

THE

CRAYFISHER

October 2020

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.65

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Front Cover Picture: Butterfly by Rev. Jane Winter

PARISH LETTER

One thing many have really enjoyed over the past few weeks has been the return of sport to the TV and radio, particularly the cricket, but also football, athletics and snooker.

I think it's the drama people have missed, that in sport we see something of human life played out in such a powerful way and it's not always the fastest, strongest, highest and toughest that have the greatest impact on us. Remember these?

Eddie 'the eagle' Edwards, the ski jumper who could barely ski?
Eric Moussambani from Equatorial Guinea in central Africa, the hero of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, who received a standing ovation after swimming 2 lengths of the Olympic pool in record slow time flapping like a hooked fish, he had learnt to swim in a crocodile infested river only a year before the games, he'd never even seen a 50-meter pool, let alone swum in one.

And what about Derek Redmon who achieved every athlete's dream by running in the British team at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. Half way through the race he fell to the ground as a torn ligament left him writhing in agony. The other runners raced past, his hopes and dreams of Olympic gold lying in tatters on the track beside him. But then, amazingly, as the television cameras rolled and the crowd cheered, he picked himself up and tried to run on. His legs buckled, and he had to slow to a walk but he kept going. Then the spectators saw a man come onto the track. Security guards tried to stop him, but he was as determined as the runner. He put his arms around Derek's shoulder and encouraged him to keep going and finish the race. The crowd roared its approval as the two of them crossed the finishing line. The man was Derek's father.

We remember these events and people because in them we see ourselves, our weakness, fallibility, short-comings, however much we may like to pretend, we are not superhuman.

My favourite passage in the bible comes from Luke 15, the parable of the Prodigal Son. Like the above sports stories it reminds me that I don't have to be perfect to be loved, God encourages, enfolds, and loves me even in failure.

In a world of winners and success driven hype, knowing such love is liberating, it draws out the best in one, however fast, high, or strong they might be.

Jessie

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

Sun 4th Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
 Philippians 3. 4b-14
 GOSPEL Matthew 21. 33-end

Sun 11th Exodus 32. 1-14
 Philippians 4. 1-9
 GOSPEL Matthew 22. 1-14

Sun 18th HARVEST
 Deuteronomy 8. 7-18
 2 Corinthians 9. 6-end
 GOSPEL Luke 12. 16-30

Sun 25th Nehemiah 8. 1-4a [5-6] 8-12
 Colossians 3. 12-17
 GOSPEL Matthew 24. 30-35

COLLECTS FOR SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER 2020

Sun 4th Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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**

Sun 11th Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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**

Sun 18th Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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**

Sun 25th Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

SERVICES THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Sun 4 th	10 a.m. at St Mary's followed immediately by <u>APCM</u>
Tue 6 th	10 a.m. at St Andrew's Communion Service
Sun 11 th	10 a.m. at St Andrew's
Tue 13 th	10 a.m. at St Mary's Communion Service
Sun 18 th	10 a.m. at St Mary's – Harvest service (please donate to local food charities. Do not bring food into church)
Tue 20 th	10 a.m. at St Andrew's Communion Service
Sun 25 th	10 a.m. at St Andrew's
Tue 27 th	10 a.m. at St Mary's Communion Service

As always please attend the APCM if possible. This is your opportunity to have your say in how your churches are organised and run, and to find out what is planned for the future.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE CRAYFISHER IS THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE

In her letter this month, Mother Jessie says her favourite bible story is Luke 15, the Prodigal Son.

How about sending your favourite story and the reason why to The Crayfisher so we can all learn from one another and be encouraged in our faith.

Send your 'favourite' and your reason to crayfishereditor@gmail.com

AUTUMN EVENING

I love to hear the evening crows go by
And see the starnels* darken down the sky.
While far and fearing nothing, high and slow
The stranger birds to distant places go.
While short of flight the evening robin comes
To watch the maiden sweeping out the crumbs,
Then in the hovel where the cows are fed
Finds till the morning comes a pleasant bed.

By John Clare (1793 – 1864)

* *starnels* = *starlings*

Submitted by Jerry Dowlen



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PRAYER GROUP

We cannot meet at Muriel's home, but we are still praying for all in need especially at this time.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will be opening its doors again this year, details from Peter or Terry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST MARY'S IN 2020

Regretfully, our planned Salvation Army Concert, Dinner and Dance and Christmas Fair will be postponed until further notice.



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FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Beware what lurks in the church vestry...

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept “just in case” and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.



One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst – they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him.

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents – and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

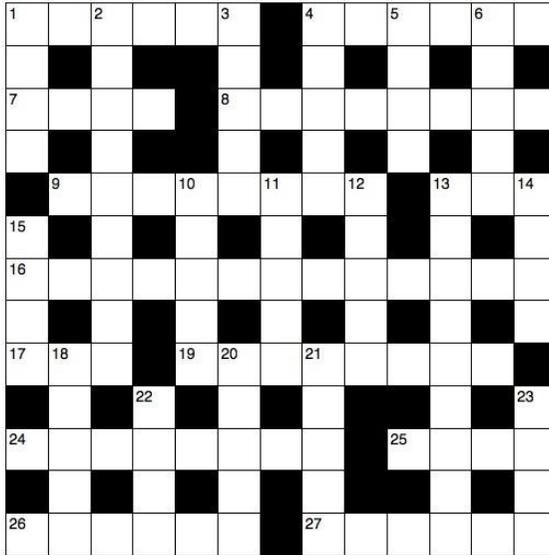
Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Litter Virus

A face mask is a helpful thing –
It traps those nasty germs!
An extra message I must bring
In these poetic terms:
When you've finished with your mask
A bin is simply found
So drop it in – an easy task!
Don't leave it on the ground!

By Nigel Beeton

I thought it about time we had another crossword. Have a try at this one and the solution will be in next month's magazine.



Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !'
(John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)



***The Upper Room* writing competition 2020**

Calling all aspiring Christian writers! The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is offering aspiring writers the opportunity to see their work in print in *The Upper Room*.

Published in 35 languages, *The Upper Room* is unique in that its readers are its writers. After the success of the 2017 competition, this is another chance to write for the publication.



Go to brfonline.org.uk/urwritingcompetition for full details on how to enter and tips to get your started. *More details from:* eley.mcaish@brf.org.uk or iris.jenkins@brf.org.uk

Mothers' Union and the UK prison system

Crime hurts many people – including the families of prisoners who have ended up in the UK prison system. They are often the forgotten victims, but not by the Mothers' Union (MU).

Instead, the MU's prison work across Britain is extensive, with the aim of keeping hurting families together. It is not simple work, for as prison governors are replaced and new directives come into force, those who work with prisoners and their families must adapt their approach.

MU members provide support to prison visitors by holding short courses so that visitors can get the most out of their time with the prison residents. MU also holds workshops to introduce many of the services that work with prisoners' families.

MU helps support the Family Days held at one prison, and also provides presents for children of prisoners at Christmas time. MU provides tea and a chat with the inmates of one women's prison, as well going-home packs of essential items for when they leave.

MU also supports prison officers, who as key workers have found the last few months particularly challenging. MU's Thank You Key Workers appeal wants to raise funds to provide families of key workers with short breaks or experience days. If you would like to help, please go to: <https://www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal>

The Ven John Barton compares a film of a pandemic to the real thing.

Moral questions from the pandemic

You may have missed it at the time. The movie ‘Contagion’ didn’t make much of an impact when it was released for public viewing in 2011. Perhaps it was thought to be unrealistic. It was about a highly contagious, unknown virus, transmitted by an infected bat to a pig in a Chinese marketplace. From there it spread like wildfire round the world.

It was fiction then of course, but not so far-fetched as to be distant from reality, as we now know. Deadly viruses, and the plagues they cause, have been part of world history since time began. In the early days, when travel between continents was infrequent, their spread was slower and usually confined to local regions.

The way the film’s imaginary plot develops bears an uncanny resemblance to what we have experienced this year. Panic buying empties supermarkets, whole populations adopt social distancing, scientists work flat out to identify the virus and then search for a means to combat it. Meanwhile, millions are infected, and quarantines are imposed.

The story progresses far beyond the reality which is familiar to us. The irresponsible use of social media and false rumours of a cure lead to the looting of pharmacies. Emergency food supplies are ransacked, law and order break down. Troops police the streets. Then there’s a breakthrough: a vaccine is discovered. But that raises a new moral problem: who will get it first and what would be a fair distribution system?

The movie is still available via Netflix, or you can buy a DVD online. Despite the inevitable carnage of the pandemic and the suffering it portrays, it contrives to have a relatively happy ending.

In real life, we haven’t got that far yet. But, please God, we will. After all, most deadly diseases are now under control and both vaccination and immunisation are part and parcel of everyday life; old ‘uns take it for granted that their GP will summon them for an anti-flu jab each winter.

But we may face an ethical dilemma when it comes to a vaccine for Covid-19. If there’s an initial shortage, who should get it first? Should money come into it? Are Christian principles applicable?

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TELEPHONE NUMBER 'CRAY 99'

The extract from the London Telephone Directory of 1920 shows us that a Mr. C.W. Henderson had the telephone number Cray 99. There is some interesting social history here. He lived in Orpington (in Crofton Road on the hill leading away from the railway station) but at that time St Mary Cray was the bigger and more established local town so the very earliest local telephone exchange was named Cray.

There weren't many subscribers in those days. The National Telephone Company started in London and other major cities. They expanded out to surrounding towns. By around 1905 they had an exchange called Cray which was located in St Mary Cray next to the railway viaduct. St Mary Cray was conveniently located to serve St. Paul's Cray to the north and Orpington to the south. Obviously they put the exchanges as close as

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Mayfair ..	6296	Henderson Daniel	7 Harcourt ho Cavndsh sq W.1
Hornsey ..	2333	Henderson David, Chrtrd Accountant	5 Cecil rd N.10
Victoria ..	447	Henderson David, Sir	22 Hans cres S.W.1
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Paddington	7259	Henderson Edward Piercy, I.C.S. retrd	42Leinster gdns W.2

possible to the centre of populations so as to minimise the length of cable required. The exchange

was inside a house with maybe one or two operators.

In 1912, the National Telephone Company was taken over by the Post Office. In 1921, since Orpington had expanded, the St Mary Cray exchange closed and subscribers were transferred to the new Orpington exchange, which was located in the Post Office next to the White Hart at 102 High Street. In 1921, the Post Office moved to the building closer to the centre of the High Street. The telephone exchange moved there too, and remained there until the system was automated in around 1954. The new automatic exchange was at the bottom of Chislehurst Road.

Roger Harris

Roger is a former resident of Orpington now living in Coventry.



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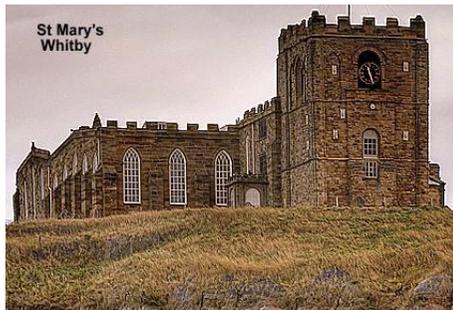
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Andrew's Church <<***

CHURCHES IN WHITBY

The visitor to Whitby will find many eye-catching buildings and sea- views. Whitby plays an important part in the history of early Christianity in Britain and there is much that remains for scholars and tourists to see. St Mary's Church and Whitby



Abbey (ruins) are perched dramatically on the skyline of the East Bay. For those with enough energy the climb is 199 steps from the narrow cobbled streets lined with picturesque fishermen's cottages below. It is probable that the parish church of St Mary stands on or near the site of St



Peter belonging to the Anglican Monastery founded by Oswy, King of Northumbria, in A.D. 657. Its first Abbess was St Hilda. Buried there

are Oswy and his Queen Eanfléd. Oswy took the initiative in setting up the Synod of Whitby in 663 to determine whether the Northumbrian Church should calculate Easter and observe the monastic tonsure according to the practice of St Columba, or in accordance with the Roman method, which had been adopted at Canterbury. The king heard the arguments of both sides and ruled in favour of the Roman practice. The Episcopal seat of



Northumbria was then transferred from Lindisfarne to Deira (Eboracum/York).

At ground level on the west, a striking optical illusion greets a visitor to Hudson Street. Has the street been bricked up at the far end? No – look again: it is the solid bulk of St Hilda’s Anglican Church – a grand conceit of the forceful George Austen who arrived in the town in 1875 and stayed for 45 years. In his post of Rector of Whitby he asked R.J. Johnson the Newcastle architect to build ‘big and bold’ – and so in 1884 this huge brick edifice was constructed to order. The street is named after the famous 19th-century northern railway pioneer George Hudson.

Jerry Dowlen

COFFEE MORNING AT ST ANDREW'S

A lively discussion took place on 29th August during our usual (last Saturday in the month) coffee morning at St Andrew's with a total of nine participants and lasting almost 90 minutes.

Who knows, maybe at the next one you may not have to make your own coffee!

Malcolm Hubbard.



Looks like the sexton went to Spain after all, and is still in quarantine.

Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

OCTAVIA HILL

Octavia Hill is remembered for her outstanding generosity to the nation by bequeathing many acres of Kent woodland and farmland to the National Trust, which



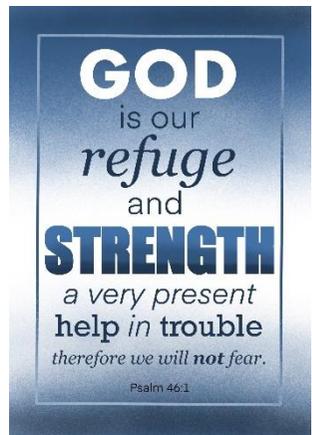
she co - founded.

The stained glass window represents the worst of urban life in contrast to country life, which she felt was needed by all.

The window was designed and donated by The Orpington and Chislehurst Society to Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill to commemorate 100 years of the National Trust.

Jackie Cook

Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk





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WHAT DID YOU DO, DURING LOCKDOWN?

I've been on lockdown since March. At first it was OK....after all I was always complaining that I never have time to tidy up cupboards, sort out wardrobes, sort out old paperwork, write to old friends, telephone old friends, look after the garden, etc, etc, etc.... But after looking through one wardrobe and eventually, after much soul searching, I gave one evening dress that I hadn't worn since the 1900s, to a charity shop and that was that! Oh, I also wrote a letter to an old friend – she hasn't replied!



So, what have I been doing all these weeks. Mostly in the garden in the lovely weather, just enjoying the flowers and keeping them alive, watering them, taking cuttings. And of course, the TV, watching the dozens of programmes I have recorded and then never watched so now I am trying to clear the backlog.

And of course, there's always crocheting. I enjoy doing this because I can watch the TV at the same time. Since lockdown I have produced a couple of blankets and recently, another one and here's a picture of it. Like it? You can have it, make a donation to the Parish and it's yours!

Evelyn Magee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Just so you know, I find the letters from 'Uncle Eustace' very entertaining and hope they will be continued.

Malcolm Hubbard

Many of you will remember Fr Ken Hewitt, who came to St Andrew's on many occasions to preside at our Sunday Eucharist. I have recently received a letter from him and he has given his permission for it to appear in The Crayfisher.

Dear Editor

I received your Crayfisher, and as always enjoyed it if I might say, I enjoyed it much better than usual – and that is not to say that I have criticisms.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in your church. But in January I reached the age of 90, and decided to move to a larger college, which provide us with meals, as I found it more difficult to feed myself and also to get down to floor level to feed my cat.

This is in 9 acres of ground on the borders of Surrey and Sussex, well in the country. I am no longer able to take services, even though I remain a priest for life – however long that may be, and my faith is as strong as ever – so I was glad to read the story of whose festival falls on today (1 September).

The residents and staff are very friendly and they have a nursing wing with 5 nurses and a large staff who act as carers.

I had an operation for a cancerous growth on my head and it went very well, delaying my coming here till 1 July.

My faith is as strong as ever, even so, I do not know when I shall die.

I have been told that while elderly people often die with cancer, though not of cancer.

I send my good wishes to both churches.

Love and best wishes

Ken