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Parish Magazine October 2020

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The Church Magazine

Editorial

Please note that the Church Magazine has taken on its own contact details

Any publication or notices to reach the editor by the 8th of each month for the following month's issue

The editors reserve the right to edit any submissions and make corrections, omit material, or do minor reorganisation as required to achieve a reasonably consistent look and feel, to any submitted work

We would be delighted to receive photos of weddings and baptisms

magazine@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk

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Please contact the Church Office with any issues

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Thanks

To all our contributors, distributors and advertisers.
Without you this magazine would not be possible

Pastoral letter

AUTUMN DELIGHTS



As a child, of ten of so, I set the alarm early so I could climb the wall into the park at the bottom of the garden before the gates were unlocked and collect a carrier bag of conkers to gain a house point. Shiny conkers still give me a thrill especially when with a gentle roll of the foot you release them from their spikey shell. As a child conkers were gleaned almost as soon as they fell. We all carried a skewer so they could be prepared for competition. Although 'conker fights' seem to have fallen from fashion, conkers still delight.

It is an annual joy to watch a child or family dart eagerly to and fro under a horse chestnut or row of chestnuts seeking these chestnut treasures shaken loose by the autumn winds. The spikey casing increases the reward of releasing them.

"There are more over here."

"And here too."

"They're everywhere!"

The first frosts, heavy dews and morning mists the October sunshine can still be warm. In the hedgerows and woods ripeness and decay are interwoven. Fruits and berries, fallen leaves, broken stalks, plants falling down under their own weight will form the humus from which next year's growth will sprout.

In their wonderful book "Soulful Nature", Brian Draper and Howard Green paraphrase Julian of Norwich. "We are not just made by God, but made of God." They continue, "sometimes it takes finding beauty in nature to discover the very beauty of our own nature." Does God take the same delight in us that children take in conkers? Does the Holy Spirit sometimes gently, tenderly roll us to remove the spikey outer layer so that the beauty within can be revealed?

Autumn abundance. Discoveries marked by a joyful exclamation. Children naturally and shamelessly share, so why do we grow more guarded? When do we lose our innocent delight? Sharing their discoveries enhances the children's joy. What can we learn from the enthusiasm and abandon of the little conker collectors?

Almighty God, your glory is within us and around us
open our eyes to your wonders
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace

God is in us and around us
Ask God to reveal his work in the world and in you.
Ask not why but how.

This month may you be surprised by abundance and delight!

Every blessing
Revd Craig

REGULAR EVENTS - are suspended until further notice

Badger's Field Communion Service, Midweek Retreats
Women's Home Group , Women's Christian Book Club
Bright Sparks, Chapel, Home Group
Happy Faces Baby & Toddler Group, Sunday Club

COMMUNITY

Pastoral Care

Since the days of the early church, church communities have cared for and supported its members and the community it serves. Thankfully many people support the clergy in this by visiting and supporting others. In Campden a small team has been formed to help Revd. Craig. The main role is coordinating pastoral care and directing Craig towards people who need visiting, also undertaking visits themselves, taking home communion, meals or other things that are needed.

The team is headed by our Reader, Bridget Wade and includes our churchwardens Naomi Morrey and Sarah Roberts as well as Jopey Eckersley-Hope, Ros Bishop and Sally Dymott. If you are able to cook the occasional meal and would like to be added to our list please contact Ros Bishop.

Flower Guild

If you would like to be part of the Flower Guild please do get in touch with the administrator - on 01386 841927. If you wish to make a donation to our Flower Fund please send a cheque to the Church Office payable to 'The PCC of Campden', together with a note of the name should you wish this to be in memory of a loved one.

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

St James' Church
Tuesday 25 July

Wilfred Cooper

St Eadburgha's Church
Tuesday 8 September

Sir David Parry-Evans

Vale Crematorium
Friday 18 September
Tuesday 22 September

Miriam Bellew
Leonard Sealy

It is with sadness to announce that Peter Gell from Chipping Campden passed away on Saturday 26 September. Our thoughts are with his family.

STAY IN TOUCH

Revd Craig and his team are posting regular videos of reflections and prayers on our church websites and social media. The links are below if you would like to view them:

stjameschurchcampden.co.uk/videosandreflections.htm

Bedtime church - a service for families, takes place at 6.30pm (on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month)

<http://grumball.com>

Weekly round up sermons from the Diocese of Gloucester
<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/sermons-podcasts-and-gospel-readings-communications-during-lockdown/>

Worship at a Distance with the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team every Sunday

<http://grumball.com>

If you would like Craig to pray for anyone or would just like to talk to Craig please email:

prayer@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the church office:
admin@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk



SUNDAY SERVICES OCTOBER ROTA DURING COVID-19

Sunday 4 October		
Broad Campden		
Chipping Campden	11.00am	Holy Communion Order One
	6.30pm	Compline
Ebrington	9.30am	Holy Communion
Mickleton	8.00am	Holy Communion 1662
Sunday 11 October		
Broad Campden		
Chipping Campden	9.30am	Holy Communion 1662
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Ebrington	9.30am	Morning Praise
Mickleton	11.00am	Holy Communion & APCM
Sunday 18 October		
Broad Campden	8.00am	Holy Communion 1662
Chipping Campden	11.00am	Holy Communion & APCM
	6.30pm	Compline
Ebrington	9.30am	Holy Communion
Mickleton		
Sunday 25 October		
Broad Campden		
Chipping Campden	9.30am	Holy Communion Order One
	6.30pm	Compline
Ebrington	9.30am	Morning Prayer 1662
Mickleton	11.00am	Morning Praise



An Ebrington diary

BUG HOTEL

With grateful thanks to our friend in Mickleton who manufactured it for us, our latest Bug Hotel has been installed at the back of our main wilderness area to the west of the Tower in Ebrington churchyard. When this managed wilderness re-grows the hotel will become better assimilated into its surroundings.



TREE DOWN!

Due to the very high winds we had in August a substantial oak snapped an elm as it toppled down landing across the church path. This had a ripple effect which also brought down timber from another oak and chestnut and holly branches. Thankfully no graves were damaged. The quick work of the contractors cleared the timber away so that the path could be used again.



During this time we also had the "Christmas Pudding" trimmed.

CELEBRATION

Congratulations and special wishes go to Pam and David White who celebrated their Diamond Anniversary on Thursday 10th September 2020.

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT 'THE GROVE', EBRINGTON SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020



The preparation started the day before for us with Mike Martin and David White helping as we battled the wind to put up the two marquees and collect the chairs. Some were garden chairs so could be placed outside while the others had to be stacked in the dining room ready to be moved out in the morning.

We had fingers crossed throughout the night, smiling as soon as it was light, the marquees were still standing!

Using our wooden cross from church our altar was a rustic table covered with flowers, foliage, fruit and vegetables with a panoramic view of fields, trees and hedgerows as the backdrop.



The extra chairs were placed outside with the socially distanced space between them adhered to. More luck, there was no dew so the grass and outside chairs were dry.

Peter arrived with the microphone, service sheets, social distancing signage, sanitizing gel and clip board for taking names as legally required for track and trace.



The sun shone throughout the service which was conducted by Craig, Jay and Bridget. June did the bible reading. Ann and David read the Gardeners Hymn which can be sung to the tune of 'All things bright and beautiful'. Debbie told us of her memories of harvest time growing up in the village and her mum Margaret read two poems.

Then followed Margot with her harvest memories of her father, Harry Stanley, who was the local contractor using machines from thrashing drums through to modern combines with the front folding cutter.



Stan closed with why harvest is important to her. Towards the end of the service Jay, with his guitar, performed a musical reflection.

Sadly due to the current restrictions refreshments could not be served so homemade, individually wrapped, pieces of cake were available for everyone to take home.

It was a special day of thanksgiving in praise of our Lord and his creation, on a wonderfully warm and sunny day, in such a beautiful setting to thank God for the harvest safely gathered in.

CATCH UP WITH REVD SHEILA ROSENTHAL

In Norway, they put red plastic poles along the roadside, about 2 metres high and covered in reflective tape. This is to show where the sides of the roads are when the snow comes. These poles are now going out along the highways and byways. Winter is coming and such snow on the high mountains that has not yet melted will soon be covered again with fresh falls.

Coming, but not here yet. Now we have Autumn and the colours have exploded on the mountain sides.





The streams are scarily full and fast flowing (I dread the dogs paddling!) and the mushrooms have been prolific. People come back from the woods with huge baskets of variously coloured fungus and you never hear of anyone poisoning themselves (or others) so I assume some are safe to eat. The wild raspberries have gone over but

there are still some berries about. The local shops are selling bird food and snow shovels. Evenings are sweet though mornings can be chill now but with a 2 mile walk in the mountains to be done every morning we soon warm up. The colours are not just in the trees but also the light is full of greys and silvers reflecting the skies into the fjord. Small wonder this is a place of both music and silence. Music because of the sheer joy and amazement at the scenery and the silence because of a sense of scale and the place you hold in the world. Psalm 8 has massive reality here!



We have discovered a shop that sells whole dried cod as dog treats. These things smell the house out but the mutts love them! We have resorted to storing them in the basement but as this is where the study is I'm not sure it's an improvement.

Andrew and I have both started Norwegian classes. There is a mix of nationalities – Spanish, Iranian, Nepalese and Portugese - but the class language is English when we need explanation as to what a Norwegian word means. This is fine til you start dealing with idioms or phrases that relate to time or location (in the doghouse, in three years – different sense of 'in') that do not cross cultures or languages. 'Since', which seems so easy a word to use has caused much bafflement when applied to Norwegian understanding of time –which is different from how we Brits think of it. This business of translation between at least 2 other

languages makes me think about how we understand the Bible which was spoken and then written in at least 2 languages and then translated into to even more.

How do we trust a word that is subject to translation, spin and opinion? The philosophy, politics and theology of translation are heady academic areas to go paddling in but common sense alone is sufficient to suggest that it's not a straightforward business. Sometimes you have to experience the thing being talked/written about in order to understand or intuit what the speaker/writer is trying to communicate. But even then experience is a subjective and personal, evanescent matter which changes in us over time such that you could be forgiven for thinking nothing is certain or solid or sound.

What then of faith? As we change, grow older or more mature, we re-appraise our lives and look back with horror, sadness, wistfulness or embarrassment, regret, thankfulness and a whole host of other emotions. Words don't always hit the mark at these times when feelings are stronger than articulation can meet. There is a phrase in Romans 8 .26 where Paul talks of how the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, as if God is undertaking to help us out with the Living Word to express the silent music of praise or repentance that we cannot put together. A picture is worth a thousand words and inward sight shows us something of the grace and glory of God.

Look out for the markers of grace that are already in your life, the poles along the road set out in autumn for the approaching snows of winter. Prepare your spiritual boots and get out the thick woolly pullies of deep friendship ready. Find the headlamps and get the batteries, the flashing leads for the dogs, all ready for the 4 month long dark Nordic winter. Prepared and ready, the winter is full of fun and challenge and warmth of a kind we have no need of in long summer. Hold fast to that which is good and sound and safe – even if you cannot name it precisely.



PRAYERS IN OCTOBER

We pray for our Parliament and all in positions of power and authority that they would govern and lead with integrity, discernment and compassion and work for the common good.



We pray for researches, doctors, medics, nurses and carers and all who are working to keep us safe from the corona virus.

Black History Month - we give thanks for the diversity and rich culture of our nation remembering especially the contribution of people with African and Caribbean heritage.

Saturday 3rd - Apple harvest day; we give thanks apples, the harvest and all who grow and provide us with food.

Sunday 4th - Francis of Assisi (monk and church reformer), we pray, Lord make me an instrument of your peace.

Tuesday 6th - William Tyndale (martyr), translator of the bible into English who was born in Gloucestershire, we give thanks for those who courageously bring your word to others.

Thursday 15th - Teresa of Avila (nun, mystic and church reformer), we pray, Let nothing disturb us. Let nothing make us afraid. All things are passing. God alone never changes.

Friday 23rd - half-term, we give thanks our schools, for our young people, teachers, governors and support staff and pray they might be refreshed over the half-term holidays.

Saturday 24th - the United Nations was founded on this day 75 years ago, we give thanks for all who work for peace and cooperation between nations and peoples.

Friday 30th - the end of British Summer Time (the clocks go back) we give thanks for the seasons and the richness of the natural world.

Saturday 31st - Halloween, we give thanks that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it (John 1:15).

HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs are well-loved creatures, and were voted Britain's favourite animal. Sadly hedgehogs are in decline in Britain and are now listed as "vulnerable" on Britain's red list of mammals. According to the latest State of Britain's hedgehogs report, numbers of hedgehogs have fallen by up to 50% in rural areas and 30% in urban areas since the Millennium.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and eat predominantly beetles, caterpillars and earthworms. They also sometimes eat slugs and snails, eggs, carrion, other mammals and chicks. To supplement their natural diet we can leave out food, e.g., tinned dog or cat food (not fish-based) and crushed dog or cat biscuits. Specialist hedgehog food is also available and can be bought from wildlife food suppliers. We should never feed hedgehogs milk as it can cause diarrhoea; instead provide plain, fresh water in a shallow bowl.



Hedgehogs regularly travel over a mile each night as they search for food. They will travel significantly further to look for a mate. A simple way to support the existing population and encourage population growth is to help create hedgehog highways and allow them access to more gardens. Cutting a hedgehog hole (13cm by 13cm) in the base of a fence or gate, or digging underneath will expand their foraging area. It is possible to make a feature of it by designing or buying an arch or sign. Making a tunnel leading onto it deters cats and other larger animals.

Hedgehog friendly gardening is a useful download that offers multiple ways of making gardens more hedgehog and wildlife friendly - it can be found on the web-page below,

<https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/hedgehogs/hedgehog-resources>

Simply by not tidying every corner of the garden we can develop suitable habitats for hedgehogs and other animals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAY NIBLETT ORDAINED AT GLOUCESTERSHIRE CATHEDRAL



I have been reflecting on how best to describe my feelings about being ordained on Saturday 19 September 2020. I can't decide if it was a moment of calm before the storm or that place in the middle of a hurricane. Maybe it is a bit of both. I know that ministry is full

of surprises and that there will be moments of great joy and moments of pain. As an ordained person I will have the privilege of sharing in people's greatest celebrations, giving thanks to God for them, inviting others to do the same. But I will also carry the somewhat heavier privilege of being available for those who are going through the worst that life can throw at us, crying out in frustration with those hurting and seeking God in the midst of that pain, aware that sometimes there are no easy answers. And this will all be happening during a pandemic! I think the second of my two descriptions feels more appropriate for how I see my ordination. The recent storm that hit Greece was described by one paper as a 'hurricane like storm' and I think that Covid is a bit like that and in the midst of that I experienced a moment of peace.



The storm hasn't gone, but for 1 hour on a Saturday morning, I was given the space, with only a handful of people to witness (although it was live streamed so a few more eyes were watching!) the affirming my calling to ordained ministry, something that I have wrestled with for longer than I realised. But

as encouraging as that moment of peace was, I now have to take that calling and affirmation of it back into the 'hurricane like storm' we are all trying to navigate through.

In the gospels there is a great image of Jesus on a boat, fast asleep in the midst of a storm and the disciples panic, wake Jesus up and cry 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!' (Matt 8:25). Jesus wakes up, sees their panic and fear and calms the storm. It feels like right now we could do with a bit of that. I know I am praying like that! 'Jesus calm this storm already, bring peace!



Help our leaders to make the right decisions, get us a vaccine!, protect the poor and vulnerable!' But at the same time, I find myself wondering, how long was Jesus sleeping, not uncaring, not disinterested, but without fear, able to rest in the middle of the chaos and only rising when the disciples faith was at its limit? We have to have faith that this storm will pass, yes it's been a long one, but there have been other storms, terrible storms and there are not easy answers for them nor the devastation caused, but in that boat, in that storm Jesus was there and in God's timing that storm was calmed.



As I begin my ministry I feel an odd privilege that my ordination was not a big celebration but an intimate, simple moment within the eye of the hurricane like storm. I know I will learn lots, but also I will be serving the church, not from the mountain but from a season of valleys, sat on a boat in a storm. I pray that this timing will help shape my ministry for the better. I hope as with those made in storms of days past, that I too will be

formed into a better minister, and will be able to say, 'Jesus is here, his spirit is with us' knowing that this is true in the calm and in the storms.

“EVERY LITTLE HELPS!”

Although St James’ Church, Chipping Campden has received the Silver Eco Church award we cannot rest on our laurels. The environment is not a one off topic and we need to be vigilant, to remain aware of our precious world. How we treat our planet is a day to day concern, but one that often gets subsumed because of the urgency of the day, of the next big crisis. Could we be preventing, or at least lessening some of those problems by being more aware of the impact our day to day lives have.

We hear of climate change, do we equate that to drought and famine in some of the the poorest communities in the world? Do we associate it with the terrible fires, last winter in Australia? Ongoing on the west coast of America? Or even into the Arctic Circle in Siberia, where fire is starting to thaw the permafrost, something that has not happened in thousands of years?

The trouble is

1) it’s too big a concept! How can anything I do possibly make a difference? 2) It’s not right on my doorstep!

Let’s start with 2); it’s not on our doorstep right now, but if things continue as they are, it will be. Who of us did not complain a bit about the heat this summer! It will only get worse if nothing changes!

1) It’s too big, nothing I do can impact the problem. You are right, in some ways, anything we do as individuals is a drop in the bucket! But, and it’s a big but, a lot of little drops eventually add up to an ocean. We have one world, we are all in this together, so do your little bit.

Do the three R’s, reduce, reuse, recycle! Buy local produce, look at labels, use sustainable products, if it’s still in good shape, give it to someone who can use it, a charity shop, advertise it on free cycle so someone else can have it. Join our toilet paper scheme, use fewer plastics, none of this takes you out of your comfort zone, but as the old saying goes “ every little helps”

Naomi Morrey



“One of the best ways to open that door is to be thankful. I especially want you to learn to thank me when times are tough. Your thankfulness tells me that you trust me. Try seeing how many times you can thank me each day. This will help you see all the good things I give to you- day after day. It will also help you want to praise my name!” – **Jesus calling 365 devotions for kids.**

As our life continues to change shape month on month one thing that stays the same is God’s unwavering love for us as his children.

My desire, as the children and youth leader, is to see the children not only within our church but in our wider community come to know this truth.

As school life begins for many, for me elements of my school life are on pause. Under “normal” circumstances I would have begun after-school and lunch time clubs in several of our local schools. I would be in and out of schools delivering collective worship, mentoring students, or participating in some way to the Religious Philosophy (RP) curriculum and plans would be under way for the coming months.

However, with change comes new opportunity!

This week I was invited to meet the new pupils and lead prayers via Zoom at St James and Ebrington school collective worship assembly. It was such a blessing and brought me so much joy, when Mrs Bowles announced a guest was joining them, seeing pupils excitedly waving at the screen and calling my name.

Each term schools choose a value. **Thankfulness** was the value for St James and Ebrington school this term. During the assembly children shared the poems they had written and Mrs Bowles displayed images of how life can be different for so many. A lovely story was told and the children were invited to think about what they were thankful for. It was a wonderful way to reconnect and take time to reflect on all that we can be thankful for even in a time such as this!

In the coming weeks I will be recording short videos for our schools to use during RP. Zoom collective worship will continue. Youth life group will start up again after the summer via zoom for now. Bedtime church will be held fortnightly for our under 10s. Family packs will continue to be distributed each month and mentoring will resume.

As we continue to adapt and respond accordingly, I would ask for your prayers for all of those involved: the children and families within our church and for the schools in our communities. If you would like to attend or support in any way please do reach out via the children and youth email, we look forward to this new season ahead.

MEMORY VERSE

“When the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, thankfulness overflows. Even in the darkest of times, we can praise God for his love, his sovereignty, and his promise to be near us when we call”
Psalm 145:18



PRAYER

Collective worship St James & Ebrington

Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the friends we meet,
Thank you for our work and play,
Thank you for this new day.

For each one we are grateful,
For each one we are blessed,
For each one we know your never-ending love.

Amen



Amy Todd
Children & Youth Worker

Youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk

MODERN SLAVERY

Chrissie Halls the Ebrington WI President attended a zoom seminar by Claire Mills on “Modern Slavery.” There is an urgent plea to recognise and bring to our attention the horrors that are going on around us every day. ‘Unseen’, is an organisation founded in 2008 that Clare belongs to which is growing rapidly. It aims to identify and support anyone who is drawn into a situation in which, through no fault of their own, they have been trapped and find themselves in a downward spiral from which there is no escape.

How many of us for example, are aware that human slavery is prevalent in the Clothing industry? Over the summer one factory, in Leicester, was exposed for paying an hourly pittance of £3.00 hour. Modern slavery is also prevalent in the Construction industry; in the Food industry; in the Cosmetic and Mobile Phones industries; and in the Agriculture industry too, all of which we benefit from.

Clare explained that these hidden atrocities in our industries are often coupled with human trafficking, that is, the forced movement of people. This comes in many different forms including human trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, human organ harvesting, child trafficking and abuse. The shocking truth is that these things are happening around us, yes, even in the beautiful Cotswolds where we are privileged to live.

There are 45 million people in the world who are deemed to be in human slavery-probably far more. 21 million are in forced labour. Companies make \$150 billion per annum through human slavery. There are 100,000 victims in the UK of whom 45% are, ‘children,’ in slavery, (children up to 18).

What can we do about it? One thing is for certain, we must not turn a blind eye and say we can do nothing. Clare urges everyone to look for the signs of human slavery. Signs like:

if cash payments only are made, how much goes in the employer’s pocket leaving little or nothing for the employee;-be aware and make others aware of what is going on.

if a child goes missing or is suddenly given expensive gifts; - speak to a safeguarding officer.

if we use a Car Wash where employees look as if they have been beaten up; - contact the Helpline.

if we notice people being moved around in the early morning; - notify ‘Unseen’ or the Helpline.

The main causes of human slavery are Control, Fear, Manipulation, Lies, and Poverty. Slowly, we as a nation, are waking up to the reality of modern slavery. The Modern Slavery Act came into being in 2015. Since 2016, the organisation, ‘Unseen,’ has supported 176 women and 46 men in Safe Houses where they are given emotional and mental support, legal assistance, educational and budgeting help, faith and spirituality.

There is now a Helpline for Modern Slavery : 08000 121 700 which is open 24 /7.

Anti-Slavery agencies have sprung up and the police receive regular awareness raising courses.

‘Spotlight,’ is a programme which has been devised to be taken into schools to make children aware and to give them the opportunity to seek help if they are being abused. We can all help by supporting the services that are struggling to combat this monster. In the vein of the Government’s slogan for the coronavirus, although altering their wording for this purpose, Chrissie suggests:

‘Be Alert, Keep them safe and Eliminate Modern Slavery’

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

APPLE MUFFINS

255g (9 oz) plain flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
100g (4 oz) caster sugar
60g (2 oz) butter
225ml (8 fl oz) semi-skimmed milk
110g (4 oz) apple - peeled, cored and chopped



Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas mark 6. Lightly grease a 12-cup muffin tin, or line with paper muffin cups.

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt.

In a separate bowl, cream together sugar and butter. Stir the flour mixture into the sugar mixture alternately with the milk. Fold in the fruit. Pour batter into prepared muffin tin.

Bake in preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the centre of a muffin comes out clean.

EXAMEN -

not a spelling mistake but a source of life!

“They shall be like a tree planted by water sending out its roots by the stream...in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.” (Jer. 17:8)

The prayer of Examen is not self-indulgent introspection. It is a practice of looking back in order to run forward into greater intimacy with God. It enables those roots to go deeper into the source of water. Without that water, the fruit dries up and can't nourish others.

This looking back was thought by St Ignatius to be so important that he taught his followers that even if they had to forgo some of the prayer patterns he advocated, they should never omit the prayer of Examen.

He suggested this prayer should be used both at the end of the morning and the end of the day but I admit that I find it hard enough to set the time aside just once. And yet it requires only a short amount of time – 15 minutes at the most.

We can break it into 5 parts as follows:

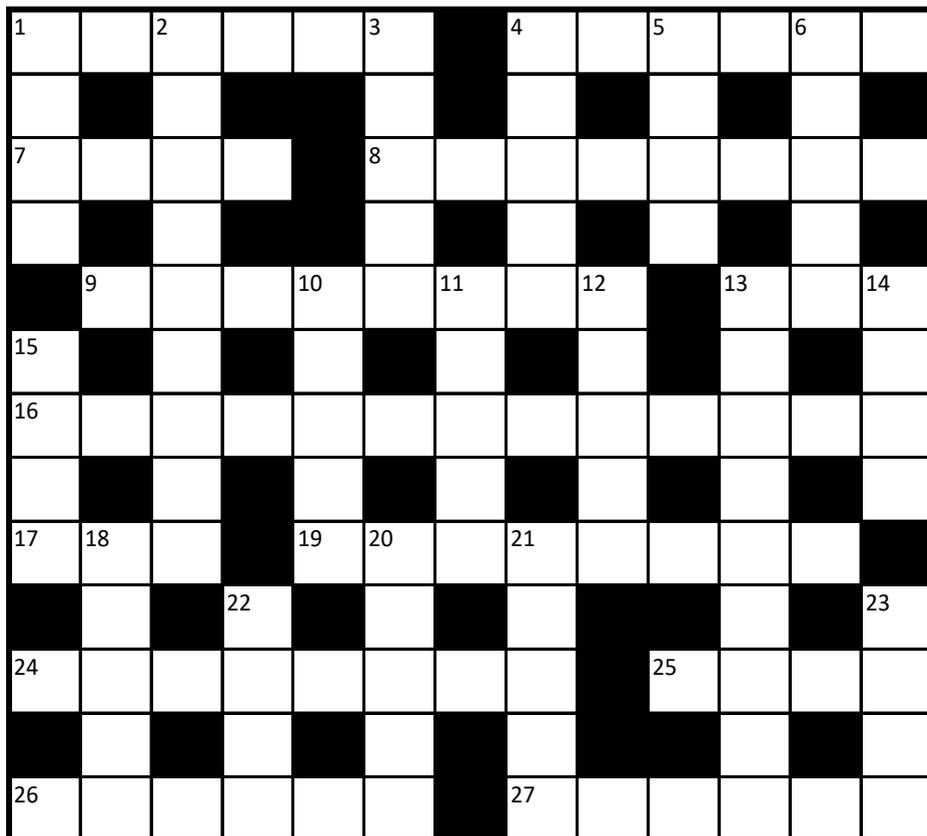
1. Be still in God's presence. Pray for an awakening of desire to be directed by God.
2. Ask God to remind you of moments in the day when he was blessing you, even if you were unaware of his presence at the time. Perhaps an unexpected kind word, a moment of peace in the garden, a project which went really well..... Then picture him with you, in these moments and thank him.
3. Look back on your inner feelings during the day. Don't try to analyse them and don't judge yourself. Just ask Christ to show you where you have let him into your inmost thoughts. Praise him for those times of awareness of his presence and ask his forgiveness for times you have turned away from him.
4. Talk to Jesus about tomorrow and ask him to be with you in everything.
5. Finish by making the sign of the cross or saying the Lord's prayer.

A regular practice of this prayer makes us more aware of the presence of Christ throughout the day. Gradually we learn to remember that he is there and sharing our experiences. It then becomes easier to feel those 'nudges' from him. “Telephone so-and-so – he's struggling.” You're feeling unloved? You are my child and I love you.” “What you are about to say isn't from me so don't say it.”

Slowly but surely he is drawing our roots deep into his well of living water so that we live more joyfully and reflect his light.

*Bridget Wade
Reader*

OCTOBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)

- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

DOWN

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

ANSWERS FOR SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

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