



Grief
is the
price
we pay
for
Love

50p

November 2023

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Note from the editor:

I would like to apologise for the omission of the Tearfund Quiz advert and the 15th October joint service information from the October magazine.

I had prepared both September's and October's magazines in August, predicting (correctly) that baby Dawson would arrive the week the magazine is usually put together in September and I therefore wouldn't have time to do it! At the time of production in August, I didn't have the info/ dates to be able to include them.

Helen



Letter from Rev Margaret:

Dear Readers



Way back in 2001 my husband, Brian, attended an Open University Summer School in Stirling. During one of the discussion sessions when social change over the years was the topic, he found that in his group he was a primary source for information about the 1960s – he had been in his teen years and had first hand stories to tell. He told the group about the fashions – of how he and his friends taking their first package holiday to Spain had travelled on the plane wearing suits and ties and how I dressed for our Sunday afternoon walks together wearing high heeled shoes with matching handbag and gloves!

I am writing this letter in the early days following the felling of the tree at Sycamore Gap. Social media has been full of people's photographs that have been taken beside the tree and their stories of the special occasions that have been celebrated there. For many years to come people will be able to personally recall those times and talk of the grief and horror experienced when they remember the public reaction to the incident.

This month we will be remembering those who have died serving our nation in times of war. The last person to personally remember fighting in the First World War was Harry Patch, known as the last fighting Tommy, who died in July 2009 at the age of 111. He had kept his war memories personal, not talking about

his experiences until he was 100 years old. Now the number of veterans from World War 2 are dwindling – of the million UK citizens who fought those still alive are numbered not in 10s of thousands but only in thousands. Soon there will be no primary sources who can share their personal memories.

But as a nation we will go on remembering not only those who died in those two major wars, but also those who have been killed in later conflicts or who have died accidentally while serving in the Armed Forces. They will be remembered because family stories are passed on to each generation and because Remembrance Sunday will continue to be part of our national life.

In the Christian church a Remembrance service is held every week – it is the service of Holy Communion. It is the service in which we remember the greatest sacrifice of a life – that of Jesus who died on the cross. In the days leading up to his death, Jesus shared a meal with his disciples, his friends. As he blessed bread and gave it to them he said, ‘do this in remembrance of me’. This is recorded in the gospels of the New Testament. John wrote at the end of his gospel, ‘This is the disciple who testifies to these things, and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them was written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.’ *John 21:24-25*

We remember because those who were there told the story and then it was written down and passed on from generation to generation.

Yours, Margaret

From the Registers

Weddings:

30th September 2023 at St Mary's,
Jane Allen and Steven Morris



Sunday Service Information

9.30am St Michael's

11am St Mary's

6pm (4th Sunday) St Mary's

Thursday 10am The Parish Hall

Morning Prayer Service

*The following information can be
applied every month:*

1st Sunday: Communion

2nd Sunday: All Age

3rd Sunday: Communion

4th Sunday: Morning Praise (am) & Contemporary
Worship (pm)

5th Sunday: JOINT SERVICE 10am

Come along
If you enjoy singing!

COMMUNITY CHOIR



ST MARY'S CHURCH
THROCKLEY

ORGANISED BY NEWBURN PARISH
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME

10:00am to 11:00am

19th August

16th September

14th October

28th October

4th November

18th November

Spotlight on November:

World Vegan Month – 1st to 30th November 2023

[World Vegan Month](#), set up by the Vegan Society, is celebrated around the world as a time to shine a light on the vegan movement. You'll find the promotion of vegan events, recipes, clothing and more during this month-long celebration.



World Kindness Day – 13th November 2023

[World Kindness Day](#) is an annual day that was formed in 1998, to promote kindness throughout the world.

On this day, participants attempt to make the world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds and pledging acts of kindness, either as individuals or as organisations. Anybody wishing to take part in World Kindness Day can pledge a good deed. You can also find a range of resources including ideas for random acts of kindness both large and small on the campaign's website.

One World Week – 14th to 20th November 2023

[One World Week](#) encourages people to take action to build a just, more equal, inclusive and peaceful world that safeguards environmental resources for future generations. This annual event seeks to raise people's awareness and understanding of the injustices that cause poverty and conflict across the planet and in our local communities.

Buy Nothing Day – 24th November 2023

[Buy Nothing Day](#) is an international day of protest against consumerism. In the United Kingdom, Buy Nothing Day is held on the day after U.S. Thanksgiving. The reason is that this allows Buy Nothing Day to fall on the same day as Black Friday – the day that retailers normally offer big discounts to lure in shoppers. Take part in any way you choose – just buy nothing on the day, if you can. If you want to get more involved, look out for various gatherings and events that promote anti-consumerism on the day, as well as online events.

National Tree Week – 25th November to 3rd December

[National Tree Week](#) is the UK's largest annual tree celebration. Here people are encouraged to plant trees to mark the start of the winter tree planting season. Trees and hedgerows are some of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against climate change. Whether you plant a tree in a pot on your doorstep, a hedge in your garden or organise a community event at a local park, every tree will help to grow a greener future together. Download the free tree planting guide to find out more about what tree to choose, where to plant and how to do it! Alternatively, if you want to plant as part of a team, you can get in touch with your local Tree Warden Network and find out whether they're organising any planting events near you.

Giving Tuesday – 28th November 2023

[Giving Tuesday](#) was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the last decade, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. You can volunteer your time; donate money; share your skills; campaign for something; donate goods, food, or clothes; or organise a community event such as a street or park clean-up or a coffee morning. The list is endless.

Recent Parish Events

Tearfund Quiz Night:

6 teams took part, £120+ raised for Tearfund.



And the winners are... the 'Reigning Champs'... two years in a row, can anyone beat them!





Christmas Fair
25th November 2023
10am - 12pm

FREE ENTRY

Raffle, Toy Tombola, Cake Stall,
Bottle Stall, Tombola,
Red & Green Stall, and more!

PLEASE COME ALONG!

Newburn Parish Hall, Station Road, Newburn, NE15 8LS

Prayers for November

A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you Lord, for who I am, for what I am able to choose to do, and for being able to do as I do. I do this, oh Lord, knowing that others before me have suffered or died for me to be able to be me. I thank you, Lord, in all humbleness, for every man, woman or child who have given their lives, or suffered physical or mental wounds in the defence of this country, so I can be free. I thank you for all this nation's allies and friends who were also killed or wounded because they came to help us in our hour of need. Be with all those who still suffer because of their service in our armed services. Be with all the friends, families and loved ones of those who were killed. Bring them peace of mind and turn their sorrow into joy. Help all of us to work for peace.
Amen.

A prayer to help us see Jesus.

You are the refugee, who seeks a new home.
You are the poor who begs for food.
You are the homeless who begs for shelter.
You are the patient who is in agony.
You are the prisoner whose crime is foul.
You are the addict who seeks a fix.
You are the abused who lives in terror.
You are the stranger I see everyday.
Help me to see you in these people.
Help me to hear you in these people.
For in the guise of the stranger walk the angels and the Christ.
Amen

A prayer for Jesus to help us.

Lord be with me this day, and be with me this night.
Lord be with me at work, and be with me at play.
Lord be with me when I am alone, and be with me in company.
Lord be with me in sorrow, and be with me in joy.
Lord be with me in the darkness, and be with me in the light.
Lord be with me when I cry, and be with me when laugh,
Lord be with me in the storm and be with me in the calm,
Lord be with me in my youth and be with me in old age.
And when my time is due,
Lord be with me.
Amen.



If you would like to join the Annual Magazine Prayer Rota, or even

er by Colin Stafford

A Unique North Eastern Prayer.

May the Spirit which brought the Saints Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Oswald,
to the North East: be with me and guide me in all that I do.
May the Spirit which inspired the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels inspire in
me a love of your testaments.
May the Spirit which inspired the building of the monasteries at Lindisfarne,
Tynemouth and Jarrow to shine a light in the darkness: shine a light within
me.
May the Spirit which guided the pilgrims to Holy Island, guide me there also.
Let me walk across the Pilgrims Way and on the sea shore, so I can be
baptised in your love and forgiveness.
And May the Saints Aiden, Bede Cuthbert and Oswald walk with me and
guide me out of the darkness and away from the evil one: so I can become
the person I am supposed to be and not who I am.
So when I stand before you, Oh my God and Father; I do so in triumph and
not in shame.
Amen.

A prayer to show gratitude.

Lord let me praise you.
For the world you gave us to live in.
For all that you have done for us.
For the sacrifice you made for us.
For the love you give us.
And for the forgiveness that never ends.
Thank you.
Amen

A Prayer for the community.

Lord bless this day those who cannot afford the basics,
Lord, bless this day the unemployed seeking work,
Lord bless this day those facing eviction,
Lord bless this day those who face sexual, mental, or physical abuse,
Lord bless this day those who face abuse because they are different,
Lord bless this day those who live with addiction,
Lord bless them, be their shield against the storm.
Bring them hope and set them free.
Amen.

en just do a one off prayer, please get in touch with Helen Dawson.

Bethany - Welcome



BETHANY

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in St Mary's, Throckley at 1pm.

We will be observing some restrictions owing to the continuing Covid situation. As previously we will have a time of worship, an activity or quiz and there will be a cuppa with light refreshments.

ALL ARE WELCOME - we look forward to seeing friends old and new.

There is no charge - voluntary donations to cover expenses can be given.

Please contact Margaret Ledger on 0191 2672953 for more info if required



NEWBURN YOUTH GROUP

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE

**IN THE PARISH HALL.
SEE YOU THERE!**

Noah's Ark Playgroup

**Wednesday 10-11.30am
(school term time only)**

Newburn Parish Hall

**£1.50 per family,
Refreshments provided**



Reflections on the word ‘Grace’

We are looking at the word GRACE, through the eyes of the late Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town. He is a hero of mine and I want to share with you his thoughts on the subject from his book ‘IN GOD’S HANDS’. He wrote this book at the invitation of Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, as a Lenten study in 2012. I was inspired and moved by it and it helped me to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus and the eternal truths of the Gospels. The passages in italics are direct quotes from this book, from the chapter ‘it’s all of Grace’.

God loves us not because we are loveable, but rather we are loveable because God loves us. He loves us not because He needs us, but because He wants us. God was God long before the world was created - our creation came about through an outpouring of His love - a sheer act of Grace, a free gift. God loves you, God loves me and He wants to develop a personal relationship with His creation.. God created us in His own image to be His representatives on earth, ‘His stand-Ins’. He wanted us to be as God to one another, caring , compassionate, merciful, affirming, helping to turn God’s world(ours) into the paradise He intended it to be from the very beginning.

In our part of the world (South Africa) we have something called ‘ubuntu’ - the essence of being human -. We say an ‘umutu’ is a person through other persons. “I am because you are and you are because I am.”

God wants us to be aware of our infinite worth and to see in others the image of God and so recognise that each one of us, whatever our gender, sexual orientation, or nationality, is fundamentally a member of one family, the human family, and created to exist in a delicate network of interdependence. We should not want to be self-sufficient. *We were created with an inbuilt insufficiency so that we can see our desperate need of others. We say a person is ‘ubuntu’ - generous, magnanimous, hospitable and welcoming, affirming others. Each one of us is unique, there is no one me, and no one like you. I have gifts you don’t have so you may know your need of me to complement you, but equally you have gifts that I don’t have, and that is why I exist and why you exist. We make up what is lacking in each other. It is in this sense that God said, in Genesis chapter 2 (the second creation story) “it is not good for Adam to be alone”*

Mary Weatherall

The Two Minutes Silence

Remember, Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to Your love remember me, for You, Lord, are good. (Psalm 25:5-7)

I love the Psalms, as they cover every emotion and religious experience, from despair to praise and from fear to rejoicing. Some say they are difficult, but life is difficult, and so the book of Psalms is great for dipping into and finding the right one for you. This one is about remembering – remembering the past failures in our lives, and dealing with them.

What do you think about during the Two Minutes' Silence on Remembrance Sunday? Perhaps you do not think about anything. I find it helpful to make an effort to think about the war dead. I used to do some research into local men who were casualties. I had some photos taken from newspapers or sent home. These memories added some personalities and characteristics to the names on memorials.

I also think of members of my own family, who lived through the wars, and the experiences they had. Most did not go off to serve away from home, but lived through the blackouts, blitz, and evacuation and rationing. My grandfather left a photo of some comrades and had written on the back a request to 'keep this safe'. And so we have, for over one hundred years! I also remember, with thanks, the comparatively peaceful lives we have had.

There are some things we do not want to remember, usually bad things we have done or had done to us. When we turn our memories over to God, we are asking God to be merciful and loving, for although we make mistakes we can appeal to His enduring love.

by David Pickup



Remembrance Sunday Services
will be at 10.15am in both
churches, followed by
11am at the Cenotaph

Reflecting faith: Remembering Our Loved Ones

For the last couple of months, we've been looking at seating in the church building.

Perhaps you've noticed that on the more 'special' items there are dedication plaques to the person who donated the money to buy the item or in whose name the item was purchased.

In some churches, pretty much everywhere you look you will find such labels, whilst in others they are much rarer.

Of course, many people donate financially and give specific items in their own name or in memory of someone else without wishing for this to be publicly noted. But often when folk donate something they do like it made clear.

A couple of centuries ago people would leave money after their death for a mass to be said for their soul. In some rich cases this would be every day for a year or even longer.

The 'very' rich paid for a new altar to be placed in the church building or even in an extension to the building – a chantry. This is where their personal mass would be conducted each day. In these cases, a stipend would also be paid to cover the cost of a separate priest to do this task, rather than the rector or vicar having it as an extra daily task. A room would be provided for that priest above the chapel often.

This all stems from the belief that we have sinned and will be punished in purgatory or hell but can 'buy' time off through prayers.

Today our theology has moved back to a more biblical understanding, that Christ is the one who bore our sins on the cross, and we can't earn our way to heaven; we can only get there by faith in Him.

But we still love and think about the people whom we loved, even though they are dead. Some Christians believe that, as we prayed for them in life, why should we stop just because they are dead?

As C.S.Lewis wrote;

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

This month

As you remember your loved ones whom you see no more, hold them close in ways that make sense to you, and reflect your faith in God's loving grace and mercy.

Rev Dr Jo White

Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity

'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).

What does generosity look like for us? The practice of generosity is about more than finance, as we recognise that everything we possess belongs to God (Ps 24:1). We are stewards of all our resources, including time, possessions, gifts, as well as our love and compassion for others. God enables us to be generous, because of all that He has given us:

'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.' (2 Cor 9:11).

Here are some practical ways of practising generosity:

Give consistently: Planning our financial giving ensures that it isn't an afterthought, but carefully considered (2 Cor 9:7). We can offer time to volunteer in church or in the wider community. We might open our home to others for a meal or coffee.

Give spontaneously: God often brings opportunities across our path where we can respond spontaneously. This might be prompted by a text from a friend in crisis or giving a neighbour a helping hand. Acting spontaneously reminds us that God is always working in and through us.

Give sacrificially: Being generous also involves making sacrifices with our time and priorities, as we help others, share our possessions, or use our gifts. How can we simplify our busy lives, in order to free up space to practise more life transforming generosity?

To engage in generosity is an invitation to experience more of God's provision in our lives:

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you' (Luke 6:38).

Canon Paul Hardingham

God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? (Job 38:4–7, 14, 16)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to You...? Why have You made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Poet's Corner

PLAY THE GAME LADIES

Have you ever remained hidden behind a stack of books,
While you've struggled with a safety pin?
Or tried to ease out of those fashionable shoes,
That have started to pinch again.
Do you think no-one has noticed,
When you've draped your wet scarf over a chair?
Or when you've found a quiet corner to rearrange your hair.
Where can you go to hitch up a skirt,
That hangs well below your coat,
Or to untangle a favourite necklace,
That is clamped tight around your throat?

THE LIBRARY OF COURSE!

Panic. Will your antics be seen on camera?
Or worse still, in the local press,
With your clothes going every which way,
And your hair in a terrible mess.
The library staff are there to help, they would never kick up a fuss,
They know who's sheltering from the rain or waiting for a bus.

PLAY THE GAME LADIES!

Make a special trip to the library,
Approach the desk and ask for a ticket,
To be there for any other reason is

JUST NOT CRICKET!

A NELSON, 2001

The Tree and I

A few yards from my window
There grows a tree
Heavy laden with blossom,
A joy to see.
In a short time, the flowers will fall
Like confetti covering the ground

Swirling and collecting in every corner
Hardly making a sound.
Many years ago I scaled its branches
And found myself, a suitable perch
Looking out on familiar landmarks
Like the spire of the old village church.
Gazing out with childlike eyes
From my very own idea of paradise.
Come Autumn I'd marvel at your leaves
Turning red and gold
The very best part of my story has now been told.

A few yards from my window
There is the semblance of a tree
It is withered, wrinkly and bent over
More or less just like me.
Creaking joints and aching limb
What a sorry state to find oneself in
Too late for the surgeon
I've gone to the dogs
While you, my dear friend
Will be sewn up for logs
To warm the cockles of someone's heart
Like your image has warmed me, and soon we must part
You've brought me more pleasure than
I can ever remember
Perhaps we will last until next September.

Audrey Nelson, 2022



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THE GRANGE DAY CENTRE

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TEL:01912673728



We at The Grange now offer many services out in the community.

Could you or a family member benefit from any of the following:

Help with laundry, cleaning or shopping?



Support with Doctor/Hospital appointments?



Befriending services or help to join in with community activities?



Please contact John Hewitt or Lisa Langford for further details on :
01912673728



Rev Allison Harding (Vicar)
(currently on sabbatical September– December 2023.)

Please contact our church wardens to arrange Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage. If you know of people who are ill or are in hospital please let us know.

The deadline for any inclusions for the magazine is

Two Sundays before the last Sunday of the month

Please either email or hand to Helen Dawson.
helenrdawson@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any questions or opinions about the magazine content and style, or would like to write an article please get in touch.

All feedback welcome.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a magazine (only £5.00 per annum) please get in touch and we will add their name to the distribution list.