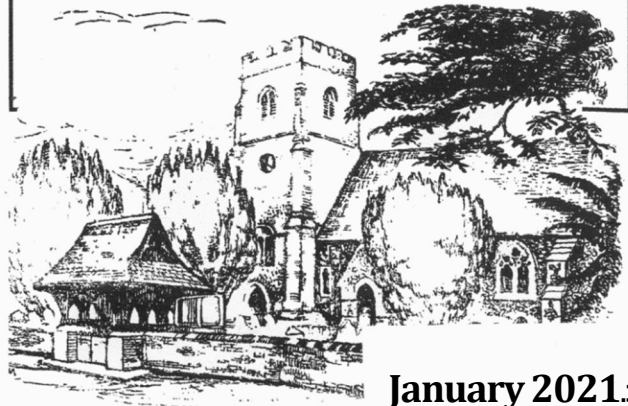




WINKFIELD PARISH NEWS



January 2021.3

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONTENTS

Hope for the New Year	2
Introduction to this issue	3
Farewells – to Revd Huw Mordecai and to Ron and Doreen Potter	3
Parish Notices	6
Services within the Parish	7
Around the Parish	9
Thoughts of all sorts	10
Puzzles	17
Children’s Corner	20

Winkfield Parish News – January 2021

Hope for the New Year

The Ancients were practical people in a difficult world, and they raised perspectives that they found important as the special focus of gods.

The Romans worshipped the god Janus. He had two faces, one to look backwards and one forwards, and his allotted time is our coming of the New Year, which begins his month, the month of January. Janus can look back at a very difficult year for us humans, knowing that, while the worst of winter is yet to come, spring follows. The Romans did not celebrate their New Year until the month of March - when their countryside burst forth into the new life of Spring. (March being the first month explains the Latin names of the 7th to 10th months of the Julian calendar - *septem-ber*, *octo-ber*, *novem-ber* and *decem-ber*.)

This is the moment for us to review today's times in the same way: look back at a terrible year, but forward to new life, new challenges, new opportunities. And we can use our Christian faith as a foundation of hope, starting with the Child of Bethlehem to inspire good things, as Her Majesty reminded us in her Christmas speech.

Our one-time Bishop of Reading, Stephen Cottrell, is now Archbishop of York; we remember him as practical but gritty in recognising the challenges that Christian life makes to us humans. In his Christmas sermon he said:

"Christmas isn't cancelled this year.

"Our celebrations may be restricted. We might each be carrying a great sadness because we can't be with our loved ones. We are, of course, crying out for an end to the horrors of this pandemic, but we are also filled, as the carol has it, with comfort and joy.

"Why? Because God shares our life in Jesus Christ. In him, heaven touches earth. God reaches out to hold us, even though at the moment, we can't hold each other. '

"So, we are strengthened to face the challenges that lie ahead; we are determined to build a better world where there can be a greater sharing of the world's resources; a greater respect for the earth; and a greater

determination to live in peace.

"Because' of what we find at Bethlehem. Because it leads us to God and leads us to each other."

A good message. We are blessed in many ways; there are many positive things that can grow out of the experiences of 2020. The editors wish all our readers a new year in which we can enjoy and bring about many good things. We have good reason to Hope!

Introduction to this issue (1/1/2021 edition)

This edition is another web publication, although, as usual, we will print a limited number of copies for those who are not easily able to handle access to the Internet. It does not contain ads for two reasons:

- Our advertisers are present on the website www.fosmw.com in a form that for most people is easier to find in a hurry than by finding and looking through a magazine
- Printing the ads doubles the cost of printing, which is currently covered by donation, since the publication brings no revenue to the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield, its sponsors.

This year, we planned to be bimonthly, but that wasn't practical in terms of services and other planned activities, since the pandemic causes plans to change at short notice.

When normality returns, assuming that we can find the resources for printing, physically distributing and generally managing the publication, we would like to return to a printed version supporting our local community. If you are interested in taking part in this activity, including taking over the editorship of the magazine, please be in touch with Anthony Hodson (aeh@xdotd.co.uk or 01344 483347) or speak to or email Revd Patrick Mukholi (interimministerwcandcd@gmail.com).

Farewells

Huw Mordecai

The Revd Huw Mordecai came to help the Parish of Winkfield during the interregnum left by Revd Catherine Blundell in 2015, and was soon fully engaged in the affairs of the two then-separate parishes in the



Benefice. The Bishop of Reading, then Andrew Proud, decided in February that Huw would become Interim Minister, with the objective of bringing the parishes together as a single parish. Huw became a much-loved priest in our community, particularly for his talent for pastoral care, settling in at the heart of the Winkfield Parish as a resident of Popel's Cottages, and the objective set by the bishop was achieved.

Disaster struck in late 2018, when Huw was diagnosed with inoperable cancer of the oesophagus, but he continued his parish work until June 2019, when Olivia, the new Bishop of Reading, ordered him to take sick-leave. All the same, he was inducted as Vicar on 31 July 2019.

Huw never complained about his illness, painful and uncomfortable though it was, and his positive attitude and courage come through in his 'Musings of a Mordecai' – pastoral essays that can be seen on the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield website. We saw him each week for the Sunday Zoom service that kept parish worship going during the 2020 lockdown, until very near the end. He died on 1 December.

The funeral of our beloved Huw took place at St Mary's church on 18 December 2020. The service was led by the Right Rev. Andrew Proud, past Bishop of Reading, assisted by the Revd Patrick Mukholi.

The Organist, Jonathan Holl, played 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' as the coffin was brought into the church. There was no choir, at the family's request, so the two hymns 'Alleluia sing to Jesus' and 'Guide me O thou Great Redeemer' were recordings, although the anthem 'Lead me Lord' was played by Jonathan.

The coffin left the building to 'I know that my Redeemer Liveth' once again played by Jonathan. The Bible Reading was Revelation Chapter 21 Verses 1 – 7 and the second reading was an excerpt from 'The Last Battle' by C S Lewis both read by friends of Huw's.

Wonderful tributes were given by three other friends. A very interesting and amusing, in some cases, display of photographs was showing on the screen throughout the service. Only family and friends were at the service. A Memorial Service will be arranged after lockdown so that the Parish can say goodbye and thank you.

A rose has been planted in memory of Huw, with a plaque beside it. The rose's name is Judi Dench – Huw's favourite actress

Ron and Doreen Potter

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Doreen Potter early in December and so soon after the death of her husband Ron.

Doreen had been a member of the St Mary's Women's Guild for many years and had always been a member of the flower arranger's group. Some ten years ago she became the leader and her arrangements were always imaginative and artistic.

Doreen also did a wonderful job increasing the group membership and assisting newcomers. Her arrangements for weddings, particularly pew ends, were exquisite. Each year she prepared the Mothering Sunday posies for the children to distribute to their Mothers.

When her husband Ron became seriously unwell with a long-term illness, she looked after him with much love and devotion. They shared a funeral on 22 December at the Easthampstead Crematorium.



The floral decorations in St Mary's this Christmas are particularly beautiful and have been done in memory of Doreen. The additional floral arrangements on the Memorial table were presented to the Church by Mark, their son, who asked that the arrangements from

both their coffins be brought to the church. The arrangements are replicas of Doreen's bridal bouquet.

We will greatly miss Ron and Doreen.

Parish Notices

Safeguarding

Please visit the Safe Spaces link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/safe-spaces->

as a new addition to the Safeguarding page. For anyone feeling vulnerable, it serves to provide a place to reach-out-to. For some, it may feel like the only safe point-of-contact during these times of isolation.

Camille Jeffs, Parish Safeguarding Officer

safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Services within the Parish

As service plans may be affected by government policy, please check on the Parish Website to be certain that the service will take place.

St Martin's

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
3 Jan	The Second Sunday of Christmas /EPIPHANY	9:30am	No services in St Martin's church or church hall at the present time
10 Jan	The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	No services in St Martin's church or church hall at the present time
17 Jan	The Second Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	No services in St Martin's church or church hall at the present time
24 Jan	The Third Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	No services in St Martin's church or church hall at the present time
31 Jan	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany		No services in St Martin's church or church hall at the present time

St Mary's

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
3 Jan	The Second Sunday after Christmas	10am	Family Communion (BCP)
10 Jan	The First Sunday after Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10am	Family Matins
17 Jan	The Second Sunday after the Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
24 Jan	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
31 Jan	SEPTUAGESIMA	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Morning Prayer

St Peter's

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
3 Jan	The Second Sunday of Christmas /EPIPHANY	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	No 11am service in St Peter's church today
10 Jan	The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany	11am	No 11am service in St Peter's church today
17 Jan	The Second Sunday of Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	No 11am service in St Peter's church today
24 Jan	The Third Sunday of Epiphany	11am	No 11am service in St Peter's church today
31 Jan	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11am	No 11am service in St Peter's church today

Zoom services

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
3 Jan	The Second Sunday of Christmas /EPIPHANY	11am	All Age Together – St Martin's or St Peter's style
10 Jan	The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion (CW) – St Peter's style
17 Jan	The Second Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Morning Prayer - St Martin's or St Peter's style
24	The Third Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion (CW) – St Martin's style

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
31	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Morning Prayer - St Martin's or St Peter's style

Around the Parish

St Mary's Choir

St Mary's re-opened for the second time at the beginning of December with a service of Family Communion and the choir was able to sing again. The Stopford Communion settings are used at this service along with a Psalm from Adam Carllill's Psalms for the Common Era in Modern Metrical English.

We hope to be able to perform at the two Carols and Candlelight Services and midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. We are most grateful to our visiting singers.

Lesley Philpot

St Mary's Women's Guild

The Guild meeting in December took place on the revised date. We have been very fortunate in that we have been able to get together for all our monthly meetings during 2020 although the speakers and outings have been postponed.

At this meeting we discussed possible speakers for 2021 commencing, probably, in May. Joan Doughty, although not at the meeting, sent her usual wonderful Christmas cake, which we all enjoyed. The Guild does not meet in January so our next meeting is on 2 February.

Lesley Philpot

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield

Richard Loveys and Lesley Philpot visited Reading United Reform Church recently for a demonstration of their Sound System. This had been installed by one of the company's that St Mary's had met during the Sound System discussions.

A report on this visit has been forwarded to the Trustees of FOSMW. We hope for a decision on this very soon.

Church service reports

Family Matins – December 13

The story of Advent was beautifully told by the children at this service. Their readings and musical performances were a delight for all.

Lesley Philpot

Carols and Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve

Two Carols and Candlelight Services took place as usual this year. Although the congregations were not as large as usual the services were most enjoyable. Unfortunately the congregations were not allowed to sing so this year we invited the choir to attend and sing the carols. The children read the Christmas story beautifully. Patrick led the service and the candles were lit as the lights were dimmed. A very magical afternoon.

Midnight Communion Christmas Eve

Patrick led a small congregation for Midnight Mass. The choir sang the carols and the communion service. A wonderful start to Christmas.

Christmas Matins followed by Holy Communion

There was no choir for Christmas Matins so our organist very kindly played through a verse of each carol during the service. Several members of the congregation remained after Matins for Holy Communion led by Patrick.

Lesley Philpot

Thoughts of all sorts

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the New Year ahead.

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year.

Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily.

Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic

challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

Choice - to be or not to be vaccinated?

This article is reprinted from the Friends of St Mary's website, where it was published on the Corona page.

The longer the pandemic lasts, the more we can see that vaccination is our only hope of restoring normal life in a timescale that will save our economy and our lifestyles to the extent possible. Should people be allowed to opt out of vaccination? We think not, except on uncommon medical grounds.

We are only too well aware of the fact that pandemic control is a matter of statistics. If 100% people wore masks in places where gatherings created a risk of infection (e.g. in shops), the research shows clearly that the ability of Covid-19 to spread is lower than if 70% wore them in the same circumstances. The wearing of masks can hardly be said to protect an individual, but it is equally a fact that community wearing of masks will protect a proportion of that community. So making everybody wear masks whenever necessary (allowing for occasions when it is not possible, e.g. to protect an individual's health) is a justifiable measure to lower infection and save lives.

Being vaccinated has three effects: (A) it confers immunity on an individual, (B) it reduces the percentage of the community who can be infected and pass the disease on to others, and (C) it reduces the percentage of the community who can catch the disease, following exposure to infected people.

By the argument in favour of wearing masks, effects (B) and (C) can justify everybody possible being vaccinated. With (B) and (C) alone the pandemic can be controlled - but only if sufficient people are vaccinated.

This factor, combined with huge benefit (A) of personal immunity, should be enough to persuade everybody that everyone who can safely be vaccinated should be. However, just now it does not. Some people argue, perhaps citing personal freedom, that 'they are prepared to take

the risk' - selfishly forgetting the statistical benefit to others of them being vaccinated. Other people argue that the vaccines available 'have not been sufficiently tested'. This is quite unconvincing, given the huge effort to prove safety and demonstrate effectiveness that has been put into the vaccines developed in Western countries. If you had cancer, and were told that a simple operation would hugely improve your chances of survival, would you demand huge amounts of documentation from the surgeon about the safety and effectiveness of what was suggested? Or would you accept advice on the basis of reputation and experience? You'd be right to question, but you'd be balancing immediate effect with some risk against delay with possibly greater risks, perhaps accelerating your own death.

Other people argue against vaccination based on their personal, possibly religious, principles, for example the 'artificiality' of the process of creating vaccines, or the possibility that profit may be made from vaccination development. Worthy reasons, perhaps, but personal. We must allow that there are may be sound medical reasons against a small number of individuals being vaccinated, and these must be respected, but these cases will be rare, given the quality of vaccine testing that has been carried out.

All arguments that we have heard seem to contain an element of self-indulgence in taking a personal moral stance, that, when pursued by many, potentially harms many others. These 'others' may just be statistical figures, as far as these people are concerned (if they think about that aspect), but in practice they are real people, suffering and creating real tragedy. It is hard to assign any moral superiority to holders of these arguments, however much one may sympathise with the underlying principles. In short, full vaccination programs will win against the dreadful disease: are there any contrary views worth the statistical impact of losing the battle or delaying victory?

St James the Least of All

On how to deal with your church's correspondence

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You may have had several years of intensive training on biblical interpretation, preaching and church history, but that doesn't cover the really important matters in parish life: how to evade disgruntled parishioners, run a brisk Summer Fete and, in your case at present, deal with correspondence, either by letter or email.

My regular practice, which I recommend to you as a New Year Resolution, is to read all the letters/emails you receive and then discard them. If the matter is truly important, you will receive a second message, to which you respond; more likely, the sender will either have forgotten all about his first letter/email after the second month or will write to some other cleric instead. In either case, you will be saved a great deal of trouble.

You only need two folders for your filing system, either for post or emails. The first is for complaints; they are to be filed and ignored, no matter how many duplicates you are sent. Should you be confronted personally, you simply say that the matter has been passed on to the bishop. Those truly dogged complainants who pursue the matter will eventually receive an episcopal reply saying he knows nothing of the matter, for which you then blame the postal system/spammed email. After letters and emails have ricocheted round the country for many months, the person complaining will either have lost energy to pursue the matter, or the will to live.

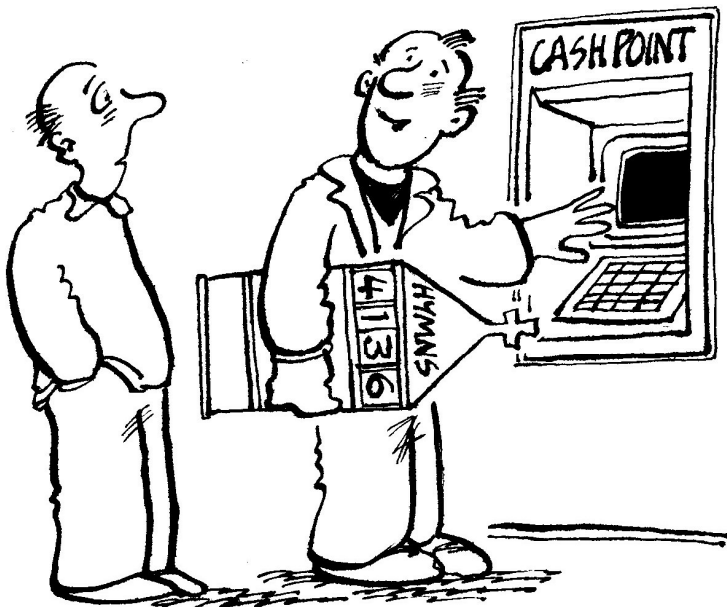
The second file receives all other correspondence/emails chronologically. The earliest letters and emails will be at the bottom of the pile and the most recent on the top. In my experience, the postal file only needs attention when it reaches a height of about two feet and becomes unstable. The practice then is to discard the lower six inches and allow it to continue its steady growth. If the stack is kept in the

church vestry, then mice usually attend to the papers on the bottom of the pile.

Sadly, your own church, with its electronic systems for filing, sorting and retrieving correspondence and with your parish secretaries, removes all of these blessings at a stroke. You have therefore no excuses for not dealing instantly with every note that comes your way. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

May I also remind you that not even St Paul, that unflagging letter-writer, ever ended one of his letters with a request for a prompt reply. Need I say more?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

The Neglected Best Seller.

It is the world's best seller, *yet the most neglected and least consulted life map.*

It is the most scrutinised *yet misread, misrepresented, and least understood.*

It is the most naked book *yet the most mysterious,*

The most loved book *yet the most persecuted.*

It can be understood by children *but often an enigma to the mature.*

Even the illiterate may discern its light *yet the wise and educated are confounded by it.*

It is shallow, shallow enough for an ant to walk in *yet deep enough to drown an elephant.*

It is a fire that burns the heart's dross and water that cools the soul's burning thirst.

It opens eyes of the blind *but its light may blind faithless eyes.*

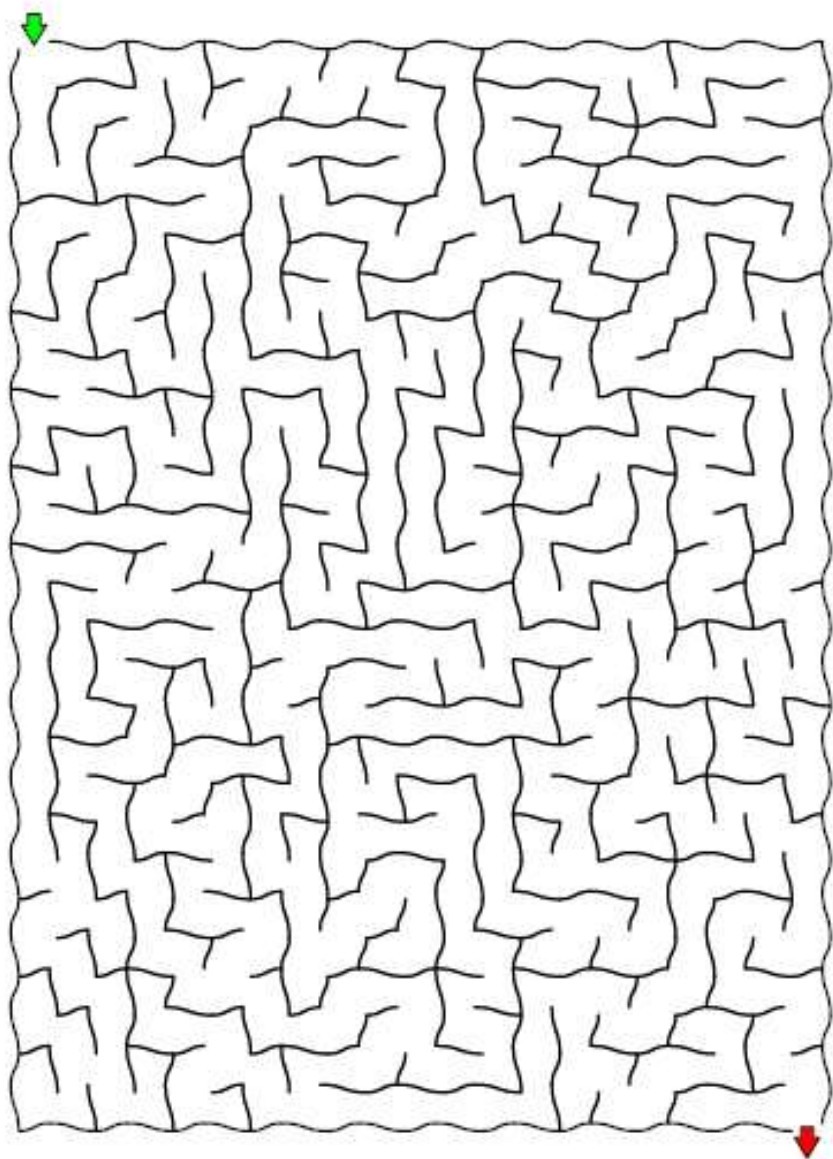
It is a double-edged sword *yet its thrusts and cuts bring salvation and wholeness.*

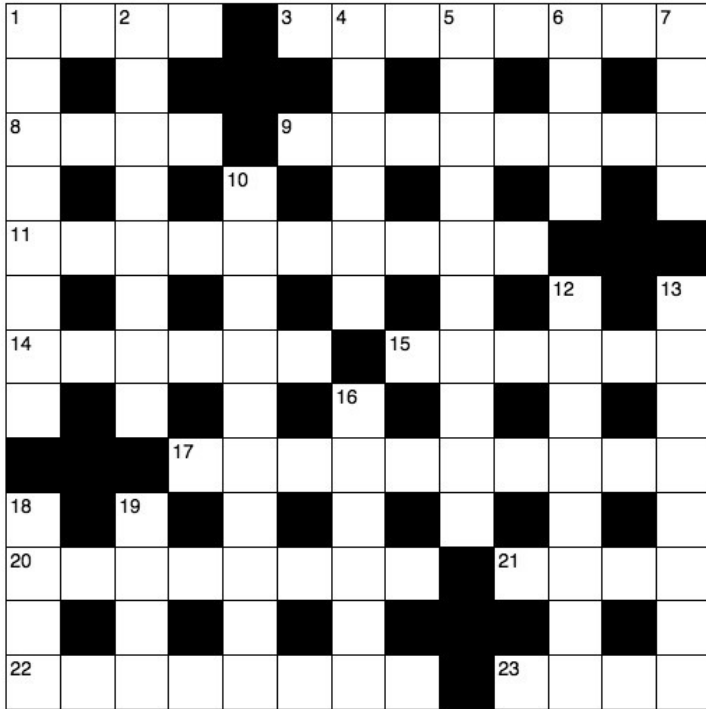
The Bible is most nutritious soul food and the most potent balm for life.

Should I not pursue it for its benefits in this life and the next?

Revd. Patrick Mukholi

Puzzles





Crossword clues and answers - Jan21

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)

- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea, 2, Chartisma, 4, Heap up, 5, Challenged, 6, Lois, 7, Slew, 10, The Servant, 12, Lewdness, 13, Unending, 16, Daniel, 18, BBFC, 19, Snap.

ACROSS: 1, Cock, 3, Shackles, 8, Play, 9, Paradise, 11, Faithfully, 14, Emmesh, 15, Unseen, 17, Armageddon, 20, Benjamin, 21, Bert, 22, Capitals, 23, USPG.

