



St Alkmund's

Duffield Parish Magazine



June 2020

Picture: Kieran Harrod

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The Vicar's Letter

JAMES HUGHES



Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are still under lockdown, and sadly the church building remains closed. By the time you read this, that might have changed—or it might not! Such is the situation that we live in—a changeable lack of change. What do we do?

Well, we plan for the future as best we can. As soon as we know any more about when church will be reopening, and what that looks like, we will let you know. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages, our YouTube channel, and email the office and ask to be added to our email list.

And in the meantime, our services continue online—you can find more information in this magazine about the things that are happening on Sundays and in the week, for adults and for children and young people. Do 'join' us there.

But perhaps most importantly, in the midst of change and uncertainty, we can be encouraged by the fact that God doesn't change:

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it? (Numbers ch 23 v 19, ESV)

Why is this important? Because it means that in the midst of uncertainty, we can have confidence in the continuing certainty of God, and his promises. Our world may look very different than it did even three months ago, and we don't know what it will look like in three weeks, never mind three months—but God is still the same, and, as Numbers tells us, He will keep his promises. God can be trusted; in unreliable times, God can be relied on.

As James says:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James ch 1 v 17)

God gives good gifts to his people—and he can be relied upon—he does not change. As the author of Hebrews tells us:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews ch 13 v 8)

So we do not know what the future holds (we never do really); and we are uncertain about the present. We might not even be able to think about 'forever'. And yet we can rely on God, and rely on Jesus Christ. As we face uncertainty in lockdown, do join us as we explore what it means to know Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Yours in Christ,



Youth and Children

Well, what a whirlwind it's been over the last few months for us all trying to adjust to life in lockdown! As we have all scrambled to get the hang of 'Zoom' and 'Hangouts' and filming ourselves so that we *actually look at the camera*, I'm so pleased to say that here at St Alks, we've still managed to have some fun along the way!

Our youth and children's work has managed to continue in a new form. Both our youth groups have transferred to Zoom meetings on Tuesday nights and these have been the personal highlights of my week, still being able to meet together and see everyone's faces! We've been reading the Letter of 1 John together, which has been a great encouragement to us in these fearful times. John says "God is light, in him there is no darkness at all", reminding us that even though life is confusing and frightening at the moment, God is wholly good, loving and kind. Regardless of how things seem at the moment, God is *for* us and day by day giving us opportunities to become more like Jesus. Yes, lockdown is a chance for us to cultivate real love, generosity and kindness, no matter what age we are. It's been a joy to see our young people care for one another during lockdown.

Meanwhile, Carys and I have had to adapt to "life on the telly" and by that I don't mean fame and glamour, but working out how to do our church children slots in our own homes, with limited props and lawnmowers, building work and cats interrupting us. (My cat Lola, has decided that she rather likes the camera; I don't think she's missed a single Zoom meeting yet!).

Saying all that though, we've had some real fun with paddling pools, pirate hats and even our pets!



We've also met some new faces along the way: one of our brilliant Sunday Club leaders has been helping our children during the week remember what we've learnt on Sunday, by introducing us to a couple of fun puppet characters: Sir Pants a Lot and Gwendoline. These two have been having adventures on our Benefice YouTube channel and getting up to all kinds of mischief!



Of course, there is no real substitute for meeting together in person, and we really can't wait for when we can actually all be together again. But for now, we're trusting God, praying for one another and doing our best to keep everyone smiling.

Helen Hawley

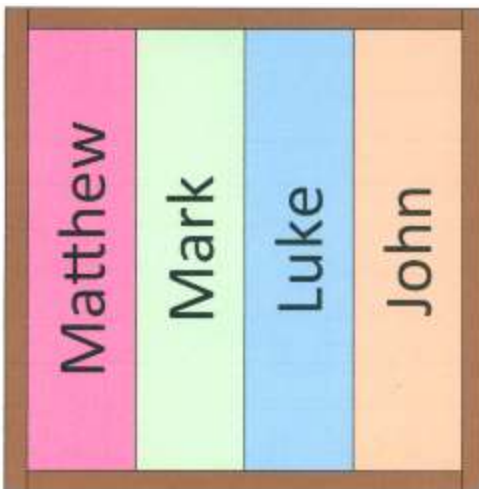
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How Many Ways Can I Store My Books?



Imagine that I have a set of the four gospels, with a slipcase in which to store them.

The box is a cube and the books are equally thick. Can you tell me in how many ways I can put the books in the slipcase?

(Answer on page 14)

‘Monday to Friday Living’

Fiona Lindop reflects on how she lives out her faith day by day, as she aims to give people the time that they need in her work as a Specialist Physiotherapist, praying that God will use her in his service; and on her involvement in the life of the church over many years.



I was born and grew up in Kirkcaldy, Fife, where my dad was a dentist and my mum became a teacher while I was still small. My paternal grandparents were missionaries in Africa (I didn't even meet them until I was seven!) and I was brought up with a Christian ethos—going to church on Sundays, saying prayers at bedtime and an awareness that I belonged to God, but without any real sense of what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus.

My brother, who is five years older than me, became a Christian when he was 16, went on to university to study medicine when he was 18. To celebrate his 21st, fellow Christian student friends were staying for the weekend at our home and I saw in them something that I couldn't define, but knew that I was missing and wanted. Over time, I realised it was a relationship with Jesus, and committed myself to him.

My brother gave me a Bible for my birthday and encouraged me to go to the (all girls) school Scripture Union (SU) group, which I did. Although the group nurtured my fledgling faith, I didn't really grow spiritually until I started attending a local Baptist church just before going to Aberdeen to train as a physiotherapist. Once there, my faith grew through good teaching and fellowship in a Baptist church and University Christian Union. I also spent my student summers volunteering as a cook at SU camps in Ballater. In my final year of studying, I started looking for my

first job as a qualified physiotherapist. I knew I wanted to spread my wings and leave Scotland and told the Lord that I'd go anywhere he wanted except London!

However, I attended an SU camp conference and met my future husband, Richard—who lived in London! When I qualified that summer, my first job was... in London (well, Barnet, to be precise!), and I started going to Christ Church Cockfosters, my first experience of an Anglican church, where I became a youth leader. Richard and I married the following year.

Richard worked for British Rail and we moved to Doncaster six months after getting married. I worked in nearby Rotherham where I was mentored by a wonderful Christian physiotherapist who fuelled my love for working with older people, and a year later I began work in Doncaster in elderly care. I stopped working when our children were born, and when our youngest, Hannah, was two weeks old, we moved to Hitchin (another railway move) where we joined the local church and became youth group leaders. I did some ad-hoc physiotherapy work in the local cottage hospital (“keeping my hand in”), until two years later, we moved to York (British Rail again!). We joined the local church and, again, led the youth group; I taught in Sunday School as well. I also set up a music group—we had one pianist, one guitarist (me) and several

singers! In order to keep my physiotherapy skills honed, I worked in some local nursing homes, and then...we were on the move again, this time to Derby.

We arrived in Duffield in 1992 and we came to St Alkmund's from the outset. I started working at Bretby hospital soon after, moving to the DRI (now London Road Community Hospital!) two years later. I was able to work school-term time only which was a real blessing. When I was asked to work at the Day Hospital, I thought I was only going for one month to cover a vacancy, but I'm still there (although it's no longer the Day Hospital) 26 years later! I am now a Specialist Physiotherapist in Parkinson's, a role I have grown into in a way that I could never have imagined or predicted. I didn't choose it as a speciality—it just seemed to happen around me—the Lord was leading me in the most amazing ways.

As my expertise grew, I wanted to give the best care possible to my patients as well as do whatever I could to share that expertise. I gave my first presentation in 2004 at the NEC, Birmingham (I was terrified!). Since then, my role has led me to deliver presentations locally, nationally and internationally. I was a very shy child and if you had ever suggested I would now be delivering presentations to large audiences I would have been incredulous!

Over the years at St Alkmund's, I have taught in Sunday School, led two different youth groups, and set up and led the pastoral care team. Initially I was a member of the music group but then became the leader, and I continue in that role today. Music is such a wonderful vehicle for worship, and I am privileged to serve with an amazing band of musicians, singers and soundmen!

I now work three days a week for the NHS and am also Clinical Therapy Lead for national charity, Parkinson's UK, helping ensure people with Parkinson's have the best standard of care wherever they live. I start every day with my quiet time, reading my Bible and praying—it's a vital part of my day (more important than breakfast—though I do have both!), and I commit the day—whatever I'll face, who I'll meet or work with—to the Lord.

I feel it is important that my patients and the staff I am responsible for, feel listened to, and supported, and no matter how busy I am, I try to give people the time that they need, and pray that God will use me in his service. It can be very difficult for people to come to terms with a diagnosis of Parkinson's (however old they are) and I pray daily (and send up lots of arrow prayers) for the Spirit to help me especially when I am supporting them.

I cannot imagine how I would function without the Lord—he is my Rock and my fortress. He has seen me through the most difficult times in my life—there have been quite a few! There has never been a more challenging time to be working in the NHS than at present with the Covid-19 pandemic. Nothing is “normal”, and changes happen faster that I can catch up with them. There is a palpable sense of fear among some of my colleagues, as well as patients whom I support (by telephone). I bring my own anxieties to the foot of the cross and the Lord has given me a peace that passes all understanding. I daily remind myself of Proverbs 3: 5–6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”*

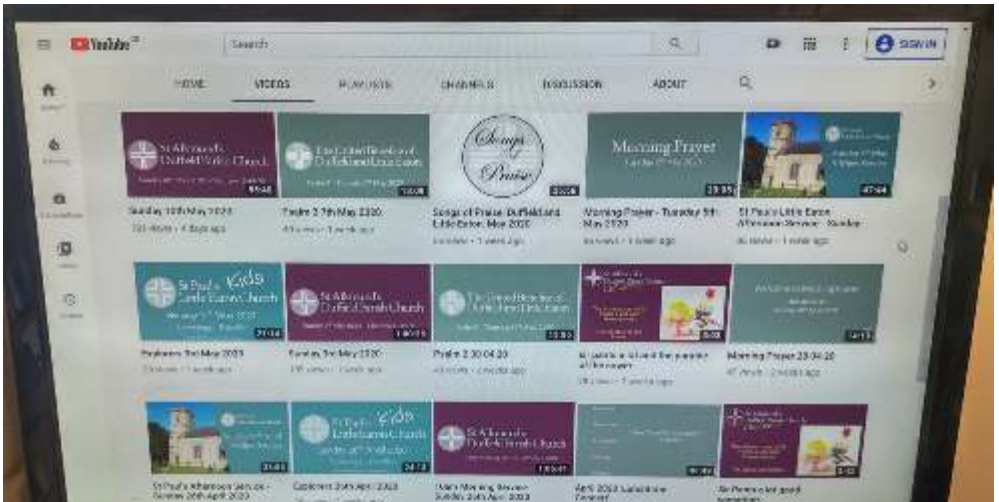
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“It’s Church, Jim, but not as we know it...!”

Our physical church **building** remains closed at present, due to the social distancing issues necessitated by Coronavirus. However, the church **community** of St Alkmund’s very much ‘remains open’ and has continued to ‘meet’ during lockdown—albeit by way of ‘virtual’ services and other activities online—and we give great thanks to God for the various modern technologies which have enabled us to do so.



As the various lockdown measures began to be implemented across the UK towards the end of March 2020, it soon became clear that we would no longer be able to physically meet together in the church building. We therefore moved quickly to implement “The



United Benefice of Duffield and Little Eaton” YouTube channel (for both St Alkmund’s Duffield and our sister church, St Paul’s Little Eaton), and since 22nd March 2020, we have been publishing (pre-recorded) services each Sunday for our church family to watch along with, at 10am for St Alkmund’s and at 4:30pm for St Paul’s. We also publish a variety of content throughout the week too, including online ‘Morning Prayer’ on Tuesdays and ‘Reflections on the Psalms’ on Thursdays, together with a monthly ‘Songs of Praise’ service, and activities and teaching specially for our children and young people.

In addition to publishing services and other content on our Benefice YouTube channel, we are also utilising videoconferencing platforms to enable many of our smaller midweek church groups to continue to operate as well. For example, I lead a home Bible-study group that normally meets around the kitchen table at our house, but (as shown in the picture) is instead currently coming together each week via “Zoom”. And as you can read elsewhere in this issue, we’ve even had ‘virtual’ “Lunchtime Concerts”, too!



Looking ahead, as and when we’re able to begin physically meeting together in our church buildings once again, we’re presently considering as a Benefice how best we can continue to also make our Sunday services and other events available online as well, for those who are in the highest-risk groups and who will hence have to continue to self-isolate even after church reopens. We’re also thinking about how online content might continue to complement our physical church services and events more generally in the future, too.

Everyone is very welcome to ‘join’ our current services on YouTube, which can be found at www.YouTube.com/c/TheUnitedBeneficeofDuffieldLittleEaton (or alternatively follow the link from the Homepage of the church website) and do contact the church office if you’d like to become a part of one of our smaller online midweek groups but aren’t ‘connected’ into these activities at present.

James Rollin

SEND US

Anyway

'This was the point of no return, where Josie and I would commit ourselves to making a difference. Looking up at the building we wondered what was ahead of us through the doors. The next step we physically took would be symbolic of accepting the challenge God was laying in front of us. We had no idea what lay ahead; danger, uncertainty, isolation? We took a collective deep breath and climbed the concrete steps where countless newborns had been left by desperate men and women ...'

In the late 1960s, Averil Hopwell (my aunt by marriage) left her home, her family, and her job in Derby to become a missionary in Honduras.

Having grown up fatherless in post-war Derby, Averil had a miraculous encounter with God in a department store doorway. Her journey into Christianity led her to Honduras, the poorest country in Central America where both Ave and her friend Josie were involved in rescuing many orphaned children. Ave's story speaks of incredible love, self-sacrifice and just how God can use even the most ordinary people to make a difference.

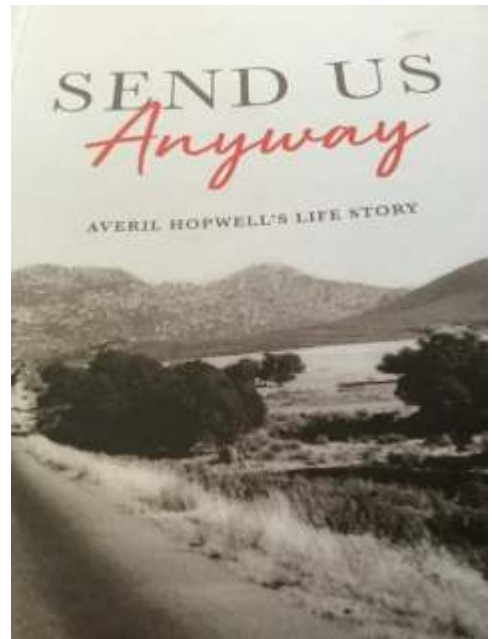
In our more literary moments, we may all have felt inspired by Christopher Hitchens's quotation, *Everyone has a book in them...*

From time to time over the intervening years, Ave has shared with family, just a few of her experiences on the mission field.

Now in her eighties, family felt it was time for her experiences to be recorded; to be written down not only for the family but as an inspiration and encouragement to others.

In the Acknowledgements at the beginning of the book, Ave describes the experience of writing her book as a journey, an ... *unlocking of the story from within me.*

Mike Severn



Please note that the book SEND US ANYWAY is a private publication. If you would like to borrow a copy, contact Mike Severn, c/o St Alkmund's Church, Duffield.

Our Patron Saint

Why do we need a Patron Saint? Perhaps for the same reason that parents like to name their child—not just Smith but Joseph Smith. We recall a special connection with Alkmund while we are one part of the vast family of Christians meeting together in God's name.

The name St Alkmund's indicates the antiquity of our foundation as he was a Northumbrian Prince and Mercian martyr killed in Derby in AD 800. There are only six churches with his name in England though we have heard of one in Regina, Canada.

Alkmund was a prince of one of the contending Royal families of Northumbria in the 8th century. Kings in Northumbria at this date were elected by a Council of Elders. Because of this process, with competition between two families claiming Royal descent and nobles of the Council preferring sometimes to elect an unrelated candidate, and regardless of their profession of Christianity, semi-anarchy had arisen and reigns were precarious. In the 65 years of the 8thC before Alhred (the father of Alkmund) was elected in 765, there had been nine Kings. Of these, only two had died natural deaths while possessing the Crown: two others had resigned to become monks (one possibly under pressure); while two had been deposed and three murdered.

We do not know why Alhred was elected King of Northumbria in AD 765, but at least his predecessor was deposed and not murdered. Alhred claimed descent from the original Bernician Royal family beginning with Ida, chief of the Saxon tribe which first reached the Bamburgh rock in about AD 547. A coin struck during Alhred's reign survives.

We do know that Alhred was a Christian. He sent missionaries back to 'the old country'—Saxony—to convert those who were still pagan. A letter from King Alhred survives which concerns Continental religious affairs.

In 768 Alhred was married to Osgifu, the daughter of King Oswulf who had been murdered in 759. Oswulf had been a member of the rival family also claiming descent from Ida, so by this marriage the dynastic ambitions of the two groups were combined. Alhred and Osgifu had two sons whose births we speculate as in 769 for Osred and 770 for Alkmund. If so, the latter was four years old when the political malaise which had become endemic to Northumbria dethroned his father in 774. The Northern Annals, as translated, read:

"King Alhred was deprived of the society of the Royal household and nobles, by the counsel and consent of all his people, and exchanged the majesty of empire for exile. He departed with a few companions of his flight, first into Bamburgh, and afterwards to the King of the Picts, by name Kenneth" (The 'companions' mentioned would have been personal bodyguards, in the terminology of the times.)



Thus the Queen and their children did not accompany him and, in view of the mortal danger which would have threatened the sons of a deposed King, we may be fairly sure that she and they would have left Northumbria as soon as possible. Since the King went North without them, it is probable that they went South into Mercia to the protection of King Offa. Northworthy, (later renamed Derby by the invading Danes) would have been the first town of any size in Mercia reached by travellers from Northumbria. Fugitives from that country might well settle down there, if granted the permission of the King of Mercia. We speculate that Queen Osgifu, Prince Osred and Prince Alkmund did so in AD 774.

There followed 26 years of palace revolutions, depositions and battles and, briefly, an effort at Papal control. The Pope in 786 (Adrian I) sent Legates to England to inquire into the state of the Saxon Kingdoms and pass new Canon laws for their Christian governance. Undoubtedly this very unusual event (they were the first Legates to be sent here since 668 and the last until 1070) was a consequence of Northumbrian anarchy. The examination by the two brave Legates over the length of the country took some time but, in the following year, new Canons were presented to, and approved by, councils in Northumbria and Mercia. Of these laws, the one significant to the history of Alkmund was this, extracted from Canon 12:

'...let no one dare to conspire for the death of a King, because he is the anointed of the Lord ... everyone who has assented to such sacrilege shall perish in the eternal fetters of anathema' (i.e. complete separation from the Church).

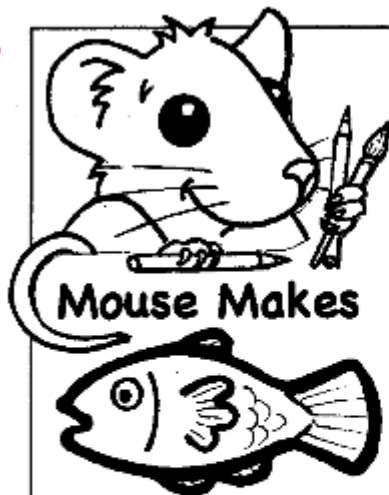
This law was thus opposed to the Saxon lay scheme of society which permitted any murder to be compensated by payment of money—'Wergild'.

Alkmund's elder brother Osred was briefly elected as King in 788, ejected and eventually succeeded by King Eardwulf. Finally, from the Northern Annals for 800 we read:

'Alkmund, the son.....of King Alhred, was seized by the guards of King Eardwulf and by his order was killed along with his fellow fugitives.'

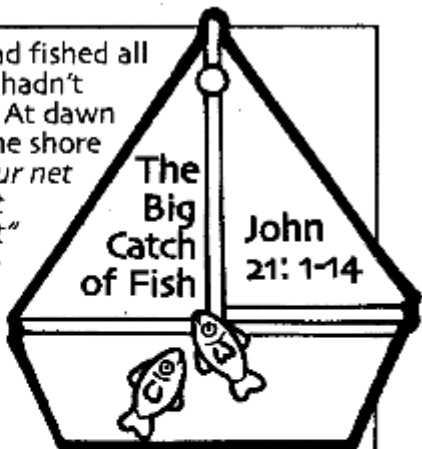
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Mouse Makes

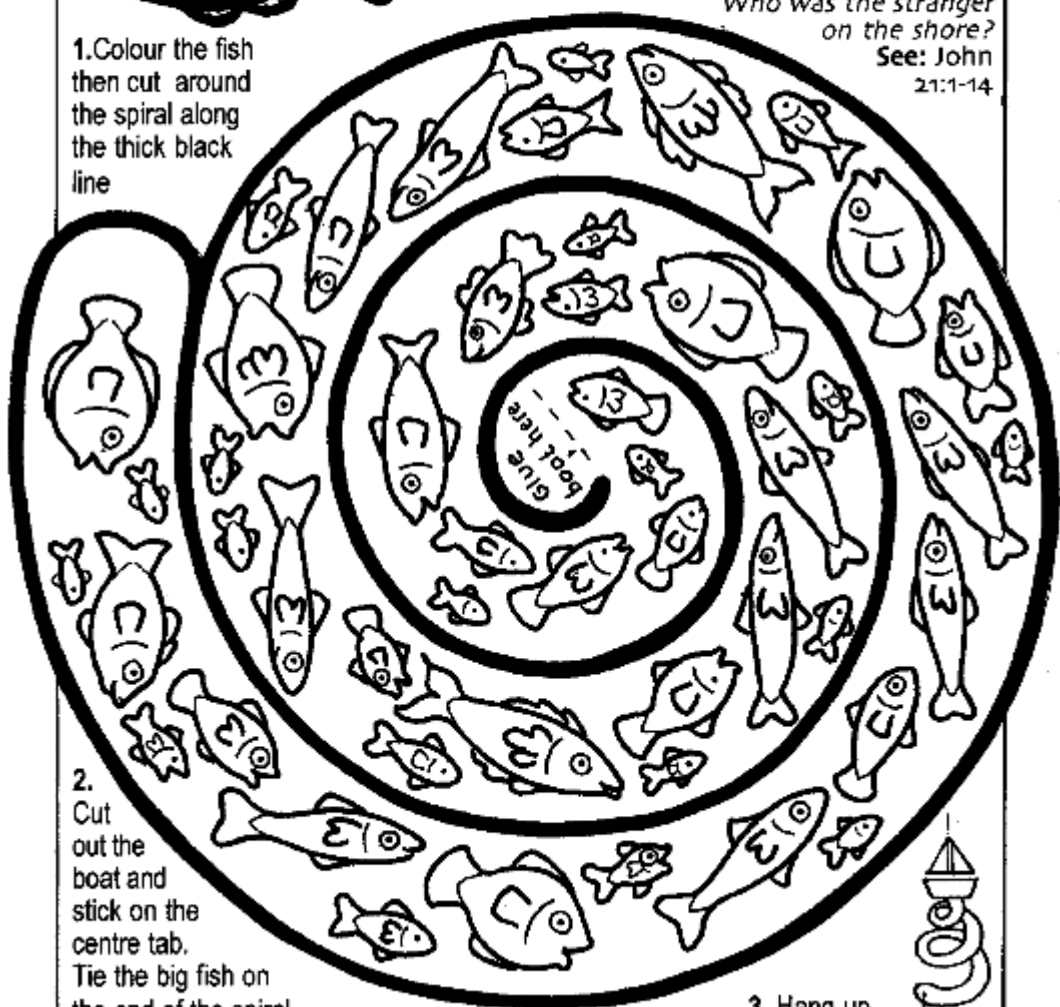
The disciples had fished all night, but they hadn't caught a thing. At dawn a stranger on the shore said "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat" They threw the net but could not pull it back in because it was so full of fish!



Who was the stranger on the shore?

See: John 21:1-14

1. Colour the fish then cut around the spiral along the thick black line



2. Cut out the boat and stick on the centre tab. Tie the big fish on the end of the spiral.

3. Hang up



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Answer to the “books in the slipcase puzzle”

There are $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$ ways to order the books.

But each of the books can be positioned in 8 ways (rotated 90 degrees in front view, and the same when flipped).

So there are $24 \times 8^4 = 98,304$.

However, because the opening is square in both front and side view ...

The books can be inserted as shown, or laid flat, or put in with the front showing (so that only one book is visible). This gives three more orientations: any other options would be covered by the original calculation.

This gives a final total of $3 \times 98,304 = 294,912$ arrangements.

© Andrew Jackson 2020

Where's the Bear?

Alkmund's not been able to be out and about on his travels lately, because he's been sticking to the advice to stay safe and stay at home. But, he's been keeping himself busy whilst he's been at home!

As you can see, like many of us have been doing, Alkmund's been using 'Zoom' videoconferencing to keep in touch with all of his friends! It has been great fun, but like the rest of us he's looking forward to when they can all meet up together once again.

But until then, Alkmund asks that we all stay safe and keep washing our hands—or paws!

#Where'stheBear?



JUNE

Online Services

For further details visit our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedBeneficeofDuffieldLittleEaton>

Or access our social media websites at

www.stalkmundsduffield.co.uk or www.littleeatonchurch.co.uk

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Linkedin: [linkedin.com/company/st-alkmund](https://www.linkedin.com/company/st-alkmund)

The Harvest Supper Spat

I have been a church minister for decades, but I had never in my whole career had to deal with such a hurtful remark. Rosemary Braithwaite was one of those women upon whom all churches depend: selfless, generous, modest and kind. Unfailingly cheerful: but not now. We were sitting in my study, and she had her face in her hands, and was sobbing her heart out in front of me.

“He said what?” I repeated.

“He said, ‘Is Rosemary any use at all?’”

“Surely not?” Alan is the epitome of good taste and sound judgement. “Are you sure that you heard him correctly?”

“I could hardly miss it,” Rosemary sobbed. “He yelled it at the top of his voice right across the church hall while we were setting up for the Harvest Festival.”

“To whom was he talking?”

“Just Audrey, I think. They were working together sorting things out.”

“Have you asked them to explain?” I asked hopefully. Vicars have to deal with many problems, some straightforward, some less so. This was off the scale. The churchwarden and his wife suggesting that the most respected person in the whole congregation was somehow inadequate. The level of disrespect was staggering.



Another burst of sobbing broke out, and Rosemary glared at me in disbelief.

“What do you think I am!” in the loudest voice I’d ever heard her use. “I can’t go to two of my best friends and ask them why they hate me.”

This was beginning to get out of hand, and I needed support.

“Would you like to talk to Pam?” I said hopefully.

“Y...yes please,” came the grateful reply.

“I’ll just be a mo’,” I said with relief as I exited as fast as I decently could to the kitchen.

“Put the kettle on quick,” I said, “and then come and help.”

“What on earth is going on? You look white!” my wife queried as she put the kettle on. I explained quickly.

Pam thought quickly. “You must go and see them now,” she said directly. My heart sank—I like to mull things over and hope that problems will go away! “Now!” she said after a pregnant pause.

Never in my whole career had I walked down through the village with less enthusiasm.

Alan and Audrey were still working hard in the church hall, with the tables already out, and the smell of casserole coming out of the kitchen.

They looked at me cheerfully, and offered me a cup of tea. I accepted gratefully—it put off the reckoning by a few precious minutes.

“Did you have anything particular to discuss,” said Audrey; like most women she had a much better sense that something was wrong. Alan looked completely mystified.

“Can I ask you a very personal question?”, I said slowly.

“Who?” said Audrey, “Alan, or me?”

“Well, both of you, I think.”

“OK, away you go,” said Alan.

I looked at them both, and then at Alan specifically. “What exactly do you have against Rosemary?”

“What? What exactly are you talking about?”

“Rosemary is sitting in my study, drinking a cup of tea with Pam and sobbing her heart out. She overheard your remark about her in the hall early this morning, and she is understandably distraught.”

They both stared at me, and then at each other in complete bewilderment. Audrey was the first to recover. “Vicar, what are you saying?”

The “vicar” hurt—people in the congregation never called me that. “Alan made a very cruel remark to you; Rosemary heard it.”

“And what exactly was this remark?”

I hesitated and said, “Is Rosemary any use at all?”

There was a pause. Alan looked utterly bewildered. “I never said that!”

Audrey looked up. And then realisation dawned upon her face, and lifted the worry lines from her forehead. “Yes, you did, Alan!”

“I couldn’t have! I don’t think that about Rosemary in any way, and I hope that I would never be so unloving at any time!”

“No, you don’t and you wouldn’t be. But you did say that!”

And suddenly she began to shake, and then unexpectedly and inappropriately, she began to laugh, suppressed at first, and then completely uncontrollably.

Alan and I stared at her, and then at each other. Alan, thoroughly embarrassed, put his hands on her shoulders, and then waited for her to calm down before she began to explain.

After a couple of minutes, she suddenly stood up, and walked towards the kitchen. “I can explain...;” she disappeared briefly, and reappeared carrying a small box.

“What on earth has that got to do with it?” Alan asked.

“Look carefully, dear.”

Alan took the box, and read the label. Then he too began to shake, and the two of them fell into each other’s arms and laughed joyously together.

Audrey turned to me and said, “Can you smell the meal?”

Suddenly I couldn’t see the funny side. “Please stop messing about, and tell me what on earth is going on? I don’t think this is anything to laugh about.”

They collapsed into hysterics again.

“Oh, but it is!” said Alan.

He put me out of my misery. “Audrey was making the casserole, and adding the seasoning. She couldn’t find any Dill.”

“Please get to the point,” I pleaded.

“I looked through the store cupboard, and then called out to Audrey...”

“And what did you say?” I begged.

“Is Rosemary any use at all?”



This story was based on a comment from my wife when we were spring cleaning the kitchen.

None of the characters is based on anyone I know.

Andrew Jackson
5th April 2020

Words of Wisdom

HENRI JOZEF MACHIEL NOUWEN was a Dutch professor, writer and theologian. His interests were rooted primarily in psychology, pastoral ministry, spirituality, social justice and community. In **Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith**, he includes these reflections, which I have found helpful at this time; morsels of daily wisdom...



'At first sight, joy seems to be connected with being different. When you receive a compliment or win an award, you experience the joy of not being the same as others. You are faster, smarter, more beautiful, and it is that difference that brings you joy. But such joy is very temporary. True joy is hidden where we are the same as other people: fragile and mortal. It is the joy of belonging to the human race. It is the joy of being with others as a friend, a companion, a fellow traveller. This is the joy of Jesus, who is Emmanuel: God-with-us.'

'To be able to enjoy fully the many good things the world has to offer, we must be detached from them. To be detached does not mean to be indifferent or uninterested. It means to be non-possessive. Life is a gift to be grateful for and not a property to cling to. A non-possessive life is a free life. But such freedom is only possible when we have a deep sense of belonging. To whom then do we belong? We belong to God, and the God to whom we belong has sent us into the world to proclaim in his Name that all of creation is created in and by love and calls us to gratitude and joy. That is what the "detached" life is all about. It is a life in which we are free to offer praise and thanksgiving.'

'The many contradictions in our lives—such as being home while feeling homeless, being busy while feeling bored, being popular while feeling lonely, being believers while feeling many doubts—can frustrate, irritate, and even discourage us. They make us feel that we are never fully present. Every door that opens for us makes us see how many more doors are closed. But there is another response. These same contradictions can bring us into touch with a deeper longing, for the fulfilment of a desire that lives beneath all desires and that only God can satisfy. Contradictions, thus understood, create the friction that can help us move toward God.'

Paul Wiggins

'Virtual' Lunchtime Concerts

Hello to the little band of folk who used to come at 1pm on a fourth Wednesday of the month to be talked at and sang at by me, and a couple of guests.

Since November, we had to put a stop to the Lunchtime Concerts, due to flooding (nothing to do with me practising) then we were back in January and February, but after that, we had to stop due to lockdown. However, since April, we've gone online, and a shortened concert is available on the third Wednesday of the month from 1pm. It's shortened because things are a little harder to do online, plus we then have to edit, render (I know, who knew that builders were needed!) and upload the finished concert to the Benefice YouTube channel.

It's very fun to turn our house into a stage for one night of the month, and we're learning every time about how to improve things. Our main wish is that people are encouraged as well as entertained (you can be guaranteed a laugh). This is a very odd time. History books will be written about this. So we're trying to lighten the mood, but not make light of the situations we find ourselves in.

Because of Copyright restraints, you'll find that a lot of the stuff is ours. It's not about self-promotion; it's about keeping out of trouble. So, if you like them great, and if you don't, I apologise.

So, if you're around and have about 40 minutes sometime, why not join us? You'd be most welcome.

Stay well, and take care,

Emma Rollin



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