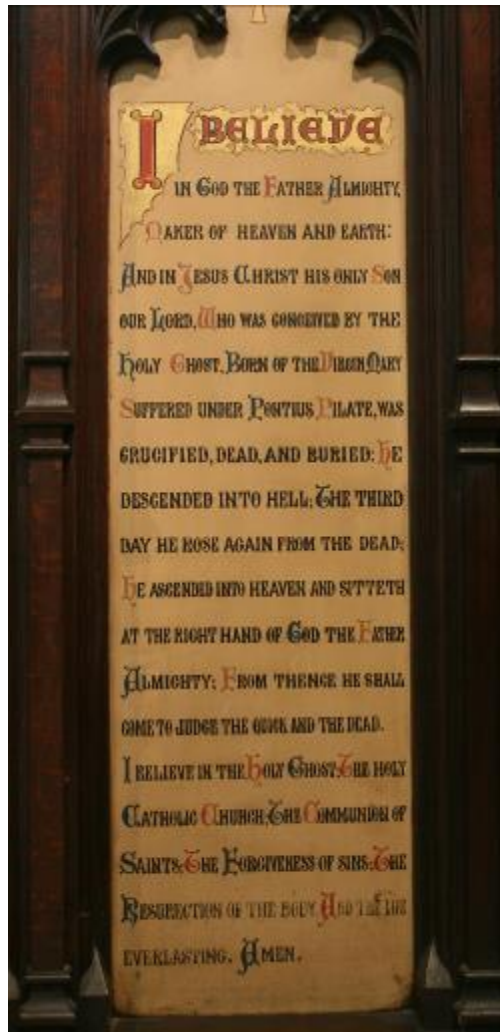


CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

April 2023 50p

Volume 59 No 690



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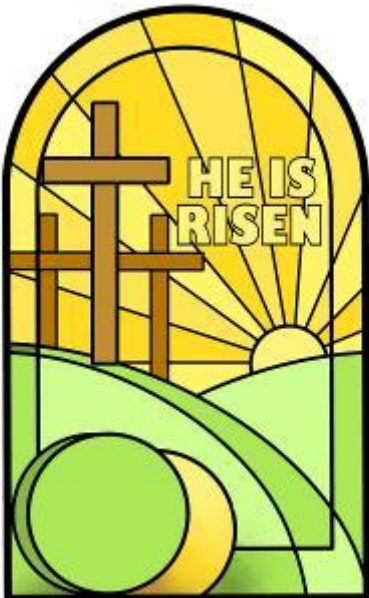
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April 2023

Sunday 2nd April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Family Worship and Baptism
Thursday 6th April	7.30 pm	Eucharist. (Passover meal at 6.00 pm)
Friday 7th April	10.00 am	Stations of the
Good Friday	to 2.00 pm	Cross
	2.00 pm	Led Meditation
	7.30 pm	Service of Shadows
Sunday 9th April	6.00 am	Dawn Service -
Easter Day		followed by

10.00 am Breakfast
NO 8.00 am service
Easter Family
Service and
Communion



Sunday 16th April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 2	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday 23rd April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 3	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 30th April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 4	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong for the Coronation
Sunday 7th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 5	11.00 am	Service on the Cobbles for the Coronation

Regular events and services		
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer in church
Mondays	9.00 am	Tiddlers - Praise & Play
Tuesdays	7.00 pm	Prayer Meeting in church
Wednesdays	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursdays	9.00 am	Thursday Teas (except first Thursday of month)
Fridays	6.15 pm	Choir Practice - contact Kevin for details (760778)
First Thursday of month	10.30 am	Bereavement Group - contact Bee for details
First Sunday of	9.15 am	Music group practice before Family Worship -

Over the last few days I have been totally immersed in the lives of a group of friends living between gritty London and whimsical Florence, all thanks to a book called 'Still Life' by Sarah Winman. It's been such a pleasure to spend time with these wonderful, earthy, loveable and loving people. The story is based on a chance encounter between the two main characters and an old woman, Evelyn, who is of cultural standing as an art historian and the younger ever optimistic London lad called Ulysses. They met during the war in Italy and we follow their lives from that coincidence driven first meeting, which Ulysses describes as a gift. A gift of an encounter that would change their lives forever. I heartily recommend the book, there is even a talking parrot!

It's this chance encounter that makes me reflect on it now. During Lent we have been thinking about such en-

counters that people had with Jesus. I think particularly of the woman at the well, a meeting that changed everything for her. A meeting that confirmed to her that she was not only seen but known and even more than that was loved just as she was. It was a conversation that led her to proclaim Jesus as the messiah and to receive all that she ever needed, salvation.

During lent we reflect and think about the encounters that we have had with Jesus and how they have changed our lives and of course we get ready to celebrate the day that changed everything. In Holy Week we have a chance to focus on some more of these moments with Jesus. Moments that tell us more of all that he came to do and all that he promises us even now. I often think about the two criminals who are also being crucified with Jesus, what a last minute moment for one of them, that through a chance encounter in their last

hours would ensure that he would be found in Paradise.

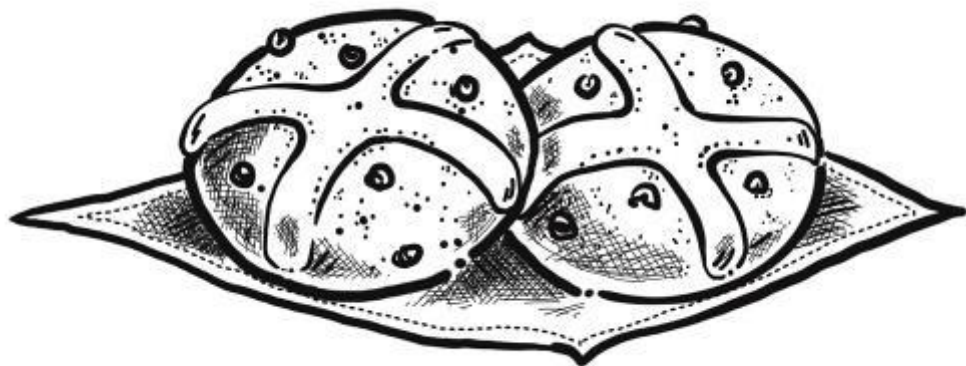
Now I want to go back to Ulysses in Florence for a moment; he thinks of these moments as gifts. Less about chance and more about a gift. I think we would be good to think about these moments with Jesus as gifts too. He wants us to have them, but we do have to be available to receive them. How do you make yourself available for moments with God that may change your life, show you a new perspective or allow yourself to accept the fact that you are loved? A quiet walk:

an 'unplugged' moment; reading the bible and meditating on the words and meaning? Perhaps a conversation with friends or gathering around the communion table.

I urge you to let the moment of an empty tomb on Easter Day be received as a gift that could change your story in unexpected ways.

We would love to see you at St Mary's over the Easter season and maybe we can help you be ready for the dawn of Easter.

Bee



St Mary's Church, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AN

From the Editor

Thank you for your patience waiting for this edition of the magazine.

Exciting times as the method of printing has changed: sharper print; better reproduction of photographs; a different cover each month; and the ability to print in colour. Please start taking photographs for the cover and of anything else that will be of interest to the readers.

Advertisements. We still have room for more advertisements from the May edition onwards. If you know of anyone who would like an advert on the cover (£27 small; £54 large - per year) than please let me know.

Proof Reading. I am still looking for a couple of people to help out with proof reading. If you are interested please get in touch.

In this Issue.....

Gratitude

Lillies

Petrol

Coronation

CWGC

Bible

Cash

The Children's Society house boxes have now been counted and have raised a total sum of **£1070.**



The Children's Society

Thank you to all supporters.

Registers

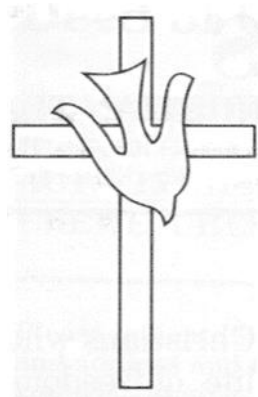
Funerals

January

- 30th Betty Whitehurst
31st Margaret Sandbach

February

- 1st Nancy Dawson
2nd Eric Clark
6th Richard Anthony Jones
7th Janet Kime
16th Pauline Smith
24th Kenneth Michael Draycott



March

- 6th Freda Morton

Coffee Rota

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2nd April | Stella Craven and Angela Speedy |
| 9th April | Kath Davies and Kath Beech |
| 16th April | Janet Hides and Christine Hirst |
| 23rd April | Jim Thompson |
| 30th April | Jean Richardson and Iris Kenilworth |



Maundy Thursday

There will be a Passover meal on Maundy Thursday 6th April at 6pm before our service at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join but please add your name to the list or email the office if you would like to attend.

Say thank you

GratITUDE has been considered a moral virtue for thousands of years. According to Cicero, who was a Roman lawyer, philosopher and politician born 100 years before Christ, gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all virtues.

Other Biblical virtues include chastity, temperance, charity, diligence, patience, humility and kindness. Kindness is closely linked to the word gratitude, which is derived from the Latin *gratia*, meaning grace, graciousness, and gratefulness. It can be confused with *grazie*, which means thank you. Saying thank you is the response of your grace or gratefulness.

Gratitude is a state of mind that comes from our spirit

and is a combination of wonder, appreciation and the readiness to respond by saying thank you, which itself is an act of returning kindness to someone else. When someone says thank you to you, you are usually left with a nice warm feeling that whatever you did to deserve it was appreciated.

Rabbi Harold Kusner once said this about that nice warm feeling: 'If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul.'

How much better would our world be today if more people took the time to nurture the souls of others by simply saying thank you?

God is there whenever a human heart welcomes him in

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Wednesday 26th April 7 pm

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Sides people

We would welcome some more volunteers to our sides person team.

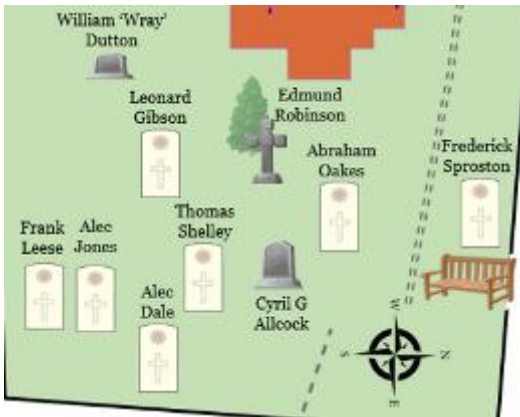
It involves being in church in time to hand out books and tidy away at the end of a service.

If you can help please contact Sheenagh or Ruth.

Spotlight on a casualty buried in St Mary's churchyard

(by Pete Merrill)

Lance Corporal Alec (also recorded as Alic and Alex) Jones, Service Number 41192, served in the 11th Battalion Manchester Regiment during WWI. He fought on the Somme and at Passchendaele where he was wounded and evacuated home, succumbing to his injuries on 5th November 1918, aged 32. He is remembered on the Cobbles' War Memorial, is registered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as a war casualty and is buried in the south-east area of St Mary's churchyard, Row 10, Grave 7.



Alec was born in Haslington on 11th April 1886, to Ellen née Beckett (later Sherwin)

and John. They lived on Henry Street, Haslington until John's death when the family moved to Sandbach. In 1901, they were living on Welles Street and, in 1911, at 39 Elworth Street.

When he left school at 14, Alec became a Wheelwright and later a Lathe Operator at the same works. He married May, née Latham in 1913 and they had a son Leonard born on 5th June 1914. The family lived at what was then 146 Plants Cottage, Bradwall Road, but was later designated as 33 Bradwall Street.

He was attested on 10th December 1915 into the Army Service Corps, allocated the service number 28528 and mobilised on 2nd June 1916. Whilst undergoing basic training he became a 1st Class Shot and three months later he was sent to the Western Front. On arrival on 12th October, he was transferred to 11th Battalion, Manchester Regiment and allocated a new service number 41192.

When Alec arrived on the Somme in the Arras area of France in October 1916 he joined the 11th Battalion's Q Company at Fransu where it was taking on replacement troops, having sustained 309 casualties during the battle of Thiepval Ridge a few weeks earlier.

By November, he was on the front line in the battle area of Acheux and first went 'over the top' on 11th January 1917 during the Battle of the Ancre. The objective was taken but almost immediately lost following a German counter offensive. This was also the last major battle of the year as winter set in.

In April 1917, he was in the Frémicourt area on the Morchies-Beaumont line where he remained until May when the battalion was moved north into Belgium in the area around Ypres in the province of Flanders. Here, Alec took part in the battle of Messines Ridge in June 1917. The battalion was then moved to an area north of Ypres to support a massive offensive, known officially as the Third Battle of Ypres, but

which has become known in later years as Passchendaele. Here he was promoted unpaid to Lance Corporal on 28th July.

Just after midnight on 16th August 1917, the battalion made its way through a heavy German artillery barrage to its forming-up point on the west bank of the river Steenbeek. At 04:43 the British artillery opened the attack and the battalion proceeded to cross the Steenbeek on prepared footbridges. However, the whole area was swept with heavy artillery fire by the enemy and over the following two hours 60 were killed, 170 wounded, and 20 were reported missing. Most of Q Company became casualties, and with all the officers killed they were in disarray. Alec was amongst the wounded and later explained what had happened to him: "I was assisting in an attack when I was struck in the left side by a piece of shrapnel. I managed to get into a shell hole but when trying to get away I was hit in the left shoulder by a sniper."

Alec was recovered from the

battlefield and was at No.4 Casualty Clearance Station on 19th August before being taken to No.32 General Hospital in Wimereux, France, where he was operated on for the shrapnel wound to his side. He was too ill to move immediately but eventually arrived back in England on 26th August and was admitted into St Andrew's Hospital, Dollis Hill, London. His medical record indicates that the shrapnel wound to his left side had caused severe injuries to his internal organs and because of the shoulder wound, he was unable to lift anything with his left hand. The report indicates that there was very little chance of improvement, and he was assessed as being 50%

disabled.

On 19th November, he was moved to the Cleethorpes Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital and transferred (for administration purposes) to the 3rd Battalion Manchester Regiment. After further treatment, rather than being discharged on 28th March 1918, he reported for a trade test at Woolwich as a Lathe Operator, but they found that he was physically unfit to carry on a trade. On 11th April 1918, the medical board recommended his discharge, which happened on 2nd May. He was then awarded Silver War Badge No. 359807.

On 5th November 1918, he finally succumbed to his injuries and died.

Easter Lilies

Once again we will be decorating our church for Easter.

If you would like to donate a lily in memory of someone please speak to Ruth or Sheenagh.

We suggest 50p a stem.



Tiddlers





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Why is my Bible different from yours?

K V Beaumont.

Part 3 - The Reformation

We left the story of the Bible last month with the dominance of the Vulgate or Latin version in the West. We saw that its author Jerome had translated the New Testament from the Greek but for the Old Testament had relied upon the Septuagint or Greek Version rather than the Hebrew original. Whilst Jerome in his later years learnt Hebrew and went on to translate the Old Testament from the Hebrew, his work was not well received. There were translations into other languages in other parts of the world including Arabic but it remains telling that the first printed bible in 1456 the Guttenberg Bible was a copy of the Vulgate. The “enlightenment”, that period of History at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th century, saw an increase in learning which included an increase in the

knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. The first Hebrew text was printed in 1488 and the first Greek text was the work of Erasmus and published in 1516.

There had been an early translation of the Bible into English known as the Wycliffe Version. It was translated in part at least by John Wycliffe but it was not welcomed and a synod of the church in 1408 at Oxford forbade its ownership or reading. Such a ban remained in force for a hundred years and many of Wycliffe's fellow translators were burned as Heretics. Such was the desire of the Roman Church to stop people reading the Word of God which they had not first interpreted.

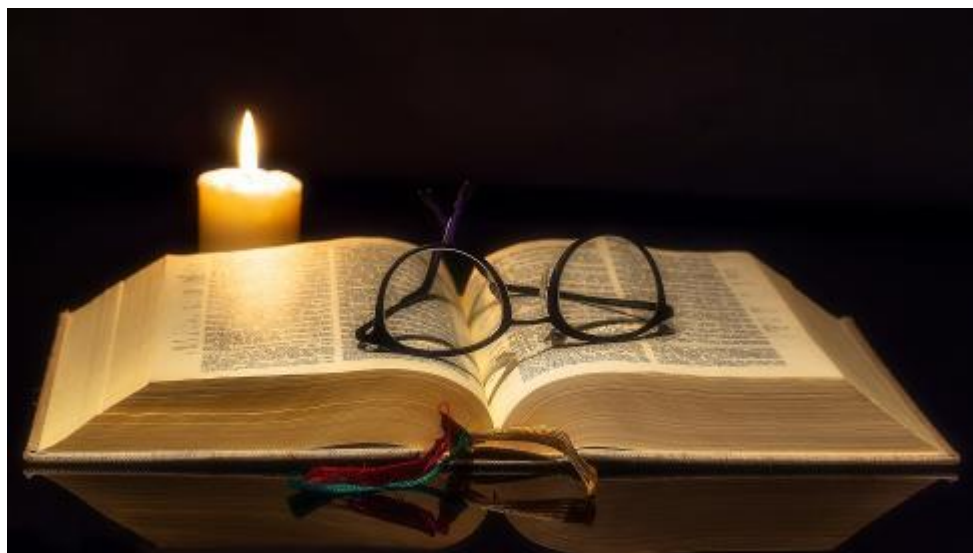
Luther translated the Greek New Testament into German in 1522 and William Tyndale, a graduate of Oxford, wanted to do a similar thing in England so that, “the boy that drives the plough in England

might know more scripture than many men of learning.” Although he completed the New Testament his work on the Old Testament was halted by his martyrdom in 1536. His final prayer before the flames overcame him was “Lord open the King of England’s eyes.”

Other translations followed, in 1535 the Coverdale version

translation of the Psalms that was used in the Prayer book of 1662. Coverdale had in fact used Tyndale’s English, Luther’s German and the Latin Vulgate to produce his work.

In 1537 a version known as Matthew’s Bible was produced by John Rogers. Rogers himself was to be martyred by the catholic Queen Mary in 1555 but his



was produced. Myles Coverdale was born in York, he had been a friar and went on to be Bishop of Exeter between periods of exile in Geneva. Coverdale’s work is known to all Anglicans because it was his

translation was published under license from the King, a clear answer to the prayer of Tyndale. In 1539 Tyndale’s prayer was further answered when “The Great Bible” was produced a version of both

Tyndale's and Matthew's Bible it was placed in every church in England at the will of Henry VIII who decreed "In God's name let it go abroad amongst the People."

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth two key versions of the Bible were produced. The first was the Geneva Bible also known as the Breeches Bible (in Genesis 3v7 Adam

and Eve : "sewed figge leaves together and made themselves breeches") The Geneva Bible published in 1650 was marked by "accurate scholarship and fidelity to the original text" (FF Bruce). The Bible was clearly linked to the Reformed Tradition and its marginal notes were both anti-Catholic and Calvinistic in nature.

The translation was very popular, it is also known as


Shakespeare's Bible", but its stance was not pleasing to the senior clergy of the Anglican Church so in 1568 they produced the "Bishop's Bible". Its marginal notes were Anglican in flavour and it clearly represented the Anglican position rather than the Reformed position.

The arguments as to which of the two was the more valid



raged through out the later part of the Queen's reign and by the time we had a new King in 1603 the debate was threatening to cause major discord. As a consequence the King called a conference at Hampton Court in 1604 which he chaired himself. The outcome of that conference was the King James or Authorised Version of the Bible which we shall look at in more detail next month.

THE HEAD THAT
ONCE WAS
CROWNED WITH THORNS



IS CROWNED
GLORY
WITH
NOW



THOMAS KELLY

Coronation

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort is a time for celebration across the nation and the Commonwealth, over a weekend of special events:

Saturday 6th May 2023 the Coronation Ceremony takes place at Westminster Abbey.

6-8th May will see Coronation Big Lunches up and down the country and across the Commonwealth.

Sunday 7th May a spectacular Coronation Concert will be performed at Windsor Castle with iconic locations across the UK lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

Monday 8th May a special Bank Holiday.



This official emblem celebrates the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The emblem is created with the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom: the rose for England, the thistle for Scotland, the daffodil for Wales and the shamrock for Northern Ireland.

These natural forms combine to describe St Ed-

ward's Crown, used for the coronation of British monarchs. The emblem was designed by Sir Jony Ive.

St Mark-25th April

While little is known about St Mark, all Christians should be thankful for his diligence in writing about the life and ministry of Jesus to create what is recognised as being the first Gospel. It is generally accepted that Matthew and Luke referred to his Gospel when writing their versions which were intended for different audiences.

All that we know about Mark comes from Christian tradition and the occasional mention of him in the Bible. Some theologians have suggested that he never heard Jesus speak but gathered his information from St Paul or St Peter, who regarded him as 'his son', or from St Paul with whom he was well acquainted. Mark travelled with Paul on Paul's first missionary journey. At one time they had a disagreement and Paul refused to take Mark with him on his second missionary journey. However, later we

find that Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark to Rome where Paul was imprisoned. Mark, he said, would be an asset for their ministry.

In the *Acts of the Apostles* Mark is referred to as John Mark and his mother's home in Jerusalem was a common meeting place for the Apostles. He was also a cousin of St Barnabas.

Historians believe that Mark was the founder of the church in Alexandria, Egypt, and he became the first Bishop of Alexandria. It was here that he was martyred in 74 AD for his faith by being dragged through the streets. His relics were stolen from Alexandria in 828 and taken to Venice and are enshrined in St Mark's Basilica.

Mark is held in high regard among Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. In the UK 793 churches are named after him, making Mark the 19th most popular name for a church dedication.



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And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.
He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that *corona* which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

By Malcolm Guite



Christian Basics: How Does God Guide Us? *by Paul Har-* *dingham (11th in the series)*

We are all faced with daily decisions about our jobs, future, money, relationships etc. Yet God promises to guide those who listen to Him: ‘My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.’ (John 10:27). There are five key aspects of hearing God’s voice.

1. Scripture:

The primary way God guides us is through the Bible: ‘Your word is lamp for my feet, and a light on my path’ (Psalm 119: 105). The Scriptures give us general guidance for life eg whether to pay taxes, give or forgive others, as well as what to do in particular situations.

2. Holy Spirit:

‘And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem’ (Acts 20:22). The Holy Spirit helps us to hear God’s voice through Scripture, prayer or pictures and also by prompting us in particular situations.

3. Common Sense:

We must not abandon common sense: ‘Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this’ (2 Tim. 2:7). In making most decisions, God uses our thinking about what to do. ‘God’s promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking’ (John Stott).

4. Wise Advice:

‘Make plans by seeking advice’ (Proverbs 20:18). Although we’re responsible for decision making, it’s good to talk to others about the choices we are making.

5. Circumstances:

God also guides us through circumstances, ‘In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps’ (Proverbs 16:9). He will open or close doors in particular circumstances.

We won’t always get it right, but God can include our mistakes in his bigger plan: ‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him’ (Romans 8:28).

From the Archives



This month we are looking at the petrol station next to the motorway currently run by the COOP, replacing the Texaco garage that was demolished in 2018. However, in the lower image we go back to 1991 when it was a small independent garage and petrol station with a house next door.

Stephen Minshull



A little boy had spent all afternoon playing outdoors and accidentally left his jacket at the end of the garden. When his mother realised this a couple of hours later, she told him to go back and get it. But by now the garden was dark, and so the little boy hesitated. “Don’t be frightened,” she said. “The Lord is out there too.”

That gave the little boy an idea. He opened the back door and called softly: ‘Lord, please could you pass me my jacket?’

Five exercises you’d be better off avoiding this Spring:....

Jumping on the bandwagon

Wading through paperwork

Running around in circles

Pushing your luck

Adding fuel to the fire.

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.

The biggest lie I tell myself is “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”

Getting older is just one body part after another saying, ‘Ha ha, you think that’s bad? Watch this!’

The good thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Church Contacts

Vicar	Rev Bee Boyde revbeeboyde@gmail.com	07872 326008
Reader	Joan Plowman	768079
Churchwardens	Sheenagh Ashworth Ruth Morrison warden.smcsandbach@gmail.com	529187 07411 610962
Safeguarding	Joanna Blaiklock safeguarding.smcsandbach@gmail.com	07725 989374
Parish Office	Anne Birch smcsandbach@gmail.com	07771 391667
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Weddings	smcsandbach@gmail.com	07771 391667
Magazine Editor	John Bottomley jandhbottomley@gmail.com	768744

Challenge

If you have any events or information that needs publicising, or you would like to write an article, please contact the editor.

Articles must be received by **Sunday 23rd April**

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org

Donations

If you would like to donate funds for the running, repairs and mission of St Mary's then please use one of the following methods:

- Standing Order
- Contactless machine in church
- QR code (using JustGiving)

More details are available on the website:

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org/donate

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