



The Parish Post

Benefice of Veryan with Ruan Lanihorne

October 2023

"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and Autumn was awaked." — Raquel Franco



The parishes of VERYAN and RUAN LANIHORNE

VERYAN

(St Symphorian) Parish Church Churchwardens

Julia Pound, Calendra Farm
churchwarden@veryanchurch.org.uk
Pippa Stephens, Cherry Tree Cottage
churchwarden1@veryanchurch.org.uk

Hon. Secretary

Mandy Holloway
secretary@veryanchurch.org.uk

Treasurer

Mrs Carol Hughes
Castle Towers
Ruan Lanihorne
[501855]
treasurer@veryanchurch.org.uk

PORTLOE

(All Saints) United Church Church Steward

Mr Trounce Guy
Pengelly Farm
West Portholland [501471]

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Jeanne Hitchings
End Cottage, Portloe [501114]

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Joyce Gilbert
Porthjulyan
Pendower Road
Veryan [501365]

RUAN LANIHORNE

(St Rumon) Parish Church Churchwardens

Mr David Hughes
Castle Towers
Ruan Lanihorne
[501855]
Mrs Caroline Martin [501697]

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Holly Ledson

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Carol Hughes

Submissions for the Newsletter

Pippa Stephens
Cherry Tree Cottage
Veryan [501652]
veryanparishnewsletter@gmail.com

Services in our benefice in October

Sunday 1st October

Trinity 17

Ruan. 9.30am Holy Communion
Portloe. 10.30am. Morning Worship
Veryan. 6pm Harvest Evensong

Sunday 8th October

Trinity 18

Portloe 10.30am. Morning Worship
Veryan No service

Sunday 15th October

Trinity 19

Ruan. 9.30am. (David Hughes)
Portloe 10.30am Morning Worship
Veryan 11am Eucharist (Bishop Hugh)

Sunday 22nd October

Trinity 20

Portloe 9.30am Holy Communion
Veryan 11am Service of the word
(David Hughes)

Sunday 29th October

Trinity 21

Bible Sunday

Portloe 10.30am Morning Worship
Veryan 11am Eucharist

Sunday 5th November

4 before Advent

Ruan. 9.30am. Holy Communion
Portloe 10.30am Morning Worship
Veryan 11am Eucharist

From the registers

September 18th, funeral & buried

Joyce Marion Goldie

May they rest in peace and rise in Glory

Readings for October [Veryan]

Sunday 1st October

Trinity 17

Deuteronomy 8, 7-18
Luke 12, 16-30
psalm 65

Sunday 8th October

Trinity 18

Sunday 15th October

Trinity 19

Isaiah 25, 1-9 [p. 387] Doreen
Philippians 4, 1-9 Dave S
psalm 23 [p. 1120]
Matthew 22, 1-14

Sunday 22nd October

Trinity 20

Isaiah 45, 1-7 [p. 393] Blair
1 Thessalonians 1, 1-10 Pippa
psalm 96, 1-9 [p. 1219]
Matthew 22, 15-22

Sunday 29th October

Trinity 21

Nehemiah 8, 1-4a & 8-12 [p. 402]
Valerie & Brian
Colossians 3, 12-17
psalm 119, 9-16 [p. 1252]
Matthew 24, 30-35

Sunday 5th November

4 before Advent

All Saints

Revelation 7, 9-17 [p. 416] Margaret
1 John 3, 1-3 Sue J
psalm 34, 1-10 [p. 1133]
Matthew 5, 1-12



VERYAN PARISH CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Evening service

Sunday 1 October 6 pm

All welcome!

***Come and sing
your favourite harvest hymns***

"Hungrytown is American folk music at its zenith, retro yet shiny and new, like a freshly minted copper penny. If you've been craving folk music of substance, head off to Hungrytown."

—Feminist Review

"The duo's mostly original material blends smart modern lyrics with a traditional Americana feel.."

—Dirty Linen

Hall's vocals are wonderful, pitch-perfect and rich in emotion, perfectly paired with Anderson's harmonies. Hall and Anderson have cultivated a wonderful musical rapport that will endear them to many as they continue to tour and record.

—Seven Days

"Rebecca Hall presents one of the most enjoyable vocal performances that we have ever heard."

★★★★★

Roots Music Report

"I love the sound of Rebecca Hall's voice. There's a sweetness and a worldly wisdom, in perfect balance."

—Roger McGuinn

★★★★★

hungrytown

music that feeds the soul
www.hungrytown.net

Tuesday 10th October
St Symphorian Church, Veryan

7.30 pm

(Doors open at 7pm)

Tickets from www.CRBO.co.uk

Adults £10

u16 Free with a paying adult



www.facebook.com/Hungrytown

To the Saints of the Roseland

September 2023



Dear brothers and sisters

I've been in post for four months now; three finding my feet and one of so-called summer. The schools have gone back, the tourists have left and the sun has come out, which must mean that we are beginning a new term, and so I want to take this opportunity to make a few comments about how I see our common life and witness going forward.

At my interview I talked about two interwoven threads that I believe are crucial in order for God's church to flourish in our corner of Cornwall. One is to ensure that our present churches and their services thrive. There is a wealth of experience and talent within our church communities, and I want to do all that I can to empower, encourage and enable that. The other is to explore and develop new ways of being church that will connect with folk who have little or no connection with church as we know it. Both of these threads are essential and need to be interwoven.

In order to help these along I am prioritising three things. The first is to build cross Roseland relationships. The apostle Paul on several occasions uses the image of a body that is made of many different parts but that holds together as one organism. We belong to our local church and to one another. Basically, if we can do something together, let's do just that. Penny and Kay are working on opportunities for prayer across the Roseland, which is so important in itself. I am making a point of spending quality time with the key people in each church.

Secondly, I want there to be a focus on giving in our churches, if only because it seems to be a topic for all of the Church Councils. Fund raising has its place, but I would love there to be a greater understanding of joyful generosity. This Saturday's Generosity Fika is clearly part of that (it also ticks the cross Roseland relationships box).

Finally, I want to establish an appropriate and lightweight structure for us that will be a forum for decisions about Roseland wide opportunities. I've used the example before of the two types of skeleton: ones like ours that you don't see unless something goes terribly wrong but which enable us to live our lives; and those of crabs that are visible and that limit life. Obviously, we want the first type.

I'm excited by not only the life that I have found here but also for the potential for God's Kingdom to grow here and I look forward to discovering that in partnership with you.

With Love

PS Do feel free to get in touch. My contact details are: roseland.rector@gmail.com, 01872 229861, 39 Fore Street, Tregony TR2 5RW.

An update from the PCC

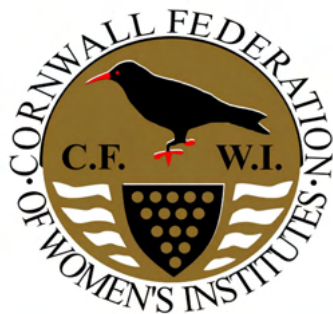
You may have noticed, or heard, that we have been forced to close the path by the tower for safety reasons. Recent quinquennial reports have noted deterioration of pinnacles, battlements, the parapet wall, the stair turret and the windows and louvres and the latest inspection report on the tower which we received last month highlights essential work which needs to be done with the minimum of delay.

Our church surveyor has recommended that the necessary remedial work is done as soon as possible. We will need to apply for a faculty (the church's planning permission) as well as grants to support the cost, not only of the work (estimated at over £36,000) but of scaffolding, which will be a significant amount. We aim to open an appeal for donations when we have more detailed information.

For safety reasons the churchyard path around the tower has been closed, and an explanatory notice is in place to inform visitors. We thank Carol Hughes for her research and the speedy handling of communication with all relevant parties.

We are also aware that the footpaths around the church are in need of repair, in particular the path leading to Moor Launder park. We have placed signs advising visitors of the uneven & slippery surface.

We are excited to continue with the set up of our events committee. Performances, concerts, plans for Advent and Christmas are in the pipeline. Watch this space!



Veryan WI

Our speaker for the September meeting was Holly Young, to whom we are very grateful, as she stepped in at very short notice. Holly runs her worldwide millinery business from her workshop in Veryan. She gave us a fascinating account of her training and career working with some very well-known names before moving to Veryan. She showed us a number of different styles of hat, suitable for many different occasions.

The business meeting, which followed, was taken up mostly with plans for running the teas at the Autumn Show on 16th of September, our biggest event of the year.

Next month we start our collection of items for a local charity, this year we have decided to collect mainly thick socks for St Petrocs, however woolly hats gloves and scarves will also be included.

The WI generally meets in the Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. We are always pleased to see visitors and potential members, for further information please contact Mary Earp on 01872 501636.





Poppies in Veryan!

I am honestly overwhelmed by the reaction we have had to my appeal for knitted and crocheted poppies.

I have lost count but hope to have a total once they are arranged but I know it is approaching 2,000 and I have to thank everyone for their dedication and generosity. Amazing.

The hard work on design and display has started. The net for the lych gate is finished and other areas for inside the church and outside are in production. Most of it, at the moment, from my spare room which is a sea of red!

If anybody has spare long lengths of rope they may lend please let me know, they will be returned.

Lots of people have offered help, thank you, but the biggest job will be on Saturday 28th October. Anybody that can turn up and help on those days will be more than welcome!! I will be working on it during that week also.

Those dates are planned around the British legion launch dates. They start their collections on 21st October. **As importantly**, we will need lots of help for the take down on Monday 13th November immediately after Remembrance Sunday. (Sunday afternoon might also be possible in church.)

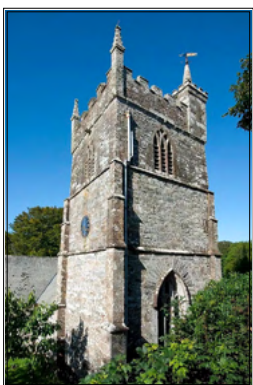
So, dates for your diary:

- Saturday 28th October – meet in church from 10am
- Sunday 12th November pm – meet in church after 2pm
- The Remembrance Service will be on Sunday morning, 10.50 am, and what a commemoration I hope that will be.
- Monday 13th November – meet in church from 10am

And now I have a confession. Because of an impending birth in our family I have had to move my annual holiday and won't be available for the take down. I do apologise. All we need is for the nets and ropes to be taken down and left behind the organ outside the bell chamber (or wherever the PCC prefer) and I will remove and store them, for next year hopefully, on my return.

Thank you, again.

-Nicola Bush



News from the Bell tower

Visiting ringers:

7th October. 9.30am for 45 minutes from the Midlands

7th October. 2.15pm for 1 hour from Lanivet



Veryan CE Primary School

September has flown by! The children returned to school full of excitement and quickly settled into their new classes and have stepped up to the expectations of being in a higher year group very quickly. We continue to be extremely proud of all our children at Veryan and feel very lucky to be able to work with such a wonderful group.

We continue to promote our school across the local area to encourage parents to come and visit us. If you would like to come and see what our lovely school can do for you call: 01872 501431

Veryan & District Autumn Show

After a 4 year break, the show was back with a bang! The weather held off long enough for visitors to enjoy music from the Aggy Band and a cup of tea (thank you to the WI!)

We had a good amount of entries, as expected after a 4 year hiatus! But as we walked around the hall there was lots of "Oh, I think I'll enter next year" to be heard.

It was wonderful to see quite a few entries into the children's categories, something that we can build upon over the coming years.

Thank you to everyone who took part in whatever capacity - whether you organised food, entries, set up, judging or exhibiting - together we can keep this village tradition going for years to come!



Roseland Fundraising Group invites you to a

BAKED POTATO LUNCH

at Veryan Parish Hall

THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER

12 for 12.15

£10 PER PERSON

Includes various fillings & a pudding.
Drinks available to purchase.

Tickets available from- Margaret 01872 501256 /
Phyllis 01326 270731 or Chris 01872 580220

There will be a raffle and stalls.

Scan here to donate!



Roseland Monthly Prayer Meeting



Prayer is such a vital element of our faith, a chance to praise, listen and place our concerns with our Lord. As we come together to form this new Benefice, we seek God's plan for the growth of the Kingdom across our churches and communities. Hence Douglas' suggestion of regular communal prayer.

This monthly prayer meeting is an opportunity to gather together within the Roseland Benefice, an opportunity to get to know one another better and an opportunity to listen and pray for local and benefice needs.

The session will begin with praise with music, then a bible passage leading into prayer for whatever God has placed on our hearts. The intention is each session will last for around one hour on one Thursday evening each month.

The plan is to run this in the Philleigh Community Centre at the same time online on Zoom so it is accessible to both those able to attend physically and virtually.

The Centre is available on Thursday evenings except the third Thursday of each month. If you would like to join us, please complete this questionnaire to indicate which week, time and mode of attendance would suit you best. Please do join even if you are only able to come occasionally.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QNWQ8V5>

Additionally Morning Prayer runs each week from St Mawes Parish Room on Tuesday mornings at 9.30, also available by attending physically or virtually on Zoom. If this is of interest, even if you are not free each week and wish to drop in occasionally, please contact Penny – revpennyil@gmail.com or 07778 170247

Any queries please do get in touch. We do hope you will feel called to join us.

Blessings

Kay Robinson, Douglas Wren and Penny Leach

A message from St Gerrans & Porthscatho OCS,

Members & Friends of St Gerrans & Porthscatho OCS,
We have a really great programme of talks and activities for this year. (see poster below)
Martin Brockman is a brilliant speaker and is returning to kick off our season again this year.
We start on Wednesday 11th October with a talk on the wreck of HMS Warspite at Prussia Cove.
(poster below)

It as been a busy Old Cornwall Summer with visits,
walks, and Gorsedh, but it will be great to see
everyone back on the 11th.

St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society



Kuntellewgh an brewyon eus gesys na vo kellys travyth
Gather up the fragments that are left that nothing be lost


2023-2024 Programme

Meetings 7:30pm second Wednesday Gerrans Memorial Hall, Portscatho TR2 5EE
Annual Subscription £10:00 Visitors very welcome (admission £2:50)

Saturday 7 th October 2023	Federation AGM at Lys Kernow (all OCS members welcome)
Wednesday 11 October 2023	AGM & Talk – HMS Warspite Martin Brockman
Saturday 21 st October 2023	FOCS Winter Festival Padstow
Wednesday 8 November 2023	Exploring Cornwall's Historic Landscape Peter Herring
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Cornish Wrestling Simon Margetts
Monday 18 December 2023	Cornish Carol Service – Featuring Carols from Padstow Truro Cathedral
Wednesday 10 January 2024	Coastline of St Agnes – Sets & Spells 1 Roger Radcliffe

Kowethas Kernow Geth - Serens ha Porthskathow


St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society



Kuntellewgh an brewyon eus gesys na vo kellys travyth
Gather up the fragments that are left that nothing be lost

HMS Warspite

by Martin Brockman



On 12th of April 1947 whilst being towed to ship breakers on the River Clyde HMS Warspite was wrecked on the rocks off Prussia Cove. This audio-visual experience will take you through the whole story.

Martin comes from a RNLI family, and is now part of the RNLI heritage and volunteer education team and is passionate about preserving stories of heroism off our rugged coast.

7:30pm Wednesday 11th October 2023

Wheelchair Friendly
Hearing Loop
Free Car Parking
Refreshments Available

Gerrans Parish Memorial Hall
Portscatho Truro TR2 5EE
Everyone Welcome
Members Free - Visitors £2.50

St Gerrans & Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society is affiliated to The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies. Registered Charity No: 247283

pg 9



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows

OCTOBER 2023					FALMOUTH			
HEIGHTS ABOVE CHART DATUM								
Date	High Water				Low Water			
	Morning		Afternoon		Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
1 SU	06 17	5.4	18 33	5.6	00 40	0.0	12 57	0.1
2 M	06 54	5.4	19 11	5.4	01 18	0.1	13 34	0.3
3 TU	07 28	5.2	19 45	5.1	01 52	0.4	14 07	0.5
4 W	08 00	5.0	20 16	4.7	02 24	0.8	14 41	1.0
5 TH	08 33	4.7	20 50	4.3	02 55	1.3	15 17	1.4
6 F	09 14	4.4	21 37	3.9	03 31	1.7	16 03	1.9
7 SA	10 11	4.0	22 53	3.6	04 22	2.1	17 12	2.2
8 SU	11 55	3.9			05 42	2.4	18 43	2.3
9 M	01 26	3.7	13 46	4.0	07 20	2.3	20 35	2.0
10 TU	02 25	4.0	14 40	4.4	08 51	2.0	21 25	1.6
11 W	03 09	4.3	15 22	4.7	09 39	1.6	22 03	1.2
12 TH	03 47	4.6	15 59	4.9	10 17	1.2	22 38	1.0
13 F	04 22	4.8	16 35	5.0	10 53	1.0	23 12	0.8
14 SA	04 57	5.0	17 09	5.1	11 26	0.9	23 43	0.6
15 SU	05 31	5.0	17 41	5.1	11 57	0.8		
16 M	06 02	5.0	18 12	5.1	00 11	0.7	12 25	0.8
17 TU	06 30	5.0	18 40	5.0	00 40	0.8	12 54	0.8
18 W	06 54	4.9	19 04	4.8	01 09	0.9	13 24	0.9
19 TH	07 17	4.8	19 28	4.7	01 39	1.0	13 56	1.1
20 F	07 49	4.7	20 11	4.4	02 12	1.2	14 33	1.3
21 SA	08 50	4.4	21 38	4.1	02 52	1.6	15 22	1.6
22 SU	10 18	4.2	23 12	3.9	03 50	1.9	16 41	1.9
23 M	11 46	4.2			05 26	2.1	18 33	1.9
24 TU	00 43	4.0	13 09	4.4	07 14	1.9	20 02	1.5
25 W	02 02	4.3	14 18	4.8	08 32	1.4	21 06	1.0
26 TH	02 59	4.7	15 12	5.1	09 31	1.0	21 59	0.6
27 F	03 45	5.0	15 59	5.3	10 22	0.6	22 47	0.4
28 SA	04 28	5.2	16 44	5.4	11 09	0.4	23 32	0.2
29 SU	05 09	5.3	17 26	5.4	11 52	0.3		
30 M	05 48	5.3	18 07	5.3	00 12	0.2	12 31	0.3
31 TU	06 24	5.3	18 44	5.1	00 50	0.4	13 08	0.4

Time Zone UT (GMT)

All times are G.M.T. for non-shaded areas add 1 hour

pg 9

A prayer for October
Dear Lord and Creator of all things,

In this fast-moving and high-tech world, help us to slow down – just occasionally – to notice the rhythms of Your creation; the beauty of the colours of autumn; the annual ritual of falling leaves and darkening evenings. All part of Your cycle of the year that we often take for granted.

And yet Lord, there is evidence of changes in our climate – extremes of temperature, droughts, floods and wildfires. There is evidence that our behaviour might be responsible for damaging Your world.

Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness and grace to us. We are sorry when we get things wrong. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us the way to be in a right relationship with You. Help us to put our trust in Him and as part of living Christian lives, to accept our responsibility for caring for the world You created.

In Jesus' name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching



✝ *All those who are away from home*

✝ *All those worried about their job security*

✝ *All those awaiting operations or recovering from operations*

✝ *All those who have lost loved ones*

✝ *All those working in the care industry*

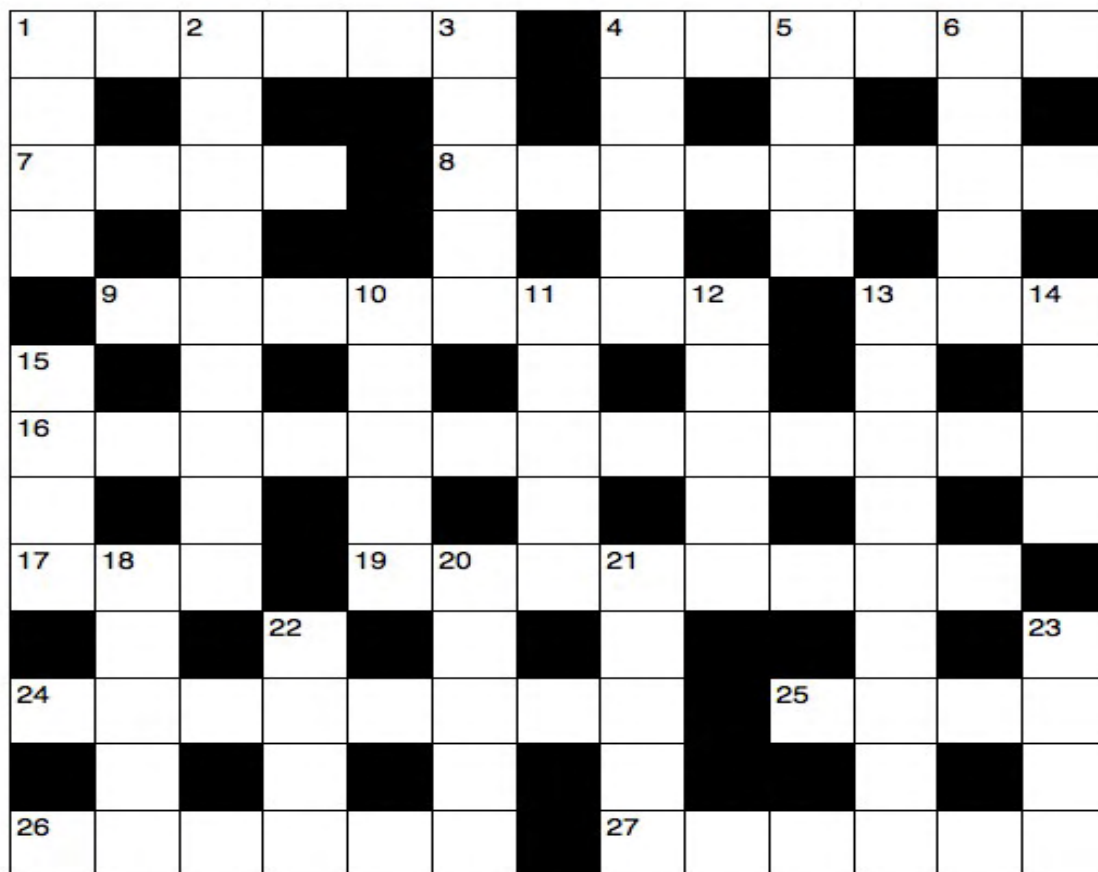
✝ *All those struggling to pay bills*

✝ *All those who are working for the armed forces*

✝ *All those who are suffering from war*

✝ *All those who work at food banks*

✝ *All those who are homeless after natural disasters*



Crossword Clues and Answers

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
 8 See 19 Across
 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Holy Days in October, a focus on..... St Francis of Assisi & Bible Sunday

4th October St Francis of Assisi – love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 – 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious – until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228. Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

Bible Sunday – 29th October

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words 'the most valuable thing that this world affords'. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('the word of God in the words of men') and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: 'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

{Articles from the Parish Pump}

As Halloween approaches...

Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway?

The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal! Thus, the idea of 'dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

So, what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: occultus, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day is promised us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have deeply disturbing after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

While the occult world is certainly there, we are wise not to imagine, as some do, that every sin we commit, every bad habit, illness or misfortune we meet is due directly to an attack on us by Satan himself, and that therefore we need to be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this regard by Christians who mean well but who are uninformed.

The kingdom of spirits is real, but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence) for "the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

If ever you are frightened by anything occult, remember some sound biblical advice: resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7). But remember, a Christian has no business dealing in anything occult. All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (eg Leviticus 19:31;20:6; 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19,20; Acts 19:18-20.)

The demonic world is very real, very powerful, but it is also already doomed and defeated. (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14,15). Why? Because the death of Jesus Christ has achieved this victory.

So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world, and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

{Articles from the Parish Pump}

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Answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

from The Parish Pump