

NEWS Extra

Parish of
Dibden
magazine

May
2025
70p





Rev'd Ian McGill
Associate Minister

Hello and welcome to the May edition of Dibden Parish's News Extra. As we look toward a new month, with spring in full flow and summer on the horizon too, it is easy to forget that throughout May we are still in the church season of Easter.

There is something quite reassuring not only about the regular changing pattern of the natural earthly seasons, but also as the church observes the major Christian festivals throughout each year. Although the celebrations of Easter Sunday may now be behind us, it is helpful to remember that each church season has a place and a time too. So easy for us to get drawn toward the next 'thing', or to move on too quickly. We can miss the opportunity to dwell a little longer in the story of what we have just encountered. For Easter, of all the Christian stories, is 'the' defining moment in all of history. So, maybe it is good for us to take the time this Easter season, and throughout the month of May, to reflect upon what we have just celebrated, and what this really means for us and our world?

In Dibden parish this month we welcome the return of our afternoon 'Songs of Praise' services at All

Saints', beginning on the 11th May, where we will be commemorating the re-dedication of the church building 70 years ago, in April 1955, following extensive reconstruction after the WWII bombing. This was commemorated then as a 'Joyful Resurrection' and it is indeed with great joy that we continue to be blessed by the place of All Saints' Church in the life of this parish.

And ... many would have noticed that the work has finally started on phase two of the refurbishment work at St. Andrew's, which includes the offices and meeting rooms. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with the temporary moving of the office into the Chapel, and for bearing with us as we get used to a different set up for a while. And thank you to all who have supported our recent Easter 'Gift Day', which is contributing toward both the on-going building project at St. Andrew's and the Waterside Food Bank.

Restoration and refurbishment work in both our church buildings; although 70 years apart, we pray they will continue to serve as places of honour and glory to God, throughout all the changing seasons, and the years ahead.

With every blessing. **Rev. Ian.**

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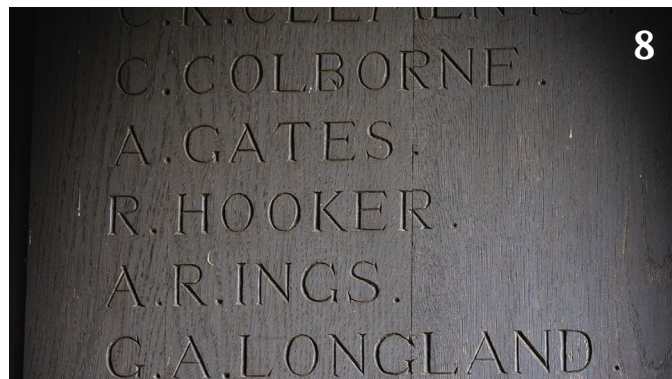
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PARISH NEWS

ST ANDREW'S REFURBISHMENT

It's beginning at last! This multi-purpose refurbishment project will significantly improve the front façade of the church, the office, the small meeting rooms, outer office, signage and foyer. It is addressing the ground floor leaks and the thermal efficiency, providing a better environment year-round.

The contract value for the works (including architect's fees) is about £165,000. Construction work has become more expensive over the last couple of years, and this raises ongoing challenges for the maintenance of a church building that is over 50 years old, and a

centre that is now over 25 years old.

You will be aware that signage around St Andrew's Church and Centre has deteriorated and become out of date. Now that we are using our new suite of fonts, our PCC has approved new and extensive signage for the whole site. The total cost will be an additional £2,500.

We are also planning to enhance the foyer and repurpose the outer office to make it a more welcoming and functional space.

This is a project the PCC have been working on for at least five years and we're confident it will make a significant difference to the environment in which we welcome our community and worship our God.

ACCESS TO ST ANDREW'S DURING BUILDING WORK

Please be aware that the old entrance to St Andrew's will be 'Fire Exit only' on Sundays and no access during the week. We would ask that you enter St Andrew's via the Church Centre double doors, as the majority of you do anyway. The Church Office is now located in the Chapel, accessed through the church. If you can't find anything because it's been moved, please just ask!

LOVE YOUR CHURCHYARD WORK PARTY

Join us on Saturday 10th May for the next 'Love Your Churchyard' Work Party. From 9:30am-12:30pm, we will be working in the churchyard at All Saints', Dibden.

This is an opportunity for anyone who is reasonably physically fit to meet at the churchyard and work together with others on some garden-type tasks, which help us to keep the churchyard the pleasant place it has been for hundreds of years. Any time you can offer will be greatly appreciated. Hot and cold drinks, with tasty nibbles, will be available to reward your efforts. If possible, please bring standard garden tools and compost collecting buckets. For more information: allsaintschurchyard@dibdenchurches.org



The refurbishment project at St Andrew's has now begun.



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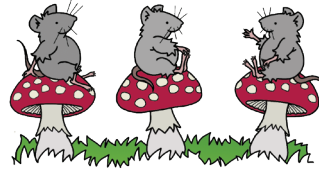
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Visit www.dibdenchurches.org or speak to the Centre administrator on **023 8084 3204**, during office hours, for more details.

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE



RESPONSE TO WELFARE REFORM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the government's recent welfare reform announcements, The Archbishop of York, The Rt Rev'd Martyn Snow, and Canon Alice Kemp have each expressed their views on the potential impact of the proposals.

Archbishop Stephen acknowledged the fiscal challenges faced by the government but emphasised the importance of addressing the underlying causes of ill health and worklessness. Archbishop Stephen stressed that increased reliance on food banks and heating difficulties are symptoms of a much broader issue that needs urgent attention.

The Bishop of Leicester, Rev'd Martyn Snow, who serves as the lead bishop for welfare, acknowledged the difficult choices the government faces, but expressed concern that the burden of these decisions should not fall on those already struggling.

Canon Alice Kemp, a member of General Synod and the Disability Task Group, spoke from personal experience, detailing the challenges

faced by disabled people in the workplace and society.

TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE 'RIGHT THING TO DO' – BISHOP OF NORWICH

Acting to prevent global warming and biodiversity loss is the 'right thing to do' and a sign of Christian compassion for those who are suffering as a result of the climate crisis, the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment said recently.

Bishop Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich, has thanked parishes for their 'hard work and commitment' towards making churches Net Zero by 2030 and their support for churchyards to become havens for biodiversity. Both aims have been backed by the General Synod.

He said the Net Zero programme is already building up a 'huge impetus', resulting in helping make many churches sustainable into the future.

Acting to tackle climate change is the 'right thing to do' he told the recent gathering at

the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, attended by 120 Diocesan Environment and Net Zero officers as well as ecumenical representatives.

"If we truly believe that we are brothers and sisters in Christ we should have a concern and a compassion for where biodiversity and climate change loss is impacting people's lives."

FIRST BISHOPS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE APPOINTED

The Bishop of Kirkstall, Arun Arora, and the Bishop of Croydon, Rosemarie Mallett, have been appointed by the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London as joint lead bishops for the Church of England on racial justice.

Their role will involve acting as advocates on racial justice throughout the Church of England, including promoting implementation of the recommendations of From Lament to Action, the landmark report from the Church of England's Anti-Racism Taskforce.

Bishop Arun and Bishop Rosemarie will also serve as joint deputy chairs of the newly created Racial Justice Board, a committee of the Archbishops' Council that will oversee its work on racial justice.

PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST RESOURCE, MODERATOR TELLS SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

The Rt Rev'd Dr Shaw Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has said that people are the "greatest resource" society has.

But he lamented that it is too easy to get caught up in difficulties and problems and focus too much on "what divides us rather than what we have in common".

Dr Paterson urged the MSPs to be mindful of the 'three Bs' – building together, breaking barriers and budget.

Speaking at a recent Time for Reflection in the debating chamber, he said: "Scotland has a long history of welcoming our neighbours – refugees, asylum seekers, Ukrainians seeking a safe place – the list is endless. Caring for the poor and the marginalised is central to the worlds of faith and politics – which I do not see as separate entities."

The Church of Scotland is not party political but if the General Assembly agrees that an issue needs to be raised with a government, or if it adopts a policy position, it seeks to find ways to make this point constructively with politicians and government.

VICTORY IN EUROPE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION: MAY 8TH 2025

Written by
David Hedley-Goddard

This coming May 8th, 2025, marks the 80th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe. (V E Day).

At the time of writing this article it seems the Government have not decided whether or not to mark this occasion with a one day national holiday, in order to allow commemorations on a national and local basis to take place. It is therefore hoped that local parish councils, churches etc. will contribute in some way to mark this historic event with some sort of celebration.

Dibden and Dibden Purlieu made considerable contributions to the effort to overcome the tyranny of Nazism.

Many men and women signed up to add their contributions to the war effort in any way they could, sadly seventeen young men from the Parish made the supreme sacrifice and are now remembered on the war memorials at All Saints', Dibden, and Hythe Hospital in Dibden Purlieu.



Most of these men are buried in Commonwealth War Graves, mostly abroad, but two were brought home and are buried in the churchyard at All Saints', Dibden.

The first was Arthur Ronald Ings. The second was Cyril George Colbourne.

ORDINARY SEAMAN ARTHUR RONALD INGS

Arthur was born on the 5th January 1920 in Dibden Purlieu. His Parents were Edward Charles and Rosa Charlotte Ings (*nee* Bowditch). Edward worked as a bricklayer.

Arthur had six siblings, two sisters and four brothers. One of the sisters died when she was only four and the other sister died in 1926. Tragedy continued with the death of his mother in 1930.

As war once again broke out in Europe in 1939, Arthur was living with his father and three brothers, Edward, Albert and William, at Number 1, Solent Road, Dibden Purlieu. He was working as a baker's rounds man when he was called up into the Royal Navy as Ordinary Seaman 217453, Arthur Ronald Ings.

Following training he was posted to H.M.S. Newport. The Newport was a town class destroyer, which

had been laid down in 1917, and was originally part of the U.S. Navy's contribution to escorting convoys across the Atlantic in World War One. As an American ship, she was known as the USS Sigourney. The ship entered the Royal Navy following the 'Ships for Bases' agreement, signed between the U.S. and Great Britain, and became G 54 H.M.S. Newport. Tragedy once again struck with the death of Arthur's brother in 1940.

Arthur was not with his ship long as he developed influenza and was hospitalised and on the 4th February 1941. He succumbed to Influenzal Pneumonia.

Arthur's body was returned to Dibden and on the 8th February 1941 was buried at All Saints' Churchyard, Dibden. He was just 21. His brother, John, died in 1947 and Edward, his father, died in 1963 at Southampton. His remaining brother, William, died in 1993.

PILOT OFFICER CYRIL GEORGE COLBORNE RAF VR.

Within All Saints' Churchyard, Dibden, there are three Commonwealth War Graves. These are Commission standard grave stones, marking the spot where the mortal remains of three

young men lie. One from the First World War and two from the Second World War. These men gave their lives in the service of their country in a time of war.

One of these graves lies just inside the memorial gate and is that of Pilot Officer Cyril George Colborne.

Cyril was born in 1918, his parents being Albert Edward and Sybil Marjory Colborne (*nee* Cole). Albert had been born at Newport on the Isle of Wight in June 1880. In September 1913, he married Sybil Margery Cole at Christchurch, Hampshire. Sybil had been born in the September of 1892 at Hatherleigh, Devonshire, and was the eldest of three children.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Albert joined the Royal Garrison Artillery. He survived the war and in April 1918 his son Cyril George was born at Edmonton in Essex. Albert later worked as a customs clerk and, when he retired, came to live with Sybil at Oakhurst, Beaulieu Road, Hampshire.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Cyril joined the Royal Air Force as a volunteer reservist. After completing training as a pilot, he was posted to 61 Squadron, based at Helmsley in Lincolnshire. The squadron

operated the Avro Manchester Mk.1 aircraft, the predecessor to the famous Avro Lancaster.

On the 29th June 1941, Cyril was detailed to fly Avro Manchester L7315 on a test flight. The normal operating crew of a Manchester was four or five people but on this occasion, presumably because it was a routine test flight, the crew consisted of Cyril, as the Pilot and Sergeant J. Wilson the radio operator. At some point in the flight a con rod in one of the engines broke, causing a major fire. Sergeant Wilson was ordered to abandon the aircraft which he did and landed safely by parachute. The aircraft however crashed at Caistor, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, before Cyril could abandon it, and he was killed immediately.

Cyril's body was returned to his parents and laid to rest in the churchyard of All Saints', Dibden.

The inscription on the gravestone also mentions a Mrs. M. Henstridge. This lady was the sister of Sybil, her full name being May Temperance Carpenter. May married William Henstridge in July 1929 and died in 1967 at Christchurch.

Cyril's mother died just two months after her son's death. His father died in the January of 1947, in Basingstoke, Hampshire.

DIBDEN CHURCH 1836

Written by
Ted Thomas

November gales laid low the churchyard yew.
The Reverend May bemoaned the fallen tree.
What could this sorry loss be tailored to
How could a grief be deftly turned to glee?
A village worthy volunteered his skills
A Joseph made a table smooth and true.

Today it stands before us in our church
A part thereof like altar, cross and pew.
What is to learn from Nature's angry blows?
Which try our mettle, put us to the test.
It seems our ancient vicar clearly knew
How worst might be transformed to shining best.
And so, this holy man contrived, you see
To save the fallen sinner, and the tree.

(March 2025)



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HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM: 'THE DEATH OF THE VIRGIN' BY BRUEGEL

The Rev'd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums.

Upton House in Warwickshire was the home of a millionaire oil magnate, Walter Samuel, in the 1920s and 30s. The origin of that fortune is displayed in the collection of early Shell posters, but the house is now owned by the National Trust.

The interiors still breathe the art deco atmosphere of that earlier lifestyle. Outside there are beautiful terraced gardens, imposing cedar trees, and spectacular asters. Inside there is a remarkable art collection with works by Bosch, Holbein, El Greco, Canaletto and Stubbs. And two paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525-69) – 'The Massacre of the Innocents' and 'The Death of the Virgin.' Bruegel's works are full of movement and colour as he depicts the peasant life and landscapes of his day. The mood for 'The Death of the Virgin' is very different. It is a grisaille,

painted in grey tones that suit the theme of life ending.

This month of May is often known as Mary's month, with May Queen celebrations and the feast of the Visitation on the 31st. On that day we give thanks for the beginning of new life in the womb of our Lady as she goes to share that good news with her cousin, Elizabeth.

In Bruegel's painting in Upton House, it is the ending of her life that is the theme. Local villagers gather around her bed which is set in a typical Flemish room of the period. The source of this story is the Golden Legend. In the Gospels we hear of Mary at the Incarnation and Cana. We know Mary was with the disciples at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and, as the Golden Legend relates, here they are with her at her death. John, the beloved disciple, seems to be dozing by the fireside, perhaps dreaming of that special moment at the crucifixion when he was entrusted with the care of the mother of Jesus.

Mary holds a candle and is praying as she looks at the crucifix on the pillow at the end of the bed. For all the figures gathered around, Bruegel has depicted the scene as a special, intimate moment, when she is about to be reunited with her son.

We can think of Mary praying the Magnificat and Mary praying with the disciples at Pentecost. And prayer suffuses this scene as she commends her life to God's grace. The light that shines forth faintly around the bed will blaze out in resurrection glory as she is welcomed into the heavenly courts.

In the Orthodox Church this moment is known as the falling asleep of Mary. If so, it is a falling asleep to wake into the realm of life eternal. She whose words to the angels began the great gospel of salvation in Jesus; she who told the servants at Cana to do what

Jesus asks; she who followed Jesus to the foot of the cross – now in this painting, she places her hope and trust in that same son who showed that death was not the end, but birth into new life.

Mary's Yes to the angel is a lesson and example for all of us as we try to follow God's will. As we ponder this scene of Bruegel in her month of May, we can echo the angel's words to our Lady: 'Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you' – now and eternally.





PRAYING WITH THE PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE – PRAYING IN THE SILENCE OF THE HEART

Written by the Rev'd Dr Herbert McGonigle, a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

'O Lord of hosts ... if you will give me a son ... I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life.'
(1 Samuel 1:11)

Three 'C's will help us to grasp this most personal and moving prayer.

First, the prayer's context. Hannah was the childless wife of Elkanah, who had sons and daughters by his other wife,

Peninnah. As she longed for a child, she was taunted by 'her rival' (see v.6) who reproached her for being barren.

It doesn't take much imagination to understand how miserable and lonely and useless Hannah felt. Although Elkanah loved Hannah, his well-meant sympathy, "Am I not more to you than ten sons?" (Samuel 1:8) was hardly calculated to ease her pain! Making the annual pilgrimage to the Tabernacle at Shiloh, Hannah was 'deeply distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly' (Samuel 1:10).

This is the Bible's first record of a woman praying. We can be certain that godly women, long before Hannah's time, had prayed but this is the first mention in Scripture of a woman praying.

Secondly, the prayer's content. Above everything else, Hannah

longed to have a son. "O Lord of hosts, if you will look on my affliction and give me a son, I will give him back to You in service all the days of his life" (Samuel 1:11). It was a cry from the heart. A lonely wife, longing for a child, taunted by her rival, and not really understood by her husband, poured out her very soul in grief.

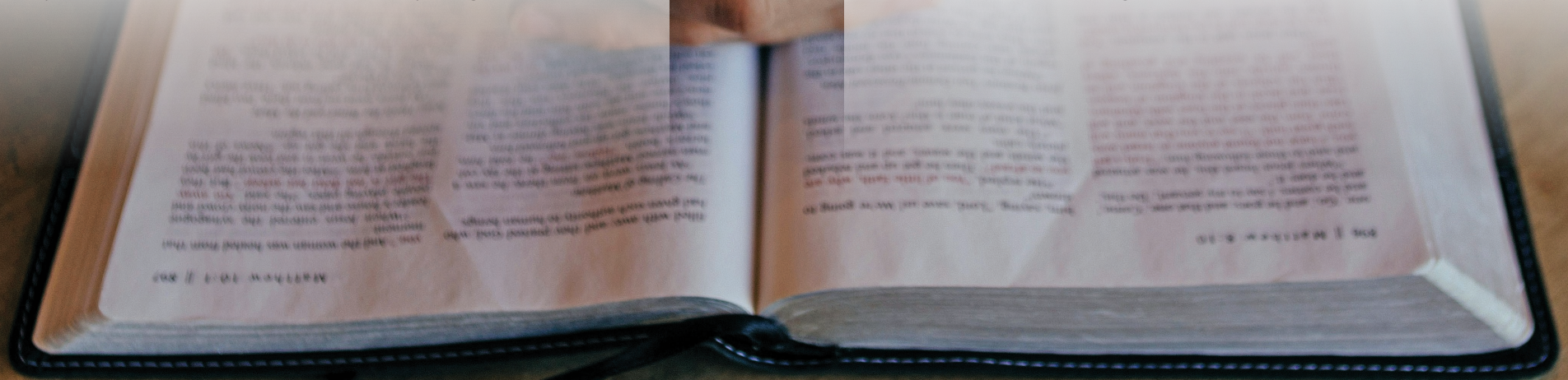
And it was all done without spoken words! As her lips moved, Eli the priest, misreading the signs, rebuked her for being drunk (Samuel 1:14). There are times when the burden of our heart is so great that no words can express it, but how comforting to know that God hears us!

Thirdly, the prayer's consequences. The Lord graciously answered Hannah's distress and a year later she was nursing her baby son! (Samuel 1:21-22). Hannah's dark night

had been eclipsed by a glorious morning. Grief and sorrow had given way to joy and delight but as she cradled her infant son, Hannah did not forget what she had promised the Lord.

In token of His faithfulness, she named her son Samuel, meaning, 'asked of the Lord' (Samuel 1:20). Some time later, Hannah took Samuel to Shiloh and presented him to Eli, fulfilling the promise she had made to the Lord. Hannah's dedication of Samuel is a reminder to all of us not only to give thanks to God for answered prayer but also to carry out whatever vows or promises we've made to Him.

Hannah's words to Eli are so full of praise and gratitude to God that they need no comment. Let them inspire thanksgiving in our hearts. "For this child I prayed ... therefore as long as he lives he is lent to the Lord" (Samuel 1:28).



BARNABAS – A VERY LIKEABLE DISCIPLE

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the difference a person can make.

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname which means ‘Son of Encouragement’ (**Acts 4:36**). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas was an example of generous giving (**Acts 4:36-37**), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later encouraged a new Christian in the person of Paul (**Acts 9:27**). After Paul’s conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he ‘saw the evidence of the grace of God’ (**Acts 11:23**). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people’s lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (**Romans 12:8**). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God’s people and beyond the church; alongside strengthening people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Let’s be prepared to ask the following questions: ‘Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?’ and ‘How can we be encouragers to others?’

If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
Romans 12:8

MUST A CHURCH KEEP MOVING OR CAN WE REST?

Christ-likeness, or simply becoming like Jesus, is God’s purpose for every follower of Jesus. The following article is adapted from an article by the Langham Partnership (UK and Ireland). <https://uk.langham.org>

There is a healthy tension at the heart of the Christian journey. It’s the push and pull of staying, or of getting up and going. And the Bible speaks of both as part of the normal Christian life.

In **1 Corinthians 15:58** Paul seems to be spurring his readers on to do even more, “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters...always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

But then we hear Jesus warning us in **John 15:5**, “I am the vine; you are the branches.... apart from me you can do nothing”. Who wants to find they have moved on and achieved nothing?

In the process of transformation (becoming like Jesus) there

seems to be this healthy tension between ‘doing’ and ‘abiding’.

Some churches try to solve the tension by ticking the ‘abiding’ option. No one is challenged, the training of a new generation of leaders is half-hearted, and resources are safely banked. We create a pathway that leads nowhere much, and then happily walk up and down it each week. We just ‘are’ Christians.

Other churches rush helter-skelter in the opposite direction. Exhaustion and burnout are their trademarks. They pile up meetings and programmes and use people until they are burnt out. There is no depth, no profound mystery, and nowhere to rest and refresh the exhausted traveller.

Perhaps if the journey into Christ-likeness needs us to rest, as well as to get going, then as churches, we need to plan for both. We need to be prepared to roll up our sleeves, sacrifice comfort, and pour ourselves out in God’s service. But we also need to take time to seek intimacy with Him, and to be transformed by His Spirit within us. We need to become an oasis of grace and love to the people we encounter.

Now that sounds like a balance well kept, when both ‘going’ and yet ‘staying’ is still an option.



WHAT'S ON THIS MAY

ST. ANDREW'S, DIBDEN PURLIEU

Every Tuesday			
Dibden Minis Playtimes (term-time)	9:00am-10:30am	Main Hall	Toys, songs and snack time for babies and toddlers!
Every Wednesday			
Parish Prayers	9:00am	Garden Lounge and via Zoom	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/854948714 A Psalm, thought for the day and prayer.
Every Thursday			
Dibden Minis Playtimes (term-time)	10:00am-11:30am	Main Hall	Toys, songs and snack time for babies and toddlers!
Seekers youth group (term-time)	5:00pm-6:30pm & 6:30pm-7:30pm	Garden Lounge	Youth groups for those in Years 7-13. 5:00pm-6:30pm for Years 7-8, 6:30pm-7:30pm for Years 9-13.
Parish Prayers	6:30pm-7:00pm	Chapel	Prayers for our parish, community and world.
Wednesday 7th May			
Living with Loss	3:00pm	Garden Lounge	An informal and supportive bereavement group.
Tuesday 13th May			
Women's Fellowship	2:15pm	Garden Lounge	A friendly group that meets with a guest speaker. Enjoy tea and a chat afterwards.
Thursday 15th May			
CAMEO	12:15pm	Main Hall	Lunch time group for the elderly. <i>Booking required.</i>
Saturday 17th May			
Who Let the Dads Out?	9:00am-11:00am	Main Hall	Every third Saturday, dads and father figures are invited to bring their children to play games, eat bacon butties and meet other families. <i>Please contact James Willett at youth@dibdenchurches.org to book a place.</i>

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Oakhaven
hospice
making every moment matter

Carol's story

After Carol was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of 58, it was the care and support from Oakhaven that helped her and the whole family at such a difficult time.

Initially visiting the Coates Centre, then Day Hospice, Carol was able to benefit from the support on offer, whether complementary therapy or a cup of tea and chat with others. Later she was able to stay at home thanks to Oakhaven's specialist nurses who visit across the New Forest, Totton and Waterside.

Leaving a legacy to Oakhaven ensures we will be able to continue caring for those in our community when they need us most, helping us to make every moment matter.

A pledge of any size will ensure we are there to make a difference for families in the future.

Could you help us with a gift in your will?
Visit oakhavenhospice.co.uk/legacy for more information.



MUSIC IN MAYTIME

with
Ann & David Turner



At 7:30pm on Saturday 17th May, Ann Turner and Friends are presenting a concert in St Andrew's Church Centre, Dibden Purlieu, entitled 'Music in Maytime'. The concert will be to support Hope Gardens in Tamil Nadu, South India.

This concert will feature a range of musical styles including vocal music, some piano duets, a piano solo and a cello solo. There will be music from musical theatre as well as other types of music and there will also be an opportunity for you to join in with a couple of choruses!

HOPE GARDENS

Hope Gardens is the charity linked to the Christian facility, Rhema Garden, based in Cumbum, Tamil Nadu, which has been supported by St Andrew's Church for more than 25 years. The starting of Hope Gardens involved a former curate at St Andrew's Church with the, now Archbishop, Samuel Gnanaprahasam. You will hear more about the charity during the evening.

The work of Hope Gardens is structured along three particular strands:

1. In 'Hope for Children' the garden provides care and education for disabled children, based on a well-established and respected school in the gardens. In Indian society children with learning or physical disabilities are often neglected, if not worse. The school in Hope Gardens supports 28 children where they are taught how to integrate into society within the learning community. There is also support for children in the community at large, whose parents often have to work late, and the children are provided with a meal and a place where they can study and play safely. Finally there is a scheme

to sponsor children, particularly orphans, some of whom are accommodated in an on site hostel and whose education expenses are covered by the sponsorship.

2. In 'Hope for Communities' there is the provision of medical care based in a clinic in the Gardens, which provides medical and maternity care in an affordable way to the local community. In the last ten years or so there has also been the establishment of a mobile medical clinic to provide health care to the surrounding 32 villages. This was achieved by the purchase of an ambulance and the employment of additional staff. There are also currently six sewing institutes set up, enabling women to have means of supporting themselves and their families when this is necessary. Self-sufficiency is at the heart of attaining sustainability. These initiatives provide employment, revenue and training opportunities.

3. In 'Hope for Churches' the Gardens are the base for a very successful Bible college preparing for people to pursue a career in ministry. It is grounded in



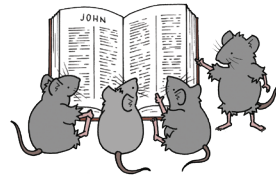
practical training and support in the local community. Pastors and their families live in their local community and support those most in need. They build up sustainable programmes to help people become self-sufficient and it is exciting for those in the Gardens to be building sustainable enterprises in the local communities.

CONCERT ADMISSION

There is no charge or tickets for the concert but there will be a retiring collection which will be used totally in support of the charity. Why not come along to an entertaining evening and support a very worthwhile cause.

For more on Hope Gardens:
<https://hopegardensindia.org/>

SERMON REFLECTIONS



‘TEMPTED TO WORSHIP?’

Exodus 32:1-10 and Matthew 4:1-11
Rev'd Peter Toller / 9th March

...“This is a calf they've only just made, how on Earth could this calf have been the one who brought them out of Egypt? It's absolute nonsense. Romans 1:25 sort of echoes, in my mind, at this point, when it says they exchange the truth about God for a lie. They worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator.

Of course, we sit here in judgment on these people of Israel, don't we? I mean how ridiculous to sort of get all their earrings and their jewellery and make this cow and start bowing down to a golden calf! I mean how on Earth could they do that? How ridiculous, how could they turn away from the God who rescued them? Then, of course, we realize that perhaps we are no less foolish with the idols that consume our lives. Those idols of success, of riches, of sexual pleasure, of substance abuse, or popularity. Whatever it might be, actually, we're just as foolish, aren't we, as the people of Israel. When you think about it, our idolatry has no more wisdom in it than theirs.”...

‘GOD'S DWELLING PLACE’

Exodus 40:17-38 and Hebrews 9:1-14
Sue de Jong / 16th March

...“The worship was very much about following regulations, about physical actions and about rituals. In other words, it was rather all about what the worshippers did. In God's plans to dwell with those He had created, Tabernacle (and later Temple) worship were always meant to be what Tom Wright calls a 'temporary arrangement'. A temporary arrangement for sinful people to draw near to a holy God. If you like, to come into His presence. What was it doing, what did it do? Well, it prepared the way for the coming of Jesus, that once and for all perfect sacrifice for sin. So worship could become not about rules, and not about regulations and rituals, but it could be all about the Lord Jesus.

There's a very short phrase in the text of Hebrews, which compares the sacrificial system of the Old Testament with the sacrifice made by Jesus. The phrase is this, 'how much more could any sacrifice ever be better than the freely given sinless life of the eternal Son of God, who came to live among us?'”...

‘THE FALL OF JERICHO’

Joshua 6:1-20 and Luke 10:30-37
Rev'd Ian McGill / 23rd March

...“We view this story from our times, don't we? We have to, we have to view the story from our time. Of all the conquest stories from the Old Testament, it can seem really harsh, and baffling and troubling. I've been reading through these stories in Samuel and Joshua and Kings, of all the battles and conquests. Through my eyes, these days, it seems really harsh. Why did God act in the way that He did back then? Then I thought, what is this story telling us today?

We have to remember the context. The first thing that God told Abraham and Isaac and Moses, in the Old Testament, was the promise that He would first rescue them, which He did, out of Egypt. He would make them into a great nation, and they would receive their reward of that promised land. But, there was a caveat to that, they had to play their part. God promised them the land but only as long as they followed His statutes and His decrees. We know how it all turned out, don't we? Israel struggled to meet those statutes and decrees, and, under various leaders and judges and kings, they kept falling short. It's as if God's promised land was never fully realised, even though they set out with the best of intentions.”...

‘THE SCARLET CORD’

Joshua 2:1-18 and Ephesians 1:3-10
Rev'd Canon Steve Pittis / 30th March

...“For us, following Jesus is about grasping the tomorrows that God has in store for us. When we trust in Jesus, we become God's people now. We become children of God, not through anything we've done but through His amazing love and His unconditional grace. Now we look forward to what He's promised us. Don't get me wrong, we live today. Today is the gift that God has given us, but we also can look expectantly to His purpose for the future.

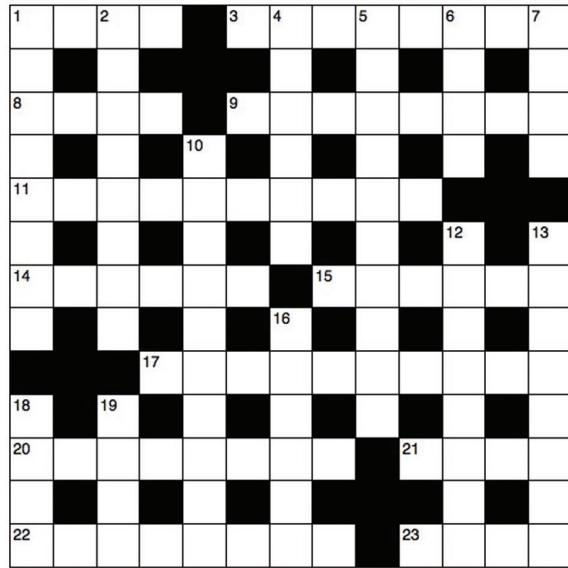
So it's about vision, looking forward with anticipation and dreaming dreams. Are you a dreamer? We can say, as Christians, there's always the potential of a bright tomorrow with God. So we're called to enter into all that He's promised His people. We can say, without being triumphalistic or naive, the best is yet to be. It may be the way is through the wilderness, it may be through a storm, through a very difficult time, but He's promised He'll be with us through all that. He'll never leave us, He'll never forsake us, because there are good things to come. But I want to suggest ... sometimes, as Christians, we stand, as it were, on the edge of the Jordan River looking across thinking 'oh, I don't know if I'll ever get there.'”...

PUZZLES!

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you - me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like - ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " - here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)



- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors - they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30-31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion - out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

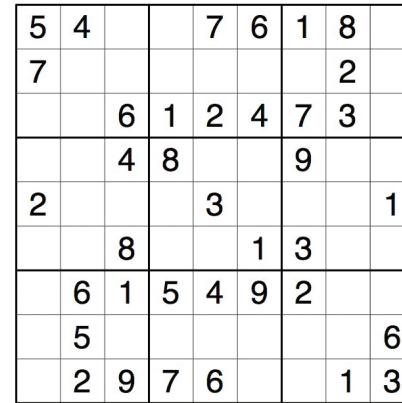
Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none - me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are - ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)

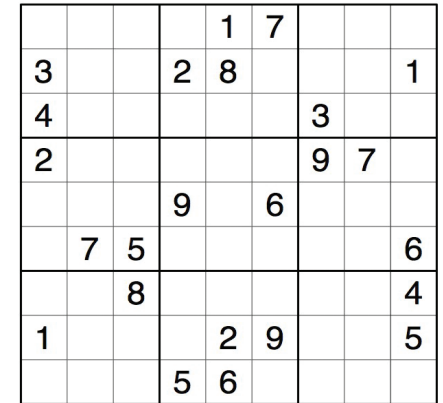


Crossword answers can be found at the top of page 27.

SUDOKU



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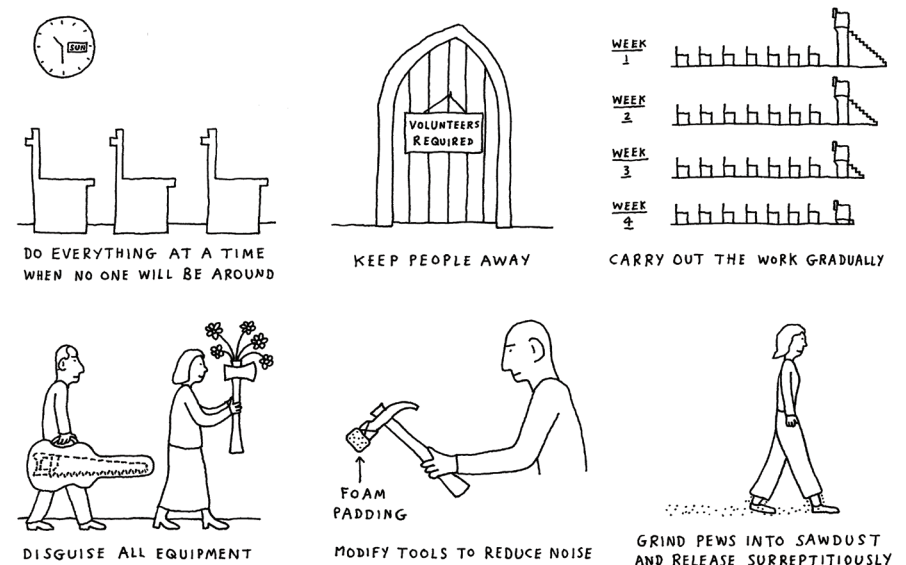


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CARTOON CORNER

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CartoonChurch.com

HUMILITY

Written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I could crouch down to 'meet' Homo floriensis or stand tall to look into the eyes of Homo heidelbergensis. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have

the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival – not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in **Ezekiel 11:19**? Can

I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

DOWN: 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.

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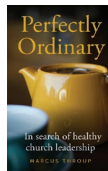


With humorous black and white line drawings and text that bounce off the page, books in this biography series for the 21st century will inspire kids aged 7+ to put their faith in Jesus and to use their talents for the glory of God.

The Fantastically Faithful People series brings children aged 7+ real-life stories that reveal what ordinary people can achieve when they put their faith in God.

This book brings you: John Newton: who went from slave ship captain to a leading light in the fight against slavery; Elizabeth Fry: who improved conditions for countless people in prison; Thomas Barnardo: who transformed the lives of children living in poverty; George Washington Carver: who went from slavery to ground breaking scientist; Rosa Parks: who helped bring an end to laws that discriminated against African Americans; Wangari Maathai: whose work led to the planting of millions of trees across Africa; Christian Fuhner: whose prayer movement helped re-unite a country; and Joni Eareckson Tada: who helps people with disabilities find hope, dignity, and faith

PERFECTLY ORDINARY IN SEARCH OF HEALTHY CHURCH LEADERSHIP
 Canterbury Press - £14.99
 Marcus Throup



In the wake of scandals involving high-profile Christian leaders in the UK, US and beyond, this book issues a timely warning about the dangers of pursuing 'spectacular' ministry. It shows how coercive, manipulative subcultures often thrive – and are even admired – because of their outward success, while ignoring the deeper harm they cause.

Marcus Throup calls for a return to an authentic, Christ-centred approach to leadership that values humility, faithfulness, prayer, and genuine pastoral care

over sensationalism. He invites readers to rediscover the heart of ministry: holiness, down-to-earth preaching, and a focus on what truly matters.

PLAYING IN THE DUST A PILGRIMAGE WITH THE CREATION STORIES
 Canterbury Press - £13.99
 David Runcorn



Here is a new take on the creation stories, an adventurous, open-hearted approach to themes like being made in God's image, freedom and obedience, and the tension between dominion and ecology. Through short, conversational chapters, Runcorn explores key questions about human identity, calling, temptation, rest, and more, helping readers reconnect with the playful wisdom of Genesis.

A GOOD OLD AGE AN A TO Z OF LOVING AND FOLLOWING THE LORD JESUS IN LATER YEARS
 10Publishing - £7.99
 Derek Prime



Old age often gets a bad press. Associated with grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and

isolation it's not something we particularly look forward to or relish when we're there.

Pastor and Bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life. With biblical wisdom and practical advice, he helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.

NORMAL, IMPERFECT HEROES THE 'FAILURES' GOD USED TO TEACH US ABOUT LEADERSHIP
 SPCK - £12.99
 James and Liz Grier



The 'heroes' of scripture are more like us than we realise, with both their God-given strengths and profound weaknesses. The book is in four parts: exploring the beginning of leadership in Genesis, through Moses, the first two Kings and finally Jesus' apostles. Bishop James (Bishop of Plymouth), along with his wife Liz, adds to this teaching with insights and anecdotes from their own experiences.



WORSHIP THIS MAY

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Sunday 4th May

10:30am	All Age Worship * <i>Queen of Sheba & The Visit</i>	9:00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>The Queen & The Visit</i>
6:30pm	Refuelled - A Heart for Worship		

Wednesday 7th May

11:00am	Forget-me-not Service Holy Communion
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Sunday 11th May

9:00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>Solomon & The Temple</i>	4:00pm	Songs of Praise
10:30am	Morning Worship * <i>Solomon & The Temple</i>		

Sunday 18th May

9:00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>Josiah & The Lost Book</i>
10:30am	Family Communion * <i>Josiah & The Lost Book</i>

Sunday 25th May

9:00am	Holy Communion BCP <i>Nebuchadnezzar & The Exile</i>
10:30am	Morning Worship * <i>Nebuchadnezzar & The Exile</i>

* Services also available online

Join in via Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/209208621>
Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DibdenChurches>
Watch on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfDibden/>

NEWS EXTRA

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St. Andrew's Church, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4PT.

PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings	We celebrate the following weddings: 12th April Jack de Bray and Stephanie Dixon
Funerals	We sympathise with the loss of loved ones, following the funerals of: 7th April James Jones



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