



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey February 2020
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear Friends

Once again I want to give you an adapted version of a story from the Margaret Silf book, "More Wisdom Stories".

This story is called, "The adventures of a Puddle Fish":

There was once a large tree growing beside a river. Every year, after the wet season, large puddles would get left behind in the hollows created by the roots of the tree. Every year, small schools of puddle fish would settle in the puddles. These fish spent all their time swimming in circles, trying to catch water bugs and fighting over what they had caught.

One day there was a huge splash as a brightly coloured rainbow fish flopped into one of the puddles after leaping from the river below. The puddle fish, shocked by the arrival of this very different looking newcomer, huddled at the side of the pool, waiting and carefully watching his every move. The big fish seemed to glow with iridescence and he was *smiling*. What on earth did he have to smile about? Was there something he knew that they didn't?

One bold puddle fish moved towards him. "Who are you? Where are you from?" he asked. "I come from the ocean" came the reply. "Ocean? What and where is the ocean?" the puddle fish asked. "Well", said the rainbow fish, "The ocean is...the ocean is – well it's what we're made for. It goes on forever. It's full of so many wonderful creatures. It's brimming with movement and life.

"How do you get there?" asked the puddle fish, eager to discover this new wonder. "You just jump out of the puddle and trust the river to carry you there" the rainbow fish assured him. It was then that objections began to rise up from the ranks of the puddle fish. The realist among them objected – this puddle is reality, you're deluded about this so called ocean. This is what we know, this is where we

should stay. The scaredy fish whimpered, "No one would ever dare make that great leap into the river, never mind letting it carry them off who knows where! I mean, really, who would even consider making a leap into the great unknown?" "Maybe we should try", said others. One fish said, "Both sides of the argument have merit – maybe we should form a discussion group and talk it through". "Talking won't get you into the ocean", the rainbow fish warned them gently. "And Summer is coming; soon this little puddle will dry up, and then what?"

Eventually, the visiting fish leapt back into the river and swam away. Very tentatively, a few brave puddle fish also made the leap of faith to a new adventure in the river. The others gazed after them with pity then went back to swimming round in circles.

Our church could be likened to the puddle and us like the fish. Are we happy to carry on swimming round in circles, or are we ready and willing to take a leap of faith, go somewhere we've not been before, do something we've not done before? Are we ready to trust God to carry us to where we need to be?

I am working on a version of Messy Church and looking to start a toddler group at church. Along with the baptism team I'm experimenting with ideas to re engage baptism families. I'm also considering starting a walking group ending with a pub lunch on a monthly basis. We need to develop both inward and outward looking activities. It can seem safer to stay where we are, doing what we know, but believe me, that option is far from being the safest option. For most churches, doing what we have always done has resulted in steadily declining congregations. I'm not averse to keeping what we've always had, the things that are dear to us, provided we also experiment with new ideas. Let's pray that God will guide us, encourage us, equip us and bless our efforts as we make a leap of faith together.

God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dun', written in a cursive style.

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What's Next

Dear Friends,

In the last issue of the Grasshopper, I wrote to invite you to 'What's next?'. A morning in church where we can talk, pray, and plan together about what God might be calling us to in the coming years at St John's. Unfortunately, in my excitement, I managed to double book myself. A rather silly mistake as I will be facilitating at least part of the day and I can't be in two places at once! As such, the PCC has agreed to change the date to Saturday 7th March. I am really very sorry for the mix-up, but we are all human and mistakes happen sometimes.

*I really do hope as many people as possible will be able to come along and get involved. The more the merrier. There will be ways for children to take part as well as adults. Please do come along on **Saturday 7th March 2020 from 10am to 1pm** with refreshments from 9.30am. There will be a bring and share lunch and we hope it will be an enjoyable day filled with fun and fellowship as we look forward together with hope and expectation to what God might be doing next in the life of St John's.*

*Every blessing
Sally*

Day by Day Scheme

5th Feb Birthday memories of Uncle Albert

15th Feb Stewart & Janet's Wedding Anniversary

23rd Feb Gareth's Birthday

The running costs of the church, which include the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, light and heat and costs of the services, amounted to £30,795 in 2018 – just over £84 a day.

Thank you to all those who are supporting the Day by Day Scheme which is used towards these costs.

If you would like to help please speak to a warden or our administrator.

Bible Readings

2 Feb **Candlemas**

Malachi 3:1-5

Luke 2:22-40

9 Feb **Third Sunday before Lent**

Isaiah 59:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

16 Feb **Second Sunday before Lent**

Genesis 1:1-2;3

Matthew 6:25-end

23 Feb **Sunday next before Lent**

Exodus 24:12-end

Matthew 17:1-9

1 Mar First Sunday of Lent

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Diary Dates

February

2nd Sun

Candlemas

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

5th Wed

10am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer

10.45am Coffee & Chat

11am Holy Communion Oakdene

6th Thur

7pm Come & Praise!

9th Sun

Third Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

12th Wed

10am Holy Communion

10.45am Coffee & Chat

13th Thur

7pm Come & Praise!

16th Sun

Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Eucharist

11.15am Baptism, Theodore Davenport-Herd

19th Wed

10am Holy Communion

10.45am Coffee & Chat

11am Holy Communion Millfield

20th Thur

7pm Come & Praise!

23rd Sun

Sunday next before Lent

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

26th Wed

Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion with Ashing

10.45am Coffee & Chat

7.30pm Holy Communion with Ashing

27th Thur 7pm Come & Praise!

March

1st Sun

First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion – BCP

9.30am Parish Communion

4th Wed

10am Holy Communion BCP

10.45am Coffee & Chat

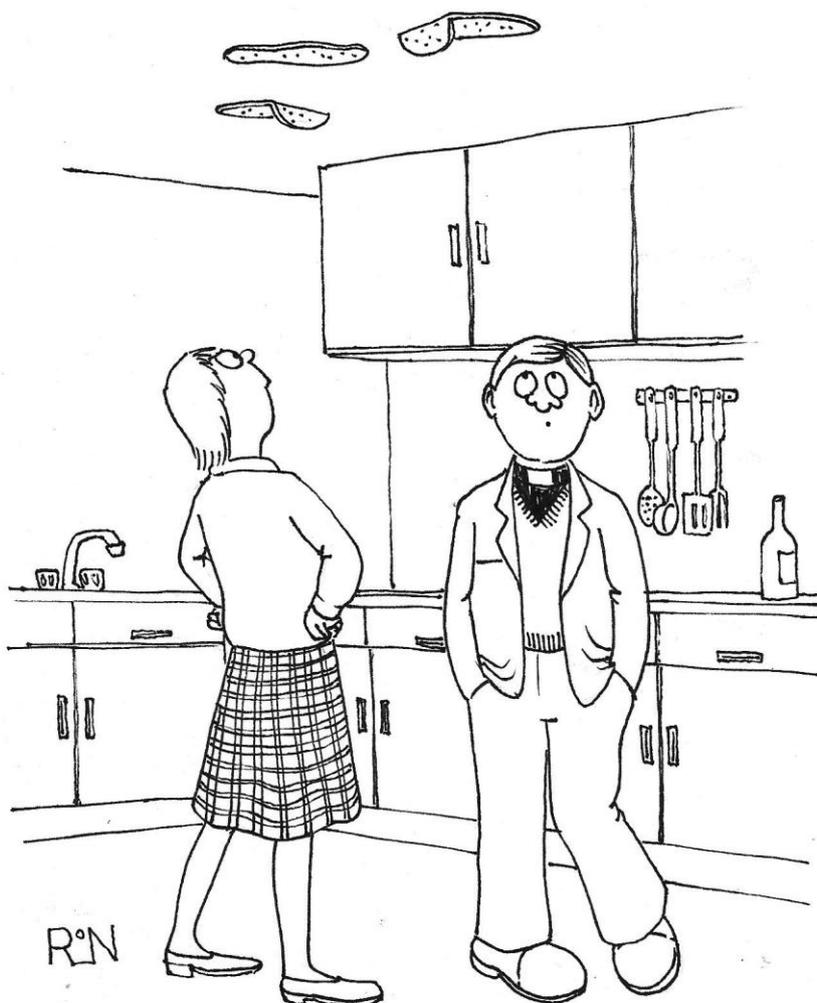
11am Holy Communion Oakdene

5th Thur

7pm Come & Praise!

7th Sat

10am What's next



*"Pancake party?" said Simon,
"What Pancake Party?"*

Street Prayers

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
February	
3rd	David's Lane
10th	Bracken Close
17th	The Sycamores
24th	Oldham Road

Prayers for these streets will be offered in Church on the Sundays shown
Any requests for specific prayers please ring the parish office 626 3630.

Let us witness to the presence of the church to all in Hey Parish

Baptisms

Olivia Grace Winterburn

daughter of Peter and Natalie Winterburn

Max Gary Howard

son of John Howard and Rebecca Morrish

Theo Buckley Heap

son of Robert and Lucy Heap

Flowers

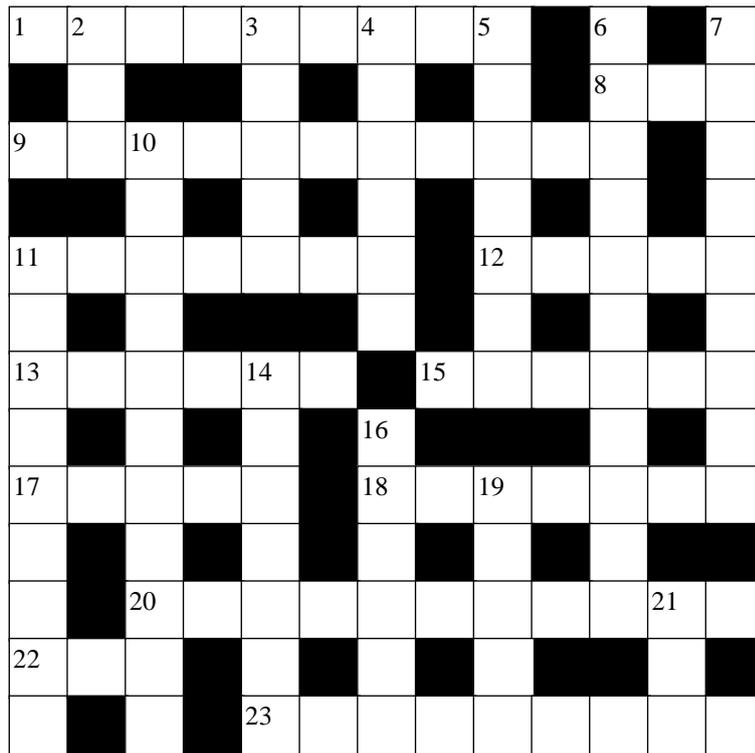
29 Feb In loving memory of Bill Cullen

Faithful departed

15th Dec 2019 Margaret Harrison

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them"

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

1. Smooth material for writing on (9)
8. Cricket extra (3)
9. Aids to get higher (11)
11. Fast train (7)
12. Flat-bottomed boat for freight (5)
13. Prove the truth of (6)
15. Leave (6)
17. Direct the course (5)
18. More than a skin irritation (7)
20. A striking occurrence by chance (11)
22. First number (3)
23. Place of refuge (9)

DOWN

2. Creation of beauty especially paintings (3)
3. Split in two (5)
4. First sibling (6)
5. Shake from fear (7)
6. An act of watching (11)
7. Tower guard (9)
10. Well practised in skill (11)
11. Listen in (9)
14. Carries back and forth over water (7)
16. Lubricant container (6)
19. Student in military school (5)
21. Vehicle (3)

Solution to December crossword Across: 7. Broadway, 8. Hoax, 9. United, 10. Repair, 11. Affable, 13. Tears, 16. Truly, 17. Contempt, 19. Traced, 21. Agenda, 23. Want, 24. Preacher. Down: 1. Transfer, 2. Vast, 3. Swaddle, 4. Myrrh, 5. Shepherd, 6. Magi, 12. Allocate, 14. Reindeer, 15. Citadel, 18. Adept, 20. Road, 22. Etch.