

FROM THE RECTORY

Sale of the Century

It was a snowy afternoon on 1st December and Ditchling Village Hall was the venue for the auction. But no matter, Andrew Pridell was there, ready to sell and sell he did. A small cottage in Lewes went for more than expected and then it was the Parish Room. Bidding got to our reserve (*phew*) and, at the fall of the hammer, had reached over £370,000.

What now?

Well, with that money and the enormously hard work of Rosslyn, Joan and many others over the past 12 years in the Community Charity shop that has seen another £250,000 raised for the reordering of the Church [and the same for village projects], we are now really in a position to get on with the re-ordering of the inside of the Church.

Peter Pritchett, our architect, has got going on detailed drawings, working with Guy Macken our structural engineer, and with other professionals. These will then give us an idea of what the total cost will be to glass in the back two bays of the nave, redo the entrance, create new loos and kitchen and make welcoming meeting spaces. If we can, we also hope to create a parish office in the S^t Lawrence chapel. The costs will tell us how much more we'll need to raise.



How long will all this take?

Peter thinks that the plans will take about 3 months to do. Then we have to start the detailed process of consultations with amenity groups etc and permissions from the diocese. His best estimate is that we will be ready to start work in about a year's time. Our plan is that the work will be complete by September 2012.

With love and prayers for 2011

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fr John'.

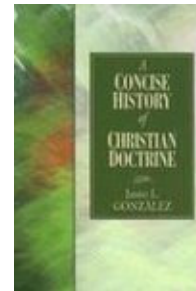
FROM THE LIBRARY



Gonzalez, Justo L.: A Concise History of Christian Doctrine, Abingdon, 2005, ISBN 0 687 34414 x

Justo L. Gonzalez is rightly known for his magisterial - if one who writes so clearly can be called 'magisterial' - three volume *History of Christian Thought* and so it is a great pleasure to recommend a synthesis of that great work in this concise volume.

Gonzalez traces all the key issues in Christian doctrinal history in roughly the order in which they became salient, setting out the cultural and historical background, the issue, the different views and, where it was reached, the synthesis. His key tool is that of declaring limits within which various aspects of a doctrine (not always mutually consistent) can find a home, allowing him to say what can be said while preserving his central tenet that doctrine is mystery.



He is obviously most at home with the influence of Neo-Platonism and the controversies which led to the great Ecumenical Councils and his grasp of the Middle Ages is good. His most masterful touches are associated with the Reformation - I have never seen the position of Luther more simply, clearly and sympathetically set out - but he never gives enough space to it and his treatment of doctrinal controversy and development after the Reformation is cursory. It might be argued in his defence that the longer that Christian history goes on, the less there is to argue about but the reaction to the 'enlightenment' brought about significant developments.

Gonzalez is sensitive to multi-cultural issues which makes it even harder to explain why he does not deal with the topic of salvation and non Christians; but that is my only serious quibble. Overall, a fine introductory survey which, I hope, will lead you to his other, more substantial, work.

Growing Together will be studying Gonzalez later this year.

THANK YOU

This is a very big thank you to all of you for your cards, love and prayers during the time preceding my illness and the diagnosis. They have meant so much to me and will continue to do so over the next few months of treatment. Although I'm largely confined to home I can have visitors. My telephone number is 831840 - but please don't bring me any bugs!

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy new year.

Brenda Duggan



We would like to thank everyone who supported the coffee morning on Tuesday 30th November, despite the bad weather. The final total raised was £930.

Marilyn Hills

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dates for January

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 otherwise.



2 nd	No Sunday School - First Sunday Service
9 th	Sunday School
16 th	Sunday School
23 rd	Sunday School
30 th	Sunday School - Cake sale in Church

Bridget, Maxine, Sarah, Jon & Penny

OVER 60S CLUB

The long-awaited visit by *Daisy Pippenger* was no disappointment. She was her usual bubbly, charming self, with a delightful performance to make the afternoon one to remember.

Those who braved the mist and darkness enjoyed the welcome warmth and music performed by the Hurst Prep School choir at Danny. We responded to their carolling, tucking into mince pies and mulled wine, getting the first real feel that Christmas is coming. (Hearty thanks to our genial host, Richard Burrows, for a splendid evening.)

Next meeting: Tuesday, 4th January at 2.15pm – Village Centre Display by Hurstpierpoint Country Dancers. Come and join us!

Geoff Farmer

SUNDAY READINGS



2 nd	The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60. ¹⁻⁶ Ephesians 3. ^{2-3A, 5-6} Matthew 2. ¹⁻¹²
9 th	The Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 42. ^{1-4, 6-7} Acts 10. ³⁴⁻³⁸ Matthew 3. ¹³⁻¹⁷
16 th	2nd Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 49. ^{3, 5-6} 1 Corinthians 1. ¹⁻³ John 1. ²⁹⁻³⁴
24 th	3rd Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 9. ¹⁻⁴ 1 Corinthians 1. ^{10-13, 17} Matthew 4. ¹²⁻²³
30 th	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple [Candlemass] Malachi 3. ¹⁻⁴ Hebrews 2. ¹⁴⁻¹⁸ Luke 2. ²²⁻⁴⁰

Very many thanks to all who gave towards £142.40 collected on Sundays in November.

Bunty Parkinson

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ

Following recent reports in the press, Bunty Parkinson was moved to write to Lorica St Patrick's about the Nightshelter's future and received a letter from Doug Sanders (Trustee). The excerpts which follow are taken from that letter.



“If you have seen or heard reports in the media that the Nightshelter is to close then these should be ignored as they have come from an unreliable source.”

“Lorica operated St Patrick's Hostel and Nightshelter under a Management Agreement with Riverside ECHG Housing Association who hold the lease of the building. During 2010 Riverside entered into negotiations with Lorica with an intention that they would take over management of the St Patrick's operation from the Trust. This transfer took place in September 2010. As part of these negotiations Lorica obtained the agreement of Riverside that they would continue with the operation of the Nightshelter for at least 1 year whilst a review of this service was carried out. Lorica are continuing to support the Nightshelter with an agreed sum being paid to Riverside and funded from donations to the Trust.

“Therefore it is important for Lorica to maintain the present donors and they can be assured that the funds will be used as previously. The position beyond September 2011 will become clear in due course and donors will be kept informed.

“In addition Lorica continue to act as landlord at East Clayton Farm near Washington. We have developed old farm buildings to provide shared ownership flats for young adults with profound and multiple learning difficulties. In the same development we also have a 5 bedroom flat with communal facilities for long term unemployed/homeless persons to train in rural skills to prepare them for getting employment and their own accommodation.

I would be most pleased if you and your colleagues could continue to support the work of the Trust as we value these relationships.”

FROM THE REGISTERS

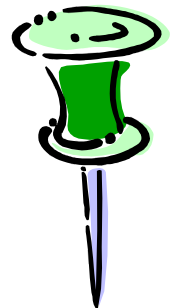
Baptisms

5th December Phoebe Christine Lockyer
12th December Freja Willow Mary Outen



PINPOINTS FOR JANUARY

5th Wed 2.00 pm Hurst WI at Guide HQ
12th Wed 2.30 pm MU at 9 Park Close - *Recalling Christmas past*
18th -25th **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
19th Wed 8.00 pm MU at the Guide HQ *Parenting Course – One year on* Judy, Alison and Sarah
20th Thurs 7.45 pm Wolstonbury WI at Village Centre

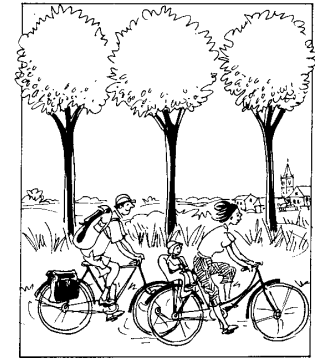


THE CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

1	THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	Holy Name Almshouses
2	THE EPIPHANY	Our parish and people
3	Monday	January anniversaries of death
4	Tuesday	Parish groups
5	Wednesday	Home communicants
6	Thursday	St Lawrence' school
7	S Raymond of Penyafort <i>Pr</i>	Lawyers
8	Saturday	Mothers' Union
9	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST	Our parish and people
10	Monday	Musicians
11	Tuesday	Hurst Deanery
12	S Aelred of Rievaulx <i>Abbot</i>	The gift of friendship
13	S Hilary <i>Bp</i>	Universities
14	Friday	Those baptised in the last year
15	Ss Placid & Maurus <i>Rel</i>	Benedictine communities
16	2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Our parish and people
17	S Antony <i>Abbot</i>	Community Charity shop
18	Confession of S Peter	Growing together in Christ
19	S Wulfstan <i>Bp</i>	S Luke's Roman Catholic Church
20	Ss Fabian & Sebastian <i>Mrr</i>	The Point Church
21	S Agnes <i>V Mr</i>	The Methodist Church
22	S Vincent <i>Dn Mr</i>	The Evangelical Church
23	3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	All Christians in Hurst
24	S Francis de Sales <i>Bp</i>	Clergy in Hurst
25	Conversion of S Paul	That we may all be one
26	Ss Timothy & Titus <i>Bps</i>	Our bishops
27	S Angela Merici <i>Rel Teacher</i>	Teachers
28	S Thomas Aquinas <i>Pr Dr</i>	Theologians
29	Saturday	Magistrates
30	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST	Our parish and people
31	S John Bosco <i>Pr</i>	Youth Workers

RIDE & STRIDE 2010

The 2010 sponsored 'Ride & Stride' in aid of the Sussex Historic Churches Trust was held on Saturday, 11th September 2010.



Unfortunately, the event clashed with the Family Camp weekend and this reduced the number of potential entrants. However, we did manage to field two riders (Gary Patrick and Malcolm McKemey) who between them visited 54 churches, won 71 stars and raised £285 for the Trust. Half of the money raised will be returned directly to Holy Trinity.

Many thanks to the riders, sponsors and those who kindly volunteered to look after visitors to our church on the day.

Ride and Stride will be held again on the second Saturday in September this year. Do consider joining in, as it is a pleasant day out, with good exercise, supporting a good cause (from which our church continues to benefit directly) and it is very interesting to visit our many wonderful Sussex churches. More details of Ride and Stride 2011 will be available nearer the time.

Malcolm McKemey

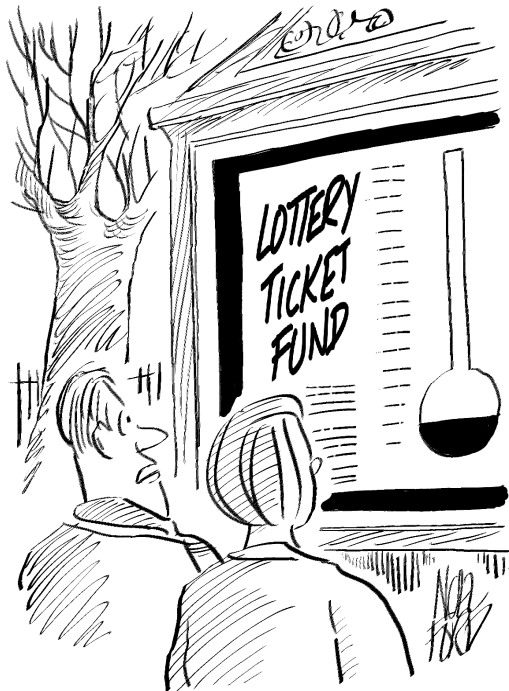
A New Year's Resolution

To begin with oneself, but not to end with oneself;
 To start from oneself, but not to aim at oneself;
 To comprehend oneself, but not to be preoccupied with oneself.

Martin Buber
 (Austrian born Jewish philosopher)

BBC'S BIBLE MARATHON

BBC Radio 4 is going to broadcast a day of readings from the Bible this month in order to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. On Sunday 9th January BBC Radio 4 will broadcast 28 readings of 15 minutes each, lasting a total of seven hours. Prior to Sunday 9th, there is also a series of three documentary programmes presented by Jim Naughtie - these are going out on 3rd, 4th and 5th January from 09:00am - 09:45am on BBC Radio 4 and are entitled The Story of the King James Bible.



"It's the only way we stand a chance of raising enough for a new boiler."

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE... WHAT?

"A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey in. The ways deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in solstitio brumali, the very dead of winter."

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Lancelot Andrews, was preaching to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Lancelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar. But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating his death.



There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.

CHURCH PLUS

During 2010 the Church Plus group organised two coffee mornings with a silent auction, each of which raised over £1,000 for church funds. They also repeated the popular cricket match and BBQ, run mostly for fun rather than funds, and organised a stall at the St Lawrence Fair.



This was done by a small group of very busy people who are by no means an exclusive club. We have about four planning sessions per year, and warmly welcome new people who would be willing to join in, come up with new and popular suggestions and possibly take responsibility for one activity during the year.

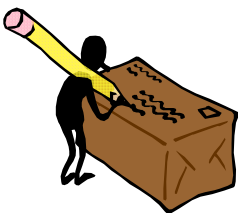
With the sale of the Parish Rooms we are gearing up for the reordering of the church and will need to add to the money raised so far.

We also aim to provide social occasions where we can get to know each other better and invite friends to come and meet our church community.

Our next planning meeting will be on Thursday 27th January at 8pm at 137^A High Street, Sarah Norton's house.

Dena Mynett

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY SHOP



Thank you very much for your help with my Christmas parcel for the Children's Home in Kenya. The knitted Christmas toys will be specially appreciated. The parcel has started on its journey and should be collected from Nairobi in good time for Christmas.

Anne Cole

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

On December 8th we had our Advent tea party in the Guide HQ which was very well attended. Our members and guests were treated to some pre-tea entertainment. Imagine if you will a dustman – aka Peter Phillips - it was a comical enough sight but his singing and monologue had the audience laughing out loud.



Oh I'm your friendly dustman;
I wear a dustman's hat
It's two days after Christmas
and I'm feeling far too fat.
I've eaten too much turkey,
and drunk up too much wine
And now I just can't stop 'burp'
burping all the time...

Tune: "My old man's a dustman"

George Hill gave us this inspirational piece.

When things seem almost too much to handle; when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar...and beer!

"A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items before him. When the class began, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes'. The professor then produced two cans of beer and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed. ‘Now’, said the professor, ‘I want you to recognize that this jar represents life. The golf balls are the important things...your family, your children, your health, your friends, your favourite passions...things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else...the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have time for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. There will always be time to clean the house, etc. Take care of the golf balls first... the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.’



One of the students raised her hand and asked what the beer represented. The professor smiled. ‘I’m glad you asked,’ he said. ‘It just goes to show that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room for a couple of beers!’”

Our thanks also go to the Handbell Ringers who provided some festive tunes.

We were very sorry that adverse weather conditions meant that the MU Advent Service on December 1st had to be cancelled.

Ticket refunds of £4 can be collected from Judy Leech (833954). Any uncollected funds will be given to the Mothers’ Union Disaster Relief Fund.

January Meetings

12th - 2.30pm Recalling Christmas Past – 9 Park Close.

19th - 8.00pm Parenting Course - One year on – Guide HQ.

Happy New Year.

Vicki Macken

CHURCHWARDENS’ NOTES



Was not the most significant event of 2010, which ended the year on such a high note, the sale of the Parish Room and the resulting release of the additional funds necessary to start the work on improvements to Holy Trinity? Suffice to say that we, the current churchwardens, will do our best to keep the momentum going. After six years of waiting, we are impatient!

But was it really the most significant event? Isn’t the church more importantly about what goes on inside the building, in whatever condition it is?

Looking back over the year, what is really significant is the willingness and dedication of more and more people who contribute to the life of the church and keep everything going. This really is our ‘Big Society’!

For example, here are some facts and figures about what it takes to put on the two Sunday services.

One of the team of chimers climbs to the ringing chamber in the bell-tower before the early service to play hymn tunes to announce that it is Sunday. A little later, eight ringers arrive to peal the bells and summon the community to the main service.

At the 8 o’clock service, two sidespeople and a minister of communion, assist the Rector with the early Eucharist.

The Churchwardens arrive at about 8.30am to get things ready for the Parish Eucharist. They are followed by 5 or 6 members of the rota of sidespeople, 2 coffee makers, 2 people on the rota to take the communion bread and wine to the altar, 2 servers, 2 ministers of communion, one person from the rota who has written the prayers of the faithful, the organist, the choir of about 15 adults and 7 children, and the Rector who’s been home for a quick breakfast after saying a prayer in the ringing chamber.

In the Guide HQ (soon, hopefully to be in church instead), the Sunday School team of anything up to a dozen parents, organise activities for however many children arrive and then bring them to the church to join the congregation about two thirds of the way through the service.

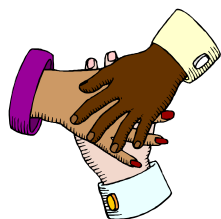
In the crèche at the back of the church, often full to bursting, parents and young children play and chat quietly throughout the service.

And during the week?

Every day people arrive to clean and polish the building. We are fortunate indeed to have many people offering to do this work and each area of the church has two people, working alternate weeks. The Martha, Mary and Lazarus Guild, whose Martha members do all this work, has about 50 members.

Outside, on Wednesdays, a working party mows and trims the churchyard which is looking better than it has done for years. Whilst the local authority is responsible for the mowing, everything else is done by us, including tending the Memorial Garden.

Inside, at the end of each week, the flower arranging team arrives to beautify the church with flowers and foliage appropriate to the season.



There isn't space here to describe all the very many other groups of people who run the numerous organisations which are connected with both the church and the wider community. This is simply – or not so simply as it does take a lot of organising – what happens to keep the services going.

Thank you for all that you do in so many ways to support and enhance the life of the church.

Margaret Carey & John Levin

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

January 25th

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as Saul at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

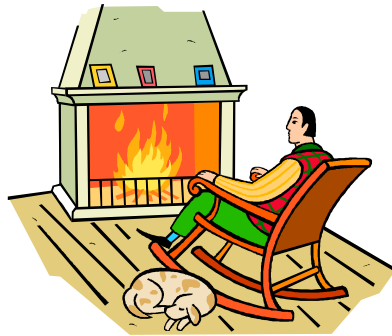


Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: he was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul-outside-the-walls now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many millions of people down the centuries.

LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

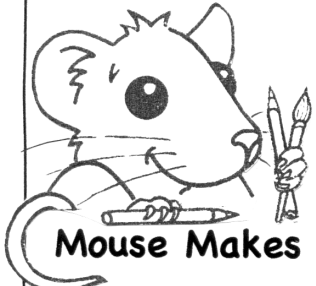
A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services each week, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him warily, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself comfortable, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.



After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead and dark. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The two men sat on in reflective silence.

A little while later, just before the minister was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."




Mouse Makes

Jesus taught his disciples:
 "Anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a man who built his house on rock. *The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, and the wind blew hard against that house, But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.* But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. *The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!*

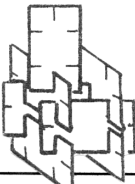
Read this parable in
 Matthew 7:24-27
 and Luke 6:47-49

BRICK
 TEMPLATE

Can you build a strong house?
 ← Cut out the brick template. Gather together all your old Christmas cards and use the template on the cards to cut out lots of 'bricks'.



Cut down slots. Slot the bricks together to build the strongest house or tower you can!



Jan11

FROM THE ARCHIVES

January 1906

As the Parish Rooms pass into new hands, we remember one of their previous uses.

“Generally speaking, the columns of the Magazine are reserved for topics more or less connected with the Church, but we must make an exception this month, and record the birth of the Hurstpierpoint Institute.

For several years past the need has been felt of some place for meeting and recreation for men. Hitherto they have used the basement of the Parish Room, which is utterly unsuited to the purpose. A short time ago Mr Couchman kindly offered to let them have the Music Room at a very reasonable rent. The offer was readily accepted, and the members enter upon their new premises on January 1st.



A full-sized billiard table and necessary furniture have been purchased, and we have not the smallest doubt that the Institute is entered upon a long and useful career ...

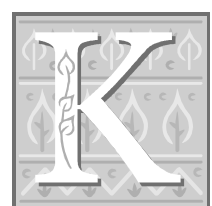
The subscription for ordinary members is 1s 3d per month in Winter, and 9d per month in Summer; honorary members, a Guinea per annum.

We may add that the Institute is not in any way connected with the Church or any other religious body.”

Ed. - Can you imagine installing a full-sized billiard table and furniture in the Parish Rooms basement? No wonder the Institute in Manor Road came into being!

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 by midday on Monday, 20th January.



IS FOR

Killing

“The unjust taking of someone's life was one of the most serious crimes in the Bible, and on the principle that the punishment should be equivalent to the crime, the perpetrator was liable to the death penalty (Genesis 9:6). A clear distinction is made between murder and manslaughter. In the latter case, six cities of refuge were provided to protect the killer against revenge by the dead person's family.”

Collins Bible A-Z

AND FINALLY...

The financial situation

“The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.”



Cicero - in 55 BC