

Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

February/March 2020



Look inside for details of special events in February and March as we look forward to Easter
There's something for everyone!

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Churchwardens

Following the retirement of Rev. David Thompson, the parish is in interregnum. Please contact the churchwardens for any issues relating to the parish, services or occasional offices. Alternatively, please phone or e-mail the Parish Office (see front cover for details)



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**There is a loop system available in church.
Please adjust your hearing aid to the relevant setting**





FaithTime by Jan Farrow

Rosie and I have bought Mopsy, our dog, two new interactive toys in an attempt to stimulate her brain. I was afraid

that during the winter she would become increasingly bored.

Mopsy is not one to go out in the rain and we seem to have had wall to wall rain for several weeks now. It certainly has stimulated her, she dances around the toys alternately barking excitedly and howling like a wolf, but she is frightened of touching them. Goodness knows what the neighbours must think.

Both the toys move when patted and emit some strange squeaks and noises as they roll along. It's not as if she doesn't like toys, she does; we have to play tug of war with her most evenings.

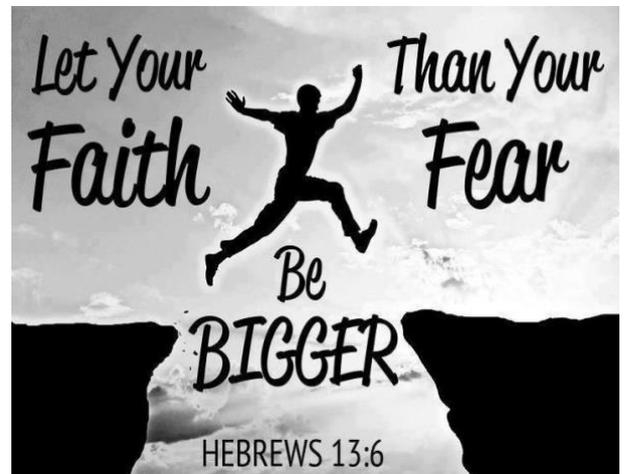
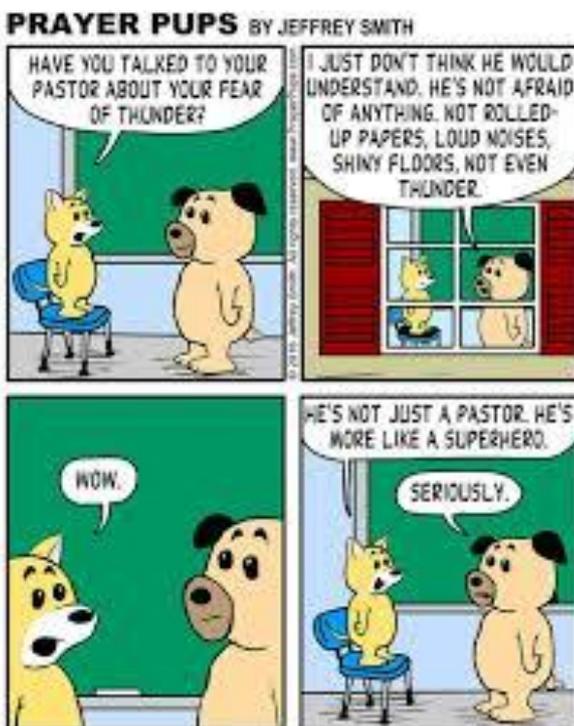
The television ads assured us our dog would love to play and engage with them, but so far all we have is a rather anxious frightened dog who wants to have a go but can't quite seem to get the hang of it. Do we take them away or keep trying? 'Face the fear and do it anyway?'

It has reminded me that we all feel fear from time to time. The Bible tells us 'do not be afraid' over 365 times; we have one verse for every day of the year.

If we are not vigilant, we can allow fear, worry and anxiety to take over in our lives. We need to keep telling ourselves that God is in control, even when it doesn't feel like it. Feelings are most unreliable at the best of times.

We all know the power of words; the teacher who told us we couldn't sing and never would - I seem to have spent a lifetime coming against that one! Yes, there is power in words.

We fear for our families, for our financial future, for our safety; the list can go on and on. The reality is, as I know to my cost, we can spend lots of time being worried and afraid over things that never come to pass.



The greatest power is in God's word:-

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4 v 6-7

Special events for Lent and advance notices for Easter

We all live with life under pressure - it's nothing new - so why not come and hear what the Bible has to say about it?

The Runaways - coping with pressure in life

- March 2nd Fleeing Temptation (Genesis 39)
- March 9th Fleeing Difficult Relationships (1 Sam 19)
- March 16th Fleeing in Despair (1 Kings 19)
- March 23rd Fleeing God's Calling (Jonah 1)
- March 30th Fleeing Our Past (John 4)
- April 6th Fleeing Disappointment (John 21)



Jubilee Room on Monday evenings from 7.30-9pm - with coffee/tea at 7.15

Led by Rev Paul Harris

Would you like to come to a Lent Lunch?

Lunches are a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese ... and sometimes cake.

They are held in people's homes and give an opportunity to support various charities by donation. Most Fridays in Lent starting 6 March - look out for details

Everyone is welcome



SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 5 April | Palm Sunday |
| 10.00am | All Age Service |
| 9 April | Maundy Thursday |
| 7.30pm | Holy Communion
(with foot washing) |
| 10 April | Good Friday |
| 10.00am | Family Reflection followed by
Hot Cross Buns and Coffee |
| 12 April | Easter Sunday |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion |



‘Diary’ of an LLM trainee *by Julie Renton*

It is very fashionable these days for companies to have a ‘Mission Statement’. Puzzled about what a mission statement is? Well, here are some examples from a few well-known companies:

‘To create value for customers to earn their lifetime loyalty.’ - Tesco

“To refresh the world...To inspire moments of optimism and happiness.” – Coca Cola

“To enrich people’s lives with programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain.” – BBC

I will leave you to decide whether you think these companies are fulfilling their stated missions or not.

What do you think Jesus’ mission statement might have been for His work on earth? Maybe (as suggested in our course material) it would have been:

‘I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.’ John 10:10

This term in my training we’re studying ‘Mission and Evangelism’. Do you think these are something that you could or should be involved in, or are they things that only the leadership of the church should do? Perhaps when you think of evangelism you think of someone like Billy Graham?

As the church, the body of Christ on earth, we are called by God to take part in His mission, which is to bring salvation to the whole of creation. We can do this by spreading the good news about Jesus in ways that people can understand. You don’t have to be a famous evangelist to do that. Every week in church we make a statement about what we believe when we say the Creed – that Jesus, God’s Son, died for our sins and was raised from the dead. Now with God in heaven, He offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who repent and believe. When you have the opportunity, simply tell your friends this.

From the editors

This is our 25th edition of Epiphany News in its current format. We hope you enjoy it and wonder if you have noticed our cover designs? Over the past three years, all but a few of the covers have featured seasonal photographs taken locally. Among them you might have recognised the beautiful field of wild flowers adjacent to The Barn at Stour Valley, the River Stour ‘beach’ during flooding, Christchurch Harbour, the old railway line near Ringwood, sunset from Milford-on-Sea and the view from Swanage beach towards the Isle of Wight. And, of course, the cover on this edition is instantly recognisable as Corfe Castle.

Let’s give thanks that we are blessed to live in such a beautiful area. Next time you’re out and about in the countryside, or just in your garden if you have one, open your eyes to the wonder of God’s creation and be thankful, not just for all that He has made, but also because He loves you.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?**

LORD, our LORD, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8 v 3 - 4, 9

This magazine is free; a donation of at least £1.20 a copy helps to offset the costs of printing. Contributions by **10 March** please, for the next edition, to be published on 29 March.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editors or the ministry team. Editors reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition. Mary Hogg and Julie Renton

What's happening at Epiphany in February and March?

 <p>Church Services</p>	<p>1st Sunday 9.00am 10.00am</p> <p>2nd Sunday 10.00am</p> <p>3rd Sunday 9.45am 3.00pm</p> <p>4th Sunday 10.00am</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 26 February 7.30pm</p> <p>4th Sunday 10.00am</p> <p>5th Sunday 10.00am</p> <p>Wednesday 12.15pm</p> <p>2 February and 1 March Breakfast @ 9 – Especially for families with young children Coffee followed by a short, informal Family Service</p> <p>9 February and 8 March Holy Communion (sung) with Roots for Children and Crèche</p> <p>16 February and 15 March Café 46 Messy Church in the Church</p> <p>23 February Holy Communion (sung) with Roots for Children and Crèche</p> <p>26 February Holy Communion with Rev Paul Harris</p> <p>22 March – Mothering Sunday Informal All Age Service</p> <p>29 March Holy Communion (sung) with Roots for Children and Crèche</p> <p>19 February and 18 March Holy Communion (said) led on 19 Feb by Rev Roy Matthews and on 18 March by Rev Paul Harris</p>
	<p>Home Groups – friendly groups who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word and pray. New members welcome. Please talk to Jan Farrow for dates and venues.</p>
<p>PRAYER <i>changes things</i></p>	<p>Prayer Meetings in the Jubilee Room – all are welcome. Saturday evenings 6 – 7pm – Coffee and prayer on 1 February and 29 February Tuesday afternoons 2 – 3pm on 11 and 25 February; 10 and 24 March</p>
	<p>Epiphany Bright Stars – parent/carer and toddler group on Tuesday mornings in term-time at 9.30am in the church and Jubilee Room. Closed for half term on Tuesday 18 February. Contact Jodie Burge on 01202 776270</p>
	<p>Messy Church – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal. Lots of craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea. 3rd Sunday of the month. Next meetings are on 16 February and 15 March, 3.00 – 5.00pm in the church. Contact Andy on 07484 203076</p>
	<p>Men's Breakfast – The next meetings are on 22 February at St Paul's, Throop when the speaker is Rev David Wilson from SAT7 a charity working in the Middle East and 28 March at Holy Epiphany when the speaker is Dave Pegg, a schools' evangelist with PACE. All men welcome, so why not come and join us? Full English breakfast served at 8.00am. For catering purposes please let Andy Renton know if you plan to attend. Contact Andy on 07484 203076 or andy.renton56@gmail.com.</p>

	<p>Muscliff Care Home: – monthly on Mondays at 2.30pm 10 February 9 March</p>	
	<p>Epiphany Pre school meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during term-time from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Please check dates with the pre-school staff. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>	
	<p>Tea Cosy – tea, coffee and chat from 9.45 - 11.30am. Meetings continue during half term</p>	 <p>Choir practice - please contact Susan Bright for up to date information.</p>
	<p>Lunch Club – coffee at 10.30am followed by games and social time. Lunch is served at 1.00pm and is prepared by ‘Crumbs’. A 2-course meal costs £4 and (pre-booked) menu choices are available. There is a short service of Holy Communion at midday once a month. Enquiries to 01202 516712</p>	
	<p>Pie and a Pint – an opportunity for men to chat and ‘put the world to rights’. 7.00pm Wetherspoon’s in Winton. Next meetings are Tuesday 25 February and Wednesday 25 March. Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome, no need to book.</p>	
	<p>Hymns and Cake – Join in with some favourite hymns, learn a little about them and afterwards enjoy tea and cake. The next meeting will be on 21 February at 2.30pm in the Jubilee Room and the theme will be ‘Lent’. There will not be a meeting in March but you are welcome to attend one of the Lent Lunches instead (see separate ad). Contact Joanne Davis on 07906355271.</p>	
	<p>Beavers Jacqui Elena jacqui.elena15@gmail.com Cubs Jan Kingsland 01202 517627 Scouts Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>	 <p>Brownies Sam Pattermore 07930 581851 Guides and Rainbows Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>

Communion Services in February and March 2020

All our Sunday Communion services during February and March will be led by Rev Paul Harris

Holy Epiphany Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Advance notice: this will be held on Wednesday 29 April at 7pm
in the Jubilee Room**

PCC members may only serve two consecutive terms (a total of 6 years) before standing down. This means that there will be vacancies on the PCC and deanery synod from the date of the APCM.

Do please consider whether this is something to which God might be calling you.

Please speak to one of the Churchwardens for more information.

Everyone is welcome to attend the APCM but you must be on the Electoral Roll in order to stand for PCC membership or to vote at the meeting.

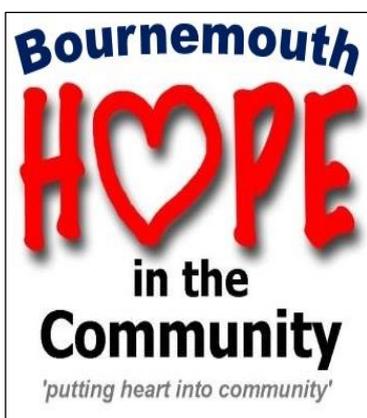
Christingle – supporting the Church of England Children’s Society



It was lovely to see so many families at our Christmas Eve Christingle service. Look closely at the Christingle on the left and you will see that one of the cocktail sticks is empty. This year we left one stick without sweets to remind ourselves that not everyone has enough. It reminds us of the work done by the Children’s Society with children who live in poverty and neglect. This year our Christingle service raised just over £165. Thank you to everyone who supported this valuable work.

Hope for Food and Hope in the Community *from Roy Clayton*

Hope for Food is a local charity and is one of the three charities supported by your donations at coffee time. Recently I was able to deliver a donation on your behalf. Founded in 2012 by Claire Matthews, its mission is to assist men, women and children in Bournemouth and the surrounding areas, who are either homeless or living in poverty; it is entirely run by volunteers. They run five soup kitchens each week in Bournemouth, providing food for homeless people. They also provide food parcels for up to six weeks to local families in need. Last month they fed 1200 people, providing 500 cups of tea and 1200 sandwiches, cups of soup and hot meals.



Our church is fortunate to have a lunch club and community activities but one in 10 of the over 75s say they feel "intensely lonely all of the time." So, what can we do to help people in Bournemouth? Well, there is an initiative known as **Hope in the Community Bournemouth** and their objective is to combine the resources, compassion and localness of the churches that are in every community to re-connect 1,000 older people so that we stop the increase in loneliness in our town.

Today I spoke to Tess Champion, the Hope in the Community coordinator and I am pleased to say that our church donation is on its way to help them with this important work.

Parish Registers from December and January

Weddings – we offer our congratulations and prayers for their future happiness to:

24 January - Jessica Ellen Sidwick and Nathan Peter David Saxby



Funerals – we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

9 January – Suzanne Gunner



We also note the funeral of *Dora Nippard* (also known as *Helen*) which took place at Bournemouth Crematorium on 24 January. Dora will be remembered by those with a long association with Holy Epiphany. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Love Poured Out – a reflection for Lent *by Marion Richards*

“I am the way, and the truth and the life” (John 6 verse 14)

Who is this Jesus? Son of God, Son of man
From cradle to Cross this Saviour mine.
Who is this carpenter Nazarene
Who burst upon the earthly scene?
Gentle Jesus meek and mild
Friend of sinners - adult and child.

Who is this crucified Servant King
Of whom the angel voices sing?
Suffered death yet rose again –
Took away death’s sting of pain
Whipped and scourged, poured out his blood
Humbled himself for the common good.
Who is this Messiah, Prince of Peace?
Born to die for my release.

Oh! What elation: Gospel TRUTH is revealed:
Christ died for all sinners
And by his wounds we are healed,
Redeemed by his blood, reconciled, saved
And by the power of his Spirit
a new WAY is paved
For hearts to be opened and in faith to receive
God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and in him believe.
Love is the key to unlock a closed heart –
At the turn of the key Kingdom LIFE truly starts:
No greater expression of love can there be
Than God’s love poured out
on the Good Friday Tree.



LENT

Pray around the Psalms – *A psalm for when we are feeling low*



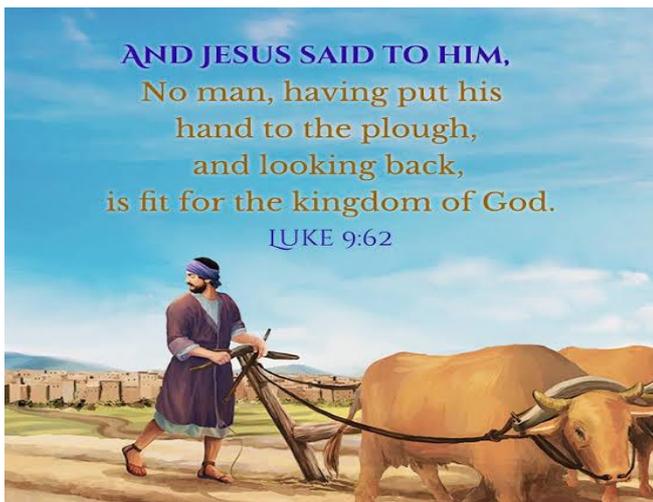
***“Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.”***

This verse is repeated twice in Psalm 42 and, because the two are really one Psalm, again in Psalm 43. The writer isn't King David this time, but a musician, who is a long way from his home in Jerusalem and is troubled by being far away from God and mocked by unbelievers.

For much of the Psalm he pours out how awful he feels in prayer to God. However we are feeling it is always best to be honest with God. But then the writer stops and tells himself to put his hope - his trust, in God. He has known God's love and care in the past and God has not changed. We do not cease to be God's children because we feel far away from Him, but we do need to remind ourselves of who our Saviour is and that it is His death for us that gives us a relationship with God that does not depend on how we feel.

**You can pray by yourself or you might like to join us when we pray together.
(For dates and times, please see the centre pages of the magazine)
Don't worry, you don't have to pray out loud if you don't want to.**

New Beginnings



We are already into another new year; what has changed? Are we looking back to what has gone before? Do we have great expectations or concerns about 2020?

We may find the verse from Luke's Gospel in the picture above a little harsh to begin with. In the previous verses, people who wanted to follow Jesus talked about things they wanted to do before totally committing themselves to following Him. We could say that the one who wanted to bury his Father first and the other who just wanted to say goodbye to his family were right. But the analogy Jesus uses about ploughing makes His meaning clear. In Jesus' day the plough was pulled by very strong heavy oxen; you really needed to hold on tight. If you looked back your hold weakened, you had less strength to go forward and making straight lines for sowing the crop and later harvesting it would be impossible.

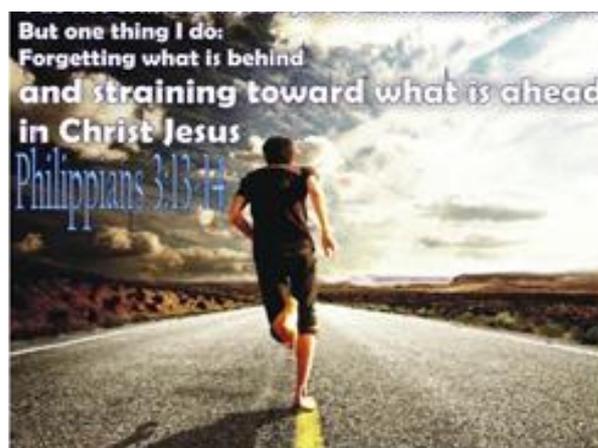
The point Jesus is making is that we need to look forward into the future not back into the past. If we truly want to follow Him in our lives, we need to move forward. We may have things from our past that hold onto us - regrets, hardships or unhealthy relationships - or it could be we are holding on to past successes. Our past (both regrets and successes) should help us to learn and grow, but it's no good continuing to live in the past with them, they can become chains that stop us developing and growing in Christ.

Our strength for the future comes from holding on tight to Jesus so we go forward in the right direction, not looking behind. Jesus says that if we are looking back, we are no good to Him.

God says, *"For I'm going to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Don't you see it? I will make a road through the wilderness of the world for my people to go home, and create rivers for them in the desert!"* (Isaiah 43:19 TLB). Initially this was a message to the Israelite nation. Now our encouragement comes through the person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit living in us. Whilst the past was for our benefit, He is making all things new, so we are not entering into a wilderness of uncertainty but into rivers of new life.

St Paul says, *"But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus"*. (Philippians 3:13-14 NIV). Paul gave so much to the work of Jesus Christ in setting up churches and spreading the gospel message, yet his past was one of persecuting Christians. If he had kept looking back at the person he had been, he would have been no good working for God's Kingdom. Paul was focused on going forward; he didn't always find it easy but he continued towards the goal; the goal of sharing God's glory through Jesus Christ and the goal of eternity. As we go forward through 2020, let's put our hand into His - Jesus is secure and strong and faithful.

Lynley Wilkes



Roy Clayton - interviewed by Jan Farrow

Roy, thank you for agreeing to this interview. I see you mostly in choir so I know you enjoy singing but tell me a little about your early years.

I was born and bred in Hull, there were five of us children and I was in the middle. My mother was a teacher, my father a bus driver. Money was tight. In the early days we couldn't afford holidays. Eventually my parents bought a caravan on the East coast and I had fun beachcombing and searching a local bombing range.

Well I guess boys will be boys. It sounds as if you had good parents.

Yes, my parents were always deeply in love; they cultivated my interest in cultures and values.

Did you have any church background, Roy?

I attended a Church of England Sunday School; we all did until we eventually rebelled as teenagers. As a family we would sometimes go to occasional church services.

How about school, Roy?

I was no great fan of school, I left at 16 and started an apprenticeship. As part of that I went to technical college on day release. I didn't miss a single class in two years. I came out with an ONC in Mechanical Engineering and a much happier and more mature attitude to study.

After that I did a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Brunel University. I found it all very different living in London. I ended up doing a Masters in Industrial Robotics at Cranfield Institute of Technology.



This is all getting well out of my league now, Roy. Can you steer me back please onto safer ground....

At 24 I started going back to church in Bedford, to a Methodist church and I read the book Pilgrim's Progress. This book had a profound effect on me, it was written by John Bunyan whilst in Bedford Gaol in 1660-72. At the time I reflected how technology has come on in leaps and bounds but the human condition has hardly changed.

How do you come to be in the south, Roy?

In 1989 my company moved to Bournemouth; that's when I met my wife, Libby. We have 3 sons, Oliver, Alex and Benjamin; we still have a strong relationship even though they've all grown and flown. I can't say I went to church when they were growing up, but later on I started going to Winton Methodist Church.

Roy, I understand you have enjoyed many activities and I believe you even competed for a place on the Juno space programme?

Yes, Helen Sharman won the Juno place to become the first Brit in space in May 1991. I have enjoyed a wide variety of activities including flying and horse riding. I developed a love of sport at university and I run and cycle every week. I love

reading and am very fond of history. I read the Bible from cover to cover, I have experienced life on a Kibbutz, I do music theory with you, but I wanted to sing which is how I ended up in Epiphany choir. I persisted with the singing; Sue believes everyone can sing.

So do I. I understand you recently graduated from Moorlands College with an MA in Applied Theology.

Yes, after visiting Kuwait in 2014 I returned feeling that I was living in a social bubble and needed to engage with society. I wanted to do a theology degree, and Alan Hogg suggested Moorlands. It was a difficult interview; I didn't seem to meet the usual criteria, but I made it through. I was the only businessman on the course. I do feel comfortable with my theology now.

What's important to you now, Roy?

Family - my sons and friends. I don't need stuff, as a society we seem to value individual rights and comfort above all else; we have become obsessed with stuff. I believe community is really important, love is important and God is the well-spring of Love. Faith, hope and love drive me. I aspire to work with God although I am always surprised that God is the slightest bit interested in me. Life is a journey and we move forward one step at a time. My faith gives me direction. When I pray, I pray that God will give me the wisdom to listen to him.

Roy, thank you for all you have shared with us. I pray that God will lead you ever closer to Him day by day.

Stories

Games

Let Jesus tell us a story. . .



Craft

Tea

Parables are short stories Jesus told the crowds of people who came to listen to him - and they are stories with extra meaning. People who had seen Jesus showing God's power over nature, healing sick people and bringing dead people back to life needed to know more about what God and the Kingdom Jesus talked about were really like and what being one of Jesus' friends would mean.

So, Jesus made up everyday stories to tell people about God's love and forgiveness. We can read them in Matthew, Luke and Mark's gospels - about people sowing seeds, finding treasure, losing sheep, coins and sons, building houses, going to weddings, owing money – and much more. Often there is a surprise in the stories and we can learn as much from them now as those who first heard them.

The Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10 is one of the best-known parables and was our theme in January's Messy Church. 'Who is my neighbour?' a man asked - and he would have been shocked at the story Jesus told. He would not think that a man from Samaria would be the only person to act kindly when he came across someone who had been mugged on the road. Jesus says that if we are part of the Kingdom of God, we are not only to be kind to the people who are our friends.

Hear more about Jesus and the parables He told - in Messy Church - from 3-5pm in the church

16 February: The Mustard Seed

15 March: The wise and Foolish Builders

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

All these words come from the stories Jesus told.

Can you find them in the wordsearch?

BUILDERS
COIN
MUSTARD
PEARL
SAMARITAN
SHEEP
SON
SOWER
TREASURE
WEDDING



Mothering Sunday 22nd March

Everyone is welcome at our informal Family Service at 10.00am

Come and join us in giving thanks for our mothers

and for those who are like mothers to us