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THE MESSENGER

SPRING 2016



the magazine of
**WHITSTABLE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
MIDDLE WALL

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Beryl's Back! ^(page!)

The Three Rs

Isn't it crazy that, although most people understand what is traditionally meant by the three Rs, we're starting from a bad place in a spelling test? Questions are being raised as to whether or not children should use calculators or the spell checker instead of their brains? Should they spend so much time playing games on their computers or smart phones instead of reading a book? Should they use writing skills to pen a "thank you" note instead of just texting? Debatable questions maybe but there's no doubt in my mind! There may be many advantages in the use of modern technology but I'm not really convinced that the three Rs are instilled in today's children as they were in my generation and some scholars maintain that literary skills have declined over the years. However, enough controversial grouching!

When thinking of this subject recently, it occurred to me that, within the space of just a few yards, the Rheims Way in Canterbury crosses the three Rs:

The **river** with its boat trips, wildlife, duck race and Pooh sticks.

A little **road** that leads from the busyness of the city, through 'Toddlers' Cove, past the lure and temptation of the outdoor fitness equipment(!) and on to the beauty of the countryside.

The **railway** that takes us to and from the hubbub of the hub of our island, otherwise known as London.

Rail, road and river, all leading into the wonderful historic city of Canterbury. All there for our convenience and pleasure. Day by day we take many things for granted. We are blessed with so much and there are numerous choices to make in all areas of life but the most important decision we will ever make starts with the message of Easter, filters through our lives and affects how we live day by day.

John 14 vs 1- 6.

Beryl Harris





Minister's Letter

Spring 2016

At the time of writing (mid February) our minister, Paul, is unwell and has been instructed to take some rest, away from his desk (and pulpit!). Looking for inspiration to fill 'his' page, I was guided to the following 'Thought for the Day' by Eddie Askew. We wish Paul a speedy recovery and hope that you will enjoy the following thoughts. *Ed.*

For the revelation awaits an appointed time ...though it linger,
wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. *Habakkuk 2:3*

It was early spring. I was working in the garden, moving a pile of old bricks rescued from when we repaved the driveway. Hidden in a space between two of the bricks I found a dusty, grey cocoon. Last autumn a caterpillar had fattened itself up by eating into my shrubbery. It had found somewhere to hide, spun its protection against the winter – and hibernated.

As I looked at it, it seemed dead, totally inert with nothing happening. But in the secrecy of the cocoon, changes were taking place. Gradually, quietly, mysteriously the caterpillar inside was being transformed. In a few days, the restrictive cocoon would split and a new creature would emerge. A butterfly or moth (I can't identify cocoons) would unfold its wings and fly into a freedom it had never known – its waiting time over.

I wonder sometimes about what really happened on the first Easter Saturday.

I know about the drama of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday, but what about the day in between? The day when nothing seemed to be happening.

The day the disciples were mourning for what had been and didn't yet know what would be.

Even then, things were happening unseen and unknown in the cocoon of God's purposes. Events that would shake the world and change it more powerfully than anything else, events which, like nothing else, would give us the freedom to live.

All that was needed was time.

Waiting can be hard, but little happens without it.

*Lord, let me glimpse your purpose in the mystery of life.
And when the mist descends, help me to wait in patience.*

Welcome to a **WARW** Church

In October, last year, our church boiler was disconnected as it was deemed dangerous by British Gas!

There then followed a long process of finding installers capable of doing the job of replacing it.

Lots of advice was given, including how to get the job done on the cheap, and Jim Parker helped me in the task of finding the right supplier and then meeting with them on their site visits.

Five companies were contacted and invited to vie for the contract and, in the end, we chose a local company and a price agreed subject to diaconate and church approval.

In the meantime, Sunday services were held in our church hall into which Jim and I moved in as many electric heaters as was safe to do so!

Then came the task of raising the money to pay for it – the sum was in the thousands!

The first thing we did was to turn to prayer and, through God's grace, the funds poured in, not only from the fellowship but from visitors too.

By November we had the funds – with some to spare! However, the work load of the supplier meant that installation could not start until the New Year.

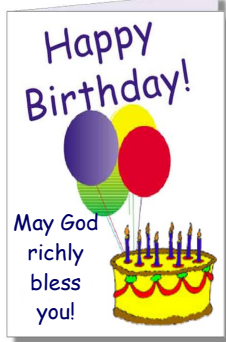
Through it all the fellowship was very understanding and supportive. Paul, our pastor, rearranged services accordingly.

Work finally commenced at the end of January and took three days. I was away while this was being done, leaving Jim in charge and, on my return, the job was completed and under test. All was well and, on the first Sunday in February, we returned to a warm church for our first service.

If I was to thank everyone for their help and support during this time it would read like Matthew 1(!) but I would like to single out Jim Parker and Ken Pacey, without whose help a hard task would have been even harder.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Andrew Frame



Birthday Greetings to:-

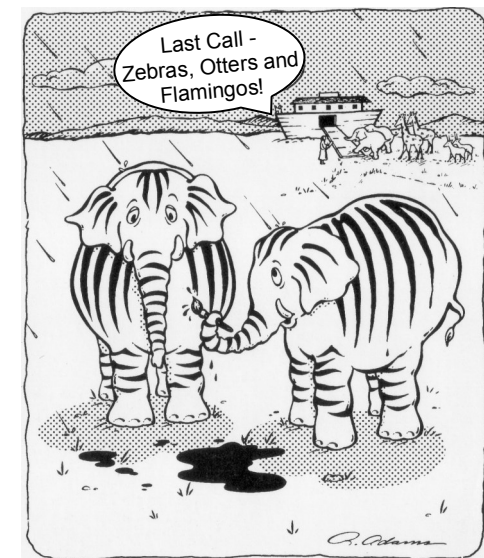
Margaret Frame	16 th March
Fred Goodger	24 th March
Christine Pacey	5 th May

BMS Birthday Scheme

Supporting the work of the
Baptist Missionary Society
See June Gluning for details

Easter Cross-Word Puzzle (page 16) **Across:** 3 Golgotha, 4 Thieves, 6 Transgressors, 7 Burial, 11 Veil, 15 Darkness, 18 Centurion, 19 Caiaphas, 21 Field, 22 John, 23 Magdalene, 26 Forgive, 27 Sins, 28 Passover, 30 Herod, 31 Angel, 32 Peter, 33 Joseph, 37 Thomas, 38 Flesh, 40 Robe, 42 Vinegar. **Down:** 1 Annas, 2 Calvary, 3 Gethsemane, 5 Crucified, 8 King, 9 Kiss, 10 Creature, 12 Linen, 13 Barabbas, 14 Nicodemus, 16 Judas, 17 Living, 18 Cloud, 20 Silver, 24 Garments, 25 Emmaus, 29 Sheep, 34 Pilate, 35 Stone, 36 Blood, 39 Spear, 41 Risen.

Desperation in the Final Hours!



(Submitted by Jim Parker)

Some Dates For Your Diary

29	February	20:00	Sacred Space at All Saints' Church
3	March	12:00	CAMEO
6	March	10:45	Morning Service – <i>Terry Rees</i>
8	March	19:00	Choral Group Rehearsal
13	March	10:45	Morning Service – <i>Rev Stuart Davison</i>
19	March	14:00	Children's Activity Afternoon
20	March	10:45	Palm Sunday Communion Service
20	March	17:00	Café Church – <i>St John's Methodist</i>
22	March	19:00	Choral Group Rehearsal
25	March	10:00	Good Friday – <i>Walk of Witness</i>
27	March	10:45	Easter Day Service
28	March	14:00	Easter Monday Ramble
31	March	19:30	Church Members' Meeting
3	April	10:45	Morning Service
7	April	12:00	CAMEO
10	April	10:45	Morning Service
17	April	10:45	Morning Service
17	April	17:00	Café Church – <i>Harbour Street</i>
24	April	10:45	Morning Service
28	April	19:30	Annual General Meeting
1	May	10:45	Morning Service
5	May	12:00	CAMEO
7	May	10:00	Food Bank Fund-Raising Event – <i>see page 9</i>
8	May	10:45	Morning Service and Messenger Deadline – <i>see below</i>
15	May	10:45	Morning Service
15	May	17:00	Café Church – <i>United Reformed Church</i>
22	May	10:45	Morning Service
29	May	10:45	Morning Service

Please see the weekly Fellowship News or the website calendar for details of other events and in case of alterations.

**MESSENGER
DEADLINE**

THE DEADLINE for the next (*Summer*) issue of The Messenger is...

Sunday 8th May

Please ensure your contributions are handed (*or preferably emailed*) to Beryl or Tony by that date.

Thank you

email: messenger@middlewall.co.uk

St David's Day

On 1st March, Wales celebrates its patron saint, David – or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is indisputably British, and is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith. It's likely that he was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia, David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary. At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi – 'brefi' in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed - either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the twelfth century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries – including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (Gwyl Dewi Sant, in Welsh) – but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day – oh, and they look nice!

© Parish Pump
(and Google!)



With Easter In Mind...

The Christian teaching about who crucified Christ is not that the Romans or the Jews or whatever people happened to be there did, but that you and I did, and that all human societies without exception are involved in the crucifixion of Christ. *Northrop Frye*

They crucified Him with the criminals. Which is more amazing, to find Jesus in such bad company, or to find the criminals in such good company? Jesus did not die for the sake of a good world, He died for the sake of an evil world. *Karl Barth*

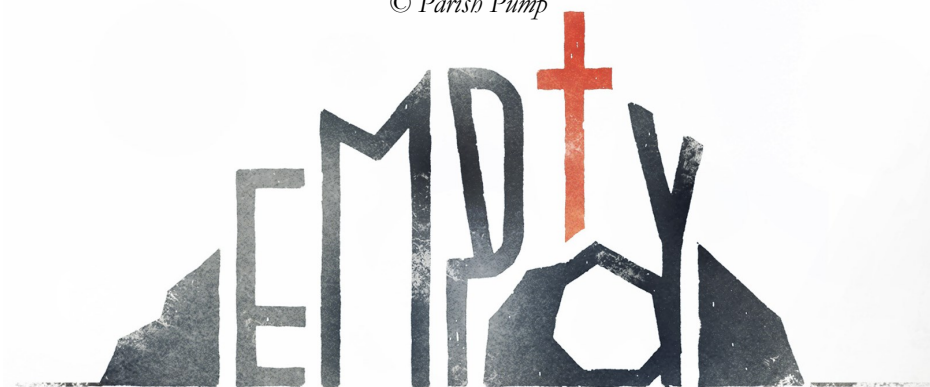
Gethsemane invites us to consider ... what it meant for Jesus to be, in a unique sense, God's Son. The very moment of greatest intimacy – the desperate prayer to 'Abba, Father' – is also the moment where ... He is set on the course for the moment of God-forsakenness on the cross. *Tom Wright*

The tragedy of the second millennium was that the Cross, starting with the Crusades, became an emblem of the sword... the challenge of this third millennium is to let it be what it was and what it still is in its origin – an emblem of unconditional love. *Ray Simpson*

Any rational sceptic will remind me that ancient rumours of a rabbi's resurrection make a thin limb on which to hang the hopes of the world. Yes, I would admit, it is a thin limb. But sturdy enough, for all that, to have held up a sign for all these ages that God the Creator has the competence to renew the world He made. *Lewis Smedes*

If Resurrection happened regularly, there would be nothing different about Jesus being raised from the dead. He would be one among many, just another statistic. If Jesus's resurrection is unique, then by definition, there will be no analogous events. That makes it a lot harder to believe. It also makes it worth believing. *Alister McGrath*

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What About Your Website?

I guess that many of our readers know something about the Internet, and that quite a few of you know that Whitstable Baptist Church has a presence there (*wherever 'there' is!*) – you can find it at www.middlewall.co.uk, or just 'Google' for 'middlewall' – it's usually at the top of the list!

So, my question is, do you know what information is on it?

If you don't, then you are really missing out because there are more than 400 'pages' of information about us and what we do and what we believe, and nearly as many photographs taken at various events from garden parties and rambles, to anniversary celebrations and ministerial pilgrimages! There is a great deal of history, with details of our past and present ministers and of a good many of our deacons, too, again with pictures.

There are a number of videos you can watch and you can listen to recordings of our Sunday services from the past six months. There is information about our various organisations, including our Choral Group, and material from the Baptist Union helping to explain what we Baptists are all about. You can access the weekly Fellowship News and the Church Calendar so you will always know what's going on!

There is a page of 'links' to other websites – churches (all of the 'Whitstable Together' churches have a website) and other organisations such as Alpha, CAP, Food Bank, Leprosy Mission, Samaritan's Purse, Street Pastors, and so on.

In the 'Members' area you can find the latest Fellowship List, updated monthly, and copies of various 'official' documents such as our Child Protection Policy, and the Church Constitution which replaced our previous Church Rules. (*This area is safeguarded by a password – available on request*)

Finally, there is a page of contact information with details of how to contact the Church Leadership.

The address of our website is shown on every page of this magazine – incidentally, did you know that you can access colour copies of a whole years-worth of 'The Messenger'? And, if you've got a 'smart phone', you can point it at the QR square here and go straight to the website!

I challenge you to go online and have a look – it may surprise you. It may also surprise you to know that quite a lot of people do just that – in fact, we get an average of **30 visitors each and every day!**

Tony Harris – Webmaster!



Diary of a Church Mouse

A poem by John Betjeman

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.

Lean and alone I spend my days
behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
with two oil-lamps and half a broom.

The cleaner never bothers me,
so here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
my jam is polish for the floor.

Christmas and Easter may be feasts
for congregations and for priests,
and so may Whitsun. All the same,
they do not fill my meagre frame.

For me the only feast at all
is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
when I can satisfy my want
with ears of corn around the font.

I climb the eagle's brazen head
to burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
and gnaw the marrows hanging there.

It is enjoyable to taste
these items ere they go to waste,
but how annoying when one finds
that other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
who have no proper business there.

Two field mice who have no desire
to be baptised, invade the choir.

A large and most unfriendly rat
comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
and yet he comes ... it's rather odd.

This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(it screened our special preacher's seat),

And prosperous mice from fields away
come in to hear our organ play,
And under cover of its notes
ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.

A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
to munch through Harvest Evensong,

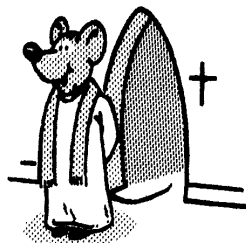
While I, who starve the whole year through,
must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
not once inside the church appear.

Within the human world I know
such goings-on could not be so,
For human beings only do
what their religion tells them to.

They read the Bible every day
and always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
worship each week in God's own house,

But all the same it's strange to me
how very full the church can be
with people I don't see at all
except at Harvest Festival.

(Submitted by Jim Parker)



Psalm 23



¹**The Lord is my Shepherd** – That's relationship!

I shall not want – That's supply!

²He makes me lie down in green pastures – That's rest!

He leads me beside still waters – That's refreshment!

³He restores my soul – That's healing!

He leads me in the paths of righteousness – That's guidance!

For His name's sake – That's purpose!

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death –
That's testing!

I will fear no evil – That's protection!

For you are with me – That's faithfulness!

Your rod and staff comfort me – That's discipline!

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies –
That's hope!

You anoint my head with oil – That's consecration!

My cup runs over – That's abundance!

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life –
That's blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – That's security!

Forever – That's eternity!

© The Friendship Book – submitted by June Bennett

What Does Easter Mean To You?

A large, feathery Easter egg stands in the middle of a small street in a shopping area in north London. Beneath it is an Easter message: "This egg is to remind people to shop at independent retailers".

I had thought that it might be to remind people of the other message of Easter - the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, for example, which churches across the country will be marking on Sunday. But the message of shopping appears to be the louder one, with the magazine Retail Week announcing the glad tidings that footfall at shopping centres, retail parks and high streets will surge almost 5% over the Easter weekend "as shoppers splurge their payday cash".

It's not clear whether footfall at churches across the country will also surge by the same amount, although Christmas and Easter services continue to attract higher numbers than most weeks. Some 1.3m people in the UK attended Easter Church of England services alone in 2013 – compared to 2.5m for Christmas.

For many years now, leading church figures have bemoaned the fact that in a country that is still officially Christian, with almost 60% of people identifying themselves as such in the 2011 census (although far fewer actually attend church services, or believe in God), the religious message of Easter has been drowned out by the secular festival of chocolate and shopping being celebrated at supermarkets across the country.

Supermarkets accused

Last year, some large supermarket chains were accused of being positively "anti-religious", because they refused to stock chocolate Easter eggs with an overtly Christian message – on the grounds that they had not sold well enough in previous years. One supermarket chain buyer apparently asked the company that supplies the eggs, the Meaningful Chocolate Company, what Easter had to do with the Church.



It was a story that left many church leaders deeply saddened, and agonising over how such a key time in the Christian calendar has apparently lost so much of its religious meaning.

A few years ago, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, in his Easter Sunday sermon, expressed his regret that nearly a third of British children in one survey said they thought that Easter marked the birth of the Easter bunny, while over half had no idea of its religious significance.

before finally landing equally gently, sedately, calmly, etc, in somebody's large back garden, on the outskirts of Smarden.

At one point we climbed up to about 3500 feet and could see Dungeness and the English Channel in one direction and, in the other, right across Sheppey and the Thames where our pilot pointed out the pier at Southend. At another point we came right down to (literally) tree-top level and were able to reach out and pluck leaves! Quite early on two people in a microlight flew round us and returned our enthusiastic waves and, a bit later, a small aircraft flew *underneath* us as it went in to land at Headcorn Airfield. Another balloon had taken off just before us and, although at a distance, was keeping us company which was nice.

Shortly before we landed we noticed the 'recovery team' parked in a country lane and Malcolm's car behind it with Beryl and Malcolm waving to us. They had kept in touch by radio and followed us, albeit having to go the 'long way round' and through the narrow lanes. After we landed they spent some time trying to find a way into 'our' field and the pilot kept the balloon inflated so that they could see us above the houses. Once they arrived we all joined in to help with the business of deflating the balloon and packing it away in its basket and on to a trailer.

Finally, as the sun set, we all travelled back to the launch site to enjoy a celebratory glass of champagne.

Although I love flying, I'd never had much desire to go ballooning in the past, so my thanks to Tricia for encouraging me this time – I certainly won't need much encouragement to go again – it was brilliant!

And, as the words of my title song continue, '...the world's a nicer place in my beautiful balloon'.

Tony Harris

Get In Your Garden And Beat The Blues!

The gardeners among us have long known that there is nothing like an hour or two in the garden to dissolve your tension, depression, and anger, and to bolster your feelings of calm and well-being. It also helps keep you in good physical shape.

Scientists agree: recent research from the universities of Westminster and Essex has found that gardening (especially caring for an allotment) can prevent a range of diseases (ranging from mental illness, obesity, and cardiovascular disease to straightforward loneliness) – and thus save the NHS a good deal of time and money!



© Parish Pump

Up, up and away in my beautiful, my beautiful balloon!

So goes the title of a popular song of the late '60s. You are probably humming the tune even now!

The Montgolfier brothers created the world's first passenger-carrying balloon in 1783. Powered by hot air, it carried a sheep, a chicken and a duck!

A few months ago, 232 years later, I had my first flight in a similar balloon – well, it was powered by hot air but the similarity ends there. For a start there were no animals – just me, Tricia, Tricia's daughter, Carolyn, and son-in-law, David, *(and a handful of other passengers – oh, yes, and a pilot!)* Beryl said she thought maybe she might have enjoyed it, but wasn't sure. Tricia's husband, Malcolm, however, was quite sure! They both came to see us off but neither of them came aloft!

One of the most common questions friends asked when they heard we planned a balloon flight was, "where are you going from?" That seems like a reasonable question, but a more important question is, "where will you end up?" If you've been up in a balloon, you will know that flights are very weather dependant.

If you are flying from Coton-in-the-Elms, Derbyshire, then you may not need to worry about where you end up as it is the furthest point from the sea in the UK, according to the Ordnance Survey. However, balloon flights starting in Kent could have a very damp finale if the wind isn't carefully taken into account!

Our flight was postponed six times before the wind and the weather and our diaries coincided to make it possible but, eventually, the big day arrived and off we all went to the Great Danes Hotel, near Maidstone.

After the ubiquitous safety brief we climbed *(inelegantly)* aboard the large wicker basket under an enormous red balloon. I was quite surprised to see just how big they both were. The balloon was almost 100feet tall and the basket had five compartments, one in each corner with four passengers in each, and one larger compartment stretching the whole width of the basket for the pilot and all his equipment – various bits of aeronautical technology, big bottles of gas – and a fire extinguisher!

When the balloon was fully inflated we left the ground (and a party of well-wishers) behind as we gently, sedately, calmly, serenely and peacefully floated up and over Leeds Castle, which looks even more beautiful from above, and travelled on slowly over some of the lovely Kent countryside for an hour,



It wasn't a question that would have puzzled an older generation in the UK, many of whom remember with nostalgia the Easters of their childhood.

Going to church on Easter Sunday might have been seen as a little dull, but it brought many families and communities together.

What was the religious make up of England and Wales in the 2011 census?

- Christian: 33.2m (59%, down 12% from 2001)
- Muslim: 2.7m (5%, up 2% from 2001)
- No religion: 14.1m (25%, up 10% from 2001)

For the children born during the war, chocolate remained a rare treat – with Easter all the more memorable for it.

The Easter egg hunt remains a highlight for many children today, but in a period of relative plenty for many people in the west, chocolate and new clothes are no longer a "special" treat, but a more frequent indulgence.

Influence of God

And God appears to have little place in the lives of many young adults today. A YouGov poll on social attitudes among 18-24 year olds in Great Britain in June 2013 found that of the over 900 polled, parents (82%), friends (77%), politicians (38%), brands (32%) and celebrities (21%) were more important influences over them than religious leaders, who came in last with 12%.

Just 25% of those who responded said they believed in God, 19% in a higher spiritual power, while 18% didn't know, and 38% said they didn't believe in any God or higher spiritual power.

The Internet

A search for 'Easter' images on the Internet revealed more than 300 pictures of chocolate eggs, bunnies and chicks – on just the first page of results. There were only eight pictures featuring a cross.

Lent

Yet the one aspect of Easter that some have begun to embrace with increasing enthusiasm in recent years, even if only anecdotally, is Lent – not so much in its original form of a spiritual fast, or giving up meat, but using the weeks leading up to Easter as the chance to give up chocolate, alcohol or smoking.

Perhaps Lent is now seen by some as a secular opportunity to cleanse the body from daily abundance, if not the soul.



Yet while many of us may be able to sate our hunger for treats more often than in earlier decades, and the majority in the UK are either avowedly not religious or far less religious than in previous decades, there is a hunger that remains. It is a hunger for some kind of meaning in life, above and beyond the materialistic.

From the growing popularity of humanism and mindfulness, of non-religious "Sunday services" or "kabbalah", and the enduring popularity of yoga, not to mention the growth of some of the non-established churches, and books such as Alain de Botton's 'Religion for Atheists', many in the west are clearly still searching for the answer to the question "why are we here?", even if they no longer believe the answer lies in organised religion.

The new organisations and individuals offering answers could perhaps be seen as the "independent retailers" in this market for higher meaning, as the former established retailers of the Christian Church in the UK lose worshippers, albeit more gradually than the steep decline of previous decades.

However, the only certainty that some families may feel about the meaning of Easter in the coming days is that whatever the question, the answer is not more chocolate!

Caroline Wyatt
BBC Religious affairs correspondent

Faith Warning!

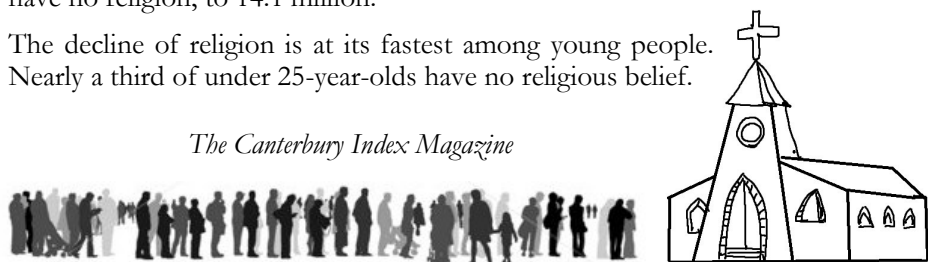
The average number of regular church attendees in Britain is 800,000 per week. This figure represents half the number who regularly attended church in the 1960s.

According to the 2011 national census, the number of Christians fell by 4.1 million over 10 years to 33.2 million – of whom only a third go to church except for weddings, baptisms or funerals.

The census found a 45% rise over the same 10 years in numbers who say they have no religion, to 14.1 million.

The decline of religion is at its fastest among young people. Nearly a third of under 25-year-olds have no religious belief.

The Canterbury Index Magazine



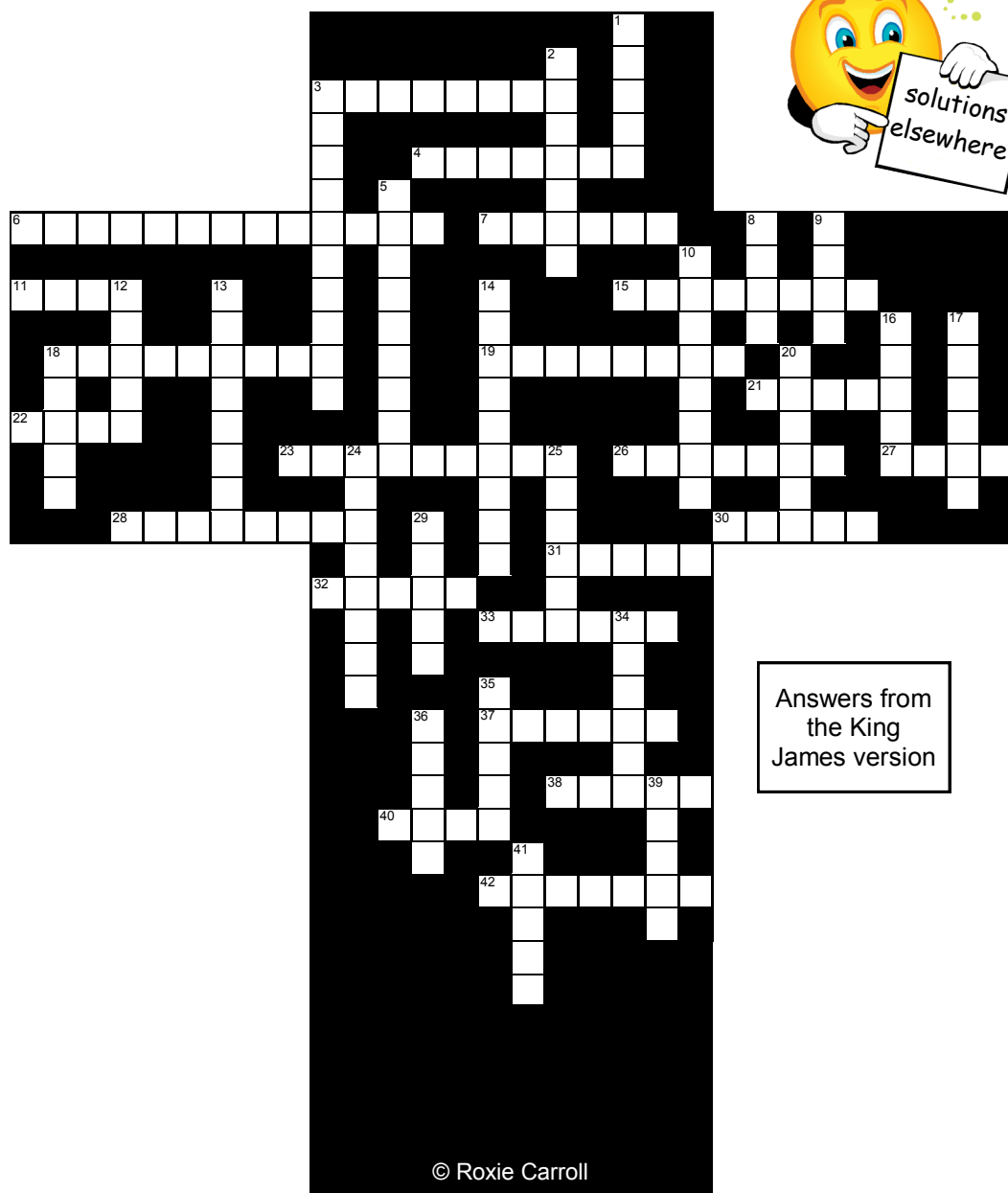
ACROSS

- 3 It means 'The place of a skull' where He was crucified.
- 4 These guys were crucified on each side of Him.
- 6 He was numbered with the _____
- 7 Jesus was anointed with precious ointment in preparation for His _____
- 11 This part of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom.
- 15 When the sixth hour was come, there was _____ over the whole land.
- 18 This Roman said "Truly this was the Son of God."
- 19 The high priest who said it was expedient that one man die for all.
- 21 The _____ of blood was purchased with the betrayal money.
- 22 The disciple that took Mary home as his own mother.
- 23 He appeared first unto Mary _____
- 26 "Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do."
- 27 He shed His blood so our _____ would be forgiven.
- 28 The Last Supper was a celebration of this Jewish holiday.
- 30 The ruler of Galilee.
- 31 This was sent to strengthen Him when He was praying in the garden.
- 32 This apostle denied that He knew Jesus three times.
- 33 This wealthy man of Arimathea buried Him.
- 37 The doubtful apostle.
- 38 "A spirit has not _____ and bones as you see me have."
- 40 They stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet _____
- 42 They gave Him this to drink when He was on the cross.

DOWN

- 1 The father-in-law to the high priest. Jesus was first brought to him.
- 2 Another name for the place of His crucifixion.
- 3 The garden where Jesus prayed before He was arrested.
- 5 It was the third hour, and they _____ Him.
- 8 This was written and set over His head: "_____ of the Jews."
- 9 Judas betrayed Jesus with a _____
- 10 "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every _____"
- 12 Joseph took His body down and wrapped it in fine _____
- 13 The prisoner released by Pilate instead of Jesus.
- 14 The Pharisee that brought spices for His burial.
- 16 The apostle who betrayed the Christ.
- 17 "Why seek ye the _____ among the dead?"
- 18 He was taken up: and a _____ received Him out of their sight.
- 20 Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of _____
- 24 They crucified Him, and parted His _____, casting lots.
- 25 He appeared to two disciples on the way to this village.
- 29 Jesus told Peter to feed His _____
- 34 The Roman governor who washed his hands of the whole affair.
- 35 This was rolled in front of the tomb and then sealed.
- 36 His sweat was as it were great drops of _____
- 39 The soldier pierced His side with this.
- 41 He is not here: for He is _____ as He said.

Just For Fun - An Easter Cross-Word!



Answers from
the King
James version

© Roxie Carroll

Food Bank Fund-Raising Event

St Johns Methodist Church, Argyle Road will be hosting a Fundraising Event on **Saturday 7th May** from 10am – 2pm.

There will be a Cake Stall, Raffle, Cards & Crafts Stall, Tombola, Competitions, Coffee and Lunch. Musical Entertainment during the event will include the Whitstable Recorder Group, Diana Whybrow (Piano), and pupils from Boughton School and Kent College.

Printed programmes will be available nearer the time.

Regular Supporters who work with the Canterbury Food Bank will be at the event. The distinctive yellow Food Bank bins will also be on hand on 7th May. So, if you would like to give any food items to the food bank, this will be a good opportunity. All food items will be delivered to the Food Bank immediately after the event.

With much to see and do and great entertainment throughout the event it is hoped that much needed funds will be raised for the Canterbury Food Bank, which also supports Whitstable and the surrounding areas. The Food Bank is supported by Churches Together in Whitstable and it is hoped that many will book the date and come and show support for the wonderful service provided by the Canterbury Food Bank.



Kathy Alston

Do You Speak Dashboard?

There you are, driving along in your new car, and suddenly, a red light flashes up on your dashboard. What do you do? Very likely, you stare at it in consternation, and then pull over and ring the AA or RAC.

The AA alone receives about 17,000 warning light calls every month. This month of March is one of the peak months of the year for such calls as the new car registrations have just been released.

It is hardly surprising that thousands of us are bewildered: many modern cars have dashboards that resemble the 'Starship Enterprise' in complexity. To add to the problem, one in eight of us do not even carry the handbook in the car.

Meanwhile, the AA is doing its best to help: it has added a catalogue of 1000 symbols and their meanings to its app.



© Parish Pump

Facing Reality On An Ocean Cruise

I grew up in a Christian family but it always felt like I was the odd one out. I found church restrictive and boring – and I was almost exclusively concerned with my own well-being.

The one thing that I couldn't shake off was a fear of death, so that led to sporadic attendance at church over the years. But, if I'm honest, it was only a desire to please my parents or a belief that this attendance would gain me some credit if the afterlife I'd heard about as a child turned out to be an accurate depiction. I pretended that I was seriously considering faith but on the inside I didn't want to give up the shallow pursuits I loved.

I was really pleased when my mum treated me to a trip to New York on the Queen Mary II in December 2014. My plans included drinking my way through the cocktail menu and then shopping until I dropped when we got to NY.

A few weeks before we were due to go I became quite ill with a virus – I was in pain, suffered terrible insomnia and couldn't walk properly due to muscle problems. It was touch and go whether I would be fit to travel. However, my doctor insisted that I go – that seven days on a cruise ship would do me good.

The first night on board I began to feel what a mistake it had been – I was feeling really unwell and started to worry that being stuck in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean might not be a good idea. It was only the thought of all the money that my mum had spent which kept me from speaking up. Then a technical problem occurred with the ship which delayed our departure. I remember wishing really hard that it would not be fixable and we could disembark and get a refund. I was very disappointed the next morning to find we were finally on our way.

Due to fatigue and not being able to walk very well I was confined to the cabin for much of the day. My mum was really kind bringing food to the cabin and entertaining herself without complaint. There was nothing to do, the same films on repeat and not even a view from the inside cabin we had booked in the belief we'd only be sleeping in it. It wasn't possible to get an upgrade as the ship was full.

So I found myself pondering my beliefs, particularly as I felt vulnerable and ill. I felt caught between the knowledge of Christianity and the desire to live as I chose. I realised how unhappy this was making me, that I had to commit to one way or another and that I couldn't live on the fence anymore.

When exploring the cabin I had noticed the Gideon Bible in the drawer and felt stirred to read it. I had no idea where to start so opened it at random. The section in Ecclesiastes was missing the subsequent page so I turned instead to

Light of the World

I am the light of the world.
He who believes in me,
He will be given the light of life,
He'll never walk in darkness.

I am the only way.
I am the truth and the life.
No one can come to the living God
Unless he comes to know him through me.

I am the resurrection.
I am the light.
He who believes will never die,
He'll live with me forever.

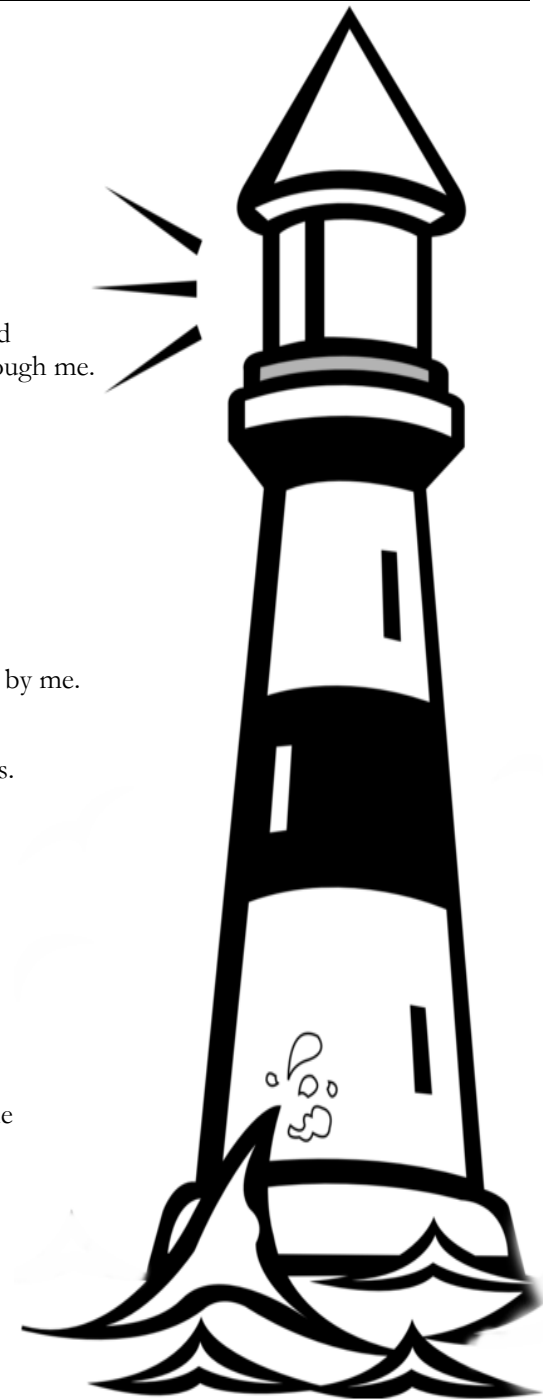
I am the open door.
Anyone can enter in.
He will be given a brand new start,
And all that he does will be guided by me.

I am the first and the last.
The beginning and end of all things.
I am the true vine and
My father is the gardener.

I am the bread of life.
Anyone who eats of me,
He will never be hungry again,
His heart will be truly satisfied.

I am the good shepherd,
Lay down my life for the sheep.
They know my voice and follow me
And no one can hurt
Or take them from my hand.

*(From the song, 'Light of the World'
by Marilyn Baker)*



Common Sense – An Obituary

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- ◇ knowing when to come in from the rain;
- ◇ why the early bird gets the worm;
- ◇ life isn't always fair;
- ◇ maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a class-mate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student – only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and, if you did, the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust; by his wife, Discretion; by his daughter, Responsibility; and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his four stepbrothers: I know my Rights; I want it now; Someone else is to blame; and I'm a victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing!

Printed in the London Times

Submitted by Terry Dickinson – Margate Baptist Church



the start of the New Testament.

Reading Matthew's gospel I was amazed at how relevant it was and how concentrated it was with good stuff. I began to realise that the word of God could enrich my life in a way that worldly things couldn't.

After all, I was on one of the grandest ships in the world and yet could derive no pleasure from it. Over three days in that room I came to the conclusion that I wanted to kick away the prop that I was using to keep open the door to my old life.

At this point we got a call from the Purser's office to say that they had found us a room with a balcony. How that happened on a full ship I don't know – I believe God must have been at work. In the new room I was able to see the sea from my bed and it was truly wonderful. And happily, of course, there was also a Bible in this new room.

I asked my mum if she had noticed I had been reading it (she had) – and I let her know that I had asked Jesus into my life. This was on the 21st December – unbeknown to me it was the anniversary of the date her mother had died (before I was born) so it transformed a sad day for her into a happy one – just another of God's blessings!

It's amazing how I can see God's hand in putting me on the ship in such circumstances where I was forced to confront the realities of my life (with a Bible close at hand). Although I should have been disappointed not to be able to make the most of the QM2 or New York, I'm just so grateful for the amazing blessing of our trip.

From Gideon News



Who is Jesus?

He is the way – so that sign writers can understand

He is the truth – so that politicians can understand

He is the resurrection – so that funeral directors can understand

He is the good shepherd – so that farmers can understand

He is the door – so that architects can understand

He is the alpha and omega – so that scientists can understand

He is the living water – so that plumbers can understand

He is the word – so that actors can understand

Jesus is The One!

Rev J John

MISSION

Canterbury Food Bank



What is Canterbury Food Bank?

We are a community project and registered charity providing emergency (three-day) food parcels to individuals and families in short term financial crisis across Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and surrounding villages. We are a Christian-led project that brings together volunteers of all faiths and none to provide a vital service to people in short-term need.

Our operating objectives are to:

- Build a regular and sustainable supply of food and financial donations to enable the provision of emergency food parcels, education and support;
- Provide education and advice to assist those in need, including, but not limited to, cooking, diet, food safety and budgeting;
- Build strong on-going relationships with local agencies and other relevant organisations to provide support and resources;
- Recruit and maintain a team of dedicated and trained staff and volunteers from the local community;
- Ensure all infrastructure – including required facilities, vehicles and materials – is in place and within budget;
- Ensure a strong governance structure and supporting communication channels are in place to enable the successful running of the charity and to ensure the charity status is maintained;
- Contribute to the wider debate on the cause and effects of poverty and hunger in the district.

Why do we need a Food Bank?

Hunger is not just a third world problem. There are 'hidden hungry' here in our affluent district of Canterbury. A sudden change in circumstances, such as a family break up, illness, unexpected bills, delay in benefits, redundancy or even reduced working hours can result in people being unable to feed themselves and their family.

According to the latest child poverty statistics, there are over 4,000 children living in poverty in the Canterbury District out of a total population of 135,000 people - that's one in seven children.

How does Canterbury Food Bank work?

- Specific tinned and packaged food is donated by local community;
- Volunteers sort and pack the food into emergency parcels;
- Parcels contain enough food to last for three days;
- Support agencies give a food voucher to people in crisis;

MATTERS

- Canterbury Food Bank vouchers are exchanged for a food parcel at regular distribution centres;
- Tea, coffee and refreshments are offered when picking up a food parcel, in addition to the opportunity to talk to one of our volunteers;
- Volunteers listen and direct people to further support if requested;
- As we are a Christian organisation, there will also be the opportunity for people to request prayer.

Do you need an emergency food parcel?

Canterbury Food Bank works on a referral system. A food voucher can be obtained from a referral agency that is working to help you. This can be brought to the distribution centre to receive three days' worth of emergency food. We are currently working with the following referral agencies:

- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Porchlight
- The Women's Refuge
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- Catching Lives
- Riverside Children's Centre
- East Kent Housing Association
- Social Services Mental Health Team
- The Probation Service
- Thanington Resource Neighbourhood Project

We cannot provide a food parcel without a voucher. When you collect your food your details will be documented and stored on our database. There is a limit of five food vouchers per rolling year, per individual/family.

We have the following weekly distribution venues:

Canterbury: St Dunstan's Church Hall (London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8LS)

Friday 12pm to 1.30pm.

Canterbury: All Saints Church (Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1PA)

Tuesday 9.30am to 11am.

Herne Bay: The North Room at Christ Church (William Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5NR)

Tuesday 12.30pm to 2pm.

Whitstable: Whitstable United Reformed Church (Middle Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1BW)

Monday 9.30am to 10.30am.

Contact us:

Canterbury Food Bank, PO Box 1072, Canterbury, CT1 9JL

Phone: 07718 108875 Email: info@canterburyfoodbank.org

