

**ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS — Parish Church of Amersham on the Hill**

**NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY '24**

**EXTENDED EDITION**

## Who's Who at St Michael & All Angels

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(10 am—1 pm Monday—Wednesday & Friday)



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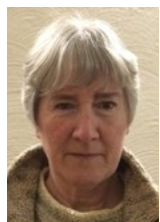
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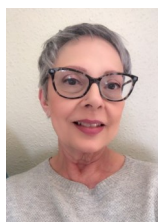
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"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."



Saturday, 17 February, Messy Church will be on in St. Michael's from 11.30am to 1pm, including fun activities, lunch, which is provided for all, and more. No need to book, just turn up. All welcome. This activity is free but donations are welcome.

### St Michael's Vision Statement

*As a Christian community, we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vicar, PCC or the official policy of St. Michael's Church.

The Newsletter is published monthly  
(with the exception of January and August).

The next issue will appear on Thursday, 29 February. Please email material for inclusion to [communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:communications@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk), for the attention of Rebecca, by 15 February.

### In this BUMPER issue...

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**From the editor...** The words from Philip Roderick's poem on page 7, "where shalom intersects and intones with salaam" eloquently express a thread that weaves through the pictures and articles in this edition of the newsletter. Mandalas like the one on the cover, kindly donated by somebody from Pop in and Paint, were originally used in the first century BC by Buddhists for sacred rites and meditation but similar techniques have been adopted by the Christian community over the years. Page 8 explains how colouring and patterns were used to support prayer by some members of St. Michael's and the Amersham Free Church recently.

Chat GPT, used to create a few of the articles this month, is a computer programme that uses artificial intelligence to formulate responses to questions, statements, and even pictures. Read on page 5 one way it perceives it could 'intersect and intone' with Christianity, then follow the link in the article to try it out for yourself!

In case you missed the notices in mid January, a special thanks was recently offered to all the helpers throughout the Community Christmas Tree Festival. Because of you, St. Michael's raised well in excess of £3,000 for the Wycombe Homeless Connexion. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Finally, with Lent just around the corner, our Licensed Lay Minister, Katherine Hyde, invites you to think about joining the online Lent discussion group in her article below.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the newsletter please do not hesitate to contact me. **Rebecca**

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## **The St. Michael's Advent Group 'Stick with Love'**

**By LLM Katherine Hyde**

Revd. Debbie selected 'Stick with Love' for our special Advent study book. It is written by the Bishop of Kirkstall in Leeds, Arun Arora, who co-chaired the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce in 2021. He dedicates his book to the 'women who have shaped and go on shaping me on my own journey.' The book has a reading for each day from the First Sunday in Advent through to Christmas Eve and it is structured into week-by-week sections for the First, Second and Third weeks of Advent. Accordingly, we held an online (Zoom) study meeting in relation to each of these three weeks. The book gives accounts of the faithful lives of different Christians, women and men, who have struggled for their faith and some of whom are still struggling for their faith.

One of the topics that our group discussed was Bishop Arun's thoughts on 'where are you from' (Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Dec). This is written with striking honesty that tackles the kindness that many of us may *think* that we extend to visitors from outside our home area. In fact, often we make clumsy assumptions and our intended hospitality shows that we don't deeply understand the wounded emotions of refugees like Ukrainians; or the one whose family moved here to escape a ruthless dictator; or someone like Arun himself who is a dyed-in-the-

wool Brummie, from a second-generation immigrant family.

The book does not avoid facing some challenging testimonies, such as those of Helen Berhane, arrested and tortured in Eritrea, now still working for justice there. Or Leah Sharibu who is still imprisoned in north-east Nigeria after being abducted from school, and forcibly married to one of her Muslim captors after she refused to deny her Christian faith. The book includes accounts of the lives of George Floyd, Dr John Sentamu, Revd. Billy Graham and Revd. Dr Martin Luther King and others.

We considered Bonhoeffer's statement that 'the celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul.' The group felt that whilst this was an important reflection from a Christian in extreme suffering, our group experience of the celebration of Advent is joyful as well as difficult. We celebrate the intensely important birth of Jesus from the melting pot of daily experiences and challenges that the book presents to us.

Some of our group commented on life experiences about extending Christian multicultural hospitality, such as taking a stand against racist views at home when they were young, or discovering common humanity, and that it is attitude and

character that counts. Could we take some of these lessons learned from the past, along with new ideas, and apply these to current hospitality and other needs for our church and town? We will be very happy to welcome more people to A Crafty Cuppa on Friday mornings and to welcome families to Messy Church on the third Saturday of each month.

People felt that Arun's book has drawn them in; that it is thought provoking, affirming and easy to read, and appropriate for our inclusive principles as a church. Everyone is welcome to join our Lent series of studies which will take place online. Please do contact Hazel Miller in the office if you would like more details.

Arun concludes with an important question for reflection; how is it possible to stick with love in the face of concerted hatred? How as agents of reconciliation can Christians both model and encourage this? Let's pray concertedly for our town and for our world.

Postscript: The Foreword is written by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. Further copies of the book can be obtained from [www.spck.org.uk](http://www.spck.org.uk); 'Stick with Love; Rejoicing in every tongue, every tribe, every nation' by Arun Arora, 2023.



# Beyond Peace – Reconciliation By Neil Lynch

Lent always seems to race towards us so quickly after Christmas. Ash Wednesday in 2024 falls on February 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day.

Our hopes and prayers for "Peace on Earth and Good Will to all Men", made manifest in Jesus' birth and so desperately needed in today's world of conflict, war, deprivation and suffering, now turn to the message of true and enduring reconciliation gifted to all mankind through Jesus' death and resurrection.

This message of reconciliation was very much reinforced in my thinking by a visit we made to Coventry Cathedral this autumn.

The first cathedral of St Mary built around 1100 was the only cathedral reduced to rubble by the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. The parish church of St Michael became the new cathedral church in 1918 when the diocese of Coventry was first established. Discussions on refurbishment continued but on November 14 1940 the cathedral was burnt to a ruin by a sustained air raid on the city.

The decision and commitment to rebuild the cathedral was taken the day after its destruction, not as an act of defiance but as a sign of Faith, Trust and Hope for the future.

By 1948 an altar had been built from the rubble among the ruined shell of the cathedral and a rough cross made from the remains of two charred roof beams placed on it. The words "FATHER FORGIVE" were carved into the ruined wall behind the altar to highlight that we all need forgiveness – not just those who have harmed us. This commitment to reconciliation remains at the heart of the cathedral's ministry to this day.

Reconciliation starts in our own hearts, within our own relationships with all humanity, each created uniquely but all as God's Children and our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Every day at noon in the new and magnificent Cathedral Church of St Michael in Coventry a Litany of Reconciliation is proclaimed. I offer it as a prayer for Lent in 2024 and beyond.

## LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class.

FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own.

FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth.

FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others.

FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee.

FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children.

FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God.

FATHER FORGIVE

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.

**(Canon Joseph Poole 1955)**



**Cruciform  
Tree**

# **The hope for understanding, cooperation, and unity between Christianity and different faiths, cultures and AI**

**By AI—Chat GPT** (<https://talkai.info/chat/>)

The hope for understanding, cooperation, and unity between Christianity and different faiths, cultures, and AI is rooted in the pursuit of peace, mutual respect, and the recognition of common values and goals. While there may be differences in beliefs, practices, and worldviews, there is also a shared desire to foster harmony and build bridges of understanding.

One of the fundamental teachings of Christianity is the principle of love and respect for all humanity. This principle encourages Christians to engage in dialogue with people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, seeking to understand their perspectives and cultivating a sense of empathy. Through active listening, Christians hope to create an environment where differ-

ent religious and cultural traditions can coexist in peace and unity.

The pursuit of understanding and cooperation extends to the interaction between Christianity and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as well. As AI becomes an increasingly integral part of our lives, it raises complex ethical, societal, and philosophical questions. Christians, like adherents of other faiths, are called upon to engage with these advancements and navigate how they align with their religious beliefs.

The hope for unity between Christianity and different faiths is based on the recognition that there are often common moral values shared across religions. These commonalities form a foundation upon which understanding can be built. Promoting dialogue and in-

terfaith initiatives, Christians aim to foster a climate of mutual respect, acknowledging the inherent dignity and worth of each individual.

Similarly, unity between Christianity and various cultures is sought by appreciating the richness and diversity within humanity. Acknowledging cultural differences, Christians aspire to celebrate and learn from other cultural traditions. This openness to cultural exchange strengthens the bonds of understanding and paves the way for cooperative endeavors that benefit society as a whole.

When it comes to AI, the hope for unity is grounded in the belief that technological advancements should be guided by moral and ethical considerations. Christians advocate for

the responsible development and use of AI, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing human values and well-being. By engaging in interdisciplinary discussions involving theologians, ethicists, scientists, and engineers, Christians hope to contribute to an ethical framework that aligns AI advancements with principles of justice, compassion, and human dignity.

In all these pursuits, the hope for understanding, cooperation, and unity rests on the willingness to engage in open and respectful dialogue. Christians aspire to be active participants in the global community, working alongside people from diverse faiths, cultures, and AI developers to address shared challenges and promote a more harmonious future.

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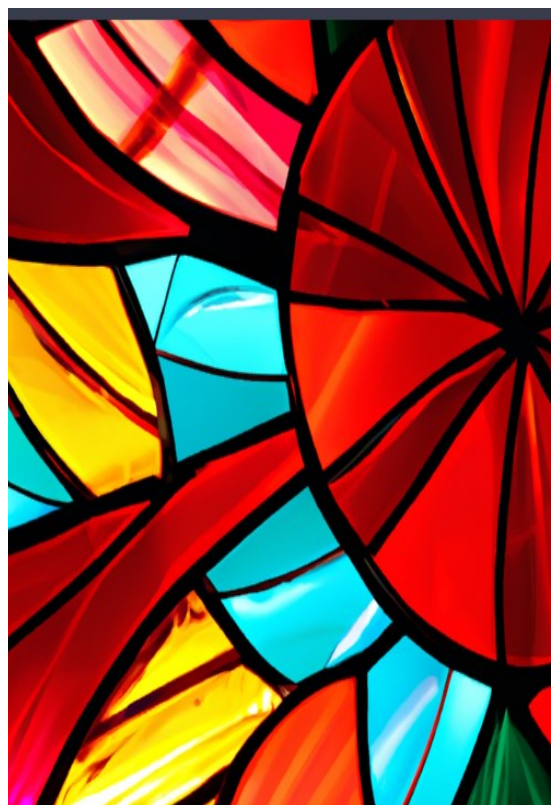
## **An interpretation of Ash Wednesday by AI—Chat GPT**

(<https://talkai.info/chat/>)

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day that marks the beginning of Lent, which is a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and repentance leading up to Easter. It falls on the Wednesday after Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday.

On Ash Wednesday, many Christians attend church services where a priest or minister will apply ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of worshippers. The ashes are usually made by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The act of receiving ashes is symbolic of repentance and mourning for one's sins and mortality. It is also a reminder of the biblical phrase, "From dust you came, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

Ash Wednesday is considered a solemn and reflective day for Christians as they prepare themselves spiritually for the observance of Easter and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Rose Stained Glass Window by Chat GPT



# In the Hall

## The Anthony Nolan charity

This charity group recently used the St. Michael's Church Hall for a very successful fundraising event.

The Anthony Nolan charity is a UK-based independent charity that is committed to saving the lives of people with blood cancer. It was founded in 1974 by Shirley Nolan, whose son Anthony needed a bone marrow transplant.

The charity's main focus is on finding suitable donors for patients in need of a stem cell or bone marrow transplant. They maintain a register of potential donors called the Anthony Nolan register, which consists of people who have volunteered to donate their stem cells or bone marrow to those in need. The charity also campaigns for increased awareness and understanding of stem cell and bone marrow transplants.

Anthony Nolan works closely with hospitals and transplant centres to facilitate transplants and provide support and counselling services to patients and their families. They also conduct research to improve the success rates of transplants, and provide educational resources to healthcare professionals to enhance their knowledge in the field.

In addition to their focus on patient care and donor recruitment, Anthony Nolan raises funds through various means, including corporate partnerships, events, donations, and fundraising activities. These funds enable the charity to continue their lifesaving work and expand their impact.

Overall, the Anthony Nolan charity plays a crucial role in the fight against blood cancer by connecting patients with potential donors, supporting them throughout the transplant process, and conducting crucial research.

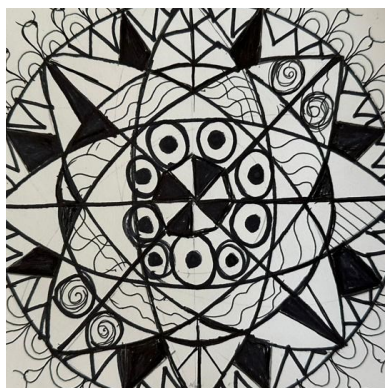
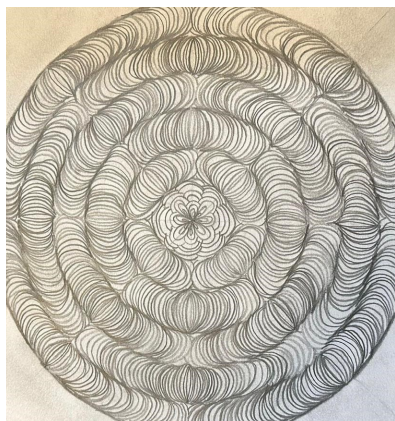
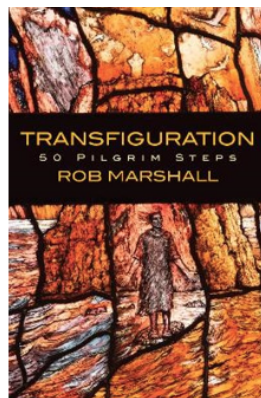
If you are interested in finding out more about this charity please visit <https://www.anthonynolan.org/>, or if you would like to hire the church hall, please contact Hazel Miller at: [office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

(Article written mainly by Chat GPT on <https://talkai.info/chat/>)



Photos donated by Sian Ellis

PLEASE CONTACT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OFFICE  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
**JOIN THE LENT COURSE.**  
THE COURSE WILL BE  
BASED ON ROB MARSHALL'S  
BOOK, *TRANSFIGURATION*,  
AND WILL RUN WEEKLY  
FROM TUESDAY, 20 FEBRU-  
ARY TO TUESDAY, 19 MARCH.



More mandalas from Pop in & Paint

**In these fragile days,**

where shalom intersects and intones with salaam,

the Word of peace finds expression in the circus of struggle:

**Life and lament in full measure,**

the texture of the infant

vested in the delicacy

of birth and discipleship;

**God embodied**

in worship and wisdom,

praise and praxis –

**the consequences of deep encounter.**

**By Philip Roderick**

(After whom The Roderick Quiet Garden at St Michaels is named)

## Fair Trade by Sue Eames



In the summer of 2016 Revd Debbie was keen for St Michael's to support Traidcraft – a charity of some 40 years standing, sourcing fairly traded and ethically produced goods from third

world countries and the global south. We were in touch with our local Area Representative, Margaret Dykes, from Chalfont St Giles Church and, following checks on the best way to take this forward, we began holding monthly stalls at St Michael's in September 2016 on the second Sunday for the Gathered Round Service.

Initially, we held the stall after the 8 am as well as the 10 am service but by Christmas of that year David Rafferty and I were jointly holding the stall only after the Family service.

The supply system worked well as our Area Rep, Margaret, carries a large

stock of produce ranging from household consumables to soft fruit, nuts and dates, rice/pasta, tea and coffee plus sweets and chocolates, cooking oil and herbs, cereal and fruit juice. She delivers boxes of food to church a few days before and collects after the service as she supplies several other churches/organisations each month. There is no book-keeping for us (!) as items are priced and we take cash only, which she collects with the goods.

Fast forward to April 2020 when Covid arrived, services ceased and churches were locked.

**Fair Trade by Sue Eames ctd. on pg. 10**



# Advent Prayer Swap By Rebecca Olsen

Amidst the preparations for Christmas it is easy to forget to take time to be still and allow God to move within and through us. Promising to stop and pray daily, even just for one other person, opens up a quiet space inside us for God to work within.

During Advent eighteen people from St. Michael's and the Amersham Free Church decided to allow God to work through them when they agreed to participate in an Advent Prayer Swap. Each person was given the first name of another person who agreed to take part and asked to pray for that person daily. In addition to praying for that person, all were asked to also keep in their prayers Bishop Arun Arora, who wrote the book that the St. Michael's Advent Group were following.

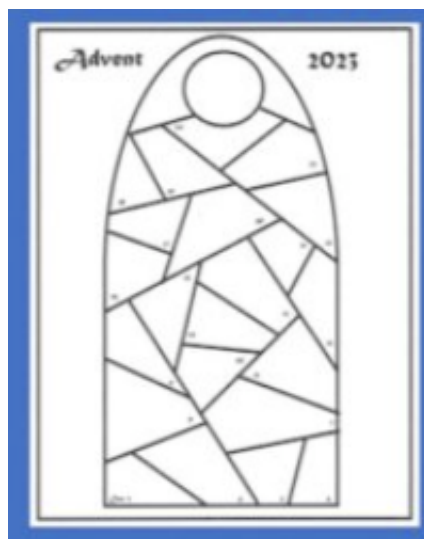
**“Christmas can be a very tricky time for many and such help as this reflects the true meaning of Christmas of “Christ with us” cemented further by a faithful prayer partner as we prepared to meet Baby Jesus in Bethlehem once again.”**

Praying for someone local, without knowing their situation, troubles, joys, life, was challenging for some in the group. It also gave many an opportunity to consider more deeply their own connection to prayer and the effects it can have on ourselves and those around us.

**“We are often praying for people unknown to us such those in war zones or experiencing difficult times so I found it good to pray for someone in the local locality. Early on I received a message about how I should pray and that helped me focus my thoughts.”**

Before the sessions commenced an email arrived from one of the eighteen inviting the others to consider using techniques for praying that were suggested in an Advent series led by Brian Draper, who you may have come across if you listen to Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4, as part of the Today Programme. The email was then shared with all those who signed up to the prayer group.

Using a resource called Advent Calendars, from the website *Praying In Colour*, (<https://prayingincolor.com/advent-calendars-2023>) participants were invited to write the name of the person they were praying for in a space, doodle around the name, and add colour. Each stroke of colour or each doodled mark (line, dot, arc, spiral...) would be a wordless prayer. If words came to mind as participants coloured, they were invited to pray them—in their mind or write the word on the page. When a daily entry was completed the person drawing would say “Amen” or recite a short passage of Scripture appropriate to Advent like “The Lord is my light and my salvation.” (Psalm 27:1)



*Praying in Colour  
Example of a  
doodle page for focusing prayer*

One of the participants delightedly reported ending up with a picture that resembled a beautiful stained glass window surrounding the person's name for whom they were praying.

Not everyone used the same method for praying as of course, each person was free to pray in the way that best suited them. For example, one person reported imagining the fire of the Holy Spirit purifying the person they were praying for, and then filling the spaces with the Holy Spirit and God's love.

Whatever method everyone used, without knowing anything but the first name of the person they were praying for each person was required to let go of their preconceived ideas of what the other might need, and trust that God was listening and providing exactly what was required.

**“It has been very good to pray for my Prayer Swap partner and I trust my prayers winged their way to help her and Bishop Anun Anora each day. I was very comforted that prayers were there for me too as unexpected things happened and this sustenance is extra good when you live alone.”**

Now that Advent and Christmas are over, and the group are no longer officially praying for the person whose name they were given, I wonder how many of the participants have been inspired to dive more deeply and regularly into prayer, and how many still keep the person whose name they were given in their prayers? I for one continue to remember the person whose name I was given, and I pray that God has changed their life, and will continue to change their life, in a positive way.



# A Reflection on Ordination

by **Patryk Jakubowski**

Dear Beloved Friends and Parishioners of St Michael and All Angels!

As I approach the five-month mark of my ministry as Pastoral Assistant at the Holy Trinity Parish in North London, I would like to share a brief personal reflection on priesthood with you. Please continue to keep me in your prayers, and rest assured of my prayers for all of you!

Yours in Christ and love,

Patryk Jakubowski

A priest is a person who, in response to God's call, becomes both a servant and a shepherd. It might seem that these roles are contradictory; however, on the contrary, being a servant and a shepherd find their fulfilment in Christ. I believe this is also a spiritual balance that helps priests maintain the authenticity of their ministry. The priestly vocation is realized in and with community, with bishops and fellow priests.

Priesthood also involves recognizing the humanity in others, primarily acknowledging them as children of God and pointing the way of Mercy that God offers to all. In my perception, it is also a priority to see the person, not just the sin. Priestly service allows representing God, who is Love. It is becoming a parent to those one encounters. In my understanding, the call to priesthood is an invitation to seek the lost and to be a person of prayer, open to the Holy Spirit. Of course, showing mercy does not mean trivializing evil in the modern world. The ability to proclaim the Gospel is primarily about fidelity to the Gospel, obedience to Christ, but also the continual shaping of the primacy of conscience. Preaching the

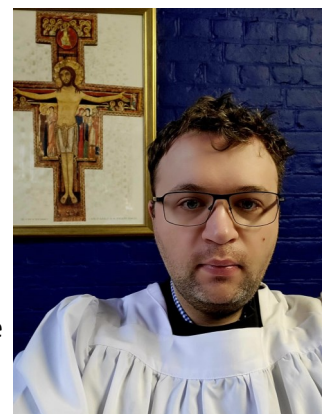
Gospel is not always easy, especially when the seed falls on rocky ground. The world sets the pace of consumption, tries to replace humanity with technology, denies its own helplessness, and substitutes it with omnipotent desires. God was, is, and will be. Facilitating entry into the Church community itself is worth the effort. The authenticity of testimony with one's own life is one of the fundamental aspects of being a Christian. The call to shape the primacy of conscience and not relying solely on one's judgment enables bishops and priests to understand the signs of the times and to watch over them. In my perception, priesthood also requires stepping out of one's comfort zone. It often means leaving the circle of friendly parishioners, collaborating brothers and sisters, and sometimes even abandoning one's limited views and going to the outskirts of the Church – where it may seem that a priest is not needed. The call to priesthood is readiness and mission. It is an indication that God is alive – alive in people, alive on the altars of churches, alive in God's Word. I also believe that enabling others to experience God's Presence in the sacraments is a process of systematic service. Faithfulness in a secularizing society is no longer popular. Rather, emphasis is placed on speed and measurability of results, as in the world of business and marketing, which is not consistent with the logic of faith.

One of the fundamental aspects of priestly ministry is the worthy celebration of sacraments. Although each priest brings a certain individuality to his vocation and personality, God should be at the centre of every voca-

tion. By doing so, the priest, in administering the sacraments, enables the faithful to encounter God and the grace of God's blessing and salvation. Nurturing sacramental unity, both for oneself and the faithful, is also growing in faith and participating in the unity of the Universal Church.

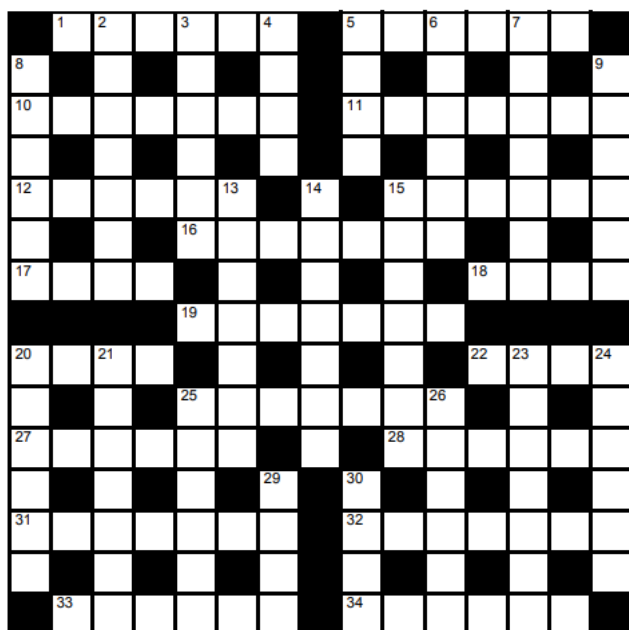
In my spiritual journey, the encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist has always held a special place. Currently, serving as a pastoral assistant, I highly appreciate the opportunity to participate in daily Eucharist and receive Holy Communion. I feel immense blessing and gift when I can assist in administering Holy Communion. An essential part of my journey is also worshipping God in the grace of the sacrament of the sick, praying for healing, and accompanying others in the sacrament of baptism. I try to converse with people so that they first experience God's goodness and presence, and then accept and lay their life difficulties and sufferings on the altar of the Lord. Human existence is not possible without the Cross. Through the Cross, one enters into the mysteries of the resurrection. I trust that God, by endowing me with the vocation to the priesthood (I still explore this!), has given me the potential to fulfil this gift. I believe that every stage of my life – despite difficulties, tears, misunderstandings from others, and sometimes falls – was worth experiencing. Although part of faith remains a mystery to me, I

have the readiness for fidelity to God and my daily "yes" to His Will. Thy will be done now and forever.



# Crossword Puzzle (VIII)

## Answers in the March edition



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

### Across

- 1 A nation referred to in the O.T. and the N.T. (6)
- 5 Teacher; leader (6)
- 10 Letter (7)
- 11 Blood was painted on these (7)
- 12 "Out of the \_\_\_\_\_ came something sweet" (6)
- 15 Where was Jacob? (6)
- 16 Made unholy (7)
- 17 Ezekiel lay on this for three years (4)
- 18 Very old (4)
- 19 Sure (7)
- 20 Ethiopia (4)
- 22 Remaining (4)
- 25 Naaman's maid, for example (7)
- 27 Seraiah's father (6)
- 28 Land (6)
- 31 Hold inside (7)
- 32 The teaching place of the Ethiopian eunuch (7)
- 33 Jews are renowned for celebrating these (6)
- 34 A child of Caleb & Maachah (6)

### Down

- 2 The lame man was too slow to reach this type of water (7)
- 3 To wait on, or be present (6)
- 4 Untruths (4)
- 5 The Promised Land was said to be flowing with this (4)
- 6 We have all done this (6)
- 7 Late in the day (7)
- 8 Animals (6)
- 9 A Philistine city (6)
- 13 Sisera, for example (7)
- 14 A nation in the O.T. neighbouring Israel (7)
- 15 Anyone who comes to God must do this (7)
- 20 Together with 'time' this happens to all (6)
- 21 Did Nadab and Abihu have a match for this? (7)
- 23 Self scrutiny before communion (7)
- 24 Half the time of Jesus' fasting (6)
- 25 Lebanese trees (6)
- 26 Provided by God when we are tempted (6)
- 29 Far extremes of the earth (4)
- 30 Luke Part II ? (4)

### Fair Trade by Sue Eames ctd. from pg. 8

During this time when we were unable to hold stalls, it was still possible for individuals to order direct from Margaret, who delivered to our doorsteps. She and husband, Bill, also started delivering dried goods, particularly rice and pasta to the Chiltern Food Bank. Individual donations were invited from members of the congregations of local churches and, by April 2022 £50,000 had been donated to the Food Bank after almost 2 years of Covid restrictions. Prior to that in September 2021, we recommenced selling goods when we were allowed to return to 'normal' services and it was business as usual.

Sadly, a year ago we learned that Traidcraft through whom we buy goods, had called in the administrators and were no longer trading.

Since then Margaret has identified alternative suppliers of ethical and fair trade products – one of the suppliers being True Origin, a name that reflects their awareness in the fair trade supply chain. Like Traidcraft they have a parent charity but unlike Traidcraft do not have a network of fair traders. True Origin Foods works directly with a network of smallholder farmers and producers in the global south to source the finest ethical foods. Smallholder farmers and producers are at the heart of True Origin and their partnership provides sustainable incomes which enable farmers and producers to invest in equipment, education, infrastructure and environmental protection. They work with their parent charity to focus future development work on partnerships with their producer communities.

Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange) Christmas Cards were also available on our stalls in the Autumn.

It is a year since the demise of Traidcraft and many of their fabulous products are still missed (the muesli, cakes and biscuits especially) and there is no sign currently of these products returning. However, every time we buy Fairtrade products we are making a positive commitment for a fairer deal for families and farmers.

Across the world communities are investing £30m of Fairtrade Premium in locally-led projects. From taking on climate change to investing in medical facilities, farmers are using our Fairtrade commitment to change things for the better. But it isn't just about buying fair trade products, it is more than that. It is important to support fair trade farmers' campaigning efforts for fairer prices, more equal global trade rules and climate justice.

Please do continue to support our monthly stall, firm in the knowledge that you are making a difference.



## Eucharists:

**Sundays** 8.30am and 10am  
(Gathered Round on the second Sunday of each month is especially designed for families)

**Tuesdays** 10.30am

## Morning Prayer:

**Tuesdays** 9am in the Lady Chapel.

**Messy Church:** 17 February '24

(The third Saturday each month 11.30am—1pm, except Aug)

St Michael's is usually open for private prayer from 10am until 4pm Mon–Fri.

This link, <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams>, will access live-streamed services.

## WORSHIP

### WARDENS

4 Feb Alan Bacon  
11 Feb Claire Sinclair  
18 Feb Roland Gillott  
25 Feb Roger Leslie

Please see:  
[stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)  
for more details

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S & BEYOND

**POP IN & PAINT— 2 February—10.30am-12.15pm**

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed. Materials provided.

**WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB — 2 February *EMPIRE OF LIGHT* 2pm-4pm—Wheeler Room**

A moving drama about the power of human connection. Starring Olivia Coleman and Colin Firth. 1hr 50mins

**A CRAFTY CUPPA—9 & 23 February — 10.30am-12 noon**

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company.

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church**

**Every Tuesday – 12noon-2pm** Tea, coffee and soup available **1.10pm-1.30pm** Music, a talk, or short service.

**Mondays**  
**Tiny Talk—Baby Signing** 10am (Tel: 07809 157 428)  
**Mature Movers** 1.45pm—2.45pm  
**Amersham Dance Studio** Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm  
(email: [emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk](mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk))  
**Stay Steady, Stay Strong** 1.30pm—2.30pm & 2:45pm—3:45pm (Tel: 07951 294178)

**Tuesdays**  
**Tuffney Performing Arts Academy** 4.30pm (Email: [office@tuffney.com](mailto:office@tuffney.com))  
**Yoga with Shiv** 6pm—8pm (Science based approach, open to all. Tel: 07815132157).  
**A Capella** 7pm—11pm

**Wednesdays**  
**Oakden Pilates** 9am—12pm  
**Karate Club** 7pm—8pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)  
**Badminton Club** 8.15pm—10.15 pm (Tel: 01923 264791).

**Thursdays**  
**Badminton** 1.30pm-3.30pm  
**Amersham Dance Studio** Children from 3+. 4pm—10pm  
(email: [emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk](mailto:emma@amershamdancestudio.co.uk))  
**Chiltern Spirit Combat** 7.30pm-10pm

**Fridays**  
**Karate Club** 7pm—8 pm (Tel: 07951 024 397)

**Saturdays**  
**Popstars Academy** 9.30am—12pm (email: [hazel@popstarsacademy.com](mailto:hazel@popstarsacademy.com)).

Please see [stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](http://stmichaelsamersham.org.uk) if you would like to book the hall.

## IN THE HALL

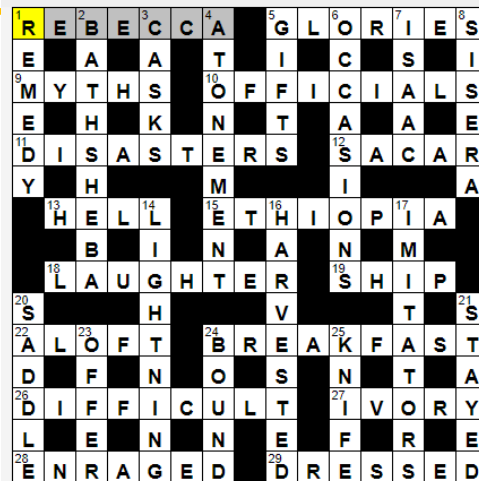


## Seeking volunteers to help with Messy Church!

We have a great core team for Messy Church, but occasionally there are not enough volunteers available for a session. If you would like to help out, even just occasionally, please let Hazel know via: [office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk).

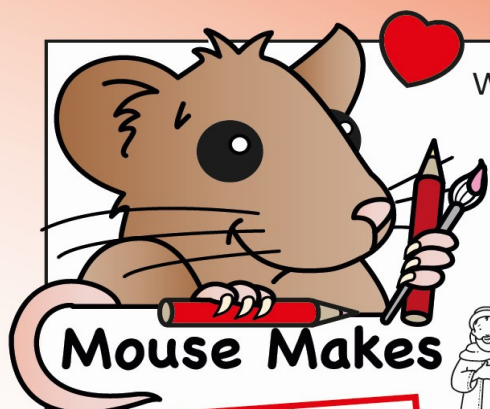
We hope to hear from you soon!

Dec/Jan. Crossword Puzzle Answers



Created by BiblePuzzles.com

# DIARY FEBRUARY '24



## Mouse Makes

### CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM      | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM   | MARY      |
| ISAAC     | HANNAH    |
| JACOB     | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ      | EVE       |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH      |
| ELKANAH   | REBEKAH   |
| AQUILA    | RACHEL    |
| JOSEPH    | SARAH     |

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 1:5

### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
UFO WFSTF  
OJOF

### DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

ABRAHAM  
ADAM • AQUILA  
BOAZ • ELKANAH  
ELIZABETH  
EVE • HANNAH  
ISAAC • JACOB  
JOSEPH • MARY  
PRISCILLA  
RACHEL  
REBEKAH • RUTH  
SARAH  
ZECHARIAH