

JANUARY  
2022



# The Bridge



REELEY and EDENSBOROUGH

WOMAN OF THE MONTH

PARISH MAGAZINE

Rev'd Canon D. Perkins,  
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(Church website -[www.stpetersedensor.org](http://www.stpetersedensor.org))

January 2022

A very happy New Year to you all.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January the Church of England commemorates the life of a very special woman called Mary Slessor – I must admit I had never heard of her before doing some research about her life. Mary made her name as a Scottish missionary to Nigeria, where her strong personality won her trust locally and afforded her considerable success in promoting both Christianity and women's rights. Apparently her life is celebrated on a Scottish £10 note issued by Clydesdale Bank.

Mary was born in Aberdeen, moving to Dundee at the age of 11 in 1859. Her father was a shoemaker who lost his job due to alcohol addiction. He eventually found work in one of Dundee's mills. Mary's mother was a religious woman who ensured that Mary attended church regularly and that she kept up her education by attending school on a half time basis, after family circumstances meant Mary also had to start work in the mills. By the time she was 14, Mary was a skilled mill worker working from 6am to 6pm every day.

While still young, Mary joined a local mission to the poor, working to instil Christian values in Dundee's deprived areas. There is a famous story of Mary forcing a group of local youths to attend Sunday School as part of a dare in which she refused to flinch as one of them swung a heavy metal weight close to her face.

In 1876 at the age of 28, Mary applied to be a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. After being successful with her application and receiving her training, Mary set sail on the S.S Ethiopia on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1876 arriving in south eastern Nigeria just over a month later. When Mary arrived she found the country in a state of chaos. The colonial power, Britain, had seized control, but was more interested in the maintenance of trade rather than in the welfare of the Nigerians. Women's rights were next to non existent and disease was rife. Mary herself suffered from malaria. However, after recovering, Mary's determination won

her the respect of the Nigerians she came into contact with. She became fluent in the local language and developed a deep knowledge of local customs and culture. She adopted a number of local children rejected by their parents: twins were considered at the time in Nigeria to be cursed and could even be sacrificed as a result.

By the early 1900's Mary was helping to vaccinate Nigerians against smallpox but she was also suffering from increasingly severe bouts of malaria. Her strength declined and she died on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1915. Mary was given a state funeral in Nigeria and in 1953 her grave was visited by the Queen. To the Nigerians, Mary is simply remembered as "Mother of all the peoples". What an extraordinary person who served God and his Church in amazing practical ways.

Every Blessing  
Canon Dave



## FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

FUNERAL SERVICE FOLLOWED BY BURIAL

16<sup>th</sup> December ~ Ian Winston Fisher aged 75years

### Telephone Numbers

<u>St. Anne's</u>	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Fiona Swain	<i>ex directory</i>
	Treasurer:-	Fiona Lichfield	01629 813382
<u>Both Churches</u>	Safeguarding:-	Sarah Porter	01629 312168
			0786 669 5132
<u>St. Peter's</u>	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
		David Jackson	01246 583452
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 582245
		e-mail: <a href="mailto:mtitterton@me.com">mtitterton@me.com</a>	

## ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

TheGivingMachine is a unique registered charity that enables you to generate sales commissions with every online purchase. They convert these commissions into free donations for the schools, charities and other community organisations you choose. **St Anne's, Beeley** is one of the organisations you can support. The donation is calculated without going via another website so doesn't affect your shopping experience.



Please sign up at <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>

### Dates for your Diary - January

- 11 BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting - 7.30pm** Beeley Village Hall  
Chris Boyce on 'A Pictorial History of Beeley from 1840 to the Present Day - Part I.'
- 18 BEELEY HERITAGE GROUP - 7pm** Beeley Village Hall  
AGM and Talk on the Pictorial History of Beeley Part I by Chris Boyce
- 19 CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting - 7pm** Baslow Church Rooms
- 26 EDENSOR PCC Meeting - 7.30pm** in the Cavendish Chapel

### The soaring cost of heating our church

Here is some chilling news about the church's heating and electricity bills: they could be doubling this year. The energy crisis is hitting the UK hard, and churches are not protected by the domestic energy cap.

That could leave many churches in the same plight as St George's in Rugby, which fears it will have to pay £10,000 for gas and electricity in 2022 – double what it paid last year. Some churches have already turned off all their heating, apart from pew heaters for services.

To bring this home to our own congregations and parishioners, **St. Peter's, Edensor, at the moment pays around £7,000 per year** for heating and lighting and that's being frugal with both. We could see this cost double from next April.

**St. Anne's Beeley**, has just had to negotiate a new contract with a new gas provider and have seen the cost double and it's more than likely that they will also be faced with a similar doubling of their fuel bills from April.

It seems everyone will need to get used to wearing more clothes to keep warm when we have to turn the thermostat down even further!

## Easy Fundraising

If you already SHOP ONLINE, or if you haven't yet done so, then why not use Easy Fundraising and help raise money for St. Peter's Church? There is no extra cost to you and a percentage from your purchase will come back to the church.



### To Register

- Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Click on **Register**
- Choose **Saint Peter's Church - Chatsworth Park** as your charity and fill in the rest of the form

### To Shop

- Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search for your store in the alphabetical list
- Go ahead and shop

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-known retailers including names such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis and HMV and when you shop using the links on the easyfundraising site up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to St. Peter's Church.

## JUST GIVING AT ST. PETER'S

We now have a **JustGiving** page, where people can donate to St Peter's at any point, the link is <https://www.justgiving.com/edensor-stpeters>.



If you normally give to St. Peter's through an envelope in Church, you can still support our mission by giving online and following the link at Just Giving. <https://www.justgiving.com/edensor-stpeters>.

**Change of address:** David and Susanne Garnett have moved, their new address is:-

Diglake House,  
1 Harridge Lane,  
Scarisbrick,  
Ormskirk,  
West Lancs, L40 8HD



## 'THE BRIDGE'

**The magazine subscription for 2022 is now due - £1 per copy - £12 per year.**

Please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine. Cheques should be made payable to **Edensor PCC**.

If I post the magazine to you please enclose a book of 12 stamps with your cheque (a book of second class stamps is £7.92 bringing the total to £19.92) and send your payment to me, Liz Bradshaw.

Thank you for your continued support through these challenging times!

### **Sitting down in church**

Did you ever wonder how our churches first acquired pews? Dr Nicholas Orme, Emeritus Professor of History at Exeter University, has written a book, *Going to Church in Medieval England* (Yale University Press), in which he points out that "no medieval church pronouncement ordered the provision of seating in churches

other than for the clergy. General seating was a lay invention.

It is easy to understand those laity of long ago: the services could go on for hours. And so, as Dr Orme explains, general seating "seems to have begun with the nobility and gentry who wished for comfort .... The desire spread downwards to the congregation during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries."

### **Don't cover over your garden**

The TV presenter Monty Don has said that having pavement or tarmac on your property is one of the 'worst contributions' that homeowners can make to climate change.

The Gardeners' World presenter points out that hard surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the

ground, which is a growing problem because of increased flooding.

Instead, Don urges people to consider having as many absorbent surfaces in their gardens as possible. Writing in the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, he explains: "We need for excess water to slowly work down into our underground aquifers and make its way gradually to our rivers and out to the sea."

## **St. Peter's Church 100 Club November Draw 2021**

1st Prize £30 - no. 8 Daphne Feeney

2nd prize £20 - no. 66 Julie Carter

**Funds to church this month - £50**

Subscriptions for 2022 are now due in order to be eligible for the January draw.

These are payable at £12 per number held. Please make out cheques to:-

**St. Peter's Church 100 Club**

Thank you for your continued support.

We would like to invite new members for 2022 to ensure a membership of 100 throughout the year.

Membership is open to everyone from the villages and the church and their families and friends.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Ann Hall

## **Help your garden, help your planet**

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has launched a modern-day 'Dig for Victory' campaign to help tackle climate change.

It is asking the UK's 30 million gardeners to consider digging up their garden paving and instead to plant trees, grass and bee-friendly flora, to help nature survive.

The RHS has calculated that if every gardener in the UK grew at least

one medium-sized tree in their garden, then that would be the equivalent of storing the carbon produced from driving 11 million times around the planet.

Further research from a YouGov survey has found that only 19 per cent of gardeners say that they have adopted sustainable gardening practices.

### **Spotted on a church notice board:**

When you were born, your mother brought you here.

When you were married, your partner brought you here.

When you die, your family will bring you here.

In the meantime, why not try coming on your own sometimes?



## The Padley Centre

We continue to collect food and clothing for the Padley Centre in Derby. Autumn is now officially with us and the weather will certainly be getting colder and wetter over the next months. We should continue to think of those less fortunate people who know what it is like to be hungry, homeless and cold. Canon Dave continues to deliver donations through the Padley booking system for dropping goods off.

They always need clothing for adults, including waterproofs, warm socks, gloves, hats and scarves etc. Unworn underwear and sleeping bags are always much appreciated as are toiletries including toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and feminine hygiene products.

**Food** - tins of meat, fish, soup and tomatoes; dried pasta; rice; biscuits and chocolate and any other 'seasonal treats'.

Donations can be brought along to a Sunday service if you are able to attend, or you can phone Canon Dave to arrange to drop them off at the Vicarage.

The Padley Centre also now accepts: *Blankets – any size since if not used in the centre they can sell them in the shop. Bedding – sheet and pillow cases **but not duvets or pillows** due to health and safety reasons.*

### How to hug somebody

The perfect hug should last between five to ten seconds, and it should be done with your arms criss-crossed behind the other person's back.

That is the finding of psychologists who experimented using more than 100 pairs of friends. They found that when it comes to hugging someone, "more is definitely more."

It seems that a ten second hug gives great pleasure, a five second hug is

adequate, but a brief hug of just one second leaves nobody comforted.

Even worse, since Covid, elbow bumping has become popular. But a bump on the elbow doesn't do much for anyone.

*The research was done at the University of London and the University of Bristol.*



Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier' - Alfred Lord Tennyson



## 1<sup>st</sup> January: The naming of Jesus

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> January - eight days after 25<sup>th</sup> December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In

Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

## Bakewell and Ashford Film Society (BASH)

Bakewell and Ashford Film Society will begin a new season of 6 films from Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2022. We meet at The Medway Centre, Bakewell on the second Sunday of the month at 7.30 pm. (*There are no films in July and August.*) The membership fee for this short season is £15. Booking for a seat is essential. These arrangements will be conditional on any new Covid-19 safeguarding measures.

We invite you to join our new season of films by completing an on-line form at [www.bashfilms.org.uk](http://www.bashfilms.org.uk) or to fill in a form obtainable from The Medway Centre or by contacting BASH's secretary on 01629 81486. Details of each month's film will be emailed to members. Payment will be at the door by cheque or exact cash, please.

**We look forward to you joining BASH for the New Year.**

## BAKEWELL & ASHFORD FILM SOCIETY

THE MEDWAY CENTRE, NEW STREET, BAKEWELL

7.30pm 2nd Sunday of every month (except July & August)

### January 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

The Party

*Janet (Dame Kristin Scott Thomas) and Bill (Timothy Spall) host a party to celebrate Janet's new promotion, but once the guests arrive, it becomes clear that not everything is going to go down as smoothly as the red wine.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> January: Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She, of course, had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (*chapter 2*) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that

in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.



## **What is happening to our public loos?**

It was George Jennings, an English sanitary engineer and plumber, who in 1851 invented the first public flush toilets. He said: “the civilisation of a people can be measured by their domestic and sanitary appliances.”

Yet now, across the UK, public lavatories are in dismal and steep decline. The number of lavatories maintained by local authorities has declined from 3154 to 2556 since 2015.

The effect can be doubly difficult.  
The Royal Society for Public Health

pointed out in a 2019 report that closing public loos imposes a ‘urinary leash’ on people who then feel wary of venturing far from home. Also on the rise is the revolting phenomenon known as ‘wild toileting’, which increased greatly during the pandemic, when public loos were closed.

The Victorians took a philanthropic pride in their public lavatories. How would George Jennings rate our level of civilisation today?

## **God’s fragrance – do people catch a whiff of it on you?**

*‘...and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.’ John 12:3*

A story runs of how a lady was having tea outside a tea shop late one afternoon, when she became aware of a pleasant scent filling the air. She asked the waiter the source of the scent and was told that it came from the people passing by. He explained that they worked in a perfume factory down the street and were on their way home. When they left the factory, they always carried with them the fragrance that

had permeated their clothes during their day’s work.

As the perfume workers leave the factory full of the fragrance of where they have been, so we, as we leave our churches and chapels and wherever we spend time with God, are meant to carry the perfume of His presence with us. We are called to spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him (2 Corinthians 2:4). If we allow ourselves in worship to be permeated with Christ’s love and the sweetness of His presence, then we will be able to take the Jesus in us out into the world.

## **‘Truth is under attack’ BBC chief tells church service**

*By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.*

Truth is under attack like never before, BBC director general Tim Davie told a special church service in London, attended by the Duchess of Cornwall.

Speaking at the annual commemorative service for journalists, held at St Bride’s, Fleet Street – the journalists’ church – Tim Davie declared: “In the disinformation age, truth is under assault like never before. Those who stand up for it most strongly have never been more targeted.”

He welcomed the recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize to journalists, Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov, “for their fight for freedom of expression” in the Philippines and Russia.

Mr Davie explained: “We know that the physical risks faced by journalists no longer come solely from the front line. Reporters all around the world face escalating dangers, increasing levels of harassment, and ever more subtle modes of intimidation.”

He said that in March, the BBC’s Beijing correspondent, John Sudworth, had been forced to leave China as “a result of pressure and threats from the authorities.” Over

the summer, the BBC’s Moscow correspondent, Sarah Rainsford, had been expelled from Russia after more than 20 years of reporting. These moves, he said, “were almost unthinkable just a few years ago.”

Tim Davie told the service that journalists share key beliefs: “that truth is the foundation of democracy, that power must be held to account, that those who abuse that power must be exposed, and those who are the victims of that abuse must be given a voice.”

He added: “More than anything else, what truly brings us together as a family is the compassion and care we have for our colleagues in peril right around the world, and for their families.”

Canon Alison Joyce, Rector of St Bride’s said: “The world has never been in greater need of good journalism, and we have never had more occasion to be reminded of the human cost of good journalism than we have today.

“It is our privilege to honour the memories of all those journalists; photographers; film crew; and their support staff, and all who work freelance in the industry, who have lost their lives this past year and to remember in our prayers those who continue to work in situations of immense personal risk in the pursuit of truth.

## Remembering Ralph Vaughan Williams

by Tim Lenton, our community reporter

One hundred years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1922, Ralph Vaughan Williams' A Pastoral Symphony was performed for the first time, in London.

Later designated Symphony No. 3, it was said to be inspired by the composer hearing a bugler practising and is frequently thought of as a memorial for the fallen of the First World War, many of whom Vaughan Williams knew. He later said he saw music as an antidote to a war-torn world.

He had been born in 1872: his father was vicar at Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, but he died two years later. His mother, an evangelical Christian, was also the niece of Charles Darwin. This combination of events may have led to his

uncertainty in questions of faith: his second wife Ursula said he "drifted into a cheerful agnosticism, but he was never a professing Christian".

Nevertheless, Vaughan Williams frequently attended church, where he found musical inspiration. His first job after graduation was as a church organist, and he wrote many compositions for the Anglican Church, including well known hymn tunes. He edited The English Hymnal in 1904 and wrote an opera of The Pilgrim's Progress. But he said there was "no reason why an atheist could not write a good Mass".

A Pastoral Symphony received some criticism at first but was later regarded as stunningly beautiful, combining the grace of the wildly popular The Lark Ascending with the deep sadness of war.

## Lost in Wonder (Review)

By Steve Morris, Authentic, £9.99

Have you lost your sense of wonder? In an age of fake news and mistrust of big narratives, the idea that there is a God-given sense of almost childish wonder available is a revolutionary thought. We are still yearning for wonder today, but maybe we are just looking for it in the wrong places. Steve Morris

invites us to look again at the world and discover the wonder in the everyday.

Understand why wonder can be a way of life rather than a fleeting feeling and learn how it has the potential to transform our lives, our churches and our communities.



**19<sup>th</sup> January:**

## **Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester 1095**

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095, occupies a unique place in British church history.

He was the last surviving pre-[Conquest](#) bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. On top of that, he seems to have been a truly good and holy man.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was made bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church. He had a passion for

pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his archdeacons.

He was highly influential in monastic reform, overseeing laws and canons to reform the role of the clergy.

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land.

He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland.

He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners.

*This series is about encouragement. Each month Dr Herbert McGonigle will take a Bible event and a historical anecdote to bring us a word of help and support in these difficult days. This is the first in the series, which will run for most of this year.*

## **There's more with us than with them!!**

We begin the New Year with a Bible event from 2 Kings and an anecdote from Birmingham.

For a number of years, the king of Syria had tried to capture the prophet Elisha. (The story is found in 2 Kings 6:11-19). Elisha always knew what the Syrians were planning, and revealed their plans before they could be carried out. Finally, the Syrian armies surrounded Elisha in Dothan.

When Gehazi, Elisha's servant, woke up and saw the encircling Syrian armies, he was terrified. But Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes.' When Gehazi looked again, he could hardly believe what he saw. All round them were horses and chariots of fire. The armies of heaven were protecting them! And Elisha encouraged him. "Don't fear, there's more with us than with them!" Immediately the Syrians were struck with blindness and Elisha and Gehazi escaped.

Often, we need to ask the Lord to open our eyes. When our strength

has failed and faith is weak, we're apt to think that God has forgotten us. But He hasn't! He is near and only our dimness of vision prevents us from seeing His great presence and power and provision. Fear not! Trust God! Believe His Word! There's more with us than with our enemy!

In the early 1950s a well-known department store in Birmingham, England, wanted to extend its premises. Close at hand was an ideal site but it belonged to the Quakers whose Meeting House had been there for well over 200 years. The department store wrote to the Quakers, offering to buy the site. They said, "We will give you a very good price for the land. In fact, we'll send you a blank cheque. Please fill in whatever sum of money you think appropriate, and we will honour it." Four weeks passed and there was no reply, then five weeks, then six weeks.

Finally, a letter arrived from the Quakers. It thanked the department store for their generous offer but declined to accept it. "Our Meeting House has been here for almost 250 years," they explained, "much longer than your store. We have no wish to sell our property. However, if you would agree to sell your site to us, we are very interested in buying it. We will give you a very good price for it. Just state your selling price and we will honour it."

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The letter was signed 'Cadburys.' The department store thought they were dealing with a small congregation of Quakers. Instead, they were dealing with the Cadburys' empire.

Cadburys could have bought the department store twenty times over!

When our enemy the devil attacks us, by ourselves we are weak and feeble. But when Christ dwells in us by His Spirit, we are mighty! The devil is no longer attacking us; he is

attacking the Captain of our salvation – and the devil cannot win! There's more with us than with him! As we go through 2022, be encouraged. With Christ we are more than conquerors!

*The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology and Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England.*

## **Call for action to free Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, is calling upon the British Government to repay its £400-million debt to Iran, and take immediate action to secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was first jailed in Iran five years ago, accused of crimes that involved plotting against the Iranian government. Last year she lost her appeal against a second prison sentence and was then

ordered to return to prison for another year, with a further year of a travel ban. Late last year her husband engaged in a 21-day hunger strike outside the Foreign Office, to try and persuade the British Government to take action.

Britain owes Iran £400 million over the purchase of Challenger tanks. It is an acknowledged historical debt. It is widely assumed that the debt is linked to the continued imprisonment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January – the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

This year, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. The

Christians of the Middle East say that they offer these resources "conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences", and that it also "yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness."

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

*Paul Hardingham begins a year-long series on the very foundations of our Christian faith.*

## **Christian Basics No 1: God the Creator**

For many today the universe began with a big bang, in which a lump of matter, smaller than a pinhead, exploded 15 billion years ago. It's a story that defines who we are and where we come from. However, the Bible gives us another perspective on this event, revealing God as Creator: *'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible'* (Hebrews 11:3). What does Genesis 1 say about God as Creator?

### ***'In the beginning, God'***

Whereas science can offer answers about the **how** of creation, the Bible tells us about the **why** i.e. the purpose of the Creator! Creation reflects the character and glory of God, inviting a response of dependence and praise!

### ***'God created the heavens and the earth'***

God shaped the universe, as expressed in the '6 days' of creation. They speak of an ordered and purposeful universe that expresses God's will: He spoke and it was done! An alternative translation is 'God

*began creating'*, reminding us that creation is also an ongoing process, where the Holy Spirit is still at work in our lives and world.

### ***'God created man in His own image'***

In the account, human beings are presented as the climax and crown of creation. We share the sixth day of creation with other creatures, as well as 95% of the same DNA. However, we are distinctively made in the **image of God**, created for relationship with God, with a responsibility to care for the created order.

### ***'And God saw that it was good'***

Like an artist, God described His work as *good*. We should always approach this story with wonder, enjoying God's world and affirming creativity in ourselves and others.



## **“I wish we could wave a wand and all the bills would disappear!”**

*FamilyLife UK, a Christian charity, has developed the Toucan Together resource, designed to help couples to navigate some common daily challenges of marriage. By Christine Daniel.*

Many of us enjoy spending at Christmas. But receiving credit card bills in January can range from being an unpleasant hassle to a massive burden. Money is also the number one trigger for arguments between partners. But it is possible to manage your finances with confidence together, so you can make money work for you. Here are some basic tips...

### ***Talk openly and honestly with each other***

Try to find some shared goals; brainstorm your ideas and possible solutions. Stay factual and don't hide anything. There is lots more about talking with your partner in our blog: [10 tips to make talking about money with your partner a little bit easier.](#)

### ***Make a plan together to make money work for you***

Couples who make joint decisions around their finances have fewer problems and are more likely to experience harmony at home. A budget is simply the result of your joint decisions, and is the best way of

managing your money. It will help you know:

- exactly what money is coming in and going out
- what you can afford to spend, and where you can make savings
- how much you can save, and afford to give away
- how to plan for the future, for your long-term goals

***Track your spending*** and review it regularly, perhaps once a month, to begin with.

If you would like to know more, why not visit <https://familylifeuk.org> and click on the Toucan button at the top of the page?

([www.toucantogether.com](http://www.toucantogether.com)) Toucan Together's Money Module can help you with savings, handling debt, building budgets and managing change. There are helpful tips and videos where couples honestly share their stories. It's FREE!



## Remembering Sir Ernest Shackleton

*by Tim Lenton, our community reporter*

One hundred years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1922, Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Irish-born British Antarctic explorer, died of a heart attack in his bunk in South Georgia. He had led three British expeditions to the Antarctic. He was 47.

It is now believed he may have had a hole in his heart. His feats of bravery and endurance were mixed with sudden illness, but he was never willing to have his heart properly examined.

He set a Furthest South record when he commanded the Nimrod expedition in 1907-09. On that occasion he showed acclaimed leadership by refusing to try for the Pole because of the likelihood that he and his men would die on the return journey.

But his greatest achievement was to enable the rescue of his crew after the Endurance became trapped and then crushed by ice in the Weddell Sea in 1915. A long trek, hauling lifeboats over ice, was followed by Shackleton and two companions reaching South Georgia in a small boat – followed by a trek over mountains and glaciers to a whaling station, from where a rescue ship was launched to bring home the remainder of the team.

This has been described as “an utterly unbelievable story of bravery, heroism and endurance”. Shackleton was not known to be a Christian, but he and his men said they felt Providence was guiding them, especially during the 36-hour march across South Georgia, when all three said they felt sure there were four of them, and not three, making the journey.

## Covid hits life expectancy levels

Covid has caused the biggest drop in life expectancy in Western Europe since the Second World War. More than five million people have died worldwide after getting infected.

When academics studied death rates from 29 countries, which included most of Europe as well as the US, they found that life expectancy has decreased in 27 of them.

Covid's impact in Eastern Europe has been found to be more detrimental to life expectancy there than the fall of the Eastern Bloc in the late 1980s. In England and Wales, the team calculated those babies born in 2020 now have a life expectancy of up to 1.15 years less than if they were born in 2019. The largest decline is in the US, where it has declined by up to 2.2 years, compared with 2019 levels.

## 80 years of Desert Island Discs

*by Tim Lenton, our community reporter*

Some 80 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1942, the BBC radio show Desert Island Discs was first broadcast. It is Britain's longest running radio show, and the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme.

Devised and originally presented by Roy Plomley, it was first broadcast on the BBC Forces Programme, but later switched to Radio 4. Each week a guest 'castaway' has to choose eight recordings, a book and a luxury item they would take with them if they were stranded on a desert island. In discussing this, they also reveal hopefully offbeat elements of their life. Past presenters have included Michael Parkinson, Sue Lawley and Kirsty Young, but the show is now fronted by Lauren Laverne.

More than 3000 episodes have been broadcast, with some guests

appearing more than once. In the early 1970s, Roy Plomley interviewed Alistair MacLean, who turned out not to be the famous author but someone else with the same name, and the programme was never broadcast.

Very few episodes from the first 20 years of the show have survived; the earliest known to exist was broadcast in 1951 and features actress Margaret Lockwood.

All participants are allowed to take a Bible and copy of Shakespeare: needless to say, the National Secular Society has called for the Bible to be dropped, but known atheists such as Philip Pullman have wanted to keep it. A recent poll suggested that 56% of people questioned would not choose to take a Bible, and another 13% were unsure.

### **You are never more than 166 metres from a stray cat**

Britain is not short of stray cats. An estimated quarter of a million of them live in our towns and cities, according to recent research by Cats Protection and researchers at the University of Bristol.

In some urban areas of Britain, there are even up to 57 stray cats per

square kilometre. It is these cats who are of particular concern to Cats Protection, because "they receive limited or no direct human support." Often these cats are unneutered, and populations can expand rapidly, spreading disease and harming wildlife.

*For this reason, Cats Protection continues to urge owners to microchip and neuter their pets.*

## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. [www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches](http://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches) and <http://www.cis.org.uk>*

## Breathe

*You show your majesty  
In every star that shines,  
And every time we breathe.  
Your glory, God revealed  
From distant galaxies  
To here beneath our skin.*

These words from the song Magnificent by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin speak volumes to me as a scientist. Redman is an astronomy geek who has ‘an appreciation for the universe that surrounds us, particularly its unique ability to lift our hearts to see how massive and mysterious God truly is’.\*

The microscopic level on the other hand – what goes on ‘beneath our skin’ – is less available to ordinary people. I have had the privilege of exploring this world to my heart’s content, and what I’ve seen has given me such a sense of awe that I want to share with others.

Every time you breathe, a series of air pockets with a combined surface area the size of a tennis court is bathed with oxygen. These minute air

pockets are covered with blood vessels. The boundary between air and blood is so thin that oxygen and carbon dioxide can diffuse freely from one to the other.

When your heart beats at a normal rate, a single red blood cell takes about three quarters of a second to travel through the small blood vessels in your lungs. But in just one third of that time, a quarter of a second, that cell has already received all the oxygen it needs from the air. So, when you exercise, causing your heart rate to increase and the blood to flow faster, you’re still getting plenty of oxygen – as long as you keep breathing!

Redman and Myrin wrote in their song, “You are higher than we ever could imagine, And closer than our eyes could ever see.” The universe demonstrates God’s awesome power. This is a place made by a being whose imagination is not limited by time and space.

Biology, on the other hand, helps to remind me of God’s creativity and closeness. I am a product of a long and painstaking process of continued development over aeons of time. Beneath my skin are incredibly detailed, beautifully regulated processes that give me life. Jesus said that ‘even the very hairs of your

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head are all numbered.' The knowledge that God intentionally made me and knows every detail of my physiology is both amazing and humbling.

\*Indescribable: Encountering the Glory of God in the Beauty of the Universe , Matt Redman & Louis Giglio (David C. Cook, 2011)

## David Bowie and God

by Tim Lenton, our community reporter

It was 75 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1947, that David Bowie, pop/glam rock singer, songwriter and actor, was born in London. He became one of the most influential musicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, dying in 2016.

Born David Robert Jones, he studied art and design before transforming himself into an enigmatic and exploratory singer, specialising in songs about being a misfit and an outsider - sometimes literally, as when, early on, he became Ziggy Stardust - a gender-bending role some Christians found threatening.

But he was always interested in spirituality, though he questioned organised religion. Towards the end, when he had liver cancer, he found comfort in God: the day after he

died his wife Iman posted an Instagram message: "The struggle is real, but so is God."

One of Bowie's definitive acting roles was as *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, during which he experienced an occult incident that led him to wear a Cross afterwards. He also collaborated in a kind of sequel, *Lazarus*. He once said: "Searching for music is like searching for God."

Bowie became a musician in 1963, his first major hit being *Space Oddity*, in 1969. He moved into glam rock in the early 70s. His record sales were estimated at over 100 million during his lifetime: he was one of the best-selling artists of all time and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. After his death the magazine *Rolling Stone* called him "the greatest rock star ever".

## The BRF Book of 365 Bible Reflections (Review)

Compiled by Karen Laister and Olivia Warburton, BRF, £14.99

This special anniversary collection is a celebration of the Bible for BRF's centenary year of 2022. Bringing

together a fantastically wide-ranging writing team of authors, supporters and well-wishers from all areas of BRF's work, this resource is designed to help us go deeper into the story of the Bible and reflect on how we can share it in our everyday lives.



*The Rev Dr Jo White continues her walk through the church year.*

## **Reflected Faith Series - Taking Down Christmas**

January is, of course, the time to take down the decorations and put them away for next year. In many churches however, the Crib scene is left up until the beginning of February - the Feast of Candlemas. That celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

It's yet another moment of 'illumination,' and has a number of meanings.

The date 'set' for Candlemas is the 2<sup>nd</sup> February each year and it marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. So, from that date onwards the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter.

It's the day when we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple. The custom was set down in Leviticus chapter 12, where the parents presented the child to the Lord, and received a blessing from the priests. It was a picture of the sacrifice of the first-born son, giving him to the Lord.

Any ideas on a third meaning? (*Answer next month.*)

As you take down your decorations, think about where you will store

them ready for use next Christmas – and also, how carefully you will put them away.

Will the string of lights be a tangled mess of knots when you take them out of their wrappings or will you be able to hang them straight on the tree? One of the biggest concerns is where to put the figure of baby Jesus. It's usually so small in a Crib Set that it is easily lost and then the Crib Set rather loses its meaning!

*This month*

Have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling-cute baby we miss out on His teaching and miracles, we will fail to understand and engage with His massive love and compassion for each of us on the cross – and most importantly His resurrection. Death is not the end.

**Not for Him.**

**Not for us.**

**And not for our loved ones.**

## Pilsley C of E Primary School NURSERY

### FREE childcare places AVAILABLE

- Exceptional grounds for exploration and play, with Forest School activities, and an outdoor classroom.
- Highly experienced, well qualified early years practitioners.
- Daily 'Read, Write, Inc' phonics and maths sessions.
- High quality child-led learning and continuous provision.
- Links to the local churches and community.
- State of the art interactive smartboard technology in every classroom.
- Dedicated music, baking and PE sessions.
- Delicious home-cooked lunches, prepared on site.

### Open your window

When you have friends come to visit you, open the window for ten minutes of every hour that they stay. It will help to reduce the level of any Covid particles that may be in the air.

As one medical officer for England explained: "People with Covid release virus particles into the air whenever they speak, breathe, or cough. These can linger in unventilated settings. So, it's vital to open windows, to keep the air moving and help prevent infections."



### Waste & Recycling update

#### Your Christmas and New Year collections

There will be **no change to usual waste and recycling collection days** in the Derbyshire Dales over the Christmas and New Year period.

The District Council has announced that Serco will work on the festive bank holidays - Monday 27

December, Tuesday 28 December and Monday 3 January.

Residents are asked to note that no additional household waste will be collected, so are advised to make sure all their household waste is contained in their grey bin with the lid shut, or, for homes on a sack collection, in four standard sized black sacks.

To help prioritise household waste and recycling collections at this busy time of year, all garden waste (green bin/compostable sacks) collections are suspended from Monday 20 December to Friday 31 December inclusive.

## **Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow**

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

**Appointment Times:** Clinicians are still available for consultations and medical advice. Please contact the surgery and a GP or Nurse will call you back to discuss your concerns and if necessary arrange to see you in person. Many problems can be dealt with over the telephone.

**Patient Online:** Have you registered to use the online service? This allows you to book or cancel appointments on line (during normal service) and order your repeat medications. You can also request access to your Summary Care Record, and Detailed Coded Data contained within your medical records. You can also look at your test results.

### **Telephone Numbers:**

Reception: 01246 582216

District Nursing Team 01332 564 900

Health Visitor: 01629 816633

### **Normal Surgery Opening Times**

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri**  
8am-6.30pm;

(closed Bank Holidays)

(Phones 8am – 6.30pm Mon - Fri).

### **Surgery Closure for training -**

The surgery will be closed on  
**Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup>  
February & 9<sup>th</sup> March.**

### **Ordering Repeat Medication**

You can order repeat medications in the following ways:

- In writing or with our on-line access service
- Return your repeat request form to surgery by Post or Fax

Please allow **three** working days before collection and **collect between 8am and 5pm**

**Prescriptions can be collected from reception inside the surgery.**

**Samples** – if you need to leave a sample with us please ensure it is labelled with your name and date of birth and returned in a bag, if provided, either through the letterbox or at reception.

**Test Results** – Please ring for test results after 2.30pm as we do not receive test results back from the hospital until lunchtime.

**For Urgent Calls when  
we are closed call 111**



## READINGS & ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2022



<u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u>		<u>FLOWERS &amp; BRASSES</u>
<b>2</b>	<b>3pm</b> Family Communion	Liz Turner
<b>9</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	“ “
<b>16</b>	<b>9.30</b> Holy Communion	Sarah Porter
<b>23</b>	<b>9.30</b> Morning Prayer	“ “
<b>30</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	Barbara Hawksworth
<u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u>		<u>SIDESMEN</u>
<b>2</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	Mrs Bradshaw/Mrs Jackson
<b>9</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Wardle
<b>16</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Matins	Mr & Mrs Jackson
<b>23</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	Mike Pindar & John Bowns
<b>30</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Gordon
<u>COFFEE</u>		<u>CLEANING</u>
<b>2</b>	Joy & Clive Thrower	Mike Pindar/Jennie Ball
<b>9</b>	Jane Dickson + helper	Mrs Day/Mrs Walters
<b>16</b>	John & Jill Caws	Mr & Mrs Jackson
<b>23</b>	Gloria & Roger Sherwood	Mr & Mrs Grimshaw
<b>30</b>	Judy & Freddy Harding	Mr & Mrs Wardle
<u>READINGS</u>	<u>ST. PETER'S</u>	<u>ST. ANNE'S</u>
<b>2</b> <b>Isaiah 60: 1-6</b> <b>Matthew 2: 1-12</b>	Christine Robinson <i>The Feast of Epiphany</i>	tba
<b>9</b> <b>Isaiah 43: 1-7</b> <b>Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22</b>	Roger Wardle <i>The Baptism of Christ</i>	Fiona Swain
<b>16</b> <b>Isaiah 62: 1-5</b> <b>John 2: 1-11</b>	Trevor Grimshaw <i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Sarah Porter
<b>23</b> <b>Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10</b> <b>Luke 4: 14-21</b>	Gloria Sherwood <i>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</i>	Rupert Turner
<b>30</b> <b>Malachi 3: 1-5</b> <b>Luke 2: 22-40</b>	John Caws <i>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i> (Candlemas)	Fiona Lichfield

Items for the **FEBRUARY 2022** magazine should reach me **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**: email to: [liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk](mailto:liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk)

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