



# November

2018

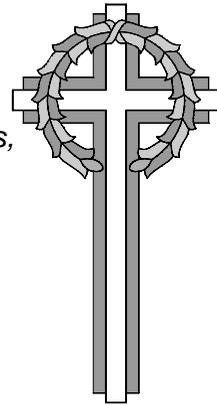
## CONTACT

*The monthly magazine of  
Bath Central United Reformed Church—30p*

### *Grace and Thanksgiving*

*We thank Thee, Lord, for quiet upland lawns,  
For misty loveliness of autumn dawns,  
For gold and russet of the ripened fruit,  
For yet another year's fulfilment, Lord,  
We thank Thee now.*

*For joy of glowing colour, flash of wings,  
We thank Thee, Lord; for all the little things  
That make the love and laughter of our days,  
For home and happiness and friends, we praise  
And thank Thee now.*



*Elizabeth Gould*



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*The date for contributions for the next CONTACT is  
20<sup>th</sup> November. It will be published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.*



### Lectionary Readings

**November 4 – Pentecost 24:** *Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146;*

*Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-6; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34*

**November 11 – Pentecost 25:** *Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127;*

*1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44*

**November 18 – Pentecost 26:** *1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Daniel 12:1-3;*

*Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8*

**November 25 – Christ the King:** *2 Samuel 23:1-7;*

*Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18); Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93;*

*Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37*

*Note: These are the Revised Common Lectionary Bible passages  
as published in the URC Prayer Handbook*

## *Minister's Letter*



*Dear Friends*

*There I was, hunched over, supping my habitual breakfast bowl of porridge when I felt compelled to look up. Not into the eyes of my wife sitting opposite, but rather at the, large, fridge-freezer in the corner. Perhaps it was the 'bubbling-sound' of its auto-defrost which caught my attention, but it was what I saw that gripped me.*

*For 'Papa Francesco' (AKA His Holiness Pope Francis) had appeared on the door of the fridge. Now please do not misunderstand. I am not given to mysticism nor do I tend toward hallucination.*

*I blinked, swallowed a particularly large portion of porridge, and looked again. Yes, there he was, dressed in his full 'pontificals' ... and ... even more remarkably he was giving me a 'double-thumbs-up'.*

*At that point I cut through the post sleep haze – yes Papa Francesco was really there on my fridge door exhorting me with a 'double-thumbs-up'. Or, at least, his effigy was present. One of my sons had just returned from a business trip to Rome and, it seems, had paid a visit to the Vatican City. He had brought me back a gift – 'The Papa Francesco 2019 Calendar'. And there it was a cheerful pontiff picture for each month of next year.*

*This, as I am a minister, made me think of God. We often expect to find God in the big, dramatic moments – 'the earthquake, wind and fire', and are sometimes disappointed when God seems a little absent. Yet, it is so often in the quiet moments,*

*the unexceptional times, in the midst of daily routine, that God shows up. Like Papa Francesco on my fridge door God often becomes present – in the mundane every day and offers his encouragement – ‘a double-thumbs-up’ as we live the joys and sorrows of our daily lives. After all God promised to walk with us all the days of our lives.*

*With this happy and a reassuring thought I nodded to Papa Francesco and mounted a new assault on my now congealing porridge.*

*God bless you in the everyday,  
David*



## Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service

We come to the end of 100 Days of Prayer and we will gather in worship to mark the end of World War One, one hundred years ago.

The URC have partnered with a sister German Church in creating worship material – ‘Looking backward ... looking forward’ – This will bring an added poignancy.

***“Peace is not dependant on what is going on around us,  
but what is going on within.” [From 100 Days of Prayer]***

## World Peace Day

A big thank you to all who assisted and contributed to the 'Imagine Peace' exhibition in September at Central. The church had many installations of creative input, highlighting peace, and many opportunities to interact.

The time of reflection on the Friday was poignant and the placing of a floating flower to remember the children of Syria will remain a moving memory.

Visitors were both local and international. Australia the furthest flung.

By request, and with the author's permission, we print one of the Brownies poems ...

### ***Peace is Perfect***

*Peace is a symbol of joy,*

*It meant war is over  
and freedom has begun.*

*Life has sprung  
and people can enjoy  
their daily life again.*

*People can take a  
break from war.*

*Happiness is spread,  
and people can laugh again.*

### ***That is peace***

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**Bath  
CAN** BATH  
CHRISTIAN  
ACTION  
NETWORK

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Prayers for The City  
Bath Abbey  
Tuesday 6th November,  
7.30pm

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## Sanctuary Clean

The House Committee would be very grateful for any help other members of the congregation can give for the annual clean of the sanctuary after church on Sunday, 18th November. Many hands make light work! Please come for however long or short a period you can manage – even half an hour would be a help. Tea and cake will be provided, as will all cleaning materials, but do bring aprons and rubber gloves if you need them.

*Sheena Carter  
Committee Convenor*



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## Argyle String Concert Winter Concert

*In the Church on*

*Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm*

This concert marks the 30th anniversary of Tim Robb's first appearance as director of the orchestra.

With Sara Stagg conducting the first half of the programme he will be playing **Haydn's Violin concerto in C major**. This concerto was composed for Tomasino, the leader of Haydn's orchestra at the Court of Esterhaza. The first half will open with **Handel's Concerto Grosso No. 4** and **Grainger's Molly on the Shore** will add some spice.

In the second half of the concert Tim will direct **Vivaldi's Winter from the Four Seasons** with Sara as soloist. After a new work by **Michael Short, The Star of County Down**, the concert will end with **Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik**.

*Entry by programme on the door, £8.00*



## Joan Poyser 1921-2018

On leaving school in 1936, Joan completed a commercial training course at West Central Girls School in Bath. She then worked in the offices of the Co-op, where Ken Poyser also worked. Several years later, having survived the Bath blitz and after the untimely death of her mother, they were married in January 1942. Ken was a member of Claremont Methodist Church (where he had pumped the bellows of the church organ!) and after his demob from the RAF, Joan joined him there.

In 1950 they moved to their new house in Bloomfield Drive and joined Rush Hill Church. Through her mother-in-law Joan was requested to teach the piano to a friend's daughter and this launched a very successful career as a piano teacher. The number of pupils snowballed through word-of-mouth and Joan was well known to very many families in Odd Down before she eventually retired aged 70!

They became active Founder Members of Central URC when it was formed in 1981. Their faith was very important to them and they performed many roles within the church community, including the production of service sheets,

general maintenance of the premises and helping with Friday coffee mornings. At one time they were volunteers at the Contact Centre where they initiated contact with Peggy, a residential careworker at the National Children's Home in Painswick. They hosted a succession of children from the NCH over many years and on one visit in 1969 bumped into Ernest aged 18 who was about to leave for university and had no home. Typically they offered to take him in and thereafter came to look upon him as a son.

When Joan was able to be physically active she much enjoyed tennis, yoga, dancing, gardening and cooking. Her sponge cakes and chocolate flapjacks were legendary. She loved her garden birds and other people's dogs. Latterly she took up cross stitch and there are many fine examples of the work she produced before arthritis took over. She rarely complained of her discomfort and efficiently managed all her own affairs to the end. She maintained contact with a wide circle of friends, was always interested in their doings, and will be deeply missed.

# Church Leader Delegation at Political Party Conferences

Moderators of the United Reformed Church General Assembly joined four other Free Church leaders at three political party conferences this autumn. At each conference, the delegation spoke to MPs and Lords about issues of concern to Christians, prayed with and for political leaders at a dedicated prayer breakfast, and sought to listen and learn from conference delegates. Together, the five leaders represented the URC, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Quakers in Britain and the Salvation Army.

Mr Derek Estill, who attended the Labour conference in Liverpool, said that the delegation *'demonstrated unity across our various denominations'*. The Revd Nigel Uden, who was part of the delegation to the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham, said: *'It was especially significant to be part of bringing into creative dialogue our various perspectives on topics that too often can mar abundant life – not least migration, climate change and poverty.'*

The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Moderator of the URC's Southern Synod, joined the delegation to the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton. Ms Furley-Smith *'felt both encouraged and privileged at being able to see party democracy in action and to get a sense of some of the issues that delegates and MPs really care about in their communities'*. She added: *'It was not only a good opportunity to challenge MPs on justice matters such as immigration and housing, but also to hear their concerns about being in politics today, and to reassure them of our prayers as they tackle issues concerning the vulnerable.'*

*From URC News*

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*The most persistent sound that reverberates through men's history is the beating of war drums. – Arthur Koestler*

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## Traidcraft

I think most of you will have heard that Traidcraft are folding for financial reasons. Their outgoings are more than their income. I have been waiting for further news but I have received no more information by email.

I now have the winter/Christmas catalogue (10 copies) which are now available from me. Please borrow one and do place an order if you see anything you would like. They have produced a full catalogue and as far as I know all the items are in stock so they want to sell as much as possible. When you have finished with your catalogue please bring it back so that I can lend it to someone else.

I shall be buying all my family duvet covers for Christmas. The Indian cotton they use is very soft and good in hot weather. Other things that are worth looking at are Christmas decorations like baubles, Phoenician glass, clothing, shawls and scarves bags hats and jumpers and socks.

Have a look at page 50 *The Eat your Hat* chocolate and coffee. I've never put this on the stall because chocolate and coffee has been selling so slowly but now is

perhaps the time to be a bit adventurous. Tim is going to miss the Zaytoun Palestinian almonds so I must order a number of packets to keep him going. We only have until the 31st of December to order things and buy them. Please ask me any questions you like.

I expect you know that when I sell Traidcraft goods I make a 10% profit. All that money goes into a bank account. When I buy goods the money comes out of that account. At the moment that account has nearly £1000 in it. That sounds surprising but near Christmas when orders tend to be higher we need a good balance.

After Christmas when we can no longer buy we can go on selling the stock until there is hardly any thing left. Then you the Church can decide what to do with the remaining money in the account.

I hope we as a Church will go on supporting Fair Trade and we as individuals should think before we buy. Who made this? Did they get paid a fair wage? What conditions were they working under? Was the cotton ethically sourced

*Best Wishes, Janet*

## All in the Month of November

100 years ago on 4th November 1918 Wilfred Owen, British poet and soldier, was killed. One of the leading poets of WW1, he was noted for his shocking realistic poetry about the horrors of trench warfare. Killed in action a week before the war ended, aged 25.

Also 100 years ago on 11th November 1918 Armistice Day saw the end of World War I.

90 years ago on 18th November 1928 Walt Disney released 'Steamboat Willie', the first Disney cartoon with fully synchronised sound. It saw the debut of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

80 years ago on 9th November 1938 the Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) began when the Nazis burned synagogues and destroyed thousands of Jewish homes and businesses in Germany and Austria.

70 years ago on 4th November 1948 American-born British poet and playwright TS Eliot won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature.

50 years ago on 28th November 1968, Enid Blyton, British children's writer, died. One of the most successful children's writers of the 20th century, she wrote more than 762 books. Best known for Noddy and the Famous Five series.

25 years ago on 1st November 1993 the Maastricht Treaty came into effect, establishing the European Union.

20 years ago on 24th November 1998 the British Government unveiled plans to abolish the rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

15 years ago on 22nd November 2003 England won the Rugby World Cup for the first time.

10 years ago on 4th November 2008 Barack Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States.

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*Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.*

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## Christian Aid

As often happens at this time of year there have been several extreme weather events which always affect the poorest most. This year there were floods in SE Asia and mud slide in Sierra Leone, plus the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia adding to the misery and need. Meanwhile climate change experts predict that by 2020 there will be an extra 250 million in poverty in sub-Saharan Africa because crops will fail and livestock will have died. Individual contributions to the Appeals can be made on-line or cheques (Christian Aid) sent to 35 Lower Marsh SE1 7RL. Human conflict in Syria, Yemen, Burma, Nigeria continue to add to the world refugee crisis . N.B.The Christian Aid web site is really easy to navigate these days and is very informative on a huge range of subjects.

*Jenny Stephens*



## Commitment for Life

The latest newsletter gives encouraging news of continuing training courses at Silveira House. Women are advised on conserving precious water supplies and using basic hand tools to grow and market onions and carrots in their “Evergreen” (mthombowesizwe !) garden. They are helped to set up savings accounts to pay school fees and travel costs for their children.

*Oscar Romero*

It was good to hear that he has been officially made a Saint by the Pope recently. He was a true friend of the poor in El Salvador – much needed now.

*Eco News*

The latest forecast that the world will miss its target in 2020 and needs to get down to a 1.5°C increase in temperature is a worry for us as a church and individuals! Has anyone any good ideas??

*Jenny Stephens*

## Christmas Market - Genesis

Genesis Trust Bath will be holding a stall at this year's Bath Christmas Market on **Thursday, 29th November** on Milsom Street. Lots of festive gifts will be on offer, including Genesis branded Ecoffee cups, Limelight candles and Life Skills artwork. All profits will directly support homeless & vulnerable people in Bath this winter. More info at [www.genestrust.org.uk](http://www.genestrust.org.uk)

*The Christmas Market: Thursday 22nd November–Sunday 9th December*

### *Internal Christmas Post*

*The post box will be placed in the front vestibule on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. It will be removed on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December. Cards will be available for collection on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please post cards only for those people who you know attend church.*

*Bill, Ron & Martin*



### **'Ask Your Pharmacist' Week 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> November**

*'Ask Your Pharmacist' week is an awareness week aimed at reminding communities of the wide range of services that pharmacists can offer. This year the focus will be on ensuring patient safety.*

Preaching at Rush Hill and Larkhall			
	Rush Hill 10.30am	Larkhall 11.00am	Larkhall 6.30pm
Nov 4	Revd Sue Henderson	Revd David Pattie	Mrs Margaret White
Nov 11	Revd Helen Pattie	Revd Dr Hazel Starritt	Revd Helen Pattie
Nov 18	Revd David Pattie	Mrs Denise Meyers	Revd David Pattie
Nov 25	Revd Dr Hazel Starritt	Mr Paul Swift	Sarah Shepherd

## Church Diary – November

- Every Friday* 10.30am Friday Coffee in the Argyle Hall.
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am **Shoe Boxes:** *Revd Helen Pattie*
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>* 10.00am Women's Guild: Katherine Whyte's trip to Nepal
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Remembrance Sunday: *Revd David Pattie*
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>* 10.00am Study Group – The Early Church'  
2.30pm Elders' Meeting
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Family Worship: *Revd Dr Hazel Starritt*
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>* 2.30pm Church Meeting
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Family Worship: *Revd Dr Nigel Rawlinson*
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>* 10.00am Study Group – *Peter ... vision and jailbreak...*  
2.30pm Men's Fellowship Meeting
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>* 7.30pm Argyle String Orchestra Concert

## December

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** 10.30am Communion Service: *Revd David Pattie*  
*Foodbank & Traidcraft*
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>* 10.00am Women's Guild Advent Celebrations.  
**Open Meeting**
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>* 2.30pm Woodside
- Wednesday-Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>* Argyle Players: '*And Then There Were None*'
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Gift Day Service: *Revd Helen Pattie*
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup>* 1.00pm Men's Fellowship Christmas Lunch
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>* 2.30pm Elders' Meeting
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>* 2.30pm Midweek Communion Service
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am Family Worship: *Revd David Pattie*  
6.30pm **Carols by Candlelight**





*Hello, you might not know me, but I know you! I have spent my entire life hanging about at Central. I am very quiet, very discreet and always have my eyes and ears open. I don't like to draw attention to my presence but I consider myself to be a valuable member of the church community.*

*I am Sidney the church spider. My friends and associates call me Sid. But I like Sidney. That's what my mum called me. I hang out mainly in the Library area, behind the big bookcases, but 'have legs and will travel' ... all over the building.*

*My main job is to hunt down flies. I don't like flies! But I also consider myself to be an unofficial custodian of the church.*

*Oh yes! You already know my good friend – William the church mouse. He will vouch for me.*

*Anyway, as I said earlier, I like to hang around and look and listen. And I like to remember things as spiders have good memories.*

*One day I encountered one of your lady ministers. She saw me, and I saw her, coming at me with a rolled up copy of 'Reform'. Fortunately she missed. And I scuttled off at high*

*speed into the pulpit. As she tried to hunt me down we engaged in a bit of bargaining. The upshot of which is – Sidney the Spider will bring you recent news at Central (and thus be permitted to live long and prosper).*

*So here we go ... October was one of the busiest months I can remember. It started in a rather surreal way. I had fallen into the Revd. David's briefcase whilst it was open in the vestry. It was snapped shut and Sidney went on a journey.*

*When it next opened (the 9th of October as it happens ... told you I have a good memory!) David, accompanied by Helen were at a conference. I popped out of the briefcase and met a local spider – Xavier. Xavier told me that were at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre and that the event was a URC Ministers Conference. The ministers seemed to learn a lot, eat a lot and spend much time talking. I had to be quick getting back into the briefcase as we set off back to Bath.*

*I tumbled out of the case at the Manse. There I learned that Mr Andrew, a good friend of William the Mouse, had flown to France to begin walking the Camino de Santiago ... a mere 900 kilometres ... and he only has two legs!! He said he was going on a pilgrimage.*

*Trapped at the manse I remained*

*lodging in the gloomy recesses of David's briefcase. Like his wallet, it is a dark and lonely place where no one goes.*

*Next day the briefcase gave a lurch. We were off on our travels again. When the case opened it was very, very hot. Oh dear I thought. We are in the tropics. I was quivering with fear as there are some huge spiders in the tropics ... so I learned from a book about missionaries in the church library.*

*But no, we were at Woodside Nursing Home. It was a service and so many members of my church came to support! Wow what a great time. Thanks guys! I am going to hitch a ride again on December the 5th for the next service!*

*Eventually the Revd. David took me back to the church. I absconded from the briefcase and went off to hangout in the Argyle Hall. During Sunday coffee I learned that many, many poppies are being knitted for Remembrance. Did you know that there were spiders at the Somme? There were also Shoeboxes being filled to give gifts to children at Christmas. So generous ... but I kept well away. I don't want sent to Albania although I do have cousins there.*

*Over the next few days as I was hanging out I heard the Argyle Orchestra rehearsing for their next concert. What a lovely sound. It*

*made me sway in my web.*

*Then I heard that there had been a murder! But Sidney got that wrong. Actually the Argyle Players are doing an Agatha Christie' ... which is human-speak for performing a play (Then there were none)*

*One Sunday I joined worship, I always do you know. Do you ever count me in the statistics ... if you went by legs you could add three every Sunday! It was World Communion Sunday. Very moving . My thoughts and prayers went out to all the other church spiders around the world ... doing the same as me – but different if you know what Sidney means!*

*But I have kept the best till last, as our good Lord did. (I read that in the church library too!) Rev David and Williams friend Mr. Brian are doing the Friday Church Coffee Morning. What fun and japes they will have doing that. I will assuredly be there that day to watch the fun and games unfold.*

*Anyway I must be off. I hear the Guild arriving and past experience informs me that the ladies do not like to see too much of Sidney so I will hide in the grandfather clock – or perhaps in Sweetlands Organ.*

*See you soon, if you don't see me first.*

*Sidney – Church Spider, Central URC.*



1954 –

The Argyle Players

- 2018



Situated almost at the very end of the long walkway which hugs the warm costal waters of the Bay of Pollenca in northern Mallorca stands the Illa D'Or Hotel. Beyond it the nearby road twists and corkscrews alarmingly for several miles over the Tramuntana mountain range on its way to the lighthouse at Cap de Formentor. It was to the Illa D'Or that Agatha Christie came in the early 1930s, using its quiet situation to allow her to write some of her many short stories. *'Problem at Pollensa Bay'* was published in 1936 in the Strand Magazine and later brought together with others in a collection called *'The Regatta Mystery and Other Stories'*.

Although the property has been extended and modernized over the years, with its wooden pier replaced by a more substantial structure from which enthusiasts may swim or join the Hotel yacht for a sail across the blue waters of the bay, Dame Agatha would still recognize it today . . . particularly the guests!

Although Spanish owned, the whole place exudes the spirit of an middle class English house party, with just the sort of people she places in her stories to be found in the elegant dining room or relaxing at the bar by the sea. So it is that they come to life in one of her most intriguing tales of mystery and murder, *'And Then There Were None'*, which The Argyle Players will bring to the stage in the Tovey Hall from Wednesday to Saturday, 5th-8th December. It is set in an Illa D'Or style hotel not in the Islas Balears, but on a small island off the coast of Devon. It is here that we meet an eclectic mix of guests, so typical of those who inhabit a Christie thriller. ⇨

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*Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it. –*

*Andrew Murray*

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⇒ Is that not the elderly General Mackenzie dozing in an armchair on the hotel terrace, whilst retired judge, Sir Lawrence Wargrave is deep in conversation with the nerve specialist Dr. Edwina Armstrong as they shelter from the midday sun under one of the pine trees on the hotel walkway? Sunbathing there, by the pool, is attractive secretary Vera Claythorne, wearing the latest in revealing bathing attire, much to the disgust of that upholder of female modesty, Miss Emily Brent, as the speed mad young Anthony Marston discusses the merits of his super-charged Varletti Carlotta sports car with a sceptical Captain Phillip Lombard and a doubtful William Blore, while potting the black in the games room.

All these characters and more will be brought to you in this Lorna Burgess production, featuring a large cast of experienced Thespians, anxious only to test your detective skills as the plot weaves and turns before you. Tickets are now available and can be purchased from any member of The Players, the sales desk after Sunday morning worship, or at the City Information Bureau which is situated now at Bridgwater House on Terrace Walk.

Don't miss an evening of mystery and suspense.

*Michael Burgess*

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### ***Died in the services***

*Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and they seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. 'All those names,' he said to the minister. 'Who are they?'*

*'Well, they were people who used to go to this church,' explained the minister. 'This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services.'*

*Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, 'Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?'*

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Nigel Beeton writes: *100 years ago this month the guns fell silent, although, tragically, they were to start up again a mere 21 years later, two World Wars costing millions of lives. I hope and pray that we will stop and remember for the next 100 years, and for the 100 years after that.*

### *Headstones*

*The rows of headstones silent stand  
Their message clear, though mute;  
That we, in Britain's peaceful land  
Must silently salute.*

*Our peace was bought at dreadful price  
Through rain and fear and mud —  
World conflict fought not once but twice  
So twice the cost in blood.*

*Each headstone bears a single name  
A single husband, son,  
Who, when the call to duty came  
They did what must be done.*

*So, think upon those rows of stones  
Be silent, still as they  
Remind us of those silent homes  
From when they went away.*

*Yes, spare a while to think of them  
It's just two minutes' time;  
And say aloud, just once again  
That well-remembered rhyme:*

*They grow not old as we grow old,  
Nor do the years condemn;  
But as the days and nights unfold,  
We will remember them.*

*by Nigel Beeton*



The following is the collective prayer for this month. We ask you to join us in prayer on the **third Wednesday** of the month—21<sup>st</sup> November. We shall pray at 7.30am and/or 7.30pm: please join us.

## A Prayer for November

Dear Father God.

We pray for all the children who will be receiving the shoeboxes from this country.

And remember many in this country who will not have as happy a festive time as those in our own families.

Help us to see where we as a church can help those in need in our community.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen



### Last Months Crossword

**Across:** 1 Lawyer 4 Balsam 8 Caleb 9 Jehoram  
10 Sparrow 11 Exile 12 Excellent 17 Act in  
19 Endemic 21 Slavery 22 Galal 23 Silent 24 Tarsus

**Down:** 1 Locust 2 Welfare 3 Ember 5 Athlete  
6 Sarai 7 Member 9 Jewellery 13 Condemn  
14 Temples 15 Causes 16 Scales 18 Trail 20 Dogma

## Prayers



Each week we pray for:

**4<sup>th</sup> November**

The Finance Committee.

From those who use our halls: Two Dragons Tai Chi.

**11<sup>th</sup> November**

The flower secretary, Ann Liles, the flower arrangers and distributors.

From those who use our halls: John Oswin, Organist.

**18<sup>th</sup> November**

Funerals Authorised Person, Jane Bowden.

From Churches

Together in Bath: St Matthew and St Thomas, Widcombe.

**25<sup>th</sup> November**

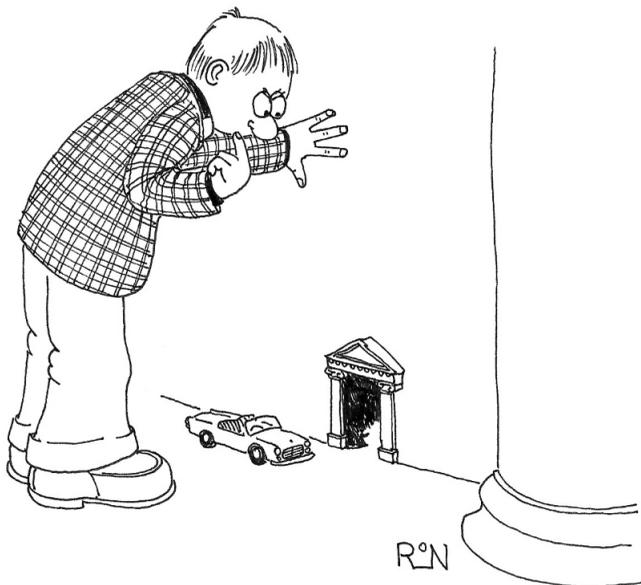
Church Heating, Lin Whipp.

From those who use our halls: Open Christmas Committee.



## Intercessory Prayer Chain

*If any reader of CONTACT needs someone to pray for them, Central URC has a prayer chain in operation. Each matter for prayer will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you would like prayer please ask your elder or contact Peter Rouse (☎01225 332760).*



*... and yet the Church Mice still put it about  
that they were poor*

**Sudoku** Each row, column and 3x3 block should contain all numbers 1 to 9

	3	8			9			
			1		6	2		
				2			5	
		4						6
		2	3		1	7		
5							9	
	6			5				
		9	2		4			
			8			9	1	

# St James the Least of All *by the Rev Dr Gary Bowness*

## *On the perils of the Parochial Church Council*

*The elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*

*My dear Nephew Darren*

*I am truly furious. I know that God has given clergy church councils, so they can have a better understanding of hell, but last night's meeting really was too much. The traps are always sprung under "any other business". Several hundred thousand pounds can be committed to repairing the tower without the slightest murmur, but if someone should suggest mending the tea urn under AOB, the meeting will close with blood on the carpets.*

*So it was yesterday evening. We had negotiated the tricky subject of not mentioning the verger when it was recorded that the cupboard containing the Communion wine will be kept locked in future. We had ever-so-gently sat on Mr Onions when he questioned whether it was biblical to hold raffles at our social evenings. We even smiled with equanimity when Lady Faversham grumbled about the damp Communion wafers.*

*But when our treasurer, after a long preamble about soaring house prices in the village, suggested that the 12 bedroomed Queen Anne Rectory be sold and I be housed in one of the "more convenient" potting sheds being built on the green, I did not expect near universal agreement from council members.*

*That the new Rectory would have all the aesthetic charm of a suburban bus shelter seemed to be irrelevant; that I would have to learn to have all my meals in one dining room, rather than rotate round the*

*present three seemed to be of no concern; that my dog would lose his own private suite passed them by entirely. This may be a case for calling in the Canine Protection Society.*

*The thought that I would have to get used to a warm, dry house with 21st century plumbing does not bear contemplation. It is only the cold, damp accommodation with Victorian water closets that keeps parishioners and visiting clergy at bay.*

*It was a close struggle; here was an opportunity for council members to settle a few old scores. You could sense the gleam in Colonel Mitchell's eyes as he recalled losing the hiding place for his whisky when we removed his box pew 30 years ago; he has been obliged to listen to the sermon ever since. And as for Miss Throckmore, who was allocated to decorate the porch rather than the great east window for last year's Harvest, she leapt at the opportunity of condemning me to life in a cardboard box. You could also sense a certain satisfaction when parishioners realised they would then be able to keep an eye on my movements, since there would no longer be several acres of ground and privet hedges to maintain my privacy.*

*Fortunately, I negotiated some time when I mentioned that possible legal obstacles must be cleared first. In the meantime, I shall be writing to apply for grants to build a substantial moat round my present Rectory – provided it has a working drawbridge.*

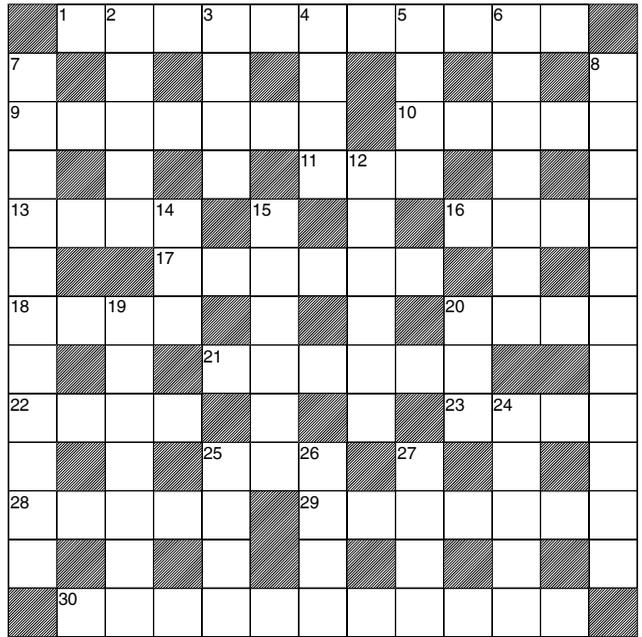
*Your loving uncle, Eustace*

# Crossword

From Parish Pump

## Across

- 1 and 20 Down Lord of all –, Lord of all –, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy (11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: Why are you – your fellow Hebrew? (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline –. (2,3)
- 11 At even – the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay (3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 Do not leave Jerusalem, but – for the gift my Father promised (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: We must – God rather than men! (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, – Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat – – (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 No fear of me should – you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you (Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)



## Down

- 2 O Jerusalem, how – I have longed to gather your children together (Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 For the wages of sin is death, but the – of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23) (4)

## Activities

**Sunday Worship:** 10.30am Family Worship for all ages.

**Church Meeting:** Third Tuesday of alternate months at 2.30pm (*Jan on*)

**Elders' Meeting:** Second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm

**Women's Guild:** Secretary: Mrs Jane Tollyfield

*First Tuesday each month at 2.30pm*

**Men's Fellowship:** Programme Secretary: Mr John Osborne

*Fourth Tuesday each month at 2.30pm*

**Allsorts Group:** Contact: Mr Paul Swift *Third Saturday each month*

**Argyle Players:** Secretary: Mrs Helen Brettell *Thursdays at 7.30pm*

**Argyle String Orchestra:** Church Contact: Martin Cawte

*Thursdays at 7.30pm*

## Committees

**Buildings:** *Convener;* Mr MHH Burgess: *Secretary;* Mr RM Short

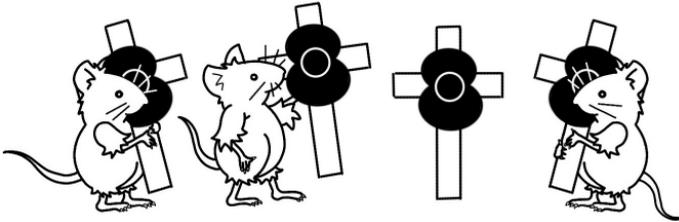
**House:** ...*Convener;* Mrs Sheena Carter *Secretary;* Mrs Angela Campbell

**Finance:** ..*Convener;* Mr RB Turner: ... ..*Secretary;* Mr WE Richardson

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*Senior Elder: Jane Tollyfield . . . . . ☎ 01225 312871*

*Church Secretary (Worship): Peter Rouse . . . . . ☎ 01225 332760*

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