



*The Westgate  
Chronicle*

**Issue 458: September 2016**

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*United Reformed/Methodist*  
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Our Mission Statement  
We at Westgate are called by God to highlight Jesus Christ's love for the people of Peterborough. We pass on this good news by worship, fellowship, mission, education, personal life and social service.



Greetings,  
By the time you read this the work on Centre 68 will have started. The car parking permissions will have been suspended and we shall find ourselves needing to make

adjustments to the way we work together with those other groups who use our premises. I suspect we shall be wondering just what we've let ourselves in for. However, I also think we may very soon be able to see the potential of moving into a warmer, more comfortable space, where our focus can be on worshipping Almighty God and hearing God's word for Westgate. We will soon be able to devote our dwindling energies on things other than maintenance and lettings and become what Jesus' final directions on earth commanded, that we become a missional people, devoted to engaging with the world as we find it around us and entrancing it with the light and



God of new beginnings, we lift our hearts and minds to you because we trust in your unfailing love.

Guide us in your way; inspire us as we seek to fulfil the vision you have planted among us.

Grant us new energy, a spirit of co-operation and enable us to work with one mind in carrying out your purposes for your people at Westgate.

For you are God our Saviour.

Our hope is in you.

Amen

joy of living intentionally in God's way or on God's Way.

As I write on 10<sup>th</sup> August we still have ten days to go before the work is due to start, so what I write is provisional, at best. We hope to move into the completed building on 29<sup>th</sup> October, and, the following day, farewell our present sanctuary and dedicate the new space. Between now and then there is a lot of work to be done and we will need your help. If you are physically fit, please come to labour. If you are less fit than you would wish, please come to make tea and coffee for those who labour. If you are

not able to get to church please join us in daily prayer at midday. Please pause in what you are doing so that the whole Westgate community and friends are praying with one voice to the One who urges us to be persistent in prayer. A suggestion for that prayer is provided as a bookmark for you to cut out and use (*see previous page*).

May God bless each of us with patience and energy over the eight to ten weeks this project will take.

*Lesley*

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## MOSQUE OPEN DAY

Paula and I took the opportunity to visit the Masjid Khadijah Mosque and Islamic centre on Sunday afternoon, 10th July, and received a

wonderful welcome from many of the members.

We entered the Mosque, after first removing our shoes and Paula wearing the traditional head gear. The "exhibition" around the room (temple), demonstrated many of the various traditions that Muslims follow and observe. Friendship handshake greetings were exchanged with the men but not with the womenfolk (no touching permitted and modesty observed at all times). Extracts from the Qur'an clearly spell out the beliefs and practices. Members shared a few of the values that they strongly emphasised,



namely righteousness, forgiveness, justice and the value of human life. Forgiveness is the core message of the Qur'an, not only is God infinitely merciful and compassionate, but He dotes on all humanity. We then went into a "scholars" class for further explanations of the faith and their place in the religious world. This was a most interesting and informative afternoon topped off with a fantastic buffet meal. We said our farewells and returned home more enlightened in the knowledge of their faith and beliefs.

*Paula and Stan*



## STORIES WITHIN THE STORY: DRAMA IN COURT AND AT SEA

Acts is an action-packed account of the lives of early Christian leaders, written by Luke, a Gentile (non-Jewish) doctor, a friend of Paul and eye-witness of many of the events. The account finishes (chs 21-28) with a fascinating story of courtroom drama and sea-going adventure.

Paul was a person of importance, a Jewish scholar who turned Christian missionary, also prominent in the Roman world, having been born a Roman citizen. At that time Roman citizenship was a privilege enjoyed by few, providing protection against arbitrary action by magistrates and government.

In AD 57 he made his last visit to Jerusalem to meet Jewish Christian leaders. To counter the criticism by Jews, including some Christians, that he taught against the traditional Jewish religious practices, he agreed to spend time in the Temple, publicly taking part in the Jewish rite of purification. This was a mistake: he was set on by a crowd in what turned into a riot. Roman soldiers intervened, took Paul into custody and would have flogged him to obtain a confession about how he had offended the crowd, but Paul quietly pointed out that a Roman citizen could not be treated like that. Instead he was kept in custody overnight; next day he was brought before the Jewish Sanhedrin (Council of State), where he created confusion by setting the two main religious groups (the Pharisees and the Sadducees) at loggerheads over a theological question.

He was to be brought back the day after to continue the trial, but after Paul's nephew learned of a plot to intercept and assassinate him, Roman authorities kept

him in protective custody, sending him to Caesarea, the seat of the local governor, Felix. Felix, perhaps hoping to receive a bribe, kept Paul in custody for two years, till he was replaced by another governor, Festus.

Festus, regarding the case against Paul as primarily a religious dispute, and trying to appease the Jewish leaders, proposed holding another trial in Jerusalem. However, the threat of assassination was still there, so Paul invoked a legal procedure, available only to Roman citizens, of appeal to the Emperor. Festus sent him to Rome by sea with other prisoners, under charge of a Roman centurion. Luke accompanied him, perhaps signing on as ship's doctor.

After transferring to a ship carrying Egyptian grain to Rome, and because of inclement weather, the party had only reached Crete when Winter set in. Paul had become friendly with the centurion and, experienced traveller that he was, strongly advised against proceeding until after Winter. But his advice was countered by that of the ship's pilot and owner, and they set sail again, only to be beset by a violent north easterly wind which drove them before it, out of control.

The ship's tackle and even the cargo were jettisoned. When it was thought land was near, sailors tried to escape clandestinely in the ship's boat, but on Paul's advice that was prevented by cutting the boat loose. For a long period – about fourteen days – the sky had been black, and neither stars by night nor sun by day could be seen to aid navigation. Little food was taken as every effort went into trying to secure the ship.



Paul had received an angelic vision assuring rescue for himself and the whole company, and he encouraged them by recounting that vision, and – equally important – insisting that all took some food. The morning after, land was seen ahead; the ship was brought, under reduced sail, towards the beach, but struck rocks and began to break up some way from shore. Those who could swim did; others held on to floating wreckage; all came safely to shore.

They had arrived on the island of Malta. Local inhabitants received them kindly, building a fire to help them dry out. Paul's adventures were not at an end: helping collect brushwood for the fire, he picked up a snake. Thinking it was venomous, the locals were amazed Paul took no harm from it, and his status rocketed. Perhaps that is why he was

invited to heal many sick people. Helped probably by Luke the physician, he was able to do so.

Three months later the party boarded another ship which had wintered on the island, taking them to Rome where Paul probably spent the rest of his life. Whether he was executed, or released after judicial process, we do not know.

*This story, with the many dangers survived by the apostle, inspires by its picture of Paul's character, but I think Paul's own reflection on it is described in his own letter to Rome, which was probably written a little while before these events: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Ch 8 v. 28 NRSV)*

*Ian*



*A mosaic about St Paul's rescue on Malta, inspired by a fresco in the Vatican by Nicolò Circignani and given to Malta by Pope Benedict XVI.*

# KRISHNA PAL: 1764 - 1822

There was an influx of soldiers, sailors, traders and adventurers into India after the formation of the East India Company: on June 13, 1793, two hundred years after the East India Company was formed, the first two Englishmen, William Carey and his friend John Thomas sailed to India as the first missionaries under the auspices of the Baptist Missionary Society. They found life and conditions difficult and appalling. They left Calcutta for a village where they settled and concentrated on learning Bengali. By 1795 Carey could preach for thirty minutes in Bengali, although some of the congregation complained that he gave them 'mental trouble'. They found some people were interested in the gospel but could not have the courage to confess Christ. Carey and Thomas carried on their missionary work and managed to translate nearly all the New Testament into Bengali. They had some encouragement when another missionary, John Fountain, was sent from England to help them carry on their work and soon after several families from England came to India and settled in a town called Serampore. Carey and his missionary companions heard about the English settlers and moved to Serampore where by chance they met a 'guru' called Krishna Pal, born in Calcutta in 1764.

At the age of thirty nine Krishna Pal was a carpenter and a local guru teaching others but he did not have faith in the teaching of the Hindu Temple and had no happiness, as he thought his sins were unforgiven. He had heard of the gospel, but not directly from the Christian 'gurus', as he called them. He wanted to meet and learn from them and one day he was brought closer to them by accident. He had broken his shoulder and Carey and Thomas were called to give him some



medical attention and managed to set his shoulder. Krishna then began to go to the Mission not for medical attention, but for spiritual instruction, and after a few weeks, when Thomas asked him what he had learned, he replied, 'The Lord Jesus Christ has given his very life for the salvation of others and I and my friend Gokul believe this'. Krishna and his friend were then accepted as Christian brothers and they were invited to eat with the missionaries, knowing that if they did they would break the Hindu caste rules. But they did accept the invitation and within weeks they were baptised. Krishna then invited other members of his family to be baptised and often accompanied the missionaries, unshaken by the loathing of his fellow men.

Krishna paid heavily for his Christian allegiance but defied all the odds and continued his Christian work by converting families to Christianity and breaking caste and even converting people who came from much higher castes, Kyasts and Brahmins. Krishna's home became the new Mission for the converters and he began to compose many hymns in Bengali

for the new congregation and spent many years as an evangelist to his countrymen and was sometimes mobbed or beaten.

His best known hymn, written in Bengali, comprised six verses (translated by Joshua Marshman) and the first verse was, 'O Thou my soul forget no more,/ The friend who all thy misery bore,/ Let every idol be forgot,/ But O, my soul, forget Him not.'

At the height of his Christian work he contracted cholera and died in 1822. As he lay dying he was asked if he still loved Christ. 'Yes,' he replied, 'but not as much as He loved me'. He became the first Indian convert to Baptist Christianity.

*Manny*

*Sources: 1) Christian Hymn-writers (Elsie Houghton), 2) Wikipedia*

## **HYMN WRITER PS**

*Following the article on Fred Pratt Green, we received this: 'Just a bit of feedback from July's Chronicle. I had given it to a neighbour in Sheringham, who is a member of the Methodist Church here.*

Apparently Fred Pratt Green retired to Norfolk and ended his days in a Nursing home here. One of his friends also attended the Methodist Church in Sheringham, so would bring news of him back to the congregation.

*Sue'*

## **SCAMWATCH**

People selling their items on online platforms are falling victim to a new type of advance fee fraud. This involves a fraudster, posing as a buyer, sending an email to the seller (victim), agreeing to the full asking price of the item. They state that they are unable to collect the item themselves and will arrange for a courier to pick it up instead.

The fraudster then sends a fake payment confirmation email from a different email address, one which falsely purports to be from a payment platform. In the course of the email exchange, the seller/victim is requested to pay the courier fee. Once the payment is made the contact is broken, the item is not picked up and the money paid for the 'courier' is gone.

An example of the most recent emails received by the victim/seller, from the 'Buyer', read: *"I want you to consider this a deal as I am willing to pay your full asking price! I actually want to buy it*

*for a family member who is urgently in need of it, I have checked through your posting and I'm fully satisfied with it. Unfortunately, I would not be able to come personally to view/collect, I work offshore as an instructor on a oil rig so I don't have time at all, but like I said I am 100% OK with the advert"*

### **Protect Yourself:**

- Be wary when buyers wish to purchase items at the full asking price without viewing them.
- Check the validity of the payment receipt confirmation.
- Avoid paying an advanced fee if you are a seller; should you choose to use a courier, arrange your own.

Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller/buyer. Feedback will give you useful information about recent transactions other buyers/sellers have made.

Churches working together...

# joint public issues team

...to live out the gospel of Christ in church and society

*Here are some excerpts from the JPIT newsletter which you may find interesting.*

## Reflection

The political events of the last few weeks have been quite unprecedented! A referendum has delivered a watershed decision on the United Kingdom's relationships and place in Europe, we have a new Prime Minister, the main opposition party is in the throes of a leadership contest, and emerging from it all is a growing uncertainty about the future direction and wellbeing of the nations of the UK. In the midst of such realities, the words of the Psalmist are particularly poignant:

"nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter . . . be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46 v 6 & 10)

These words connect us with the deep roots of our faith, offering themselves as a source of calm and reassurance. They also remind us that our God is not detached or disinterested in such earthly affairs but seeks to speak a message into their very heart.

The JPIT team have offered a number of reflections and resources since the referendum result with a particular call for Christians to work to heal the divisions that have emerged in our society, and a reminder that the values on which we seek to build a wholesome society must be actively pursued, whatever the broader political environment.

In the coming months we will continue to offer to local churches reflections and briefings as the implications of the 'Brexit' decision make themselves apparent. It is important too that many of our ongoing campaigns and concerns do not become subsumed by the political fallout or pre-occupation with 'Brexit'.

## Peacemaking Sunday: 18 September

When I needed a neighbour:  
refugees and sanctuary.

The theme for this year's resources is solidarity with refugees. On 19 September the United Nations holds a summit on refugees and migrants, and on 20 September President Obama will host a meeting of world leaders on the global refugee crisis. The focus of our prayers on Peacemaking Sunday will be for the success of these meetings and for our churches to continue to express concern for and act in solidarity with refugees.

## World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel - 18-24 September

Join with Christians across the world in solidarity during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel on 18-24 September.

*As you will see from the heading, both our denominations are part of the JPIT. See their website at*

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

# PRAYERS FROM CAP

*Church Action on Poverty has provided some prayers which you might like to use. They were written by Revd Chris Howson, who is Chaplain to Sunderland University, and are about building "a poor Church, for the poor" as a response to the CAP publication 'A Church for the Poor?' which we have talked about in previous issues of the Chronicle.*

**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
(Luke 1:52–53)**

Lord, in a world where the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer, we know that your kingdom is not being fulfilled. Renew us, inspire us, teach us how to live out our calling. We will seek out those laid low by greed and capitalism, and we will lift them before you. We will fill the hungry with good things and help those with money and resources to use them for the good of all.

**Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.  
(Luke 3:11)**

Lord, in a world where tax havens are seen as legitimate and where millions go hungry and have restricted healthcare

and education, we long to build communities where resources are shared. Help us make sure that food banks and clothes banks, that credit unions and local exchange and change projects, are places that empower and build up resistance to oppression. Help those with money and gifts to share, use them wisely and generously.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.  
(Luke 4.18-19)**

Lord – if our church services and our prayers are not about bringing good news to the poor, then let us repent and start over. Jesus begins his ministry with the call to be a people of faith who bring joy and freedom to those who need it most. Let our faith and our churches be led by that same spirit. Amen

**IT'S TIME TO**   
**CLOSE THE GAP**  
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR



# MANSE OPEN GARDEN

## Open Garden at the Manse

This took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Following some hard work by Lesley and Roger, the garden looked lovely. Unfortunately Lesley had been having big trouble with the snails and slugs so the vegetable patch was not as full as hoped. The snails and slugs also had some meals off the flowers, so there were some empty spaces.

Both days the weather played ball with bright sun, with some clouds, so that everyone who came could sit outside either on the patio or on the lawn. During the weekend over 25 people came to visit with representatives from Saint Andrew's, Whittlesey and Westgate, and several of Lesley and Roger's neighbours.

A lot of chatting and laughing was heard during which we were all ably supplied with cups of tea, coffee and tasty cakes. Lesley took the post of a tour guide whilst Roger became the waiter, with some assistance from Lesley.

Donations were given toward the Food Cycle Peterborough Hub and the Toilet Twinning Project.\* The final amount donated was £240, for which Lesley and Roger would like to thank all who supported them.

Many thanks go to Lesley and Roger for opening up their garden and making everyone very welcome.

*Trevor*

\*The Toilet Twinning part of the money raised was to twin toilets at Whittlesey. Westgate's toilets are already twinned, so the other half went to FoodCycle, which operates on Westgate premises.

*Pictures of the garden party by Trevor are on the next page, pics 1-3. Editor*

## Toilet Twinning Information

Toilet Twinning funds the work of Tearfund partners globally to provide people in the poorest communities on the planet with a decent toilet, clean water and all the information they need to stay healthy. It is the key to helping whole communities break free of the poverty trap.

How does it work?

For just £60, you can twin your loo with a latrine halfway around the world, in a country of your choosing. For £240, you can twin with a school block.

Your smallest room becomes the proud owner of a personalised certificate, complete with a colour photo of its twin and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin on Google Maps.

Your donation is used by Tearfund to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education. This vital combination works together to prevent the spread of disease. Children are healthier, and able to go to school; parents are well enough to work their land and grow enough food to feed their family. With better health, and more ability to earn a living, men and women discover the potential that lies within them to bring transformation.

Family by family, community by community, nation by nation, we are flushing away poverty.

At Lesley's garden open days on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July £120 was raised and two toilets were twinned (another £120 was donated to the Peterborough FoodCycle hub)\*.

*Lesley*

*Pictures of toilets that have been built through this scheme are on the next page, pics 4 and 5.*



The lack of a loo makes women and girls a target for sexual assault as they go to the toilet in the open, late at night.

## WELCOME VISITOR

It was good to have Cathy, Bernie's mother and long-time former member at Westgate, back with us for a few weeks, while she was visiting from her native Nevis.

We caught her chatting with Megan over coffee. By the time you read this, she will be back home with her family. We remember them all in our prayers.



# CTICP Eco-FAITH GROUP



As usual the CTICP Eco-Faith Group ran a stall at the Peterborough Green Festival, of which you can see two pictures on the right.

The festival was much bigger than before this year, extending from St. John's Square, through the church itself, the Guildhall and Cathedral Square into the grounds of the Cathedral. The Eco-Faith group was allotted a space in St. John's and the display attracted some interest from festival visitors. Ian helped on the stall and took the pictures.



## GREEN AND CHEERFUL

Following our report last month about the 'Green and Cheerful' talk given by Revd Claire Foster-Gilbert in the Cathedral on July 5th, David Neate of the Yaxley Deanery has sent us some pictures of this CTICP Eco-Faith Group and Cathedral event.





# PETERBOROUGH GREEN FESTIVAL



The Bible teaches that we should care for the world in which we live and everything that lives in it. Therefore the whole of the Green Festival should be of interest to us as Christians. Here we bring you some pictures to give you a flavour of what was on offer.

Top picture: Performance outside the Cathedral, part of a multimedia presentation about the possibility of Peterborough being flooded as a result of climate change.

Right: One part of a large 'Mapestry' by Frog Life, depicting the journey of the Nene over the months of a year.

Below: The busy scene in St. John's Square.



Bottom: The giant (3m long) endangered stag beetle, which was constructed from recycled materials and papier mâché to reflect the size of the loss if it becomes extinct.



This Festival gets better each year. Watch out for the next one.

*All pictures taken by Ian.*



## VISIT TO BIRTLEY FEN

*Trevor and June went on a trip with the NHS Retirement Fellowship. The following article was written by the organiser, Margaret Inglett, and the photos are Trevor's own. Our thanks to Margaret for letting us use her work.*

The weather had been scorching, but the day of our visit dawned grey and damp, three people had to cancel at the last minute, and so it was that 50 of us set out for Springfields in Spalding. Fortunately by the time we arrived it was fine, and after a short while the sun came out. We were greeted by a Springfields representative, who also handed out maps and – very welcome – money-off vouchers, which are especially for coach parties. Most of us were ready for liquid refreshment, although some ladies did decide on a breakfast! The restaurant which is attached to the garden centre has had a makeover, and is now very pleasant, light and airy. It should be, it cost over £1 million!

Then it was time to hit the shops, and by the number of bags on the return journey, I think most people managed to get a bargain. I had a walk around the gardens, which are very pleasant. There is now a train which takes you all around the site, and also a miniature train for the children.

After a spot of lunch we headed off to Burtley Fen for our concert. It is held in a purpose built venue and the inside walls are covered with original posters of singers from a bygone age, shows etc. On the outside wall there are some giant organ pipes. The first half of the concert was played on a Wurlitzer organ, which had a chequered history, having been



*The Wurlitzer console*



*The Compton console*

brought to this country from America in the 1930's. Unfortunately, cinema organs became redundant with the advent of talking pictures. We had a lively programme of popular tunes, many of which we were able to sing along to. In between medleys the organist gave us some very interesting information on organs in general, and his in particular. At the interval we went to the 1960's coffee bar to collect our cream teas. Again it seemed very authentic with a juke box, sixties style bar seats and



other memorabilia. This also gave us an opportunity to explore the building and admire the décor. The second half of the concert was played on a Compton organ, this one being British made, and was rescued by our organist Nicholas, whose hobby is organ restoration. In addition to his own instruments he does a lot of work on church organs. We sang along to the

tunes of Cliff Richard, Abba and many other well-known artists. The afternoon ended with a medley of 1950's songs, which everyone sang lustily, and there was lots of arm waving to the final tune, 'When you walk through a storm'.

We then made our way home via the 'scenic' route to avoid roadworks. I think everyone had a good day out.

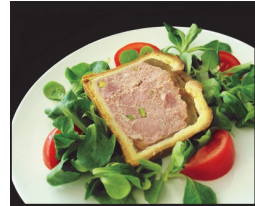
## CHRISTIAN AID LUNCHES

Continuing to end September

Fridays from 12 noon,  
Westgate Hall



**Salad: £3.00**  
**Sweet: £2.00**  
**Tea or Coffee: 50p**



**We are aiming to reach £5,000 this year for girls and women in Ethiopia, which the EU will make up to £30, 000.**

## DIDN'T YOU HELP?

A man and his wife were awakened at 3am by a loud knocking on the front door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "No chance," says the husband. "It is three in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was it?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk asking for a push," he answers. "Didn't you help him?" she asks. "No I did not, it's 3am and bloomin' well pouring with rain out there!" "Well you have a short memory," says the wife. "Don't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should

help him and you should be ashamed of yourself. God loves drunk people too you know."

The man does as he is told, gets dressed and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?". "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband. "Yes please," comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband. "Over here. . . on the swing," replies the drunk.

*From the Tarnet News, Tarnet and Geystead Parish, Northumberland with permission.*

*Found by Phil*



# Inspirational Colouring Verse

"Watch,  
stand fast in the faith,  
be brave, be strong.

"Let all that you do  
be done with love."

Bible verses:  
Corinthians  
16:13-14



# Inspirational Colouring Verse

*As you read, colour the picture and pray over these words, see how they resonate with what is happening in your life at church and at home. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and actions in the coming month. Our picture gallery is growing. Thank you to those who have contributed. They are a colourful addition to worship and I hope they add to your prayer life. I am happy to pin your contribution up with the others.*

*Megan*



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

With that wonderful gift of hindsight, it seems

that one of

the effects of doing away with District Councils, is that many churches now feel even more remote from the wider councils of the Church. If that applies to the Synod, then General Assembly seems even more distant to many. Although I didn't go to General Assembly this year, having read the reports, it seems to me that there were at least three discussions which will affect every local church. Firstly we will be hearing a lot in the future about being "People of the Way" as we explore our discipleship. Secondly, the

## URC SYNOD UPDATE

resolutions about the future deployment of ministers. Within the Synod Pastoral Group we have been looking at how we can best deploy a decreasing number of ordained ministers, giving increased emphasis on the mission of the Church, and a revised Policy on Deployment will be brought to the October Synod. Thirdly the resolution on Authorised Elders will change the criteria for who will be authorized to preside at the sacraments and a letter will be sent to all churches in September explaining the new procedure. Over the next few months some Area meetings will be held which will give further information.

*Geoff Townsend*

*(Convenor of Synod Pastoral Group)*

## JUST FOR FUN

How do angels greet each other? They say 'halo'.

Why did the angel lose her job? She had halo failure.

What does God have for his tea? Angel cake.

What ends with E and begins with P and has a thousand letters? Post office.

Which King invented fractions? Richard the 1/3.

*Sent in by Sue*

# IN LOO OF HISTORY

Reading Lesley's article about Toilet Twinning and looking at the pictures (pp12-13) sparked off a train of thought in what passes for my mind.

Looking at the pictures, it would be so easy to dismiss these loos as primitive at best. Then I got to thinking how much loos in this country have changed in my lifetime.

The first house I lived in was my grandparents' house and as we visited this house for many years afterwards I have clear memories of the loo. Although it was built into the house, you had to go out of the back door to get to it. Toilet paper was sheets of the Radio Times torn into four and hung by string from a nail. In later years there was a real toilet roll as well, but my grandfather would not be persuaded to give up using the Radio Times! It was considered to be too much to go downstairs and outside during the night, so chamber pots were the rule. My grandmother's first job each morning was to empty and disinfect these.

When my father was demobbed at the end of the war we moved to a different town and, as housing was in short supply, we lived in digs. I was too young to remember the first place, but the second one is very clear in my mind. We rented rooms in the house of the elderly couple who rented the house. Again the loo was part of the house, but reached from the outside. The arrangement was that we had the middle bedroom upstairs and the front room downstairs, sharing the kitchen and bathroom. This meant that every time I, aged three to four, wanted the toilet, I had to go through this old couple's living room and the kitchen on the journey there and back, politely explaining my purpose each time. This loo was a very dark place



and so I decided it was much pleasanter to keep the door wide open so that it was light and I could talk to the neighbours if they came out of their back door. This continued until the lady next door

told my mother what I did! On snowy days, the first job of the morning was digging out a path to the loo.

However, this was far from my worst experience of a loo. My grandmother's sister, Auntie Hetty, had a thunderbox at the end of the garden. I didn't actually mind the noise that gave it the name, but I didn't like walking down the garden in the dark or sitting in the dark and I was afraid of falling in.

It wasn't until I was ten or so that we acquired an indoor loo, installed in the bathroom upstairs. For some reason, I was allowed to choose the colour of the toilet seat. The bright red one was in place for many years, but my father hated it. This was the house we had shared, but the old folk had moved out and my parents had bought the property.

After this excursion down memory lane, I began to think that the progress from squatting uncomfortably in the open in the dark to a loo like those in Lesley's pictures was a much bigger step than all those in my lifetime put together. Think of the implications for hygiene, health and security. It is surely disgraceful that in the 21st Century people are still living like this. As Lesley said, 'The lack of a loo makes women and girls a target for sexual assault as they go to the toilet in the open, late at night'.

Maybe we should all include in our prayers 'thank you for our loos!' Perhaps some of us should be thinking of twinning the loos in our houses, too.

*Linda*

# THE ARK, MARK II

In the year 2016, the Lord came to Noah, who was now living in England. He said to him, "Once again the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build me another Ark and save me two of every living thing, along with a few good

## ARKS



- Building regulations
- Fire regulations
- Planning permission

humans". He gave Noah the detailed drawings, saying, "You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and nights".

Six months later the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard, but no Ark. "Noah," he roared, "I'm about to start the rain, where is the Ark"? "Forgive me Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval because the Ark is over 30 meters long. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden, because it is development of the site, even though in my view it is a temporary structure; they say that the roof is too high. We had to go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

"Then the Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep, and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible. Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond to be posted for future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, so as to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it! Getting the wood was another problem. All of the decent trees have Tree Preservation

Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which was set up in order to protect the Spotted Owl. I have tried and tried to convince the environmentalists that I really needed the wood to save the owls, but no go!

"When we started to gather the animals the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued that the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space. Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they had conducted an environmental impact study on the proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many BME's I'm supposed to hire for my building team.

"The trades unions say that I cannot use my sons as employees. They insist I must hire only CSCS accredited workers with Ark building experience. To make matters worse the Customs Agency seized all my assets, claiming that I was trying to leave the country illegally taking endangered species. So forgive me Lord, but it would take at least ten years for me to finish this Ark".

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked. "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The government beat me to it!"

*This was sent in by a member, but I'm sorry I cannot trace who.* *Editor.*



# WESTGATE PUZZLE PAGES

We continue in September studying the gospel of Luke where we will study the cost of discipleship, the Parables of the Lost Sheep and Coin, about being trustworthy at all times and the story of The Dishonest Manager.

**Puzzle 2:** Luke 16 v 1-2, 10-13 – The Dishonest Manager. Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks. This is from the New International Version.

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a \_\_\_\_\_ man whose \_\_\_\_\_ was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

"Whoever can be \_\_\_\_\_ with very \_\_\_\_\_ can also be trusted with much, and whoever is \_\_\_\_\_ with very little will also be dishonest with \_\_\_\_\_. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

"No \_\_\_\_\_ can serve two \_\_\_\_\_. Either he will \_\_\_\_\_ the one and \_\_\_\_\_ the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."



## FAITH-BASED HUMOUR



The preacher's five year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "I hear your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very

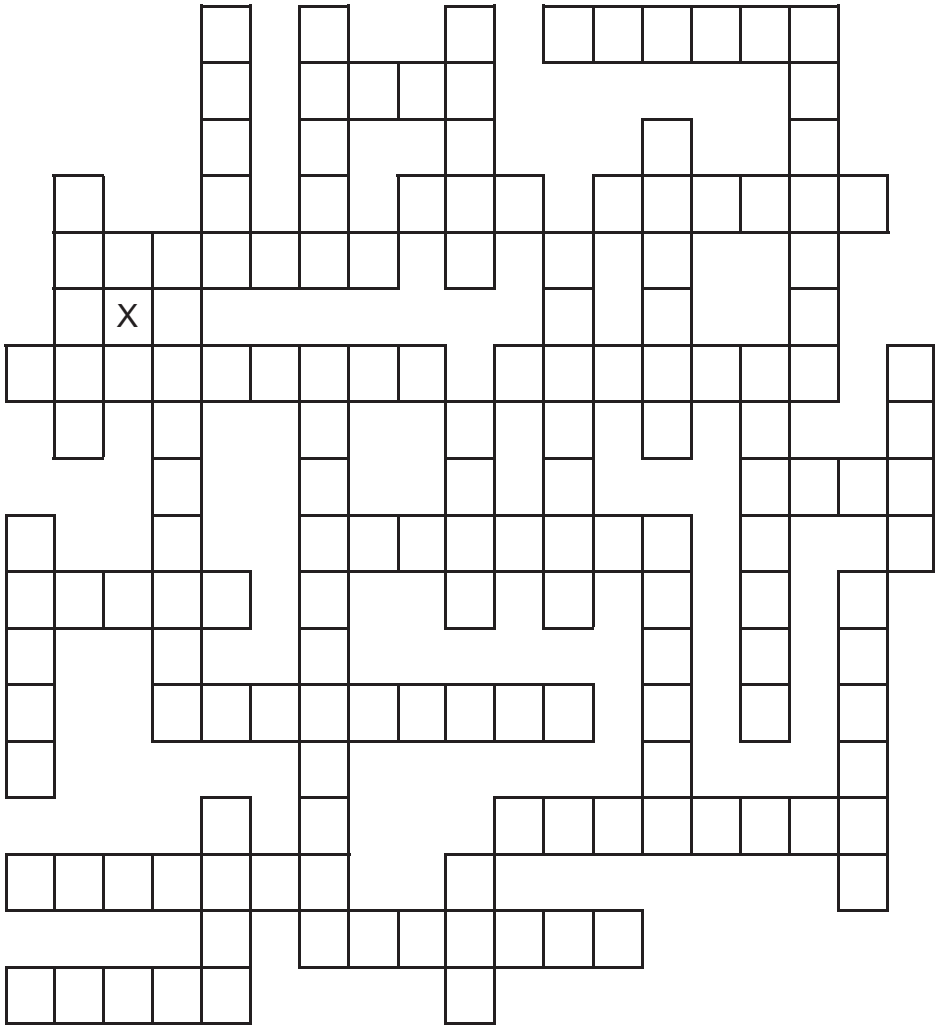
commendable. What exactly does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

During a minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, she asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

*Sent in by Ewan*

**Puzzle 2:** Luke 15 v 1-10 – The Parables of The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin. Can you put the words listed into the blank crossword grid?



**3 letters**

ten  
joy

**4 letters**

lamp  
open  
lost  
coin  
find

**5 letters**

field  
house  
angel  
sheep  
widow  
sweep  
light

**6 letters**

corner  
heaven  
pieces  
sinner  
silver

**7 letters**

friends  
parable  
repents  
rejoice  
hundred  
doctors  
welcome

**8 letters**

pharisee  
grumbles

**9 letters**

righteous  
neighbour  
delighted

**11 letters**

taxgatherer

# SPECIAL DAYS IN SEPTEMBER



## International Day of Charity 5<sup>th</sup> September

In 2011 the International Day of Charity was a Hungarian Civil Society initiative supported by the Hungarian Parliament. The idea was to have an annual day of celebration and events to increase social responsibility, solidarity and support for all charities.

In December 2012, after a proposal by Hungary, the UN agreed to designate 5<sup>th</sup> September a global day of celebration and awareness of charities. This date was chosen in remembrance and recognition of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had dedicated her life to charity work and the date is the anniversary of her death.

Every year thousands of charities worldwide help to save and improve people's lives, fund the fight against diseases, protect the environment and animal welfare, plus many more.

The idea of the day is to raise funds by charity events and to raise awareness of the smallest charity to the largest. The events can be anything from an ice

bucket challenge, coffee morning, dance or a festival.

I am sure that you have charities which are close to your heart, if you don't have spare cash, do you have a spare hour which you can donate?

If your circumstances are difficult spend a few moments in prayer thanking God for charities and their workers, most of which are volunteers without them the world and thousands of people in it would be a lot sadder.

## World Pharmacists' Day 25<sup>th</sup> September

The idea of this day is bring to the attention the work carried out by the Pharmacists, they seem to be becoming more like in-store doctors. If you visit one regularly, then this is the day to say thank you for their skills and kindness

### On a lighter note:

#### Honey month – September

Okay, I know we had a bee day last month, but having grown up with parents who had hives, I know the importance of bees and their pollination. Crops need them, I need them for my spoonful of honey and if you go out in the wild and meet that grizzly bear you will need some, give him some honey. So go on, love a bee month, buy that insect friendly plant or, like me, talk to the bees.

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## MURPHY'S LAW

You run to the phone when it rings, just to arrive in time to hear the caller hang up.

When having a meal, the probability that you will spill something down your front is directly proportional to the necessity to stay clean.

The speed of the wind



increases directly in proportion to how much was spent at the hairdresser's.

When, after many years of storing an item without using it, you are at last convinced to throw it away, it won't be more than a week before you actually need it.

*Sent in by Ewan*

## 1st–10th September

Churches: Yaxley (Methodist), Park Road (Baptist)

Countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Events: International Day of Charity (5th)\*

People: John Brobbey, recognised as a Local Preacher (4th)\*\*

Organisations: Joint Public Issues Team\*, CTiCP Eco-Faith group and other organisations working for the wellbeing of our planet\*



## 11th–17th September

Churches: Ailsworth (Methodist), St. Mark's (CofE)

Countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia

People: the poorer members of our society and what churches can do to help – prayers to use on p11\*, Peterborough Muslims\*

Organisations: Church Action on Poverty\*, Toilet Twinning\*



# SEPTEMBER PRAYER PROMPTS



## 18th–24th September

Churches: Brookside (Methodist), St. Mary's (CofE)

Countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Events: Peacemaking Sunday (18th)\*, World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (18th-24th)\*

People: Everyone working to prepare our new home for our use.

Special Prayer: Give thanks for our modern toilets and other appliances that make life easier and healthier\*

## 25th–30th September

Churches: Christchurch (CofE, Methodist and URC), St. John's (CofE)  
Countries: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Events: Harvest Festival and people who will receive our gifts (25th)\*\*, World Pharmacists' Day (25th)\*

People: former members of Westgate now living elsewhere\*

Organisations: Peterborough Foodcycle



The Churches mentioned are taken from the Methodist Circuit and from a list of Churches in CTiCP and other churches with whom we have a close association. The countries are from the Ecumenical Prayer Calendar.

\* Further information elsewhere in the magazine \*\* See Diary on next page

# S E P T E M B E R D I A R Y

*Tuesdays, 10.30 in the Prayer Place in Church: Pause for Prayer*  
*Tuesdays, 2.30 at Park Road Baptist Church: Women's Fellowship*  
*Wednesdays, 10.30 in the Church Vestibule: Circuit Intercessions Service*  
*Wednesdays 1.00 pm at the Cathedral: Wednesday at One (W@1)*  
*Fridays 12.00 in Westgate Hall: Christian Aid Lunch (May 20 onwards)*  
*Saturdays, 10.00-12.00 in the Church Vestibule: Morning coffee*  
*Saturdays, 12.30-2.30 in the Church Vestibule: Foodbank open*

\* \* \*

Sat.	3	8:00a	CTICP Prayer Breakfast at St. John's (NOT Westgate)
Sun.	4	10:30 4.00	Morning worship, led by Mr Nick Drury At Dogsthorpe: Recognition Service for Deacon John Brobbey who has qualified as a Local Preacher
		6:30	<b>Evening Service Cancelled</b>
Wed.	7	1:00	W@1: Recital by Robbie Haylett, bass baritone; Naomi Woo, piano
Sat.	10	10:30	At Oundle: Coffee and cakes
Sun.	11	10:30	Morning worship, led by Revd. Doug Stevens
Wed.	14	1:00	W@1: *
Sun.	18	10:30	Morning worship and service of Holy Communion, led by Revd John Beebe
		6:30	At Southside: Healing Service led by Revd. Graham Tooth
Wed.	21	1:00	W@1: *
Sun.	25	10:30	All age worship, Harvest Festival led by Revd. Lesley Moseley
		3.00	At Charteris Centre, Welland, Circuit Missions Service to launch the missions focus of work in Welland
Tues.	27	7.30	CTICP Forum at All Souls
Wed.	28	1:00	W@1: *
Sat	1	8:00a	CTICP Prayer Breakfast at Westgate (NOT St. John's)
Sun.	2	10:30 6:30	Morning worship, led by Revd. Graham Tooth In the Church Vestibule: Service of Holy Communion, led by Revd Lesley Moseley

October

\* No details available for this period at time of going to press.

## AUTOMATED MINISTRY?

This is a true story. A certain Methodist Minister was, as part of his work, acting as an industrial chaplain to a factory. One day he was chatting to a woman working on the assembly line in a very boring job. She was telling him all about her boyfriend, then suddenly said, 'I know who you are. You're one of those Mechanical Parsons!'

Reflecting on this malapropism, the minister wished she had instead called him an Industrious Parson, but would that have been too much for his ego?

