

# The Rambling Rector

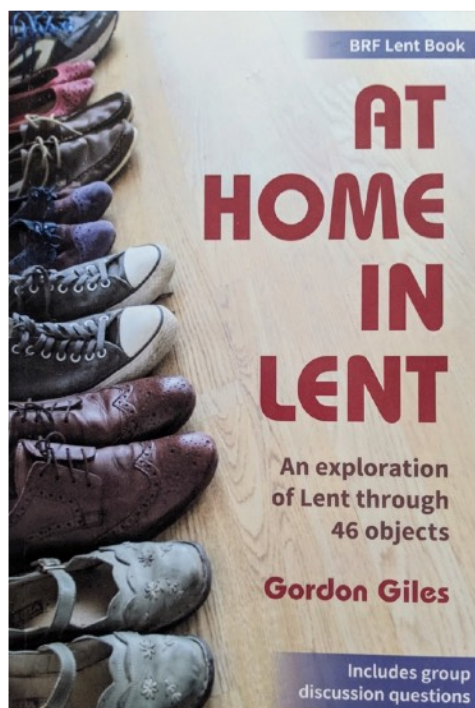
Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Notes!*



This coming week sees us entering into Lent. Our service on Ash Wednesday will be live on Zoom at 7.00pm with the usual sign in, and we've repeated the resources from last week for those unable to join us.

Each week during Lent we'll also be hosting a Lent course, and Carol tells us a little more below.

This is the book we will be using for our lent course this year. 'At Home in Lent encourages us to discover how God is already in our homes and where to seek



him in the things that surround us everyday. Through the weeks we will think about what doors, mirrors, vacuum cleaners, radios and curtains have to tell us about our faith journey in the light of the Easter story.

The course will take place via zoom at 7pm on Tuesday evenings from February 23rd to March 23rd.

We would love you to join us as we explore together. Please let Neil know that you are interested so that he can send you the zoom meeting link [nredeyoff@sky.com](mailto:nredeyoff@sky.com) Hannah can provide support if you have not used zoom before.

For the first week please try and have a mirror with you. Carol.

## THIS WEEK



### Hobbies

Lock Down Creation



### Exposé

A Mum To Be



### St Valentine

What's It Really About?



Is Thursday please

# Bible Readings

## 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

**3** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

## Mark 9:2-9

**2** After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. **3** His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. **4** And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

**5** Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' **6** (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

**7** Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!'

**8** Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

**9** As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## A Reflection by Carol

I took this photo whilst on a walking holiday in Scotland, with my husband Simon. You can make out a stream at the bottom, which we had to cross as part of our climb to the top. The walk took a few hours and was quite hard work, but the views were stunning, and well worth the effort. But as good amazing as the views were, we had to come down, staying up there for ever was not an option.

The expression 'mountain top experience' comes from the Bible because of how often God spoke to people from various mountain tops. Both Moses and Elijah had experienced this.

God spoke to Moses on Mount Saini, giving him the 10 commandments. God also spoke to Elijah, on the same mountain, speaking as a quiet still voice, directing Elijah to return as prophet to Damascus.

But, Moses and Elijah couldn't stay with God on Mount Saini for ever, though they probably wished they could have with some of the events that followed. Moses came down from the mountain carrying the stone tablets containing the 10 commandments, and was saddened to find the people had melted down their gold to create a golden calf that they then worshipped. He broke the stone tablets in disgust. Coming down from the mountain top is not always easy, we may have been changed by our encounter with God, but difficult situations still remain.



Shortly before Jesus took Peter, James and John with him onto the mountain, something very significant had happened. Jesus has asked his disciples 'who do people say I am?' they replied some are saying John the Baptist, others Elijah, others one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked them, 'but who do you think I am?' It is Peter, who answered 'You are the messiah,' this is the first time any of the disciples have grasped who Jesus actually is.

The gospels show Peter as being quite impulsive, remember it was Peter who leapt out of the boat to try and walk on the water towards Jesus! So here on the mountain it is Peter who speaks, offering to build shelters for Jesus, Elijah and Moses. Does he really want to do this, so they could stay, or in his fright did he just say the first thing that came into his head, described by some as nervous babbling. I bet most of us can identify with Peter here, when in stressful situations we say, to our later regret, the first thing that comes into our minds.

So what was the importance of this experience to the disciples? They see Jesus talking with these 2 great figures from Jewish history, the brightness of His appearance identifies Him as the most important among the three. They are seeing Jesus in a new and astonishing light, gaining a new perspective.

Here is what Tom Wright, a previous Bishop of Durham says about it 'this is a sign of Jesus being totally caught up with, being bathed in the love, power and kingdom of God, so that it transforms his whole being with light, in the way that music transforms words that are sung. It's the sign that he is indeed the true prophet, the true Messiah'.

Jesus identity and status is confirmed as God speaks, echoing the words He spoke at Jesus baptism, 'This is my Son, whom I love'. This time God adds an instruction 'listen to Him'. Listen, listen to all that He has taught, how to live with one another, the values of His upside down kingdom, and to listen now to what He is starting to tell them about His death. They are being prepared for what is to come, they have to come down from the mountain. A mountain top is a wonderful place to gain perspective, but not a place to live.

This mountain top experience of the transfiguration will help to sustain them, to get through what is going to happen. As Tom Wright says 'even if sometimes we get scared and say all the wrong things, we may find that glory creeps up on us unawares, strengthening us, as it did for the disciples, for the road ahead'.

Encounters with God not only strengthen us, they also transform us. Not to become superheroes, but ordinary transformed Christians. This week sees the start of lent, a time for us to listen to God, to look at our own motivation, thoughts and actions. A time to be open to what both mountain top and wilderness experiences can teach us, how they can transform us. But, let's be gentle with ourselves this lent, many are saying the whole of the last year has felt a little bit like lent, as we have had to give up so many of things that we enjoy. One of the main things I am missing is hugs, especially those of my mum and brother. After the transfiguration events start to lead to Jerusalem, where Jesus will open his arms, not to hug, but to die on the cross for us. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life'. Such love is truly transforming. Amen.

## WEEKLY PRAYER

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory





# LENT

Resources for your  
Lenten journey

During last weeks Bible Study Group we discussed what resources might help us to spend more time with God over Lent. So, below we have listed some resources, and we will continue to update them.

If you would like any further information about any of them, then please do get in touch.

## Social Media

- Sheffield Diocesan Prayer Community, Facebook, Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00am, Saturday 8:00-8:30am
- Lou Fellingham, Come and Sing, Facebook and YouTube, Wednesday 8:30-9:00am
- Lou Fellingham, Coffee Morning, Facebook and YouTube, Saturday 9.30-11.00am

## Online

- Finningley & Auckley Lent Course. 7.00pm Tuesdays during Lent
- Pete Greig - Looking at Prayer on YouTube

## Apps (for phones or tablets/iPads)

- Lectio 365 - daily devotional
- Bible app - verse of the day and themed Bible plans
- Bible in one Year

## Books

- The Bible from Scratch by Simon Jenkins
- Soul Fuel, A Daily Devotional by Bear Grylls
- Soul Fuel for Young Explorers by Bear Grylls (children and young peoples version)
- How to Pray by Pete Greig
- Bible in a Year

## Radio

- Premier Christian Radio

## Worship Music (Contemporary)

Lyric videos available on Youtube

- Hillsong
- Elevation Worship
- Cory Asbury
- Soul Survivor
- Phil Wickham



Our Ash Wednesday service this year will be online at 7.00pm. For those unable to access Zoom, we have put a short prayer below, which you can use in your own home.

Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall  
return.

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Dear Lord,  
As we enter this solemn and holy season, I pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon me that I might prepare myself for these coming 40 days of Lent.

Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, I do seek to humble myself so I can understand the magnificence of your love for me as you humbled yourself and gave your life on the cross that I might receive the gift of eternal life. AMEN.

TURN AWAY FROM SIN  
AND BE FAITHFUL TO  
THE GOSPEL



## Love yourself through Lent

In a really challenging season why not focus on self-care this Lent. Here are 40 self-care ideas to choose from, why not pick one each day and give yourself a boost of positivity..

A minister, a priest and a rabbit walk into a pub.

The rabbit says, "I'm sorry. I think there's been a clerical error."

## Easter Cards

Some of the children at St Oswalds Academy will be making Easter Card after half term. They thought they might cheer someone up and so want to send them to people in our community who maybe live alone or haven't been able to get out. They would of course be quarantined before they were sent out.

If you would like to nominate someone, then please let the Parish Office know their name and address.

Also, if anyone is able to help distribute them, that would be a great help, and again, let the Parish Office know.

## FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ZOOM

If you're unable to Zoom then we have resources available. If you would like fresh copies of Morning Prayer then please just give Neil a call who will be happy to mail them out.

In addition, the Church of England also has the following free Daily Hope line too..





## IN DEPTH

This week, Mum to be and Centenary Project Worker, Hannah Robinson. (The one on the right!)

### **What was your least favourite food as a child?**

Spinach after a horrendous experience with it on the plane to Australia and olives (they were known as devil food for a long time). I do however like both spinach and olives now.

### **What is the worst job you've ever had?**

None! Whilst at university I cleaned for a couple of peoples houses which I quite enjoyed, then I worked in a school for children with severe additional needs and have been a Youth & Family Worker since.

### **If you were an animal, what would you be?**

Right now and throughout my pregnancy so far I have resembled a sloth, so maybe a sloth or a hippo, they seem to eat and sleep a lot and have an expanding belly.

### **Tell us something we don't know about you.**

There probably isn't much, my go to one is always that I have a Blue Peter badge. Although sadly when I tell young people that these days they've never even heard of Blue Peter!

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

Adopting Poppy! Going to Australia for 9 weeks while Dad was training at theological college was pretty cool. Being at a Christian Youth festival with 10,000 people... nothing quite like that either. Then of course I better say getting married and expecting a baby.

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

Certainly nothing that involved acrobatics or dancing, fire breathing would be cool.



### **Susan Anderson**

Susan has been knitting blankets. The proprietors of the Finningley Flea Fair would like to thank Susan for her efforts, as they now have some happy woolly jumper!



### **Paul Reeves & Mark Williamson**

Mark & Paul entered an 'Extreme Iron Man Competition', sadly they didn't read the small print!



### **David Elvin**

David has joined NASA - Northern Astronaut Sanitisation Academy. After intensive training he is off to vacuum up all the space junk!



### Neil Redeyoff

Neil signed up for a Pilates training session. He was very disappointed!



### Helen Meehan

Helen has honed her crafting skills, and is soon to appear on Blue Peter. Here are some she made earlier



### Ann Hariman

Ann has rediscovered sewing cards. Who knew, I though it was a stitch up!



### Carol Lee

Carol and husband Simon have been taking dancing lessons over Zoom. So, now a quick Salsa in the shed or Lambada in the larder results in a 'seven'!



### Mary Wright

Mary enjoys knitting and swimming. Sadly, the wool gets very soggy, but she has managed to create these for her new great-granddaughter



Swimming may have been added for comedy!

### Cynthia & Barrie Scully

Barrie has created *Scully's Scullery Services*, (very reasonable rates). Meanwhile, Cynthia started doing sit ups and can now remain sat up in an armchair for hours!



### Wendy Groves

Making notelets, for those of us who still write!! My older sisters likes these, now that they can't get to the shops to buy cards, useful too when you need to include other items. In my case, either photos or pages of The Rambling Rector!

ACROSS: 8. Cross-examined. 9. Ash. 10. Apocrypha. 11. Sci-fi. 13. Typical. 16. Visited. 19. Offer. 22. No account. 24. RAC. 25. Sovereign Lord.  
DOWN: 1. Oceans. 2. Hophri. 3. Islamist. 4. Exhort. 5. Omar. 6. On spec. 7. Add all. 12. CBI. 14. Plotting. 15. Awe. 16. Vanish. 17. Starve. 18. Daub it. 20. Furrow. 21. Recode. 23. Cure.

# My Aunty Bess

**Our third instalment about Aunty Bess from Alan Whitehall - Our Village Waltham**

## Our Village Waltham

This is an extract from a diary by my Aunty Bess aged eighty, and shows life in a cottage in Leicestershire. She left school aged fourteen going into Service in the village. Her memory was still strong and she and my mother would talk for ages on the phone most Sundays sharing memories.

We have a lovely church dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. Most of my relatives are buried in the church yard. Mother had us all baptised and confirmed then we could do as we pleased. There was a Methodist Chapel which was and still is a very active part of the village (see below). What used to be a tailor's shop was a place for Christadelphians to hold their meetings. There were three Public Houses, two of them at the cross roads. The Royal Horse Shoe was so called because Queen Victoria's horse was shod there. Across the corner was The Granby and further up was the George and Dragon.

The village pump was at the cross roads. The village had a fire engine. Practice day was once a year when the whole village celebrated. It was horse drawn and was filled with water from the pump near the school and the men would pump the handles on either side of the pump. It had a lot of publicity when Belvoir Castle got on fire. It was hauled up the stairs to the heart of the fire where no other fire engines could get.

The Royal Horseshoe

The Granby

The George and Dragon



Waltham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was opened on 30 June in 1842/3. The total cost of the project was £300. By 1860 the original building and subsequent extensions and alterations had cost £850.

When built the chapel measured 37½ feet by 22 feet and accommodated 250 hearers. By 1851 this had been reduced to 88 free and 104 other sittings, 192 in all. Subsequently the number drifted downwards until there were only 117 (all free) in 1931.

In 1941 the chapel, which was reported to measure 32 feet by 25 feet, had seating for 110 persons in pews. There was also a schoolroom (24 feet by 11 feet) but no other rooms.

The chapel was situated on the west side of the A607, north of the village (grid ref SK802252)



# Ash Wednesday: Mourning our sins

Why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

## A good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

# St Valentine's Day - 14th February

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.



The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.*

So, why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love?

Well, we've heard about Geoffrey Chaucer and the birds. But perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap

of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage.

During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men



to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

Interestingly, there are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

## **A Legend - The very first Valentine card**

Contrary to popular belief, well by Neil at least, Hallmark did not create the first Valentines Day Card. Legend has it that the Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14th February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

## Prayer & Prose

### JESUS

If I could package faith into one parcel  
And collect all hope into a single can –  
If I could roll all love into one heart-ball  
And commoditise it in a living man  
I'd already have a fully detailed label  
Prepared before the world itself began –  
And it would have one name –  
And that name – JESUS –  
At the centre of God's universal plan  
To take the world along the course  
God's surge of love provoked  
Till wholeness flows through everything  
With God's Spirit of life unyoked.

*by Sam Doubtfire*

*A reminder to pray for our Diocese at a time of challenge and change.*

Living God, Jesus calls his followers to seek first your Kingdom.

**Renew** us as we make your love known;  
**Release** us to share freely together in mission;  
and **Rejuvenate** us to be fruitful in your service.

Give us courage, wisdom and compassion,  
that strengthened with the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
we may, as the Diocese of Sheffield,  
both flourish and grow through Christ our Lord. Amen



## TO ALL OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

We are now offering FREE accommodation sited in various parts of the garden.

So, if you are thinking of starting a new family this Spring, now is the time to check out these high class premises.

Don't delay, act today.

All welcome, just bring your own bedding

**SORRY, NO CATS!**

Call Jenny Wren sorry Jenny Webb!

## COVID UPDATE

In the last week or so, both PCC's have been thinking about when we may be able to re-open our church buildings.

We don't have a definite answer as yet, and we will be eagerly awaiting the promised 'roadmap' from the government in the week beginning the 22nd of February. Following this, the PCC's will then carefully and prayerfully consider the best way forward.

What we can say though, is that the health and wellbeing of everyone is our main consideration, and so for now our churches will remain closed for public worship.

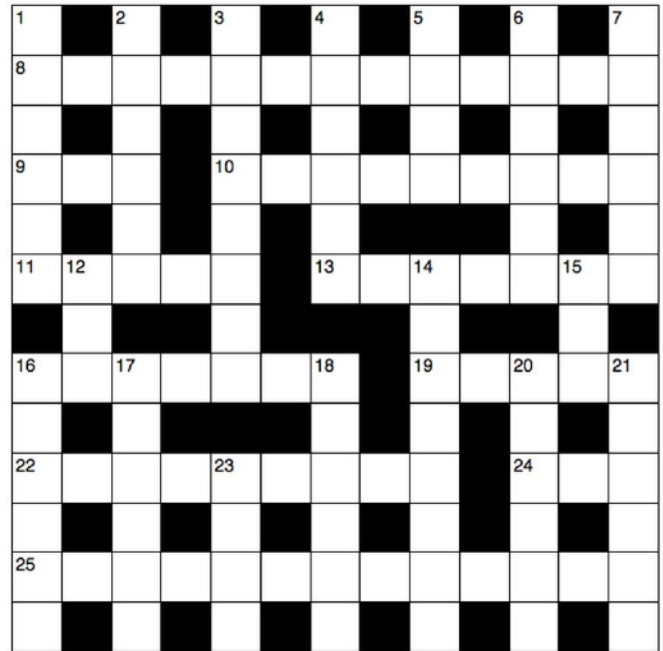
As soon as we have more information, we will of course let everyone know.

## Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)  
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)  
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)  
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)  
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)  
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)  
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)  
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)  
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

## Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)  
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)  
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)  
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)  
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)  
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)  
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (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](mailto:hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk) or 07875 500555.

### Parish Office

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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