

February - April 2026

St Leonard's Church

COMMON GROUND

News, events and community in Beoley, Church Hill and Abbey Park





SPRING 2026

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Common Ground. The second St Leonard's Links looking at items within or part of the church is on page 22. I decided to look at the beautiful font cover. This background to this object was interesting on two fronts: the person who made it and the person it commemorates. I hope you enjoy reading about it.

There are also reports on events that have happened in church and those that are upcoming. The annual Snowdrop Weekend will take place on 14 & 15 February and this year the theme is Valentine's Day.

The Social Committee have provided a calendar of events planned for the year, the first of these is the St Patrick's Dine Out, which it is hoped will be as popular as the St Leonard's Feast which took place in November.

As before, in the digital version there are hyperlinks in the index section which will take you directly to an article: just click on the text below the index image.

If you have any ideas for articles, or wish to provide feedback please speak to one of us or email stleonard.commonground@gmail.com

Revd Gail, Revd Martin, Rose, Philippa

IN THIS ISSUE



Vicar Writes

6



BCP Service Dates

8



Lent Groups 2026

9



Holy Week

11



Social Events Calendar

12



St Patrick's Dine Out

13



Snowdrop Weekend

14



Thinking Romance

15



Cakes, Carnivals & Cats

16



Passion Play

20



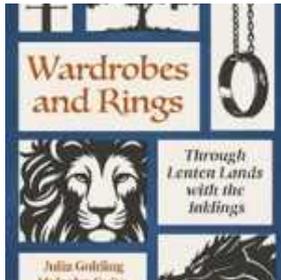
Made in Memory.

22



Healing Eucharist Dates

27



Book Review

28



God in the Arts

29



St Valentine

30



Love Christmas Report

32



Another St Leonard's

33



Redditch Mission Area

34



Christmas Market Gallery.

36



Holy Doodles

37



Crossword

38



Word Search

40



Holy Doodles Answers

42



February Church Diary

43



March Church Diary

44



April Church Diary

45



Looking Ahead

46



Cartoon

47



Contacts

48



Vicar Writes:

Dear Friends

Every year, just as winter feels longest and the trees still stand bare, something quietly stirs in our churchyard. Before most flowers dare to open, before spring has fully decided to arrive, the snowdrops appear, delicate, nodding heads of white, pushing through cold soil as if to whisper, “Hold on. Light is coming.”

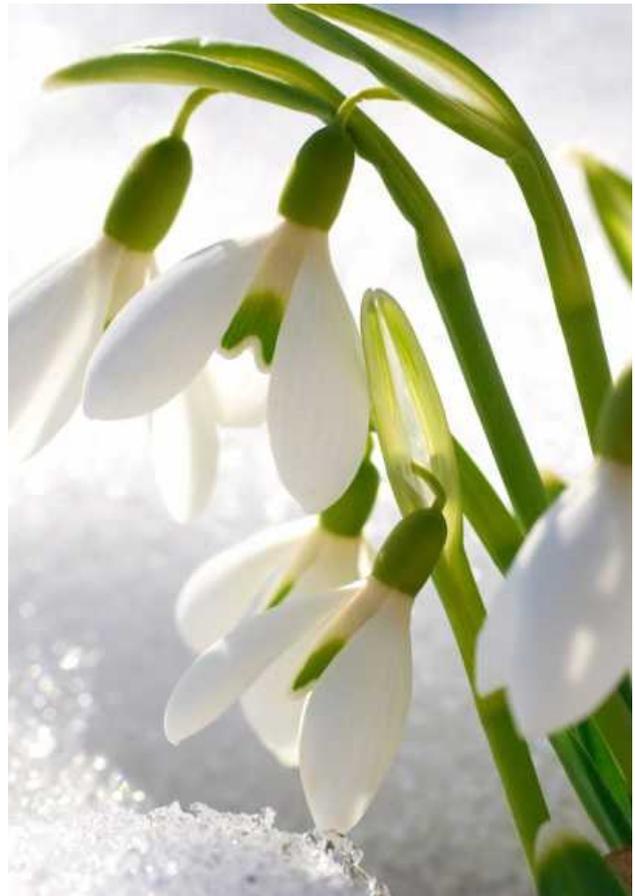
Snowdrops have long carried a story of hope. In Christian tradition, they are sometimes called “Candlemas Bells” because they often bloom around Candlemas, the feast that celebrates Christ as the light of the world. Their pure white petals were seen as a sign of new beginnings and the quiet promise that winter will not have the last word. In many places, they were planted around churches to remind people that even in the coldest and hardest seasons, life persists, grace returns, and God’s renewing love is already at work beneath the surface.

It is no wonder, then, that our churchyard becomes such a place of pilgrimage each February. The Snowdrop Weekend at St Leonard’s, happening this year on 14th–15th February, is an opportunity not just to admire their beauty, but to pause, to wander gently among them and allow their simple presence to speak. They don’t shout. They don’t rush. They simply shine with quiet resilience.

As a church community, we treasure this weekend because it offers something we often forget to give ourselves: space to breathe, to slow down, to look for signs of hope.

In our world so full of noise, pressure, and the relentless pace of daily life, those small white flowers remind us that renewal often begins in hidden, humble places. God's grace can be like that too: subtle, persistent, often unnoticed until we suddenly realise it has brought us through.

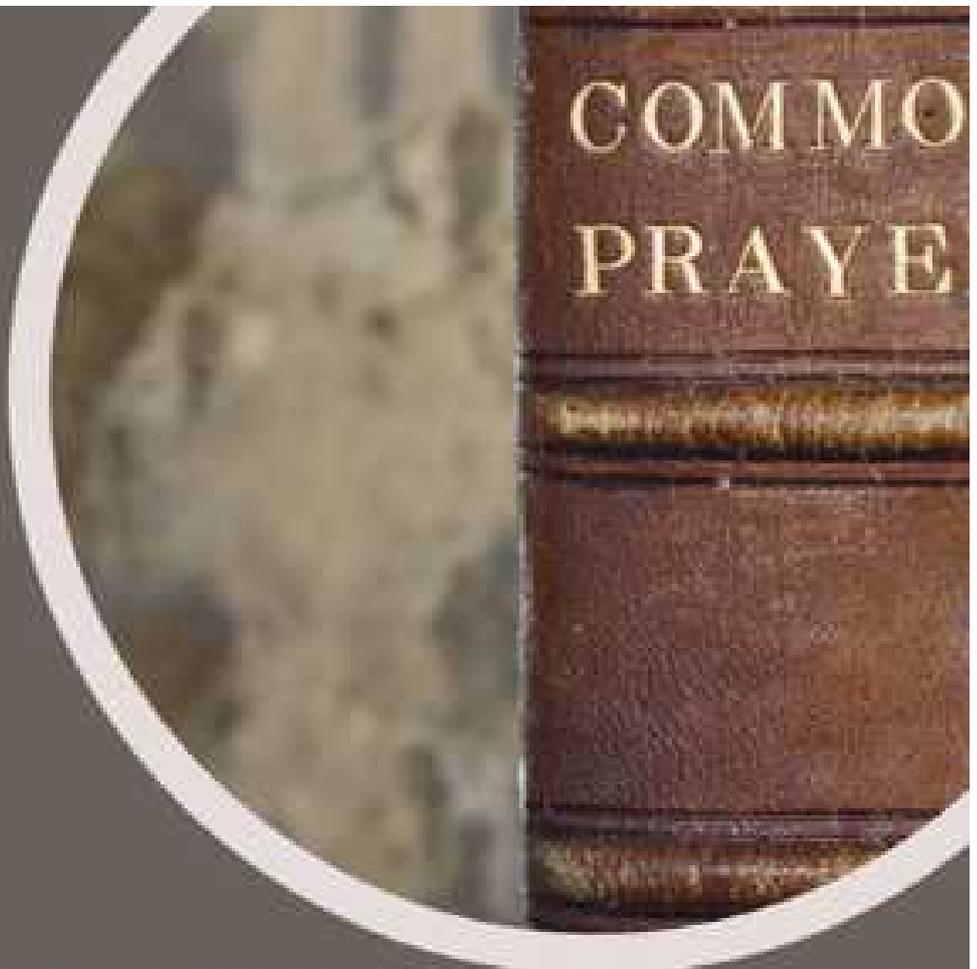
And yes, this year our Snowdrop Weekend falls over what the world calls Valentine's weekend. While snowdrops were never traditionally linked with romantic love, they are linked with love of another kind: the steady, renewing, unconditional love that holds us through every season. Snowdrops don't speak of grand gestures but of faithfulness, the kind of love that returns year after year, even after the hardest winter.



Whether you join us for refreshments, a wander through the churchyard, or simply to sit quietly among the beauty around St Leonard's, I pray that the snowdrops will be a sign for you this year: a reminder that light is returning, that hope is already growing, and that God's love meets us gently, right where we are.

With every blessing,

Gail



10AM HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

**ST LEONARD'S,
BEOLEY**

1ST THURSDAY OF MONTH

February 5th
March 5th
April No BCP
May 7th
June 4th
July 2nd
August 6th
September 3rd
October 1st
November 5th
December 3rd

**ST LAURENCE,
ALVECHURCH**

3RD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

January 15th
February No BCP
March 18th
April 15th
May 20th
June 17th
July 15th
August 19th
September 16th
October May 21st
November 18th
December 16th

Lent Groups 2026

Once again, this year we have plenty of opportunities to join in with our lent course. Take a look at the groups here and join in where you can.

Day: Monday**Time:** 10 am (except for 2nd March when it will be 1pm)**Where:** The Rectory School Lane Alvechurch**Dates:** 23rd Feb, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March**Host:** Revd Gail Rogers**Contact:** revdgail@icloud.com**Day: Tuesday****Time:** 13:00**Where:** The Tapestry Room, St Leonards Church, Beoley**Dates:** 24th Feb, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March**Host:** Revd Martin Allen Contact: allnix@btinternet.com**Day: Wednesday****Time:** 10 am**Where:** St Marys Church, School Lane, Alvechurch**Dates:** 25th Feb, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March optional session on 1st April to pray the stations of the cross**Host:** Felicity Rixon**Contact:** felicityrixon@hotmail.com**Day: Wednesday****Time:** 19:30**Where:** 117 Birmingham Road Alvechurch**Dates:** 25th Feb, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March**Host:** Revd Martin Allen Contact allnix@btinternet.com

continued on page 10

Day: Thursday

Time: 10:30

Where: Alvechurch Baptist Church

Dates: 26th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March

Host: Joey Redhead

Contact: joey.redhead@alvechurchbaptist.org.uk

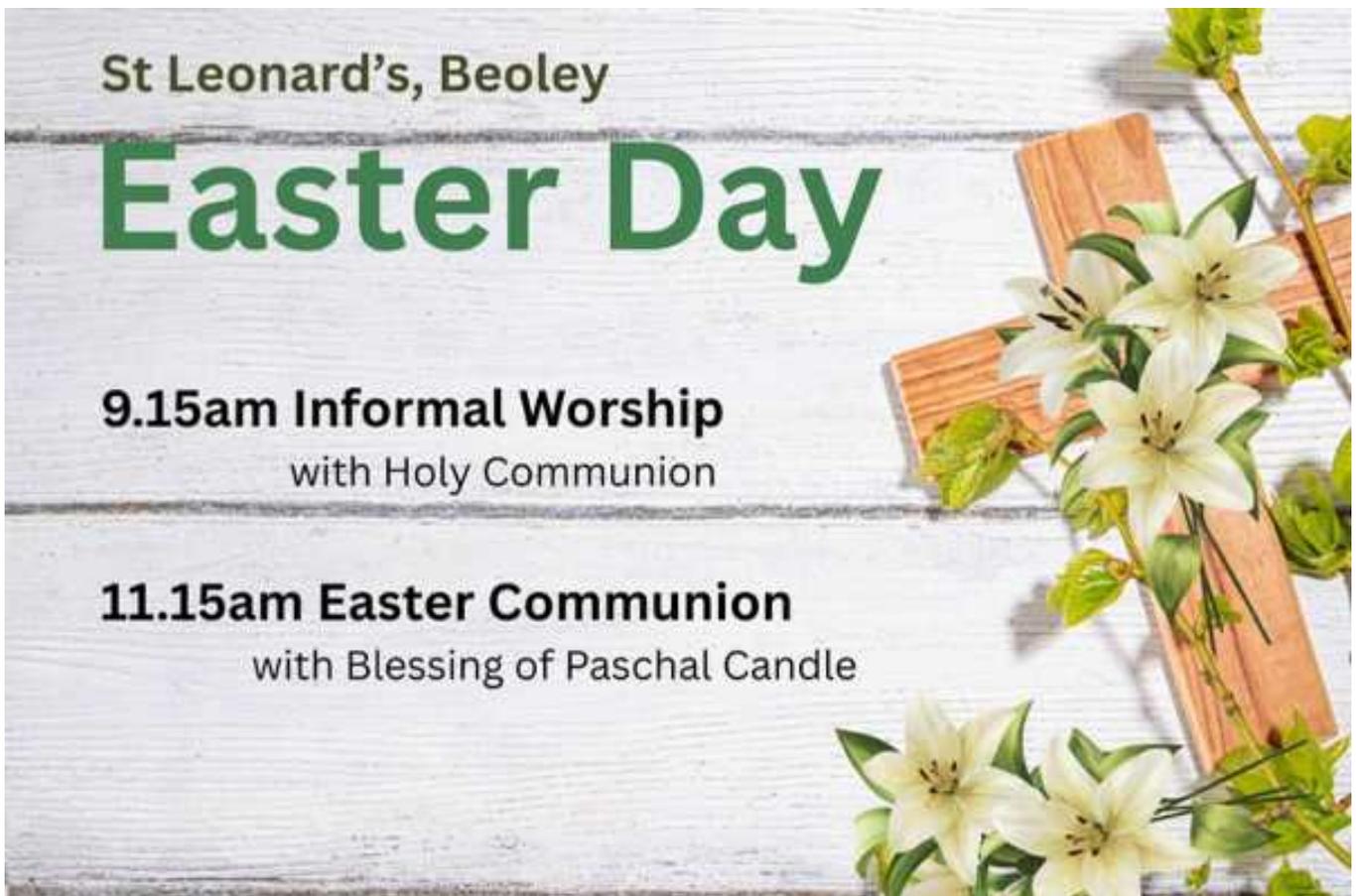
Day: Thursday

Time: 19:30 for 20:00

Where: The Coach House, School Lane, Alvechurch

Host: Graham Clark

Contact: clarkalvechurch@sky.com



HOLY WEEK

ST LAURENCE, ALVECHURCH
AND ST LEONARD'S, BEOLEY



MARCH 29TH

PALM SUNDAY

All Together at St Laurence Church. 10.15am at The Square or 10.30am at Church. Please note there will be no worship at St Leonard's Church on this day, all are encouraged to gather at St Laurence Church

MARCH 30TH

HOLY MONDAY

Poets, Prayer and Food - 9am, The Tapestry room, St Leonards Church, Beoley. Begin your day with inspiration and a simple breakfast.

Online Compline (Night Prayer) Join us on YouTube or Facebook for Night Prayer.

MARCH 31ST

HOLY TUESDAY

Poets, Prayer and Food - 12pm, Rowney Green Chapel. Take a mid-day pause for reflection and enjoy a simple lunch.

Online Compline (Night Prayer) Join us on YouTube or Facebook for Night Prayer.

APRIL 1ST

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Poets, Prayer and Food - 3pm, The Ark, St Laurence Alvechurch. Conclude your afternoon with an enriching spiritual experience and simple refreshments.

Online Compline (Night Prayer) Join us on YouTube or Facebook for Night Prayer.

APRIL 2ND

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar - 10am, St Leonard's, Beoley

Come to the Table - 7pm, The Ark, Alvechurch. A simple meal reflecting the Last Supper followed by Gethsemane prayers in church.

APRIL 3RD

GOOD FRIDAY

A simple Passion Play - 10.30am, St Laurence, Alvechurch.

Open Church - 12pm - 2pm, St Leonard's, Beoley. Church will be open for quiet pray and reflection.

The Good Friday Liturgy - 2pm, St Leonard's Church, Beoley

A simple Passion Play - 7pm, St Laurence, Alvechurch. A repeat of the morning story of the Passion.

APRIL 4TH

HOLY SATURDAY

Vigil and Service of Light - 7pm, St Laurence, Alvechurch

Socialising - Join In!

The Social Committee have planned a variety of events in 2026 and we hope you will join us for some of them.



ST PATRICK'S DAY DINE OUT TOGETHER TUESDAY 17 MARCH

Join us at the Golden Goose for a carvery lunch. £10.25 or £13.00 for the kingsize option. The sign up sheet is in church now, or contact Rose on 07896 306010 to book a place.



TALK AND CHEESE & WINE FRIDAY 25 APRIL BEOLEY'S BLADESMITH: THE STORY OF ROBERT MOLE, SWORD AND MACHETE MAKER

Historian: Dr Felicity McWilliams

If you enjoyed the article on Robert Mole, in the Summer edition of Common Ground, come along to learn more about the Mole family and what happened to their sword-making business. Afterwards, join us for cheese and wine in the Tapestry Room.



MAY BREAKFAST BEFORE ADCM

Keep a look out for further details nearer the time.



JUNE DINE OUT IN LOCAL PUB

Do you know a good pub you could recommend? Let us know



JULY MU STRAWBERRY TEA

Annual celebration of all things strawberry. Further details nearer the time.



AUGUST BBQ OR PICNIC

An event in the church grounds



SEPTEMBER TALK

Plans are underway. More information in the next edition.



OCTOBER

Harvest supper with St Laurence's at The Ark. Start rehearsing now!



NOVEMBER ST LEONARD'S FEAST DINE OUT

Plans are underway. More information in the next edition.



DECEMBER

Oh yes he is! Oh no he isn't! Join us for a trip to the pantomime at The Palace Theatre



DANCE EVENT

Plans are underway More information in the next edition.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINE OUT



**12:30 PM
THE GOLDEN GOOSE**

Tuesday 17 March

**SIGN UP SHEET IN CHURCH
NAMES NEEDED BY 8 MARCH**

Snowdrop Weekend

St Leonard's Church, Beoley

- ♥ Explore the churchyard and beautiful snowdrops
- ♥ Enjoy homemade soup and cakes
- ♥ Decorate a heart to take home with you
- ♥ Join a treasure hunt
- ♥ Learn why we kiss under the mistletoe, and how St Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world

Saturday 14 February:
10am—4pm

Sunday 15 February:
1pm—4pm

Love
is in the
air



Do You and Your Partner Share the Same Taste in Romance?

Which is your favourite romantic film? Which is theirs?
Here are some ideas to get you thinking....



- It's a Wonderful Life
- Gone with the Wind
- The Sound of Music
- Far from the Madding Crowd
- An Officer and a Gentleman
- Four Weddings and a Funeral
- When Harry met Sally
- Sense and Sensibility
- The English Patient
- Before Sunrise
- Brokeback Mountain
- The Bridges of Madison County
- The English Patient
- Shakespeare in Love
- Casablanca
- Brief Encounter
- African Queen
- Dr Zhivago
- Wuthering Heights
- Titanic
- Gladiator
- Sleepless in Seattle
- Dirty Dancing
- The Shop Around the Corner

What about your favourite romantic song? Do your tastes coincide?
For those of you who are married, can you both remember what the
music was for the 'First Dance' at your wedding?



- As Times Goes By (Casablanca)
- Everything I do (Bryan Adams)
- I just called to say.... (Stevie Wonder)
- Killing me Softly (Roberta Flack)
- Lady in Red (Chris de Burgh)
- Love is all Around (Four Weddings)
- My Heart Goes On (Celine Dion)
- Fly me to the Moon (Frank Sinatra)
- Unchained Melody (The Righteous Brothers)
- Love me Tender (Elvis Presley)
- Some Enchanted Evening (South Pacific)
- The Power of Love (Jennifer Rush)
- When a Man Loves a Woman (Percy Sledge)
- Without You (Nilsson)
- Wonderful Tonight (Eric Clapton)
- One Fine Day (Puccini)
- Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (Cole Porter)
- I will Always Love You (Whitney Houston)
- This Guy's In Love With You (Herb Alpert)

Cakes, Carnivals and Cats

Philippa McWilliams

Lent begins on Wednesday February 18th this year -preceded, as we all probably know by Shrove Tuesday, although now often called Pancake Day. In some parts of Britain, the day before is known as Collop or Collopy Monday. Collop means slices of meat, and it was traditional to have a breakfast of meat and eggs on this day. In Cornwall, depending on where you are, the day could be called Peasen (or Paisen) Monday because of the tradition of eating pease pudding at that time, elsewhere in the county it is known as Nickanan or Roguey Night.

Traditions around the start of Lent vary a great deal across the world. In the Greek Orthodox church, particularly in Greece, the Monday six weeks before Palm Sunday is known as Clean, Green or Pure Monday. This refers to the purification of the body in preparation for the Great Lent and involves, at least, the abstinence of non-fasting foods. Some people fast completely until the Communion service on the following Wednesday thereby ensuring that the first food they have in Lent is the communion bread.

In France Lent is known as "le Carême", originating from the Latin word "quadragesima," which means "fortieth. Pastries and desserts, such as the galette des rois (king cake), are enjoyed during the period leading up to Lent. Additionally, the consumption of crepes on Candlemas marks the transition from the Christmas season to the beginning of Lent.



Acts of Charity and almsgiving are a key part of Lent with many communities organising fundraising and volunteering activities to support the less fortunate.

Carnival season precedes Lent in many countries: the word comes from the Latin *carnem levare* which means remove meat. The Venetian Carnival is renowned for masks and elaborate costumes, while in Piedmont, the town of Ivrea hosts The Battle of the Oranges, said to be the oldest historical carnival in Italy. Dating back to the Middle Ages, it commemorates a rebellion in 1200 which freed the city of a tyrannical rule. People on foot challenge the people in carts, who represent the tyrant's soldiers. Each group throws oranges at the other, the oranges represent the stones thrown in the rebellion.

Varin in North-Western Spain also has a pre-Lent food fight tradition, this time Fariñada or flour fights take place in the Plaza Mayor. Other events include masked balls, and parades of different "comparsas" people wearing the same costume, accompanied by brass bands and decorated floats.

Madeira traditionally has two carnivals at this time of year. The first, and most important, takes place on the Saturday of Carnival weekend, and it involves many samba groups with fantastic costumes and is said to rival the Rio carnival. The second called Trapalhão on Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday). The word "Trapalhão" can be translated as slapstick, and this parade is open to anyone – tourist or local, individually or in groups. Participants choose their own theme which can range from traditional to social and political satire. There are winners in four different categories - Adults, Children, Best Trapalhão, King Trapalhão and Transvestites. Each winner receives a cash prize.



Trapalhao Carnival Madeira

Amuffinn from Worcester, UK, CC BY 2.0

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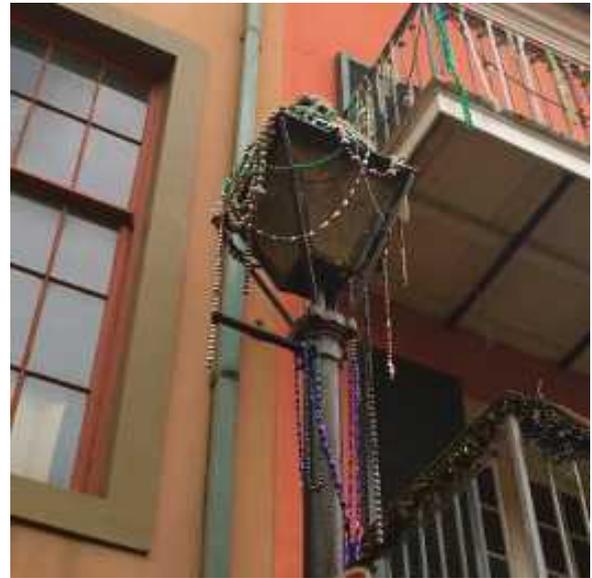
In Germany, Lent is preceded by the carnival season. Shrove Tuesday, the name of which depending on the region, could be Fastnacht, Fasching or Karneval, is a day traditionally filled with heavy foods and celebration. In some cities, the Shrove Tuesday celebrations include ceremonially burning a straw doll following a 'trial' during which the doll is charged, symbolically of all sins committed during the carnival season, convicted and ceremonially burnt.

Other parts of Germany have Weiberfastnacht (Women's Fasting) on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, when women symbolically storm their town hall, the tradition dates back to 1824 when a group of washerwomen demonstrated at their town hall against the unfairness of them having to work while men were out enjoying the carnival. This has evolved into a custom whereby women 'put men in their place' by cutting off their ties. Your Church Warden can confirm that this happened in the 1990s when he was on a business trip in Germany and women entered the restaurant he was in and cut off men's ties – he was pleased to escape with his tie intact!

Many centuries ago, German monks brewed special beers for Lent: strong and malty with a high calorie content, known as doppelbocks, which were consumed as substitutes for solid food. In Munich and the surrounding areas, Starkbeirzeit or Strong Beer Season is still celebrated.

One of the most famous places for Mardi Gras parades and floats is New Orleans. The carnival season starts on Twelfth Night, January 6th, and continues until just before midnight on Ash Wednesday. The famous parades run for 12 days, with sometimes as many as seventy parades in that period. Each parade is organised by a Krewe, which is a social organisation, in addition to parades, they stage balls. The word Krewe is said to come from the Pickwick Club in New Orleans who in 1856 named their parade the Mistick Krewe of Comus. As in France, King Cake is eaten at this time made of a plaited yeasted dough topped with purple, green and gold sugar, it contains a plastic baby figure.

Originally the parades were mainly organised and attended by the Catholic Creole community. The Creoles are a French ethnic group descended from inhabitants of Louisiana during French and Spanish rule, before it became part of the United States. The Perseverance Benevolent & Mutual Aid Association founded the first New Orleans carnival organisation 1781. In 1856 the Mistick Krewe of Comus was formed, the name taken from John Milton's Lord of Misrule in his Masque Comus. Interestingly, the membership of the Mistick Krewe has always remained secret, so much so that when in 1991, the New Orleans City Council required all krewes to identify their members, Comus chose to stop parading rather than reveal their membership. Despite all krewes needing to reveal their membership, riders on the floats are required by law to wear masks.



*Throws in New Orleans
Photograph Felicity McWilliams*

In 1872 a group of businessmen invented a King of Carnival, Rex, to preside over the first daytime parade. The well-known carnival colours of purple (justice), gold (power) and green (faith) were introduced by these businessmen to honour Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff who had been sent by Russia to the USA as a goodwill ambassador.

Today there are more than 70 krewes, whose members are charged fees to pay for the parade or ball. Fees vary enormously from about \$20 a year to thousands. Those with low fees require members to help build and decorate the floats and make their own costumes, while the more expensive hire professional float builders. Membership of some krewes is open to anyone who can pay the fee, while others are more exclusive, perhaps limited to relatives of previous members.

During the parades, krewe members throw items, known as throws from their float, into the watching crowds. The krewe members are usually responsible for buying their own throws, often beads or coins but may have their own traditional elements. For example, the all-female Krewe of Iris, founded in 1917 has approximately 3616 members, 316 floats who wear white dresses and masks throw hand-decorated sunglasses, King Cakes Babies, cups, doubloons and items decorated with Irises. Walking around New Orleans you can see throws hanging from lamp posts and buildings.

The Krewe of Orpheus was founded in 1993 by Harry Connick Jr and his father (a former New Orleans District Attorney). It grew rapidly and is now known as a 'Super Krewe' and the first to allow both male and female riders on their floats. There are about 1500 members and 38 floats. Every krewe has a 'monarch' for their parade and previous Orpheus monarchs include Fats Domino, Stevie Wonder, Glen Close and Whoopi Goldberg.

If you visit New Orleans, a 'must see' is Mardi Gras world, the workshops of Kern Studios, founded in 1932 by Roy Kern, an artist who worked his way through the Depression by painting names and signs: on ships and barges. Now the company is the leading parade designer and float builder.

Finally, in Denmark, Fastlaven is celebrated on the Sunday or Monday before Ash Wednesday.



Thomas Dahlstrøm Nielsen, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Traditionally, it is very much an event for children in fancy dress or in cat masks who use a stick to try to smash open a small barrel full of sweets, in much the same way as you would a piñata. The person who knocks out the bottom of the barrels is called the 'Kattedronning' – the queen of cats, while the person who knocks down the last piece of the barrel is called the 'Kattekonger', the king of cats.

The cat theming and terms hark back to there being a real cat in the barrel. The cat was allowed to escape once the barrel was broken. Beating a barrel and chasing away a cat symbolised beating and chasing away evil. The last known event involving a cat was in the 1880s.

Reading through all these events, does our pancake day seem tame? Do you still make and toss pancakes?

Be Part of our Good Friday Passion Play

Revd Gail

This year, on Good Friday, St Laurence will host a simple, moving Passion Play created in collaboration with the worshipping communities of St Leonard's and St Laurence. We hope this shared project will bring our two churches closer together as we retell the most powerful story of our faith in a fresh and prayerful way. We are looking for people of all ages to be involved, speaking roles, non-speaking roles, and other areas support.

Rehearsals will take place through February and March, and everyone is welcome, whether or not you've ever done anything like this before.

But why do we tell this story?

And what is a Passion play anyway?

A Passion Play is a dramatic retelling of the final days of Jesus' earthly life, his arrest, trial, suffering, death, and the love that held him through it all. The word Passion comes from the Latin *passio*, which means to suffer or to endure. The Passion is not just about death; it is about a love so deep it bears the weight of the world.

Passion Plays have been part of Christian tradition for centuries. Long before most people could read, churches and communities told the story through drama, processions, and music so that everyone could see, hear, and feel its truth.



These plays were often performed in the streets, in marketplaces, or in parish churches, ordinary spaces that became holy ground through the telling of this extraordinary story.

From medieval village performances to the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany, Christians have kept this tradition alive because the story still speaks powerfully to every generation.

Good Friday is one of the most profound days of the Christian year. It invites honesty about suffering, injustice, fear, grief, and hope experiences that shape our own lives as much as the world around us.

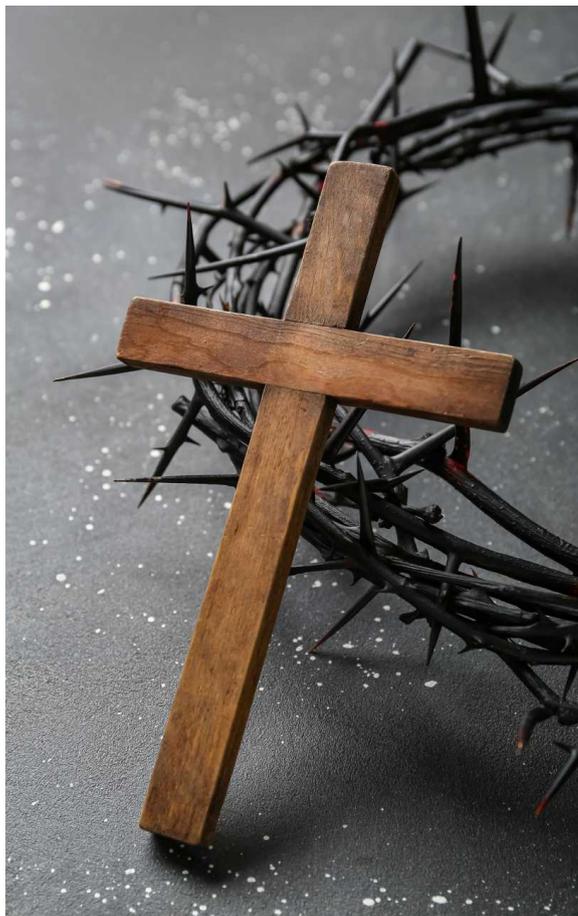
When we step into the Passion story, whether as a participant or an observer, we step into something deeply human. We recognise ourselves in the characters:

- the confusion of the disciples,
- the courage of Mary and the women at the cross,
- the questions of the crowds,
- the quiet faithfulness of those who stayed.

A Passion Play allows us to inhabit the story with our whole selves, not just reading or hearing it, but experiencing it. And in doing so, we discover again how it speaks into our own journeys: about love, sacrifice, forgiveness, courage, and the hope that rises beyond despair.

Our Passion Play will not be a grand production with stage lights or elaborate costumes. It will be a simple, heartfelt retelling of a story that still has the power to move us.

We want it to feel accessible, prayerful, and community shaped. Roles will be manageable, rehearsal time will be gentle, and the focus will always be on the story rather than performance. Whether you prefer to read a part, stand in a crowd scene, help with preparations, or costumes there is a place for you.



If you would like to be involved, or simply find out more, please speak to Revd Gail or contact the church office. No acting experience is needed. Just a willingness to join us in telling a story that continues to change lives.

Together, we will create a Good Friday moment that draws us into the heart of God's love and reminds us that this ancient story still belongs to us today.

Made in Memory: *St Leonard's Links: The Stories in our Church Building*

Philippa McWilliams

The font at St Leonard's is thought to date from the 12th or 13th century, with later, possibly 17th century, carvings of large female heads connected by their flowing hair. Above it is a large, detailed and very beautiful carved font cover from 1948 with a gilded dove on the underside. The dedication around the bottom edge is to 'Celia Margaret Beckett, 1930-1947. Buried Jan 31, 1947'.

The font cover was designed and produced by Robert Pancheri (1916-1996). He was the son of Celestino Enrico Pancheri, an Italian sculptor and carver who came to England at the end of the nineteenth century to work for the Bromsgrove Guild. Celestino specialised in ecclesiastical and architectural wood carvings, focusing on intricate work in oak. One of his works is the Gothic carved reredos in St Godwald's Church, Finstall, another being the organ case at Holy Trinity & St Mary's Church in Dodford. In 1920 he set up in business with a Mr Hack, and they bought The Old Coach House in Finstall Road, to use as their premises. You may even have been in Pancheri's workshop: it is now Banner's Café and Restaurant in Finstall.

Celestino married Florence Gibbs in 1911, and their son Robert was educated at Bromsgrove School before studying at Birmingham School of Arts and Crafts from 1934-9.



Photograph: Rose Akeroyd

After serving in the Cheshire Regiment during the war he joined his father's business, Pancheri and Son, and specialised in wood and stone carvings. He was made an associate of the Royal Society of Sculptors. Like his father, much of Robert's work was ecclesiastical, and ours is not the only church in the region home to the work of this prolific local artist and craftsman.

Other known examples of Robert's work include: a stone memorial to those who died in the Normandy landings at St Godwald's in Aston Fields, a statue at Malvern Priory, oak doors at the west end of Tardebigge church, an oak parclose screen at St Augustine's in Edgbaston, and a Portland stone relief at Sheldon Fire Station. In 1952, Robert was elected as President of the Worcestershire Guild of Artist Craftsmen at its inaugural meeting.

So, who was Celia Margaret Beckett, and why did someone commission Pancheri to make a font cover for St Leonard's in her memory?

Celia was born on 23rd January 1930 in Atcham, Shropshire, where her parents Joseph and Dorothy had been married in 1927. They were a farming family, and in 1939, Joseph and Dorothy moved, as tenant farmers, to Shortwood Farm which was situated adjacent to Weights Lane and Brockhill Farm.

There is little information about Celia's early life, but we do know that in September 1941 she joined the Alice Ottley School in Worcester as a boarding pupil. Her parents had divorced but both had remarried in 1942. In December 1946, Celia left the Alice Ottley School, who described her as most attractive, likeable and popular with both pupils and teachers. She returned home to Beoley, where her mother and stepfather now lived at Church Hill Farm (and would remain until the mid-1950s).

It had been arranged with family friends that Celia would travel with family friends, Mr and Mrs Thomas Cond, to Bulawayo in what is now Zimbabwe.



*Robert Pancheri: Parclose Screen, St Augustine's Edgbaston
ProCivitate, CC BY-SA 3.0 ProCivitate, CC BY-SA 3.0*

Thomas Cond had worked for a printing business in Birmingham before the war, during which he flew thousands of miles training aircrews in the RAF. He met his wife, the daughter of a farmer, in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and the family was returning there with Thomas intending to become partner in his father-in-law's farm. Celia was to stay with the Conds and help look after their two children: Peter (2.5 years old) and Hilary (5 Months).

The plan was to fly from Croydon to Salisbury (Harare) via Rome, Cairo and Nairobi. Celia celebrated her seventeenth birthday on Thursday 23rd January, and two days later, following several postponements due to bad weather, she arrived with her mother and stepfather at Croydon Airport to meet up with the Cond family and start her big adventure, flying with Spencer's Airways.

Croydon Airport wasn't a strange choice of departure point for the group. It had Britain's first purpose-built terminal and control tower, and had been the departure point for world record breaking flights such as Amy Johnson's 1930 solo flight from England to Australia. It was also the place where the Mayday distress signal originated in 1923, when airport radio officer Frederick Mockford suggested it as the phonetic equivalent of the French m'aider to overcome the challenges of hearing the 'S' in SOS over the radio.

Britain's first intercontinental routes commenced from Croydon, including the well-known Imperial Airways. By 1946, London Airport (renamed Heathrow in 1966) was the main international airport because Croydon could not accommodate new, larger aeroplanes and still had grass runways, but Croydon was still busy: a September 1946 ABC Guide shows that there were 218 departures a week.



Croydon Airport 1945. PD-BRITISHGOV

Spencer's Airways had been set up by Edward 'Ted' Spencer in the inter-war years while stationed with the British South African Police at Victoria Falls on the present-day Zambia-Zimbabwe border. Ted had noticed increasing numbers of tourists visiting Victoria Falls, and in 1923 set up a car hire company to serve the visitors when they disembarked from the train.



Victoria Falls

Photograph: James McWilliams

In 1935, he bought his first aeroplane – a second-hand De Havilland 83 in which he trained, then qualified, as a pilot. Using this aircraft, he set up Spencer's Airways offering short flights over the Victoria Falls, based at an airstrip he created himself on the south banks.

The flights were known as 'The Flight of the Angels'. The two-hour game-viewing flights he also offered proved popular, covering parts of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Spencer seems to have been a bit of a daredevil and is recorded as practising aerobatics which amazed people on the ground to the extent that 'Spensaar' became a locally adopted exclamation of amazement. There is a local legend that he was the first person to fly a fixed wing plane under the Victoria Falls Bridge. He appears to still be remembered in Zimbabwe, with his DH Fox Moth aircraft featured on a local 2014 postage stamp.

The DC-37 Spencer scheduled for Celia's Croydon to Harare flight was an ex-military aircraft, converted for passenger use. It had been flown from the USA to Heathrow airport, just three days previously. The plane was transferred to Croydon on 24 January and on its arrival, the long-range fuel tanks had been removed and the seats fitted. Spencer himself was the pilot, and he had offered free seats to married ex-servicemen emigrating to southern Africa.

The 25th January was a wintry day, foggy, with ice on the ground. It was still snowing as eighteen passengers and five crew walked to the plane, pausing for a group photograph before boarding. Celia's mother and stepfather, Dorothy and Gerald Hill, had remained at the airport to watch the flight depart.

The flight took off from runway 12 while snow was falling, and as it reached a height of about 100 feet, banked right, stalled, then at 11:41, crashed and slid into a parked Czech airlines C47 where two technicians were working. Both planes burst into flames, and it is reported that relatives and friends who had watched the plane crash rushed to try and save passengers but were beaten back by the flames. One can only imagine the horror of Gerald and Dorothy, who saw the crash unfold.

Seven passengers and four crew members managed to escape from the burning plane, but Celia and the Cond family were among the twelve who died. Other victims included three nuns from La Sagesse Convent in London who were going as missionaries to Nyasaland (Malawi); a survivor said that one of the nuns pushed him to safety. The co-pilot, a Mr Fisher, who lived in Harborne was one of those who managed to escape, along with the Radio Officer Peter Hyde. Some of those who escaped talked of having to remove luggage stored in front of the doors.

The crash investigation found that the probable cause of the crash was 'loss of control by the captain, who, when attempting to take-off a heavily loaded aircraft in poor visibility, allowed it to become airborne in a semi-stalled condition'. Contributory conditions were found to be heavy weight; the fuselage, wings and tail being covered by snow; poor techniques on the part of the pilot; and poor judgment and fatigue of the crew. The radio operator and co-pilot stated that the starboard engine had lacked pressure in the morning but it was OK before the flight. However, an aircraft engineer at Croydon made a statement saying he had witnessed that the starboard engine was 'in a bad state', popping and spluttering before the aircraft had taken off.

Of Ted Spencer himself, it transpired that he had no permit to fly (with or without passengers), had an engineer's licence and no experience of this type of aeroplane, there was not a trained navigator on board, and the autopilot was broken. Spencer was said to have worked all the previous day and most of the night working on the plane and had only had about two hours sleep.

which was not endorsed for that particular aircraft, and had failed to notify authorities in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) of his intended departure for southern Africa.

Reading these facts, you would be forgiven for thinking this was a rare incident but sadly, it was not.

Worldwide there were three DC3/C47 crashes on that day alone. The very day following the Croydon crash which killed Celia and the Conds, there was another take-off crash, this time at Copenhagen's Kastrup Airport, an incident which took the life of Prince Gustaf of Sweden. Over the course of 1947, there were 55 crashes of that same aircraft type.

Following the Croydon crash, at least, the Ministry of Civil Aviation instituted strict checks and inspections were carried out at controlled airfields to ensure air worthiness certificates and crew licences were routinely checked to ensure compliance. We don't know why the Conds chose Spencer's Airways for their journey - perhaps the family had heard of or even taken one of his sightseeing flights in Zimbabwe before or during the war.

Fortunately, such air disasters are much rarer today than they were in those first early years of international passenger air travel, and the lessons learnt from such incidents helped to bring about many of the safety protocols we rely on today. For 17-year-old Celia, the young Cond family, and their surviving friends and families from Beoley to Bulawayo, though, this was nothing but a tragedy.

Celia was buried at St Leonard's on 31st January 1947. Her loved ones commissioned a talented local artist to make a truly beautiful font cover for our church in her memory, and I know that I will now always think of her when I see it.



*Underside of Font Cover
Photograph: Rose Akeroyd*



*Celia's Grave in St Leonard's Churchyard
Photograph: Ray Moore*

**PRAYERS AND ANOINTING FOR
HEALING AND WHOLENESS**

Healing Eucharist

**St Leonard's Church,
Beoley**

3rd Sundays at 11.15am

18th January

19th April

19th July

20th September

15th November

**St Laurence Church,
Alvechurch**

4th Sundays at 11.15am

22nd February

26th April

23rd August

25th October



Book Review

Wardrobes and Rings - Through Lenten Lands with the Inklings

By Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite, and Simon Horobin

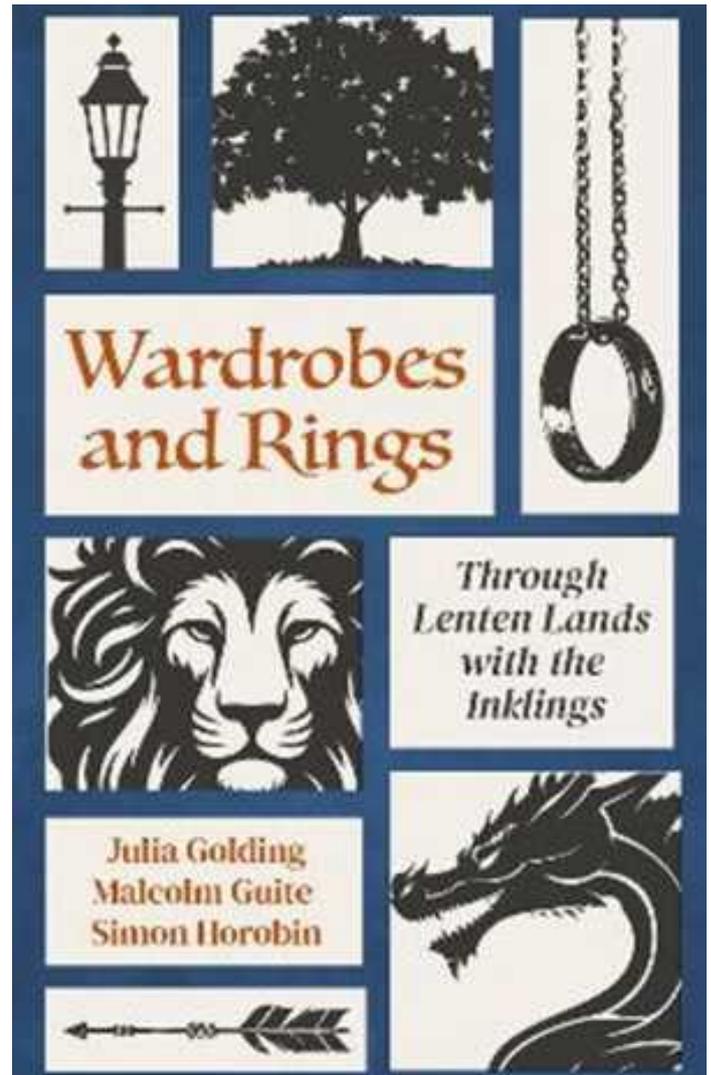
Drawing on the work of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as friends of the Inklings such as Dorothy Sayers and T.S. Eliot, this book explores through their eyes a faith which is tinged with seriousness, creativity and joy.

Using their fiction, poetry, and essays, the book offers daily readings and reflections on the cross and resurrection, helping you to rediscover Lent through the lens of imagination-infused faith vibrant stories of our lives unfold.

About the authors

Julia Golding is a multi-award winning author of books for both adults and children. In 2019 she was writer-in-residence at the Royal Institution. She has also been a British Diplomat in Poland and later for Oxfam as a policy adviser on conflict issues, campaigning at the United Nations and with governments to lessen the impact of conflict on civilians living in war zones.

Malcolm Guite, ordained in the Church of England in 1991 has written extensively on Christian theology and practice. He teaches in the graduate theology programme at the Cambridge Theological Foundation, is a singer and guitarist in the band Mystery Train, and writes the Poet's Corner column for the Church Times.



Canterbury Press £12.99

Simon Horobin is a professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Oxford and author of seven books.

He has given an interview on C.S. Lewis' Oxford to the C.S. Lewis Foundation. to watch this on YouTube [follow this link](#).

God in the Arts

‘Menorah’

Painting by Roger Wagner

Roger Wagner, a poet and artist, was born on 28 February 1957. He graduated from Oxford with a degree in English Literature. He then studied at the Royal Academy School of Art. His art work ranges from book illustrations to large canvases which juxtapose traditional religious images with contemporary symbols in a startling and interesting way.

Didcot Power Station used to consist of two parts: Didcot A, opened in 1970 and was a combined coal and oil power plant while Didcot B, still operational, is powered by natural gas. Together the site had a chimney, demolished in 2020, which at 200m tall was one of the tallest structures in the UK, and six 144m high cooling towers.

Wagner used Didcot Power Station as the background of *Menorah* an oil on canvas painting measuring approximately 1.57m high by 1.96m wide. The central chimney and the cooling towers around form the shape of the seven-branched candlestick of Judaism. In front of them are the three crosses of Calvary. Around the scene of crucifixion we can see a couple consoling each other in the foreground and isolated individuals wandering in the mud in grief and perplexity. They are dressed in Hasidic robes.



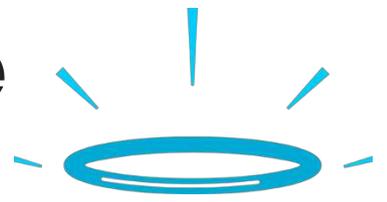
Here in ‘Menorah’ the figure of Jesus is insignificant against the immense scale of industrial buildings spewing out pollution into the bright sky.

The mourners around look like figures in a concentration camp: victims of man’s inhumanity to man. The cooling towers are a vivid reminder of our violation and destruction of mother earth.

The painting belongs to the Ashmolean Museum, but is currently housed at St Giles’ Church Oxford.

Wagner is also an author: one of his works *The Book of Praises* is a selection of Psalms, each translated and accompanied by his artwork, both paintings and wood engravings.

Saint Valentine 14 February



Rose Akeroyd

Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated traditionally on 14 February, with the popular belief being that Valentine was a priest from Rome, living in the third century AD.

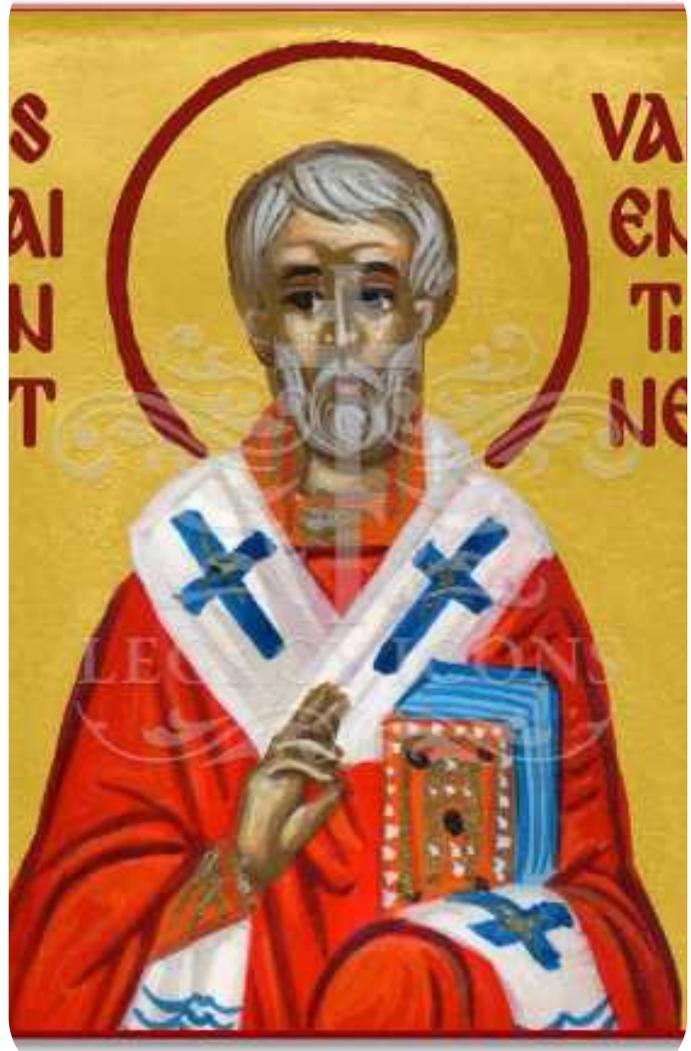
There are, in fact, two stories about who he was. The first one seems to date from the reign of Emperor Claudius II who had banned marriage because he believed that married men made bad soldiers. Valentine did not agree with this, thinking that it was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret.

The Emperor was enraged when he found out about this and he had Valentine thrown into jail and sentenced to death.

While in jail, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter, and, being of a romantic disposition, when Valentine was taken to be killed on 14 February, he sent her a love letter signed "From your Valentine".

The other Valentine sometimes mentioned was a Bishop of Terni, who was martyred in Rome.

There is little reliable evidence of the actions of either of these men and it is claimed that maybe the two Valentines were one man. There is little to connect either man with lovers or courting couples, but the story has grown into the big celebration we know now.



It was not until the fifth century, when Pope Gelasius supposedly wanted to oust the festival of Lupercalia on 15 February, which he considered to be an occasion of debauchery involving excessive merriment, animal sacrifices and random behaviour.

The Pope removed this festival and replaced it with a much gentler affair commemorating Valentine on his execution date.

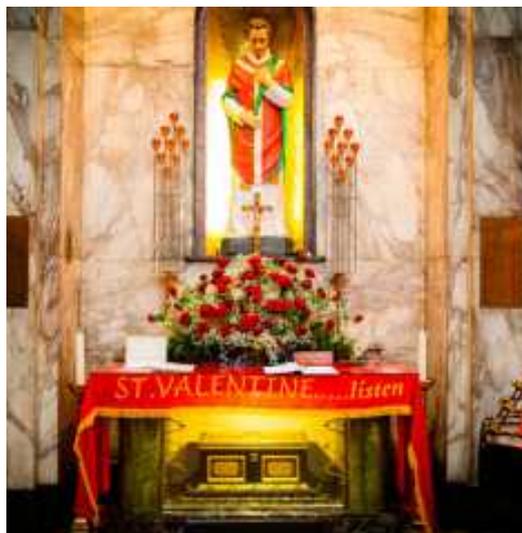
Valentine's Day became a day to celebrate love much later in the fourteenth century and it is suggested that this originated from the poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer. His poem, "The Parlement of Foules", written in 1380 - 90, is the first connection between Valentine's Day and celebrating love. Chaucer wrote, "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird comes to choose his mate".

Since then, the tradition of displaying love to a significant other has developed into a massive industry, all beginning with a man about to be executed.

There seem to be no churches in England dedicated to Saint Valentine but since 1835, his relics have been claimed by a Church in Dublin. In that year, Father Francis John Spratt, an Irish Carmelite left Dublin to visit Rome. There, he preached in the Jesuit church and word of his eloquence reached Pope Gregory XVI, who gave him Saint Valentine's relics as a mark of esteem.

In 1836, a metal casket containing a cedar box, inside which were some bones and a vessel said to be tinged with blood was sealed by the Vicar General in Rome.

The metal casket and its contents arrived in Dublin in November of that year and was taken in procession to Whitefriars Street Church.



On November 10, 1836, it was installed in the sanctuary during a High Mass presided over by Archbishop Murray with Father Spratt preaching the sermon.

Some years later, the casket was placed under the high altar for safekeeping during renovations to the church and largely forgotten about.

Following re-discovery of the casket in 1940, a statue by the Dublin artist Irene Broe was installed in 1956. After a High Mass on February 14, 1956, presided over by Archbishop Levame, Apostolic Nuncio, the casket was placed in its current shrine.

It is reported that the Shrine is visited throughout the year by couples who come to pray to Valentine and ask the saint to watch over them in their lives together.

Love CHRISTMAS

A huge Thank You to everyone who donated to our Christmas 2025 Christmas Appeal

Jackie & Chris Prevett - on behalf of the Love Christmas Team

Through your generosity, and the generosity of others, we were able to provide 193 Bags of Kindness for those who may be struggling, had a bad year, were bereaved or might be lonely and for whom a small act of love at Christmas shows that they are not forgotten.

Love Christmas was founded in 2020 in London as part of the emergency response to the Covid pandemic. It has since spread throughout the UK and is led by churches of all denominations.

In 2024, the Love Christmas campaign provided 94,000 Bags of Kindness across the UK, involving 1,200 churches and other organisations. Overall, an amazing 1.8 million bags have been delivered since it started.

St Leonard's first started the initiative locally in 2021, working with partners including Abbeywood First School, Beoley First School, Church Hill Middle School, Moons Moat First School and the YMCA. We are also generously supported by Morrisons, Redditch Lions Club, Redditch Rotary Club and Redditch Round Table. Age UK and local Councillors give us valuable assistance with distributing the Bags.



Each Bag of Kindness provides a gift of mainly festive food items, plus a letter or poem from the school children and a Christmas card using designs provided by children from each of the schools.

It has been both humbling and a joy to see the reaction of recipients of the bags, who have said how appreciative they are of the gifts and how touched they are by the card and the letters from the children.

Over the 5 years that we have been running the campaign, we have more than doubled the number of bags delivered locally. This could not have been achieved without the generous donations from the DCC and members of our congregations.

Thank you all so much.

Another St Leonard's

Philippa McWilliams

On a recent holiday in Yorkshire, in Malton I spotted a sign for a road to St Leonard's Church. Given Rose's challenge in the last magazine, it had to be investigated.

The church was founded in 1190 by Gilbertine canons from St Mary's Priory in Malton as a chapel of ease. The Gilbertine order of canons was founded by Saint Gilbert in 1130 in Lincolnshire where he was a parish priest. It was the only completely English religious order and ended in the Sixteenth Century with the Dissolution of the monasteries.

The main features surviving from the original building are the lower parts of the tower, and the Romanesque arcade on the north side of the nave and chancel. The font also probably dates from the Twelfth Century. The tower has a peal of eight Eighteenth Century Bells. The building, like many others was considerably altered and added to in the Nineteenth Century.

At the time of the Reformation, the church changed to become a Church of England place of worship and continued as such until 1969 when it was closed. However, in 1971 as an Ecumenical gesture of goodwill, it was presented to the Roman Catholic Church - the first time this had happened. It is the oldest church currently used by Catholics in England. On the handover, the name was changed to St Leonard's with St Mary's to incorporate the name of the chapel that the Catholic community had been using in Malton. A stained glass window from St Mary's has been placed in St Leonard's.



Photograph Courtesy of Nick Fletcher



St Mary's Window

With thanks to St Leonard's & St Mary's RC Church Malton for permission to use information from their website and the St Mary's window photograph for this article, and for providing the photograph taken by Nick Fletcher.

Meet the RMA Leadership Team

Elaine Whitfield

The Redditch Mission Area (RMA) is driven by a singular vision: seeing churches flourish, communities served, and lives transformed by God. Our focused Leadership Team works collaboratively to turn this vision into reality through strategic partnership and sustainable growth.

Rev Canon Paul Lawlor – Mission Area Leader

Paul provides the spiritual and strategic compass for the RMA. Tasked with "apostolic oversight," he ensures our diverse churches move as one cohesive ecosystem rather than isolated parishes. With deep experience in navigating change, he balances tradition with innovation, mentoring both clergy and laypeople to step into their giftings.



In his dual capacity, Paul brings the following to the Mission Area:

As Area Dean	As Mission Area Leader
Heads up Chapter and helps clergy to support each other.	Works with Church Leadership teams to focus on Mission Acceleration & Growth
Contributes to the formation and implementation of diocesan strategy for growth and sustainability.	Supports teams seeking to encourage New Worshipping communities and children/youth work development.
Organises Deanery Synod alongside the DLT and Lay Chair.	Manages the Dedicated Central Team (Youth, Families, Community, Operations) and volunteer staff.
Handles Vacancies.	Provides teaching to encourage an outward-looking culture and willingness to explore new pathways.
	Spends time with volunteers to provide coaching, equipping, and mentoring to develop collaboration
	Ensures a sustainable future by encouraging local generosity, securing funding, and maximizing income.

Alix Stockwell – Operations Manager

Alix is the architect of our stability, bridging the gap between vision and execution through robust governance, finance, and compliance. By streamlining systems, she frees local leaders to focus on ministry rather than paperwork.



Alix's role for these first months is currently in three parts

- **To lead the Redditch Mission Area charity** both operationally and administratively.
- **To support RMA** in the recruitment and onboarding of the three funded roles (Children's and Families worker, Youth Worker, Community Missioner).
- **To meet with the twelve churches** in a variety of ways: through their leadership, parochial structures, and their events to see how each worshipping community is running.

She looks forward to meeting you, if she has not already!

Elaine Whitfield – Church & Mission Support Coordinator

Elaine is a catalyst for outreach, bringing a hands-on approach to implementing projects and supporting local initiatives. Her background in media, events, and community engagement makes her a key asset to our outward-facing team.



Elaine's core foci includes:

- **Project & Event Leadership:** Leading the annual "Make Christmas Special" Toy Appeal and other mission-critical projects.
- **Creative Communication & Research:** Applying creative skills to content creation for newsletters and social media; researching grants, fundraising, and problem-solving.
- **Community Interface:** Visiting churches to nurture relationships, identify community needs, and facilitate project delivery as a point of contact for mission activities.
- **Mission Support:** Assisting churches with outward-facing initiatives such as Eco Church, Chaplaincy, and building management, leading where appropriate.

She is passionately committed to walking alongside our churches to help more people encounter a living relationship with God.

One Team, One Mission

We don't replace local leadership; we resource it. Together, we provide the spiritual oversight and operational momentum needed to help the people of Redditch encounter hope and faith

Christmas Market Gallery

John & Philippa McWilliams

The Christmas Market held on 6 December at Willow Trees was again a success with visitor numbers growing each year. Father Christmas' Grotto was also visited by more children, and it was lovely to see many of them eagerly searching the market hall for nativity images in order to get stamps to complete their collecting card and get a prize from Revd Gail.

Rose looking after the Children's Games



Revd Gail's Craft Table

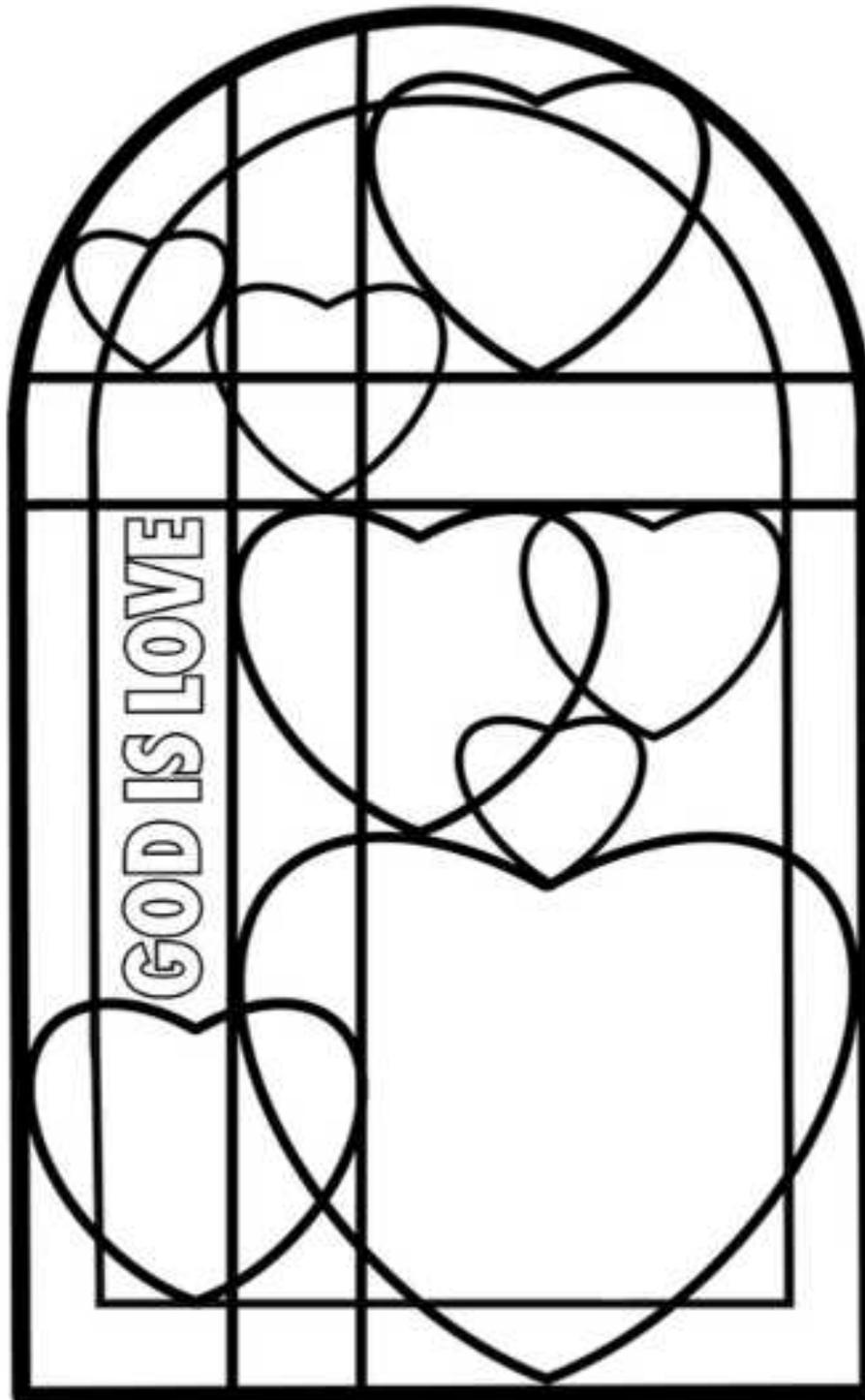
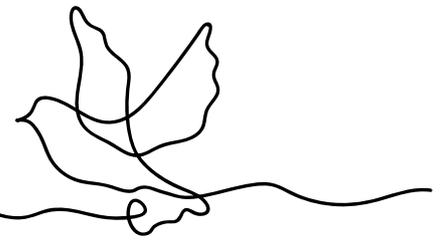


The welcoming and popular cafe

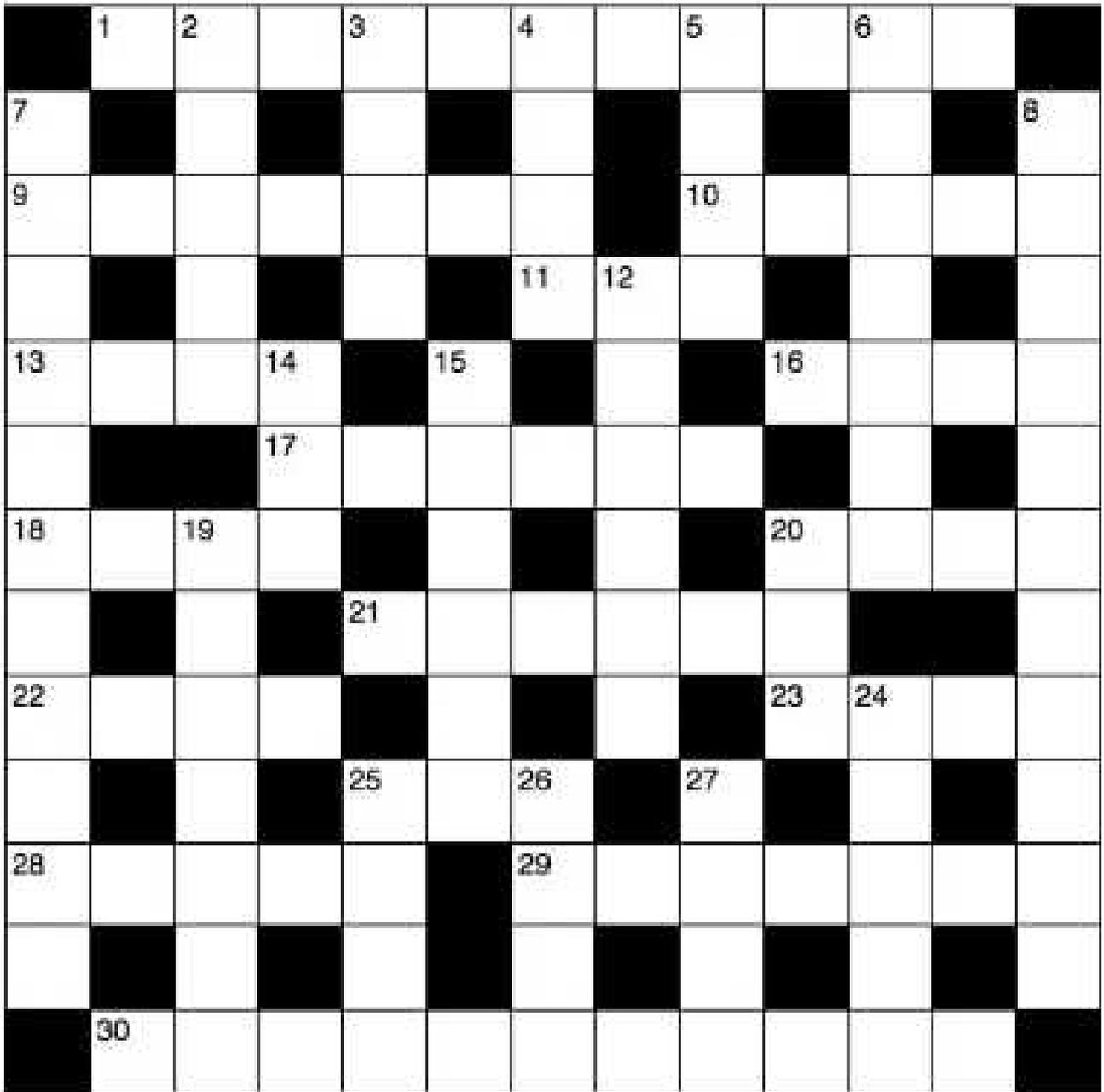
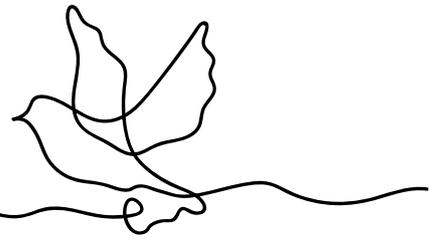


Miniature Christmas trees for sale

Holy Doodles

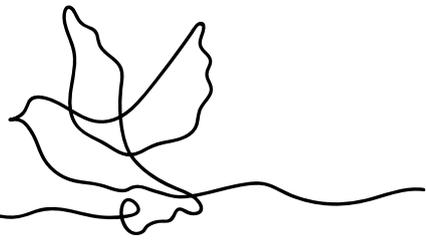


Crossword



Answers on page 32

Clues



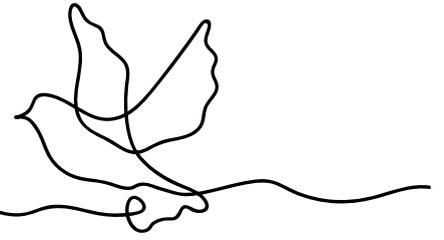
Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not – me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The – of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you – – and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You – me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the – of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of – that had been – , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is – –; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his – of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, – the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be – in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come – and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul – with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord – – ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; – and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Word Search



Lent and Mothering Sunday

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter.

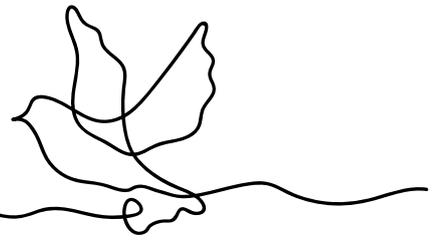
It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage.



How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

- Lent
- spiritual
- easter
- preparation
- fasting
- prayer
- desert
- selfdenial
- repentance
- seeking
- finding
- growing
- mothers
- love
- care
- nurture
- learning
- teaching
- disciples
- worldwide
- flowers
- thankyou
- nursing
- family

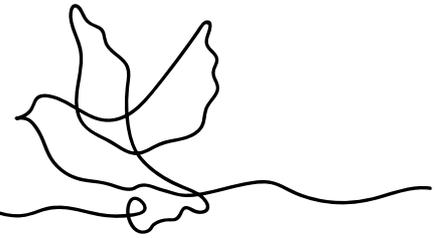
Word Search



e	e	f	e	p	d	n	t	l	y	r	l	g	p	i
l	c	r	t	r	r	y	f	a	m	i	l	y	n	u
a	a	n	e	e	i	a	g	i	e	t	e	n	u	h
c	g	u	a	d	s	h	y	n	n	e	i	i	r	e
u	s	n	t	t	i	o	r	e	i	d	w	r	s	i
o	t	n	i	i	n	w	l	d	r	n	i	t	i	t
y	r	n	r	h	r	e	d	f	w	n	r	n	n	t
k	g	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	g	a	g	u
n	o	i	t	a	r	a	p	e	r	p	r	k	e	f
a	g	g	n	i	k	e	e	s	r	o	o	r	r	l
h	l	n	t	k	t	a	h	t	i	e	w	t	u	o
t	a	h	r	i	y	s	e	t	h	l	i	n	t	w
a	o	e	l	e	l	t	i	a	o	c	n	a	r	e
t	i	i	p	t	r	e	e	v	l	m	g	d	u	r
p	i	l	d	e	t	r	e	s	e	d	m	f	n	s

Answers on page 32

Holy Doodle Solutions



CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

WordSearch





Church Calendar

Date	Place	Time	Event
1 Feb	St Leonard's	9:15	Team Worship
		11:15	Holy Communion
	Willow Trees	16:00	Church @4
2 Feb	Tapestry Room	10:00	Craft and Chat
5 Feb	St Leonard's	10:00	BCP
8 Feb	St Leonard's	9:15	Informal Holy Communion
		11:15	Morning Worship
14 Feb	St Leonards	10:00 - 16:00	Snowdrop Weekend
15 Feb	St Leonard's	10:30	United Holy Communion
		13:00 - 16:00	Snowdrop Weekend
22 Feb	St Leonard's	09:15	Informal Worship
		11:15	Morning Worship
23 Feb	Tapestry Room	12:30	Beoley MU
24 Feb	Tapestry room	10:30	Friendship Group



Church Calendar

Date	Place	Time	Event
1 Mar	St Leonard's	09:15	Team Worship
		11:15	Holy Communion
	Willow Trees	16:00	Church@4
2 Mar	St Leonard's	10:00	Craft and Chat
5 Mar	St Leonard's	10:00	BCP
8 Mar	St Leonard's	09:15	Informal Holy Communion
		11:15	Morning Worship
15 Mar	St Leonard's	10:30	Mothering Sunday United Worship
17 Mar	Golden Goose	12:30	St Patrick's Day Dine Out
22 Mar	St Leonard's	09:15	Informal Worship
		11:15	Morning Worship
23 Mar	Tapestry Room	12:30	Beoley MU
24 Mar	Tapestry Room	10:30	Friendship Group
29 Mar	St Laurence's	10:30	Palm Sunday All Together (Meet 10:15 in The Square if you wish to join the procession)
30 Mar	Tapestry Room	09:00	Poets, Prayer & Food
31 Mar	Rowney Green Chapel	12:00	Poets, Prayer & Food



Church Calendar

Date	Place	Time	Event
1 Apr	The Ark	15:00	Poets, Prayer & Food
2 Apr	St Leonard's	10:00	Holy Communion & Altar Stripping
Good Friday 3 Apr	St Laurence's	10:30	A simple Passion Play
	St Leonard's	12:00 - 14:00	Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
		14:00	Good Friday Liturgy
	St Laurence's	19:00	A Simple Passion Play. A repeat of the morning story of the Passion
5 Apr	St Leonard's	09:15	Team Worship
		11:15	Holy Communion
6 Apr	St Leonard's	10:00	Craft and Chat
12 Apr	St Leonard's	09:15	Informal Holy Communion
		11:15	Morning Worship
19 Apr	St Leonard's	09:15	Informal Worship
		11:15	Healing Eucharist
26 Apr	St Leonard's	09:15	Informal Worship
		11:15	Morning Worship
27 Apr	Tapestry Room	12:30	Beoley MU
28 Apr	Tapestry Room	10:30	Friendship Group

Looking Ahead



ADCM

Sunday 17 May

Breakfast in the Tapestry Room from 9:30
United Service and ACDM 10:30



Dine Out Together

June - Date to be confirmed

Keep a look out for more details and the
sign up sheet, and notices in Pews News



4 July

St Leonard's Annual Fete

Dates of planning meetings will be
announced in church and Pews
News.



July

Provisional Date 27 July tbc
Beoley MU Strawberry Tea



Henry is making a real effort for Lent –
he's giving up the remote control and
walking to the TV

Contacts



Church Office:

email: church-beoleyandalvechurch@outlook.com

phone: 0121 447 7955

Open: Tuesday - Thurs. 09:30-13:30



Marriage

Wedding preparation sessions for couples marrying at either St Leonard or St Laurence churches are held at St Leonard's every other Thursday evening between 6pm and 8pm.



Baptism

Baptism preparation sessions are held on the first Sunday of every month at 3pm at the YMCA Willow Trees Community Centre, Church Hill, B98 9JL



Funerals

Please contact the office using the details above