

Saints and Sinners

On 2nd November, we celebrate the lives of all Christians down the ages, bringing together two days in the calendar – All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day. We tend to think of the saints as super-elite Christians, distant examples of how we *ought* to live. We often forget that, like us, they were sinners too; they lived concrete lives like us, but through their deep awareness of God’s reality in their lives, they gave us a glimpse of heaven. But there’s another dimension to the saints. The Bible reminds us that – in the trials and struggles of our daily lives – the saints around us are “a great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1), that their prayer rises up like incense before the throne of God (Revelation 8:3-4). This reminds us of the traditional insight that the saints are with God making intercession for us on earth.

All Souls’ Day commemorates all those others who are dear to us – our own departed – not just the heroes and heroines of faith. Traditionally, it worked in the opposite way to All Saints’: instead of asking the saints to intercede for us, we intercede directly to

God for them; we ask that God would show love towards those we’ve loved. Some people find it hard to pray for the dead, arguing that their fate is entirely in God’s hands, and nothing we can pray will change that. This is absolutely true, but it doesn’t acknowledge the very real desire that many feel who’ve lost a loved one, to

continue to remember them before God. If we prayed for them while they were alive with us on earth, it makes sense to continue, since we believe that “in Christ, all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

On the following Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – we remember those who gave their lives in war, especially those of the 20th century,

remembering our debt to them with gratitude. These three events show us how our lives are fused with the lives and deaths of those who go before us. As the leaves fall from the trees and the Church year ends, these three events help us to focus on our ultimate destiny in Christ the King.



Mark

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

Healing Services:

St Francis Church

Tuesday 4th November

7.00 pm

St James Church

Wednesday 19th November

7.30 pm

The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.



My hope is in you

My hope is in You,
In life or death,
In baby's eyes,
In man's last breath,
You're the hand upon
my shoulder,
The rug from under my feet,
The walk I should have walked,
The stranger in the street,
My eyes when they won't open,
The pain that's in my heart,
The love that understands,
When all is ripped apart,

Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

December 7th Waiting for the Saviour

January 4th Evensong for Epiphany

February 1st Evening Praise

March 7th Waiting on the Word



The glass that's never empty,
The forgiveness in my pool,
The mercy hand that reaches
depths,
The Saviour of this fool,
The kiss you won't remember,
The touch that can restore,
The breath of blessing after,
The knock upon the door,
The stream that's in the desert,
The vine from which I feed,
The answer to the question,
The One I'll always need,
Because my hope is in You,
My hope is in you....

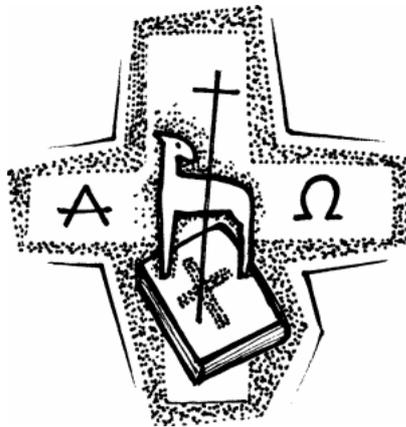
Morning Prayer

& Breakfast

St Francis Church
Saturday Mornings

9.15 am

all welcome



Burnt - but not bitter

'...see that no root of
(bitterness)...shoots forth and causes
trouble...' (Hebrews 12:15)

Have you been burnt? Abused, lied to, misunderstood? We all have at one time. But God doesn't want us being controlled by it; He wants us to let it go and move on. When you subdue your feelings and let them stew under the surface, you give the enemy a foothold. But by dealing with it before it becomes a stronghold, your painful experiences can make you better – not bitter. If you're struggling today, consider taking these three life-changing steps:

1. Forgive! Forgiveness is not based on feelings, but on a decision. If you're waiting until you feel like forgiving, forget it! You must decide to let the offence go. When you do, God will heal your emotions and help you resist the urge to retaliate. Jesus said, '...however you want people to treat you, so treat them...' (Matthew 7:12).

2. Take it to God. The minute you feel resentful, turn to God and He'll give you the strength to act in love, rather than react in anger. The moment you commit to living this way, God promises: '...power to hold (yourself) calm in the days of adversity...' (Psalm 94:13).

3. Reprogramme yourself! Look up every Scripture you can find on love and forgiveness. Meditate on them daily. Remember, each time you choose to do the right thing, a little more of the 'old' you dies, and the 'new' you develops. That's how God prepares you for greater blessing. So decide today that, although you've been burnt, you won't become bitter!



More tea, vicar?

Have your tea-drinking habits changed in line with the national trend?

Five years ago the British bought 279 million lbs of traditional tea bags. Now, at only 251 million lbs, we drink less tea than Turkey does.

It seems that herbal teas are largely responsible. Sales of fruit infusions are up 50 per cent on five years ago. One consumer analyst says: "Fruit teas were once looked down on as a drink for New Age puritans, but they have gradually acquired mainstream credibility as a healthier alternative to tea or coffee.

"It's about image. A stereotyped fruit tea drinker is now perceived as 'stable', 'modern' and 'with it'. So what does that make a traditional tea drinker?!"

Remembrance Sunday

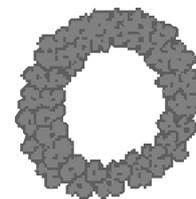
9th November

The Eucharist with the

Act of Remembrance

10.00 am St James

10.30 am St Francis



Lest we forget



Rosanne interviews Helen Doling

"So Helen", I asked, seated on her sofa and looking up at a very handsome wedding photo, "where did you meet Colin?"

"In the middle of a field" she replied as if it were the most every day event possible.

That's different I thought, though when husband Colin joined us and told more about how he proposed to her I realised that they are a very "different" couple. For instance, how about the time he brought her a bouquet of fat trout for supper instead of flowers!! But wait till I tell you how he did propose, On Valentines Day 1991 he sent a card saying ' only open the door to someone who arrives with a tin of fish' This he did. There had been a substantial fall of snow but he took her in his car to the top of the White Horse Hill. In the moonlight he produced a table, complete with candelabra, chairs and a camping stove. He cooked her a supper of bacon butties, washed down with champagne. On one knee, in the snow, he proposed. Different? – you bet. What girl could resist?

Cheadle Hulme, Manchester is where Helen was born and grew up. With a younger brother and younger sister she describes herself as an easy child and a good teenager, prepared to do what was expected of her as long as long

as she wasn't buried in a book at the time. Books are her abiding passion second only to her husband and two sons, Benjamin and Thomas. She hated school and learnt to make herself "invisible" to avoid teasing. She would rush home at the end of the day to a loving mother who was "always there". She had a very happy home life with an understanding father, who allowed his children free rein of his extensive bookshelves. At an early age Helen gave herself nightmares reading his books on mythology! Church played a large part in their lives; Helen became a chorister at the age of 10. She made a life long friend in the choir and they are still close. At school she reckons she was a steady B-grade student (Jill of all trades, mistress of none)- though after a successful sixth form career studying the sciences she left home for London to train as a Nightingale nurse at St Thomas' hospital. She had known since the age of 5 that nursing was her vocation. When she got "chucked out" of the nurse's home on Westminster Bridge, she found digs with a wonderful lady, Auntie Viv who became a substitute Mum to her and all her friends. By the way, the reason she was chucked out was for keeping a canary.

Many of Helen's friends were made through scouting, hence

her fateful meeting with Colin. She holds the Queen's Scout Award, and believes that camping is one of life's ultimate joys. So much so that during one of her Christmas vacations she and another scouting friend, Marco, decided to backpack and camp through Zimbabwe. They travelled right across the country discovering the beautiful wildlife, spending Christmas Day at Victoria Falls and New Year at Kariba. That was her first trip abroad. Incidentally, while she was in Africa, she discovered the answer to severe sunburn – natural yoghurt, liberally applied.

As deputy Church-Warden at St Francis Helen says her whole family have a good place to worship and she enjoys supporting Norah, though she doesn't think she's that useful! Sometimes when she visits her parents in Cheadle she returns to their Church to sing in the choir. Her Mum is a Churchwarden there and dad is a sides man. She is still involved in scouting, at the moment "just helping out" with cubs – "dibbling" as she calls it. She has a lovely come-on-in attitude to friends and



neighbours, which she learnt as a child and loves giving dinner parties. These will have to go on the back burner for a little while though with a new baby on the way. However I'm sure she will continue to find time for friends and family no matter what demands are made on her time.

Was there one particular person who had a strong influence on your early life?

Uncle Geoff. He was a friend of my parents at their drama club. I was going through a crisis about how I looked when I was about nine. He told me "No you're not pretty, but you're going to be beautiful. That will last" That was so important.

Can you think of an incident in your early life you'll never forget?

There are two. Our family have avoidance techniques at breakfast. Mine was reading. I was making toast (and reading) when the toaster caught fire. I just poured water over it. The other was when my sister asked if I'd noticed the beautiful colours on the copper bottom of the chip pan so I just tipped it up to have a look pouring runny fat all over my mother's kitchen floor.

What sort of child were you?

A bookworm, I still am. I used to read eight library books a week.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

It's come and gone several times. You get patches when you need jolting back.

Which period of your adult life has given you most satisfaction?

Having the children and being able to be at home with them.

Are there any aspects of modern life, which you dislike?

Lack of basic recycling. Waste and people's disregard for the beauty around them. Rubbish in the park is so unnecessary.

What is best about life today?

Books, music, good days with the children and I love being married.

How do you spend your leisure time?

I love camping with a real fire, dinner parties and of course to read.

What makes you laugh?

I like very gentle humour such as "The Good Life", "Last of the Summer Wine" and things the children say.

If you found a magic wand what would you change?

Just to be a mummy and not have to work.

What plans do you have for the future?

Some time for dinner parties, I'd like to go to Thailand and a whole week's retreat.

The safest place to be

If you feel the world out there is full of accidents waiting to happen, you are right. If you want to live long, and keep safe, statistics reveal the following: Avoid riding in automobiles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay home, because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks, because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians. Avoid travelling by air, rail, or water because, 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! Bible study is also safe. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is far less even than that.

So, for your own safety's sake, attend church and read your Bible as much as you can. It could save your life (in more ways than one). P.S. If you do venture out, don't drive faster than your Guardian Angel can fly.



Up and Over Down Under

With England's wins in Australia and New Zealand they now have to be taken seriously as contenders for the cup. Arguably this is the best England team in living memory. While not among the favourites, Scotland Wales and Ireland are capable to surprising a few people! One man who knows all about playing in a Rugby World Cup final is Jonathan Webb, England's full-back when they lost to Australia in the 1991 final. In the quarter final England played France in Paris. At 10-10 and with extra time looming, he kicked a vital goal to turn the game England's way. After a semi-final win over Scotland England faced Australia in the final at Twickenham.

"It was really exciting to have the privilege of playing in a game of that importance - hard to put into words. It was also scary. Expectations were so high and I was conscious of a great fear of failure. It was no use trusting myself as I was very aware of past failures. In the end the only certainly I had was God.

"In the end we failed at the final hurdle, losing 6-12 to Australia. It was a great game and I kicked two penalty goals but that did not diminish the pain of losing."

He grew up in a Christian family but lost interest in his teens.

Recovering his faith for a process rather than any one event. Coming back to faith had a big impact on his rugby. "The fear of failure has always been very prominent in my rugby. Understanding the gospel was a big help in that. I came to see sport as a gift from God.

Two Scriptures which I found particularly helpful were Romans 8:31 'If God is on our side, can anyone be against us' and Philippians 4:13 'Christ gives us the strength to face anything'. Believing that removed the fear of failure completely because I realized that we are all failures and that God is

always willing to forgive our failures. It also helped me to get rugby more in perspective".

Adrian Davies played for Wales in the 1995 World Cup. It was the highlight of his career. Wales lost to New Zealand in a game that Adrian did not play. He was in the team when Wales beat Japan 57-10 with Neil Jenkins kicking 22 points. Adrian's role was to keep turning Welsh possession into scoring opportunities. He did this well as Wales ran in seven tries.

Wales's final group stage match was against Ireland at Ellis Park with the winner progressing to a quarter-final with France. Neither side played to their best but Ireland squeezed through 24-23. Adrian got on the scoresheet with a dropped goal.

Years on, the World Cup is very clear in his mind. 'I have such contrasting memories of the 1995 World Cup, the most vivid one being the dressing room after the 24-23 defeat by Ireland. There was just an overwhelming sense of disappointment and that we had not done ourselves justice. We all knew we should have won the match.

'I had been waiting to play in a game of that importance for the six years since being in the Welsh squad. I prayed before the game, in the shower, but then things didn't work out. Afterwards I did ask God why, and I don't really know the answer even now. It was also such a contrast to the thrill of getting into the Welsh team for the first match against Japan and being part of such a great performance (57-10 win). Jason Robinson the current England wing or full-back shares the perspective of Jonathan and Adrian. At the age of 19 Jason Robinson was already a household name in Rugby League. He broke into the Wigan team and was selected for Great Britain. "I was earning good money and becoming well-known. I thought I had everything. In reality

my life was empty. I was still playing well on the pitch but my personal life was in a mess. I was only able to cope with my problems through drinking. I was drinking heavily sometimes six nights a week. It was the only way I could cope with my problems.

"Then a player called Va'aiga Tuigamala (Inga) joined Wigan. As I watched him it was obvious that he had something I did not have, something that I wanted. He played the same game as me but didn't need all the going out and drinking. He was at peace with himself. He was the happiest man in the place. I talked to him about it and he explained his faith. I became a Christian.

"Before I was a Christian money was the centre of my life. The Bible says, 'No-one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and Money' Matthew 6:24 Yet the Lord was gracious to me. He has given me so much. I have a great family and my career has gone from strength to strength. The Lord turned what was a really negative time into something very positive."

Another Scripture which is a favourite of Jason's is "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28. He says, "That is what happened to when I became a Christian. I felt a great burden lifted. I just felt that the Lord eased the pressure."

That has freed Jason to use his God-given talent to the full on the rugby pitch. Let's hope he makes the Aussies suffers!

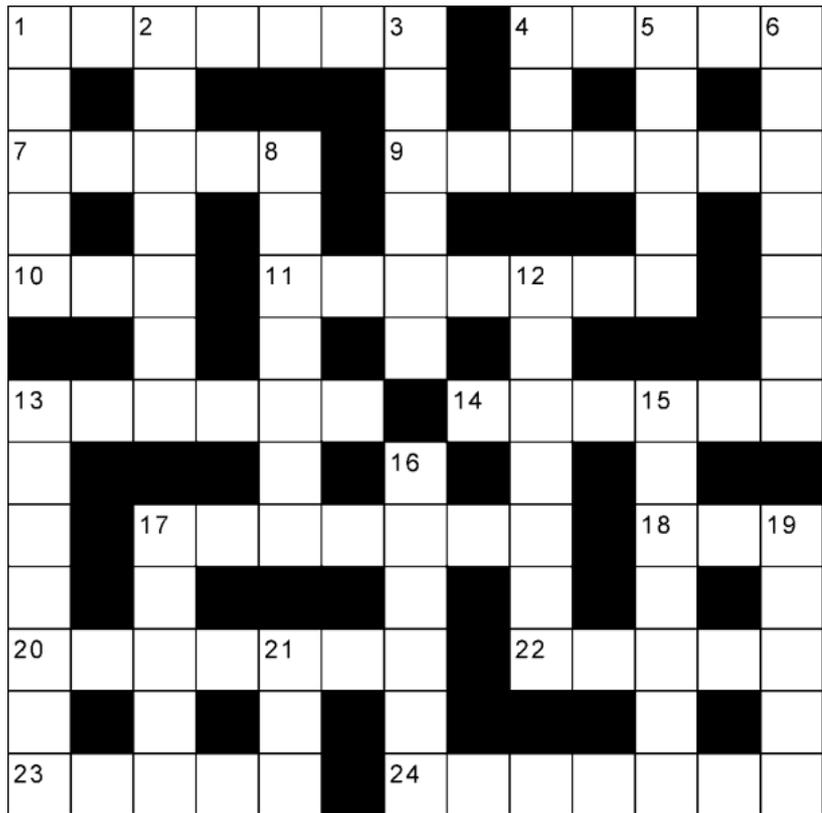


The Soldier's Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
 I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
 I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
 I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
 I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
 I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
 I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
 I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
 I got nothing that I asked for –
 But everything that I had hoped for,
 Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
 I am among all men most richly blessed.



November's Crossword



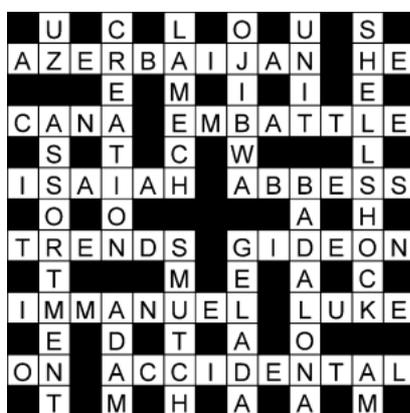
ACROSS

- 1 Shortest book of the Old Testament (7)
- 4 The disciple who betrayed Jesus (5)
- 7 The son of Abraham and Sarah (5)
- 9 Heavenly messenger (7)
- 10 Period of history (3)
- 11 Stopping (7)
- 13 One of the daughters of Laban, and Jacob's wife (6)
- 14 The firstborn son of Jacob and Leah (6)
- 17 Corny tool? (7)
- 18 Racket (3)
- 20 Literary men who were learned in Scripture (7)
- 22 Australian cockatoo (5)
- 23 A desert condition? (5)
- 24 A person put forward (7)

DOWN

- 1 A peaceful branch? (5)
- 2 Christ's own language (7)
- 3 A Minor Prophetic book of the Old Testament (6)
- 4 This character of the Old Testament was severely tested by God (3)
- 5 Approaching death (5)
- 6 The second son of David and Bathsheba, and builder of the temple (7)
- 8 General ill health (7)
- 12 Titanic downfall (7)
- 13 An Egyptian pharaoh (7)
- 15 The land of the Jewish exile of the 6th century BC (7)
- 16 Delilah's strong man (6)
- 17 Which city was the home of Abram (5)
- 19 Lake in the Sierra Nevada (5)
- 21 Body of water (3)

October's Solution



Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
6.00 pm	Evening Service <i>[1st Sunday of the month]</i>

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	8.00 pm	St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	10.10 am	Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
Thursday	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Saturday	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off; Fr John and Mark have Mondays. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on alternate Sundays.

Parish Directory

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