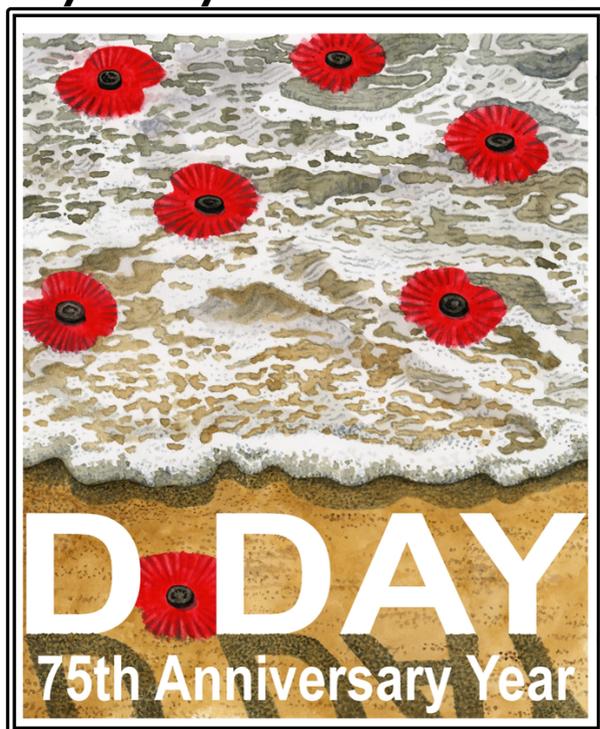


The Holsworthy Benefice Magazine November 2019

**For the Parishes of the United Benefice of
Holsworthy, Bridgerule, Hollacombe,
Pyworthy with Pancrasweek**



www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

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If you have anything you would like to be considered for publication in our magazine please give it to the editor by the 20th of the preceding month. It can be sent by email or hand written. Our printer in Bude can usually reproduce photographs to a reasonable standard. If you want any hard copy or pictures returned please ensure your name and address is on the back.

This magazine is produced for the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul Holsworthy; St. Bridget's, Bridgerule; St. Petroc, Hollacombe; St. Swithun, Pyworthy; St. Pancras, Pancrasweek; and is the only publication promoting the views and vision of the benefice.

The contents of this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the individual PCC's but are those of individual contributors.

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...but if you respond to one of our advertisers please tell them you saw their advert in our Benefice Magazine.

Not from the rectory

I would first like to thank all those who helped me celebrate 25 years of Reader ministry either by coming to the service or by being part of the card and gift I received. I shall spend the money on books but will check that I can use Amazon as the type of book I go for is not in the local bible book shop though they are good for the general Christian reader. If you are ever in Bude do take time to go and have a look you may find something that you would like to read yourself.

As I write this there is still no way forward, the country still lives in uncertainty and stress. I would find it extremely difficult to know how to write so am instead including part of the Bishops pastoral letter that speaks to our times.

Yours Reader Mary

Dear Friends in Christ

Bishop Nick, Bishop Jackie and I are writing to you at a crucial moment in the story of our nation. Though there have been detailed negotiations about our future relationship with the EU this week, the political landscape is constantly shifting and we still don't know exactly how things will play out. What is certain is that we will need to find new ways of relating to our neighbouring countries in Europe.

There are also deep divisions in our nation. Whichever way you voted in the 2016 referendum, what cannot be denied is how profoundly unsettling and politically divisive the current situation is for many people. How should we as Christians respond and pray in this turmoil?

The Church of England must continue to be the Church for everyone. There are leavers and remainers in every congregation in Devon, but as Christians we are united by our shared responsibility to work for the common good and to promote a culture of mutual respect. We also have a responsibility to speak out for the most vulnerable in our communities and to help them as best we can. Are there practical things we can do by way of support? As a Diocese, we have an incredible network of parishes, schools and chaplaincies across Devon. If we work together, we can make a difference.

Food Banks At this time of enormous uncertainty, it is likely that foodbanks will come under additional strain. So please think about giving extra support to the food banks in your area. Ensure that stocks are high and that your local centre is staffed by enough volunteers.

Supporting our Farming Community The farming community in Devon is coming under increasing pressure with the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. It is highly likely that our beef and sheep farmers will be particularly badly hit if the Government does not step in to support. And, of course, it is not only farmers who will be affected, but their workers, contractors and suppliers, and all the inter-related businesses in the rural economy.

Supporting our Fishing Community There is also uncertainty facing Devon's fishing community, where traditionally wages are low and the work dangerous. Questions remain over what changes there might be to fishing quotas, the export of fish into Europe and the rules about who can access the fishing grounds surrounding Devon's coastline.

Finally, one thing we can all do is to pray for the unity and reconciliation of our nation, for our politicians and community leaders, for journalists and all who shape public opinion. Let us pray that, strengthened by the Spirit of unity and truth, we embrace positively whatever the next chapter holds for our nation and walk together in love, compassion and hope.

**God of hope, in these times of change,
unite our nation and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

News from the Churches in our Benefice

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

By Bob Beckford

Thank you for all your good wishes and thank you also to everyone who has helped out during my unexpected stay in hospital and during my recovery. It has been very helpful for me to know that I did not have to worry about church whilst I have been unwell. Hopefully the cause of my problem has been resolved and I will soon be firing on all cylinders again. It was unfortunate that this coincided with the preparation of this magazine publication so please accept my apologies for the late arrival of this edition.



Reminder - Please let me know if you want anything mentioning in the December edition about special events you may be holding leading up to Christmas.

Sunday Night Club

NEW for youth 13+ year olds. 1st and 3rd Sundays 6-8pm this started on 6th November and is going well. If you know of anyone in that age range who might be interested, please speak to Mother Elizabeth or Ruth Jones (Ecumenical Youth Worker)

The Friend's of Holsworthy Parish Church St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw

The winners of the Draw, drawn on 20th October were –
1st Prize, £26.00 – ticket number 39, Lynda from Trewyn Park
2nd Prize, £5.20 – ticket number 89, Annette from Belle Vue

You can still purchase a ticket and join in for the next 5 months, price of the ticket to be included in the November draw is £5. Please speak to Helen Narborough our treasurer or a member of the PCC if you would like to purchase a ticket.

St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey

After a busy September, October has been quieter. We are all very sorry to hear Rev Stuart Wilson has had a stay in The R.D&E Hospital but hope he will soon be home and well on his way to recovery. We are all thinking of him and hold him & his family in our prayers.



We had the pleasure of welcoming Canon Tim Newcombe to celebrate our Holy Communion on 19th Oct. What would we do without our retired clergy.

As Rev Wilson was planning to come to us at 9am on Christmas Day we will have to wait and see what new arrangements can be made so please keep an eye on next month's magazine, the web site etc.

Services in November

SUNDAY 3rd 3pm Evensong
SUNDAY 17th 9.30am Holy Communion

Services in December

SUNDAY 1st 3pm Evensong

FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER 3pm TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE followed by Seasonal Refreshments.

Bodmin Street Methodist Church Notes

By Crispin King

“The Friendship Club”

The Club now meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday every month in Bodmin Street from 2.30 to 4.00pm. The next dates are Thursday 7th and 21st November and everyone is welcome to come and chat, play games – eat cakes and drink tea.

“Pray Course”

The Methodist church in Bodmin Street are running an 8 week “Pray course” which is open to everyone. The course has started but you would be welcome to join it on Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. &.30pm at the Bodmin Street Schoolroom.

For more information on both these events please contact Michelle on 07494 687030 or 07949 687030



Holsworthy Methodist Church Thursday Group Programme 2018/2019



2019

Nov 14th “CHANGES I’VE SEEN” Gerry Szembek

Nov 28th “A HOLIDAY IN CHINA” John Addicott

Dec 12th “CHRISTMAS EVENING”

2020

Jan 2nd “FORMATION OF HOLSWORTHY TRAVEL” Ron Gerry

Jan 16th “THE MAN SHED & YOUTH CENTRE” John Allin

Jan 30th “MY JOURNEY TO HERE” Michelle Hogarth

Feb 13th “THE CINNAMON TRUST” Tricia Glover

Feb 27th “COMING UP FROM DOWN UNDER” Lynda and Cliff Vickery

March 12th “OLD LAUNCESTON” Rob Tremain

March 26th “THE MARATIME ISLANDS” John & Stella Burnard

April 9th “MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION” Clive Smale

April 23rd “A GAMES EVENING” Sylvia Simpson

May 7th “MY VISIT TO JAPAN” Christine Williams

May 21st AGM Followed by Hilary Vivian

All meetings at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise, for further information please contact Doreen Buckingham (Tel: 253462)

General News from The Parish Pump

NEW BOOK SHOWS THAT 'THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT' IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

Caption - Bishop Robert hosted the launch of Richard Frost's new book, 'Life with St Benedict'.



In our modern age of fast paced living, the writings of a monk who lived 1,500 years ago offer the perfect anecdote to the busyness of life. In his new book, *Life with St Benedict*, Richard Frost uses the *Rule of St Benedict* as the basis for daily reflections. Through his new book Richard hopes to help people “relate their faith to ordinary day to day life”. He hopes that readers will see a relationship with God as more than just something that is done on a Sunday, and that by bringing our modern-day stresses and struggles to God, we can draw closer to Him and deepen our faith in Him.

Bishop Robert, who hosted the book launch, spent 10 years as a Benedictine Monk and is hugely supportive of the new book. Speaking at the book launch last night, he said that people today could find the emphasis on listening extremely valuable. “St Benedict talks about prayer as **learning to listen to God with the ear of our hearts**. And if we could all do that then not only would our own spiritual life find a renewal and a resurgence, but also it would bring new life to the people of God and the church in this diocese.”

The book is split into daily devotionals and can be started at any time of year. For each day there is an extract from the *Rule*, followed by a short reflection, reading and a prayer.

Copies of the book are available from all Christian bookshops (including Bridge Books, Exeter) or from <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/products/life-with-st-benedict-the-rule-re-imagined-for-everyday-living>

Ministry statistics published

The number of female clergy in the Church of England continues to rise with more women than men entering training for ordained ministry for the second year running, according to recently published statistics.

More women, 54%, than men began training for ordained ministry in 2018, for the second year running. Just under a third, or 30%, of the estimated 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England were female compared to 27% in 2014, according to Ministry Statistics for 2018.

The report also shows the proportion of senior posts such as dean or bishop occupied by women rose from 23 per cent to 25 per cent over the last year. The figures do not take into account six new appointments of female bishops this year, bringing the total so far to 24.

The proportion of people identifying as from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds starting training for ordained ministry in the Church of England rose to 8% in 2018, compared to 4% in 2016.

Around a third, or 33%, of people beginning their training last year were under 35 years old and more than half, or 53%, were under 45.

Meanwhile the number of men and women ordained as deacon rose from 485 in 2016 to 535 in 2019.

The figures have been released as the Church of England seeks to fulfil a key target of a 50% increase in the number of candidates for ordination as part of its programme of Renewal and Reform.

Mandy Ford, Interim Director of the Ministry Division of the Church of England, said: "I am thankful for the hard work and prayers of the parishes and dioceses in helping us to increase the numbers of people coming forward for ordained ministry, a key aim of the Renewal and Reform programme."

How Armistice Day began, 100 years ago

It was 100 years ago, on 11th November 1919, that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK. King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The two-minute silence was in fact adopted from a South African idea that had spread from Cape Town through the Commonwealth in 1919. The first minute was dedicated to those who died in the war, and the second to those left behind – families affected by bereavement and other effects of the conflict.

The Cenotaph was erected temporarily in Whitehall for a peace parade for Armistice Day in 1920. After a tremendous nationwide response, it became a permanent structure, and in the following years war memorials were created in other British towns and cities.

In 1939, the two-minute silence of Armistice Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11th November, so that it would not conflict with wartime production. This

tradition continued after World War II – Remembrance Sunday is still marked with a national service, and by special services in most churches throughout the country and beyond. Americans mark Veterans Day instead.

Fall of the Berlin Wall - 30 years ago

The Berlin Wall fell 30 years ago this month, on 9th November 1989. East Germany reopened its border with West Germany, allowing its citizens to pass freely through the checkpoints. Workers began demolishing the 28-year-old wall the next day.

Earlier that year serious unrest in Eastern Bloc countries such as Poland and Hungary had put pressure on the East German government, which had also been dealing with demands from its own citizens, led by a determined ‘swords into ploughshares’ church movement for peace.

The wall was relatively low but heavily fortified, separating the democratic Western countries and the Communist countries of Eastern Europe throughout the Cold War. East German border guards were authorised to shoot anyone attempting to escape into West Berlin. More than 100 people died in that way, but hundreds more were killed trying to cross at other border points.

German reunification took place formally on 3rd October 1990.

One of the casualties of the building of the wall in 1961 was the Church of Reconciliation, which was separated from most of its parishioners and eventually demolished to make it easier for guards to shoot potential escapees. The same site now houses the clay-built Chapel of Reconciliation, consecrated in November 2000.

60 years of the M1

The first stretch of the M1 motorway opened 60 years ago this month, on 1st November 1959. The first motorway service station opened at the same time - Watford Gap, a rather successful attempt to confuse motorists, as it is not near the town of Watford, but close to an obscure Northamptonshire village of the same name.

Technically not the first piece of motorway in Britain – that was the Preston bypass, later part of the M6, which was built the previous year – the M1 was Britain’s first full-length motorway, running from what is now Junction 5 (near the town of Watford) to the current Junction 18 (Crick).

The advent of motorways meant the end for town-to-town or church-to-church navigation over long distances, with an emphasis on ease of travel. Engineers who designed the road estimated that about 20,000 cars would use it each day, but the real figure today is closer to 140,000.

The M1 is now 193 miles long, from Staples Corner in London to Hook Moor, Leeds. It was completed 20 years ago, in 1999.

At first there were no speed limits, central reservations or lighting on motorways, but a temporary limit of 70mph was introduced in 1965, and this was soon made permanent.

Beware of taking your dog near water

First, the sea: palm oil is washing up on beaches across Norfolk, Cornwall and Wales, appearing as white clumps. Councils are warning that such 'bergs' can be fatal to dogs.

It seems that ships are permitted to dump palm oil into the sea if they are at least 12 miles offshore. But the toxic lumps of oil (which can weigh a quarter of a ton), can harbour many germs and diseases. If dogs eat such discarded palm oil, it can cause sickness, diarrhoea, dehydration, and even pancreatitis and death. It can lodge in the oesophagus or cause blockages in the gut.

Second, lakes and rivers: there have been numerous reports of toxic blue-green algae, which looks like a foamy substance known as cyanobacteria. It causes breathing problems, fits, brain damage and liver failure. Dogs from Sussex to Derbyshire, Lincolnshire to Cornwall have died within hours of swimming in such contaminated water.

Cyanobacteria is a type of blooming algae which produces toxins harmful to both humans and animals. While not all blue-green algae are poisonous, it is impossible to tell the difference visually. And there is no known antidote for the toxins. If you suspect your dog has been exposed, get it to a vet at once.

Put your garden nets away

Don't leave netting out in your garden over the winter – it is killing our hedgehogs. So warns the RSPCA, after reports of dozens of hedgehogs getting entangled in football, badminton and pond nets.

Evie Button, a wildlife scientific officer, warns: "Netting can be a particular hazard for wild animals, as they can easily become entangled. As they thrash around trying to escape, the netting can tighten round them and cause terrible suffering."

Since the 1950s, the number of hedgehogs in England has shrunk from 30 million to one million.

Nits don't mind mayonnaise

One in 50 parents is smearing their children's heads in mayonnaise in order to try and kill nits, according to a recent survey. Parents also try using hair straighteners to burn the lice (one in 25), and garlic oil to smother them (one in 33). But such remedies, though imaginative, do not work.

Sadly, nearly three out of four parents are not aware of the basic guidance given by the NHS. This is to treat anyone who has been infested by using a fine nit comb to go through their wet hair for 17 days. If lice are still present after that, they should then use a medicated shampoo. The research was done by Hedrin shampoo.

The odd nap is good for your heart

If you are longing for a nap, go ahead. A recent study has found that people who enjoy a small number of daytime naps a week have only half the risk of life-threatening events such as heart attack or stroke.

Researchers say that the reason may be because napping relieves stress, and thus aids cardiovascular health.

But the team at University Hospital Lausanne also found that there should be a limit to napping. Once or twice a week for between five and 60 minutes is good; beyond this, beware. If you need to nap more often than that, it may be that you have underlying health problems and should see a doctor.

Accentuate the positive

Having a positive view on life can help you live longer. A recent study has found that people who are optimistic are more likely to live to 85 or older. The study by the Boston University School of Medicine found that the most optimistic men and women have an 11 per cent to 15 per cent longer lifespan than the rest of us.



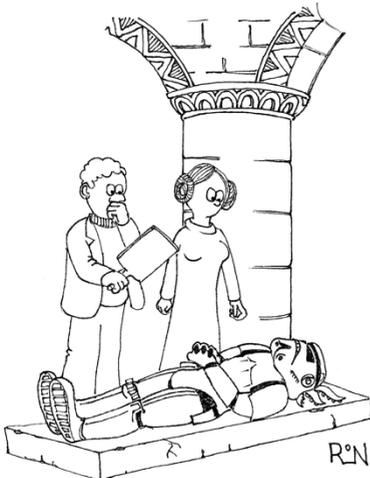
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He'd fought in the wars, but the guide didn't say which ones



"It's a devil to start on these damp November Sunday mornings – luckily we have a sidesman who works for the AA"

Benefice Services for November - <http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk>

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
Fri 1st Nov					
Sat 2nd Nov		10am Benefice All Saints Said Eucharist, Holsworthy			
3rd Nov	11.15am Sung Eucharist	3pm Sung BCP Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am All Age Service
10th Nov	10.55am Act of Remembrance and Morning Prayer	11am Act of Remembrance at Anvil Corner	9.30am Sung Eucharist with Act of Remembrance		9.30am Act of Remembrance and Morning Prayer
17th Nov	11.15am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung BCP Holy Communion	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer
24th Nov	11.15am Morning Worship		9.30am Sung Morning Prayer	9.30am Sung Eucharist	11.15am Sung Eucharist
1st Dec	11.15am Sung Eucharist	3pm Sung BCP Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist		4pm Christingle
1st Dec			7pm Advent Procession, Holsworthy		

All are welcome at any of the services

This chart was correct at the time we went to press. Please check on the back of your weekly service sheet for any last-minute changes or take a look at the Benefice Calendar on our www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/services/benefice-calendar/

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God in the Arts

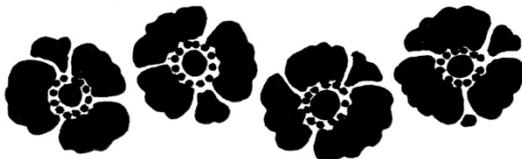
Editor: The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world. It is home to 2,300 works spanning the centuries of artistic creation. During this year we shall be journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By the Rev Michael Burgess.

He gave us eyes to see them: ‘The Virgin and Child with Saints’ by Giovanni Martini da Udine

The National Gallery in London is a remarkable treasure house of art, founded in 1824 and home to over 2,300 paintings. Much work goes on behind the scenes to maintain this collection, and in August after a seven-year restoration project, a particular painting went on display for the first time in over a hundred years.

It is the work of an Italian Renaissance artist, Giovanni Martini da Udine, who died in 1535 - an altarpiece depicting ‘The Virgin and Child with Saints.’ Restoring the painting was complex and demanding work for the staff had to remove the varnish, repaint some areas and treat the woodworm. Thanks to the skill of those workers, we can now see the painting in all its beauty and grace. On the right St George has vanquished the dragon and is turned in prayer to the Christ-Child. On the left St James, the brother of John, has his hand on the shoulder of the patron. But he looks out at us and invites us into this scene in what is known as a ‘sacra conversazione’ – a holy conversation.

On the 1st of this month we celebrate the great feast of All Saints – that rich communion of saints like James and George, whose lives we know, and also the many thousands known only to God: all who have offered their lives in His service. Just as specialists worked for seven years to restore this painting after the ravages of time, so on this day we give thanks for God working in the lives of His saints. Men and women like us: a mixture of hopes and ideals, of frailty and weakness, but ready to open their lives to be raised up and restored. These holy ones call us to travel in their company with our eyes set on God, who seeks to restore all of us to be channels of His grace.



November 2019 – Letter from St. James the Least of All

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St. James-the-Least in the county of C..... for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...



On the perils of eating with members of your church

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

One of the rather dubious pleasures of being rector here is to dine twice a year with Lord and Lady Shuttlingsloe. I was summoned to go along yesterday evening.

As usual, I was greeted by the footman and led into the entrance hall, where only a few weeks ago we held the parish Harvest supper for 200 people. I relinquished my coat, took a deep breath, and set off to follow him down endless corridors to the drawing room. The house is rumoured to be haunted, but I suspect any sounds of footsteps come from guests of previous years, still wandering the corridors trying to find their way out.

There were the usual guests – most of whom were merely continuing conversations they had had the previous evening at another stately, decaying pile in the county. They were standing, because all the chairs were occupied by the Lord's dogs, and everyone agreed that the dogs looked far too comfortable to move. Since one aged golden retriever recognised me, having developed an over-familiarity with my own dog, he amicably let me squeeze beside him on a sofa – even if it left me for the rest of the evening looking as if I was wearing an

Afghan coat.

When the meal was ready, the butler arrived with our overcoats, because the dining room is a cavernous chamber which is largely unheated as birds are nesting in the chimney. Lord Shuttlingsloe considers this perfectly acceptable, since his family have been eating in this way for the past 500 years, which is how long most of the present staff have worked there. Conversation at my end of the table was less than easy, since Lady S dozed throughout the meal and my companion on the other side seemed to hold me personally responsible for the Spanish Inquisition. Had I been, she would most definitely have been on my list for questioning.

As Rector, one has one's social responsibilities, but I confess, there were moments when I rather envied your own evening, with a meal on a tray in front of the television – in a warm house.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

High Days and Holy Days in November

3rd November: Hubert and the stag

The morality of hunting has made the headlines in recent years, but here at least was one man who was converted while hunting. Hubert (bishop, d 727 AD) was out on Good Friday hunting stag when he came across a stag with a crucifix between its antlers. This so shook him that he converted to Christianity, and went on to become Bishop of Tongres-Maestricht. History does not tell us if he killed the stag or not, or if he ever hunted stag again.

6th November: William Temple - Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

18th November: Elizabeth of Hungary

Here is a saint for any young person who has a generous heart and a desire to please God, but who gets rather badly used by adults who should know better. Elizabeth was born in 1207, a princess in the kingdom of Hungary. When she was four, she was sent to the court of the rulers of Thuringia in central Germany, to be betrothed to Louis IV.

At 14 she was married to Louis, and in 1223, when she was 16, some Franciscan friars arrived at the court. Elizabeth was inspired by them, and she became known for her many acts of charity. When flood, famine and plague hit Thuringia in 1226, Elizabeth distributed alms to the starving, and personally nursed many of the ill.

Elizabeth is best known for the miracle of the roses. She was taking bread to the poor one day when she met her husband out on a hunting party. The gentry were suspicious that she was stealing treasure from the castle, and so her husband asked her to reveal what was hidden under her cloak. Her cloak fell open, and a vision of white and red roses could be seen, which proved to her husband that God's protecting hand was over his wife. Hers was the first of many miracles that associate Christian saints with roses.

So far, so good, but then Konrad von Marburg, a priest and later inquisitor, was appointed Elizabeth's confessor, and began to gain considerable influence over her. When in 1227 Louis was sent off to join the Sixth Crusade, Konrad's power over Elizabeth grew. Then in September of that year, news came that Louis had died of a fever in Italy, just a few weeks before the birth of another child. Elizabeth reportedly said: 'He is dead. He is dead. It is to me as if the whole world died today.'

Certainly Elizabeth's world changed. She left the court and moved to Marburg. By now she had made solemn vows to Konrad, similar to those of a nun, promising him total obedience. He then treated her very harshly, setting severe restrictions on what she could eat, ordering physical beatings, and sending her three children away.

Elizabeth used her dowry money to build another hospital, this time at Marburg, and to personally care for the poor and sick. But not for long. Worn down by the harshness of Konrad's regime over her, and exposed to the many diseases of the poor, she died in 1231, aged only 24. But she left behind many poor people who loved her, and who owed their lives to her.

22nd November: St Cecilia - patron saint of musicians

If you are going to any concerts before Christmas, spare a thought for St Cecilia - the patron saint of musicians.

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians

When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity.

Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.

Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived.

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instrument.

25th November: Catherine of Alexandria – patron saint of young girls and nurses

Catherine is thought to have been a noble girl who lived in the 4th century. She was persecuted for her Christianity, and despised marriage with the Emperor because she was a 'bride of Christ'. According to the legend, Catherine was no push-over intellectually, either: she disputed successfully with 50 philosophers who were called in to convince her of the errors of Christianity.

Catherine protested against the persecution of Christians by Maxentius, and then she herself was tortured: broken on a wheel (later called Catherine wheel), but the machine then broke down itself, injuring bystanders. Catherine was then beheaded.

This legend strongly appealed to the Middle Age imagination. Catherine became the patron of young girls, students, philosophers, nurses and craftsmen such as wheelwrights, spinners and millers.

In England 62 churches were dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name. 'Lives', poems, miracle plays, stained-glass windows, panels and paintings have all been done in Catherine's honour.

Smile Lines

Expectant

The rector of a church had just made the happy announcement that a member of the congregation was with child. Then he reminisced a bit: 'As far as I know, there have been no pregnancies in this church for years - until I arrived!'

Money

A financial genius is one who can keep up with both the neighbours and the monthly instalments.

Ten

People nowadays treat the Ten Commandments like a history exam – they attempt only three.

Hold on

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."

Sermons

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. - George Burns

Health

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - Mark Twain

Tempted?

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. - Winston Churchill

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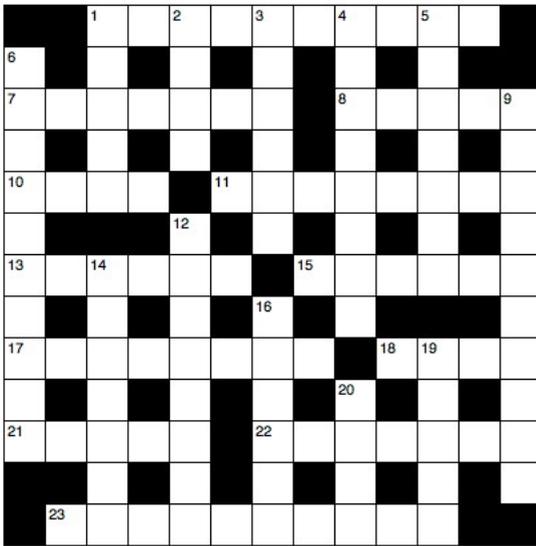
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Please email the editor for details

The Puzzle Pages November 2019 Crossword

(The solution to this crossword puzzle can be found on page 28)



Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
 8 Relieved (5)
 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
 15 Directions for the conduct of a

church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)

3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)

6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)

20 See 18 Across

November 2019 Sudoku

	2	7			5	1		
							5	4
	4				6	7		9
7			6	1		3	8	2
2	6	4		9	3			7
4		5	1				9	
9	7							
		8	2			4	7	

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(Solution on page 28)



All in the Month of November

It was:

200 years ago, on 22nd Nov 1819 that George Eliot (pen name of Mary Anne Evans) was born. This British novelist became one of the leading writers of the Victorian era, best known for Adam Bede, The Mill on the Floss, Silas Marner, Middlemarch and Daniel Dronda.

150 years ago, on 17th Nov 1869 that the Suez Canal was officially opened.

Also 150 years ago, on 22nd Nov 1869 that the British clipper ship Cutty Sark was launched in Scotland. It was one of the last tea clippers to be built, and it is now on permanent display at Greenwich in London.

100 years ago, on 11th Nov 1919 that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK, after King George V issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am on 11th November. The event remembers the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

90 years ago, on 21st Nov 1929 that Spanish Surrealist artist Salvador Dali held his first solo exhibition, in Paris.

75 years ago, on 12th Nov 1944 that the RAF bombed and sank the German battleship Tirpitz, sister ship of the Bismark, off Norway. The Tirpitz was the last of the major German battleships and this was the RAF's ninth attempt to sink her.

60 years ago, on 1st Nov 1959 that the first stretch of the M1 motorway opened in Britain. The first motorway service station (Watford Gap) also opened.

50 years ago, on 16th Nov 1969 that the first episode of the children's TV series The Clangers was broadcast in the UK. It ran for two series and was revived in 2015.

40 years ago, on 4th Nov 1979 that militant Iranian students stormed the US Embassy in Teheran, taking 90 staff and US marines as hostage. Their actions were condoned by Ayatollah Khomeini, who denounced the USA as "the great Satan".

30 years ago, on 9th Nov 1989 that the Berlin Wall fell. East Germany reopened its border with West Germany, allowing its citizens to pass freely through the checkpoints. Workers began demolishing the 28-year-old wall the next day.

Also 30 years ago, on 21st Nov 1989 that the televising of proceedings from Britain's House of Commons began.

25 years ago, on 14th Nov 1994 that the first fare-paying passengers travelled through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.

Also 25 years ago, on 19th Nov 1994 that the first National Lottery draw was held in Britain.

20 years ago, on 11th Nov 1999 that the House of Lords Act was passed in Britain. It removed the right of hereditary peers to sit in the House. Most members are now life peers.

Some Useful Numbers

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Samaritans	116 123

November 2019 Crossword Solution

		J	E	H	O	I	A	C	H	I	N		
J		U		A		S		H		N			
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November 2019 Sudoku Solution

8	2	7	9	4	5	1	6	3
3	9	6	7	2	1	8	5	4
5	4	1	3	8	6	7	2	9
7	5	9	6	1	4	3	8	2
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2	6	4	8	9	3	5	1	7
4	3	5	1	6	7	2	9	8
9	7	2	4	5	8	6	3	1
6	1	8	2	3	9	4	7	5

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November
2019