

The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Notes!*



The Rambling Returns!

This week marks the return of the Rambling Rector. I know many of you enjoyed it being produced in the first lockdown, and whilst that may have been the case, I was rather hoping that things may have changed enough to confine it to the churches dusty records department. Sadly, COVID-19 had other ideas and so quite rightly, it is back.

I hope you find some spiritual comfort, encouraging news, and a giggle within its pages. It's quite a job producing it every week, as we only have access to limited articles, so please we need your photos, funny stories, and encouraging news, so we can stay connected with one another during these challenging times. We pray also for when we can return to this.



THIS WEEK



Chilled
Your Winter Pics



In Depth
Parish Profiles



News
Your News and
Stories

Bible Readings

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when[a] you believed?'

They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'

So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?'

'John's baptism,' they replied.

Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues[b] and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

Mark 1:4-11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with[a] water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

WEEKLY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognise him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



A Reflection - by Rev Carol Lee

So here we are again, lockdown 3. For me at least things are a little different this time. In March I was also working as a bereavement midwife and I was leaving home to go to the hospital 4 days a week, and was seeing and chatting to people at work on each of these days. This time I more aware of what it is like to stay at home, unless leaving for a valid reason, and having less day to day social interactions. Life should be less busy. My experience will not be the same as everyone else's, certainly for parents who are home schooling, maybe on top of home working, life will be constant juggling. For all of us I think the ongoing adaptations are both challenging and tiring, and there is the ongoing sadness and frustration at not being able to see all those we love face to face.

All clergy and lay leaders have received frequent e-mails from Bishops Pete and Sophie, which have provided guidance and support in the ever changing situation. Last week we received one the day before the lockdown announcement. In it Bishop Pete discussed that he had been reflecting on how passive Jesus was at the beginning and end of his life. He was conceived, born, wrapped in cloths, laid in a manger, circumcised and named. Last week we thought about the magi visiting Jesus, it was Jesus who was 'done too' he received their homage, it was they who brought the gifts. The verbs used to describe his final week, betrayal, denial, being deserted, crucified, buried and raised from the death are also passive.

The reading from Mark that tells of Jesus being baptised by John, and here also Jesus is passive. John has been talking to his followers about the one who was coming; the one he calls 'the powerful one', the name used in Judaism to speak of God. John is baptising with water, the powerful one would baptise with the spirit. Not only is John using a name for God to describe Jesus, he is also saying that one of the characteristics of God, that he gives the holy spirit, will also be a Characteristic of Jesus. John is announcing that Jesus will bring into the human story the actions and attributes, or characteristics of God. As Jesus is baptised by John, Jesus himself doesn't do anything, but sensational things happen around him and to him.

His baptism is accompanied by sounds and visual signs of God. Heaven was opened; God's spirit descended on Jesus and God's voice was heard. You may have seen pictures of the scene, they look very calm and peaceful, but does Mark explain it in that way?

Mark describes the heavens being opened as being torn apart or rend apart. To rend is to tear off or break something violently. For example a storm rending a ship into pieces. Mark does not describe heaven opening softly; the heavens were opened violently, torn apart. God was breaking through. At this time heaven was seen as being the place where God lived, and as a symbol of

God's presence. Heaven, and therefore God, was seen as being in a place separated from us on earth. Isaiah had prayed in the Old Testament that God would 'rend the heavens and come down', and do amazing and fearful things that no one expected, in order to change people's attitudes and behaviour. In Jesus, God has come down and lived among us; He has permanently broken through the barrier between heaven and earth forever. The rending of the heavens has shown the closeness of God to humanity.

The word rend is also used to describe what happened to the temple curtain at the time of Jesus death, it was torn to show the space between God and man has been destroyed.

Mark describes the Holy Spirit as descending on Jesus as a dove, gentle imagery. But a few verses later the same spirit will drive Jesus in to the wilderness to be tempted. The same spirit is with us, guiding us, teaching us and leading us. For us to have faith at all means that the spirit is with us, we may not have experienced the baptism of the spirit as described in our reading from Acts, but to have faith means we do have the Holy spirit in us.

the Father is declaring Jesus identity as his beloved son

A voice from heaven was heard to proclaim 'you are my son, whom I love: with you I am well pleased', the Father is declaring Jesus identity as his beloved son; he gives Jesus his divine approval. We are witnesses to a divine relationship. A relationship into which we are called. Jesus gets his identity from the Son of God; we get our identity from being adopted as the children of God. We too are loved, the father is also saying to us that he loves us and is well pleased with us. Jesus had not yet started his public ministry; the father was not affirming him or telling him he loved him because of what he had done, but because of who he is. The same is true of his affirmation and love for us.

At times Jesus was passive, but always obedient to the will of the father, obedient to his death on the cross through which our salvation has come. Bishop Pete in his e-mail ponders whether over the coming year it will be our resolutions, actions and words that will make the greatest difference, or whether the difference will be made through our demonstrating our faithfulness to God through whatever we face.

We have limited control over a lot of things that are currently happening; many restrictions are being placed on us. During the coming months let us always remember we are loved by our father in even for whom we are, not for what we do. As we learn how to maintain relationships with others in different ways may we all grow deeper into our relationship with God the father, Son and Holy Spirit, a relationship that will guide and sustain us.



IN DEPTH

Each week our non-roving reporter will set out to dive deep and get to the bottom of what actually makes our Church Family tick.

This week - Rev Neil

What was your least favourite food as a child?

White cabbage, especially the stalky bits...still is!

What is the worst job you've ever had?

Easy, cleaning down the butchers department at Morrisons when I was at college. I can still smell it now!

If you were an animal what would you be?

Giraffe...or Neil the sloth off the old Sofa Works advert.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

Erm...I was the school record holder at backstroke.

What's the most exciting thing you've done?

Coming to the FAB parishes of course...or landing on a moving ship in a helicopter, that was 'interesting'.

If you performed in a circus, what act would you be?

Clown!

Next time another willing *volunteer*....

From Our Readers



From Wendy Groves. We think there's a grandchild under there being angelic!

From our very own dispensing optometrist, Chris Green, a true story.

FOGGY LIPS

We all know having spectacles and wearing a face mask don't go hand in hand.....But of course there is the **NO FOG** cloth....cleaning your specs with a special cloth can really help.

It can work wonders but I was alarmed when a patienta lovely lady popped in and complained that it was working well but really making her lips feel odd.....

This is not usual I thought.....and proceeded to explain the best way to use the cloth.....

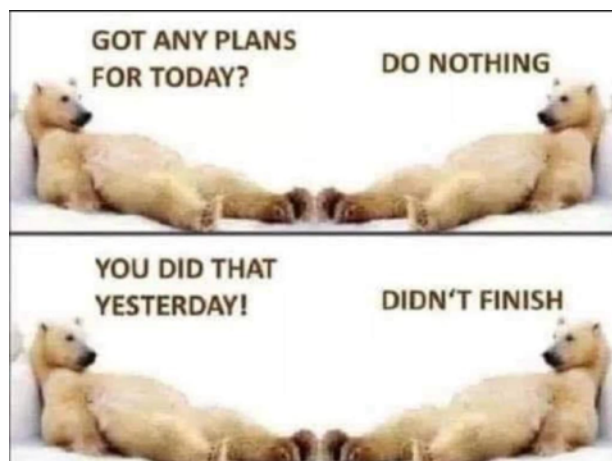
"OH" she announced...."I haven't done that....I have been putting the cloth inside my face covering....it did feel funny....but worked.....its just my lips."

I did say I thought it was only men that didn't read instructions.....

"No" she said....."Well you live and learn"

She went out very happy that her problem was solved.....

...and from Paul Reeves....



ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

Centenary Project Youth Worker Newsletter

Hello!

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a lovely Christmas and New Year, whether it was just yourself and your household or you took the opportunity to see family or friends on Christmas Day. It was one we will remember for sure wasn't it? We had our first ever online Christingle service which went really well, gave out our December Cafe 3:30 packs and continued to meet online with CATALYST Youth Group. I'm not sure what the year ahead holds and if Cafe 3:30 and CATALYST will resume in person before I go on maternity leave, sadly there is only so much we can plan ahead for at the moment but we will continue to adapt as necessary.

Cafe 3:30

Monthly Family Cafe Style Church

The December packs were delivered to 23 families, 38 children, and were of course themed on Christmas. They received a Christmas Card, one of the Church of England Comfort and Joy booklets for the adults, a copy of The Christmas Story book for the children, some Christmas activity sheets and two crafts - a Christmas mosaic scene and an Advent wreath. December was the last month that the packs were funded, we are going to continue with the packs until we can return in person, self funding them and using existing resources.



Prayer Points

- For all those who work in schools as they adapt to online learning and remain open in person for vulnerable children & key workers children
- For all parents and carers as they find themselves juggling life, work and home learning
- For all those not able to access support they would usually receive
- For all university students, many not allowed to return whilst paying for accommodation
- Give thanks for the work of The Children's Society and other charities supporting children, young people & families

CATALYST Youth Group

Fortnightly Outreach Group

We are continuing to meet online, in December we played bingo and had an extended Christmas special, the first part of it we did some Christmas quizzes and games and the second half was playing their favourite online game - Among Us.

Christingle

Our first online Christingle was a great success with 102 packs ordered, 84 packs collected, 97 people joining on Zoom and £155 donated to the amazing work of The Children's Society.

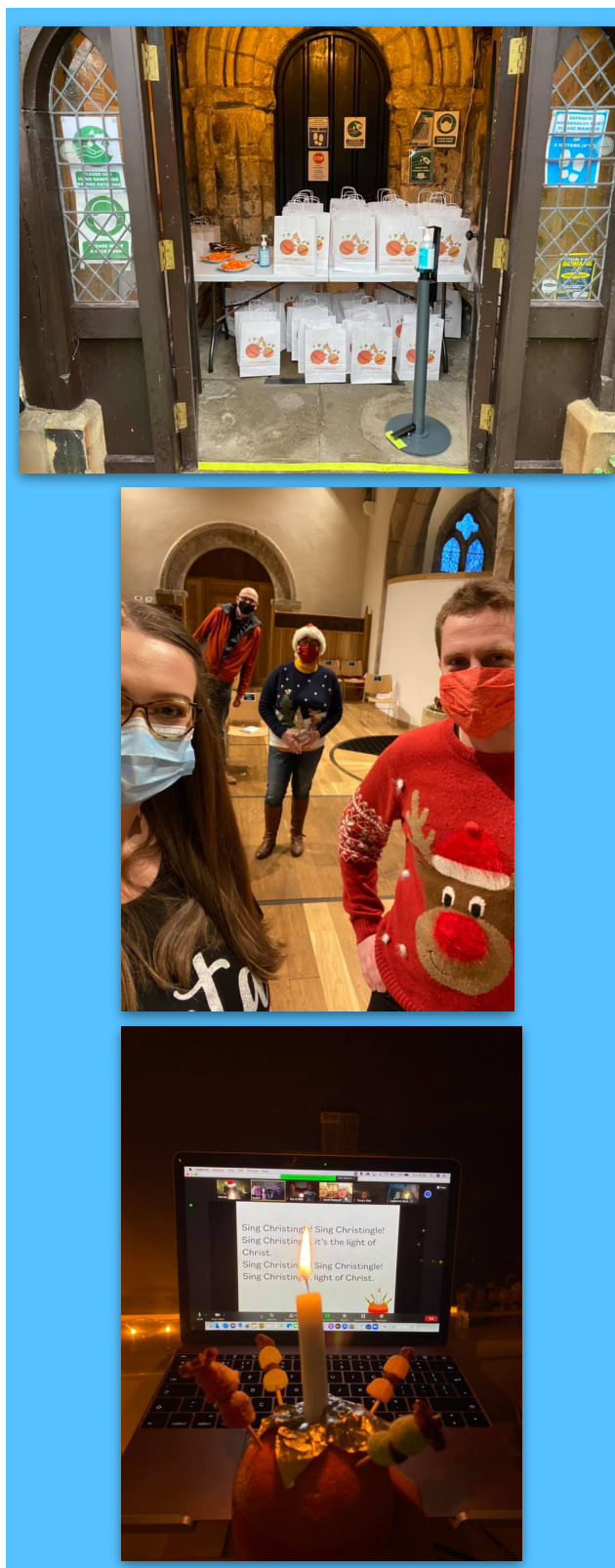
We followed the usual format of a Christingle service, beginning with Away in a Manger, a short video detailing the Nativity, we then went through what each part of the Christingle represents before taking some time to make the Christingles, I asked everyone to light their Christingles and turn off their lights as they held them the camera and we sung Sing Christingle, we had a closing prayer then ended by singing My Lighthouse.

This strange time provides opportunity for training which I otherwise wouldn't be able to go to, later this month I'm going to the two day online Limitless Leaders training event for Youth & Children's Workers, which I'm really looking forward to. January also sees me start my additional role of CP Hubs Oversight, a role in addition to my two existing ones, with nothing changing for my role here at Finningley. Whilst it's a strange time there's a lot of things to be thankful for and exciting things coming up.

With love and blessings,

Hannah Robinson

Youth & Family Worker



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@YouthWorkerHannah

Chilled

A sunny frosty morning can be a glorious sight that lifts the soul, and Tricia was out and about this week and sent us these beautiful pictures from Finningley Churchyard.



We must become a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church' - Archbishops

The momentous events of 2020 will have a "profound effect" on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

become a "simpler, humbler, bolder Church."

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a "simpler, humbler, bolder Church."

The archbishops' comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church's own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: "2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

"We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

"For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church."

be the Church for England

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: "These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in ourselves our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church for England."

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges. He told Synod: "If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."



Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell

Building Closed - Church Open

As you will by now know, both PCC's, along with our Rector Neil, and Curate Carol, took the decision to close both St Saviour's and St Oswald's Church buildings during this third lockdown.

Whilst the Government indicated we could stay open the Church of England and our Diocese asked Clergy and PCC's to decide what would be best at local level. So whilst we have suspended physical worship in our church buildings, some other parishes may choose to stay open.

Of paramount importance to us all was the safety and wellbeing of everyone who comes along. So, after careful consideration, and given the vociferousness of the new strain and the vulnerability of many of our church family, it was unanimously decided that closing the physical doors was the right thing to do. A decision fully backed by the Bishop of Sheffield.



Both Parishes will review this decision in February and we will make any changes based on the information we have at the time.

But whilst the buildings are closed, the Church - you and me - are still open. We are the Church, so let us be the Church during this third national lockdown.

Prayer & Prose

The Fourth Gift

The fourth gift they had was
Wisdom,
The one they needed for
themselves
And the world.

Wisdom

To leave the familiar
In search of a new security
More precious than the gifts
they gave.

Wisdom

To discover, in the starlit child,
A significance above
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wisdom

And the eyes of faith
To receive God's showing
Of His Son.
The gifts we read about

Were three,

But the fourth gift they had
was
Wisdom.

By Daphne Kitching

Here we are, nervously
wobbling at the start of this
New Year. All our hopes,
expectations, plans and
possibilities for last year stolen
by the relentless pandemic.

The landscape of our lives has
been shaken and changed,
Lord. Nothing is the same.
Normality has been redefined.
2020 was a year like no other.
How dare we move into the
uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare - because of the
one, wonderful certainty we
do have - that You have been
with us through it all.

Thank you that You sent Jesus
to save us, to offer us that
bigger reality of life for all
eternity - if we put our trust in
Him, Jesus, who never
changes.

You promise that You will
never leave us or forsake us.
We will be able to navigate the
challenges lie ahead, if we
keep our eyes on Jesus, our
compass; if we trust His Holy
Spirit to lead us, however
strange and unfamiliar the
days of 2021 may be.

You are with us! You are with
us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years,
that You know and love each
one of us, and that we are safe
in Your hands. We can go
forward. In Jesus name. Amen

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

APPLY NOW!



We are now accepting applications for
Reception or Junior (year 3) school
placements for Doncaster
in September 2021

Closing date: 15 January 2021



Doncaster
Council

To apply, visit: www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions

A NEW YEAR

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in His way. - *Psalm 37:23*

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. - *Proverbs 3:6*

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. - *Corrie ten Boom*

In His love He clothes us, enfolds us and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw He is everything that is good. - *Julian of Norwich*

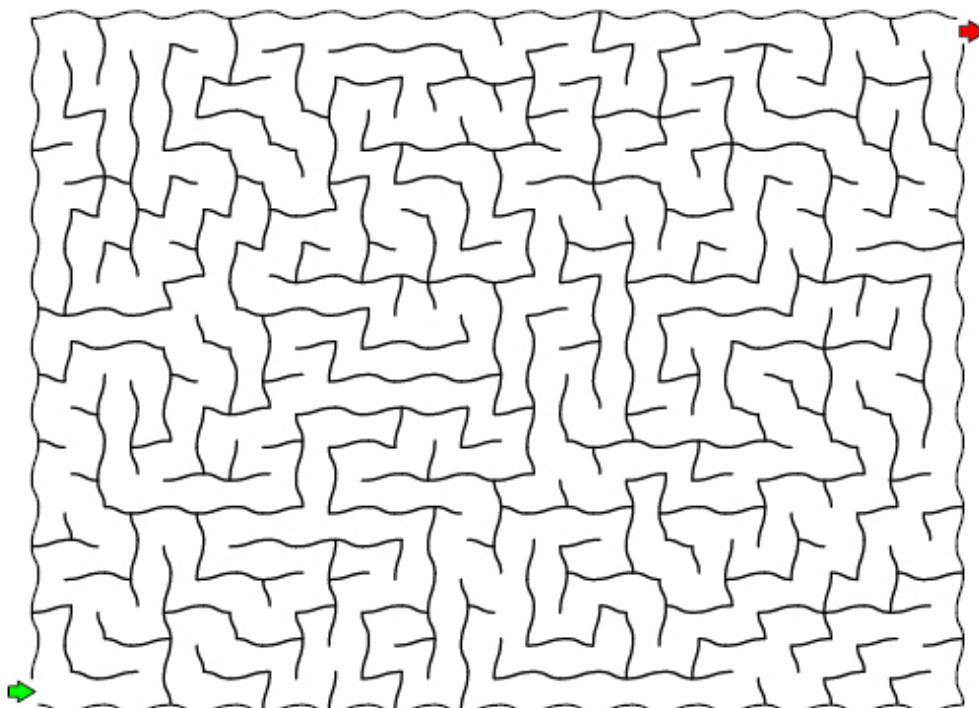
Endurance and perseverance are qualities we would all like to possess, but we are loath to go through the process that produces them. - *Jerry Bridges*

You can never plan the future by the past - *Edmund Burke*

What we look for does not come to pass. God finds a way for what none foresaw. - *Euripides*

AMAZING!

Can you find your way out

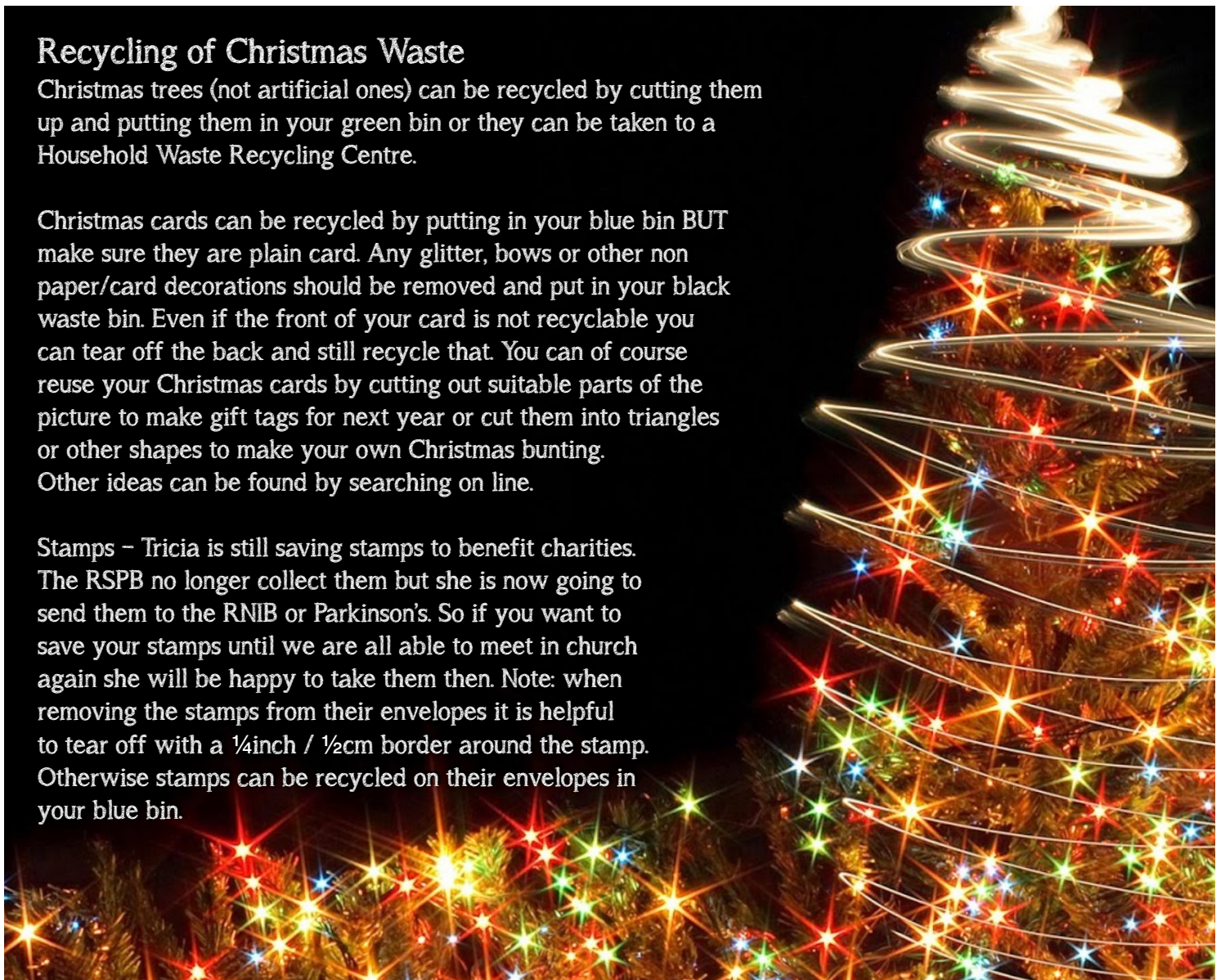


Recycling of Christmas Waste

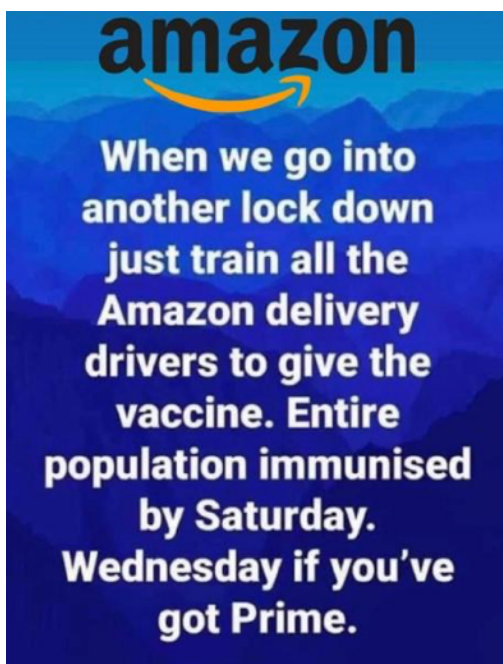
Christmas trees (not artificial ones) can be recycled by cutting them up and putting them in your green bin or they can be taken to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Christmas cards can be recycled by putting in your blue bin BUT make sure they are plain card. Any glitter, bows or other non paper/card decorations should be removed and put in your black waste bin. Even if the front of your card is not recyclable you can tear off the back and still recycle that. You can of course reuse your Christmas cards by cutting out suitable parts of the picture to make gift tags for next year or cut them into triangles or other shapes to make your own Christmas bunting. Other ideas can be found by searching on line.

Stamps – Tricia is still saving stamps to benefit charities. The RSPB no longer collect them but she is now going to send them to the RNIB or Parkinson's. So if you want to save your stamps until we are all able to meet in church again she will be happy to take them then. Note: when removing the stamps from their envelopes it is helpful to tear off with a ¼inch / ½cm border around the stamp. Otherwise stamps can be recycled on their envelopes in your blue bin.

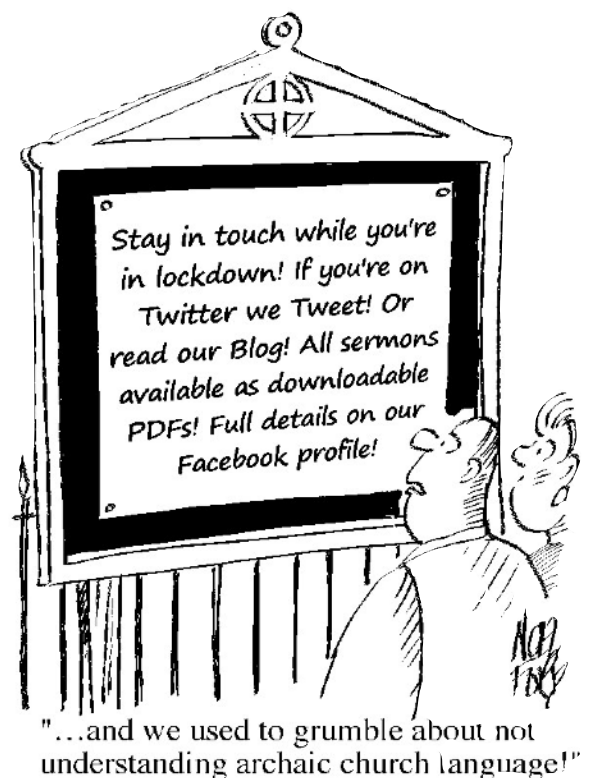


Just For Laughs



I hate it when I think I'm buying ORGANIC vegetables, but when I get home, they're REGULAR donuts.

The vicar was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."

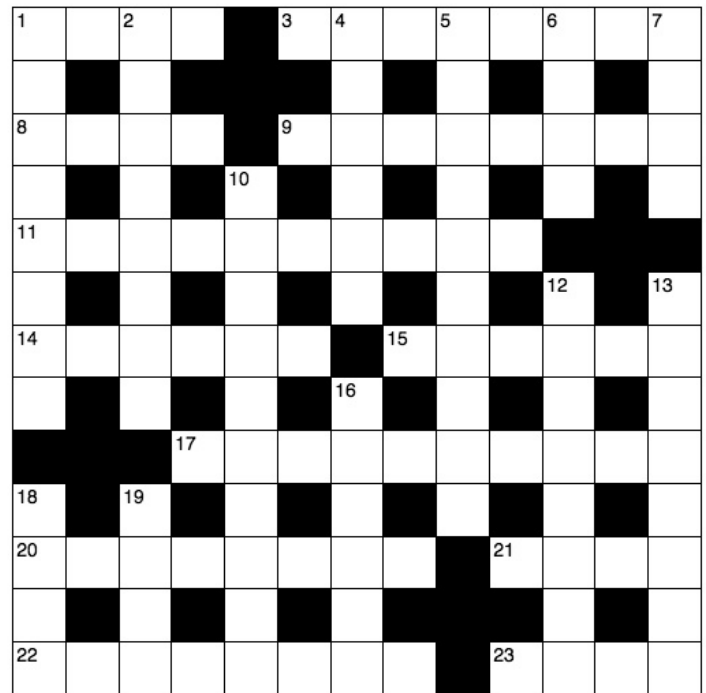


Across

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

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)



- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Live Services

Don't forget that every Sunday at 10.00am we are using Zoom to join together to worship. If you are unsure about using Zoom, then Hannah is more than happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please do get in touch with Hannah at hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk or 07875 500555.

TO SIGN IN, PLEASE USE THE DETAILS BELOW

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

Parish Office

Telephone: 01302 770240

Email: parishoffice@fabparish.org

Web: www.fabparish.org.uk

Facebook: [finningleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/finningleychurch) [stsavioursauckley](https://www.facebook.com/stsavioursauckley)

Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Robinson on 07875 500555