

CORNERSTONE

The Magazine of
WITNEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone.
In Him the whole fabric is bound together, as it grows into a temple,
dedicated to the Lord (Ephesians 2:21)



2026

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Autumn 2026

Services: 10.30am weekly & 6.00pm on first Sunday of the month

Sept

5 th	11.00am	Saturday Praise	
6 th	am	Rev Judi Holloway	
	pm	Tony Houghton	Communion
13 th	am	Nanna Blackman	
20 th	am	David Kinchin	Communion
27 th	am	Rev Elaine Kinchin	

Oct

3 rd	11.00am	Saturday Praise	
4 th	am	Lesley Barter	
	pm	Nanna Blackman	Communion
11 th	am	Tony Houghton	
18 th	am	Rev Elaine Kinchin	Communion
25 th	am	Rev Judi Holloway	

Nov

1 st	am	Nanna Blackman	
	pm	Lesley Barter	Communion
7 th	11.00am	Saturday Praise	
8 th	am	Tony Houghton	
15 th	am	tbc	Communion
22 nd	am	tbc	
29 th	am	tbc	Advent 1
	3.00pm	Madley Park Residential Home	

Dec

5 th	11.00am	Saturday Praise	
6 th	am	tbc	Advent 2
	pm	tbc	Communion

The following events are given for your particular attention:

Sept

5 th	Hi 5's Back to school	Saturday	6.00 – 8.00pm
8 th	Chair-based Exercise Group – repeated on 15 th & 29 th		10.45 – 12.00
	Explore the Bible & Prayer Time – repeated on 15 th & 29 th		12.30 – 1.30
26 th	Witney Book Circle		10.30 – 11.15

Oct

5 th	Hi 5's Film Night	Monday	6.00 – 8.00pm
6 th	Chair-based Exercise Group – repeated on 13 th & 20 th		10.45 – 12.00
	Explore the Bible & Prayer Time – repeated on 13 th & 20 th		12.30 – 1.30
31 st	Witney Book Circle		10.30 – 11.15

Nov

3 rd	Chair-based Exercise Group – repeated on 10 th & 24 th		10.45 – 12.00
	Explore the Bible & Prayer Time – repeated on 10 th & 24 th		12.30 – 1.30
5 th	Hi 5's Games Taster evening	Thursday	6.00 – 8.00pm
28 th	Witney Book Circle		10.30 – 11.15

Dec

1 st	Chair-based Exercise Group – repeated on 8 th		10.45 – 12.00
	Explore the Bible & Prayer Time – repeated on 8 th		12.30 – 1.30
5 th	Hi 5's Craft – Plant Pot Painting	Saturday	3.00 – 5.00pm

Rotas

WELCOMING TEAM

Sept	06	Jean Hodgson
	13	Pat Smith
	20	Lesley Barter
	27	Jacqui Powlesland
Oct	04	Janet Hayes
	11	Jean Hodgson
	18	Pat Smith
	25	Lesley Barter
Nov	01	Jacqui Powlesland
	08	Janet Hayes
	15	Jean Hodgson
	22	Pat Smith
Dec	29	Lesley Barter
	06	Jacqui Powlesland



FLOWERS

Sept	06	Janet Hayes
	13	Jacqui Powlesland
	20	Judi Holloway
	27	Rita Hayes
Oct	04	Janet Hayes
	11	Jacqui Powlesland
	18	Rita Hayes
	25	Judi Holloway
Nov	01	Janet Hayes
	08	Jacqui Powlesland
	15	Judi Holloway
	22	Rita Hayes
Dec	29	Janet Hayes
	06	Jacqui Powlesland



SUNDAY COFFEE

Sept	06	Elaine Kinchin
	13	Claire Woodward & Jacqui Powlesland
	20	Jacqui & Terry Powlesland
	27	Jean Hodgson & Ann Clack
Oct	04	Elaine Kinchin
	11	Jacqui & Terry Powlesland
	18	Pat Smith & Janet Hayes
	25	Claire Woodward & Jacqui Powlesland
Nov	01	Jean Hodgson & Ann Clack
	08	Elaine Kinchin
	15	Jacqui & Terry Powlesland
	22	Claire Woodward & Jacqui Powlesland
Dec	29	Pat Smith & Janet Hayes
	06	Jean Hodgson & Ann Clack



THURSDAY COFFEE (10 – 12)

Sept	10	Elaine Kinchin
	17	Judi Holloway
	25	Pat Smith
Oct	01	Ann Clack
	08	David Kinchin
	15	Elaine Kinchin
	22	Judi Holloway
	29	Pat Smith
Nov	05	Ann Clack
	12	David Kinchin
	19	Elaine Kinchin
	26	Judi Holloway
Dec	03	Pat Smith
	10	Ann Clack

**SOUND SYSTEM**

Sept	06	Terry Powlesland
	13	Terry Powlesland
	20	Nanna Blackman
	27	Terry Powlesland
Oct	04	Terry Powlesland
	11	Nanna Blackman
	18	Tony Houghton
	25	Terry Powlesland
Nov	01	Terry Powlesland
	08	Nanna Blackman
	15	Tony Houghton
	22	Nanna Blackman
	29	Terry Powlesland
Dec	06	Terry Powlesland



For ALL the Rotas, every effort has been made to meet individual circumstances.
However, if the dates are not convenient for you, please change with someone else

Sept

08	Joy Dawe
09	Judith Bungey
12	Jean Hodgson
19	Ann Clack
28	John Garrett
	Lucy Grey

**Oct**

08	Rita Hayes
11	Tosin Gold Adewole
13	Luke Lau
15	Chris Esapa

Dec

06	Sue Birdseye
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Nov

15	Adrian Morrow
17	Olaug Usher-Witz
19	Nanna Blackman
20	Mavis Younger
26	David Grey
	Elaine Kinchin
	Hilary Pratley



PRAYER LETTER No 224

A reflection by Nick Fawcett, entitled *The cup of tea*.

I poured it out eagerly
dying for a cuppa to quench my thirst...
but then I spat it out, grimacing in disgust.
It was tepid, neither hot nor cold,
fit only for the kitchen sink,
to where it was swiftly despatched.
Lord, my faith blows hot and cold,
sometimes setting me on fire with enthusiasm,
at others, ardour cooled close to zero,
but more often – too often – I’m like that cup of tea:
lukewarm, little use to you or anyone.
Kindle afresh a fire of devotion in my heart,
and fan there a burning desire
to love and serve you better. Amen

I expect most of us can identify with those thoughts – even if, like me, you’d reject any cup of tea whatever its temperature! We can read in Revelation 3:15-17: ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth. You say, “I’m rich! I’ve done well! I don’t need anything!”—but you don’t know that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.’ (New Testament for Everyone)

I think that is a little harsh. In today’s world with microwaves, a lukewarm drink can easily be reheated. In our prayer life, a tepid faith can, if we want, be transformed into a faith that is warm, even if it is not boiling hot!

In the epistle to the Colossians 4:12-13, we learn about a prayer warrior called Epaphras: ‘He’s always struggling in prayer on your behalf, praying that you will stand firm and mature, and have your minds fully settled on everything that God wants you to do... he’s gone to a lot of trouble on your behalf...’

Struggling in prayer, was often translated as *wrestling*. The Voice translates it as: *he speaks passionately and sincerely to the Lord about you*; while the Message suggests: *What a trooper he has been! He’s been tireless in his prayers for you*.

This world needs our prayers: just think of any issue you have heard about or seen on the news. This country needs our prayers: a new Prime Minister promising real change but perhaps without the money to see things through.

Our town needs our prayers: the local shops whose business has been disrupted; the empty shops... Our friends and families need our prayers: GCSE and A level results may not have been as expected; bereavement and sickness; arguments and poverty.

We need to remember to pray for ourselves as well.

Just from that short list, we can see how, like Epaphras, we could be in prayer continually. Yet, the phrase *he's gone to a lot of trouble on your behalf*...implies that Epaphras is active in his prayer. In other words, the helping hand someone needs is the one dangling by my side! The listening ear that someone needs is the one that I perch my glasses on! But, in many situations we feel that prayer is all we can offer: for example, I don't know how to bring about an end to the war in the Middle East or between Russia and Ukraine. But, thanks to John Turner, a prayer warrior who also rolls up his sleeves and works, taught me this prayer: Please God, sort Putin out! Amen.

Every Blessing, Elaine

Please note that for up-to-date prayer requests contact Elaine 07534 879449)

The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

How Tyndale affects what you say - today

It is 500 years since William Tyndale printed the very first English translation of the New Testament. And hundreds of millions of people today are still quoting him, though they don't know it. For in 1526 Tyndale invented what would become some of the most famous idioms in the English-speaking world.

For instance:

"The salt of the earth"; "Go the extra mile"; "The powers that be"; "Eat, drink and be merry"; "A city on a hill"; "The apple of his eye"; "In the twinkling of an eye"; "Signs of the times"; "My brother's keeper"; "Fight the good fight"; "Broken-hearted"; "Fallen flat on his face."

These phrases were all invented by Tyndale, during his translation from the original Greek of the New Testament.

As a young Catholic priest in England, Tyndale had been inspired by Martin Luther's groundbreaking translation of the Bible into German, and he went to work doing the same for English speakers. No wonder that the Bible Society describes Tyndale as a 'background radical' during Henry VIII's reign (he's mentioned in *Wolf Hall* but doesn't get involved in the action).

Tyndale invented words, too, when he couldn't find a direct English equivalent for a Greek or Hebrew concept. Here are just some:

Scapegoat: To describe the goat burdened with the sins of the people and sent into the wilderness.

Atonement: Literally "at-one-ment", created to describe being at one with God.

Passover: Coined to describe the Jewish holiday where the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites.

Busybody: Invented to describe someone who meddles in other people's business.

Tyndale's work has survived multiple revisions of the Bible down the centuries. It is found in the Authorised Version of the Bible, the RSV, the ASV or the ESV, among others.

More at Bible Society's website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk> Just type 'Tyndale' into its 'search' box.

The following article has been written and submitted by Tony Houghton, and is entitled:

An Oak Hall holiday to Slovenia

We have been aware of the Christian holiday organisation based in Kent, Oak Hall, for many years. Indeed our daughter, Chloe, a long time ago joined cycling holiday in France with her friend. Oak Hall grew up as an organisation that put together camping holidays in the UK and into France for twenty – somethings. These days it takes Christian groups all over the world for holidays, including, Canada, Japan and Vietnam.

Last year we joined their holiday to the Amalfi coast in Italy staying in a small town near Naples in a hotel with a view of Vesuvius. It was such a blessing that we chose to go with them this year. We joined 50 other Christians from across UK for a week in the Julian Alps in Slovenia.

We very much like the Oak Hall 'formula'. You stay in the same hotel – not moving from place to place. Excursions are offered but not every day so you can do your own thing. A morning devotion starts the day and each evening Bible study and worship. This year John Grayston helped us look at 7 different meals when Jesus sat down and eat with people. It was challenging, inspiring and a refreshing Biblical stimulus to our week.

Throughout the week you meet all the different holiday makers who are of all ages and background just like a church family: some families with children, some couples and many single people. But all of us have that anchor in knowing Jesus. It makes such a depth to the sharing for we are all on a journey of faith, works in progress until we are perfected in glory in heaven. What a joy to have prayer as the coach sets out, to have prayer for each day

and to share more intimately in small groups or one-to-one.

On the last evening Gloria and Sebastian came and shared their mission work and calling. They lead a church plant in a nearby small town to where we were staying. Both are Slovenian and have a burden for the young people of Slovenia to come to know Jesus.

Slovenia is a very friendly country and we enjoyed the capital city of Ljubljana in particular. Even though it was the tourist season the Slovenians were very welcoming.

Heather and I come back ready for what God has in store for us in the autumn: refreshed, re-energised and refuelled in the Bible. Thank you LORD!

Mark 6:31 – "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'"



The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army

Wilson Carlile was born in Brixton in 1847 and did not set out to become an evangelist. Instead, he was brilliant at both languages and music, and excelled as a businessman. That is, until an economic recession and serious illness brought him crashing down and finished his career, aged only 31.

Not surprisingly, a serious breakdown followed, when Carlile questioned everything that he had been attempting in life. This search for a new meaning brought him to faith in Jesus Christ, and so turned his world upside down. He later wrote:

I have seen the crucified and risen Lord as truly as if He had made Himself visible to me bodily sight. That is for me the conclusive evidence of His existence. He touched my heart and old desires and hope left it. In their place came the new thought that I might serve Him and His poor and suffering brethren.

Wilson approached two Christians whose passion for ministry was already well known: the Americans evangelists Moody and Sanky, who were at that time in England. Wilson attended their meetings and supplied music via his harmonium. In return, he learned a lot about effective outdoors evangelism.

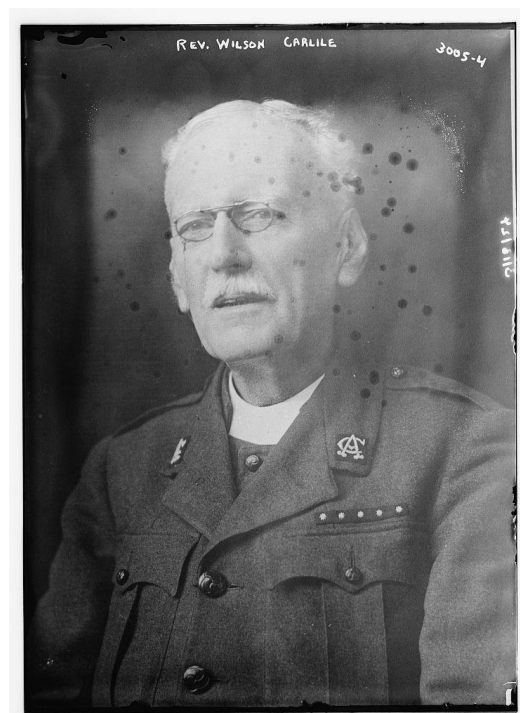
Carlile then prepared himself for a life of ministry. He was confirmed into the Church of England, studied at the London College of Divinity, ordained in 1880 and served his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington. But Carlile wanted more than comfortable parish life, and soon began outdoor preaching again. He wanted to reach the poor, unchurched, of the community.

Carlile left Kensington to work in a slum mission, and by 1882 he was busy uniting the local Anglican parish missions into one

organisation. Here his business skills in planning and organising proved invaluable, and soon he had founded the 'Church Army.' He then founded two training colleges, to train both men and women evangelists. After slight hesitation, the Church of England agreed to incorporate the Church Army into its structure, and even created the office of Evangelist for the Church Army captains and sisters.



In the years that followed, Church Army has done great work in evangelism, as well as in social and moral welfare. It helped support the troops during World War 1. Carlile remained honorary chief secretary until retirement in 1926. He died in 1942.



The following article has been written and submitted by Lesley Barter, and is entitled:

To be a pilgrim.....

We are all pilgrims. On a journey through life that takes us into sunny pastures, rocky ascents, dark valleys and, from time to time, affords us beautiful views. It is only when we reach the sanctuary at the end that we will know whether it has all been worth it.

Many among us, who have had the luxury of a holiday this summer, will have participated in mini-pilgrimages. We may have visited holy places both in Great Britain and abroad. I have written before about the joy of discovering the art that has decorated them for many centuries, illuminating a faith that has endured despite war and persecution. It is a humbling experience.

This summer three of the places that I have visited stand out in very different ways. A clear example is St. David's Cathedral, which may already be known to many of you, but previously not to me.



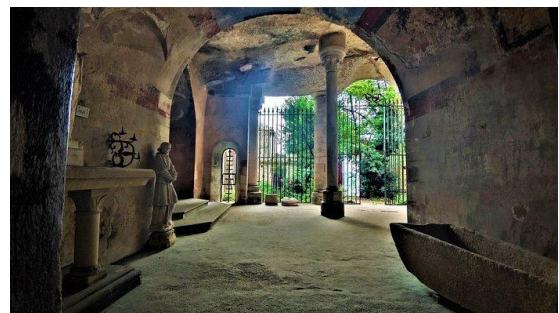
Not only is it a magnificent example of 13th Century architecture, but it houses the sole intact shrine tomb of a national patron saint, the others having been obliterated in the Reformation. It is also possible that the Reliquary houses St. David's bones, as well as those of St. Justinian and St. Caradoc. All this gives the building an unmistakably Medieval atmosphere and it is easy to sense the legacy

of the thousands of pilgrims that used to visit each year.

Not far away is the tiny chapel of St Govan, sandwiched between two cliffs thought to bear the imprint of the saint's ribs as he hid there from pursuing pirates. The chapel is accessible via about 90 steps, reputedly enchanted and impossible to count accurately!



The third memorable holy place that I discovered this summer is the Chapelle Sainte Radegonde – a semi-troglodyte chapel perched in the cliffs high above Chinon in the Loire Valley. It grew up from an oratory and hermitage set up in a hermit's cave, which itself took over from a pagan place of worship. There is a notable wall mural with one of a very few representations of Eleanor of Aquitaine and other members of the House of Plantagenet. Once again it reminds us that our Christian faith has evolved over centuries and we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our pilgrim ancestors who tread these paths before us.



The following article has been written and submitted by Elaine Kinchin, and is entitled:

A few questions about “Charity begins at home...”

Some of you are aware that my husband, David, came home from our last camping holiday of the year with a bad back. I came home with a very sore tongue where I had repeatedly bitten it! We met a very racist man, who tried to persuade me, after I had disclosed that I am a clergywoman, to agree with his misguided views.

It started with the usual whining about immigrants taking all our jobs, housing and places in hospital queues. No mention was made of the fact that if all “immigrants” left the UK, this country would indeed have jobs aplenty. But probably not much living accommodation and certainly very few staff in hospitals. First question: how far back are we supposed to be anti “immigrants”?

David has recently done a DNA test to find out his ancestry. Most of his DNA comes from southern England, but he has genetic material that originated in Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium and from Ashkenazi Jews! I suspect there are very few purely English people living in England. The original dwellers in this country were Brythonic Celts, the Iceni and four other smaller tribes. We were invaded by the Romans early in the AD years, no doubt with intermingling. From 410 AD, some Germanic tribes, the Angles, Saxons and Jutes came to live in England. So, second question: why do we call “our” country England, a name

which derives from Angleland – the name of an immigrant tribe?

Then my new unfriend passed on to our planet being overcrowded: “we can afford to feed four billion; trouble is there are over eight billion”. Current research suggests that we can feed about ten billion; but things would need to change: farming methods, waste and greed. Then we moved onto foreign aid. A long diatribe concluded with the question: “Charity begins at home, doesn’t it?”

Oh dear, I really wanted to have a theological discussion but decided this man’s ears were stopped up to reason, logic and truth. One Bible passage, which still lingers in the consciousness of non-believers ends with “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.” (1 Corinthians 13:13 King James Version) When the apostle Paul dictated this verse he used Greek; the last word was *agape*. *Agape* was one of six words that ancient Greek had for love: and it is the highest and purest form of love, the unconditional love that God has for us, and the love we try to emulate in our dealings with all people. (An aside: *xenia* is another Greek word for love, it means the sacred hospitality and respect shown to strangers and travellers. We usually only hear this word in its negative form: xenophobia.)

When our Bible was translated into Latin by people such as St Jerome, *agape* became *caritas* – costly love, sacrificial love. In Middle English it became charity – but it still kept the core meaning of Christian affection and goodwill. From medieval times, as church practises became structured, *caritas* meant

practical help: almsgiving to feed the hungry and help the homeless. Slowly over the centuries the *agape* part fell away, leaving charity meaning giving money or other aid to those in need. That is why modern translations of the Bible use the word love instead of charity.

Third question: when was love first used in an English translation of 1 Cor. 13? In Tyndale's New Testament published in 1526!!

The phrase "charity begins at home" was made popular in the 17th century, by clergyman Thomas Fuller, who actually wrote: "charity begins at home but should not end there". This emphasises that while we must first care for our own families and households, our compassion should extend to help the wider world.

Here is how Eugene H Peterson interpreted 1 Cor 13. Peterson entitles the chapter: The Way of Love.

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, but takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be cancelled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.



The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years: 1956 - 2026

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK.

After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the DofE Award programme.

The DofE continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980.

In 2020, DofE participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The DofE says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain.

"But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), we've learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we've seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"We're here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do.

"Whatever their ability, interest or background, DofE offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge. Because when you prove to yourself that you're ready for anything, nothing can hold you back. Our Founder HRH Prince Philip once said: 'There is more in you than you might think.' And, here at the DofE, we help you realise that."

Prince Philip passed away in April 2021, but his legacy thrives thanks to the tireless support of the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

More info at: <https://www.dofe.org>



The following article was written and submitted by Tony Houghton, and is entitled:

Songs for Witney

Inspired by a session attending the annual Mission Worship Conference in Eastbourne a couple of years ago Heather and I have been working on a double album of 'Songs for Witney'. Many of the songs came out of Heather's joining and working with the American co-writing Christian composing network run by Krissy Nordhoff. One of the projects was a challenge to compose a song every day over a fortnight.

Two summers ago we ran a number of collaborative workshops in our church which added to, and developed Heather's compositions and added others including a couple from Mike Hutchings. Then back in May, Luke Tyrell brought us his song Alpha and Omega from Revelation 21. This has inspired me to master new technology. So, during the quieter season of the summer holidays and a pause in church and other activities, we have spent 3-4 weeks making recordings of the 17 songs. Many are based directly on the Scriptures:

- 1 Be still and bow down
- 2 Deborah Judges 4 & 5
- 3 Go face the day 2 Chronicles 20
- 4 Hannah's song Wait on the Lord 1 Sam 2
- 5 Spirit come upon us
- 6 Fearfully made Ps 139
- 7 Amazing provision²
- 8 Zachariah Luke 1 57 to 99 birth of John the Baptist
- 9 There is hope
- 10 No Looking Back Lk 9 v 62
- 11 Hear my prayer Heather
- 12 Now I see John 9
- 13 Jesus you are here Luke 13 verse 10 to v17
- 14 Christ's humility Philippians 2 v6 to 11 Philippians 4 v19
- 15 Alpha and Omega Rev 21
- 16 Teach me Ps 25
- 17 All things are possible...for God Mk 10:17-31; Mt 19: 16-30; Lk 18:16-30

We hope to release this album across the common streaming platforms later this autumn. I have collaborated with Keith Townley and his project to make a painting of each of the churches of Witney and district. He has given me permission to use his lovely painting of St. Mary's on the green as the album cover.

In the revision and finalising the song about Deborah we spent some time studying the passages in Judges chapters 4 and 5. The resultant lyrics are:

[Chorus]

Deborah, Deborah, Deborah, judge of Israel

Deborah, Deborah, Deborah, judge of Israel

[Verse 1]

God raised her up as a warrior and a prophetess

In His wisdom He told her to deliver His people

From the bondage of idolatry

[Chorus]

[Verse 2]

She held her court in the sanctuary of a palm tree
Counselling, discerning the purposes of the Lord
For the people who travelled from afar

[Bridge]

Oh praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord of the nations.
Lift His name, lift His name, glory to our King of kings

[Verse 3]

She roused Israel from lethargy and timid fear
Singing, "Go in the strength of the Lord God Almighty"
Victory came then and a peace for forty years x2

[Outro]

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Thank the Lord for anointing Deborah

The following article, written by David Pickup, has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

Hard Times

There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number,
living things both large and small. Psalm
104:25

Do you remember rock? I do not mean the music, but the confectionary sticks sold at seaside resorts. They were pink cylinders about a foot long and an inch wide with a white centre and had the name of the place in letters. They were covered in film and had a small label with a picture of the place on. It is sometimes referred to now as Rock Candy which does not seem right. They were hard as, well, hard as rock and very difficult to break up to eat. Real teeth breakers.

One source says it started at fairgrounds in the 19th Century, when sugar was plentiful and inexpensive. It was not brightly coloured or lettered in those days, but it was of similar shape and size as it is today.

Ben Bullock was an ex-miner from Burnley, who conceived the idea whilst holidaying

in Blackpool. He began producing sticks of brightly coloured lettered candy at his Yorkshire-based sweet factory in 1887. He sent his first batch of lettered rock to retailers in Blackpool, where it was well received. Other sources say a Victorian character by the name of Dynamite Dick, who came from either Morecombe or Blackpool.

It takes a lot of skill to make it. I think it is still available on sale to eat or keep as a souvenir.

Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

The following article has been written and submitted by David Kinchin, and is entitled:

Witney Congregational Church – Lend-with-Care account

Number of loans **700**

Loans value **£19,542.34**

3435 Entrepreneurs helped

10965 Family members helped

1203 Jobs created

15603 People helped



CONFIANCE 1 Group - Cote d'Ivoire **£15.00**



Ecuador -Farming widows **£30.00**

Retail – grocery & general household items



Sherlito Philippines **£30.00** Farming



Johns Kenya Retail & footwear **£30.00**

These are just four of the most recent loans we have made through Lend-with-Care. As you can see, we have now made exactly 700 loans by recycling our money – so almost £20,000 has been invested in groups around the world.

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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, and has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

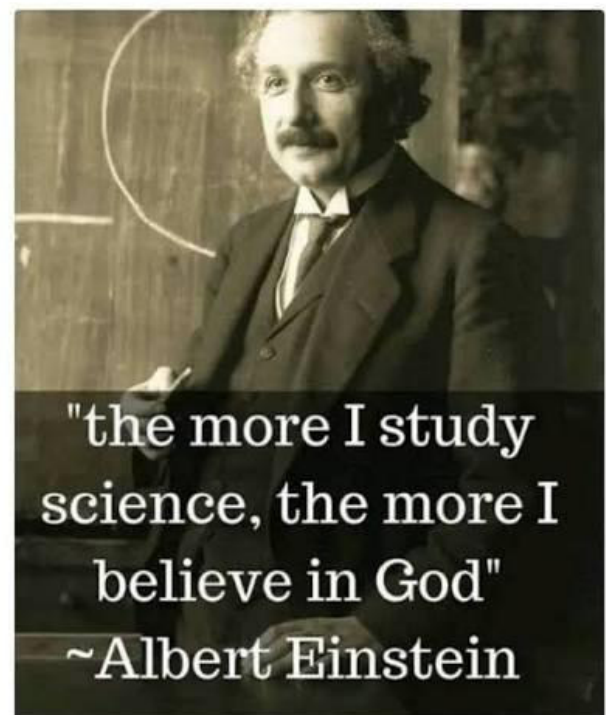
Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way

to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.



The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

All in the month of SEPTEMBER

250 years ago, on 9th September that the Second Continental Congress adopted the name United States, which replaced United Colonies.

200 years ago, on 5th September 1826 that John Wisden, British cricketer was born. Founder of Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac. Launched with 112 pages in 1864, it now runs to 1500 pages and is the bible of cricket.

175 years ago, on 19th September 1851, Wiliam Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme, was born. Co-founder of Lever Brothers with his brother James. Now called Unilever, this global consumer goods company operates in more than 190 countries.

125 years ago, on 29th September 1901 that Enrico Fermi, Italian-born American physicist was born. Creator of the first nuclear reactor, he became known as the 'architect of the nuclear bomb.'

90 years ago, on 7th September 1936 that Buddy Holly, the American rock and roll singer and hits was born. Killed in a plane crash in 1959.

90 years ago, on 21st September 1936 that Frank Hornby, British inventor, died. Remembered for Meccano, Hornby Model Railways and Dinky Toys.

90 years ago, on 30th September 1936 that Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire were officially opened.

80 years ago, on 5th September 1946 that Freddie Mercury, Zanzibar-born British rock singer and songwriter was born. As lead singer of Queen, he sold more than 250 million records worldwide. Died of bronchial pneumonia resulting from AIDS in 1991.

70 years ago, on 25th September 1956 that the world's first transatlantic cable, TAT-1, went into service. It could carry 36 simultaneous calls, later increased to 72. It was retired in 1978.

60 years ago, on 8th September 1966 that the Severn Bridge was officially opened. Linking Wales and England over the rivers Severn and Wye, it carries about 32,000 vehicles a day.

50 years ago, on 5th September 1976 that the first episode of the Muppet Show was broadcast on ITV in the UK. It attracted 15 million viewers and ran for five series until March 1981.

40 years ago, on 7th September 1986 that Desmond Tutu became the first black Archbishop of Cape Town. Retired in 1996.

30 years ago, on 27th September 1996 that the Taliban seized control of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Mullah Omar was installed as Head of the Supreme Council and ruled until 2001.

25 years ago, on 11th September 2001 that the terrorist attacks on America took place. Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed them into the World Trade Centre's Twin Towers in New York, into the Pentagon, and into a field in Pennsylvania (following a passenger revolt – the intended target was Washington DC). 2,973 people were killed.

20 years ago, on 3rd September 2006 that Andre Agassi announced his retirement due to back problems. He was 36, a former world number one in tennis, and the 1996 Olympic champion.

The following article, written by Tim Lenton, has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

Hornby trains and Dinky toys

It was also 90 years ago, on 21st September 1936, that Frank Hornby, the British inventor, died. He is remembered for the immensely popular Meccano, Hornby Model Railways and Dinky Toys.

Hornby was born into a Liverpool working-class family and was said to have been inspired by the industry in the city. He was brought up as a Methodist and was interested in music, having a strong tenor voice. He met his future wife, Clara, when they were members of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society choir: they married in 1887 and had three children.

To amuse his two sons he constructed a model crane using perforated strips of metal held together with nuts and bolts. It could be dismantled and the parts used to build other things: this formed the basis of Meccano, which when refined proved hugely popular.

After the first world war he turned his attention to the construction of toy trains, powered by clockwork. At first these were made from kits, but it was not long before they were sold as ready-made train sets – a perfect children's toy. Dinky toys started as an accessory but soon developed into big-sellers in their own right.

Later Hornby, who was described as polite and a "keen observer of morality", became a Conservative MP for Everton. In his youth he joined the anti-alcohol Band of Hope and set up a number of groups and clubs dedicated to the improvement of society. He was a great believer in determination and the ability to overcome setbacks.

This enabled him to become not only a visionary but a practical creator in toy development and production. His persistence in adapting his original ideas and making them workable brought him deserved

success in producing three of the most popular lines of toys in the 20th century.

The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

Back to School - facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they will very probably eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives. But end of class can't come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day's education.

The following article, written by Tim Lenton, has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

Remembering Buddy Holly

Ninety years ago, on 7th September 1936, Buddy Holly, the American rock and roll singer, was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas. His career was cut short when he was killed in a plane crash in 1959 – an event remembered as “the day the music died”.

Holly was raised by a devout Southern Baptist family and was baptised at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in his hometown. His widely recognised talent as a musician and singer led him into the emerging country rock scene, where performers were often exploited by those working behind the scenes.

His influence has been acknowledged by many top singers and guitarists, including Bob Dylan, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton.

The plane crash happened during a poorly organised winter tour of the Mid West where the buses supplied were hopelessly inadequate in terms of reliability and heating. Temperatures well below freezing led Holly to hire a small private plane to take three of them to the next venue. The inexperienced pilot crashed the plane shortly after take-off near Clear Lake, Iowa, killing everyone on board: himself, Holly, J P “The Big Bopper” Richardson, who was given his seat because he was suffering from flu, and Ritchie Valens, who won it on a coin toss.

Holly’s pregnant wife Elena heard of his death on the radio, and the shock of it led to a miscarriage. This resulted in the convention of not broadcasting the sudden death of anyone without close relatives being informed.

The disaster was immortalised by singer/songwriter Don McLean, who said he had idolised Holly and felt his death marked a watershed between the innocence of the 1950s and the changes brought about by the Vietnam generation. His song, *The Day the Music Died*, was a long and brilliant solo performance.

The following article, written by Tim Lenton, and has been extracted from Parish Pump and considers an iconic road, and is entitled:

The beginning of the M25

Forty years ago, on 29th October 1986, the M25 motorway around Greater London was opened.

An orbital motorway for London had been proposed in 1944, but by 1966 this idea had evolved into two ringways, to the north and south. By the time the first sections opened in 1975, however, it had been rethought again, and so joining them together to make a full orbital motorway was again the plan.

Just over ten years later, in 1986, the final section was opened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and the new M25 was the longest ring road in Europe. The Dartford Crossing is technically not a motorway, but few would know the difference.

Environmental considerations became a factor, and almost 40 public inquiries took place, the most controversial area being in Kent over the North Downs. However, none of the public inquiries came out in favour of objectors.

At first the M25 was popular with the public. In the 1987 General Election, the Conservatives won everywhere the motorway passed through. But problems quickly surfaced, the obvious one being chronic congestion.

Part of this was due to apparently unanticipated office and retail development along its route, generating in-and-out slower-moving traffic. Also, it was soon clear that more lanes were needed in many places: in some areas three had become five or six. Some churches even objected because it created a kind of stone wall between those congregations within and those without.

A report in *The Economist* said it “had taken 70 years to plan, 12 to build it and just one to find it was inadequate”.

The M25 is now well established and used in practice as an alternative boundary for Greater London, especially by haulage companies. If you ever get stuck in a traffic jam on the M25, it might help to remember that it was designed for a maximum of 88,000 vehicles a day, but instead carries at times up to 300,000 a day.

All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

800 years ago, on 3rd October 1226 that St Francis of Assisi, Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, and founder of the Franciscan Order.

300 years ago, on 28th October 1726 that Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels* was published.

175 years ago, on 18th October 1851 that Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick* was published.

125 years ago, on 12th October 1901 that US President Theodore Roosevelt renamed the Executive Mansion the White House. It is the official residence and workplace of the US President.

100 years ago, on 14th October 1926 that the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

90 years ago, from 5th to 31st October that The Jarrow March took place. 200 men set off from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster, to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area following the closure of a shipyard.

80 years ago, on 15th October 1946 that Hermann Goering, German Nazi leader, died. He was sentenced to death at the Nuremberg Trials but poisoned himself with cyanide on the eve of his execution.

75 years ago, on 18th October 1951 that Snowdonia National Park was established in Wales. It was Britain's third National Park.

75 years ago, on 30th October 1951 that Dartmoor National Park was established in the UK.

75 years ago, on 31st October 1951 that zebra crossings were introduced in Britain. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

70 years ago, on 17th October 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, was officially opened. It closed in March 2003, nearly 47 years later.

65 years ago, on 6th October 1961 that US President John F Kennedy advised Americans to build bomb shelters to protect themselves from nuclear fallout, in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union.

60 years ago, on 21st October 1966 that the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery spoil tip (slag heap) collapsed and fell onto the village. Worst hit was Pantglas Junior School. In all, 116 children and 28 adults were killed.

50 years ago, on 4th October 1976 that the InterCity 125 High Speed Train service began operating in the UK.

40 years ago, on 9th October 1986 that Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 29th October 1986 that the M25 orbital motorway around Greater London was opened.

15 years ago, on 31st October 2011 that the world's population reached seven billion.

WE BELIEVE IN
GOD
THE FATHER
ALMIGHTY
CREATOR

OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD

WE BELIEVE
IN THE
HOLY
SPIRIT