



CHURCH AT HOME

Issue 22: September 5th

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the twenty-second edition of "Church at Home".

Things are beginning to seem a bit more like normal this week with the return of our children to school. After over five months of having our kids at home it felt a bit strange to be sending them in. The typical parental anxiety about how they would cope was soon allayed by children confident and ready to start anew, taking in their stride the new ways of doing things. I have nothing but admiration for the teachers and support staff of all our schools for the way they have managed everything, often with the goalposts moving at the last minute.

It has made me reflect on how often God gets those anxious parent moments in our lives. He knows us individually and is our Father. Jesus called him "abba" and encouraged us to do the same. "Abba" simply means "daddy", the term a young child would use for their Father. But how much more than an earthly Father is God. Some of us have amazing Fathers, others less so, but our Heavenly Father is the perfect daddy and when we set out into the unknown or take a leap of faith He is there. He is the mum or dad at the gate hoping for the best but worried for our welfare.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

Rev Clive

Church noticeboard

Jane Stafford

Jane sends her love to everyone at St Paul's and she would love to see anyone who would like to visit. You do have to book to see and they give you a half hour slot. You have to sign in at reception and have your temperature taken. You then wait in a room leading off the garden and they bring Jane in to you.



Sermon / Talks Podcast

If you miss the Sunday message you can catch up by downloading the audio to listen to at your leisure from the church website.

<https://www.spnh.org.uk/media/>

Church Office

The church office is now open. We will be operating social distancing and restricting the number of people at one time. So please DO NOT just turn up at the office. You will need to phone and make an appointment if you need to see Judy for the time being.

Art Club

After many years of leading St Paul's Art Club, Joan Handy is stepping down from the role. Art club members present and past wish to express their sincere thanks to Joan for leading the group and allowing them to explore their creativity.

Church noticeboard (cont.)

WHAT NOW?

THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN TACKLING RACIAL INJUSTICE

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Amelia Gentleman (*Guardian*)
- Professor Anthony Reddie (*Author of is God Colour Blind*)
- Chaired by Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

**WEDS
16TH SEPT
2020
2PM-4PM**

FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE

📍 [facebook/rainhamchurch](https://www.facebook.com/rainhamchurch)
www.rainhamchurch.co.uk

ST. MARGARET'S
RAINHAM

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Volunteers needed for key church roles.

We are looking for new Church Wardens to take on the maintenance and management of our buildings and to manage our paid staff.

We need a new treasurer to look after our finances

We need new Church Council Members who meet 6 times a year to make decisions about the mission and ministry of the church and to decide how we spend our budget.

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in the church on Wednesday 21st October at 7:30pm

Community Notices

ILLEGAL STREET PARTIES / UNLICENCED MUSIC EVENTS

**If you're aware of an event being planned on social media,
or what looks like a gathering being set up, contact us as
soon as possible.**

**LET US KNOW AT [MET.POLICE.UK](https://www.met.police.uk), CALL 101
OR TWEET @METCC WITH DETAILS.**



Reuse & Recycling Centres

**Cars plates with odd
numbers can use the
sites on odd dates
and even numbers
on even dates**



GB LA 11 BEX

GB LA 12 BEX




ACT ON IDLING

TAKE THE PLEDGE

#ENGINESOFF

BUSINESSES & LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACROSS LONDON ARE MAKING THE COMMITMENT TO HEALTHIER AIR

SWITCH OFF WHEN PULLED OVER TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY POLLUTION AND SAVE FUEL




IDLING ACTION LONDON RESOURCES AND EDUCATION SESSIONS ARE PROVIDED FREE TO ALL LONDON BUSINESSES

SUPPORTED BY MAYOR OF LONDON

KEEP BEXLEY SAFE

LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
Trusted by Bexley residents

NHS
Test and Trace

**COVID SYMPTOMS?
GET TESTED NOW.**

nhs/coronavirus OR CALL 119

Protect your friends and family

Free Cycling Training

Free Cycling training available now through Bexley Council Road safety team. 1-1's will be tailored courses to suit individual abilities and goals. If you haven't been on a bike for some time and need to get back into cycling, this is the perfect way to improve your confidence and skills

A free 1-1 cycle session to improve your urban (on-road) cycling skills

For further information or to book your sessions at a time and day to suit you please contact roadsafetyeducation@bexley.gov.uk

This week's prayer

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

From The Church In Wales

Prayer

There are many who still need our prayers. Those who have asked for our prayers are: Ann Easter, Ann Batchelor (Reader at St Martin's), Andrew Bennett, Charles Brooke, Elizabeth Foster and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen Hoare, Monica Lindridge, Christine Meaton and Christine Minns. For Carol & John O'Connor, John Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane & George Stafford. For Karen Vaughan (Cameo), Jeanette Watts and Mark Williams.

Access Church services online

A number of places are offering closed services online. If you are able why don't you try one of the following.

Holy Trinity Brompton – Nicky Gumbel

<https://www.htb.org/sundayonline>.

Freedom Church – Sim Dendy

<https://www.freedomchurch.uk>

All Souls Langham Place

<https://www.allsouls.org>

Watch on TV

TBN (Freeview 65 / Sky 582)

Hillsongs TV (Sky 595)

Resources for children and young people

Primary

VeggieTales (Netflix)

Superbook (Amazon Prime & Youtube)

Hillsongs: <https://www.youtube.com/user/hillsongkids>

Rend Collective: <https://rendcokids.com>

Bethel Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUmTiGOxKUOhwpvDtOI62mC4bs9JEUyFP>

Secondary

Bible society short videos - <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/study-the-bible/gnb-youth-edition/videos/>

Bible Game for Apple or Android - "The Guardians of Ancora"
<https://guardiansofancora.com>

What you're up to. – Pictures and messages



Donald and Evelyn Allan

Congratulations to Bill & Grace who have a new granddaughter, Evelyn Isla born on Wednesday.



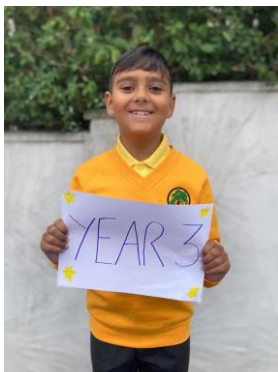
Bob & Monica Lindridge

While on holiday in Dorset, we spent a lovely day in Swanage: one of our favourite places.



Joshua & Faith Beazley-Long

Back to school



Noah Gill

Heading into Year 3



Ann Clark, Fiona & Jean Bennett

afternoon tea at Eastwell Manor.

THIS WEEKS PICK OF THE PICS GOES TO GRACE AND BILL ALLAN FOR THE LOVELY PICTURE OF EVELYN. A BOOK IS ON ITS WAY TO YOU WITH OUR LOVE.

Please send me your pictures and messages to each other. Let's encourage each other and stay in touch. It will be good to see familiar faces each week.

revlive@hotmail.co.uk



Why We Worship

UNDAUNTED UNRIVALLED

St Paul's Group is going to Minehead Two
10-15 April



SPRING HARVEST 2021



Booking form is on the back page

A message from Bishop James



The reference to 'two or three gathering together' has a certain resonance in our times as we continue to worship remotely or with restricted numbers.

Experiences of the return to in-person public worship seem to be mixed. I was speaking recently to a friend who worships in a traditional non-conformist setting, where the focus is on preaching and singing.

For him, without the congregational singing, the experience was pretty flat and his preference was for staying online until that could happen. For others, including many who live alone, being able once again to be physically together with others, even if masked

and distanced, has been hugely appreciated.

Our passage from Matthew 18 is an interesting one, not least when translators use the word 'church' in verse 17. For of course, the Church as we understand it, did not exist at the time when Jesus is quoted as saying these words.

It was after the resurrection and after Pentecost, that anything akin to 'church' came into being. So perhaps Jesus is using the word in its more general meaning of 'assembly'.

Whatever the setting, the emphasis is on maintaining the unity of the assembly, of the group, not least when disputes arise. In Matthew 18, the threat to that unity is at the personal and local level; disputes between members of the assembly.

Within the wider church, the threats to unity may be at a different level. The horror scenario is that in Matthew 18, where one comes to view a fellow believer as a Gentile or a tax collector - as an outsider. They are put outside.

That possibility is something which should be so unwanted for us that we do all possible to avoid it. It will be tempting to try to create the perfect church, which of course as is often said, would have to be the one in which 'everybody thinks in the same way that I do.'

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But creating such a Church - and there have been plenty of attempts to do so - involves

drawing boundaries in such a way as to exclude those who do not fit.

The image of the assembly which Jesus offers us, is a one where every sinew is strained to enable people to continue to belong, hence the sort of stages that Jesus enjoins upon us. Because, wherever people, even if only two or three gather in the Lord's name, he himself is there and his presence with us is what we would always wish for.

One of the things I treasure about the Church, is the richness of its diversity that we hold within our life. People who without the bond of faith would probably have very little in common.

Where the Anglican Communion is at its best, we see that happening on a global scale. When a congregation includes people of widely differing background, heritage and experience, we see it happening locally. It's not easy being that kind of Church.

We sometimes have to struggle to find and express our unity across the manifest differences that are between us. At its best, the Church is that community in which radical and conservative may be enriched by each other, in which we learn to respect those whose views are different from ours, in which we are quick to listen and slow to speak.

As St James puts it, 'The Church is that community in which rich and poor, well-educated and less well-educated, black, white and mixed heritage, female and male, old and young. African, Asian and Caucasian, may gather as one and discover that the Lord is among them.

The Church is where those who have wandered off into the byways of life perhaps, to be deeply damaged by that experience may return and find a welcome and a home.

While at some levels the experiences of these past six months have brought people together, at others we are seeing the hardening and polarizing of political and other positions in our society. And with that, the heightened awareness of divisions and differences. In that setting, what we are as Church, and how we express that, becomes an important act of witness.

Where we gather in his name, there the Lord is. And how we are when we gather, is of the utmost importance, for it is the Lord who is there.

James, Bishop of Rochester

Mission

Update from our mission partner, Beryl Baker from her friend Julie Fagin



Beryl is a nurse who works in Paraguay. She has been on the mission field for over 50 years and we have supported her as a mission partner throughout that time.

Beryl had travelled to Rio Verde to the petrol station/supermarket where reception is good so was able to access her emails and ring. At the ranch, problems with communication as usual, though it is good at 2 am!

The corona virus has come to the area. Pastor Augustine held a celebration anniversary service; the visiting pastor had the virus and it has now spread. The visiting pastor has sadly died. It means people are back in lockdown.

Rhett has been to the ranch, driven here by his wife Mari. (A huge answer to prayer – thank you Father God.) Rhett has returned to Asuncion now. Beryl spent some time with him; he is well and has been checking the cattle and buying hay. Rhett doesn't want his people leaving the ranch (54 of them including the families) nor anyone coming on to the ranch. Beryl has just been doing their shopping for them and for herself.

People are turning to the Lord. The women are holding daytime prayer meetings with bible readings. Initially they were organised by Pastor Victor but since the lockdown Beryl has been leading them in her house or on the veranda. (The men are at work and then too tired by the end of the day.) However weather is very hot, in the 40s even though it is winter time, and it is still very dusty from the road works so a struggle to continue. The tarmac is due to be laid soon.

Although there was a 32mm fall of rain that has brought some grass back, all the water tanks are empty. Beryl buys mineral water to drink for herself but has to boil any other water she needs. The wild animals are coming closer to the water holes, pumas and leopards, occasionally taking sheep. There are no wild animals near Beryl, apart from the ones that live there, that is alligators and anacondas, who are not a problem.

One of the dogs was given a new home quite a distance away but returned on day 3. What to do with all the dogs continues to be a problem.

Tim Curtis returned to Paraguay and spent two weeks in quarantine. As there is no water where he lives and works near Rio Verde, he has gone to Loma Plata to work. Pray for him as he adjusts to the new situation with the virus and restrictions. Pray that post has come at last including an important communication from Beryl's bank.

Pray for continued protection for them all.

Pray for rain.

Pray for a functioning vehicle. Beryl's car engine is now the problem the ranch manager Tito says, so urgent need for a replacement vehicle still.

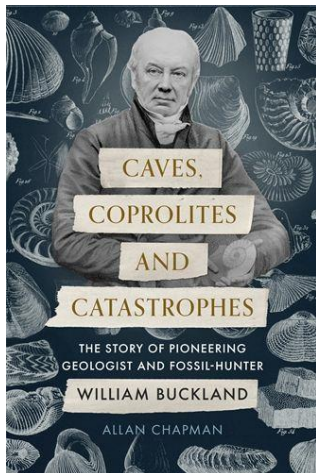
Pray that the prayer meetings and bible readings help the women grow in their faith and love for one another.

Beryl referred to this passage from Lamentations ch 3 v21- 24 Hope returns when I remember this one thing – the LORD's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The LORD is all I have, and so I put my hope in him. The LORD is good to everyone who trusts in him. So it is best for us to wait in patience – to wait for him to save us. (Good News Bible)

Or from the NIV 'This I call to mind and therefore I have hope – because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself 'the LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him. The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.'

Books

This week's book suggestions come from SPCK.

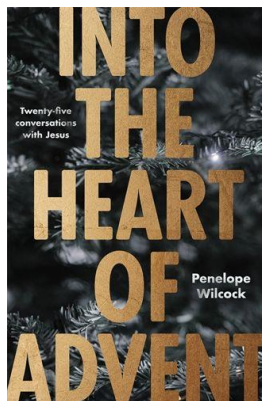


Caves, Coprolites and Catastrophes by Allen Chapman

In 1824, William Buckland stood in front of the Royal Geological Society and told them about the bones he had been studying, that he called Megalosaurus. This was the first full account of a dinosaur. In this brilliantly entertaining, colourful biography, Buckland's fascinating life is explored in full. From his pioneering of geology and agricultural science to becoming Dean of Westminster, this is a captivating story of an exceptional and eccentric scientist whose legacy extends down to this day.

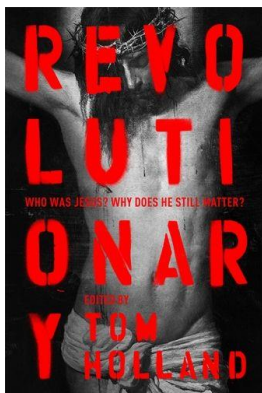
Into the Heart of Advent by Penelope Wilcock

Penelope Wilcock invites you to listen in on twenty-five conversations she's had with Jesus about the Christian journey and the meaning of Advent. Get ready to be surprised and challenged, as you hear Jesus' own take on the original Christmas and what it means for our world twenty centuries later.



Revolutionary by Tom Holland (ed.)

It is often observed that no historical figure has had a greater impact on the world than Jesus Christ. Why is that? And what difference does his impact make to the world today? It is also often said that Jesus was a 'revolutionary', and numerous books have appeared in recent years claiming just that - from the wild and sensational to the serious and respectable. This book, written by influential authors reflecting a diversity of expertise and points of view, considers the claims that continue to be made about Jesus, whether by believers or nonbelievers.



Poets Corner

Two humorous ditty's sent in By Carol

THE PIG

It was an evening in November,
As I very well remember,
I was strolling down the street in drunken pride,
But my knees were all a-flutter,
And I landed in the gutter
And a pig came up and lay down by my side.

Yes, I lay there in the gutter
Thinking thoughts I could not utter,
When a colleen passing by did softly say
'You can tell a man who boozes
By the company he chooses'-
And the pig got up and slowly walked away.




















Anonymous

ADVICE TO A YOUNG LADY ON THE SUBJECT OF ALCOHOL

BEWARE THE MAN WHO KEEPS YOU LATE
WHEN MUM SAID TO BE IN BY ATE,
AND SHUN THE CHAP WHO, AT THE PALAIS,
INVITES YOU TO INSPECT HIS CHALAIS.
BEHAVE THEN AS YOU REALLY OUGHT,
REFUSE THAT SECOND GLASS OF PUGHT.
SUPPING UNACCUSTOMED LIQUOR
WILL ONLY MAKE YOU FALL THE QUICOR;
DRINKING BRANDIES AT 'THE MITRE',
IS SURE TO GO AND MAKE YOU TITRE;
AND OH! THAT HEADACHE IN THE DAWN
WILL MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NOT BEEN BAWN.
REMEMBER, THEN, A MAIDEN OUGHTER
SHUN ALL DRINK AND STICK TO WOUGHTER.
ERIC PARROTT.

Official UK Christian & Gospel Albums Chart

Top 20

Pos	LW	Title, Artist	Peak Pos	WoC
1	1	 THE SEARCH NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	57
2	2	 JESUS IS KING KANYE WEST EMI	1	44
3	3	 LOOK UP CHILD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	1	13
4	4	 VITAL SIGNS SKILLET WARNER BROS	2	273
5	New	 RESTORATION LECRAE REACH	5	1
6	5 ↓	 MANSION NF CCMG	1	159
7	7	 THERE IS MORE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	125
8	8	 AWAKE SKILLET ATLANTIC	2	338
9	11 ↑	 UNLEASHED SKILLET ROADRUNNER	1	212
10	9 ↓	 GRAVES INTO GARDENS - LIVE ELEVATION WORSHIP ELEVATION WORSHIP	2	17
11	12 ↑	 VICTORIOUS SKILLET WARNER RECORDS	3	53
12	10 ↓	 AWAKE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	2	46
13	14 ↑	 PEOPLE - LIVE HILLSONG UNITED HILLSONG MUSIC	1	35
14	13 ↓	 VICTORY - LIVE BETHEL MUSIC BETHEL MUSIC	1	83
15	16 ↑	 LET THERE BE LIGHT HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	197
16	6 ↓	 WILD HEART KIM WALKER-SMITH JESUS CULTURE MUSIC	4	2
17	15 ↓	 HOW CAN IT BE LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	9	113
18	Re	 CHOOSE TO WORSHIP REND COLLECTIVE CCMG	1	18
19	17 ↓	 GREATEST HITS (THE ATLANTIC YEARS) POD ATLANTIC	6	81
20	19 ↓	 JUST BE HELD - CASTING CROWNS FAVORITES CASTING CROWNS REUNION	16	31

- 1. If a bunch of bananas are a hand what is a bunch of onions?**
- 2. Which cathedral city lies on the River Wye?**
- 3. In England, when is a village a hamlet?**
- 4. Which is the largest of the Greek Islands?**
- 5. By what name is the Battle of Senlac Hill usually referred to?**
- 6. Which Australian city was named after the wife of King William IV?**
- 7. What would a Russian make in a Samovar?**
- 8. Who fell asleep at the mad hatter's tea party?**
- 9. How is a Kookaburra sometimes known in Australia?**
- 10. How would vegetables be served if "Julienne"?**
- 11. Which all round English show business personality was born Michael Dumble-Smith?**
- 12. What would you be driving if it were a Silver Seraph?**
- 13. What did King Richard II, Edward III, Henry III and Henry VI have in common?**
- 14. Which fabled creature had the body and legs of a lion and wings of an eagle?**
- 15. James, Rita, Daniel, Esther. Which is odd one out?**
- 16. The collective noun for a group of camels?**
- 17. The Hunchback of Notre Dame! What was the name of the Girl who befriended Quasimodo**
- 18. What would you be doing if you were "yomping"?**
- 19. When it is not a lawn mower what is a Suffolk Punch?**
- 20. Dogs are generally accepted to have descended from Wolves but what is it wolves are unable to do what that**

Blast from the Past

From "St Pauls Parish News December 2005"

FROM GEOFF CLARKE

5.

DEAR FRIENDS For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (*Luke 18:27*)

You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you (*John 3:16*)

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (*Psalms 91:15*)

You say: "I can't figure things out"

God says: I will direct your steps (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says You can do all things (*Philippians 4:13*)

You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am able (*2Corinthians 9:8*)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (*Romans 8:28*)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I FORGIVE YOU (*Romans 8:1*)

You say: "I can't manage"

God says: I will supply all your needs (*Philippians 4:19*)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (*2Timothy 1:7*)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME (*1Peter 5:7*)

You say: "I don't have enough faith"

God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith (*Romans 12:3*)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (*1Corinthians 1:30*)

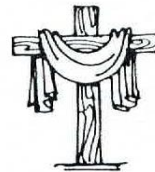
You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (*Hebrews 13:5*)

Thoughts to ponder over and to hold onto in our lives. God is working His purposes out in our lives, in our churches and in our world.

Have a great Christmas

Geoff



Thank you

To all those who give regularly towards the mission and ministry of St Paul's

Use this information to set up regular giving through your bank

Code 60-15-28 Account No: 66526434.

Account Name: St Paul's Church.

Reference: your name

Quiz answers

1.A rope; 2.Hereford; 3.No Church; 4.Crete;5.The Battle of Hastings; 6.Adelaide; 7.Tea; 8.The Dormouse;9.Laughing Jackass;10.Cut into fine strips; 11.Michael Crawford; 12.A Rolls Royce; 13.They all came to the throne before they were 15 years' old; 14. A gryphon; 15.Rita – others are books of the Bible; 16.A Caravan;17.Esmeralda; 18.Full Pack cross-country training as 19 Royal Marine or SAS; 19.A Horse; 20. Bark.



St Paul's Booking Form
Saturday 10th April – Thursday 15th April 2021
£285 adult / £265 Under 15*
 Discounts available for low income families & individuals.

Minehead week two – Please Return this form by **September 20th** to get the discounted price shown.

In order to book you in we will need a deposit of £35 per person. This is not refundable after November 26th. Spring Harvest advises you take the optional insurance available which is an additional £25.

We need details of each member of your party. Please fill in the form below

Name	Address (“As above” if the same)	Postcode	Date of Birth	Telephone	(over 16) E Mail

Optional Extras

Insurance £25 Ground Floor Request £15 Cot £0

Signed _____ Date _____

* We will do our best to secure accommodation at this price. If we are unable to and you don't want to pay any extra then your deposit will be returned and your booking cancelled. We do our best at St Paul's to make sure anyone who wants to attend Spring Harvest can go. If you are worried about finances please speak to Clive confidentially.