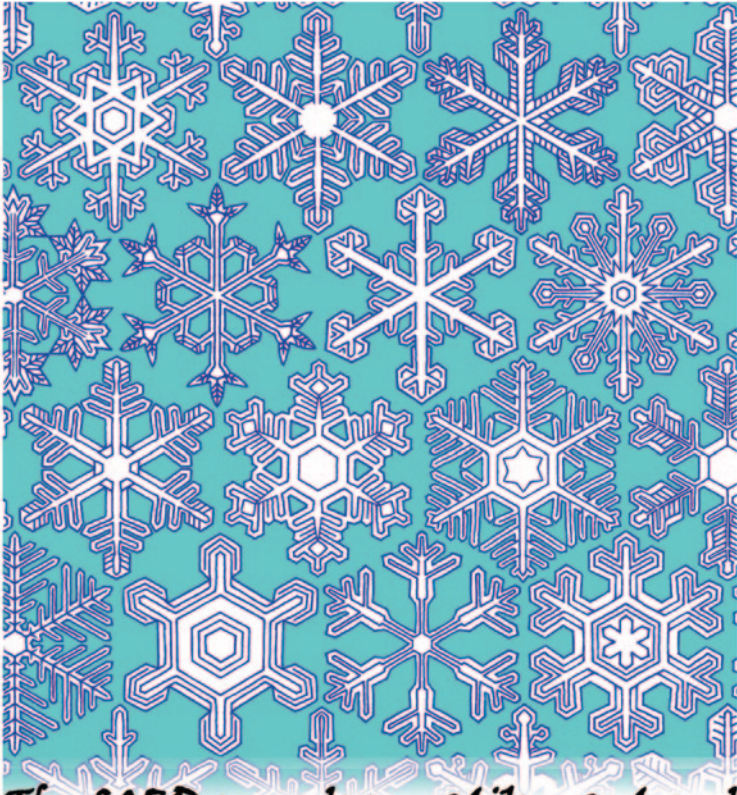


January 2022  
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# SAINTS ALIVE



*The LORD spreads snow like wool and  
scatters frost like ashes. Ps 147:16*

# ALL SAINTS

The Parish Magazine  
of All Saints' Parish Church,  
Cheadle Hulme

# Our Regular Weekly Services

At the moment these are, until further notice:

Sunday at 10.00am Parish Communion. At 6.30pm Choral Evensong on the 2nd Sunday of each month and Said Evensong on the 4th Sunday. On Wednesdays the church is open for private prayer at 12.00 noon, followed by Holy Communion at 12.30pm, after which everyone is welcome to stay for a chat and to share a bring-your-own-lunch.

Arrangements for baptisms, banns and weddings, confession and spiritual counselling is by arrangement with the Clergy.

We understand that for many this is still a difficult period. If you would like prayers or simply a conversation please contact me: Rev Sarah on 0161 485 3455, or email: [@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk](mailto:@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk). Alternatively, call one of our wonderful Churchwardens, John Ackerley 0161 486 1419 and Janet Ashman on 0161 485 7969.

## BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church:

12 December Mia Susan Mulvenna

## CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

We give thanks for the lives of the following:

Nov 9 Vera Teare   Dec 2 Anthony Miller   Dec 9 Derek Heywood  
Dec 20 Michael Fleeson



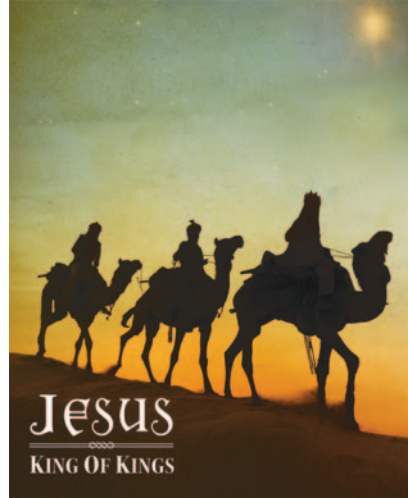
*The Adoration of the Magi or The Epiphany is a triptych oil painting on wood panel by the Netherlandish artist Hieronymus Bosch, painted around 1485 – 1500.*



# VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR! Well, here we are, another year ahead of us and another year to reflect on. The last 12 months have been as equally a rollercoaster as 2020. We have been in and out of lockdowns, we have seen cases of Covid rise and fall, we have welcomed new faces and said hard goodbyes to those who are loved. We have challenged climate change, stood in queues for vaccines, and worn a mask to help protect others. In 2022 we might think this will be all over.

That when this year ends, we will be in a different place than the last two. I pray that this will be the case. However, now, today, it is hard to see where the end will be. It's hard to keep going, to keep living in a way that is completely different than two years ago. But we have hope, hope in a God that is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The hope that whatever we face in this coming year, God will be with us. God will draw close to us; God will never



leave us or forsake us. I ask that this year, 2022, is a year where we will continue to hope that one day we will be out of a pandemic, a year to hope that change will come as we trust in the one who is constant. *“Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for ever.”* Hebrews 13:8

May you know the nearness of God and the hope set before you and the blessing of God in 2022.

*Revd Sarah Hancock*



**COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY - JANUARY 6TH  
ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR PLEASE**



# MUSICA NOVA

## **Violinist Sophie Rosa joins Musica Nova for January concert**

Musica Nova are thrilled to be joined again by violinist **Sophie Rosa** as the soloist in **Vivaldi's The Four Seasons**. The concert will take place at **All Saints' Church** on **Saturday 22nd January, 7:30pm**.

Vivaldi's famous masterpiece The Four Seasons is a group of four concertos, each expressing a different season. The captivating music evokes the sounds and sights of the seasons, from singing birds, barking dogs and flowing creeks, to storms and frozen landscapes.

One of the UK's most exciting violinists, Sophie Rosa has performed across the UK as a recitalist in venues including the Royal Festival Hall, the Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, Kings Place and the Bridgewater Hall. She has appeared as a soloist with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and Skipton Camerata, and has broadcast for BBC Radio 3.

The concert will be led and directed by Jem Bradley. As a busy freelancer, Jem has played with orchestras including the Manchester Concert Orchestra, British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, National Concert Orchestra, Liverpool Sinfonia, Skipton Camerata and English Pro Musica.

**Tickets are £10 full price, £8 concessions and accompanied children under 16 are free.** Tickets are available on the door, or to reserve in advance please call **07598 848761**, email [musicanova@rocketmail.com](mailto:musicanova@rocketmail.com) or ask at the church.

For more information about Musica Nova please visit [www.musicanova.co.uk](http://www.musicanova.co.uk)

In order to minimise social contact, this concert will not include an interval. Other COVID-19 safety measures will be put in place in line with latest guidance - details of these will be posted and updated on the Musica Nova website [www.musicanova.co.uk](http://www.musicanova.co.uk)



# Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester 1095

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095, whose feast day is celebrated on the 19th January, occupies a unique place in British church history.

He was the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. On top of that, he seems to have been a truly good and holy man.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was made bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church.

He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his archdeacons. He was highly influential in monastic reform, overseeing laws and canons to reform the role of the clergy.

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land. He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland. He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners.





## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from the 18th to 25th January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to 25th January – the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

This year, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. The Christians of the Middle East say that they offer these resources “conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences”, and that it also “yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.”

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>



## The young pray and worship more than you think



More than half of adults (51%) who are aged under 35 pray at least once a month, while almost as many (49%) make a monthly visit to some place of worship.

In contrast, of adults aged over 55, only a quarter (24%) pray, and only one fifth (16%) attend a place of worship. The survey was done by Savanta ComRes, and included Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims. It was commissioned by the organisers of the Eternal Wall of Prayer, which is being built near Birmingham. The monument’s creator, Richard Gamble, is a former chaplain of Leicester City FC, who says: “Many are now discovering that prayer is not a response of the last resort.”



# Christian Basics No 1: God the Creator

For many today the universe began with a big bang, in which a lump of matter, smaller than a pinhead, exploded 15 billion years ago. It's a story that defines who we are and where we come from. However, the Bible gives us another perspective on this event, revealing God as Creator: 'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible' (Hebrews 11:3). What does Genesis 1 say about God as Creator?

*'In the beginning, God'*

Whereas science can offer answers about the how of creation, the Bible tells us about the why i.e. the purpose of the Creator! Creation reflects the character and glory of God, inviting a response of dependence and praise!

*'God created the heavens and the earth'*

God shaped the universe, as expressed in the '6 days' of creation. They speak of an ordered and purposeful universe that expresses God's will: He spoke and it was done! An alternative translation is 'God began creating', reminding us that creation is also an ongoing process, where the Holy Spirit is still at work in our lives and world.

*'God created man in His own image'*

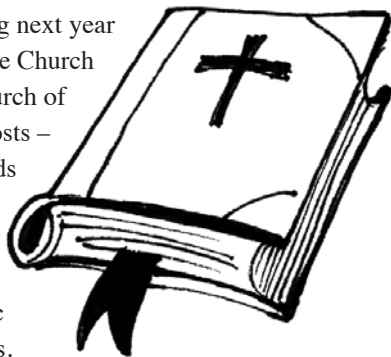
In the account, human beings are presented as the climax and crown of creation. We share the sixth day of creation with other creatures, as well as 95% of the same DNA. However, we are distinctively made in the image of God, created for relationship with God, with a responsibility to care for the created order.

*'And God saw that it was good'*

Like an artist, God described His work as good. We should always approach this story with wonder, enjoying God's world and affirming creativity in ourselves and others.

# Nearly 400 ordinands on course to take up stipendiary curacy posts in 2022

Nearly 400 ordinands completing theological training next year are on course to take up stipendiary curacy posts in the Church of England after extra funds were allocated. The Church of England has confirmed that 400 stipendiary curacy posts – both full and part time – will be available for ordinands expecting to take up stipendiary title posts from 2022 after leaving theological training. Of these, 290 posts are fully funded by the dioceses while the Strategic Ministry Fund (SMF), administered by the Strategic Ministry Board, will support an additional 110 posts.



The SMF was set up in 2019 to help ensure that dioceses are able to support additional curate numbers as part of the drive to increase the number of candidates for ordained ministry.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Martin Seeley, who is Chair of the Ministry Council, said: “Stipendiary ministry remains core to the work of the Church of England and our Vision and Strategy for the future.

“Once again, we are confident that in spite of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, there is capacity to ensure that those people who are offering themselves for stipendiary ordained ministry will be able to serve their curacy in a paid post.”

The announcement of the funding for stipendiary posts comes after new figures were released showing that 501 people were recommended for training for ordained ministry this year.

Of these, 11.4% are people of UKME heritage, up from 10.9% last year, while once again, 54% are female. A growing number are young, with 26% of all recommended candidates aged under 32, up from 24% last year.







## Reflected Faith Series – Taking Down Christmas



Happy New Year! January is, of course, the time to take down the decorations and put them away for next year.

In many churches however, the Crib scene is left up until the beginning of February – the Feast of Candlemas. That celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

It's yet another moment of 'illumination,' and has a number of meanings.

The date 'set' for Candlemas is the 2nd February each year and it marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. So, from that date

onwards the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter.

It's the day when we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple. The custom was set down in Leviticus chapter 12, where the parents presented the child to the Lord, and received a blessing from the priests. It was a picture of the sacrifice of the first-born son, giving him to the Lord. Any ideas on a third meaning? (Answer next month.)

As you take down your decorations, think about where you will store them ready for use next Christmas – and also, how carefully you will put them away.

Will the string of lights be a tangled mess of knots when you take them out of their wrappings or will you be able to hang them straight on the tree? One of the biggest concerns is where to put the figure of baby Jesus. It's usually so small in a Crib Set that it is easily lost and then the Crib Set rather loses its meaning!

This month, have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling-cute baby we miss out on His teaching and miracles, we will fail to understand and engage with His massive love and compassion for each of us on the cross – and most importantly His resurrection. Death is not the end. Not for Him. Not for us. And not for our loved ones.



# There's more with us than with them!

We begin the New Year with a Bible event from 2 Kings and an anecdote from Birmingham. For a number of years, the king of Syria had tried to capture the prophet Elisha. (The story is found in 2 Kings 6:11-19). Elisha always knew what the Syrians were planning, and revealed their plans before they could be carried out. Finally, the Syrian armies surrounded Elisha in Dothan.

When Gehazi, Elisha's servant, woke up and saw the encircling Syrian armies, he was terrified. But Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes.' When Gehazi looked again, he could hardly believe what he saw. All round them were horses and chariots of fire. The armies of heaven were protecting them! And Elisha encouraged him. "Don't fear, there's more with us than with them!" Immediately the Syrians were struck with blindness and Elisha and Gehazi escaped.

Often, we need to ask the Lord to open our eyes. When our strength has failed and faith is weak, we're apt to think that God has forgotten us. But He hasn't! He is near and only our dimness of vision prevents us from seeing His great presence and power and provision. Fear not! Trust God! Believe His Word! There's more with us than with our enemy!

In the early 1950s a well-known department store in Birmingham, England, wanted to extend its premises. Close at hand was an ideal site but it belonged to the Quakers whose Meeting House had been there for well over 200 years. The department store wrote to the Quakers, offering to buy the site. They said, "We will give you a very good price for the land. In fact, we'll send you a blank cheque. Please fill in whatever sum of money you think appropriate, and we will honour it." Four weeks passed and there was no reply, then five weeks, then six weeks.

Finally, a letter arrived from the Quakers. It thanked the department store for their generous offer but declined to accept it. "Our Meeting House has been here for almost 250 years," they explained, "much longer than your store. We have no wish to sell our property. However, if you would agree to sell your site to us, we are very interested in buying it. We will give you a very good price for it. Just state your selling price and we will honour it."

The letter was signed 'Cadburys.' The department store thought they were dealing with a small congregation of Quakers. Instead, they were dealing with the Cadburys' empire. Cadburys could have bought the department store twenty times over!

When our enemy the devil attacks us, by ourselves we are weak and feeble. But when Christ dwells in us by His Spirit, we are mighty! The devil is no longer attacking us; he is attacking the Captain of our salvation – and the devil cannot win! There's more with us than with him! As we go through 2022, be encouraged. With Christ we are more than conquerors!

*The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology and Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England*



## A New Year's Resolution from Micah

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression...? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you: To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:7-8)*

I quite like olive oil; not the Popeye character but the cooking ingredient. Although I am not sure what I would do with even one river of oil, and I have nowhere to put a ram. Still, this is one of my favourite Bible passages, and it is an ideal one for lawyers. It sums up in a very simple but helpful way what true religion should be. That makes it a good verse to start the year. The message is simple: God does not want empty promises or lip service, but our real devotion from our heart.

*What does it mean for us?*

Do justly – Be honest and open in our dealings with others this year. Be dependable. We should say when things are going wrong and be appreciative when they go well. Be fair in our dealings, whether at home or at work or in church. Keep confidences and never pass on gossip.

Love mercy – Give people the benefit of doubt, do not take advantage of others and do not always criticise or complain. Accept apologies and explanations where we can, and be generous.

Walk humbly – Quietly get on with things. Do not make a big show of what we do. Lastly, we are required to do these things. They are not options or choices but requirements. Like many requirements in the Bible, they are simple to understand, but not always simple to do. Happy New Year.

# The reality of faith in God

As we enter this New Year of 2022 even the most devoted Christians can't ignore the uncertainties we face. The world has been caught up in the persistent spread of Coronavirus. It is currently shaking national economies and causing untold stress and harm. Many people fear that their lives and families will never be the same again.



Almost daily the news has been gloomy and economic experts say the situation is the worst in living memory. How do we, as Christians, react to all this? What do we trust in? Has God something to say to us in these days?

An answer may be found in a well-loved passage from the Bible – Psalm 23: ‘The Lord is my shepherd... He restores my soul... he leads me... I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.’

But in the middle of this lovely psalm there are three reminders that Christians are NOT exempt from the realities of life. The psalmist speaks of ‘the paths of righteousness’, ‘the valley of the shadow’ and ‘the presence of my enemies.’

The mention of ‘the paths of righteousness’ is a reminder that we are called to love the Lord and live our lives in righteousness. The wonderful promises in this psalm come with a condition; they are given to those who determine by God’s grace to live righteously. And that must be our first resolution for 2022.

The ‘valley of the shadow’ may refer to death, but generally the reference here is wider. It means all those occasions when fear and sorrow and heartbreak and loss come to even the best Christians.

Then there are our ‘enemies.’ Originally that probably meant those wanting to kill the psalmist. For us it may be the seduction of old temptations, the fears that paralyse us and the memories of sins that still haunt us.

The psalmist is a realist! As Christians we live our lives in the real world! We are not floating on cloud nine; we are rooted in a fallen world and surrounded by temptations and sins and infirmities. Any day, pain, an incurable disease, even death itself, may come to us or to those we love. How do we face these realities?

Psalm 23 has the answer. If we, by God’s grace, will walk in ‘the paths of righteousness,’ then all the promises are ours! The Lord will be our Shepherd. He will lead us by the still waters; He will restore our souls, prepare a table for us in the wilderness, protect and guide us with His rod and staff and, at the end, bring us into the house of the Lord forever. Let’s make Psalm 23 our charter of faith for 2022!

# Vocations: Journey with time for thinking

The question what to do with your life is as alive, as ever, for young Christians, and has many possible answers in the church community. Alongside the paths of ordination or lay leadership, there are other ways to support those discerning a vocation, from sowing the first seed to providing opportunities to test it out.

For the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, at least some of this begins with those in leadership in a church being intent on encouraging vocations. In his book *The Great Vocations Conversation*, co-written with Magdalen Smith, the aim was, he explains, “to help church leaders have conversations with people who they saw as potential lay or ordained leaders, to be more proactive, rather than waiting for somebody to come and say, ‘I think God might be calling me.’”

Although ordination is just one path, the number exploring it appears to be increasing: in 2020, despite the interruptions of the pandemic, 591 people were recommended to train for ordained ministry, the highest figure for 13 years, according to a Church of England report. Of these, 431 are planning to take a stipendiary path.

The culture of a church can be crucial to lighting that spark, Bishop Watson says: “Where we’ve seen significant numbers of young vocations coming, both into lay or ordained ministries, have tended to be either churches that have a lot of young people and young adults anyway and then it can almost become a bit contagious,” Bishop Watson says. “But also, what’s been interesting is the number who’ve come from churches with very few young people, where the minister or vicar has given real opportunities for young people, often from children upwards, to take part in the ministry of the church, whether that is leading services, preaching, playing in the worship band, doing the intercessions, or whatever else.”

The Revd Emma Coley, a young-vocations officer with the national ministry team of the Archbishops’ Council, agrees, and emphasises the need to be flexible in allowing young people to serve in ways that are authentic to them. “I think young people want to be themselves, to express their relationship with God. If they see a sort of rigidity that says, ‘In order to do this, you need to do it in this particular way and from this life experience’ that can really put people off.”



*The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, with one of the 13 deacons who were priested at Guildford Cathedral, in July this year*

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)* She also underscores how much role-models make a difference: “If people see somebody who looks like them leading, then they feel that, ‘Well, if that person can do it, I can maybe do it.’”

In some respects, Mrs Coley feels that the pandemic allowed young people to shine. “This is maybe slightly stereotypical, but, generally, it’s been the younger people who’ve had the technological skills to keep churches worshipping, online. The downside is that it’s a kind of invisible role. So I think churches have a really good opportunity now to ensure that the younger people who were involved in ministry in this way are encouraged to continue it, even if it’s more visible, and not have this expectation that it has to be done in a particular way.”



*The Revd Dr Sharon Jones*

Accompanying young Christians on their faith journey takes time, the Revd Dr Sharon Jones, an Anglican chaplain at Birmingham University, says. “I think what’s important with university folk is that it’s a long game.”

One advantage of working in a university setting is being able to see how students may already manifest signs of a vocational path.

“We get to see them in the round. It’s a really good insight that sometimes even parish folk don’t get, because they’re in leadership roles at university rather than being the token young person. You develop a good vocations radar, and I think it’s about not being

afraid to just say ‘What is it you’re going to do with your life?’ and see what they say. Quite often, if I’ve got an inkling that someone has a vocation, they’ll go, ‘Well, actually, I was thinking about ministry.’ And then it starts. And I think it’s about giving them time to think things through.”

The Vicar of Christ Church, Yardley, the Revd Lydia Gaston, used to run monthly pub sessions while working as a young-vocations champion in Birmingham, besides meeting people one to one. “I feel like it was really important to spend time with people to hear their stories,” she says. The pub sessions were partly to provide support, and also so that those attending could meet others going through the same thing. “I found, when I was a young vocation, it was good to chat to others who were on the journey with me.

In the same vein, Mrs Coley sees a need for some church members to be “on high alert” to the gifts that young people bring, in the context of congregational relationships that are already there.

“I think there has been a rigidity in the past: if you want to grow in your leadership, you need to get ordained. I feel we’re moving away from that and embracing creativity, and we need to be able to say to someone, for example, ‘You know what? You lead our intercessions beautifully and I can see that people could really benefit from you maybe running the occasional prayer group.’”*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)* Religious communities can also provide a framework for young people to explore their commitment, if not necessarily in the context of full vows, then perhaps by joining a Third Order, being part of a dispersed monastic community, or simply by visiting to experience a pattern of a life radically different from their own. “My own feeling is that there’s a lot of people seeking community,” Dr Jones remarks. “They get community through the church, but they really want an extended family, and religious orders give that.”

Brother Finnian, a member of the Society of St Francis, based in Alnmouth, Northumbria, has noticed an increase in enquiries in recent years. “I think people are looking to be authentically themselves,” he says. “Some people have been successful in a variety of ways, but they feel called to give themselves more to God. They want to meet someone who understands, but who has gone through discernment.” He has, however, had to develop ways of transmitting the message: “We have a tent at Greenbelt every year as Franciscans and as Anglican religious, and we meet loads of young people who come in during our prayer life, and hang out with us.”



*Brother Finnian*

During their 2017 visit, they found that many teenagers didn’t know Anglican religious communities existed; so Brother Finnian set up a Twitter account, and also monthly meetings (on Zoom since the pandemic), in which participants from all over the country can hear the stories of Franciscan speakers, and see “that we’re real people, we exist: we’re not in the Middle Ages. We move around and live in multi-generational communities.” At the Community of St Anselm, 20 to 35 year olds of different denominations and nationalities can consider their calling more intensively through a year’s formation at Lambeth Palace. The community was founded by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2015, and the choice is to become either an immersive member, living within the community, or an integrated member, doing a part-time programme that runs alongside working life. While on the programme, members can grapple with questions of life choices that might be radically different from other people’s. Among these is the issue of singleness. The Dean of St Anselm’s, the Revd Simon Lewis, observes: “What I’ve seen quite strikingly is that the community here provide people an opportunity to rethink the whole way they’ve looked at their understanding of what it means to engage with the world, and make choices about their future. Many have never considered the possibility that they might not have a partner, that they might choose to commit themselves in a different way. It’s not even in people’s imagination. And there’s something amazingly liberating about encountering people who’ve made that choice. In terms of signposting those who are considering vocation in any sense being exposed to others who have undertaken different forms of vocation is hugely valuable in expanding people’s horizons of what might be possible.”*(Continued on page 14)*

*(Continued from page 13)* Simply finding the language that enables people to express a sense of their calling, which is not always in ecclesiastical terms, particularly for individuals who are not from a church background, can be enormously helpful. In Dr Jones's experience, this often emerges in the context of "long, free-form conversations", such as those provided by spiritual direction.

Mrs Coley also talks about the value of mentoring. "If you are 16, for example, and you are thinking you might want to get ordained, or licensed as a Reader, or that God is calling you to some kind of ministry, it's so helpful to have somebody walk with you on that journey. It can make you feel isolated, and as though you're the only 16-year-old in the entire country who is thinking about this; but actually having a mentor to say, 'You're not the only one: there's lots of you,' is really important," she says.

Of course, not every young person will want to follow an ecclesiastical path. Mrs Gaston refers to a practice at some churches whereby congregation members regularly talk on a Sunday about what they will be doing "this time tomorrow", and what their faith looks like in that context. "It gets people to think about, 'Yes, this is my mission,' whatever they're doing in their work. It's good to hear other voices, to be inspired."

For those who do want to test their calling in a church setting, the Church of England provides a ministry experience scheme (MES), set up in 2013, for 18 to 30 year olds. Dioceses can opt in to a national network, which enables participants to spend a year on placement in ministry, usually in a parish setting.



*Helen took part in the Leicester Ministry Experience Scheme in 2019/20, and served her placement in a church-plant in city*

The type of activities involved varies according to the context, but the scheme provides a theological training element and an opportunity to continue conversations about discernment along the way. There are also usually three to four other participants on placement in the same diocese in any year, adding a community aspect, with networking and support. "The MES really wants to be a gracious space to explore your sense of calling and vocation," the MES administrator, Vic Wilson, explains. All the schemes are linked to the vocations teams in the diocese, so that participants can reflect on where God might be leading them, whether to ordination, youth work, pioneer ministry, or something else. As Mr Wilson

says, "it's not a one-size-fits-all approach."

Perhaps relevant to all the forms of vocation which a young person might be exploring is Brother Finnian's perception that "Religious life is, I think, at the cusp of a genuine renewal, I think because it's a gift of God. It's not about better advertising or a better website, but when we live out our lives with integrity, then people will join us. I think God still speaks and God still calls people."

*Julie McKee, Church Times*



# God's fragrance – do people catch a whiff of it on you?

*'...and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.'* John 12:3



A story runs of how a lady was having tea outside a tea shop late one afternoon, when she became aware of a pleasant scent filling the air. She asked the waiter the source of the scent and was told that it came from the people passing by. He explained that they worked in a perfume factory down the street and were on their way home. When they left the factory, they always carried with them the fragrance that had permeated their clothes during their day's work. As the perfume workers leave the factory full of the fragrance of where they have been, so we, as we leave

our churches and chapels and wherever we spend time with God, are meant to carry the perfume of His presence with us. We are called to spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him (2 Corinthians 2:4). If we allow ourselves in worship to be permeated with Christ's love and the sweetness of His presence, then we will be able to take the Jesus in us out into the world.

## Synod calls on politicians to reduce wealth gap

The General Synod has recently called for the Government to reduce the gap between rich and poor after members heard of the 'scandal' of inequality.

The Church of England's national assembly approved a Leeds Diocesan Motion calling on all political parties to adopt an 'explicit policy' of reducing the gap between rich and poor. Synod members further voted to redouble efforts by the Church of England both at national and local level to respond to need through social action and to tackle 'unjust structures' that contribute to the wealth gap.

Speaking to the General Synod, Father Paul Cartwright, from the Diocese of Leeds, said living costs were rising and real terms disposable income decreasing for the poorest families. "We cannot expect to be able to write social or fiscal policy on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, or even eradicate the wealth gap," he said. "But what we can be is that genuine voice which speaks about the injustice of such a gap, a gap that leads to reduced opportunity for so many in our country."

The Leeds Diocesan Motion was approved by 342 members with just the three recorded abstentions and two objections.

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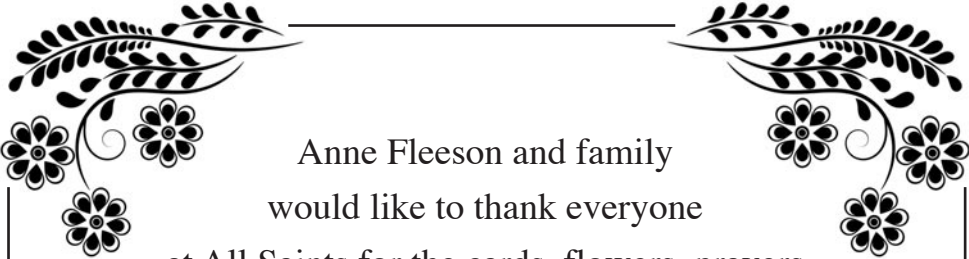
☎ 0161 439 8228

✉ [rmorris@butcher-barlow.co.uk](mailto:rmorris@butcher-barlow.co.uk)

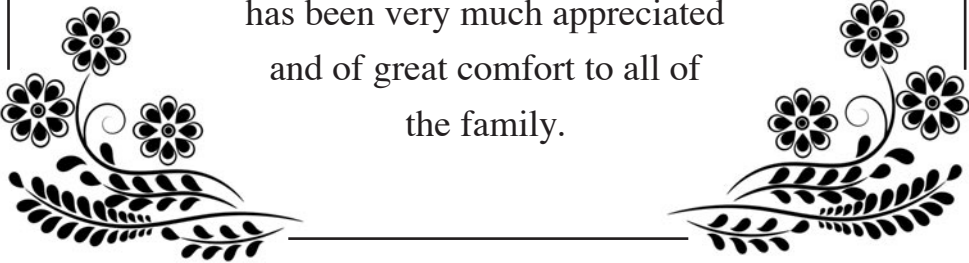
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Anne Fleeson and family  
would like to thank everyone  
at All Saints for the cards, flowers, prayers  
and messages of love following the sad passing of Mike.



Your support at this difficult time  
has been very much appreciated  
and of great comfort to all of  
the family.

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# ALL SAINTS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. We learn new skills and practise old ones. Tea/coffee, biscuits and good company are always on offer. **Please join us when meetings begin again.**

All are welcome. For further details please contact Frances Pickett on 0161 439 8890.



## All Saints' Website and Facebook



Keep up to date with news and events on the All Saints' website. Find out about our charity work, community groups and listen to recent sermons.



Please contact Sarah Ball on: [comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk) with any stories and updates.

Find All Saints' on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsCH/> and "Like" us to get notifications about our news and events.



## Church Open

**Saturday Coffee Mornings have been postponed  
for the immediate future.**



## MEN'S SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the first Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room (unless otherwise stated). After the talk there is a short question and answer session followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

**Due to the implementation of measures to combat the Coronavirus pandemic all meetings have been cancelled. Further details will be posted when available.**

Although this group is attended by men, if you are interested in hearing any of the speakers you will be most welcome to come along.

Chairman: Bradley Torbitt (0161 486 9387)

Secretary: Mike Parry (0161 485 7886)

# Looking to the New Year



The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13,14). Firstly, to make a new start, you need to **forget the things which are behind**. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties

to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to **focus on the things that lie ahead**. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say *'well done, good and faithful servant'*. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, *'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'*



*Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail.*

Charles Stanley

*This one simple act of beginning each day with God sets each day on the path of wisdom.*

Elizabeth George





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# Church carbon footprint tool data update

One in 14 Church of England churches are now reporting 'net zero' carbon emissions, according to the latest data from the Energy Footprint Toolkit (EFT). The number of churches edged upwards from four per cent to seven per cent between 2019 and 2020. General Synod has committed the Church to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The scope of this aim was detailed in 2020, and the EFT enables measuring the emissions of all buildings in scope.

Dr John Thompson, Bishop of Selby and chair of the Net Zero Carbon Sub-committee group, said: "The rise in numbers of net zero churches reflects that more and more parishes are utilising pre-approved renewable suppliers and addressing the big and small measures which can be taken to reduce carbon impacts. This is a positive early step in our ambitious journey to a wholly net zero carbon Church by 2030. Among the churches with net zero carbon, just under 80% were using wholly renewable electricity tariffs."

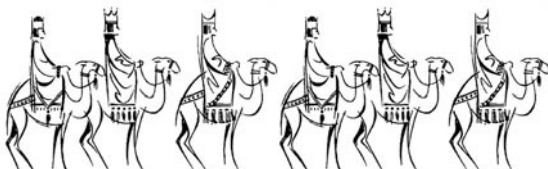


## New Year Prayer 2022



Lord of all creation, Lord of all the years, thank you for steering us through the fragmented landscape of two pandemic-riddled years. Here we stand at the beginning of a new year, not knowing what lies ahead. Our only security lies in you, Lord.

Please take our hands and guide us, day by day, into January and beyond. We will not be afraid, Lord because you have promised never to leave us, never to forsake us. And you keep your promises. We are safe. 2022, here we come... expectantly. In Jesus' name, Amen *Daphne Kitching*







"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning Winter services"



## East Cheshire Hospice

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East Cheshire Hospice thanks everyone for their kind donations in lieu of funeral flowers, wedding, anniversary or birthday presents. Over 80% of Hospice funding comes from voluntary donations including legacies. These gifts help to provide high quality, compassionate care free of charge to so many local people.

**For more information, please call Fiona Beasley on 01625 666991 or email [fbeasley@echospice.org.uk](mailto:fbeasley@echospice.org.uk) [www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk](http://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk)**

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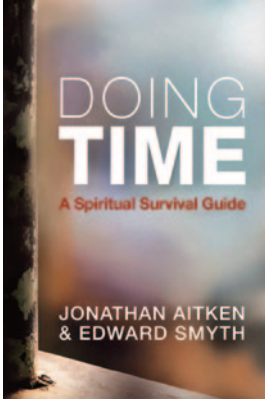
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# Good Reads



## **Doing Time – a spiritual survival guide**

*By Jonathan Aitken and Edward Smyth, Lion Books, £6.99*

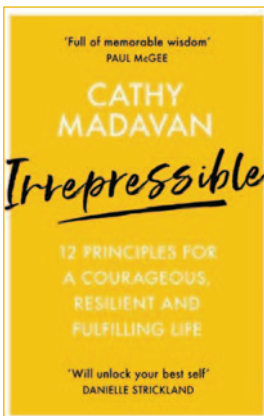
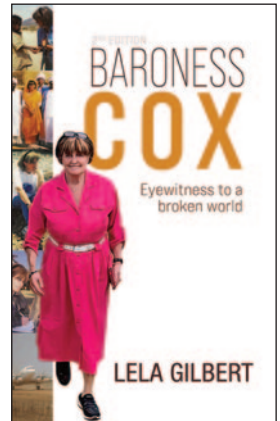
Jonathan Aitken and Edward Smyth both experienced a dramatic fall from grace. Each of them found themselves removed from their homes and loved ones, locked up in prison and having to deal with the fallout of their actions. However, in the middle of their lowest point they discovered something life-changing. God hadn't forgotten about them. 'Doing Time' offers encouragement and advice on how to survive and even make the most of life inside prison. It shows that it is never too late for God to help us find a new way forward in our lives.

## **Baroness Cox – eyewitness to a broken world – 2nd edition**

*By Lela Gilbert, Monarch, £12.99*

Baroness Cox of Queensbury was appointed a Life Peer in 1982. A former deputy speaker of the House of Lords, she is a tireless advocate for international human rights. She visits the most forgotten people in the world – often in highly dangerous conditions – to carry their stories of abuse and persecution back to the West.

She has risked her life many times while taking aid to war victims in Armenia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan, and Syria. Her motivation is profoundly Christian: "Faith without deeds is dead; love without action is dead."

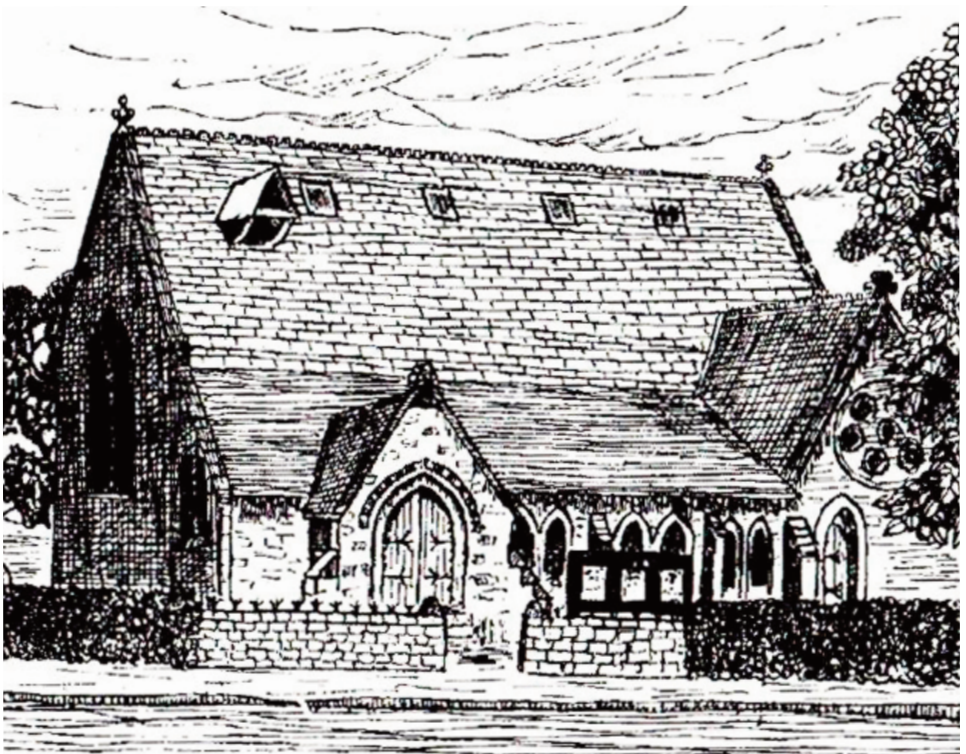


## **Irrepressible – 12 principles for a courageous, resilient and fulfilling life**

*By Cathy Madavan, SPCK, £7.49*

This book contains practical wisdom for living. Full of memorable principles, stories and self-reflection opportunities, it will develop capacity, courage and confidence in the face of life's opportunities and difficult challenges.

Why do some people seem to throw themselves into every opportunity, bouncing back from every setback? Is this irrepressible spirit just for the hyper-motivated? How do the rest of us live courageously, and develop resilience?



## **Christian Stewardship**

The Parish practises the principles of Christian Stewardship in its giving for the work of God. If you are interested to learn more about it please contact the Recorder, Kate Hughes (485 1010), the Vicar or the Churchwardens. The giving of time and talents is encouraged, If you wish to help in some capacity in the Church services or organisations, in improving or maintaining the Church fabric or grounds, or in visiting and helping the sick or housebound, please speak to the Clergy or the Churchwardens.



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# All Saints Cheadle Hulme

# PARISH DIRECTORY

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**Clergy:** \*The Rev'd Sarah Hancock, All Saints Vicarage, 27 Church Road SK8 7JL (485 3455)  
The Rev'd Janet Owens (Retired) (312 4683)

**Readers:** Mrs Pat Yates (485 4546)  
Mr Michael Aiers (439 7692)

**Church Wardens:** \*Mrs Janet Ashman (485 7969)  
\*Mr John Ackerley (486 1419)

**Deputy Wardens:** \*Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)  
\*Ms Sarah Ball (07966 146746)

**Organist:** Miss Trevlyn Thomas (485 8026)

**Sacristan:** \*Mrs Janet Valentine (439 8203)

**P.C.C. Vice Chairman and Treasurer:** \*Mr Jeremy Valentine (439 8203)

**P.C.C. Secretary:** \*Mrs Linda Ackerley (486 1419)

**Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary:** \*Mrs Kate Hughes (485 1010)

**Mainly Music Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer:** \*Mrs Clare Russell (486 9304)

**Church Room Bookings:** Mr Neville Ashman (485 7969)

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Dr David Jones (01625 850997)

**Parish Magazine Editor:** Mr Rhys Davenport (485 6772) Email: seed.design@mail.com

**Website and Social Media:** \*Ms Sarah Ball Email: comms@allsaintsheadleulme.org.uk

**Parish Magazine Secretary and Treasurer:**  
Mrs Chris Spencer (485 8282)

**Deanery Synod Representatives:** \*Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

\*Miss Irene Walton (439 6096)

**P.C.C. Members are marked\* Other members**

Mesdames: L. Bacon, M. Epps, C. Jones, L. Karuku, F. Pickett, S. Stone