

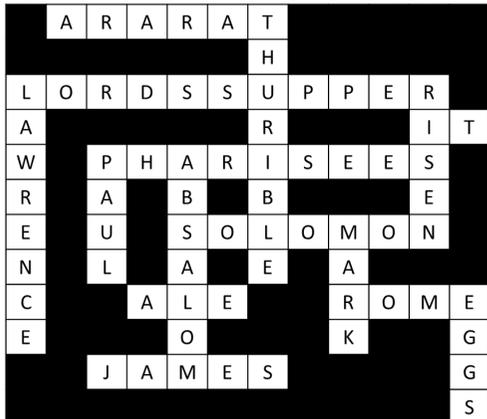
Across

- 3 Wrote "Once in Royal" (9)
- 5 "... the Baptist's..." (3)
- 6 ___ days and ___ nights (5)
- 9 Jesus Christ is ___ today (5)
- 11 Hymn writer of "method" (6)
- 14 Come, Holy Ghost, our souls ___ (7)

Down

- 1 We three kings? (9), (6), (8)
- 2 Wrote "Holy, Holy, Holy" (5)
- 4 When I ___ the wondrous Cross (6)
- 7 ___ my life (4)
- 8 Alleluia, sing to _____ (5)
- 10 ___ Lord and Father of mankind (4)
- 12 ___ he comes (2)
- 13 ___ holy angels bright (2)

Answers to last month's crossword



Answers in next month's issue.

Editorial

Singing is an important part of our worship; as they used to say in the Middle Ages, *qui cantat, bis orat* — whoever sings prays twice over. So, in celebration of the fact that we can now sing in church again, this month's crossword is all about hymns. We hope that you enjoy both it and the articles, which include a guest contribution from our Area Dean.

David M. Sargent

From Fr Simon

Dear all

Sometimes news stories strike a chord. So it was when I read that a student had set up a washing machine project and was now at the stage to send the first batch of affordable, repairable, hand-cranked washing machines to people living in poverty.

We look at the clothes washing facilities in the Colne Valley Museum and are reminded of our mothers, our grandmothers, maybe our own childhood. I remember my mum using a twin tub when I was small. She had to stuff a hose on the tap, and drape another one in the sink. In her own childhood, she caught her hand in the mechanism of the mangle that her mother was using.

This all seems so old fashioned now, consigned to memories and to museums.

However, 70% of the world's population don't have access to electric washing machines. They are still washing by hand. What is consigned to history in our culture is a daily reality for most people.

In the 1990's in Africa I remember clothes irons for sale. They were the type you put on top of a stove or near the fire to get hot before you used them. I imagine they are still for sale throughout 70% of the world.

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For All the Saints

by Mother Janet, Associate Priest

On 21st September we celebrate Matthew, traditionally identified as the writer of the first Gospel in the New Testament.

Matthew (who is also sometimes called Levy) was a tax collector working at Capernaum for the hated Romans, until Jesus called him to become a disciple, and changed his life.

Being a tax collector was seen as a way of amassing great wealth. A tax collector would undertake to pay a set amount of money to the authorities and any excess money collected almost inevitably stuck to the hands of those who collected it. Dishonesty was rife. Tax collectors tended only to associate with their own kind and were outside the community.

Matthew must have been able to read and write in order to do his job. Also, he would have needed to be a fairly organised person who understood the rules and the consequences of being caught evading them.

It is important to understand that the occupying Roman army in Judea was regarded in the same light as the Nazi army who occupied so much of Europe during the Second World War. Anybody who worked for them was seen as a collaborator and a traitor.

Even more significant perhaps, was the attitude of the Jews towards one of their fellow Jews who associated with the Gentiles. Somebody like Matthew was not only a traitor, but he was also unclean and barred from worshipping God.

I wonder how the other disciples felt about Matthew. He was, after all, very much a person on the outside and very different from the fishermen whom Jesus had called until then.

Those early Christians were from diverse backgrounds and had very different personalities and attitudes yet they managed to work together as a team.

Matthew is a good model for those Christians, who, whatever lies in the past, have come to faith and want to offer their talents in Christ's service.

Notices

We are hoping to welcome our **children and young families** back to our churches this month with Sunday Youth, Family and All Age Services. Please pray for our children, their families, and those who will be leading and helping with services and groups.

Our next monthly **Bible study is on 13th September** at 7.30pm via Zoom. Meeting ID: 821 7505 2779

All are welcome, no experience necessary. It usually lasts one hour.

Our **gardening** team does a tremendous job! Volunteers are welcome to join in on **Wednesdays at 2-4pm**.

Church **cleaning** takes place on the first Saturday of the month, **10am-12noon**. This month's session is on **Saturday 4th September**. The more the merrier!

Fr Simon is doing the Great North Run on Sunday 12th, together with his eldest daughter Jude and mother. If you'd like to **sponsor him** in support of WaterAid please find the link on the church Facebook page.

Saturday 25th September, Benefice pilgrimage (trip) to Wakefield Cathedral. This is still to be confirmed, but please keep the date free.

Sunday 10th October, Pet Blessing Service at 3pm.

Have you got some Notices that you'd like us to print? If so, let the Vicar know!

Climate Change Action – what can you do?

A message from our Area Dean, The Rev'd Canon Rachel Firth

We have all been deeply moved by the ever increasing images of the impact of global warming on God's creation, and the scientific reports confirming just where we stand and the level of action that is needed to reverse the damage. It's hard to know where to start to make a difference – but one simple way is to show your support for the Young Christian Climate Network and their Relay to COP26 (the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November.) Clergy and others from the local Deanery will be participating in the relay as it comes through Huddersfield – with a simple walk from Marsden to St Peter's on Wednesday September 15th. We'll be having lunch together on the way at Slaithwaite and ending with a service at St Peter's at 5pm that day.

We are not alone in our concern for God's creation and this event is a wonderful opportunity to meet others from across our communities who are also concerned about climate change. I hope those that have a work-free day will join me on the walk, and that those not able to walk that distance (approx. 3 hours plus breaks) will come to the service at 5pm. Please speak to Fr Simon about how to sign up for this event so your support is registered, or go direct to the YCCN Relay website.

Thanks all

Rachel

From Fr Simon [continued from page 1]

When Sam and I took our children to see where we had lived and worked in Africa a few years ago, we washed our clothes by hand. We wanted them to get a full African experience! So we bought the big green bar of Sunlight Soap and set to with a scrubbing brush. It was not long before a couple of local Zulu children joined in and what was fast losing its novelty attraction and becoming a chore, now became an enjoyable social experience.

We mustn't be patronising. We shouldn't be looking at people with pity from what we might consider our more developed, advanced society. After all, in this country, clothes washing hardly brings people together. We rarely end up side by side with each other singing traditional songs with soap suds flying in the air.

But it is good to have our eyes opened and our limited horizons expanded. This is what Jesus did so many times both physically and metaphorically; so that we might see God more clearly, others more lovingly and ourselves more realistically.

God Bless



Our eighteenth-century bell

Living in Love & Faith, part 4

by Fr Simon

As we continue to look at marriage, sex, and sexuality, this month's article looks at how we use the Bible.

We all have our favourite verses, our favourite Bible stories: passages that give us particular meaning, that have spoken to us time after time. This is how the Bible is given life by the Holy Spirit, so that the Bible speaks to us, it sings, it calls us, comforts and challenges.

Conversely, we have passages that we pay less attention to. Even now, when reading one of the gospels I will come across a section that seems so unfamiliar, even though I must have read it many times before. Then there are verses that we might actively try to explain away or turn a blind eye to.

In general, most people, most of the time, look for Bible verses that will support the opinions they already hold. If someone quotes a Bible verse to (at) you, one can usually find a verse that says the opposite.

And so we must avoid the temptation to use the Bible like a battering ram, we must avoid using the Bible as an excuse not to listen to other people.

In fact, God often speaks to us through the Bible using other people: their experiences, their lives, their opinions. If we are to take the Bible seriously, then we are to take each other seriously.

The Bible contains hope and warnings, wars and peace, love and advice. It is written in various forms, among which are historical, biographical, poetical, legal, letters, apocalyptic. It uses many literary devices including, puns, alliteration (you need to understand Greek or Hebrew for this), exaggeration, humour, simile, metaphor, personification, paradox and numerology.

Some people and some churches believe that all the answers to life are in the Bible (if you read it literally), that it gives simple instructions by which to live. But if that is the case then why would there be much disagreement, even among people and churches with a similar approach to reading the Bible?

For me the Bible needs to be endlessly plumbed. The more I learn about it the more it reveals, but the more the mystery deepens. In this way it reflects God's nature, as it surely must if it is to lead us to him.

Next time I'll begin to look at specific verses in the Bible and how they might inform our understanding of marriage, sex and sexuality. But to finish today, I'll make an observation about something that's not in the Bible, which is that there is no record in the Gospels of Jesus even mentioning sexuality or same-sex acts.