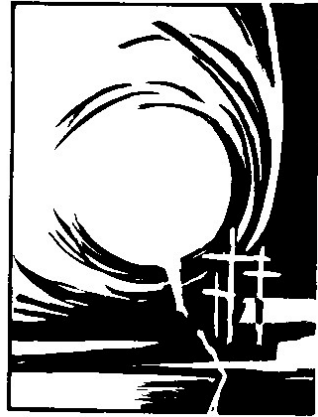


## FROM THE RECTORY

It seems really strange to write the February letter for the magazine without any mention of the beginning of Lent. But in 2011 Easter day is 24<sup>th</sup> April, one day short of its latest possible date. In the Western Church, Easter has not fallen on the earliest of the 35 possible dates, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, since 1818, and will not do so again until 2285. It fell on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, just one day after its earliest possible date, in 2008. Easter last fell on the latest possible date, 25<sup>th</sup> April in 1943, and will next fall on that date in 2038. This means that Ash Wednesday is not until 9<sup>th</sup> March – and Trinity Sunday does not happen until 18<sup>th</sup> June!



One of the memories of my childhood is sitting in the choir stalls at Matins while my father preached sermons that went over my head to the ten retired generals and others and how, in an attempt to alleviate the boredom, I would read those wonderful tables at the front of the Book of Common Prayer, of moveable feasts and of the way to find Easter-Day using the Golden Numbers and the Sunday letters – even though right at the beginning it said that easy way was to know the date of the full moon after the equinox and that Easter falls on the Sunday after that.

So, Shrove Tuesday and the Pancake party will be on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Ash Wednesday the next day. Mothering Sunday is 3<sup>rd</sup> April and the school holiday runs from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April to Easter Tuesday. It also means that our annual meeting will take place before Easter, on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April. Some dates to make a note of.

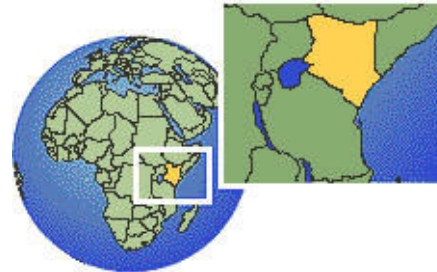
With my love and prayers

Lorica St Patrick's

Very many thanks to all who gave towards £146.21 collected in December. The grand total for 2010 is £2,127.93.

Bunty Parkinson

## NEWS FROM KENYA



David and Sonja Parkinson are now living in a cottage in Nanyuki. David works for a risk management company based in Nairobi. He is also on the Committee for the Cottage Hospital and a trustee for the new Nanyuki Library. He has

organized leadership management courses which have proved very popular, three having already been run ([www.lms-kenya.com](http://www.lms-kenya.com)).

He is hoping that this type of course will be accredited by Edinburgh Napier Business School, leading to a proper qualification in Leadership and Management. With this in mind, Friends have set up a charity in the UK to fund suitable candidates to study at a small college to be built in Laikipia.

Sonja is very busy with 'Mitumba Art' ([www.mitumbaart.com](http://www.mitumbaart.com)) which now has 17 Kenyan staff (see photo on Information board in Church). They are branching out into Interior Decorating, making mostly curtains and upholstery redecoration.

Bunty Parkinson

## THINK ON THIS

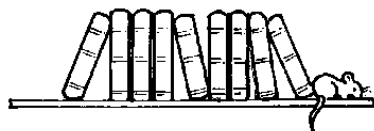
Jesus is the bread of life, not the cake for special occasions.

Anon

## FROM THE LIBRARY

*Hughes, Gerard W: God of Surprises (revised), DL&T, 2008*

*ISBN 13: 978 0 232 52527 4, ppI-XIX 1-163*



Gerard Hughes is one of the most successful Christian authors of the past quarter century from the Roman Catholic standpoint and you can see why. His writing style is easy, almost conversational, and he tells good stories of others and himself.

As he says in his introduction, this book is not systematic but it does have a core theme. Our life purpose is to search for the treasure hidden in the field (Matthew 13.44) in order to live full and holy lives. We are the field and God is the treasure within us, so we have to survey ourselves (the field) and then select tools and start digging; you get the picture. Like all such metaphors for sustained discussion, it gets strained somewhat and ultimately you wonder whether it is more hindrance than help in holding the book together.

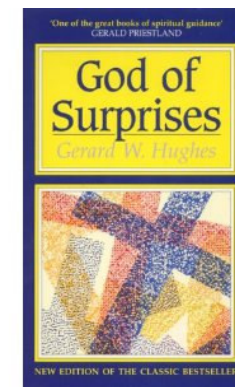
I suppose my greatest disappointment was that Hughes does not really show that God is a God of surprises at all unless, of course, you hold a rather caricatured, evangelically severe idea of God in your head. Hughes attacks the old patriarchal model, personified in “Uncle George” and he characterises the real Jesus in a quite witty passage on the trouble caused to the Church by Mr. E. Manuel who is seeking ordination whilst carrying on a semi-detached radical mission.

Although this edition post dates the original by some 25 years, it still contains a rather odd coda on nuclear weapons and, more serious, it has nothing to say about the radical reversal of the Vatican from the Decrees of the Second Ecumenical Council of that name. Hughes is properly ready to say how badly much spirituality from Vatican I to II was warped and even damaging but to read Hughes’ revised text you would think that all is lovely in the progressive garden; which it is not, as any reference to recent writings by Nicholas Lash and Hans Kung would amply

demonstrate. I suppose it is easy for an outsider (or, more accurately, a deserter) to say that leading and popular Roman Catholic thinkers like Hughes need to be firmer in their criticism of Vatican back-peddalling but there’s something slightly distasteful in becoming a populist author who won’t quite tell it like it is.

The part of the book I found most helpful was a simplified schema of the Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola and an anatomy of consolation and desolation which, if anything, look more ‘current’ now than they did all those years ago but, conversely, the psychology looks a little trite.

Hughes says in his defence that the book is intended for doubters and those seeking a relationship with God rather than committed believers but my researches indicate that there are many believers who read this and books like it. That’s one of the key problems that Christianity faces; the majority of its adherents take it much less seriously than their secular occupations and vocations and few of them continue to study and grow. If you must read this book, then for God’s sake, and your own, get past it to something more substantial.



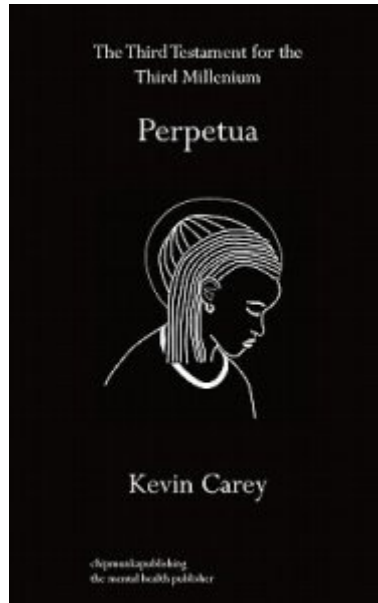
*Kevin Carey*

## KEVIN HAS WRITTEN A BOOK

Our Reader, Kevin Carey, has written a book. Here is the blurb in the hope that it will whet your appetite:

“*Perpetua* is the first of four novels in the Third Testament for the third Millennium (3T3M) which re-writes the whole of the New Testament in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century context, asking Christians to question what they believe and why.

Perpetua, a young Afro-Caribbean woman from a run-down estate in South London, says that she is the fourth person of the Godhead, a claim mirroring that of Jesus to be the second person of the Godhead. She recruits followers from supermarket shelf-stackers and sets out to bring God back to the people. Her teachings and miracles cause religious and political disturbance and, through a combination of cock-up and conspiracy, she is humiliated and murdered live on television on Good Friday 2007. Two days later on Easter Sunday she appears on every television channel in the world speaking to people in her own language, but all records of her death broadcast have mysteriously disappeared.”



Kevin’s book is available from the Mint House [or on Amazon].

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Dates for February

We meet every week in the Guide HQ (which is in the corner of the long-term car park in Trinity Road) at 9.45am, except where this calendar says:



6<sup>th</sup> **No Sunday School** - first Sunday

13<sup>th</sup> **Sunday School**

20<sup>th</sup> **No Sunday School** – Half-term

27<sup>th</sup> **Sunday School**

*Bridget, Sarah, Jon & Penny*

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

In last October’s issue we told about MU’s major campaign “Bye Buy Childhood” to raise awareness of the commercialisation of childhood; to empower families to address the influences of the commercial world within the home; and to hold the government accountable to its pledge to address the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. (A copy of the report highlighting new research findings may still be found at the back of church or online at [www.byebuychildhood.org](http://www.byebuychildhood.org)).

Following this, Reg Bailey, MU’s Chief Executive, was appointed by the government to chair a committee to look into ways of curbing the sexualisation of children at a young age. The news made the front page of the Sunday Telegraph and there is now hope that Mothers’ Union backing on this topic will achieve important changes in the law!

Mr Bailey’s review will gather evidence of ways children are having unfair commercial pressure put on them or being “prematurely sexualised” by retailers amid protests over high-heeled shoes and provocative underwear aimed at girls as young as 10. The Telegraph reported that “Ministers at the Department for Education intend to ‘legislate or regulate’ against the worst offenders with

individual companies prosecuted, many of whom have already sparked fierce criticism from parents. Coalition sources said it was likely a new industry-wide standard would be established. Parents, furthermore, could be given the power to challenge offending advertisements or



products specifically over child-related issues. Sources drew a parallel with the way complaints are currently made to trading standards officials or the Advertising Standards Authority”.

Further exposure to these growing concerns and of MU’s involvement to tackle the issue was given during a recent Panorama documentary in which Reg Bailey was interviewed. “Too Much Too Soon” was broadcast on 10<sup>th</sup> January and reporter Sophie Raworth, a mother of three, investigated the images young people are being exposed to such as provocative clothing, raunchy dancing on prime-time television, and access to pornography. She asked what impact the sexualised world is having on our children and how much today’s children are at risk.

A recording of the programme will be shown at the afternoon meeting in March, in a change to the schedule. The programme is also available on the BBC iPlayer ([www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer)).

Our congratulations to Reg on his appointment! Thanks and praise to all members of Mothers’ Union who campaigned tirelessly to bring this issue to the fore, taking up their crosses for Jesus in today’s increasingly secular and commercialised society in order to protect and improve the lives of his precious children.

### Diary Dates for February

#### February 9<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Meeting:

Elaine Nelson, Peter Phillips and Catherine Thompson remember their teaching days, at Harvesters, Mossy Mile at 2.30 pm

#### February 16<sup>th</sup> Evening Meeting:

AGM with wine and nibbles at the Guide HQ at 8.00pm.

[March 4<sup>th</sup> Women’s World Day of Prayer]



Sarah Norton

## THE CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

|           |  |                                 |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1         | S Brigid of Kildare <i>Abbess</i>                              | The Almshouses                  |
| 2         | Wednesday  | Home communicants               |
| 3         | S Blaise <i>Bp Mr</i>  | Doctors                         |
| 4         | S Gilbert of Sempringham <i>Rel</i>                            | The Church in England           |
| 5         | S Agatha <i>Mr</i>   | Vulnerable young people         |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>5<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>                          | Our parish and people           |
| 7         | Monday   | The Children’s Society          |
| 8         | Tuesday  | February anniversaries of death |
| 9         | Wednesday  | S <sup>t</sup> Lawrence’ school |
| 10        | S Scholastica  | Benedictine communities         |
| 11        | Our Lady of Lourdes  | Pilgrimages                     |
| 12        | Saturday   | Scouts and Guides               |
| <b>13</b> | <b>6<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>                          | Our parish and people           |
| 14        | S Cyril <i>Monk</i> & S Methodius <i>Bp, Patrons of Europe</i> | Eastern Europe                  |
| 15        | S Sigfrid <i>Bp Apostle of Sweden</i>                          | Bishop Mark                     |
| 16        | Wednesday  | Mothers Union                   |
| 17        | Thursday   | Hurst Deanery                   |
| 18        | Friday   | Magistrates                     |
| 19        | Saturday   | Shop workers                    |
| <b>20</b> | <b>7<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>                          | Our parish and people           |
| 21        | S Peter Damian <i>Bp Dr</i>                                    | Hospitals and Nursing Homes     |
| 22        | Tuesday  | Those on half-term holiday      |
| 23        | S Polycarp <i>Bp Mr</i>  | The elderly                     |
| 24        | Thursday   | Bell-ringers                    |
| 25        | Friday   | Churchwardens                   |
| 26        | Saturday   | Families                        |
| <b>27</b> | <b>8<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>                          | Our parish and people           |
| 28        | Monday   | Prisons and prisoners           |

## SUNDAY READINGS



|                  |                                 |            |                                     |  |                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday | [Proper 1] | Isaiah 58. <sup>1-9A</sup>          | 1 Corinthians 2. <sup>1-12</sup>         | Matthew 5. <sup>13-20</sup> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday | [Proper 2] | Ecclesiasticus 15. <sup>15-20</sup> | 1 Corinthians 3. <sup>1-9</sup>          | Matthew 5. <sup>21-37</sup> |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 7 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday | [Proper 3] | Leviticus 19. <sup>1-2, 9-18</sup>  | 1 Corinthians 3. <sup>10-11, 16-23</sup> | Matthew 5. <sup>38-48</sup> |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 8 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday | [Lent -2]  | Isaiah 49. <sup>14-15</sup>         | 1 Corinthians 4. <sup>1-5</sup>          | Matthew 6. <sup>25-34</sup> |

## FROM THE REGISTERS

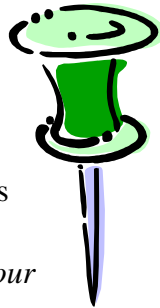
### Funeral

8<sup>th</sup> January Carol Ann Bernadette Godfrey  
*May she rest in peace and rise in glory*



## PINPOINTS FOR FEBRUARY

|                        |         |   |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed    | 2.00 pm | Hurst WI at Guide HQ : <i>The life of bees</i> – Dennis Hills                                   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun    | 9.45 am | Children’s Society collecting boxes to Church   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Wed    | 2.30 pm | MU at Harvesters : <i>Remembering our teaching days</i> – Elaine, Peter & Catherine             |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Thurs | 8.00 pm | PCC meeting in the school   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | 7.45 pm | Wolstonbury WI at Village Centre : <i>Oh we do like to be beside the seaside</i> - Ian Gledhill |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Wed   | 8.00 pm | MU – Guide HQ AGM with wine and nibbles   |



## PRESENTATION OF CHRIST / CANDLEMASS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> February

If you count it, this marks the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas and brings the season to an end.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to “present him to the Lord”. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.



So where does the Candlemas bit come in? In the gospel of John Jesus says of himself: “I am the Light of the World”. Since early times Christians have had the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. It also became the custom to bless the year’s supply of candles for the church at Mass on this day - hence the name, Candlemass.

The gospel reading for the is Luke 2:22-40 which contains old Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. We know this well as the Nunc Dimittis which is a daily part of the Office of Evening Prayer in the Prayer Book, put there by Cranmer as he conflated Vespers and Compline – where it originally belonged. It is also traditionally used in the rites of Candlemass.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
 according to thy word.  
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
 which thou hast prepared  
 before the face of all people;  
 to be a light to lighten the Gentiles  
 and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

# ***THE WINTERSHALL NATIVITY PLAY***

## ***Growing Together's visit in December***

Peter and Ann Hutley have lived at Wintershall for nearly 50 years and under their stewardship, the estate has expanded into a haven for wildlife, mature woodland and farmland and is home to an organic farm.

A small Christmas Nativity was put on in Holly Barn in 1990, but within a few years had become the performances that today involve a cast of 50 actors, choirs, musicians, sheep, donkeys and horses and attract audiences of 600 for the ten performances each year.

The night that sixteen of us set off from Hurst in the community mini-bus, there was a terrible snow storm. We arrived safely, despite treacherous conditions that caused real challenges for Murray, our driver, and not a little excitement for the passengers.

Accompanied by the sound of choirs singing carols (transmitted via a discreet speaker system), we made our way slowly up the snow-covered woodland path lit by burning torches to the summit of the hill on which Holly Barn is situated. Here we stood, under the black night-sky, exposed to biting winds and heavy snowfall, as the play started. In these bleak conditions and out of the darkness, Mary seated on a donkey led by Joseph appeared. Through labour pains, betrayed by the anguish in her voice, Mary besought Joseph to hurry and find a place for them to shelter. I felt a genuine sense of relief for them as they finally found refuge in the barn where we, the audience, followed shortly afterwards having first witnessed the shepherds, warming themselves by fires and tending their flocks. Then the angel Gabriel descended from on high; he appeared to be floating in the night sky. (Such was the superb level of stage and lighting production of Peter Hutley's crew.)

In 1992, The Wintershall Charitable Trust was established for the prime purpose of reviving and spreading the Christian faith. Whilst the main purpose of the plays is to evangelise, there is great care taken to ensure that the plays work as thrilling pieces of theatre. No punches are pulled in the telling of the story and, sitting in the

children's area at the front of the stage, it was a truly frightening experience (not just for my 4 year old daughter!) when soldiers came rushing towards us with their spears poised under Herod's command to kill all young male children! (I was quietly asked, "Can we go home now please?" by a timid voice that croaked out to me from under the safety and comfort of my armpit!)

Hutley's plays are now reaching a wide audience of all ages and persuasions. They are expensive to produce but once the costs have been met, any surplus money is distributed to local and worldwide



charities including HASTE (Heart and Stroke Trust Endeavour), which Peter established in 2002. HASTE has built a fully equipped stroke wing with an MRI diagnostic scanner at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford.

In 2004, Peter received an MBE for services to the community, and was appointed by the Holy See as a Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory, his wife Ann was made a Dame.

Many of the cast members take part in all the plays at Wintershall and have done so for many years. They come from all walks of life and the plays take up a large part in their lives. (They treat the performance weeks of the plays as a retreat involving the whole family and for most it counts as a week of their holiday.) I was touched at how fondly the actors playing Joseph and Mary kept admiring and gently stroking the cheeks of the baby Jesus (an adorable infant that remained contentedly sleeping during the entire 90 minute performance despite being passed around to a host of shepherds and wise men!). To be so attentive to a child whilst remembering their lines and stage positions was such an impressive display of acting skills and

I said as much when I spoke with them both after the show; thus I discovered that the actor playing Jesus was their own son, aged 6 months but who'd been born 3 months prematurely. Such a beautiful gift from God that they just couldn't keep their hands off him even while acting – they said it was so easy to do!

We experienced for ourselves many different types of journey that night. From completing our own physical expedition, to witnessing the trek completed by Mary and Joseph; to the discovery made by the shepherds, and the flight of the wise men. What was magical was to undertake the spiritual journey shared among members of the audience and cast alike (and especially for me with my young daughter). That night we all undertook our own respective journeys of enlightenment concerning the mysterious and most marvellous miracle that saw the life of Jesus gifted to us 2000 years ago as the best ever Christmas present, and one who's ultimate performance we still seek to follow today.

*Sarah Norton*

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## **HURSTPIERPOINT OVER 60S CLUB**



On Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> we had a highly stimulating meeting, when the Hurstpierpoint Scottish Dancers entertained us with a graceful exhibition of their talents. Sadly, however, when our members were invited to join in, their efforts were neither light nor fantastic - although the audience was always kindly sympathetic! (The Dancers welcome anyone to their rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm in the Village Centre.). We were pleased to be able to send £50 both to Chailey Heritage and St Peter & St James - money raised from our raffles over the year.

**Next meeting:** 'A Guernsey Travelogue', an illustrated talk by gifted speaker Peter Hill.

*Geoff Farmer*

## **24-7 JOINS FRESH EXPRESSIONS**

Fresh Expressions has announced that the 24-7 Prayer movement has become a partner in the initiative. 24-7 Prayer is an interdenominational movement of prayer, mission and justice that began with a single, student-led prayer vigil in Chichester in 1999. It has since spread to more than 100 countries.



The movement has given rise to numerous new initiatives, communities and ministries particularly focusing on the poor, the marginalised, students and those outside the reach of normal expressions of church. The missional communities, inspired by ancient Celtic monasticism, are generically known as Boiler Rooms though they may also be known by a local name - such as Houses of Prayer.

Andy Freeman is on the 24-7 Council and pioneered the first 24-7 Boiler Room in Reading, overseeing the development of similar communities across the world. He is now training for ordination at St Mellitus College while developing Reconcile, a mix of an Anglican fresh expression and a 24-7 community.

Bishop Graham Cray, Archbishops' Missioner, said: "24-7's emphasis on prayer, spirituality and mission exactly accords with ours, and will strengthen us as we develop patterns of discipleship for fresh expressions of church, and as we engage with young adults." Fresh Expressions encourages new forms of church for a



fast changing world, working with Christians from a variety of denominations and traditions. The initiative has resulted in hundreds of new congregations being formed alongside more traditional churches. Visit: Fresh Expressions at [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk) and 24-7 Prayer at [www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com)

## **THE VERY FIRST VALENTINE CARD - A LEGEND CREATED IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY!**

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.



A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but

through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> February, he wrote her a farewell message signed "From your Valentine."

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

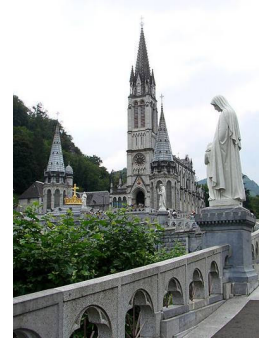
*Actually, nothing is known for certain of S<sup>t</sup> Valentine – it is thought that he was martyred in the persecution of Claudius II in c270. His name is recorded in the catacombs and there was a church in Rome dedicated in his honour. This day has been kept as his day since the Gelasian Sacramentary of 496. The Ides of February [15<sup>th</sup>] and the days around it were kept in Rome as the Lupercalia in honour of the god of fertility, Lupercus. It is because of this that Valentine gets the associations of which the legend above is a somewhat excessive example.*

*Fr John*

## **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

*11<sup>th</sup> February*

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 1858 Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl first saw, as she later told, a "lady" in the cave of Massabielle outside Lourdes, while gathering firewood with her sister and a friend. She saw the "lady" seventeen more times that year. Our Lady told Bernadette that she was the Immaculate Conception, a dogma that had finally been defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854 but which Bernadette was unlikely to be aware of. The apparitions were recognised by the Church within 8 years. Bernadette herself became a nun in Nevers and, after her death, was canonized. The apparitions led many to go to Lourdes and many have received God's healing there.



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## **IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO LOVE – YOU NEED TO BE LOVED**

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others – without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity – of great strength. But it can also be one of pride – we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem – we do not think we are worthy of receiving anything from others. Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger – we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need



to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs – whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual – you will not last the distance. If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker – and accept God's love - given to you through other people.



Chichester Diocesan Association  
for Family Support Work  
Hurst Deanery Committee  
Registered charity no: 285337

# QUIZ EVENING

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Adastra Hall, Hassocks  
7.30pm

Bring your own food and drink

Spot prizes and Raffle

**Price: £40.00 per table of 6**

Please make cheques payable to:  
**Family Support Work**  
RSVP Claire Coughlin 01273 843143

## ***COPY DEADLINE***

Articles, notices, information, letters or indeed anything you would like included in the next edition of Meeting Point should be delivered to Sue Coxhill at Russell's Cottage, St George's Lane or e-mailed to [sue.coxhill@btopenworld.com](mailto:sue.coxhill@btopenworld.com) by midday on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February.



## ***FROM THE ARCHIVES***

*February 1905*



“The Public Free Library continues to be used by a large number of parishioners, about 150 books are circulated every week. The books begin to show unmistakable signs of wear and tear; it is time that some were replaced and new ones added. For this purpose we hope that an entertainment will be given shortly which we commend to the support of those who make use of the Library, as well as those who rejoice in the possession of books, and delight in reading them. Meanwhile, gifts of suitable books, especially books for children, are always welcome.”



**The Children's Society**

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales

It's time for annual opening of the collecting boxes. Jenny will come to get them at the 9.45 Eucharist on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February. If you can't manage this, give her a call on 823119 and she'll pick up the box. Many thanks to those who came Carol singing before Christmas — we raised £85

*Jenny Rodgers*

**Mouse Makes**

**WHAT IS LOVE?**  
Cross out every *second* letter and find the bible verse:  
OHNMETJSOAHYF,  
CAHQAXPZTDEKR  
WFBHUUKRL,  
VAECRLSWE  
CTMER  
NQ

**HOW DOES GOD SHOW HE LOVES US?**  
Look at this page in the mirror  
"God showed his love for us by sending his only son into the world, so that we might have life through him"  
1 John 1:4

**GOD'S LOVE**  
Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet:  
"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsmfe tp nvdi uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp uibu fwfszpf xip cfmjfwft jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu ibwf fufsobm mjgf"  
kpjo 3:16

**HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?**  
Cross out all the xxx to find out.  
"Oxgxixvxextxhxaxnxkxsxtxox  
xxhxexLxoxrxdx,fxoxrxhxexi  
sngxoxoxdx,xhxixsxsxtxexa  
dfxaxxsxtlxoxvxexenn  
dxuxrxexsxxfxoxrx  
exvxexrx."  
pxsaxlxm  
136:1

Feb11

## GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

The following story was told by the well known Christian, Brother Andrew...

A few years ago a pastor was travelling by train in the Soviet Union. He got talking to the man sharing his compartment, and soon the conversation turned to God. The pastor listened patiently as the other man extolled the logic of atheism and mocked his faith in God. When the pastor tried to talk about Jesus, the atheist grew very angry.



The pastor then left the compartment for a few minutes, and on his return found that his Bible was missing. The atheist was just closing the window. The pastor was deeply hurt to lose his Bible, and the journey concluded in stony silence.

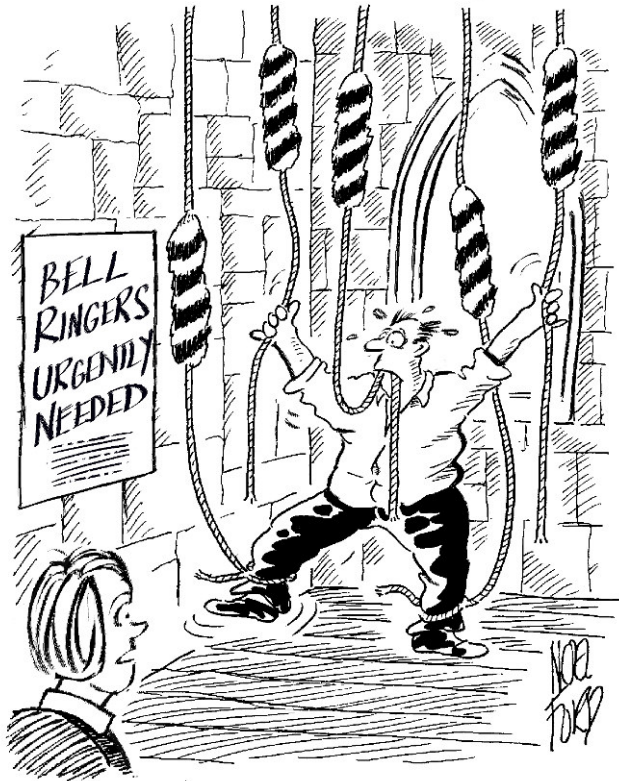
A few months later, a stranger from a little distance away called on the pastor. He wanted to be baptized. Startled, the pastor asked why his own church had not baptized him. "There are no Christians and no church in my village," said the man. "But I have read my Bible and I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and I want to be baptized and follow him."

The pastor was astonished. "If you know no Christians, how did you even get hold of a Bible?"

The man paused. "You aren't going to believe this," he said, "but God sent it to me direct. Some months ago I was working as a builder near a railway track when, as the train went by, a book came flying out of the window and landed in the dust near to me. It

was a Bible! I started to read it out of curiosity, and then I could not put it down. Through it I have found God.”

The pastor had no trouble in believing that a Bible had flown out of a train window. He rejoiced that it had landed at the man’s feet. He baptized the man, who returned to his village brimming with enthusiasm. He shared his faith with his neighbours. Soon a little group of believers was formed, and began to grow. And all because of a thrown-away Bible. The atheist on the train would have been mortified to find out that he had planted a church.



"Ready when you are, George..."

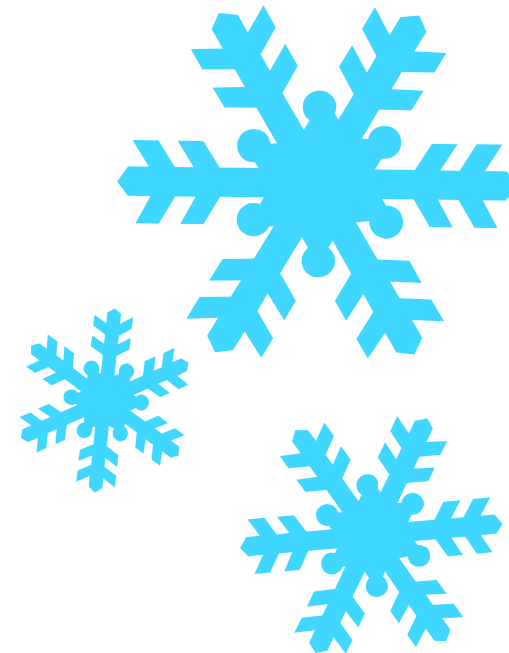
## WINTER NOW

‘Tis winter now; the fallen snow  
has left the heavens all coldly clear;  
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,  
and all the earth lies dead and drear.

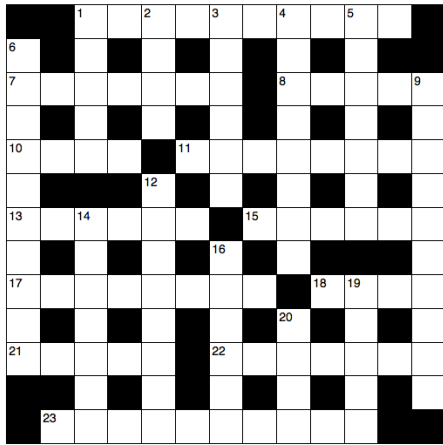
And yet God’s love is not withdrawn;  
his life within the keen air breathes;  
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,  
and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.

O God! who giv’st the winter’s cold,  
as well as summer’s joyous rays,  
us warmly in thy love enfold,  
and keep us through life’s wintry days.

*From a poem by Samuel Longfellow 1819-92*



## THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1** Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)  
**7** Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)  
**8** Concede (Job 27:5) (5)  
**10** Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)  
**11** Much in evidence after weddings (8)  
**13** Condense (Job 36:27) (6)  
**15** Breakwater (6)  
**17** Give a tan (anag.) (8)  
**18** More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)

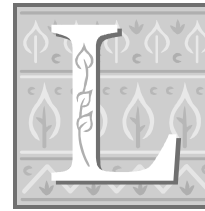
**21** After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)

**22** Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)

**23** For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

### Down

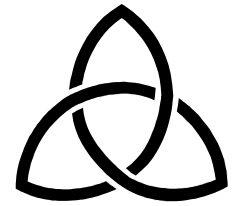
- 1** Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)  
**2** Roman poet from first century BC (4)  
**3** So rapt (anag.) (6)  
**4** Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)  
**5** Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)  
**6** God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)  
**9** Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)  
**12** 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)  
**14** 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)  
**16** The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)  
**19** 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)  
**20** City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



## IS FOR...

### Logos

Logos [in Greek λόγος] is an important term in theology and in ancient philosophy. It



is used in the first chapter of John's gospel and read on Christmas morning as the gospel reading [as well as at many carol services as the culmination of all that has gone before]. It is usually translated simply as "the Word: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" and "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us".

In Church this last Christmas we used a paraphrase of this section of the gospel that uses the phrase "the divine Light" in place of "the Word". Some said that it seemed to make things clearer.

## AND FINALLY...

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands.

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset.

"You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

"What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

