

# Trinity Times

The Parish of Holy Trinity Church , Barkingside

Holy Trinity is a lively, Family-Friendly Church. We have a Heart for the Common Good, seeking to make Jesus Christ known in Barkingside

**£12 subscription  
£1 donation.**



## Who We Are

Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside, IG6 2BX

We are a lively, Family friendly Church  
with a Heart for the Common Good, and want to make Jesus  
Christ known in Barkingside

### Our Services

**Sunday 10:30am & Wednesday 9:45am**

The Church is open for Private Prayer, and as a Welcoming Space Monday,  
Wednesday and Friday 10am - 12noon, and you are Welcome to Join us at our  
Tuesday Drop-In 9am to 1pm in the Parish Hall

**'Drop In'**  
**Every Tuesday**  
**9am—1pm**  
**Parish Hall**

**Tea, Coffee, Snacks**  
**Games and Crafts**  
**Good Company**  
**Friendships**

*The church is open  
for private prayer, and  
as a welcoming space*  
**Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday 10am -  
12noon**

**Please enquire about  
our other events:-**

**Salsa Dancing**  
**Classes fortnightly**  
**on Wednesdays**

**'Stay & Play'**  
**0-4 year olds**  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**MORNING**

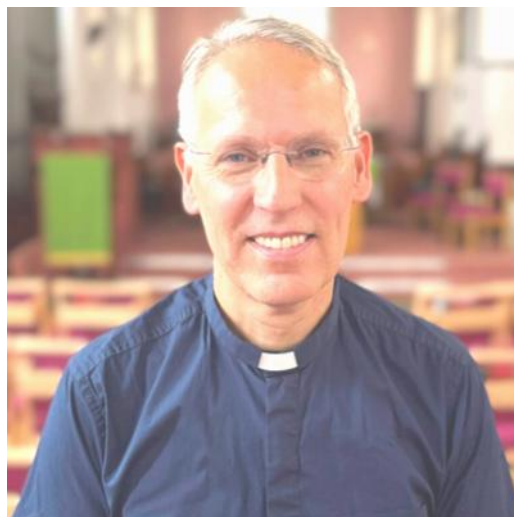
**Edge Youth Club**  
**Thursday Evenings.**  
**Free Entry**  
**for 9-14 year olds**

**Dear Family,**

**I hope this letter finds you well!** The weather continues to be relatively mild but I hope that you stay warm during the evenings and in the mornings. Allow me to share a **beautiful reflection & prayer** with you from John Pritchard **about this special month we are in: November** (slightly amended)!

“In November the natural world is closing down for winter. The days are getting shorter and a chill slides under the door. Help us not to close down our hopes and dreams, our warmth and welcome. Keep us hospitable to others and open to you.

In November we remember in serious silence the anguish and carnage of war, and reflect again on our capacity for hatred and violence. Hold back, we pray, the people of war, encourage and strengthen the people of peace, and give hope especially to people in the Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.



In November we turn our thoughts towards Christmas and who will go to whom this year and what we'll do about cards and presents. In our churches, help us to hold back on Christmas and to make proper space first for Advent, and in society as a whole, help us to make proper space for kindness, generosity and care for the outsider as the race for Christmas gathers speed. **We ask that the Christmas Shoeboxes brought together by our Mother's Union members will bring joy to people in Romania, and that we continue to be generous with our collection for Redbridge Foodbank.**

In November we pray for those for whom this month brings memories of loss, and for those who suffer from depression and the absence of light. Give them your own light, we pray, and especially to those in prisons, in psychiatric hospitals and in their own dark places. In your light may they see light - and the stirrings of hope.

We offer ourselves to you this month and pray that we may find you in all things and all people, and respond to you with grace and gratitude. God of November, Lord of the year, lead us through this month with faith, hope and love.”

\*\*\*

**As always: Thanks so much for journeying together!** Let's be encouraging and supportive to one another; let's celebrate all the blessings that God pours out into the midst of our community!

**Isn't it just wonderful that the Salsa Dancing Classes led by our very own David & Irene continue to bring such joy to many people! Isn't it**

just wonderful that our Tuesday Drop-In continues to be a wonderful place for all to come, to be, to feel safe and to build relationship? Isn't it just wonderful that our Stay & Play group now regularly attracts 15-19 babies & toddlers plus their parents / carers – the church is heaving with joy on a Thursday morning! ! Isn't it just wonderful that Edge Youth Club tonight will lay their "Hope and Light" stones at our new "Community Tree of Hope" (more to follow)? Isn't it just wonderful that our "Light Party" sold 30 tickets within 24 hours of advertising and is now fully booked with nearly 70 people!

Please continue to shine out God's glory to those around us. And please do not hesitate to contact me or Revd Kate or Revd Michelle, or anyone else on our leadership team if there is anything we can do.

Every blessing, Fr Chris

## Christ the King (Luke 23:32-43)

Scoffers at the Skull Place  
Pouring scorn  
On Christ the King.  
Criminals and soldiers mock  
As the shock of the nails  
Pierce and penetrate  
The hope of a people,  
On the whole,  
Far away,  
A people who don't know about distance.

But one far-off one  
Comes close,  
Reaches for the kingdom  
As he shares  
The cross crisis,  
As he cries  
In self-recognition,  
In God-recognition,  
In longing,  
In hanging  
In the company of the King,

"Jesus, remember me,  
Please,  
If you will,  
Remember me."

And Jesus said, "Today..."

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Afflictions

To follow Christ is not as easy  
As strolling in a sunlit park;  
The Christian walk is less than breezy  
When evil hunts you like a shark!

The devil, Satan, will ensnare you  
Tempting you with golden lies.  
Do not let his demons scare you  
Nor his temptings hypnotise.

When his servants sore afflict you  
Burning you with bitter pain,  
Persecutions may constrict you  
But we see the greater gain!

They who do the devil's defaming  
Suddenly will see their fate –  
Jesus comes with angels flaming  
Satan's lies revealed – too late!

For the King will come in glory  
Ev'ry knee to Him must bow!  
All then see the *real* story –  
He who died the victor now!

*By Nigel Beeton*



## A Cup of Coffee and a Change of Heart *by Mike Priestman, Church Treasurer*

Jesus once told a story about a rich man who lived in luxury while poor Lazarus sat outside his gate, longing for crumbs. It's a hard-hitting parable (Luke 16:19–31), but it's really about noticing the needs right in front of us — and choosing generosity over indifference.

If Jesus told that story today, I sometimes wonder whether he might use a modern example?

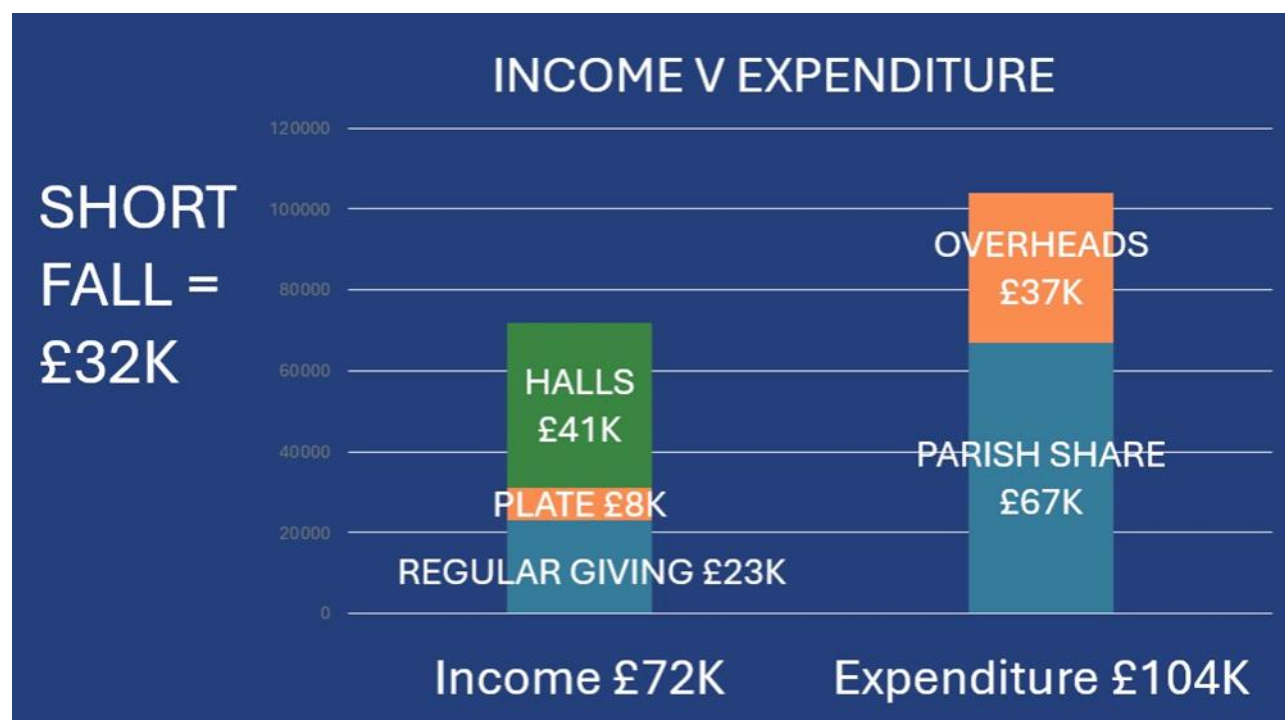
Perhaps: *“There was a man who had a Costa loyalty card. Each week he bought a cappuccino and a slice of cake, while his local church quietly struggled to pay its bills.”*

**Now, don't worry** — this isn't an anti-coffee crusade! But it does raise an important question: how do we use what we've been given to support God's work?



Here at Holy Trinity, our Parish Share — our contribution to the wider diocese — helps fund clergy across Essex and East London, as well as curates, chaplains and ministry in schools, hospitals and prisons. It's an essential part of keeping the Church's life and mission alive across our region.

The challenge is that we rarely meet our share in full. Only around a third of our congregation give regularly through the **Parish Giving Scheme**, while most give by cash or card when they can. We're deeply thankful for every gift, but it makes planning our finances very difficult. Here's the numbers:



But here's the good news: if everyone else were able to give just *the price of a cup of coffee — around £4 or £5 a week* — regularly, we could meet our target comfortably. It's amazing how a small, consistent act of generosity can make a huge difference.

That's why we're inviting everyone to consider joining the **Parish Giving Scheme** — a simple, secure direct debit system that helps the church plan ahead and relieves some of the financial pressure — ask me about it if you're interested—its' simple to set up.

*Jesus' parable ends with a challenge: not to walk past the needs at our gate.  
As a church family, let's respond generously, joyfully, and faithfully.*

## Remembrance

In November we come to remember  
How war tore our country apart,  
From village and town and all around  
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all  
Saw their brave young men go away,  
For some it meant the ultimate price  
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.

Another Man left His home above  
To rescue this world from sin,  
It cost Him His life which He freely gave  
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be war,  
But the time will surely be  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
As the waters cover the sea.

*By Megan Carter*

## Prayer for November 2025

Heavenly Father,  
Here we are in November – the month of short,  
dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have  
a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world in  
permanently in November at the moment. So much  
is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of  
their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the  
world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion  
and a softening into the hearts of those with  
responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that  
they might work for peace for all people. We know  
that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray  
in faith – and in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## 'All are welcome'

The Methodist Church has released a new recording of the hymn 'Let us build a house where love can dwell', known to many as 'All Are Welcome'. More than 140 Methodist churches contributed their voices to the project.

The hymn is intended as a response to the recent protests in London, the disorder outside the accommodation of those seeking asylum and the 'Raise the Colours' campaign.

Ben Lawrence, Digital Content Producer at the Methodist Church commented, "Many people have been made to feel, not just unwelcome, but frightened and intimidated by what is happening. We want this to be a song of reassurance, friendship and understanding."

[Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell \(Singing the Faith 409 / StF 409\) - YouTube](#)

## Tearfund's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

*Gaza needs help. Tearfund is working there. Here are the details...*

The conflict in Gaza has caused devastating humanitarian need. Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and over 146,000 have been injured.

There has been famine in Gaza. Almost one in five children are acutely malnourished, and malnutrition levels among children under five have quadrupled in two months.

Homes have been reduced to rubble by airstrikes. Classrooms and hospitals are a dusty wreckage. More than 417 humanitarian workers have been killed.

In Gaza, more than 1.9 million people have been forced to flee their homes, and many have been displaced repeatedly.

Tearfund is currently working with local churches and partners across the Middle East.

In Gaza, Tearfund's partners IHP and Anera can provide life-saving medicine and desperately needed supplies.

In the West Bank, Tearfund is providing emergency funding to local hospitals and schools, and is also distributing food and essential supplies to those affected by the violence.

In Lebanon, it is working through local churches to provide shelter and assistance to people forced from their homes by the fighting.

If you wish to support this work, please go to: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal>.

## Exorcists' work is "liberation and consolation", says Pope

### The Pope supports the ministry of the exorcist.

He told the recent International Association of Exorcists conference in Rome that their ministry was both "delicate" and yet "most necessary".

The Pope urged the 300 priests and exorcist assistants present "to live it both as a ministry of liberation and of consolation, accompanying the faithful truly possessed by the evil one with prayer and the invocation of Christ's effective presence, so that . . .

the Lord may grant victory over Satan".

## New Westminster Declaration on Christianity in public life

A declaration that "Christian truth and values" belong at the heart of public life in the UK has been recently launched, in the hope that it will attract 100,000 signatures and trigger a debate in Parliament.

The 2025 Westminster Declaration argues for the importance of heterosexual marriage and the "complementarity of men and women". It also offers warnings about "cancel culture" and artificial intelligence (AI) unchecked by moral reflection.

"By ignoring Britain's Christian heritage we have endangered human life, weakened society, and created a fragmented nation uncoupled from its formative traditions, and without a unifying vision for its future," the declaration says.

The declaration also upholds freedom to express religious beliefs, and condemns abortion and assisted dying as "contrary to Christian belief, and alien to a civilised society".

Supporters have been invited to sign the 2025 Westminster Declaration online. Among speakers at the launch were the theologian and Anglican priest Lord Biggar; and the former MP and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief Fiona Bruce.

More info at: <https://www.2025westminsterdeclaration.org/declaration>

## Quotes for November *With Remembrance Sunday in mind....*

A great war leaves the country with three armies – an army of cripples, an army of mourners and an army of thieves. - *Anon*

War is the slaughterhouse of mankind, and the hell of this present world. - *John Trapp*

War is not an act of God but a crime of man. - *Cordell Hull, former US Secretary of State*

Death takes away the difference between king and beggar, and tumbles both the knight and the pawn into one bag. - *Thomas Adams, son of US President John Adams*

Death is but a passage out of a prison into a palace. - *John Bunyan, writer and non-conformist preacher*

Look upon death as a thing you must meet with; look upon yourselves as a thing you must part with. - *William Dyer*

He may look on death with joy who can look on forgiveness with faith. - *Thomas Watson*

If men are prepared to die, they are ready for anything. - *Joseph Addison Alexander*



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## What happens to you after death?

Whether your body is buried or cremated, the remains degenerate and go back into the earth. That's where they belong, for our bodies are composed of the earth's elements. Your dead body expressed the real 'you' during your lifetime.

But once it has done its job, that is not the finish! When Christians say, "I believe in... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting", it means that we await the new destiny which God has opened for us, with a transformed body apposite for its new environment.

Some claim that the human soul is immortal, but that is not a Christian belief. We do not become disembodied spirits floating around the ether, but will be refashioned as recognisable human beings. This will be as momentous an event as the emergence of the human race from its primitive beginnings.

St Paul faced hard questioning on the subject. If you have a look at the whole of 1 Corinthians 15 you will see how he couples our bodily resurrection with the Resurrection of Christ. Resurrection was central to the apostles' preaching and teaching: try to find a sermon in the New Testament which ignores it! The Christian faith would be valueless without it, for Christ demands that we live our lives sacrificially – some will be martyred as a consequence – with our hope beyond the horizon.

All this is much more than a collection of statements of faith. They could seem arid to a dying person. It is an invitation to take a conscious decision to trust Jesus the Christ. Our life before and beyond the grave belongs to Christ. He is the pioneer who charted the course through death; He accompanies us on our journey; He is our advocate at the Last Judgment; He is worshipped in heaven, and He alone is the Saviour who bore the brunt of human sin and gave His life to overcome its consequences. **Trust Him!**

## The best time to plan your funeral is ... NOW!

*With thanks to the Ven John Barton for permission to use his helpful guide.*

*November is when we remember the dead (All Saints and Remembrance).*

*But what about your own funeral?*

*It will happen sometime, whether soon or years in the future. Some preparation by you now will save your loved ones a lot of uncertainty later. So, this month, why not spend some time thinking about what you want for your own funeral?*

Most funerals in England are Christian, though the officially recorded number of Church of England funerals tends to be limited to those which are conducted by parish clergy and Readers. The minister at others may be retired, or a hospital or military Chaplain.

A few funeral events are led by nominees of the British Humanist Association or the National Secular Society. A growing number are conducted by civil celebrants, who tend to devise a format concentrating on the story of the person who has died, with God as an afterthought, though Christian prayers or texts from other religions may be incorporated.

Parishioners may not realise that they have the right to the services of the Vicar, even if they don't go to church. They also have the right to be interred in the churchyard if it is open for burials.

The trend in funerals at the moment is to make them a celebration of the life of the deceased person. Although your wish – and that of your family – may be to make your funeral a joyful occasion, it does no one any good to suppress grief. A Christian service should make room for sadness as well as gratitude. It is also an act of worship, in which reverence should be paid to God, the source and goal of life. His judgment, generosity and mercy and the Christian hope in resurrection through Jesus Christ should be central.



A sensitive funeral service will also help mourners to contemplate the most fundamental issues of our existence. The Christian hope can be an unexpected encouragement, not least when people claim to have little faith of their own.

You can talk all this over with your Vicar in confidence. You don't have to be terminally ill to do so! He or she knows you are precious to God and will be able to explain all the options and share some ideas.

Now for some practical considerations:

First of all, if you are an organ donor, where can your consent form be found?  
(Find out more from <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk> )

Do tell your Executor and next of kin where your Will is kept. Details of your funeral wishes can be kept with it or in a more accessible place. It is useful to maintain a list of family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances and former colleagues who should be notified of your death and the funeral arrangement.

### **IT'S YOUR FUNERAL – Check List**

*You may like to fill in the blanks below and keep these pages.*

Who is your Executor?

Which funeral director?

Cremation or burial?

If cremation, what do you want done with your ashes?

If burial, where?

Will it require re-opening an existing grave?

Do you want a headstone? *Note: churchyard memorials must respect diocesan regulations.*

Funeral Service: in church or crematorium, or both?

What sort of coffin? Wood, or an eco-friendly one (eg cardboard, bamboo, wicker)?

Do you want flowers, or donations to a (named) charity, or both?

Who should conduct the service?

Do you want someone else to give a tribute?

Would you like some of your favourite music played before and after the service?

What hymns and readings do you want?

Wake/reception: any suggestions for the place and type?

Is there anyone who needs to know that you have forgiven them?

Do you owe an apology to anyone?

### **We are losing our peregrine falcons**

Our peregrine falcons are dying. We have lost 80pc of our UK population in the past 50 years. That make them one of the most-at-risk British birds.

Peregrine falcons are special - they are among the fastest animals on the planet, and the largest species of falcon in the UK. But although some rewilding and conservation projects are underway to help these beautiful predators, they are being decimated by pesticide poisoning and illegal hunting.

According to recent statistics from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, our peregrine falcon population is shrinking at a rate of about seven per cent a year.

## Leaf some green stuff in the garden

The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much. Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter.

Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide a great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants. 'Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter.

Above all, before you light any bonfires on 5<sup>th</sup> November, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside!

## Put together a Memory Book

Do you have grandchildren? Then this winter, during those long dark days, why not spend some time putting together a sort of scrapbook of memories to pass on to them?

Things you might like include could be: where you lived when you were a child; what your school was like, what games you most enjoyed, who your best buddies were, what pets you had, what your first job was, and how you met your partner. What was your first car, and where was your first home as an adult? Add a selection of photographs that you have from the past.

## St Andrew and football by Canon Paul Hardingham

*'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that' (Bill Shankley). When you replace the word 'football' with 'mission', this quote still has something to say! The apostle Andrew (we remember him on 30<sup>th</sup> November) demonstrates what the mission of the Church is all about (cf John 1:35-42). It's not unlike following your favourite football team!*

When we support a football team, we make sure that we know all about them! When Andrew and his friend heard about Jesus, they wanted to find out more: *'Look, the Lamb of God.'* (John the Baptist, v35). The first stage of mission is finding out more about Jesus, the One who enables us to be friends of God through His death and resurrection.

*Secondly, when supporting a football team, we will spend time watching their games. Andrew asked, 'where are you staying?' and Jesus replied, 'Come and you will see' (v39). Andrew spent the rest of the day talking and listening to Jesus. As a result of this time, he had something to share. How much time do we spend with Jesus, reading His word and praying?*

*When our team wins, we want to share the good news! After meeting Jesus, Andrew's first action was to tell his brother Peter: 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ)' (v41). Are we willing to tell others about Him too? Sharing with family and close friends can sometimes be harder than talking with strangers. However, we don't need to follow a football team to engage in mission. It's all about being excited to share Jesus with those we meet day by day.*

*'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in' (Rowan Williams).*



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## **Assisted suicide law would make this a country that says 'some lives are not worth living' – Bishop of London**

The Bishop of London has warned peers in the House of Lords that legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales will "change society" by endorsing the idea that "some lives are not worth living".

Bishop Sarah Mullally, the former Chief Nursing Officer for England, was concerned about those who could face internal and subtle pressures to end their lives if assisted suicide were introduced – particularly in the absence of adequate palliative or social care, or out of fear of becoming a burden on their families.

"I understand the fear of many that they may be offered free assisted death before they are offered the care and equipment that they may live," she said.

As the Church of England's lead bishop for health and social care, the Bishop of London was speaking as the House of Lords debated the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill in late September.

The Private Member's Bill, brought by the MP Kim Leadbeater, completed its Third Reading in the Commons in June with a reduced majority of just 23 votes amid mounting concerns about its safety.

Bishop Sarah said it is right for peers now to scrutinise the Bill but argued that no amendments could ultimately make it entirely safe from the negative effects such as people being pressured to end their lives.

"I am deeply concerned that so many in this Parliament are not heeding the voices of professional and representative bodies that are raising the alarm."

She also rejected the central claim that the Bill would offer people choice at the end of their lives. "A meaningful choice would see the measures in this Bill set alongside equally available, fully funded palliative and social care services," she said. "Without the choice offered this choice is an illusion."

She spoke about her personal experience, including as a nurse, priest, and bishop, of spending time with people as they died and said the introduction of assisted dying within the health system would fundamentally alter the role of health professionals.

"To change the law is to change society," she added. "If passed, this Bill will signal that we are a society that believes that some lives are not worth living.

"This Bill would become our State-endorsed position, and our NHS would be active in its delivery."

"I believe in a God who's very being is life, and in that gift we can discover meaning, dignity and innate worth, even if we are dying.

Nevertheless, the assisted dying bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, moving it another step closer to becoming law. The Bill now goes to a select committee for further scrutiny, with a deadline of reporting back to the House of Lords by 7<sup>th</sup> November, before it can move to the next stage.





## The Nicene Creed: The Church and the Future

Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that the Church has an eternal future.

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**'We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church':** The Creed affirms the four marks of the church, defining a truly orthodox Christian community:

**one:** despite the many different churches and traditions, there is only one Church to which we all belong. *'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28).

**holy:** the church is a holy community set apart for God (*ekklesia*, lit *'called out'*), whose mission is to reflect God's holiness in worship and live out His love in the world.

**catholic:** this doesn't refer to the Roman Catholic church, as the word means *'universal'*, reminding us of the unity of the church across the whole world and all denominations.

The church aims to apply the same gospel in whatever situation, context or culture it finds itself.

**Apostolic:** The apostolic ministry of the church (*'apostolos'*) is one of being sent to communicate the good news of the gospel: *'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'* (Matt 28.19).

**'We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins':** As baptism is a sign of belonging to the church, it can only happen once. The issue addressed in the Creed is that of Christians who left during persecution, but wanted to be accepted back by rebaptism. It affirms the principle *'one Lord, one faith, one baptism'* (Ephesians 4:5). Today, those baptised as children, theologically can't be re-baptised to demonstrate an adult commitment. However, they can be confirmed or reaffirm their baptism vows.

**'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come':** The Creed ends with a statement of hope, that we will share in Jesus' resurrection life after death.

It is not simply about the immortality of our soul, but the resurrection of our bodies. They will be transformed to fit us for life of heaven for eternity: *'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable...it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.'* (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

## Grave certainties

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The service was to be at a cemetery some distance away. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost and finally arrived an hour late. The funeral director and hearse were long gone. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The lid was partially covered with soil. The diggers stared at me over their sandwiches, and I sensed their reproach that I had deserted this dead man in his final hour of need. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The diggers looked quite startled at this, and put down their lunches. But they stood quietly enough while I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently, I'm still lost....

## **Reflecting Faith: Do we hear God's Word today?**

For the last few months, we've been looking at the way that church services are put together. After the Gloria each week, this we hear 'God's Word' as written in the Bible. This is usually three passages: one from the Old Testament, one from the epistles, and one from the gospels.

But *how much* do we hear of God's Word? Though we say we want to 'hear God's word', actually the amount we hear week on week is quite minimal.

In bygone days, when the 1662 Book of Common Prayer was universally used in churches, it brought with it a two year lectionary: (unlike today's three year lectionary: lectionary being the recommended or obligatory Bible readings for each day).

This gave congregations, if they came to daily services both morning and evening (which in those times they most likely did) during the course of a year, an opportunity to hear read *the whole Old Testament once, the New Testament twice and all the Psalms twelve times*.

What a contrast to today! In most UK churches, attendance is now at only one service each week, mostly on Sunday. During that service, perhaps 15 or 20 Bible verses might be read.

Now, there are around 31,100 verses in the Bible, which means that at a generous 30 verses a week the congregation will hear around 1,560 verses in a year – that's around 5% each year. So even on a three-year cycle, with a few extra readings for good measure, we hear no more than 20% of the Bible.

I suspect there are two key reasons for this diminution of Bible verses being read. Firstly, church services have got shorter and take up far less time. Secondly, congregations have become more literate, and so it is thought that they do not need it all read out to them.

It would be interesting to know how much of the read-aloud-Bible people heard and listened to and absorbed, in relation to how much do that today, with the shorter verses being read to them coupled with much shortened sermons.

### ***This month***

Next time you go to a Sunday church service listen to the Bible reading with keen ears. How much do you recall a few days later? How much of the Bible that you have not heard recently in church have you read for yourself?

## **For how many minutes can you concentrate?**

Most of us can watch television for only about 15 minutes, or read a book for about 14 minutes, before we lose our concentration. Most of us blame our social media notifications as the reason.

A recent survey by Perspectus Global for Lingo by Abbott, found that Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and message alerts were named as the main culprits.

Overall, it seems we can focus for only 11 minutes on a virtual work call, or 13 minutes in a face-to-face meeting, or 12 minutes writing a work email. We even seem to lose concentration at family gatherings, after only 14 minutes.

Overall, four in five of us say that we get distracted easily, and that we lose our focus around eight times each day.

What about you? Why not take up the challenge, and 'time' your losses of concentration for a day?

**When there is no peace** *David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the concept of 'peace'.*

*They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)*

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after 9<sup>th</sup> May or 16<sup>th</sup> August? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had 'peace' of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about peace making, peace keeping and a lasting peace, which are not the same and require different skills. In and after the Second World War *peace making* meant winning the war and defeating evil. *Peace keeping* was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice. (The preacher was born exactly nine months after either VE or VJ Day, so he was a 'child of peace'!)

What about a *lasting peace*? Many world leaders say, "Peace, Peace" but they mean only *peace on their terms* and do not care about anything else.

As Christians we should:

Pray for the *peace makers*: the women and men in the forces

Pray for *peace keepers*: the experts helping to build new societies

Pray for *lasting peace*: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.

*'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that' (Bill Shankley). When you replace the word 'football' with 'mission', this quote still has something to say! The apostle Andrew (we remember him on 30<sup>th</sup> November) demonstrates what the mission of the Church is all about (cf John 1:35-42). It's not unlike following your favourite football team!*

When we support a football team, we make sure that we know all about them! When Andrew and his friend heard about Jesus, they wanted to find out more: *'Look, the Lamb of God.'* (John the Baptist, v35). The first stage of mission is finding out more about Jesus, the One who enables us to be friends of God through His death and resurrection.

*Secondly, when supporting a football team, we will spend time watching their games. Andrew asked, 'where are you staying?' and Jesus replied, 'Come and you will see' (v39). Andrew spent the rest of the day talking and listening to Jesus. As a result of this time, he had something to share. How much time do we spend with Jesus, reading His word and praying?*

*When our team wins, we want to share the good news! After meeting Jesus, Andrew's first action was to tell his brother Peter: 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ)' (v41). Are we willing to tell others about Him too? Sharing with family and close friends can sometimes be harder than talking with strangers. However, we don't need to follow a football team to engage in mission. It's all about being excited to share Jesus with those we meet day by day.*

*'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in' (Rowan Williams).*



**He's so glad he came**

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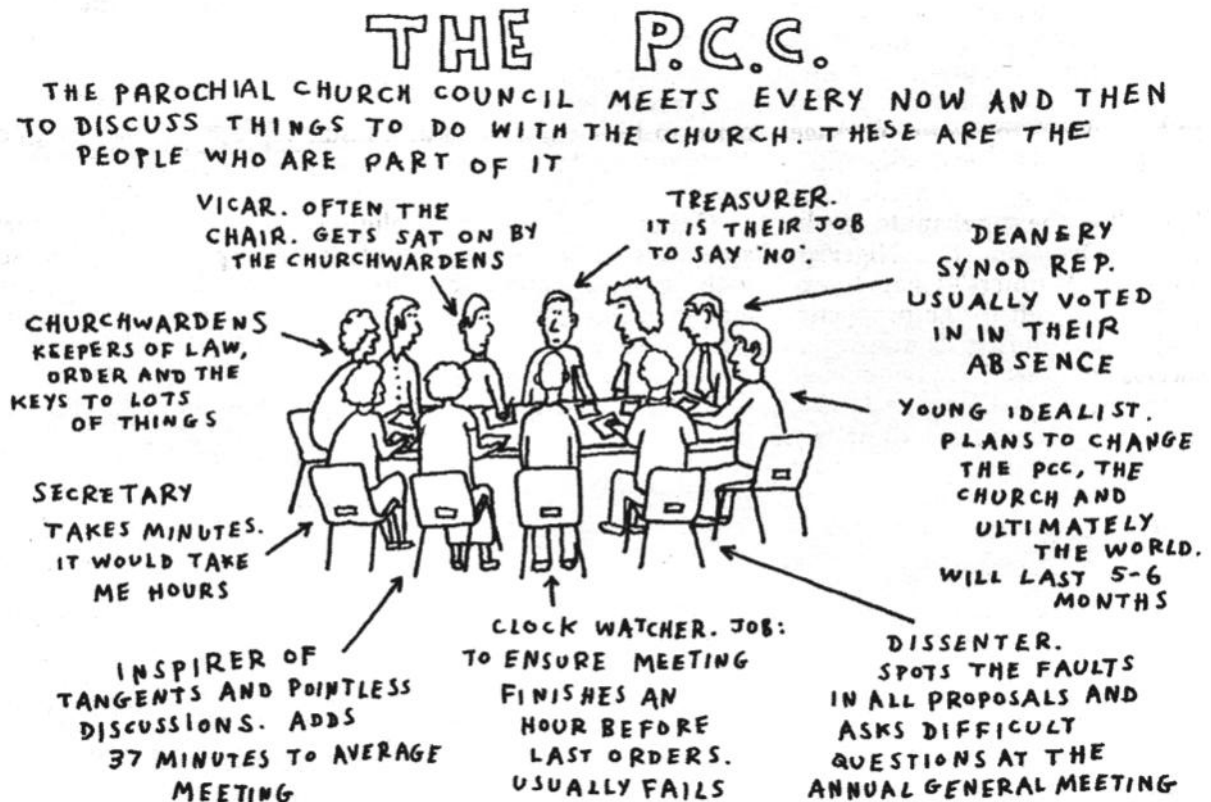
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## Churches unite in prayer for peace in the Middle East

Church of England congregations across the country have come together with churches from other denominations to pray for the people of Gaza, the wider Holy Land and the Middle East.

A coalition of Christian charities and aid agencies, working in partnership with ecumenical church leaders, organised a dedicated Day of Prayer for Peace in late September. The initiative coincided with the UN International Day of Peace.

The Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, the Lead Bishop for the Holy Land said: "In the face of all that is happening in Gaza, I appeal for respect for the value and dignity of every human life. Christians cannot remain silent – we must speak out for the rights and freedoms of both Israelis and Palestinians and we must be diligent in prayer for the peoples of the Holy Land."

Supporting this effort, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Dr Hosam Naoum, has written a prayer for an immediate end to the war, the release of all hostages, help for those suffering hunger and starvation in Gaza and beyond, and the resumption of negotiations for a just and lasting peace.

### A Prayer for the Holy Land

*Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.*

*By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during His earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*  
*Amen.*

## CHURCH HEATING

**As the weather gets colder, high Gas bills will again be a problem for us this winter.**

**Please try to wear warmer clothes when the weather is cold. It is OK to keep your outdoor coats and jackets on in Church!!**

**We will try to warm the church up to 60°F (15°C). During the week we will have our smaller meetings in the choir vestry, which we will warm with electric heaters. Thanks. Chris (Churchwarden)**

**ACROSS:** 1. Bartholomew, 9. Evil one, 10. Adore, 11. Ran, 13. Oreb, 16. Zinc, 17. Entail, 18. Hung, 20. Lehi, 21. Joshua, 22. Pity, 23. Wide, 25. Age, 28. Alarm, 29. Partake, 30. Sennacherib.  
**DOWN:** 2. Alive, 3. Took, 4. Over, 5. Onan, 6. Emotive, 7. Jehoshaphat, 8. Melchizedek, 12. A light, 14. Beg, 15. Strong, 19. Not have, 20. Law, 24. Iraq, 25. Amen, 26. Epic, 27. Free





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Promoting  
**a safer church**  
and protection of

[www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding)

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

**IF YOU ARE CONCERNED**

that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Kaye Larbi  
Role: Safeguarding Officer  
Tel: 07847 324955  
E mail: [psr@holyntrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:psr@holyntrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

Name: Chris Szejnmann  
Role: Vicar, Holy Trinity  
Tel: 07804 641931  
Email: priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

**Name:** Danielle Law  
**Role:** Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser  
**Tel:** 01245 29 44 44  
**E-mail:** [dlaw@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:dlaw@chelmsford.anglican.org)

**Local Authority Social Services:**

Children's Social Care: 020 8708 3885  
Emergency Duty Team: 020 8708 5897

IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER  
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.

## OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

## HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop it Now: 0800 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0800 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0800 800 2222
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0800 8010 327
- National Carline: 0800 0699 784



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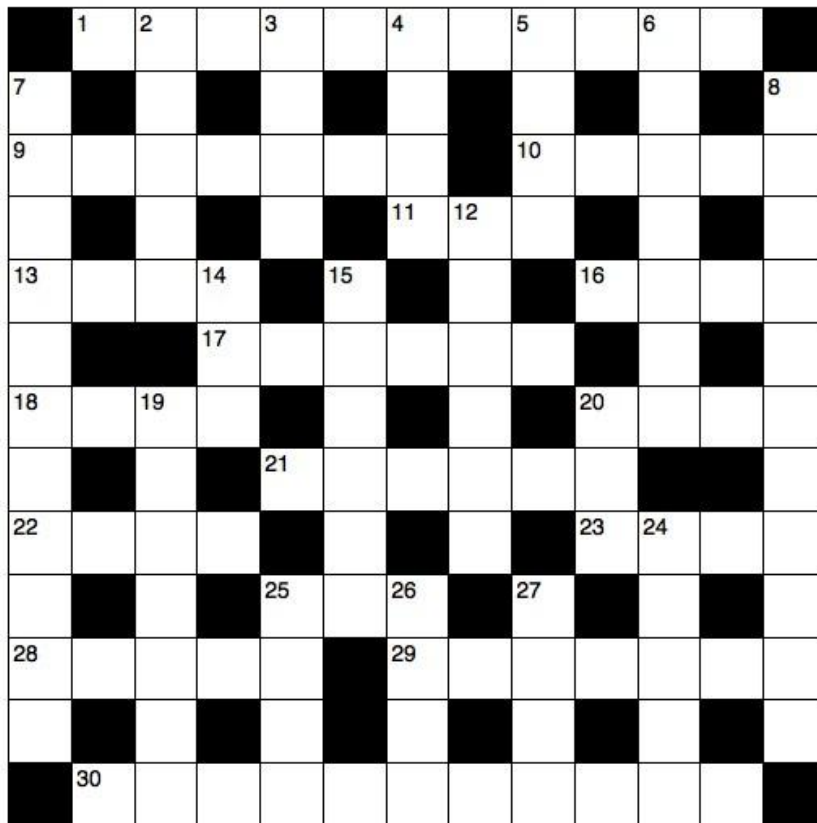
Answers are somewhere else... Good Luck

## Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)  
 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)  
 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)  
 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)  
 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)  
 16 Metallic element (4)  
 17 At line (anag.) (6)  
 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)  
 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)  
 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)  
 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)  
 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)  
 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)  
 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)  
 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)  
 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

## Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)  
 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)  
 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)  
 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)  
 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)  
 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)  
 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)  
 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)  
 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)  
 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)  
 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)  
 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)  
 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)  
 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)  
 26 Heroic tale (4)  
 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)



Paris in the Autumn

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: [enquiries@parishpump.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parishpump.co.uk)



The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

### On what it takes to be an ordinand

I was intrigued that you have been nurturing someone called Dave who is considering ordination. Since Dave had never travelled outside the city, your decision to send him to me was understandable. Sadly, I don't think he is cut out for the ministry.

We did our best. In a fit of hospitality, the Colonel invited this Dave to stay at the Lodge, and to join his Saturday pheasant shoot as a beater. But Dave said firmly that he was against beating any kind of bird and abhors all kinds of murder. It seems young Dave is a vegetarian! You might have warned us. The Colonel is now concerned that Dave is connected in some way with the Green Party. You cannot be too careful these days.

Then Miss Saxby and Miss Tarby stepped in. They enjoy mushrooming, and kindly took young Dave off to the woods. It is not their fault that they are a bit deaf and so did not hear his cries of distress when he lost them among all the trees. They just assumed he had gone back to the Colonel's, and so of course they did not organise a search party until much later. Fortunately, the church warden's spaniel has a keen nose and found Dave before midnight. During all that time, Dave seemed to have had nothing better to do than slide about on fallen leaves and trip over hidden logs in the dark. He was even babbling about having heard a crying ghost. We feared he might be delirious but then realised he meant the local owl. He also seemed surprised by the darkness and asked how we manage without any streetlights at all in the parish. We explained the obvious - we simply follow the example of the well-refreshed when leaving the pub, and feel our way along the walls.

On Sunday morning Dave rushed into the church to warn me that there were several loose sheep in the churchyard. I decided then that he should return to the safety of the city. There was no point in letting him near most of our church ladies, who would have savaged him on sight.

The visit only proves the obvious: potential ordinands should be carnivorous, cricketing fly-fishers, most at home in well-worn tweeds and preferably accompanied by a muddy dog. How else will they get along with normal folk?

Your loving uncle,  
**Eustace**

### Bible knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant.

"It's easy, Daddy," the boy replied. "It means: **'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'**"

### Where there's smoke...

At our church, it was common for the minister to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would often bring in a household item, and then relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

One morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector.

My young son immediately raised his hand. "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."



The boiler only worked if the  
Verger switched it on



The Lay Training Programme was the  
envy of the diocese



"Goodness! is it time for Christmas  
Fair organising, carol service planning  
and nativity play rehearsals already?!"



With proper ceremony, they laid it to rest  
with its ancestors





# Who We Are

Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barking, IG6 2BX

We are a lively, diverse, family-friendly Church. We love to Welcome everyone, Care for our whole Community, and seek to make Jesus Christ known in Barking

## Our Services

### Sunday 10:30am & Wednesday 9:45am

The Church is open for Private Prayer, and as a Welcoming Space Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am—12noon, and you are Welcome to Join us at our Tuesday Drop-In 9am-1pm in the Parish Hall

Vicar: Revd Dr Chris Szejnmann  
priest@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Associate Priest: Revd Kate Szejnmann  
kate.szejnmann@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Associate Curate: Revd Michelle Steptoe  
michelle.steptoe@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Churchwarden: Chris Stoneham  
chris.stoneham@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Safeguarding: Kaye Larbi—07847 324955  
psr@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 9am-1pm: Drop-In (Parish Hall) — a warm welcome for all!

Wednesday 7:30-9:15pm (fortnightly): Salsa Dancing  
Classes for the Community — meeting new people & having fun!

Wednesday 7:30-9:15pm (fortnightly): Bible Study — learning, sharing & growing in healthy ways!

Thursday 8:45-10:45am: Stay & Play Group  
for parents / carers and their children 0-4 years — snacks, craft, songs, fun & friendship

Thursday 6-8pm: Edge Youth Club for all 10-14 year old (Parish Hall) — thriving & growing well together

Family Fun Zone events full of fun & energy every 2 months

Want to get involved? Want to Hire the Parish Hall?  
Please find us online or ring us @ 07478 187010



## FAMILY FUN ZONE

This term has kicked off well with a community feel, at Family Fun Zone. Last Saturday we opened up the church space for the 'Crazy Craft' event.

There were 21 of us all together. The theme was 'The Planet'. Many of our creative team members provided brilliant crafts to make, eat and talk about! Several people came from outside of church: through word- of -mouth or by grabbing a flier at the library.

One of the most important parts of doing Family Fun Zone events are the 'eating around the table,' This is how we get to know each other and chat. It's beautiful to see young families engaging with each other and older adults in the mix. A real sense on 'inter-generational' family.

So much thanks go to our amazing team, Christine, Tricia, Lorraine, Gill, Andy, Rhiannon, Patricia, Mike, Nick and Erica.

These folk are inspired by serving God; using their gifts to bless and bring joy. Thank you. Enjoy the photos!

PS. Are you keen to join us and serve? We would welcome you. Can you wash up, can you dance, can you use a computer well enough, do you have ideas, are you strong enough to move table and chairs, are you a prayer intercessor, do you love children and their families?

Contact Rev Kate: 07876 318 718





# DO YOU NEED HELP?

**We are here for you and would love to meet you!** The church is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 12noon; and you are welcome to join us at our Tuesday drop-in 9am to 1pm in the Parish Hall, or during Worship Services on Sundays 10:30am and Wednesdays 9:45am. You can also contact our Vicar Chris or the Church Office via phone or email. There are, however, many areas where it's best if you seek professional help. Please see the **"Help" page on our church website** for useful information.

## URGENT - I NEED HELP NOW

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis – you can call **Mental Health Direct** 24 hours a day on **0800 995 1000**.

If you are experiencing **Suicidal thoughts**, please call **Samaritans** on **116 123** for free. Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will give you free, confidential, and non-judgmental emotional support.

If you are experiencing **Domestic abuse**, please call one of these two 24-hour helplines: **08 08 2000 247** (Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline) OR **08 08 16 89 111** (Victim Support).

If you are at immediate risk of **physical harm** because of mental health concern or feel like you need immediate assistance, please call **999** or visit your local **A&E**:

- 1.6 miles away: King George Hospital, Barley Lane, Ilford, Essex, IG3 8YB; tel.: 0330 400 4333;
- 3.3 miles away: Whipps Cross Hospital, Whipps Cross Road, London, E11 1NR, tel.: 020 8539 5522.

**Shout Crisis Text Line** is a 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. **Text 85258**.

## OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday 10.30 am

This is a mixed style service, formal & informal, with robes and candles, traditional hymns played on the organ and contemporary worship, led by singer and band.

The service lasts approximately 75 minutes. Children are welcome to take part in supervised craft activities and play at the back of the Church with parental supervision. Every 2nd Sunday of the month is "children's church" incl. Bible story and action songs.

We are a multi-ethnic congregation with members spanning a wide range of ages from toddlers to the elderly and lots of families. Refreshments are available after each service.

### Wednesday 9.45am

A Said Eucharist with one hymn. Service sheets are used. It usually lasts about 40 minutes, and refreshments are available afterward.

**It's on our heart to offer a warm and inclusive welcome, and a safe space for everyone! Why not join us and see how you like it? We also offer prayer during and after the service and have a designated prayer corner.**







**3 & 17 September  
1 & 15 & 29 October  
12 & 26 November  
10 December**  
Holy Trinity Church  
Barkingside,  
Mossford Green, IG6 2BX  
[ring Chris@07804641931](mailto:ring Chris@07804641931)  
just turn up — it's free!

**Wednesdays 7:30-9:15pm**  
**Salsa Dancing**  
**Classes**  
**Beginners & Improvers**  
joy & laughter—meet new people

**NEW in the Community!**

# Stay & Play

**Parents/carers  
and their  
children  
0 up to 4yrs**




Snacks and drinks,  
craft, songs, fun &  
friendship

**Thursdays  
8.45—10.45am  
£2 per family; term time**



**Place:**  
Holy Trinity Church  
Mossford Green  
Barkingside, IG6 2BX  
Contact Kate: 07876 318 718



# Pilgrimage to Iona/Mike Priestman

I've long been curious about the Iona Community. I'd heard its music, read some of its prayers, and even used its liturgy at theological college. So when the chance came to spend a week there in July, I decided to take the plunge. Iona isn't just a holiday destination — it's a pilgrimage to a place steeped in prayer and history.

Getting to Iona is no small feat — it takes planes, trains, buses, and ferries. But the journey quickly became part of the pilgrimage itself. On the train to Oban I fell into conversation with fellow travellers, Colin and Chris, who shared their stories and made the miles fly by. Later, over coffee and Scottish fudge, I met a Canadian family bound for Mull. These encounters reminded me that pilgrimage is about people as much as place. By the time I reached the final ferry across the Sound of Iona, I caught my first glimpse of the Abbey — grey stone against the sea — and felt both excitement and awe.

On arrival, we were welcomed into the abbey by members of the Iona Community. I was shown to a room I would share with two strangers — a daunting prospect at first, but one that soon became a gift as we learned to live alongside each other with patience and kindness.

Community life on Iona is counter-cultural. As the welcome notes in our rooms put it: "All our little foibles and quirks are magnified in community. We cannot live without forgiveness, kindness, and mutual support." That truth soon proved itself in the daily rhythm of shared meals, household duties, and prayer.

Each day began and ended with worship in the Abbey. Morning and evening prayer gathered not only our group but also others staying on the island, and Sunday worship filled the Abbey with nearly 200 voices. The liturgy was inclusive, moving, and rooted in the Celtic tradition.

I had planned to "rest" from my usual church duties, but found myself drawn into the music, playing piano, djembe drum, and even the Shruti box. Leading worship in such a sacred place, with its centuries of prayer echoing in the stones, was a deeply moving experience.

Life in the Abbey was also a visible witness to the values of the Iona Community. The refectory walls were lined with flags representing causes such as climate justice, anti-racism, peace-making, interfaith dialogue, and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people.

At the heart of the community is a simple Rule of Life:

- daily prayer and Bible engagement,
- working for justice, peace, and reconciliation,
- supporting one another in faith and stewardship of resources,
- and sharing in the community's corporate life.

Members even commit their financial surplus for the benefit of others in their group, a striking example of Christian solidarity.

The theme of our week was finding hope in a broken world. Through discussion, song, art, and contemplation, we explored how faith sustains us amid injustice and division. What struck me most was the inclusivity of the week: people from many nations and church backgrounds discovered unity in Christ. In a world often marked by exclusion, this felt like a glimpse of the Kingdom.



## Winter's Messengers

It cannot be ignored, winter is looming, those recent golden October days are probably the last of autumn's efforts to forestall it. Colourful autumn leaves are strewn everywhere. The beautiful, almost statuesque dahlias have succumbed either to the dropping temperature or the gardeners' spade, so colourful, they are banished to a frost-proof spot to flourish again next year.

Another message of the changing season, chrysanthemums! They are blooming now these hardy harbingers of shorter days and longer nights. They are perhaps the most well known of the winter flowers. The patch of them that are in our garden, although unattended and neglected, faithfully bloom on cue. Such a boon for a display in a vase.



And here we are, many of us, buying packets of daffodils in garden centres or super markets, planning a late winter colour display but not before we have manoeuvred our way through the Christmas Festival.

Ah Christmas! For many a religious time of great significance, of presents and Christmas trees, greetings cards and wrapping paper. In the 'old days', log fires and roasted chestnuts.

Just to raise our spirits a little, there are the fireworks displays in November. Some of us perhaps still make an effort to light a garden bonfire. This was a time, in the years gone by, of burning unwanted items that are, nowadays, taken to the council tip. But the fireworks still persist, poor Guy Fawkes, a sad, ignoble reputation for a misguided event. For years we have enjoyed the sparkles on the dark November evenings, but not, I suggest, the disturbing crescendo like explosions.

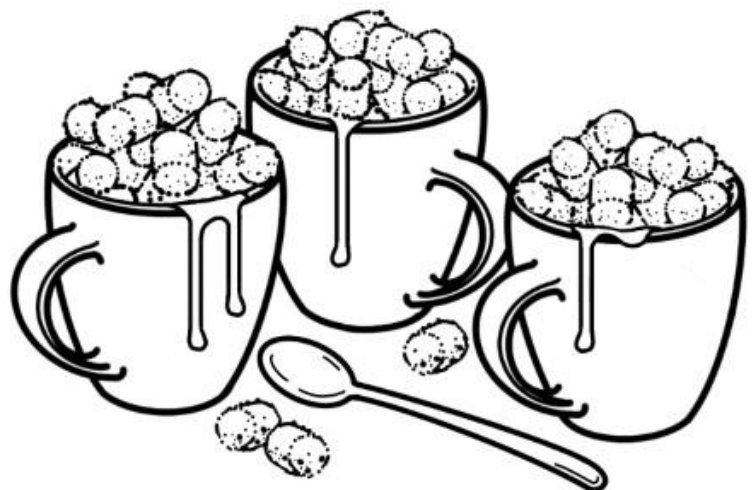
Now we have the Hindu Festival of Light celebration, Diwali, in late October to extend our rebellion against the darkness.

So let us think of nicer things, central heating, mulled wine, good food and perhaps a glass of sherry. I am almost tempted to quote from the song 'My Favourite Things' from the film, The Sound of Music but I won't!

Yes the clocks have 'gone back' already, evenings are an hour shorter, mornings lighter. It used to be termed, Daylight Saving!

Thankfully our islands are rarely subjected to excessive weather but a few frosty days to reduce the number garden pests would be good and some snow would just help bring that visual touch of magic that only it can bring.

When the need arises, wrap up warm..



**Bill Godfrey**

**Do you know of a child who is being cared for by someone who is not a close relative for more than 28 days? It is required by law for Children's Services to be notified of these arrangements to ensure the safety of the child.**

Redbridge Council are holding a Private Awareness Session online on MS Teams on **5<sup>th</sup> November 11am until 12pm** and would encourage you and relevant members of your team to attend to find out more about what these arrangements are and when we would need to be legally notified. Please visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering) or <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1737520764379?aff=oddttdcreator> to book a place.



Private fostering describes an arrangement when someone who is not a close relative cares for another person's child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) for 28 days or more.

A close relative is considered to be an aunt, uncle, grandparent, step parent or siblings. Other family members such as cousins or great aunts are not classed as close relatives for the purposes of Private Fostering. Private Fostering also includes families hosting overseas students being educated in the UK.

To notify us about a private fostering arrangement in Redbridge, please contact Redbridge Children's Services on 020 8708 3885 or by email [CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk) For more information please visit our website: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering>

## **76 Shoeboxes being sent to Romania!!!**



The record number of 76 Shoeboxes has been sent to Romania. Well Done all who worked on these, or who donated to the transportation of them.

Especial thanks to Maxine, Jon, Tricia and Erica for their dedication and organisation!

We pray that these boxes will show our love for those children who would otherwise not have much at Christmas.



**PARISH OFFICE** (in Church)

– normally open: Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am – 12 noon

e-mail [parishoffice@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk) or phone **07478 187 010**

**VICAR:**

**Rev Dr Chris Szejnmann - 07804 641 931**

**The Vicarage, 36 Mossford Green, IG6 2BJ**

[priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Associate Priest** **Rev Kate Szejnmann**

[kate.szejnmann@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:kate.szejnmann@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Associate Curate:** **Michelle Steptoe**

[Michelle.steptoe@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:Michelle.steptoe@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Churchwarden:**

**Chris Stoneham** 07828 885 439 / 020 8270 5742

[chris.stoneham@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:chris.stoneham@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Deputy Warden:**

Maxine Paul

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:**

[psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

Kaye Larbi 020 8491 8178

**Magazine:**

[parishmagazine@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:parishmagazine@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Ordinand**

Mike Priestman

[mike.priestman@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:mike.priestman@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Church Treasurers:**

**Mike Priestman & Andrew Gillian**

[mike.priestman@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:mike.priestman@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

[accounts@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:accounts@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Sacristan / Verger:**

(& Organist) Mary Fabb - 020 8550 9694

**Mothers' Union:**

[mothersunion@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:mothersunion@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Music Group:**

[musicgroup@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:musicgroup@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

**Webmaster:**

[webmaster@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk)

## **PARISH DIARY**

**Every Tuesday 9am - 1pm 'Tuesday Morning Drop In'**  
**Parish Hall** (continuing weekly).

**Saturday 8 November: Light Party, 5-7pm**

**Sunday 9 November: Remembrance Sunday**

**Sunday 23 November: Christ the King / Women Against Violence Sunday**

**-Saturday 29 November: Carol Singing**

**-Sunday 30 November: 1st Advent (start of Advent)**

**-Sunday 7 December: 2nd Advent: Carols by Candlelight @ 6:30pm**

**-Saturday 13 December: 3rd Advent: Christmas Party @ 4-7pm**

**-Sunday 14 December: 3rd Advent**

**-Sunday 21 December: 4th Advent**

**-Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Eve: Christingle @ 3pm; Midnight Communion @ 11:30am**

**-Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day Service @ 10:30am**

