple: "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"



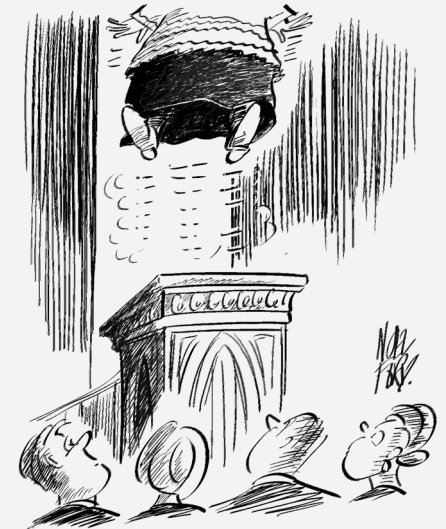
C	O	C	K		S	H	A	C	K	L	E	S
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Cartoons



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

ST. ANNE'S MOTHERS' UNION



DIARY NOTES FOR JANUARY



Yes, really! January again already! Yesterday we had our last Meeting of the year, when we all (it was nearly a full house) gathered to enjoy some Christmas cheer and chat (a lot of chat!). Mulled wine, tea, nibbles, Yule Log, Stollen and Mince Pies were the order of the day, with John Rutter Christmas music gently playing in the background. A lovely relaxing end to the year.

Now, as you all know, our January Meeting on the 10th will be the AGM. And at the risk of repeating myself, I need to remind you that Ann wants - needs - a break, so please, someone step forward to fill Ann's shoes! After the normal proceedings of the AGM, we shall be having a Bring and Buy. Being post-Christmas, I'm sure we shall all have something to bring along to put on the Stall to help raise funds!

Looking ahead in February the Revd. Sharon Andrews will be coming to talk about Priesthood and Podiatry - more details in the next edition of The Link

Wednesday, 4th January at 9-30 MU Corporate Communion
Tuesday, 10th January at 2-30. AGM and Bring and Buy

A Happy New Year to you all!

Mavis Walker

mavis55walker@gmail.com



Home Mission

The Children's Society	£400
Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust	£100
The Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield	£100
Mothers' Union Charity Trust	£100
The Prison Fellowship	£150
Mission to Seafarers	£100
Vista	£100
Street Pastors	£100
Loros	£100
Rainbows	£100
Sound Cafe	£100

Relief and Development Agencies

U.S.P.G.	£100
Christian Aid	£320
Leprosy Mission	£300

Church Overseas

Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro	£100
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TOTAL **£2270**

DEADLINES

The deadlines for the next three issues are:

February Issue

Wednesday 11th January 2023

March Issue

Wednesday 15th February 2023

April Issue

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Contributions accepted in person, by post or by email.

Contact details

Paul Henry

Address

24 Clarefield Road

E-mail

pen2link@btinternet.com



All contributions are welcome. Contributions can be submitted at ANY time before the deadline, so please do not feel you have to wait until then if you have something to contribute.

If you have something that is for a particular issue and the previous deadline(s) have not passed please make sure you mark it with the issue in which you would like it to appear. If you would like something to be in several issues please also mark it accordingly.

For items sent by email please try to use the following:

Send all items regardless of size, as an attachment, not in the body of the email. (This saves a lot of time!!!!)

Set the page to A4 with margins of 2cm all round.

Set the font to 12pt and Arial.

Where possible send files in the word format .doc (open office can save to this format just as Word can) Thank you

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Click on Resources and Items of Interest

Go down and Click on the Link

Scroll down until you get to: Please click on the link below to see a pdf of copies of The LINK magazine.

Then click on the month you want to read.



'He gave us eyes to see them': Joseph Turner (1775-1851)

Amid the hectic, busy lives we lead, many people fall under the control of 'the hurry syndrome.' We have to do 'A' as soon as possible, and we have get to 'B' as soon as possible. And along the way, we have phone calls to make, emails to open, and Facebook and Twitter and all the social media to check.



It means that we often go through the world without giving that world a second glance. This year in these articles we are going to pause, and, as the poet says, 'stand and stare.' Each month we shall be looking at a painting that celebrates the wonder, the joy, the mystery, and the marvel of the created world in which we live.

Joseph Turner (1775-1851) was one of the great artists of the 19th century. But he did little to conform to that accolade. But no matter – he was passionate about his vision of the world around which inspired his art. Wherever he went, he sketched and painted. The ending of the Napoleonic wars meant that people could travel safely through Europe, and he visited Italy many times. That country and its scenery taught him the place of light in art, which in many ways was the foundation of the paintings of his last 15 years. Ruskin hailed Turner as 'a great angel of the Apocalypse....sent as a prophet of God to reveal to men the mysteries of the universe.' Turner was not particularly religious himself, but in the paintings of his old age, he was like a creator grappling with the elemental forces of light and sky, of water and sun.

In 1842 he painted 'Steamboat in a Snowstorm.' We see the water and the sky and the snow all cascading around each other. The clouds and driving snow, the churning of the water - all are there in abundance, and in the midst there is the steamboat trying to keep afloat and make its way through the forces of nature. Without that title we might think this painting is a modern abstract. With the title, we sense the wildness and wonder of the great forces of sea and sky, snow and clouds.

This month of January can bring snow which stops the traffic and maroons us in our homes. Here in the painting the snow and wind beat around the steamboat: it could be an image of human life tossed around by circumstance and event. But I think Turner wanted us to see something of the extraordinary power the great forces of nature have over life – not to make us fatalistic and gloomy, but to proclaim that here in our world are mysteries and marvels that can stop us in our tracks.

It is like the voice of God speaking to Job, who has questioned the justice of God's ways in His world. 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?' God asks Job. 'Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?' Job's response is to question no more. He puts his hand over his mouth and looks out at the world God has created in wonder and amazement.

SIDESPERSION'S ROTA



Date	Name	Name
Jan 8th	Winifred Gibson	
Jan 15th	Jean Dean	George Wilson
Jan 22nd	Paul Ward	Sally Morris
Jan 29th	Paul Archer	Kathy Harrison
Feb 5th	Mavis Walker	Michael Walker
Feb 12th	Rachel Spiers	
Feb 19th	Gail Inskip	Ellen Bateman
Feb 26th	Judith Knox	Lesley Orris

Any problems, please contact

Eunice Lowe Tel: 0116 2852317 or eunicelowe@icloud.com

THANK YOU FROM MIKE RULE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all at St Anne's and St Paul with St Augustine's for such a friendly and warm welcome as I've joined you for a short period as part of my training for Lay Ministry. The placement has given me the perfect mix of familiarity when compared to my home church of St James the Greater, for example the choir and organ, liturgical worship and BCP services, but also approaches to worship which are quite different. In particular, I have enjoyed Children's Church on Saturdays and the All Age services which have allowed me to reflect on how these style of worship have a true place in parish worship and this has equipped me with ideas which I can take back to St James with me. The organisation and activities to keep 15 under 14s occupied whilst opening their minds to God's kingdom has been inspiring, and Liz's energy in this setting has been more than impressive! To find another church in Leicester which is clearly committed to two things close to my heart - choral worship and particularly weekly Evensong – is reassuring where many churches no longer have the resources or inclination for such styles of worship. Most importantly, everyone at both churches has shown just how warm and welcoming the church can be, and for this I thank you all, with particular thanks to Liz and the ministry team alongside the Churchwardens of both churches. I have no doubt I'll be back to visit as I've enjoyed the worship and company so much. Best wishes for 2023 and beyond.

UNEXPECTED JESUS

Following the Advent Course at 24 Clarefield Road the following Critique was written. It is published for you below and should you wish to look at the findings of the group they are published in the Lady Chapel at the Worship Centre.

The title of the book is questionably a misnomer as in the season of Advent Jesus is most definitely “expected”.

In fact, his birth was prophesied in some detail by the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah and we would “expect” this account to be widely known in Jewish circles, especially by the Pharisees and other seriously religious/learned people. The account would have been read aloud in the synagogues and spread by word of mouth. The author would have been better to focus on the differences between the prophesied Jesus and the Jews interpretation of theses prophesies (i.e., a political leader to stir up rebellion and lead them to victory) as opposed to our Jesus (i.e., the Son of God, teacher and healer).

Similarly in Chapter 4 the author suggests that the coming of the Holy Spirit was “unexpected” which it certainly was not (see Joel 2 28-29). However, the way the Holy Spirit came to the disciples would surely have astonished them!

It was significant that the group was essentially more confident in its faith than the author herself appeared to be – reflected in the questions and issues raised. The additional readings did not always appear to fit in with the rest of the chapter and the reason behind their inclusion remains unclear. Sometimes we need to have more faith and put our trust in God and play the hand that is dealt us.

Despite the title, chosen no doubt to improve sales – the “expected” Jesus would be unlikely to attract the punters – the book provoked a lot of serious thought, encouraged contemplation and ensured lively discussion and debate!

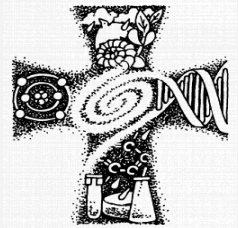
The willingness of all the members of the group to contribute more than made up for the deficiencies in the Book.



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GOD IN THE SCIENCES



Science and Miracles

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in textbooks are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.



A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that “We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches.” For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: “Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus’s miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it’s obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses.”

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night, and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don’t seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don’t.

Many in Jesus’ audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God.

The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what ‘your kingdom come’ looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works *and* wonders.



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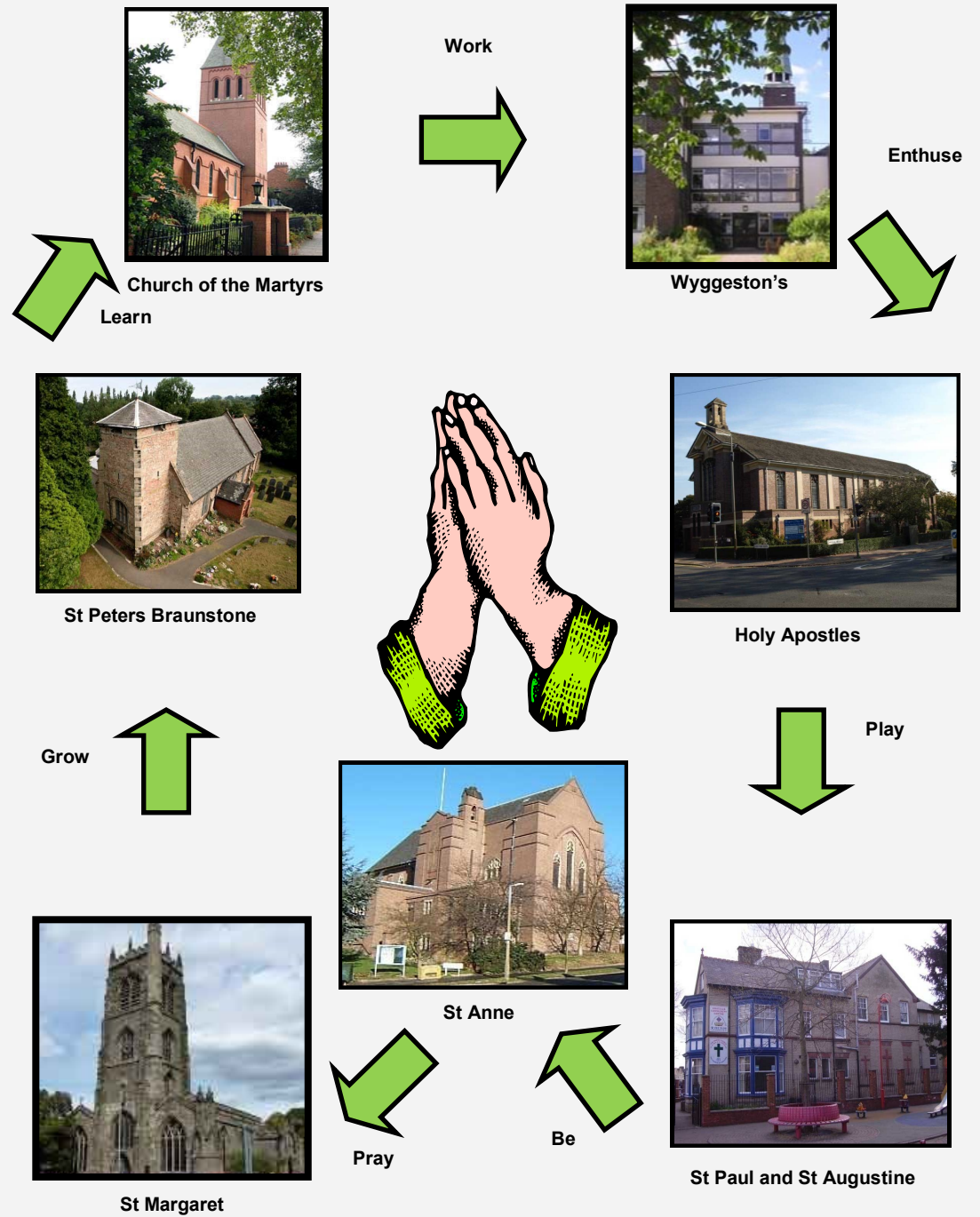
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