

**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS**



MAGAZINE

May 2022

Free

Minister: Rev Simon J Carver, MA, BSc, - simoncarver@btinternet.com

Church Secretary: Chris Penn

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dabc.org.uk/01727 844348

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

MAY SERVICES

	10.30am and Podcast
May 1st	<i>Fishing and Failure</i> John 21:1-19 Communion
May 8th	<i>My sheep listen</i> John 10:22-30
May 15th	<i>A New Heaven and a New Earth</i> Revelation 21:1-6
May 22nd	<i>Daniel</i> All-Age Messy Church
May 29th	<i>I'm an apostle, get me out of here!</i> Acts 16:16-34 Believer's Baptism

May 2022

Dear Friends,

Catriona and I are taking a few days off next month. We are going to be in Scotland – initially in Glasgow, and then on to Iona. We are going to Glasgow, because I am will be conducting a wedding there. The bride is a young woman whom we knew as a little girl in Oxford. Her family had come over from Germany when Henrik had been assigned to work at Siemens and they decided to live in Oxford because there was an international school there which Svenja and her brother Nils could attend. The first Sunday they worshipped with us, the person taking Junior Church that day was a German speaker, a graduate student specialising in German children's literature and so I think that they knew that our church would be right for them.



Svenja moved to Glasgow to study a few years ago and is to marry Chris, a Scottish lad, and so all the German family and friends will be making their way to Scotland next month.

Now you are probably aware, that Scotland is another country and they do things differently there. This means that I am not able to be the one who signs the necessary documents. However, I have a friend who is a minister in Glasgow who has kindly said that she will do the official parts. It has been something of a learning experience for me as whereas in England there are certain words that have to be used. In Scotland what is required is little more than, as my friend said, 'Will ye?' 'Aye!'

One of the elements of the service that we will be doing that will be new to me is 'hand-fasting'. This is a tradition that goes back centuries and involves tying the hands of bride a groom to symbolise the tying of their lives together. The rediscovery of many aspects of Scottish culture has meant that this is now a common practice in modern Scottish weddings. I'm looking forward to it!

Symbols are important – whether they are the flags that sym

bolise countries, or the bread and wine of communion that stand in place of the body and blood of Christ.

Another important symbol in the life of the Christian Church is baptism. The way that baptism is practised in Baptist churches has a particular symbolism. All baptisms involve water and therefore carry with them the symbolism of the cleansing element of baptism. The baptism that we practice in our church – we call it believer’s baptism – is by immersion. This is close to the way that John the Baptist baptised Jesus and so when we are baptised in this way, we are identifying ourselves with Jesus.

In his Letter to Roman Christians, the apostle Paul highlights another symbolic element to baptism. This is that in going down into the water and coming up out of the water, we are sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In his baptism he identified with us and in our baptism we identify with him as we share in his death and resurrection.

I hope that Chris and Svenja’s wedding goes well and that the tying of their hands will be a symbol of a long and happy life shared together.

Best wishes

Imion



George Frideric Handel



Service of Believer's' Baptism

We are planning a service of Believer's Baptism on the morning of **Sunday 29th May**.

Baptism is one of the sacraments of the church and a service of baptism is an important date in our church's calendar. Make a note in your diary!

Simon





Tea+Chat+Prayer

These are informal gatherings in the homes of church members where we have a social time that ends with a prayer for any pastoral needs mentioned. All are welcome to come and transport is available if needed – please ask me if you need help.

The next session will be at the home of Bill and Denise Tromans on **Tuesday 10th May**.



May 2022



Sunday Ministry for Young People

This is the planned Sunday ministry that our children will follow after Easter.

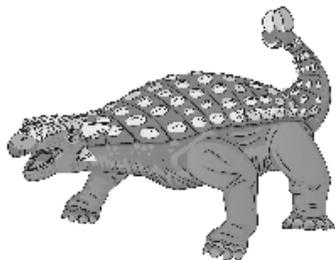
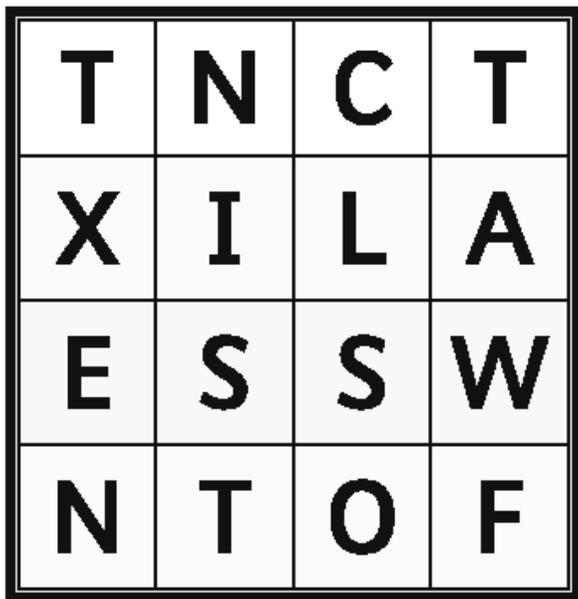
Music, Crafts and Games	15th May
All-Age Messy Church	22nd May
Music, Crafts and Games	5th June
All-Age Messy Church	26th June
Music, Crafts and Games	17th July

Please make a note of these dates and if you have children or grandchildren, bring them along. They'll have fun and be very welcome!

Simon

Dinosaur Boggler Puzzle

How many words of 3 letters or more can you find using the letters below? Words are formed from adjoining letters. Letters must join in the proper sequence to spell a word and may join horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, to the left, right, or up-and-down. No letter square, however, may be used more than once within a single word. You may use plurals if available. Score 1 point for each 3 letter word, 2 points for 4 letter words, 3 points for 5 letter words and so on. Score an extra 2 points for every dinosaur themed word that you make!



My points _____

May 2022



**The Cross Street Café
at Dagnall Street Baptist Church**

is looking to appoint a

**Manager/Assistant Manager
for its busy community café**

The Café is open from
10.00am-2.00pm, Wednesday-Saturday

The daily shift is 9.00am-3.00pm and the number of shifts
worked per week is negotiable.

Duties include:

- Welcoming customers
- Preparing food and hot drinks
- Waiting at tables
- Cleaning and washing up

**This position would suit someone who enjoys engaging
with customers within the community.**

**For further information please email
simon@dsbc.org.uk**



You might remember that in March's magazine I promised that the deacons would produce a list of 'vacancies' to be filled. One of these is a paid post – a manager/assistant manager for the café and you will see a notice about this in this magazine. The following are some other areas in the life of the church where you might be able to help. If any of these vacancies strike a chord with you, please speak to me.

Scrabble Club

Colin Owen has offered to run the club. More details elsewhere in the magazine.

Flower Ministry

Every Sunday flowers appear at the front of the church. I'm sure you realise that they don't grow there and that they have to be bought and arranged. There is a fairly small team of people who carry out the arranging and it would be good to have more volunteers. If you are a creative person, but haven't arranged flowers before, help will be offered. Have a go! If you would like to donate flowers, that would also be helpful. If you feel a call to donating or arranging flowers, please contact Paula Iddiols.

Music

Our pool of musicians has shrunk over the last few years. Can you play the piano or another instrument? It would be wonderful to have some different instruments leading our Sunday worship.

We will return to the topic of vacancies again soon, but please do consider how you might be able to serve God in the life of our church community. If there are skills or talents you have that could be used in the church, even if they're not mentioned here, do let me know. Likewise, if there is some activity that you would like to lead that we are not doing at present, please speak up!

Simon



**SATURDAY
14th May
10am –12pm
In
The Lower Hall
for
Dad's. granddad's and uncles
with under 5's**





TODDLERS

***Every Wednesday morning
during term time
9.45—11.30am***

***Parents and carers with under 5's
welcome***

***Maximum 25 adults on first come first
served basis***

***(Wearing of face masks encouraged)
£2 per family***



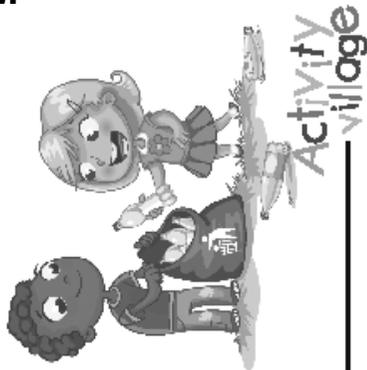
I Can Help the Earth

Think of 4 ways that you can help look after the Earth and write or draw in the boxes below.

I can help the Earth by...

May 2022

ACROSTIC POEM



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Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

APRIL FOOLISHNESS

April 2022



www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl

Dorje Sherpa sits on the doorstep of his timber clad hut drinking a cup of Chiyya (Nepali tea). His vernacular style hut is set in beautiful mountain surroundings within the Everest region, but is slightly off the beaten tourist trekking route, and there have hardly been any tourists visiting during the last two years. It's been tough for Dorje, his wife Amrita (names changed), and the entire village, who over time adapted their lifestyles to cater for the foreign tourist trade. Time to fall back to the old ways of earning an income? Back to subsistence farming? Back to traditional religious practices to seek improvement of their circumstances?

It's the first of April, according to the Western calendar. A group of female trekkers arrive. They want to stay at Dorje's house for the night. He is delighted. Amrita, Dorje's wife makes steaming hot cups of milk teas.

As the evening progresses the trekkers find out that some villagers consider Dorje a fool. Why? Despite all the hardship of the last years Dorje has not been looking back, not stuck with the things he knew, not even with the prior religious ways. He has been looking inwards, and outwards, and heavenwards. Dorje and Amrita recently became Christians. There is no local church, and no regular fellowship right now, but Dorje has encountered something genuine, something that makes him and Amrita smile.

Dorje, Amrita, and the trekkers pray together on the 1st April. No foolishness here, no joke, April or otherwise. Just a couple putting their trust into that which they cannot see, being encouraged by sisters in the faith, who happened to cross their path on that day.

To be considered foolish for having faith in Christ is not a new thing, and not specific to Nepal. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18-21:

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.



" Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe."

Pippa was one of the lady trekkers mentioned in the opening paragraph, and she was touched to see the Holy spirit at work in rural Nepal, drawing people to Christ, and into fellowship with God. As you may be aware, a significant amount of our time here is spent supporting BMS's partner NGO INF in a technical capacity to enable Christian medical work, and we are not directly involved in church planting, so it is wonderful to be reminded that God's 'Easter Power' is at work here and now.

As a family, and now Kathmandu based, we are cherishing the chance to visit Pokhara this Easter, and to reconnect with our Nepali and Expat friends there during this season, and to visit the Nepali local church we attended for a number of years, before we moved to Kathmandu. From past experience this will be a very lively and celebratory seasonal event, and we are very much looking forward to that.



From past experience this will be a very lively and celebratory seasonal event, and we are very much looking forward to that. We just hope that travel works out, as suddenly the petrol stations are out of fuel and we don't know if our minibus will depart. Living in Nepal you have to be prepared for the unexpected, and for changes in plans.

Only the other day I spent six hours at Immigration, having to provide more and more documents which suddenly were deemed required by one particular official for a visa type transfer, not to mention that at one point I was requested to bring the whole family to the office, which as it turns out was only that one official's view, not a formal requirement.

Sometimes you feel grateful to be in Nepal, enjoy the people and the country, sometimes you feel like a fool. Would God give us grace to live through both types of experience without getting too stressed or disheartened. We are within a couple of months of returning to the UK for deputation in June and July now, and we feel that this will be a key time to reflect on our life and work here, attend BMS key events, and to meet with many of you, and specifically our home church in Oxford.

Below, a few prayer points:

- Jakey and Ella just returned from a brilliant activity week with their school, where they had fun, but also helped out younger Nepali school children. We are so grateful for KISC, and for the fact that on-site schooling has resumed. Do pray for teachers and student alike.

- Toby wants to increasingly see the Nepali engineers at Green Pastures Hospital take responsibility, and it is his prayer that in his absence this summer the team will rise to any challenges which come their way in project delivery, and through improved infrastructure enable key medical services to be provided, benefiting the vulnerable.

- Specifically, Toby is praying for a successful construction phase of a new 30 bed Leprosy Ward, which he designed.

- Pippa is considering how she will best invest in the local Kathmandu context after the summer, and is also currently reviewing the Rehab Services strategy for INF. Would she have wisdom in summarizing and presenting her findings well.

- We are incredibly grateful to have found accommodation for our entire UK stay this summer. Thank you to those key people who helped us out, you know who you are. Please pray for a rich and meaningful time, as we seek to meet up with supporting churches, friends, and family.

- After some eventful and sometimes challenging months here, do pray for our children, as they travel to the UK with us in a couple of months, for peace and resilience in the midst of change.

Returning to the topic of April Foolishness I would like to close this letter with a quote associated with Jim Elliot. Jim held the view that: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."

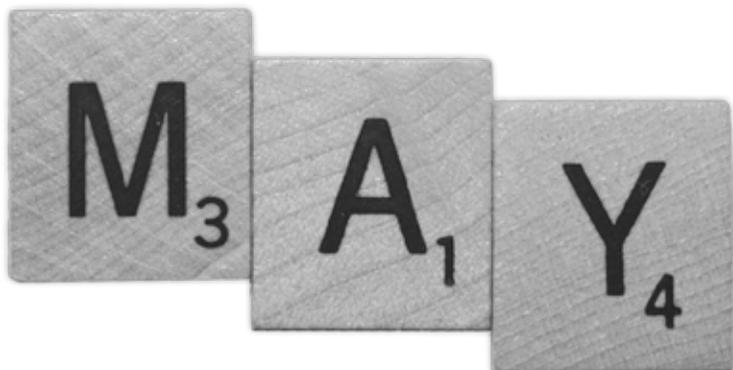
It is my prayer that you and I would increasingly align our lives with such principle, whether considered foolish or not by onlookers. Dorje and Amrita certainly weren't put off, and encouraged us with their faith this month, and maybe they encouraged you also.

With much love from us all,

Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie

If you would like to support Pippa and Toby Vokuhl by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.





DSBC SCRABBLE CLUB

We are restarting the DSBC Scrabble Club.

There appears to be an interest amongst the people who used to play before Covid struck and we are hoping to attract new members.

***The first meeting will start on
Tuesday 10th May.
2pm***

All are welcome.

So come along to the Cross Street Centre on the 10th and give it a try.

Speak to me for further information.

Colin Owen

Mission News

Baptist Union Prayer Diary - May 2022

1 May - Please pray for the East Midland Baptist Association. Their vision is to serve East Midlands Baptists in Mission, through growing healthy churches, and they do this by inspiring, pioneering, equipping, partnering, and caring.

www.embaptists.co

8 May - Hayley Young will be inducted as President of the Baptist Union at the Baptist Assembly next week. Please pray for Hayley as she encourages us to 'Build a Bigger Table'.

www.baptist.org.uk/president

15 May - The Baptist Assembly is taking place this weekend, in Bournemouth and online. Pray that this will be a time for real connection and conversation about what God is saying to us as a Baptist movement. www.baptistassembly.org.uk

22 May - This week has been Christian Aid Week. Please give thanks for the work of aid and development agencies such as Christian Aid, who encourage us to put Jesus' command to love our neighbour into action, and put a human face on global issues. www.caweek.org

29 May - This year's Thy Kingdom Come is aiming to 'light up the world with prayer'. Please do join this global prayer movement praying for more people to come to know Jesus.

www.thykingdomcome.global



News from the Genesis Shop in Sheffield

Following Ray and Diane's February trip to the Genesis Charity Shop in Sheffield, we received the following message from Lisa, who heads up the team that runs the shop,

"Thank you a for another outstanding donation from you all, it's so generous of everyone to think of us in Sheffield. I would like to thank the lovely people who baked and sent us our dinner, it was very kind, and a big thank you to Ray and Diane for driving your donations to us as the weather was extremely windy and the flooding everywhere. Hope you all take care and stay safe. Thank you again, Lisa."

The need for clothing, children's and household effects has never been greater, so keep your donations coming in to the lower store at Cross Street. Donations of unwanted or no longer required items should be in a good, serviceable and clean condition, in bags that are easily 'liftable.' We look forward to arranging another trip to Sheffield, perhaps in a few months time when the weather might be a bit kinder!

Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May

**"We're raising our voices to call for climate justice.
Together we can restore justice to our world."**

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.



The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe.

Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought - giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope. With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

Join the Global Wave of Prayer ***Sunday May 26th - June 5th 2022***

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differ

ences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. According to our annual survey findings an astonishing percentage of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and a significant number of people join in for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray ‘Come Holy Spirit’.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

May 2022

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part - along with churches from over 80 different denominations in nearly 90% of countries (172) around the world.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

Baptist Assembly & BBC Songs of Praise

The annual Baptist Assembly takes place at the Bournemouth International Centre over the weekend 14/15th May, and on Saturday 14th BBC Songs of Praise will be filming throughout the day for an episode dedicated to Baptists Together, which will be broadcast to an estimated 1 million viewers on Sunday 26th June.

Central Baptist Association New Regional Minister Team Leader

At the General Meeting of the CBA on March 5th 2022, the Moderator, Revd Carol Murray, put forward the resolution, 'On nomination by the Association Council, it is resolved that this appoints the Revd. Lisa Kerry to the post of Regional Minister Team Leader to succeed the Revd Geoff Colmer.'

The vote was unanimous in favour of appointing Lisa Kerry to the post. Forty-three votes were counted. None against and no abstentions.

INTRODUCING Lisa Kerry

“I have been married to Alan, a retired GP and now theology student, for 34 years and am the mother of Helen and Miriam, and very excited to soon be a Granny!! Helen is a Teacher and married to Luis, a Psychologist, and Miriam is a Pharmacist and married to James, who is a Journalist.

Before ministry I trained at the Royal London Hospital and worked as a nurse in the NHS for over 20 years, specialising in Oncology and End of Life Care, and latterly as a Deputy Sister in Interventional Radiology. This involved cardiac angiograms and angioplasties and was very exciting and rewarding. I was called into ministry whilst in membership at West Leigh Baptist Church in Leigh On Sea, Essex. This was initially as a Lay Minister whilst I undertook the Equipped to Minister course at Spurgeon’s College. During those two years I felt the call to full-time ministry and so left nursing and began training at Spurgeon’s. The final year of my training was completed at Hutton and Shenfield Union Church in Brentwood. On completion of my degree and training, and whilst Miriam finished her A levels, I began a part-time Masters at Spurgeon’s which culminated in a Dissertation on Celebrity Ministers. I also served as a part-time Chaplain at Havens Hospices in Southend which I loved as it combined my two professions beautifully.

In September 2013 I began my ministry as part of the team at Croxley Baptist Church where I was responsible for pastoral care and families. I initiated Messy Church, was immersed in the Toddler group, led the Young People’s group, helped run the weekly church café and was part of the Girls Brigade team. As well as the usual church responsibilities I launched an ecumenical project with my Anglican colleague which created a CIO to employ two Parish Nurses for the village of Croxley Green, one general and one for mental health. As the church team changed, I have become co-minister and then team leader and was delighted to support my colleague, Dave Gregory, as he served the Union as President in 2018- 2019. I have been really pleased to be in

volved in Association life through being part of the CBA Ministerial Recognition Committee and by being a lecturer on Footsteps 2. This also led to becoming part of the National Ministerial Recognition Committee and the Residential Selection Conference for the Baptist Union. All these opportunities have been such a privilege.

Following the completion of my Masters I was honoured to be asked to be part of the editing team for the publication of the Bible Speaks Today Bible and thoroughly enjoyed editing the commentaries on Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs as part of this project. During my sabbatical in 2020 I explored the possibility of further study and was accepted by Bristol Baptist College to study for a part-time PhD in Practical Theology. I am currently exploring the role of professionalism and standardisation in Baptist Ministry formation and am interested in researching ways in which supervision in the field can be made more satisfying and supportive. I am incredibly honoured and excited about this new role, but also humbled by the size of the task. I am so grateful for the legacy of the current team who have created such a supportive and nurturing culture in the CBA and I sincerely hope to carry this through to whatever new areas God leads us. I hope that my studies will lead to fruitful innovations for the CBA and possibly beyond and I am really looking forward to getting to know the ministers and churches of the CBA, praying that I will be able to offer love and care to help them thrive.”

Chris Penn



CBA Assembly Saturday July 2nd 2022

The Central Baptist Association Assembly takes place at Christ the King LEP, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HG, on Saturday July 2nd 2022. For more information, there is a poster on the Mission notice board in the church vestibule.

The speaker for the day is outgoing Regional Minister Team Leader and Past President of the Baptist Union Revd Geoff Colmer. The assembly runs from 10am to 3.30pm with morning sessions including worship, welcomes, information and AGM and in the afternoon, stories, welcomes and goodbyes.

If you're interested in attending, please let me know before the end of May.

Chris Penn

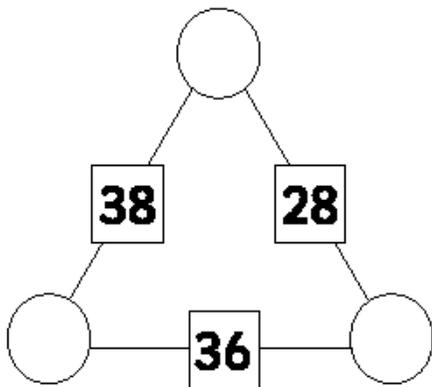
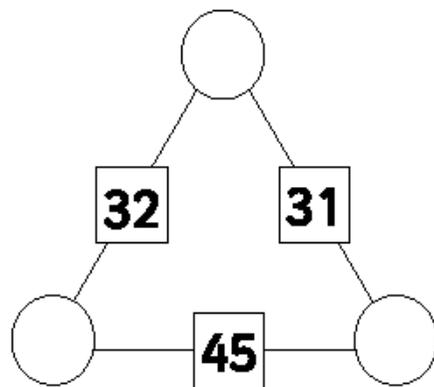
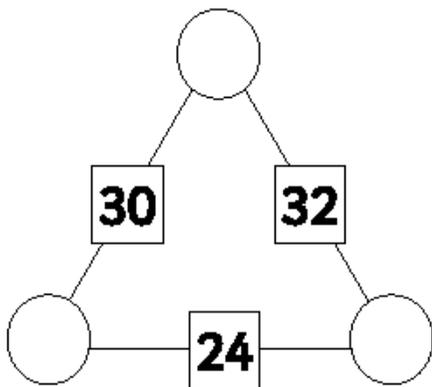
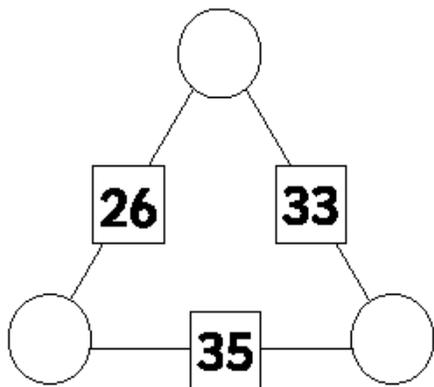
**Why did the gym
close down?**

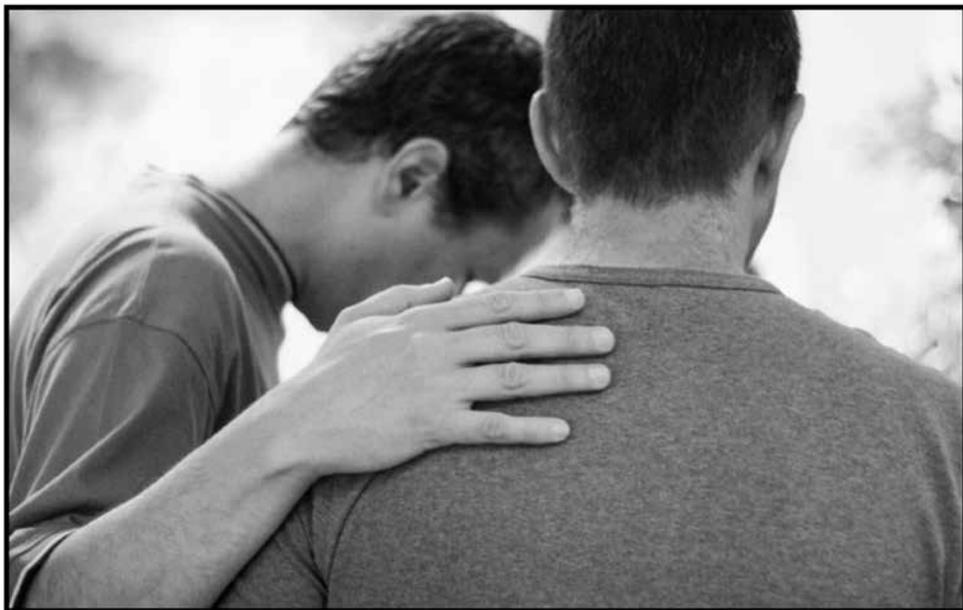
**It just didn't
work out.**

Arithmagons

The number in each square is equal to the sum of the numbers in the circles on either side.

Fill in the missing numbers.





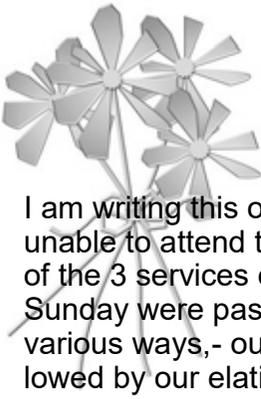
PASTORAL TEAM

The Minister, Simon, and members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Marjorie Jones (01727 422930), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Emma Johnson (07974 161535, Liz Blight (07884 431051), and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

May 2022



PASTORAL NEWS

I am writing this on Easter Monday. For those of you who were unable to attend the services in the Church building, the contents of the 3 services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday were passionate & powerful. Our emotions were stirred in various ways,- our own grief & shame over Christ's death followed by our elation , joy & praise on Easter Sunday.

During the Good Friday service, we listened to a recording from a primary school in Cornwall. The children were singing a song concerning the devastation & tragedy of the war in Ukraine,- to the beautiful tune of Hallelujah (which Alexandra Burke sang & won in 'The X Factor' in 2008). Following on from us thinking about the agony of Christ's death, the children's performance, with accompanying news clips of the war, was particularly poignant.

Grateful thanks to Simon for making our Easter services meaningful & relevant.

We are now approaching Ascension Day on May 26th (sometimes known as 'Holy Thursday'), Whit Sunday (Pentecost) on June 5th & Trinity Sunday on June 12th.

Turning to Pastoral issues; We thank God for the opportunity to be together this Easter & for some of us being able to meet up with family & friends.

We pray for;

- Those undergoing medical treatment,- Bill Allen, Julia Plant, Roger Prowse & John Macey.
- Others adapting to their need for greater support at home.
- those whose relationships are troubled.

It was good to see Miriam Gussek back in St Albans for a brief visit & we remember her & Leo & other friends who have moved away.

It has been a joy to see a number of new people in the congregation in the last few months & we pray that we will welcome them.

***The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord
She is His new creation
By water & the Word;
From Heaven He came & sought her
To be his Holy Bride,
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.***

***Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones & Holy!
Lord give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek & lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.***

songs of Fellowship no. 525

Jill Potter



GOD HAS SPOKEN

God has spoken to you today
But have you heard what he had to say?
Was it an answer to a prayer?
Or was it to let you now that he was there

Did God speak to you in a special way?
Was it a coincidence some might say
Was it something you found hard to believe?
If so it was a special blessing you received

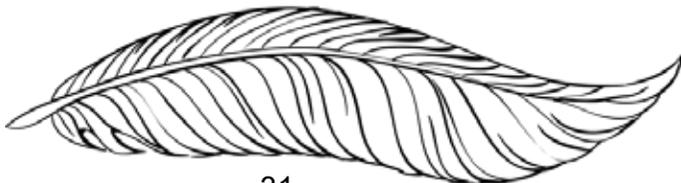
Through our lives has someone spoken to you
A person that may you never knew
Were they an answer to a prayer?
Did you speak to an angel unaware

God speaks to us especially when we are in despair
At these times we really know that he is there
It maybe that we have lost someone we dearly love
God tells you that they are with him above

As an example on last years All Saints Day
A candle was lit for my son's wife who had passed away
After church when back home I arrived
I picked up a white feather on my drive.

Many God incidences not coincidences I have received
Some of which people find hard to believe
I am not able to put them all in a poem to be read
But I always would like to share them with you instead

David Bareham, January 2021





MAY BIRTHDAYS

9th—Olly Branch
28th—Roslyn Prowse

In these difficult times we must believe the words of Bishop Tutu

***“Goodness is stronger than evil..
Love is stronger than hate..
Light is stronger than darkness..
Life is stronger than death.”***

Happy Birthday to all those with a birthday in May.

Linda Williams



May 2022

THE VINEYARD



The Vineyard Bridge Project is helping people get back on their feet with their 'members shop' and is also offering emergency food parcels. They have links with the Trussell Trust who run national Foodbanks of which St Albans and District Foodbank is one.

Their shopping lists are different and can be accessed online. Also both websites have facilities to donate on line.

This is what we propose—we can still collect donated items from you or you can bring them to church or there are collection baskets at most supermarkets.

We will then sort and deliver them in the week - or just label the bag as to where you want it to go.

This is the link to the latest shopping list:

<https://stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Once again many thanks for your continued support.

Refugees

Check the CTSA web page ctstalbans.org.uk/refugees for details on how you can help refugees. This page marshals information from the key agencies. In particular, check out about Noke Bikes: there are 120 refugees living at the Noke Hotel, Chiswell Green. They can't afford bus fares, but would love to ride bikes. We are sourcing 10 second hand bikes, hi-vis jackets, helmets and locks with keys. Can you support us by maintaining the bikes or teaching safe cycling? Or do you have spare bikes or equipment that we could use? Please contact Teresa Clarke, 01727 855026 or clarkefamily2004@yahoo.co.uk

Peter Berners-Lee
Convener, Churches Together in St Albans



Spare Rooms There are currently over a million refugees from Ukraine and this number is likely to multiply. If the UK takes in, say 200,000 refugees then St Albans should be taking in hundreds. As many may come in to Luton Airport, we are in a key position. Do you have a spare room that is available for at least 6 months? The government has launched it's [Homes for Ukraine website](#).

Everyone applying to the UK Government to sponsor a person or family will need to name the people they would like to welcome. If you do not know someone looking for safety, [Reset](#), who are the UK's Community Sponsorship learning hub, will be providing **a matching system** that will be in place to carefully introduce you to someone who you may be able to welcome

Teaching English Speaking English can key to refugees prospects. Your church could help with conversational English, or you may be able to help at another church. ***Watch this space.***

Other Organizations [StAR St Albans for Refugees](#) a registered charity aimed at helping refugees in St Albans

[Herts Welcomes Refugees](#) welcoming and supporting refugees in Hertfordshire

[Refugees at Home](#) is a UK charity which connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. So far it has been responsible for placing **2,597** guests with a total of **199,513** placement nights.

[St Albans City of Sanctuary](#) a new and emerging group with a vision that St Albans district will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. three founding members of the group are Irene Austin, Judy Jacques and Jagat Chatrath – all long-term residents of St Albans. They are members of the [City of Sanctuary UK network](#).

Donations The Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UK is making an [emergency appeal](#)

By donating to via the government's [Disaster Emergency Committee](#) (DEC) charities provide food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UK is making an [emergency appeal](#)



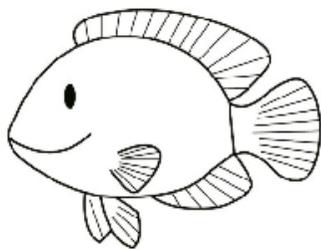
Sudoku 4x4 Puzzles - Sheet 6

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the numbers 1 through 4. Don't guess - use logic!

4	2		
		3	2

		2	1
3	2		

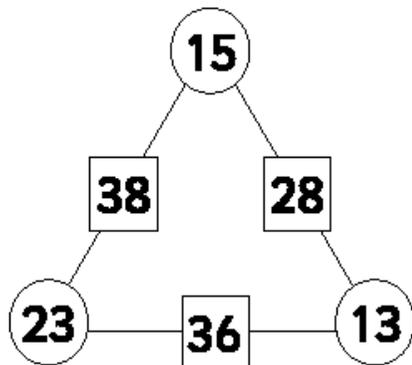
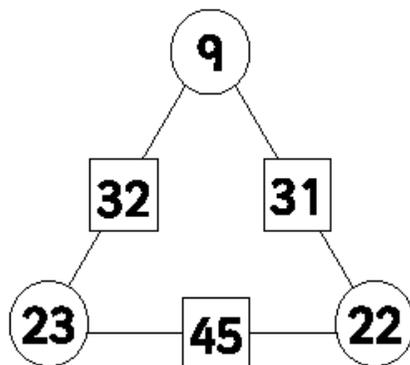
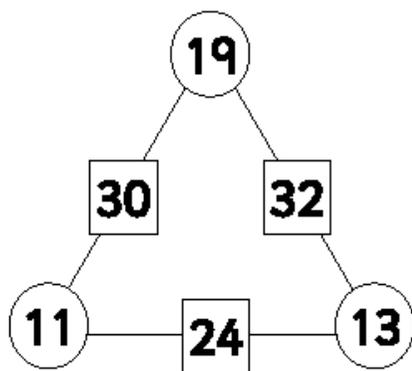
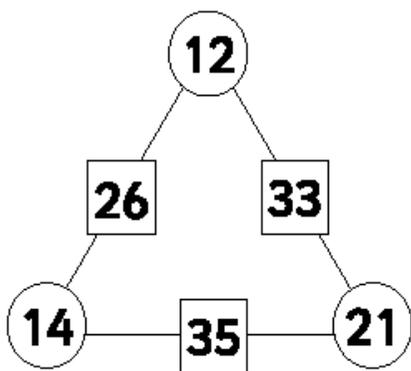
3		1	
	1		4



Arithmagons

The number in each square is equal to the sum of the numbers in the circles on either side.

Fill in the missing numbers.



May 2022

***JUNE ISSUE CONTRIBUTIONS BY
THURSDAY, 19th MAY***

I am writing this on Easter Monday and the weather has been glorious all over the weekend. It looks like the good weather is going to continue this week— time to get the bedding out for impending visitors and get it washed and on the line!

I've ordered my vegetable plug plants and will be expecting them through May and June and I have got my raised bed ready to receive them. Just the pots to sort out and decide what I am going to plant in them. This year it's going to be peat free compost and bee friendly plants. I'm also thinking about getting another raised bed, but will have to see how the funds go! But I will keep my eye open for a bargain

Glynis

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"There are better ways to log off."

What, When and Where May 2022

The church is now open for in-person services at 10.30am each Sunday and these will be conducted within the current guidelines. The Government no longer requires us to wear face coverings indoors. However, we encourage you to wear one in church unless you are eating or drinking. Please be mindful of those around you as their sense of what is a safe space between you may not be the same as yours. The duty deacons and stewards will all be wearing face coverings and will help if you have any questions.

The on-line podcasts will also continue for the foreseeable future. If you have missed any they can be accessed through

<https://www.stalbanspodcast.com/category/dsbc-virtual-services/>

After service coffee is being served in the Cross Street Centre.

Wednesday Midday prayers on Facebook including a communion service.

Scrabble Club starts on Tuesday, 10th May, 2pm in the Cross Street Centre

Toddlers is now open every Wednesday, from 9.45—11.30am, in the Lower Hall during term time.

Who Let the Dad's out will be held on the second Saturday of each month (14th May)

Monday table tennis/games club is now being held in the Lower Hall from 10.30am

Newsletter by email.

The Cross Street Café is open weekly from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm.

Stay safe and keep in touch.40