

# Parish News



November 2025 50p

[www.stjohnsspalding.org](http://www.stjohnsspalding.org)



# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SPALDING

|                                     |   |  |
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*If you need a wedding, baptism or funeral, please contact the Parish Office*

|                                   |  |               |
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LMT: Local Ministry Team

### Memory, Anxiety, Rootedness and Peace

Is there still a place for memory in our fast-paced world? 'What sort of daft question is that?!' you may be tempted to think in response. Let me put the topic another way: 'In a culture that is always chasing the latest thing, what sort of attitude will we have to the past, and what difference will it make to us?'

Have you noticed the fanfare in tech circles that comes out every time Apple launches a new iPhone or tablet or laptop? Have you noticed how much hype attends the latest boxset 'that you must binge'? Of course, there have always been fads and trends and the latest thing. But what happens when that human drive for innovation and our all-too-natural enjoyment of novelty transforms, so that it is less a carrot that we enjoy but instead a stick, as life is coloured by a fear of being left behind. FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) was first coined in 2004 and it has stayed with us ever since.

There is an anxiety to our modern culture which seems to increase the further down the generations you go (*see box on page 5*).

Now I'm not about to suggest in this magazine article that I have the magic answer that can fix all this. BUT I would like to speculate a bit about one factor that possibly contributes to this epidemic of anxiety and also consider how a deeper sense of memory (I'll explain what I mean further on in this article) may be one of the things that might be helping older generations navigate the same cultural waters.

### Expressive individualism

You may or may not have heard of the term 'expressive individualism'. It's not a perfect label but it tries to summarise a dominant feature of our western culture. In all manner of Hollywood films there is a theme of the individual hero throwing off some external shackles of some sort (might be tradition, family expectations, etc), finding out who they really are and finding their happily ever after in that personal fulfilment. Disney is full of this. If you've never seen the film *Kung Fu Panda* in this regard I can recommend it! The point is that as opposed to being people in community real fulfilment and freedom is found by us on our own as individuals.



This month's magazine is sponsored by the team at

### ST JOHN'S CHURCH

to honour all the people and animals from the  
World Wars – and later conflicts – for their  
service and sacrifice

We mustn't listen to the voices of others because they will crush the true us that is buried within us and that we need to bring out and express.

### **Has expressive individualism thrown out the baby with the bathwater?**

Now, before everyone stops reading and assumes the boring cleric is going to poo poo expressive individualism, I'd like to be on record as saying I think there is a good deal that is helpful in expressive individualism. People have been crushed by the unfair expectations of others – at times cultural expectations can be a straight-jacket. And there are plenty of heroic true stories of people who have defied expectations, 'been true to their inner sense of calling' and done wonderful things for their own good and the benefit of many others. BUT those great stories of the past happened at a time when the structures and scaffolding and support of a strong sense of community and society were in place.

Nowadays we are implicitly sending messages to people, and especially our young people, to work out who they are essentially all on their own. And I wonder if that is fair. I don't know your story but as I think about my own backstory I can think of plenty of mentors and role models and people who coached me, gave me feedback, saw things in me I couldn't see in myself... I needed these other external voices to help me become the person I am today.

Expressive individualism is correct when it says that there are external constraints that can be suffocating. But to imply that the ideal for us all is that we develop a complete, rounded and mature sense of self all on our own might be possible for some people, but we were created as social animals. We need each other and we need each other's stories. And here, I think, is where we need a stronger sense of memory.

### **Memory helps us discover who we are.**

We wake up each morning to a fresh new day that will have it's own possibilities and opportunities. As the Bible tells us, 'God's compassions are new every morning' (Lamentations 3:22-23). But it is still 'us' who does the waking up. 'Us' who also went through yesterday and all the yesterdays before. It's never been easier for people to reinvent themselves, especially as avatars on the internet or with readily-available global travel, but it might not be healthy to do that continually. Appreciating where we've come from gives us roots, strengthens the sense of self, and is part of maturity. If the culture of today is all for finding a fresh start in pastures new, then making the most of our memories –and perhaps alongside that really owning the things that went wrong in pastures old – can be the thing that helps us have a more secure sense of who we are as well as enabling us to make a better fist of the new opportunities that come our way. Journalling and looking backwards can be great for bringing balance and stability to ourselves as we're surrounded by our forward-looking, pressing-ever-onwards culture. There's a peace to be found in knowing where' we've come from, even as we continue to grow and develop into who we are becoming.

Deliberately using memory could be good for us. And it's not just about our individual memories. Our roots aren't just individual; they are corporate and shared.

### **Shared memories.**

November is a month at St John's with a couple of significant invitations to

remember. Our All Souls service (2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3pm) is a chance for any who wants to remember before God loved ones we have lost. As we remember their lives, we remember them as individuals, but we also remember the times and decades we came from. People often come to that service not on their own but with others, because we don't just have individual memories, we have family memories, and friendship-group memories, too. All Souls invites us to remember times of love and times of thanksgiving as well as times of loss. As such it can help to anchor us again in our shared pasts and remind us of times of belonging and who we still belong to. It can also bring us closer to the God who made us and waits to welcome each one of us into his own family through faith in Jesus Christ.

The other invitation is Remembrance Sunday. As we remember the sacrifices of others we also have a chance to remember who we are and where we've come from at a national level. It might not bring peace to us in the same way that journaling or All Souls might, but remembrance Sunday is an invitation to choose to use our memories in the service of a different kind of peace, as we choose not to take what political freedoms and peace we enjoy in this country for granted.

In a world that's always rushing forward – and often anxiously so – perhaps we could each take some time this month to stop, look back, remember and breathe. And in so doing find just a bit more peace, in our hearts, in our communities and also in God.

### **Anxiety statistics from 'The Priory' clinics.**

#### Prevalence and demographics

- In any given week in England, 6 in 100 people are diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder
- In 2022/23, an average of 37.1% of women and 29.9% of men reported high levels of anxiety in the UK
- In 2021, individuals aged 16 to 29 years were most likely to experience some form of anxiety (28%), with prevalence decreasing steadily through older age groups
- In March 2023, 20% of UK adults reported feeling anxious most or all of the time in the previous two weeks

#### **Youth anxiety**

- In 2023-24, there were 204,526 new referrals of patients aged 17 or under where the primary cause was anxiety. This is more than double the rate before the pandemic began
- A 2019 survey of nearly 38,000 UK students found that 21.5% had a current mental health diagnosis, and an additional 33.9% experienced serious psychological issues requiring professional help.

[www.priorygroup.com/mental-health/anxiety-treatment/anxiety-statistics](http://www.priorygroup.com/mental-health/anxiety-treatment/anxiety-statistics)  
(accessed 12th October 2025)

There is no key to happiness – the door is always open *Anon*

## SEPTEMBER LOTTERY WINNERS

£20 14 Sheila Cleary  
£10 34 Dorothy Clements  
£5 31 Margaret Smith  
£5 26 Julie Millington

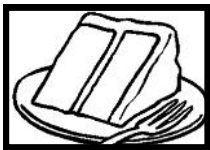


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# DROP IN

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Material for the December magazine should be with  
Heather Brookes

email: [heather.brookes@stjohnsspalding.org](mailto:heather.brookes@stjohnsspalding.org)  
by the 12<sup>th</sup> of November

Why is 'abbreviation' such a long word? *Anon*

# NOVEMBER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

## **Saturday 1st**

7pm Ceilidh Barn Dance

## **Sunday 2nd**

9.15am Informal Service

10.40am Book of Remembrance

10.45am Choral Communion

3pm All Souls Service

## **Tuesday 4th**

8.30am Drop in Coffee Morning

8.45am Little Seeds

7.30pm Alpha

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Wednesday 5th**

7.30pm Revelation Course

## **Thursday 6th**

10am Communion in the lounge

11am Bible Study

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Friday 7th**

5.30pm TREK

## **Sunday 9th**

8am Said Communion

9.15am Informal Service

10.45am Choral Communion

## **Tuesday 11th**

8.30am Drop in Coffee Morning

8.45am Little Seeds

7.30pm Alpha

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Wednesday 12th**

7.15pm Revelation Course

## **Thursday 13th**

10am Communion in the lounge

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Saturday 15th**

Christmas Fayre

9am Alpha Morning

## **Sunday 16th**

9.15am Informal Service

10.45am Choral Communion

6.30pm Deeper Worship Evening

## **Monday 17th**

PCC Meeting

## **Tuesday 18th**

8.30am Drop in Coffee Morning

8.45am Little Seeds

7.30pm Alpha

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Wednesday 19th**

7.30pm Prayer and Praise

## **Thursday 20th**

10am Communion in the lounge

11am Bible Study

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Friday 21st**

5.30pm TREK

## **Sunday 23rd**

8am Said Communion

9.15am Informal Service

10.45am Choral Communion

## **Monday 24th**

2pm Ladies Fellowship

## **Tuesday 25th**

8.30am Drop in Coffee Morning

8.45am Little Seeds

7.30pm Alpha

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Thursday 27th**

10am Communion in the lounge

7.30pm Fellowship Group

## **Saturday 29th**

4pm Bruegel Consort

## **Sunday 30th**

9.15am Informal Service

10.45am Choral Communion

# THE WORLD'S FRAGILE PEACE

*Each November, we are prompted to reflect on both peace and its profound antithesis, war. This contemplation is anchored by two significant dates: Armistice Day on November 11 and Remembrance Sunday. In this piece, solicitor David Pickup explores the concept of peace*

“They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious.  
‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace” (*Jeremiah 6:14*)

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after May 9 or August 16? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, and for many months to come: with shortages; rationing; men overseas; houses bombed; and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was even worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had ‘peace’ of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

The above verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about **peace-making**, **peace-keeping** and a **lasting peace**, which are not the same and require different skills.

In and after the Second World War, **peace-making** meant winning the war and defeating evil. **Peace-keeping** was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice.

What about a **lasting peace**? Many world leaders say: ‘Peace, Peace,’ but they mean only *peace on their terms*.

As Christians we should:

- ◆ Pray for the **peace makers** – the women and men in the forces
- ◆ Pray for **peace keepers** – the experts helping to build new societies
- ◆ Pray for **lasting peace** – the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.

# CHURCHES UNITE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Church of England congregations across the country have come together with churches from other denominations to pray for the people of Gaza, the wider Holy Land and the Middle East.

A coalition of Christian charities and aid agencies, working in partnership with ecumenical church leaders, organised a dedicated Day of Prayer for Peace in late September. The initiative coincided with the UN International Day of Peace.

The Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun, the Lead Bishop for the Holy Land said: "In the face of all that is happening in Gaza, I appeal for respect for the value and dignity of every human life. Christians cannot remain silent – we must speak out for the rights and freedoms of both Israelis and Palestinians, and we must be diligent in prayer for the peoples of the Holy Land."

Supporting this effort, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Dr Hosam Naoum, has written a prayer for an immediate end to the war, the release of all hostages, help for those suffering hunger and starvation in Gaza and beyond, and the resumption of negotiations for a just and lasting peace (*see right*).

*Please also see the Prayer for Peace on the back cover*

## **A PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND**

*Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world: In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.*

*By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war; the release of all captives; care for the sick and wounded; comfort for those who have lost loved-one; and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during His earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

*Amen*

## **THE FUTURE OF ST. JOHNS *PARISH NEWS***

Thank you to all of you who replied to the Questionnaire sent out in the September magazine. From your replies we learnt that most of you still want a printed version of *Parish News*.

The price of the magazine has been held at 50p since 2011 although the production costs have increased considerably.

The PCC has decided that we should continue with a printed version but that the price will go up to £1 per copy or £10 for the year when paid in advance (a saving of £2). For the increased price we will print the magazine in full colour which we hope will increase your enjoyment of *Parish News*.

We do hope that you will continue to subscribe to, and enjoy, our church magazine.

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts *Anon*



**BRUEGEL CONSORT**  
**4:00pm Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
**St John's Church, Hawthorn Bank, Spalding, PE11 1JQ**  
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Refreshments during the interval



# THE CHURCH AND THE FUTURE

Canon Paul Hardingham *considers a passage from the Nicene Creed:*  
*“We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen”*

***“We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church”***

The Creed affirms the four marks of the church, defining an orthodox Christian community.

## ***One***

Despite the many different churches and traditions, there is only one Church, to which we all belong.

## ***Holy***

The church is a holy community set apart for God, whose mission is to reflect God’s holiness in worship, and live out His love in the world.

## ***Catholic***

This doesn’t refer to the Roman Catholic church, as the word means ‘universal’, reminding us of the unity of the church across the whole world and all denominations. The church aims to apply the same gospel in whatever situation, context or culture it finds itself.

## ***Apostolic***

The apostolic ministry of the church is one of being sent to communicate the good news of the gospel.

***“We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins”***

As baptism is a sign of belonging to the church, it can only happen once. The issue addressed in the Creed is that of Christians who left during persecution, but wanted to be accepted back by rebaptism. It affirms the principle: *“One Lord, one faith, one baptism”* (Ephesians 4:5).

Today, those baptised as children can’t be re-baptised to demonstrate an adult commitment; however, they can be confirmed or reaffirm their baptism vows.

***“We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come”***

The Creed ends with a statement of hope, that we will share in Jesus’s resurrection: life after death. It is not simply about the immortality of our soul, but the resurrection of our bodies. They will be transformed to fit us for a life in heaven for eternity.



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# AN ANCIENT LETTER WITH A MODERN CALL TO UNITY

*An introduction to the Book of Ephesians, by Canon Paul Hardingham*

Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians around AD 60, while in prison in Rome. It was probably a circular letter to be read in the house churches of Ephesus and the local area. Paul founded the church over a period of three years (Acts 19:1-20:1) between 52-55 AD. Ephesus (*see below*) was the leading city and commercial centre in the region, famous for its temple to the Greek goddess Artemis (known to the Romans as Diana).

Paul's aim in writing his letter was to help his readers understand the dimensions of God's purpose and grace for them and His eternal plan for the church. The believers needed to understand their status 'in Christ' and the call to live a life worthy of Christ. Ephesians is divided into two halves: chapters 1-3 concern theological issues, while chapters 4-6 deal with the practical outworking of faith.

*"He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ."* (1:9,10).

Having shown God's purpose for the church, Paul shows how God has reconciled individuals to Himself by grace (2:1-10). He has reconciled people to each other by breaking down the barriers through Christ's death (2:11-22). This is the 'mystery' revealed by Paul (3:1-13) and he shows how Christ's gifts promote unity and maturity (4:1-16). The believer's new life stands in contrast to the old way of life without Christ (4:17-6:20).

The great overarching theme of the letter is that we are rescued by God not just for our personal benefit, but to bring praise and glory to Him in our lives.

Those who have started Rev Greg's Revelation course will be familiar with the church of Ephesus. This is the first of seven churches to receive a letter dictated by Jesus Christ through the Apostle John.

The Book of Revelation is known for its intricate, captivating, and sometimes terrifying symbolism, but its central message is one of hope: it reveals Christ's victory over evil and God's promise to triumph and restore creation.

If you'd like to know more, join us in the Church at 7:30pm on Wednesday evenings, or talk to Rev Greg or Richard.



Dear Mary and St. John's

**In 2021, you kindly supported the Unconditional Appeal, to help end leprosy and change lives in northern Mozambique.** Your generous donations were matched by the UK government through its UK Aid Match scheme. **Three years later, there are so many reasons to celebrate!**

**Thanks to you, 2,955 people have been cured of leprosy! Your generosity has also trained 807 people to become Leprosy Champions.** Like you, these dedicated volunteers believe no one should face the disease alone.

The Champions know the signs of leprosy and refer people to treatment before permanent disability sets in. They also challenge myths about leprosy, showing people that it isn't a disease to be feared.

With your support, they're improving understanding about leprosy. Thanks to you, we can ensure that people affected by the

disease get the vital support they need. Not just today, but for years to come.

**And your amazing impact doesn't stop there! Because of you, families are breaking the chains of extreme poverty, too.**

Life is tough in Mozambique. Most people are hand-to-mouth farmers, eking out a daily living. Climate change and natural disasters are ever-present threats to crops.

But your generous donations are supporting people to stay resilient. **Farmers like Monihia (pictured) are learning how to protect their crops** and market surplus produce to gain income.

Thanks to you, an amazing 3,578 people have benefitted from this training! Families are also saving together for emergencies. It's an amazing testament to the power of community.

**Your incredible kindness for people affected by leprosy in Mozambique has been so inspiring to see.** You are part of an amazing community of Leprosy Champions, changing lives for years to come! **Thank you.**



Peter Waddup  
CEO

(Since the successful completion of the work in north Mozambique our contributions now go to Nigeria.)

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## THE LEPROSY MISSION LUNCH

On 17<sup>th</sup> September we held a lunch in the church lounge in aid of The Leprosy Mission. Seventeen people took part and with donations £220 was raised for the Chanchaga Orthopaedic Workshop. This will produce mobility aids and assistive devices for people with leprosy-related impairments in Nigeria.

# PRAYERS FOR NOVEMBER

## THIS MONTHS THEME: PEACE AND REMEMBRANCE

If you are unable to use all the prayers every day, then it is suggested that you use the prayer for that day of the week and the Parish prayer, if possible. In this way we shall all be praying together to bring about God's kingdom.

### A Prayer for Our Parish

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God,  
Teach us to walk in your way more trustfully,  
To accept your truth more faithfully  
And to share your life more lovingly.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
Guide us in our work for our church  
That we may come, as a family  
To the Kingdom of the Father  
Where you live for ever.  
Amen

### (Sun) For peace in our world

God of peace and justice, we pray for those countries where there is war or civil unrest. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war and peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the prince of peace.

### (Mon) Leslie D. Weatherhead

At this time of Remembrance we come, O Lord, in gratitude for all who have died that we may live, for all who endured pain that we might know joy, for

all who suffered imprisonment that we might know freedom. Turn our deep feeling now into determination, and our determination into deed, that as men died for peace we may live for peace for the sake of the Prince of Peace, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Tue) George Appleton

May the memory of two world wars strengthen our efforts for peace.

May the memory of those who died inspire our service to the living.

May the memory of past destruction move us to build for the future.

May the first two atomic bombs be the last two also.

May the first two world wars be also the last world wars.

O God of peace, O Father of souls, O Builder of the Kingdom of Love.

(Wed) Christopher Idle

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, whose Son ministered to those in need: remember for good all who suffer through war, by loss of home or faculties, by loss of friends and loved ones, by loss of security or freedom. Look upon our world, still torn apart by violence and fighting, and grant success to those who work for peace; through him who reconciled men with God, and men with men, the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Thurs)

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. By your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Fri) Roger Tomes

Grant, O Lord, for the sake of generations to come, that the nations of the world may learn your way of peace; and that all men may have a chance to enjoy the life you have given them, free from war, tyranny and oppression.

(Sat) World Peace Prayer

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

# HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER

## 11<sup>th</sup> November: Martin of Tours – pioneer of western monasticism

This winter, when you next see someone who looks both poor and cold, think of Martin of Tours (316—397). This monk bishop, born in Pannonia (now Hungary) became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages.

Martin's father was a pagan officer in the Roman Army, and Martin was intended for the army as well. But from an early age Martin wanted to be a Christian, and he felt that as a Christian he could not serve the Roman Empire. Martin was imprisoned for this early 'conscientious objection', and not released until 357, when he was nearly 40.



One day Martin met a nearly-naked beggar at Amiens. He took off his cloak, cut it in half and gave the half to the beggar. Soon after this, he had a dream in which Christ appeared to him, wearing the half of the cloak that Martin had given away.

Martin was the pioneer of western monasticism: he founded the first monastery in the whole of Gaul about 360. He was made bishop of Tours in 372 – by popular demand of both his clergy and his people.

As bishop, Martin continued his simple life as a monk, and evangelist. Christianity had been largely confined to the urban centres of population, but Martin went further, and took Christianity to the *pagani* (country-men). For the next 25 years this greatly-loved bishop travelled his diocese by donkey and by boat, preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, and helping his people to tear down their heathen temples and sacred trees. He was sought out for his healing prayers for the sick and also his defence of the faith from heretics.

Martin's emblem in English art is often that of a goose, whose annual migration is about this time of year. A 'St Martin's Summer' in England is a spell of fine weather that sometimes occurs around 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> November: St Cecilia – patron saint of musicians**

If you are going to any concerts before Christmas, spare a thought for St Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians.

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians.

When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity.

Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian and, sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.

Being a Christian in those days was dangerous and, when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily, sometime between 176 and 180 AD.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword and, as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly, an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived.

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instrument.



# St John's Church

Hawthorn Bank, Spalding  
PE11 1JQ

## CEILIDH

### Barn Dance



**SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER**

**7:00pm - 10:30pm**

Tickets : £9 (Adult) / £4 (Child)

Speak to Hilary

or

Church Office 01775 718237

**Doors open 6.30pm**

**Tea and Coffee provided**

No Bar but please feel free to bring  
your own refreshments - food / drinks

# LOCAL LAD AND YELLOWBELLY: LORD TENNYSON

It was 175 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1850, that Alfred, Lord Tennyson, became Poet Laureate of the UK until his death in 1892. He succeeded William Wordsworth and became known as the poet of the Victorian age.

Tennyson was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire, in 1809. Those native to Lincolnshire are known as Yellowbellies – a moniker that has nothing to do with cowardice! He was one of 11 children, born to a mentally unstable and embittered clergyman. All the surviving children – some of whom were



talented individuals – suffered at least one mental breakdown.

Tennyson wrote poetry as a distraction from an early age. It was not until he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, that he became happy; partly because he was popular there and partly because of the close four-year friendship he struck up with the brilliant poet Arthur Hallam, who sadly died at just 22 years of age.

In the 1830s and '40s Tennyson published many poems and was granted a £200 pension by

the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel. This was a substantial amount as a common wage for a male then was around 15 shillings (75p) per week. But it was in 1850 that everything changed: he married Emily Sellwood – an author in her own right – and his elegies on Hallam were published as *In Memoriam* to great acclaim from reviewers, the public and Queen Victoria herself, leading to his appointment as Poet Laureate.

Tennyson and his wife moved to the Isle of Wight and, for the rest of his life he lived there, or in Surrey. He was granted a peerage by William Gladstone in 1883. His accumulated poetry, admired for its imagery, verbal dexterity and underlying melodies, came to epitomise the age he lived in, where established Christian faith was challenged by scientific doubt.

Towards the end of his life there was criticism of his style from newer schools of poetry, but a more balanced view now prevails, with a widespread recognition of his greatness.

# THE 'F' WORD: TAKING THE TABOO OUT OF FUNERALS

*November is when we remember the dead (All Saints and Remembrance).  
But what about your own funeral?*

It will happen sometime, whether we want it to, or not. Some preparation by you now will save your loved ones a lot of uncertainty later. So, this month, why not spend some time thinking about what you want for your own funeral?

Most funerals in England are Christian, though the officially-recorded number of Church of England funerals tends to be limited to those conducted by parish clergy and lay ministers, or readers. The minister at others may be retired, or a hospital or military chaplain.

A few funeral events are led by nominees of the British Humanist Association or the National Secular Society. A growing number are conducted by civil celebrants, who tend to devise a format concentrating on the story of the person who has died with God as an afterthought, though Christian prayers or texts from other religions may be incorporated.

Parishioners may not realise that they have the right to the services of the Vicar, even if they don't go to church. They also have the right to be interred in the churchyard if it is open for burials.

The trend in funerals at the moment is to make them a celebration of the life of the deceased person. Although your wish – and that of your family – may be to make your funeral a joyful occasion, it does no one any good to suppress grief. A Christian service should make room for sadness as well as gratitude. It is also an act of worship, in which reverence should be paid to God, the source and goal of life. His judgment, generosity and mercy, and the Christian hope in resurrection through Jesus Christ should be central.

A sensitive funeral service will also help mourners to contemplate the most fundamental issues of our existence. The Christian hope can be an unexpected encouragement, not least when people claim to have little faith of their own.

You can talk all this over with Rev Greg or Richard in confidence. You don't have to be terminally ill to do so! They know you are precious to God and will be able to explain all the options and share some ideas.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

Whether your body is buried or cremated, the remains degenerate and go back into the earth. That's where they belong, for our bodies are composed of the earth's elements. Your dead body expressed the real 'you' during your lifetime.

However, once your body has done its job, that is not the end! When Christians say: "I believe in... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting," it means that we await the new destiny that God has opened for us, with a transformed body apposite for its new environment.

Some claim that the human soul is immortal, but that is not a Christian belief. We do not become disembodied spirits floating around the ether but will be refashioned as recognisable human beings. This will be as momentous an event as the emergence of the human race from its primitive beginnings.

St Paul faced hard questioning on the subject. If you have a look at the whole of 1 Corinthians 15 you will see how he couples our bodily resurrection with the Resurrection of Christ. Resurrection was central to the apostles' preaching and teaching: try to find a sermon in the New Testament that ignores it! The Christian faith would be valueless without it, for Christ demands that we live our lives sacrificially – some will be martyred as a consequence – with our hope beyond the horizon.



All this is much more than a collection of statements of faith. They could seem arid to a dying person. It is an invitation to take a conscious decision to trust Jesus. Our life before and beyond the grave belongs to Christ. He is the pioneer who charted the course through death; He accompanies us on our journey; He is our advocate at the Last Judgment; He is worshipped in heaven; and He alone is the Saviour who bore the brunt of human sin and gave His life to overcome its consequences. Trust him!



Charity No. 1068857

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# Deeper

Deeper is an informal and vibrant way to worship, with contemporary Christian music at its heart, and a thought-provoking sermon.

Join us as our live band – including singers, guitar, bass, drums and flute – leads us in an uplifting encounter with God.

Songs from the September service included Holy, Holy, Holy; Thanksgiving; Joy (What the world calls foolish); Hallelujah Jesus Saves, Fall Like Rain; and How Great is our God (the splendour of the King).

Each Deeper service is designed to be engaging and participatory, fostering an environment where everyone can comfortably and sincerely express their faith. We're a community for all ages, welcoming both seasoned church members and newcomers alike. Private prayer space is also available for anyone seeking God's guidance.

*Join us Sunday 19th October and 16th November at 6:30pm  
for an hour of worship and an uplifting atmosphere*



## St John's Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 15th November**

**2 -4 pm**

**Large variety of stalls**

including cakes, books, puzzles, knitwear

cards and gifts



# Little Seeds

Baby & Toddler Group

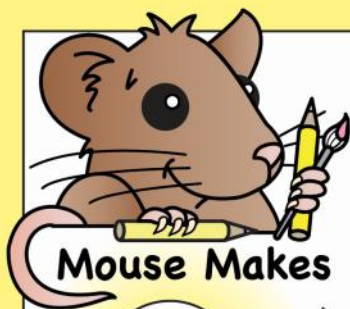
Tuesdays 8:45 - 10:30

**Come and play!**

Join Anthony (former EYFS Teacher) for:

- Number and Letter of the Week
- Small World & Role-Play
- Imagination Station & Moving + Grooving
- Reading Nook & Active Area
- Designated Bouncing Babies space
- Bible Stories & Refreshments.





## Mouse Makes

### LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



HOPE

Read:  
**Isaiah 40:5**  
*What shall be revealed?*



JOY

Read:  
**LUKE 2:10-11**  
*Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?*



LOVE

Read:  
**John 3:16**  
*How did God show He loves us?*

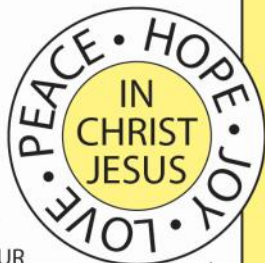


PEACE

Read:  
**Romans 5:1-2**  
*Through who do we have peace with God?*

L G L O R Y E M P R O M I S E  
S O K J Y A A R R I V A L W F  
A D V E N T G O O D N E W S O  
V P L S V L I R P S V P C A R  
I E I U I O F C H R I S T H T  
O A G S U V T M E S S A G E O  
U C H O P E O P C A N D L E L  
R E T U R N J O Y T W D B E D

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY  
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR  
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT



# ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL — NOVEMBER

*"In November, the earth is growing quiet. It is making its bed, a winter bed for flowers and small creatures"*

Cynthia Rylant

*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower"*

Albert Camus

It's getting colder and wetter as we draw into November and the final colourful leaves fall from the trees. Winter stems start to come into their own but tender plants will need protecting from the cold and winter weather. Remember, winter can be a tough time for birds, so keep water and food well topped up.

**FLOWERS** Continue to lift dahlia tubers, gladiolus corms and begonias tubers to store dry over the winter months. Remove the dead foliage before storing.

Lily bulbs can still be planted in pots this month. They can either be brought inside next spring to 'force' them into an early display, or left outside to flower naturally in summer.

Plant tulip bulbs this month. Some tulips persist year to year, some perform less well, and are treated as bedding and replaced every year.



Now is the last chance to plant out winter bedding. You could try wallflowers, forget-me-nots, Bellis, Primula, Viola (winter pansies) and other spring bedding plants, planting them into well-prepared ground, or pots of suitable compost.

Ornamental grasses and bamboos can be cut back and tidied up.

**TREES and SHRUBS** It is an ideal time to plant roses. Avoid planting in areas where roses were previously growing, otherwise new introductions may suffer from replant diseases (rose sickness). Remove fallen leaves from around the base of any rose bushes that suffered from blackspot or rust this summer to reduce the chance of reinfection next year.



Pruning and renovation of many deciduous trees, shrubs and hedges can be carried out from now throughout the dormant season. It is easier to see what you are doing when the branches have no leaves.

Shrubs normally pruned hard in the spring – such as *Buddleja davidii*, *Cornus alba* and *Lavatera* – can be cut back by half now to prevent wind rock and neaten their appearance.

Tie wall shrubs and climbers onto their supports to protect them from wind damage. Any growth that refuses to be trained in this way can be pruned off.

Protect newly-planted trees, hedges and shrubs from wind and cold, Straw, bracken, or something similar can be used to pack around deciduous plants and protect them from frost.

**FRUIT and VEGETABLES** Divide mature clumps of rhubarb once they're dormant.

Plant bare root raspberry plants now for a delicious home-grown crop.

Tidy up strawberry plants, cutting off any dead leaves and removing runners.

Prune apple and pear trees anytime between now and February.

Lift parsnips after the first frosts, when their flavour will have sweetened.

Spread well-rotted farm manure across the surface of vegetable beds to rot down over winter.

Stake top-heavy brassica and leafy green plants. Draw up some soil around the base of their stem to prevent wind from rocking the plant and causing damage to the roots.



Check over your summer harvest of onions and garlic, removing any rotting bulbs immediately. The neck of the bulb is usually the first area to rot. Try using onion bags to improve air flow around the bulbs.

Check stored potatoes and remove any that are rotting. Use hessian sacks to store your potatoes to allow the crop to breathe.

**GREENHOUSE** Clean and maintain your greenhouse. Replace damaged glass and clean it thoroughly, washing the glass, floor, and staging with horticultural disinfectant to kill any overwintering pests and diseases.

Protect greenhouse plants from frost by insulating with sheets of bubble wrap attached to the inside of the frame. Remember to keep ventilating, particularly after watering

Be careful not to overwater plants as the winter approaches. Little and often is the key.

**LAWN** Aerate your lawn now before winter sets in. Either use a lawn aerator or simply insert a garden fork at regular intervals and lean it back slightly to let air in.



Continue to clear fallen leaves off the lawn to keep it healthy, using a light rake.

Set your lawn mower to a higher cut-height for winter.

Edge your lawn. This is easy to do in the winter months once beds are clear. Lawn edging creates a neat and tidy appearance, making maintenance easier throughout the year.

**TIPS** Insulate your outdoor containers from frosts. Use hessian or bubble wrap, held in place with garden twine.

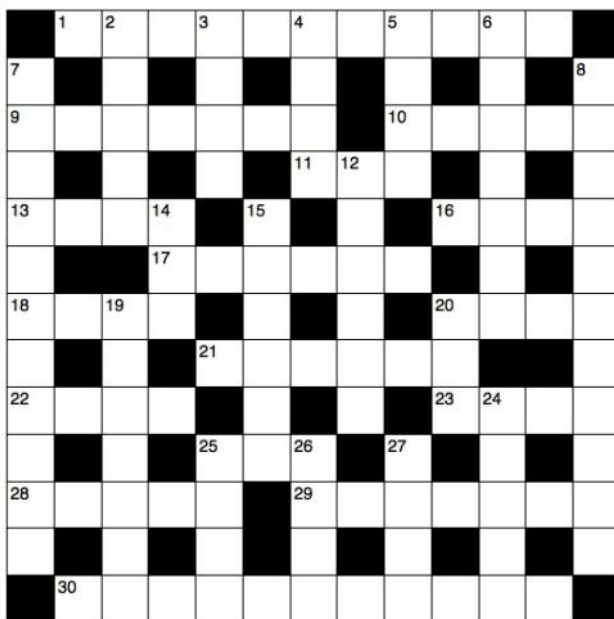
Prevent containers becoming waterlogged by raising them off the ground for the winter using bricks or 'pot feet'.

Clean out water butts and let the autumn rains refill them. Install a new water butt ready for next year.

Use the last of the dry weather to paint sheds and fences with preservatives before the winter arrives.

Happy Gardening, *Petunia Flowers*

# NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



## Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — ”  
(Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon’s  
victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag) (6)
- 18 “Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree” (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey’s jawbone  
(Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 “When he saw him, he took — on him” (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 “For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction”  
(Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 “The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers”  
(2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)

- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 “We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf”  
(1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch  
(2 Kings 19:37) (11)

**Down**

- 2 “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — “  
(1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 “After supper he — the cup” (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul’s vision: “Come — to Macedonia  
and help us” (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother’s  
wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 “I have made you — — for the Gentiles” (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 “Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something”  
(Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 “I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man’s understanding”  
(Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 “Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under  
grace” (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — “ (John 8:32) (4)

**OCTOBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**ACROSS** 1, Jehoiachin 7, Endured 8, Eased 10, Rash 11, Startled 13, Easier  
15, Rubric 17, Impurity 18, Feet 21, Eye at 22, Ready to 23, Holy Spirit  
**DOWN** 1, Judas 2, Harm 3, Is duty 4, Cheerful 5, Insular 6, Jezreelite  
9, Dedication 12, Secretly 14, Supremo 16, Stir up 19, Egypt 20, Hair

Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good.  
The bricks must be cemented together  
*Corrie ten Boom*



Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the true King of peace.  
In you alone is found freedom.  
Please free our world from conflict.  
Bring unity to troubled nations,  
unity amongst all people.  
And let Your glorious peace  
reign in every heart.

