

Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

October/November 2021



*“But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy,
peace, forbearance, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control.*

*Against such things
there is no law.”*

Galatians 5 :22-23

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

From the Editor

This magazine is available in printed form and online.

Contributions are welcome by 10 November please, for the December/January edition, to be published on 28 November. Please consider donating towards the cost of publication.

*Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editor or the ministry team.
We reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition. Mary Hogg, Editor*



A letter from Mark Payne

I wonder if you have had a moment in your life when you thought, 'I'm experiencing something new and special here...'

A friend's son has recently married and at the rehearsal the evening before the wedding he was so overcome with joy and emotion that he couldn't speak - tears just flowed. The following day he regained his voice and was able to affirm his love for his bride with clarity. The significance of the occasion was not lost on this young man. A whole new world was opening up to him. Everything was going to be different.

Our own life-changing experiences may be a good recovery from a long and difficult illness - or the pain of a bereavement. It's during such times



that we can look to the scriptures. Psalm 121 says, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."* This is the

language of one looking to the hills of Jerusalem, to the seat of the worship of God, to the place of His abode, as his refuge and only source of help.

Here is confidence and hope in the Lord Almighty, the Creator of the universe. Our help comes from him. There's an acknowledgement that despite all our cleverness, ambition and creativity, God is the Lord of all. Verse 11 says, *"The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."*

This is the Lord whom the writer of this Psalm worships. God is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow, a constant in a changing world. It's a very comforting Psalm for the believer. As we get older, we feel more vulnerable to the uncertainties of life. Jesus assured his disciples that God has a plan for them and us and that our future is secure with him. *"I am going to prepare a place for you"* he said in John 14. The good news story of God's love and grace towards the human race provides hope for our eternal future.

In one of our Sunday morning Bible readings, we will hear from the book of Revelation. In it the apostle John provides a vision as to what our eternal future may look like. He gives his readers some understanding of God's ultimate purposes for his creation. John shares the vision given to him – that the tyrannical acts of humankind will be overthrown through the victorious return of Jesus the Messiah.

John saw a *'new heaven and a new earth'* and in Revelation 21 he describes a wedding scene with



"The holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride dressed for her husband." At this

wonderful moment of union between God the Creator and

us, his created beings, death and mourning and pain will be removed and the Lord on his throne declares that all things are being made new. The enormity of God's future provision for us is a whole new world that we as his *children* should be excited about. Yes, everything really is going to be different from here on in! Until that glorious day we are called to trust him and be faithful to him.

In 563 AD an Irish monk, St. Columba, arrived on the sandy beaches of Iona with 12 followers, built his first Celtic church and established a monastic community. Here is a prayer he wrote about the journey of life. *'Christ With Us My Dearest Lord, Be Thou a bright flame before me, Be Thou a guiding star above me, Be Thou a smooth path beneath me, Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me, Today and evermore. Amen'*

Let's keep looking up to those *'hills from whence cometh our help.'*

With God's blessing, Mark



Harvest - by Joanne Davis

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease". (Genesis 8 v 22)

Harvest is, and always has been, part of our lives here on earth.
It is a time of gathering in crops, celebrating and giving thanks.

The most famous Harvest hymn is "We Plough the Fields and Scatter". In 1777, Matthias Claudius, the German author of this hymn, had become ill and returned to Christianity after leaving the faith in his 20's. During his illness he wrote several poems. In 1782, a friend invited him over for dinner and asked him to bring one of the Christian poems he had written. Claudius wrote "We Plough the Fields and Scatter", based on Psalm 144, with 17 verses. Thankfully we only have 3 verses in the version translated into English by Jane Montgomery Campbell in 1862.

***We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.***

***All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.***

***He only is the maker of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.***

***We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, and food;
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,
And what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.***

Verse one reminds us that we may sow the seed, but God feeds and waters it. Then in verse two we see that God is the creator and ruler of all, and that he provides for us. And finally, at the end of verse three, we learn that whatever gifts of thanks we offer to God, the gift that he most desires from us is a humble, thankful heart.

*Lord, we thank you for walking with us through all the seasons of our lives. For the winter when we are held safe in your arms through the darkness. For the hope of spring as we are filled with new promise and life. For summertime, full of warmth and colour. And for autumn days when the leaves fall, and we see the seeds that will next year lead to new growth.
May God bless you all this Harvest time. Amen*





*The Father Almighty,
Source of all light: He
shows us ourselves
as he knows us to be –
never free from all pain
as, again and again,
we fall into the sin
which the voices within
say is 'naughty but nice',
though the price is the night!
Thus our sin-blinded sight
bids us question the might
or the rightness of
Father Almighty.*

The Father Almighty

I have suggested that there is no cast-iron argument for, or against, the existence of God. It is fashionable for comedians to dismiss the God Hypothesis with a shallow one-liner, and I guess my first poem (*in our August-September issue*) affirmed his existence with a similarly flippant affirmation.

With the second poem I move into more substantive disputation. I suggest that one reason that leads people to reject the God Stuff is that they want to free themselves from any lifestyle restrictions which come with acknowledging an authority higher than oneself.

Of course, there have been representations of God in different ages which allowed people to choose the lifestyle of their choice – bullying, bloodthirsty, hedonistic, exploitative, selfish, amoral Gods for bullying, bloodthirsty, hedonistic, exploitative, selfish, amoral followers – and their victims!

But the God revealed in Jesus Christ is not like that. Jesus said, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father. And of all the characteristics listed in the paragraph above, the only box he ticks is 'victim'.

If we wanted to make a list for the God revealed in Jesus, the biggest word we would have to include would be 'love'. God is love and therefore the worshippers of God are expected to love God, love their neighbours, and love one another.

I think we all find that incredibly challenging, and at some deep level, where the image of God maintains the struggle to survive, we find it incredibly attractive.

Epiphany Greeting Cards – a craft opportunity

Trevor Witts writes: -

You may remember that my late wife Ann recycled Greeting Cards, making them fit for resale in Church, with sale proceeds going to Church funds (for which Richard, our Treasurer, was always grateful!)

Is there anyone out there prepared to pick up where Ann left off? I have a substantial stock of just about everything needed to start production again in time to fill the display stand for Christmas. Please feel free to talk to me in Church or 'phone me on 01202 520714 or email on trevor.witts@tiscali.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you!

What's happening now in Holy Epiphany – **new information is in red**

**10.00am
Sunday**



**services
here**



**Worship and Praise
Services
and
Holy Communion**

We are pleased to welcome local church ministers to lead our services. Rev David Thompson, Rev Dr Paul Collins and Rev Robin Harger will take Communion services on 2nd and 4th Sundays in October and November. Rev Nick Hiscocks will lead our Harvest service on October 3rd during which we will welcome the new Head of Epiphany School. Remembrance Sunday is on 14th November.



Home Group – a friendly group who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word and pray. We are meeting on alternate Thursdays in the Jubilee Room, from 10.30 - 11.30am and studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. Please contact Alan or Mary Hogg on 01202 511759 if you would like to join.

PRAYER
changes things

Prayer Meetings are taking place weekly, via Zoom, mostly on Wednesdays from 6 – 6.40pm. All are welcome. Contact Mark Vincent, Joanne Davis, or Alan Hogg for details of how to join.



Epiphany Bright Stars – our parent/carer and toddler group re-started on 21st September on **Tuesday afternoons in term-time from 1.30 – 3.00pm** in the church. A booking system is in place, please email Epiphanybrightstars@gmail.com if you wish to attend. All adults are asked to take a **lateral flow test** within 24 hours of coming to the group. At the moment we will not be offering refreshments so please bring your own drink. Cost is £1 per family. Contact Jodie Burge on 01202 776270.

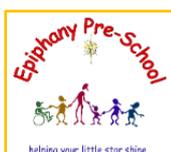


Messy Church – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal. Games, craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea. Usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month - 3.00 – 5.00pm in the church. **Meetings are still on hold:** contact Mary Hogg on 01202 511759

For a Remembrance Day-based Messy Church at home - Google [Messy Remembrance at home \(messychurch.org.uk\)](https://www.messychurch.org.uk)



Muscliff Care Home Service: – monthly on Mondays at 2.30pm
Monthly visits are still happening via Zoom.



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>Tea Cosy – Meetings are still on hold.</p>	
<p>All are welcome</p>	<p>Wednesday Coffee Mornings Weekly from 10.30am – 12.00 noon starting on 6th October. Coffee and Games. Come along and enjoy a time of fellowship - play some games, do a jigsaw or other activities, or just chat and off-load. Everyone, and all ages are welcome. Wednesday Lunches are still on hold.</p>	 <p>Choir practice - please contact Susan Bright for up-to-date information.</p>
	<p>Coffee and Cake at The Barn – an opportunity for anyone from Epiphany to chat and ‘put the world to rights’. While the weather is still warm, just come along on Wednesday mornings from 10.00 – 11.00am to Kingfisher Barn, Granby Road, Muscliffe Lane, Bournemouth BH9 3NZ.</p>	
	<p>Hymns and Cake – Join in with some favourite hymns, learn a little about them and afterwards enjoy tea and cake. Meetings will be arranged when it is possible. Contact Joanne Davis on 07906 355271.</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>

**Harvest Festival and Welcome Service for the new Head of Epiphany School
 October 3rd at 10.00am**

*Please bring food in tins or packets – and please check they are still in date
 They will be used by the Salvation Army Foodbank*



The Church of England’s ‘Daily Hope’ phone line
 If you have no access to the Internet, you can listen free, each day, to a hymn with an encouraging talk and a prayer, lasting about 20 minutes.
Telephone number 0800 804 8044

Friendship line 01202 022987

If you're feeling lonely, or just a bit out of sorts, then give the PramaLife friendship line a call. They have a team of volunteers who would love to chat with you. All volunteers are local people, who will be happy to listen, or talk about whatever is on your mind.

“By their fruit you will know them” – by Marion Richards (Matt 7:16)

“THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL...” (Galatians 5:22-23)

The Joy of the Lord
Is the secret of Happiness;
The Strength of the Lord
Is the Might of his Word
The Hope of the Lord
Is Faithful Salvation;
The Love of the Lord:
Poured out on all Nations

The Fruit of God’s Spirit
Is Peace everlasting;
God’s Merciful Goodness,
Abundant Life bringing
Patient Endurance
In Anger’s Temptation,
Kindness and Gentleness
His Balm for the Soul



His Goodness, His Faithfulness
His Mercy, His Grace
Abound in his Blessings
For enriched human race;
In Christ, our Salvation,
Redeemer and Friend
Forever remaining
In our life without end.



Parish Registers from August and September

Baptisms

We welcome into the church family:

15 August

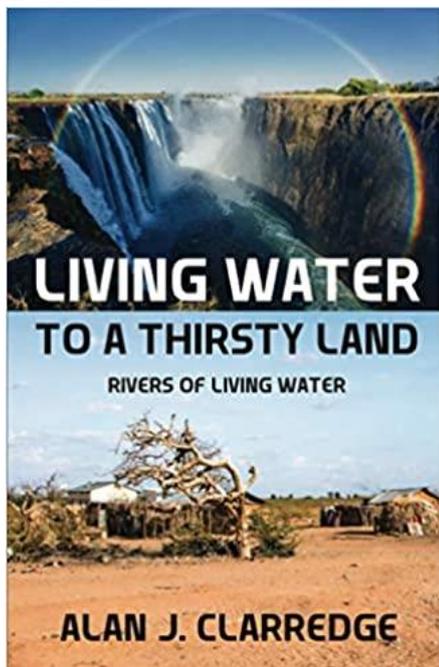
Nancy Rae Dillon

22 August

Jacob Alijah Miller



Living Water to a Thirsty Land – a book review



“When a Dorset plumber is chosen by God, moves to the other side of the world, and turns his life upside to serve Him in two African countries - Mozambique during their civil war, and the newly independent Zimbabwe – the results make for captivating reading.

In this compelling memoir, the author recounts his time working as a medical technologist in Zimbabwe when he became embroiled in a life and death mission - to meet the needs of the thirsty and starving people of Beira. He realised their dire situation when he saw long queues of hospital patients with coca cola cans attempting to get water from a small, single dripping tap, which came straight from the Indian ocean. Up to two thousand people were dying every week because of starvation and water-borne diseases such as cholera. The situation was simply heart-breaking...”

This book by a local author, who some of us know, is privately published and on sale in Keith Jones' Bookshop – see Mary Hogg if you would like it.

Alan J Clarredge is a retired Minister in the United Reformed Church and is married to Lilian, with 2 children and 4 grandchildren. Having trained as a medical water technologist, Alan spent time in Zimbabwe and many other countries developing water filtration and purification. He still travels to Zimbabwe each year with the charity 'Rivers of Living Water' restoring pure water across the country where cholera and other diseases are prevalent. He also distributes medicines and blankets to hospitals and orphanages throughout the country.

Praying with St Paul – Colossians 1:9-10



“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...”

It's the year 60 AD and Paul is in prison in Rome. His letters to the Christians in Ephesus and in Philippi were also written from there and the first thing we notice is that he doesn't begin by complaining about his situation. In fact, Paul begins by giving thanks and praise to God for the faith of these Christians, who he has heard about, but never met, who live in Colossae, a market town in the centre of present-day Turkey.

As we saw in the last magazine, when he was writing to the Philippians, Paul again prays for 'fruit in every good work' in the lives of these Christians. He says this comes from growing in the knowledge of God's will, with wisdom and understanding. How do we grow? Daily Bible reading is a real help and if you would like quarterly Bible notes to start you off, please get in touch with Mary Hogg, who can order them for you.

All are welcome to join as we meet for prayer by Zoom. Please get in touch with one of our pastoral volunteers, Mark V or Joanne, if you have a prayer request. Contact details are on the first page.

MAF: Mission Aviation Fellowship – by Tony and Marion Ingleby

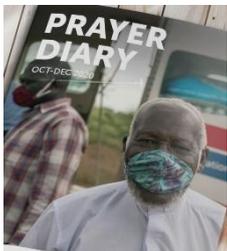


What links the UK, the USA, Australia, South Sudan, East Timor, Nicaragua, Honduras,

Guatemala, Kenya, Madagascar, Liberia, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Canada, Haiti and Arnhem Land?

What links hurricanes, family abandonment, poverty, grief, drought, Covid-19, food shortage, remoteness, isolation, vulnerability, frustration with paperwork and permissions, gospel hunger, modelling gospel attitudes, diversity, atrocities, preventable disease, deforestation, and reforestation?

What links places of plenty and places of need, faith communities and communities that have never heard about God's love for them?



What links all the above? All of them, and a great deal more, were in the MAF Prayer Diary for July to September.

MAF is the Mission Aviation Fellowship and has been

sharing the love of God globally for more than 75 years.

Marion and Tony Ingleby first heard of MAF when Mike and Joanna Riley (a young couple who had both grown up and come to faith in the church where Tony served as a Curate) went to serve with MAF. Mike had spent his spare time training as a pilot.



In a world that seems to have been shrunk and overconnected by Jumbo Jets and electronic communications, there are still places of isolation. There's a need for the small aircraft used by MAF to get people and essential supplies to and from the remotest places.



MAF is supported by individuals and churches so that the poverty of the remote area does not leave them devastated by each disaster and does not leave them without

knowledge of the love of God for them. They are not hidden from God, and He sent his Son because he loved them as much as he loves those with power, connections and influence.

MAF IN NUMBERS

IN 2019, WE FLEW

409 passengers a day - enough to fill 5 double decker buses



7,000,000

kilometres - that's more than 180 times around the equator!

5,000,000

kg of freight - that's like transporting 50 Blue Whales!



2000+

organisations - education to health, evangelism to disaster response

in 26

different countries around the world



Find out more about MAF and how to pray for them on www.maf-uk.org/pray.



Bible Thought – from Nick Hiscocks.

What does 'home' conjure up for you? A particular place – from childhood. Warm sitting room. With particular people – your nearest and dearest. Perhaps doing particular things – playing a family game, eating cake, watching television.

'There's no place like home' was originally a line from the Wizard of Oz. Dorothy longs to be back on the farm. She just wants to go home.

Perhaps you relate to times of homesickness. Because home is where we should be, where we belong, where we feel safe and relaxed and at ease. Nothing is urgent, nothing is pressurising, nothing is difficult. There's no place like home. And some people have never had a place that provides those things. They have no place that is home for them.

Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 3 verses 20 and 21 are so good for every Christian. ***"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."***

At the moment, Paul tells us, **we are away from home**. 'Citizenship' means our home place. The place where we really belong, where we're truly at home. And it's not here. We are "citizens of heaven in temporary residence on earth." Life now is not where we will feel truly safe, relaxed and at ease. We're away from home. My problem is that I live so much as if home is here, home is our house, and family, and rest days.

I'm helped by this comment by JI Packer in *Laid Back Religion* (1985) *"We have recast Christianity into a mould that stresses happiness above holiness, blessing here above blessing hereafter, health and wealth as God's best gifts, and death, not as thankworthy deliverance from the miseries of a sinful world, but as the supreme disaster..."*

And the basic reason is that we've lost the New Testament's two world perspective that views the

next life as more important than this one and understands life here as essentially preparation and training for life hereafter."

Now I can hear some thinking, 'But we do have many good gifts to enjoy here! We have many responsibilities here!' And we do. Thank God for every one of them. But our time here is temporary. Our citizenship is in heaven. We are still away from home. It means our perspective in the meantime is that **we are awaiting a Saviour**.

It's like the family waiting for the lynch-pin family member to return for Christmas. Home won't be the same without them. Heaven certainly won't be heaven without Jesus Christ. And if we're waiting for a Saviour, it reminds us that we still need saving. Not from the penalty of sin, or the power of sin. But from the presence of sin.

I was reflecting on the way the world is going. It's not that we look down on people, we need compassion for people – but the world is a very messy, selfish and twisted place. We long for it to be different.

So it's obvious that we're 'eagerly' waiting for Jesus; we can't wait for Him. I love the detail that we wait for the Saviour 'from there'. Verse 21 says he's coming to do the most incredible work of transformation. Our lowly bodies, in all their weakness and pain and ageing and sin, will become like his stunning, perfect, glorious body! Roll on that day! Come Lord Jesus!

And this is our best preparation for another day following our Lord Jesus – to know again that we're away from home. We're awaiting our Saviour. That's how we stand firm. That's how we keep going. That's how we live for him still.

Nick Hiscocks is vicar of Christ Church Westbourne and will be leading our Harvest/School service in October. This Bible Thought was first published during lockdown and is reproduced here with permission.

Family Page – Who’s the greatest?

One Sunday in church, in the middle of October, we will be reading a Bible story from verses 35-45 of Mark chapter 10, that will give us two shocks.



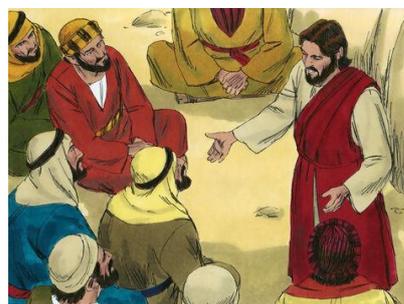
Firstly, two followers of Jesus, James and John, decide they want to ask him to make them second-in-command in

God’s Kingdom, to sit on His right- and left-hand side. *“Teacher, they said, ‘We want you to do for us whatever we ask.’”* So, what does Jesus say? He says that it’s not up to him.

We aren’t used to Jesus’ friends being so cheeky! It seems as if the other 10 disciples couldn’t believe their ears either. Possibly they had forgotten that, back in chapter 9, Jesus had heard them all arguing about which of them was the greatest.

Jesus decides that they all need to hear what greatness means to him. It’s not the same as being king or queen of a country, or one of their high officials. It doesn’t mean being important and able to order people about. We all might think it would be nice to be like that, but look at what Jesus says, *“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”*

This is the second shock in this Bible story. The greatest thing we can do is to serve other people. To **have** to serve, even, like a slave who has no choice in the matter. To us it sounds like the last thing we would want.



But look who it is who is saying this. Jesus goes on to talk about himself. He calls himself ‘the Son of Man’ as he often did.

It’s a title from the Old Testament, taken from a vision by a prophet called Daniel (the same one who was kept safe by God when he was thrown into a den of lions). In chapter 7, Daniel sees God giving someone called the Son of Man all authority, all power, over the whole world.

Jesus is making a big claim – he is saying **he** is this person, and he has the power to do anything he wants to do. What is it that he wants to do? He wants to be our saviour, *“to give his life as a ransom for many”*. And he really did – he let himself be killed, to meet our greatest need, to pay for our sin, for the things we do wrong which separate us from God. Not just for a few people, but for everyone who believes and trusts him. He’s the greatest and he’s a leader worth following.

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

James
John
Servant
Slave
Daniel
Jesus
Son of Man
 (3 separate words)
Greatest
Mark
Saviour