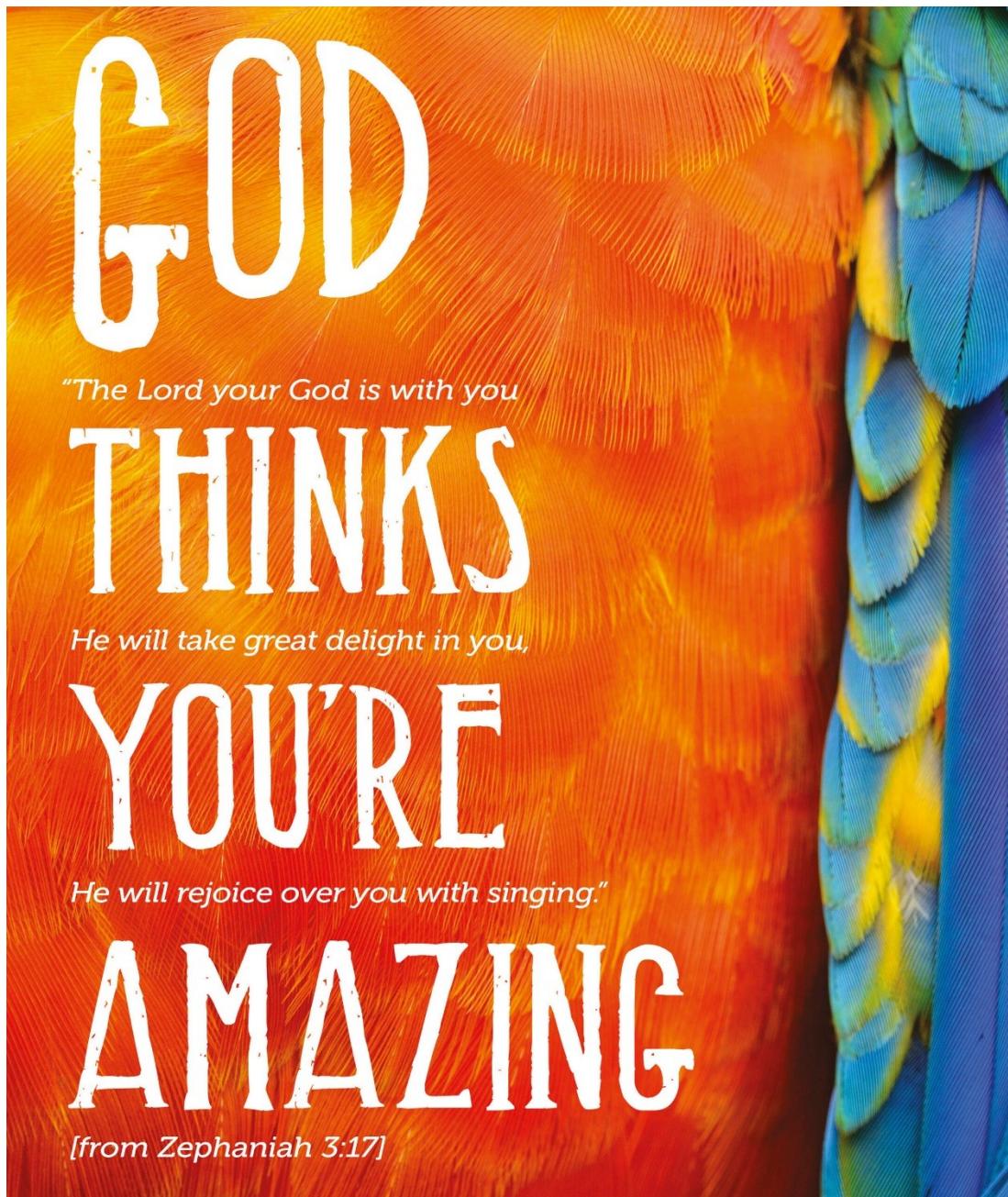




The HEATH



News, Views & Comment from the
United Reformed Church, Chadwell Heath

50p

November 2021

Signs of Normality

What a wonderful feeling! Singing in church again! Harvest bring-and-share lunch in the hall after the service! The new kitchen back again in action (see photo)! Things do indeed seem like they are getting back to normal.

Sadly though, as well as those in the membership who were not able to make the date on 10 October, we particularly missed Elaine and Derek, both no longer with us, and the great contribution they used to make to these occasions.

Nevertheless we had a great spread to tuck into, supplied by us all, and lovingly laid out by the Elders and helpers.

Now, if I can put my “Fabrics” hat on, things are also getting back to normal on the bricks and mortar front. For instance I can bring contractors in with less worry of inviting COVID in with them as well! Also contractors themselves are starting to operate normally and are becoming more available.

During the COVID situation I have stuck only to essential preventative maintenance. But now with hall hire picking up again, and the churches financial situation improving, we can confidently start to undertake some other items on the “to-do” list. Maybe our Church Meetings will return soon as well, and I can provide a comprehensive account of activities.

Maybe love and peace will eventually be the “new norm” throughout the world.

Brian



An Update from the Treasurer

I last wrote to you in December 2020 in the gloomy times when Covid had made such an impact on our lives.

Now as we are returning to some form of normality I have a brighter picture to present. Whilst there are still a few people who have felt unable to return to Church yet, we are now back to a routine of services where we can join in singing hymns again and feel able to invite lay preachers to lead us in addition to Ann and our own members who serve us so well. With a reduced congregation we are able to retain the increased pew spacing ensuring social distancing is easily maintained.

My thanks go to all who have continued with their regular financial commitment to the Church during these difficult times. Envelope and bank transfer giving actually increased during 2020, whilst understandably cash giving fell.

All of our hall users have now returned with one new addition and the Muslim Prayer Group have increased their requirements.

Our manse tenants have paid the full rent throughout this period and we are on target to repay the manse refurbishment loan by around April next year.

Since Covid started, our cash offertory income decreased by an estimated £900, and hall hirings fell by around £17,000. During the period we were closed obviously we made some financial savings such as cleaning, electricity, stationery and pulpit supply, amounting to some £3300. However, Synod advised me that our insurance policy covers loss of income and I have been able to submit a claim. This has been a lengthy and complex process, but I received an interim settlement earlier in the year, and have just received the final adjustment resulting in payment of just under £16,000. Whilst the loss adjuster's figures are difficult to follow, and I was unable to convince them of the actual amount of cash offertory lost, after deducting the savings which I agreed were reflected in our accounts their settlement actually exceeds my estimated figure by some £1200, so I was happy to accept it!

Our Church account stands at £5700 credit and our total assets are £32500. During this period, we managed to upgrade our emergency lighting and install a fire alarm.

We are just appointing surveyors to carry out our regular 5-year survey on the Church and manse at a cost of around £3000, and this of course may highlight any work required to keep the buildings in good order, but with our insurance claim now settled we are in a more comfortable position to face this.

David 25/10/21



Dear Friends,

Did you ever wonder how church magazines first got started? According to some historians, the first-ever church magazine was produced in Derby in 1859, shortly after the government abolished the tax on newspapers.

Of course, there had been other religious magazines before this, but they circulated on a national scale. It took John Erksine Clarke, vicar of a poor parish in Derby, to come up with the idea of producing a local church magazine.

And after that, nothing was ever the same again. Clarke's idea of a localised magazine gave power to the parishes. For the first time local Christians could have a common, regular Christian voice in their communities.

That may not seem like much now, but as one historian says: "In the early days those magazines were one of the very few pieces of print that many working-class homes would see. In middle-class homes they were often read aloud, as the family sat around the fire. By the turn of the century church magazines were going into several millions of homes around the country." And we should not underestimate their influence for the good. As Bishop Percival, preaching in Plymouth in 1886 said, "You cannot create a new world except by creating a new heart and a new purpose in common man."

It is the same today – our magazines can still have a regular, common Christian witness in our communities, sharing our Christian hope in the grace and love of God, through Jesus Christ. Our communities surely need to hear this message, and if we don't share it with them, who will?

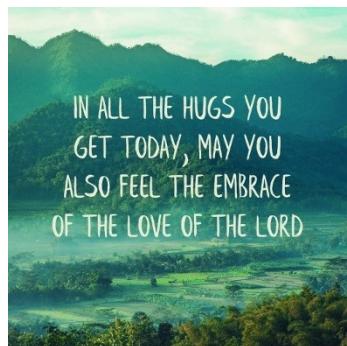


Church Diary October

7th November 11:15am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Revd Ann Woodhurst
14th November 10:50am	Remembrance Sunday	The Elders
21st November 11:15am	Morning Worship	Roger Whipp
28th November 11:15am	Morning Worship	Revd Christine Harding

Happy Birthday's in November

Helen Wheadon, Leah Cooper 13th, Tony Saville
16th, Janet Chetland 21st, Lawrence Clifford 25th,
Madison Cooper 27th.



Lest We Forget

*'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'





Holy Day 16th November St Margaret of Scotland

Some women have power, and some women are good. When a woman with power is also good, she can achieve an astonishing amount.

Margaret of Scotland has been called ‘The Pearl of Scotland’, but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north, to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by 1070. As a Scottish queen she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England.

Margaret was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to ‘civilise’ him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. She was also credited with helping her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey.

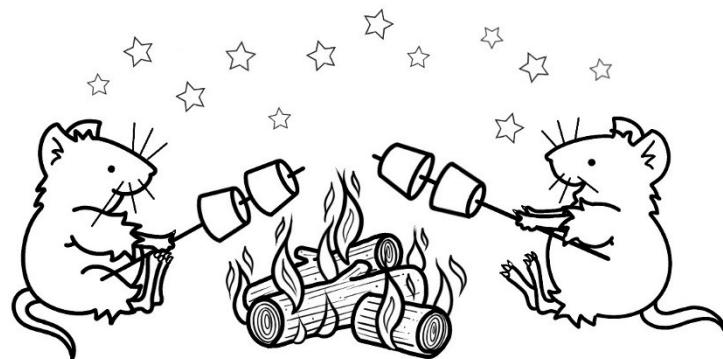
In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret’s Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park.

Margaret died in 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary, Queen of Scots, owned her head.

Worship Themes November

The Church will use the themes listed below.

November 1, 2021	<u>Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9</u> <u>or</u> <u>Isaiah 25:6-9</u> <u>Psalm 24</u>	<u>Revelation 21:1-6a</u>	<u>John 11:32-44</u>
November 7, 2021	<u>Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17</u> <u>Psalm 127</u>	<u>Hebrews 9:24-28</u>	<u>Mark 12:38-44</u>
November 14, 2021	<u>1 Samuel 1:4-20</u> <u>1 Samuel 2:1-10 **</u>	<u>Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25</u>	<u>Mark 13:1-8</u>
November 21, 2021	<u>2 Samuel 23:1-7</u> <u>Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)</u>	<u>Revelation 1:4b-8</u>	<u>John 18:33-37</u>



Prayer for November

Father,
In these short, dark
days of November, with
all the uncertainties and
complications in our
new Covid 19
landscape, help us to
feel the reassurance of
Your presence in the gift
of each new day. Help
us to be guided through
the darkness by Your
light – by Jesus, who
will never leave us or
forsake us.

In His name – the name
above pandemics and
shortages and rising
bills and all anxieties –
we pray.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



We remember

The Somme, Dunkirk and
Passchendaele
Cause us to think of times of
war,
When men and boys went
bravely out
They fought, some died and
returned no more.

They gave their all that we
should live,
We never should forget such
cost,
Remembering with thankful
hearts
Our freedom gained as lives
were lost.

Another Man gave up His
life,
Another war, another fight,
With all mankind held fast in
chains
As darkness fell as black as
night.

The cost was high, a sinless
life
To break the chains and set
us free,
The Lamb of God on Calva-
ry's cross
Paid that price for you, for
me.

By Megan Carter

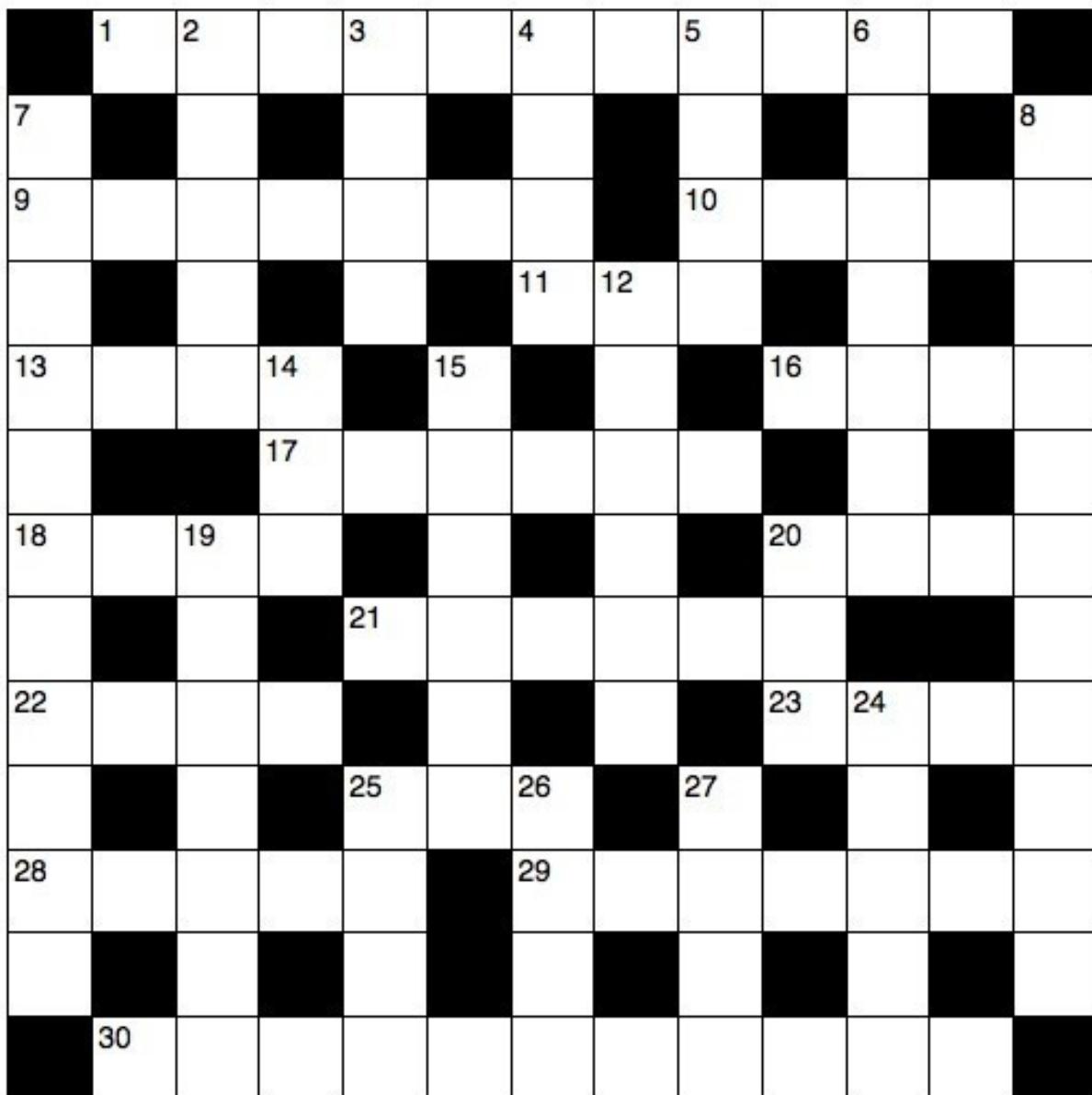
Crossword clues

Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across



Dogs and people

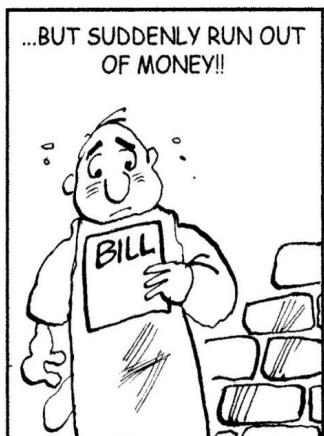
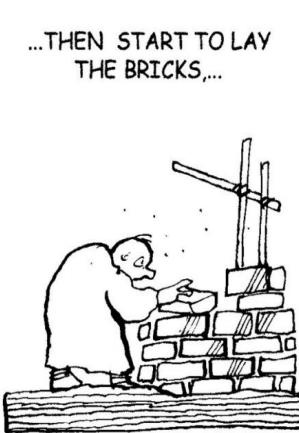
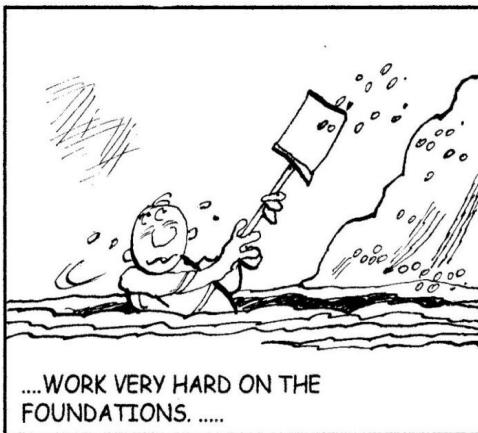
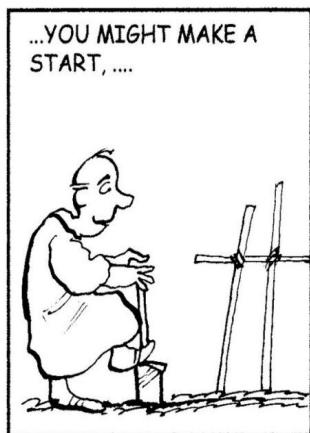
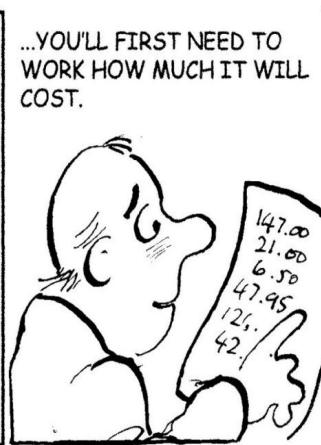
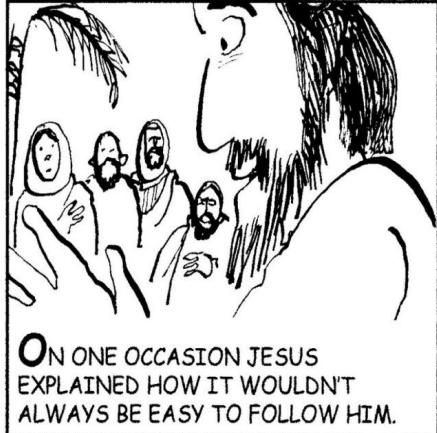
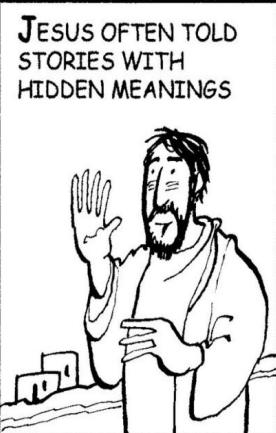
Dogs really are in tune with human emotions like no other species, and they are born with this ability.



Such is the finding of a recent study at Duke University in North Carolina, which compared the interaction of wolf cubs with humans, and of puppies with humans. In test after test the puppies came top in their innate ability to understand human instructions.

As one researcher explained: "Dogs are born with this innate ability to understand that we're communicating with them, and we're trying to co-operate with them." The study concluded that the social genius of dogs with humans is a product of thousands of years of domestication.

The tale of the Tower Builder



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz,

Should We Have Faith in Science?

How do you feel about science after more than 18 months of pandemic: tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data don't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to ‘trust the science’ in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in the run-up to the COP26 UN climate change conference, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other’s work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can’t prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it’s not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy. Psalm Eight reminds us both of the splendour of God’s creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what’s going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So in answer to the question ‘Should we have faith in science?’ I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

Diary/Noticeboard:

Chadwell Heath + Heath & Havering Group of Churches

Foodbank: Thank you for your continued support. We are short of cereals, milk, tinned fruit, sweets, ketchup & pet food. We are very grateful to receive any non-perishable food items, as well as general items e.g. washing powder/liquid, washing up liquid, tin openers – plus all important personal/ female/toiletries including soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste/toilet rolls & baby nappies, sizes 5/6.



We so enjoyed the fireworks display,
can we do it again at New Year?

Miscellaneous musings on modern life...

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify': I put 'DOCTOR.'

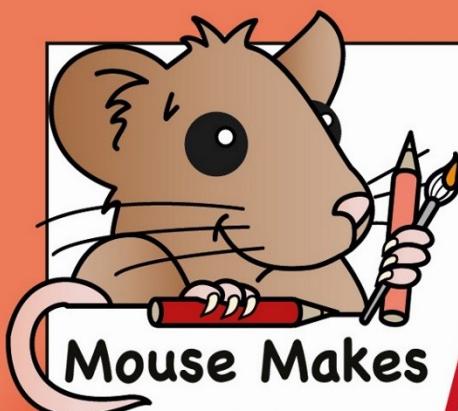
Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

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

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

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished. – *Anon*



Mouse Makes



Read John 10:11 and 14



**I AM
THE**

Read John 15:1 and 35



**I AM
THE**

OF

Read John 6:35,51

AM

Seven times in John's Gospel

Jesus calls Himself "I AM"

- the same name that God calls
Himself when He speaks to Moses
in Exodus 3:14
Jesus is telling us who He really is.



**I AM
THE**

AND THE

Read John 11:25

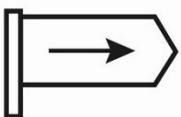


Read John 18:12

**I AM
THE**

**AND THE
AND THE**

Read John 14:6



**I AM
THE**



Read John 10:9

**I AM
THE**



B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	L	I	F	E	T	B
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	F	A	T	H	E	R
L	O	J	G	A	T	E	R	W	O	R	L	D	E
I	V	E	D	D	I	A	M	O	A	U	I	N	A
F	I	S	E	O	B	L	I	G	H	T	F	O	D
E	N	U	G	O	O	D	W	A	Y	H	E	H	E
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	B	L

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search



WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES
Foodbank, Tuesday &
Thursday 10:00am - 12
noon.



Web site: [http://www.heathandhaverlingurc.co.uk/
chadwellheath.html](http://www.heathandhaverlingurc.co.uk/chadwellheath.html)

Chadwell Heath URC is part of the Heath and
Havering Group



Crossword solution



**Please send any news, information or an article
for the Heath to Dianne Crisp.**

**Email Dianne.crisp@ntlworld.com The deadline is
Wednesday 27th October for the December/
January Issue**