

# CORNERSTONE

The Magazine of  
**WITNEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone.  
In Him the whole fabric is bound together, as it grows into a temple,  
dedicated to the Lord (Ephesians 2:21)



**2025**

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Doesn't time fly! Nearly half-way through the year already. Talking about time and reflection; I have been editor of the church magazine now for over 30 years as I took over from Graham & Elaine Beechey in December 1994, and at that time we had a monthly magazine. However, the change in technology, by means of photocopier, and to save the church some money, we gradually changed the editions to what we produce now – 5 editions a year and I hope you still enjoy reading the magazine

Over the past couple of months the days have been getting longer, and for me personally, for the better. However, this generally means that because of the increase daylight period we try to fit ever more into what is already a hectic schedule. However, and probably due to climate change, the weather generally has been more sunny these last couple of weeks, which has probably meant you were able to do things you had planned!!

As you read this the schools have just finished half-term which means that holiday time is nearly with us again, and, even though some cannot bear the heat, the increasing good weather has to be encouraging for most of us. Whatever your circumstances, hopefully it will be a chance for most people to take a break of some kind.

I now turn to some of this month's contents: along with the standard contributions, Lesley Barter has written about her recent visit to Sicily; Tony Houghton has written about the staff of Aaron; David Kitchen has written about WaterAid, and some articles have been extracted from Parish Pump, to name but a few

Many thanks for those who have contributed for this edition, but would encourage anyone to consider submitting article(s) for the next edition by either:

E-mail: [terrypowlesland@uwclub.net](mailto:terrypowlesland@uwclub.net)

[jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net](mailto:jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net)

or, just plainly written on paper, which can be typed up

The next 3-monthly **Autumn** edition, covering September, October & November is due on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Your Editor



## Contents

1. Editorial
2. Diary
5. Deacon's Letter
6. Prayer Letter No 218
7. Trinity
8. The Jelly Babies Gospel
9. It's all Greek to me & Father's Day
10. Aaron's Staff
11. WaterAid & Steps in a day
12. God in the Sciences
13. Fast Fashion
14. Kitchener & Ordinary Time
15. All I the month of June
16. Mozart's Requiem

# June, July & August 2025 Diary

**Services:** 10.30am weekly & 6.00pm on first Sunday of the month

## June

1 <sup>st</sup>	am	Tony Houghton	
	pm	Nanna Blackman	Communion
7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Saturday Praise	
8 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Gabriel Simplicio	
15 <sup>th</sup>	pm	Rev Elaine Kinchin	Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	am	Rev Judi Holloway	
29 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Nigel Lindsay	
		Madley Park Residential Home	3.00pm

## July

6 <sup>th</sup>	am	Yvonne Campbell – CF General Secretary	
	pm	tbc	Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	am	Lesley Barter	
20 <sup>th</sup>	am	David Kinchin WaterAid	Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Elaine Kinchin	

## Aug

3 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Rev Judi Holloway	
	pm	Rev Elaine Kinchin	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	am	tbc	
17 <sup>th</sup>	am	tbc	Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	am	tbc	
31 <sup>st</sup>	am	Rev Oliver Kinchin	
		Madley Park Residential Home	3.00pm

## Sep

6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Saturday Praise	
7 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Judi Holloway	
	pm	tbc	Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Nigel Appleton	

The following events are given for your particular attention:

## June

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chair-based Exercise Class & repeated on 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 – 11.45
	Drop-in Prayer Time & repeated on 10 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 – 1.30
5 <sup>th</sup>	Hi 5's Film Night Thursday	6.00pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Witney Book Circle	10.30am

## July

1 <sup>st</sup>	Drop-in Prayer Time & repeated on 8 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 – 1.30
26 <sup>th</sup>	Witney Book Circle	10.30am

## Aug

5 <sup>th</sup>	Drop-in Prayer Time & repeated on 12 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 – 1.30
30 <sup>th</sup>	Witney Book Circle	10.30am

## Sept

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Drop-in Prayer Time & repeated on 9 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 – 1.30
27 <sup>th</sup>	Witney Book Circle	10.30am

# Rotas

## WELCOMING TEAM

<b>June</b>	01	Pat Smith
	08	Jacqui Powlesland
	15	Janet Hayes
	22	Lesley Barter
	29	Jean Hodgson
<b>July</b>	06	Pat Smith
	13	Jacqui Powlesland
	20	Janet Hayes
	27	Lesley Barter
<b>Aug</b>	03	Jean Hodgson
	10	Pat Smith
	17	Jacqui Powlesland
	24	Janet Hayes
<b>Sep</b>	31	Lesley Barter
	07	Jean Hodgson
	14	Pat Smith



## FLOWERS

<b>June</b>	01	Janet Hayes
	08	Judi Holloway
	15	Jacqui Powlesland
	22	Rita Hayes
	29	Janet Hayes
<b>July</b>	06	Judi Holloway
	13	Jacqui Powlesland
	20	Rita Hayes
	27	Janet Hayes
<b>Aug</b>	03	Judi Holloway
	10	Jacqui Powlesland
	17	Rita Hayes
	24	Janet Hayes
<b>Sep</b>	31	Judi Holloway
	07	Jacqui Powlesland
	14	Rita Hayes



## SUNDAY COFFEE

<b>June</b>	01	Sue Birdseye & Claire Woodward
	08	Pat Smith & Janet Hayes
	15	Jean Hodgson & Ann Clack
	22	Elaine Kinchin & Heather Houghton
	29	Jacqui & Terry Powlesland
<b>July</b>	06	Sue Birdseye & Claire Woodward
	13	Pat Smith & Janet Hayes
	20	Jean Hodgson & Ann Clack
	27	Jacqui & Terry Powlesland
<b>Aug</b>	03	Elaine Kinchin & Heather Houghton
	10	Sue Birdseye & Claire Woodward
	17	Pat Smith & Janet Hayes
	24	Jean Hodgson & Ann Clack
<b>Sep</b>	31	Elaine Kinchin & Heather Houghton
	07	Jacqui & Terry Powlesland
	14	Sue Birdseye & Claire Woodward



**THURSDAY COFFEE (10 – 12)**

<b>June</b>	05	Pat Smith
	12	David Kinchin
	19	Judi Holloway
	26	Ann Clack
<b>July</b>	03	Jean Hodgson
	10	Elaine Kinchin
	17	Pat Smith
	24	David Kinchin
<b>Aug</b>	31	Judi Holloway
	07	Ann Clack
	14	Jean Hodgson
	21	Elaine Kinchin
<b>Sep</b>	28	Pat Smith
	04	David Kinchin
	11	Judi Holloway



**Nanna Blackman as standby - We would be extremely grateful for other people to join**

**SOUND SYSTEM**

<b>June</b>	01	Terry Powlesland
	08	Nanna Blackman
	15	Terry Powlesland
	22	Terry Powlesland
	29	Tony Houghton
<b>July</b>	06	Tony Houghton
	13	Nanna Blackman
	20	Terry Powlesland
	27	Nanna Blackman
<b>Aug</b>	03	Terry Powlesland
	10	Nanna Blackman
	17	Tony Houghton
	24	Terry Powlesland
	31	Tony Houghton
<b>Sep</b>	07	Terry Powlesland
	14	Nanna Blackman



**For ALL the Rotas, every effort has been made to meet individual circumstances.**

However, if the dates are not convenient for you, please change with someone else

<b>June</b>	09	Glenn Ryan
	14	Norlene La Fortune
	16	Sandi Franklin
	24	Janet Park-Pratley
	26	Barbara MacLarty
	30	Jacqui Powlesland



<b>July</b>	05	Bob Blackman
	26	Jennie Garrett
	28	Michael Pratley
	30	Irene St Clair

<b>Aug</b>	02	Janet Hayes
	08	Matt Reifsnider

<b>Sep</b>	01	Theo Howells
	02	Gail King
		Claire Woodward
	03	Bryan Doyle
	08	Joy Dawe

## Deacons' letter Summer 2025

Ascension and Pentecost remind us of new beginnings. Jesus said to his disciples "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NIV). Thus, at this time we look anew to be refreshed by the Holy Spirit to go about our work as Christians, in Church, in the community and where ever we find ourselves.

We are at the beginning of summer, a time when nature around us is brimming with abundant growth, vibrant colours, bird song and new life. The days are long, and the nights are short. Are you looking forward to it with eager anticipation of days out, holidays, time with friends and family? Or is it all a bit overwhelming? There can be a lot of pressure on us to 'enjoy ourselves', but daily life has to continue. I read once that 'happy ever after' has to be lived one day at a time. Perhaps there is a lesson in that; every day has to be lived, doing the best that we can, in our Christian life and in our everyday activities.

Starting the day with prayer, quiet time with the Lord, perhaps reading the Word, is a good way to start the day, but not everyone has the time or the personal space to do that. Everyone will have their own habits and limitations. Every day is precious, a gift, to walk with God, the best we can.

During the summer months there can be disruption to our routines that will challenge us. The kids will be off school. People we rely on for our support network may be on holiday. The Church

calendar will look a little different as some activities are paused and perhaps others are proposed. At this time, without a Minister, we may also feel an absence of someone to turn to if the going gets tough either spiritually, emotionally or even practically. Remember your Deacons are here to serve you. Please talk to a Deacon if you need support. Anything you say in confidence will remain just that. It will not be shared with other Deacons without your permission. We may not have the answers, but we will listen, and pray with you, and signpost you to further help if that is appropriate.

Above all we need to encourage one another. As Paul writes "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1Thess 5:11 NIV). Enjoy the summer.

Nanna Blackman on behalf of the Deacons







## PRAYER LETTER No 218

A song from the medieval period is **Sumer is icumen in**, which translates to **Summer has come**. Two thoughts came to me: old languages and the seasons. Let's look at the seasons first. Church has only just turned off its heating, our tights and thermal underwear have only just been put away and already we have experienced a day whose recorded temperature broke all records. Summer has been thrust upon us. In mid-May I was in New Marston Primary School during one of the heaviest and loudest thunderstorms I have ever experienced. The reception class were singing **I hear thunder**; I had to chuckle at the line **Pitter, patter, raindrops**. The rain was not pittering or pattering – it was monsooning! The last line came true when the Year 2 children were sent out to their parents – **I'm wet through, so are you!**

What has all this to do with prayer? Without the comfort of a silly song, the 4-5 year olds would have been very frightened. When the children had all gone home, the staff discussed how they were just putting on a brave face and a show of calm for the sake of the youngsters. What can we do when life suddenly throws us into a storm? Turn to the Bible!

Psalms 56:3-4 reads: **When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid**. It is okay to feel fear. Think of the disciples in a boat in a storm. They could not cope on their own so they called upon Jesus who was asleep. Luke 8: 23-25: **A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.**

If we cannot open our hearts and pour out our fears to God, then what good is prayer?

**Sumer is icumen in** was how people spoke in England in the mid-thirteenth century. That is quite recent compared to when Jesus walked among humankind. He spoke Aramaic, which was the language everyone around him in Galilee would have understood. He also knew Hebrew, which was used in religious texts and rituals. If you'd like to hear the Lord's prayer in Aramaic, here is a hyperlink:

<https://ww3.tlig.org/en/messages/prayers/the-lords-prayer-in-aramaic/>

Sometimes it seems that God is distant – Jesus lived in a very different culture. But human nature has not changed and nor has God: **Jesus doesn't change - yesterday, today, tomorrow, he's always totally himself**. (Hebrews 13:8 The Message)

Hopefully we don't just turn to our Lord and Saviour when times are tough. Here is a prayer by Bede Jarrett (1881-1934):

Lord, give us all the courage we need to go the way you shepherd us,  
that when you call we may go unfrightened.

If you bid us come to you across the waters, may we not be frightened as we go.

And if you bid us climb the hill, may we not notice that it is a hill,  
mindful only of the happiness of your company.

You made us for yourself, that we should travel with you

and see you at last in your unveiled beauty in the abiding city,  
where you are light and happiness and endless home. Amen

Every Blessing,  
Elaine

*Please note that for up-to-date prayer requests contact Elaine 07534 879449)*

The following article, written by Canon Paul Hardingham has been extracted from Parish Pump and considers our Three-in-One God, and is entitled:

## **Understanding the Trinity**

Trinity Sunday has its place in our liturgical calendar (15<sup>th</sup> June), yet we do not often hear sermons on the Trinity. The term 'Trinity' isn't found in the Bible, and the Early Church took nearly 400 years to come up with a clear understanding of it.

However, there are hints of trinitarian language in the New Testament, e.g. Jesus instructs His disciples to baptise 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matt 28:19). Our understanding of the Trinity arises from God's activity in our world, as reflected in the creedal questions:

'Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

So why should the Trinity be important for us? If 'God is love' (1 John 4:8) it means that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in a community of love

together. Their relationship has been expressed as a divine dance, as they interact with one another, expressing love for each another and complementing the work each one has to do. As people made in God's image, we are called to live this community of love in our lives and churches.

The Trinity also provides the basis for our mission, 'As the Father has sent Me, so send I you.' Just as God the Father sent Jesus into the world, so Jesus sends us into the world to do the Father's work, equipped and accompanied by the Holy Spirit. In sharing God's love, we share the life of the Trinity. Augustine spoke about the Spirit being the love between God the Father and the Son.

'At the heart of reality lies the love between the Father and the Son. The Spirit unites us with Christ so that we begin to experience the same depth of love that exists between the Father and the Son.' (Graham Tomlin).





The following article, written by Linda Cooke, has been extracted, with permission, from CF Secluded Place 2025, and is entitled:

## The Jelly Babies Gospel

As you start to delve into a bag of Jelly Babies, have you ever stopped to think about the history and meaning of this confectionery delight. I certainly hadn't until I heard of a local church doing a Jelly Baby service – I was immediately intrigued and decided to Google it and find out more.

Here is a bit of info that I found out.

- It looks as if Jelly Babies can be traced back to the 1880s.
- Historians believe that the earliest Jelly Baby was the work of an Austrian confectioner made by Thomas Fryers of Lancashire.
- It is thought that in 1864 he was asked to make a mould for jelly bears, but the resulting sweets looked more like newborn infants and were subsequently given the name, 'Unclaimed Babies'. This was a part of life back then - people would leave unwanted babies on church steps or other places for people to find and care for.
- Jelly Babies were also known as 'Peace Babies' coming out after the end of WWI. By the time Bassett's started to produce them in 1918 they were widely known as Jelly Babies.



**The "Jelly Baby Gospel" uses the different colours and shapes of Jelly Babies to tell a Christian message.**

To actually see the symbols and faces you first need to lick off the floury stuff on them which stops them from sticking together in the packet.

The Symbols:

- **Black Jelly Baby:** this Jelly Baby has a heart on its chest, and represents the darkness of the human heart and sin.
- **Green Jelly Baby:** a crying face illustrates human misery, or sorrow
- **Red Jelly Baby:** Features a "B" on its chest, symbolizing the blood sacrifice of Jesus.
- **Pink Jelly Baby:** This Jelly Baby actually is a baby and represents the need for being "born again".
- **Yellow Jelly Baby:** Has a necklace, illustrating the riches and treasures of the Christian life.
- **Orange Jelly Baby:** Carries a bag, symbolizing the need to be prepared for the Christian walk.

The Jelly Baby Gospel teaches about Jesus who defeated sin and death, offering forgiveness and eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Wow, isn't all that fascinating – I had no idea that Jelly Babies had this meaning behind them, however you won't find this on the Haribo version of these sweets – just on the Maynards/Bassetts ones!

The following article has been written & submitted by Lesley Barter, and is entitled:

## **It's all Greek to Me**

If nothing else, history should teach us to examine successive civilizations and compare them with our own. Travelling to countries that have experienced successive civilisations brings this into sharp focus, and none more so than Sicily.

Indeed, it has been the resting place of mythical Gods from as long ago as we have source material to relate their stories. Those of us who have visited the remains of Greek and Roman amphitheatres have come face to face with the reality of life two or three thousand years ago and the ways in which contemporaries tried to make sense of it.

Greek tragedy centres upon a protagonist, usually of exceptional qualities, who is confronted with circumstances which test him (or her) usually to destruction. It invites the audience to contemplate human existence and how they would deal with it. This struggle is timeless and applies to the struggles that we all face.

My recent visit to Sicily has made me reflect upon the times in which we find ourselves today. Many of us fear that the world is hurtling to inevitable destruction due to the power-hungry struggles of unprincipled leaders. But wasn't it forever thus? If we look back to the Roman Empire, to Napoleon or the last World War - we were saved because the protagonists were morally flawed, like the characters in the Greek tragedies. As Christians we see that this is God's work.

As I gazed at the arenas where Christians were torn to pieces by wild animals rather than deny their beliefs I thank God that in the west we are no longer tested in such ways. Our tests are more subtle. Perhaps

that is the modern Greek dilemma – we must meet the tests of unchecked pride and greed with acts of generosity and self-denial. Less dramatic, but just as difficult.

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The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

## **Father's Day - what we most value in our fathers**

Father's Day is 15<sup>th</sup> June - a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day.

No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reveal some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad.

These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young.

That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for.

Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus said the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, and is full of compassion and love. And we are to call Him 'Abba' - Daddy!

The following article has been written and submitted by Tony Houghton, and is entitled:

## **The budding of Aaron's staff: God's confirmation and our calling**

Numbers 17:8 – “The staff of Aaron ... had sprouted, put forth buds, produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.”



### **A miracle in the wilderness**

In Numbers 17, we read of a stunning sign from God. Amidst rebellion and doubt, the Lord told Moses to gather twelve staffs—one from each tribe of Israel. These staffs, representing leadership, were placed before the ark of the covenant. The next day, Aaron's staff, from the tribe of Levi, had miraculously budded, blossomed, and borne almonds.

This was God's unmistakable declaration: Aaron is my chosen priest.

### **1. God confirms his callings**

Aaron didn't need to fight for recognition. God confirmed his calling in a way no one could deny. In our lives, we may question our purpose or feel insecure in our roles. But if God has placed a calling on your life—whether as a servant, leader, or encourager—He will confirm it through fruitfulness, affirmation, and peace.

“The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:24

### **2. Fruitfulness comes from God's presence**

Aaron's dead staff only bloomed after being placed in the tabernacle—God's presence. This shows us that true spiritual life flows not from human effort, but from intimacy with God.

“Abide in me and I in you ... apart from me you can do nothing.” – John 15:4-5

Make space for God in your daily life—through prayer, worship, and Scripture—and watch as He brings blossoms of grace in your character and community.

### **3. Let God bring peace to conflict**

The people were grumbling and challenging God's order. But after the miracle of Aaron's staff, their complaints stopped. God brought peace not through argument, but through clear, divine action.

If you're facing criticism, conflict, or misunderstanding, trust God to bring clarity. His way is higher, and His justice brings lasting peace.

### **4. God brings life from what seems dead**

Aaron's staff was dry wood—lifeless. Yet in God's hands, it bore fruit. What a beautiful picture of resurrection power! No situation is too far gone for God to restore. He still brings life from the dead—whether in relationships, callings, or our hearts.

“Even though we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ.” – Ephesians 2:5

### **Final thought**

Aaron's staff points us to Jesus, our Great High Priest—chosen, confirmed, fruitful, and life-giving. As you walk with Christ, stay rooted in His presence and allow Him to bring forth fruit that glorifies His name.

Numbers 17:5 – “The staff of the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you.”

The following article has been written & submitted by David Kinchin, and is entitled:

## WaterAid

For a long time this church has supported WaterAid and we have regularly collected small sums of money (1p and 2p coins) and passed it to the organisation.

In an attempt to *increase our giving* to this charity we are dedicating a Morning Service to WaterAid and the CASH offering taken on that day will go to the organisation. This will be an additional offering and not taken from members regular standing orders.

A hand pump like the one I took a picture of here in Goa Mission, Malawi costs just £150 to install. It makes the load for women so much easier and makes everyone able to drink clean fresh water. Something we all take for granted in the UK.



A Speaker from WaterAid has been invited but at the time of writing this has yet to be confirmed.

Please put **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July** in your diary and if you are unable to attend on that day then perhaps leave an envelope in the office or the donations box in the entrance to church and mark the donation "Water Aid".

The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump and is entitled:

## How many steps a day is enough?

Counting steps has, for many of us, become a part of our lives. We feel triumphant when we hit 10,000, and guilty when we notch up less than 2,000 a day.

But daily steps, which are really no more than regular daily exercise, are not just a gimmick.

Medical research has found that your daily step count, especially when taken over years, really can make a huge difference to your health and life expectancy. The Government's official statistics cite physical inactivity as responsible for one in six otherwise preventable deaths.

So how many steps do you need to achieve different levels of protection?

2,000 to 3,000 steps a day – or just over a mile. This can help reduce your risk of heart disease.

4,000 to 5,000 steps – can reduce risk of chronic disease and helps reduce risk of cognitive decline. (People who walked this far were found to have a 25 per cent lower risk of dementia.) As a scientist at the European University of Madrid, said: "This is likely because of improved blood flow to the brain, reduced brain inflammation, better metabolism of glucose in the brain, and an increase in beneficial brain chemicals which stimulate neuron growth."

7,000 to 8,000 steps, about three miles, can provide a 31 per cent lower risk of depression, and it can also lower your risk of cardiovascular disease by 51 per cent.

10,000 steps - about five miles, achieves a wide range of health benefits. But even just 8,800 steps a day has been found to reduce risk of premature death from many diseases by 60 per cent.

As a scientist at the University of Sydney explained: "It's about setting initial targets that are achievable, and then gradually working your way up to more daily steps, as you build up your capacity to handle more activity."

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The following article, written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, has been extracted from Parish Pump, and Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith, and is entitled:

## **God in the Sciences:**

### **Help, my kids just asked me a science question!**

#### ***Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?***

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

#### ***Did God make the dinosaurs?***

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about **how** God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

#### ***Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?***

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

*These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website ([www.faradaykids.com](http://www.faradaykids.com)).*

*For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out 101 Great Big Questions About God and Science, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)*

## **Sweets**

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

## **Economy**

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."

The following article, written by Neil Chappell, has been extracted, with permission, from CF Secluded Place 2025, and is entitled:

## Fast Fashion

Did you know that in the UK up to 300,000 tonnes of old clothes are thrown in household rubbish bins each year? With a spring clean of the wardrobe, the average UK resident throws away 3.1kg of textiles and clothes, with just under half that amount going to landfill sites. Thank goodness for Vinted (other pre-loved clothes apps are out there!).

It's not often spoken about in church circles but there is a real issue with fast fashion and its environmental impact. Fast Fashion is the trend of producing cheap, trendy clothing, which can lead to overconsumption and shorter lifespans of garments. This industry, driven by rapid production cycles and disposable trends, epitomises a disconnect from the stewardship principles we should hold dear as the church. The relentless demand for cheap clothing leads to the depletion of natural resources like water and cotton, the pollution of waterways with toxic dyes, and the generation of mountains of textile waste in landfills. The human cost is equally stark, with garment workers often facing exploitative labour conditions.

Where does faith intersect with this? The very first verses of Genesis paint a picture of God as Creator, bringing forth light, land, sea, and a vibrant tapestry of life. Humanity is then placed within this creation, not as a detached observer, but as stewards entrusted with its care. This isn't a suggestion; it's a foundational aspect of our faith. The beauty and complexity of the natural world – from the intricate dance of ecosystems to the sheer majesty of a mountain range – reflect the boundless creativity and love of God. To disregard or harm this creation is, in a very real sense, to disrespect the gift and the Giver.

Our faith tradition emphasises values like justice, compassion, and responsible stewardship. The environmental and social consequences of fast fashion stand in direct opposition to these values. An Eco-Church perspective challenges us to consider the full lifecycle of the products we consume, including our clothing. It asks us to move beyond a purely materialistic view and to recognize the interconnectedness of all things.

Choosing ethically sourced and sustainable clothing, repairing and repurposing garments, and advocating for greater transparency and accountability within the fashion industry become acts of faith. They are tangible ways of living out our responsibility to care for creation and our fellow human beings. This isn't about guilt-tripping; it's about recognizing our power as consumers and individuals to make choices that align with our spiritual values.

The concept of Christian Stewardship invites us to see the world not as a resource to be exploited, but as a sacred space to be cherished. It calls us to a deeper understanding of our place within God's creation and to actively participate in its flourishing. In the face of environmental challenges like climate change and pollution, embracing an Eco-Church ethos offers a powerful framework for hope and action. It reminds us that our faith isn't confined to the walls of a church building but extends to every aspect of our lives, including the clothes we wear and the way we interact with the world around us. By consciously choosing to tread more lightly on the earth, we not only honour God's creation but also contribute to a more just and sustainable future for all





The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump and is entitled:

## **Kitchener and that poster from the First World War**

Some 175 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1850, Herbert Kitchener, the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during the First World War, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army.

Kitchener already had a fearsome reputation, having been responsible for big colonial victories in Sudan and South Africa. He was very widely admired by the British people, though his cool personality and eagerness to push his men to the limit made him disliked by fellow officers. But he was also described as a godly man “who did noble deeds and obtained noble results”.

He had been on leave in England in June 1914 when he reluctantly accepted an appointment to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for War and was promoted to Field Marshal. Most people expected a short war, but Kitchener did not; he went about enlisting a great number of volunteers – a campaign symbolised for most people by Alfred Leete’s poster using Kitchener’s own face with the slogan *‘Your country needs you’*.

He organised British armies on a scale never seen before, but he was not to see victory. His life ended suddenly when he was drowned after the cruiser HMS Hampshire, taking him on a mission to Russia, was sunk in 1916 by a German mine. His body was never recovered, and the wreck is now a war grave. His death has been likened to the deaths of President Kennedy and Princess Diana – everyone remembered where they were when they heard the news.

A memorial fund launched by the Lord Mayor of London raised £500,000 to help war casualties and continues today. A Kitchener

memorial was built by the people of Orkney on the cliff edge at Marwick Head.

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The following article written by Rev Mark Brown, has been extracted from Parish Pump and considers the meaning of a well-known Anglican time of year, and is entitled:

## **The simple pleasures of Ordinary Time**

One great phrase of the Church of England, which is little-known but carries a wealth of rich meaning, is ‘ordinary time’. While the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent all have their fixtures and moments for focus and concentration, the bulk of the summer months is ‘ordinary time’! A very evocative phase – nothing particularly to focus on or to celebrate.

Just because it is ‘ordinary’, it does not mean it is not important or of no significance to how God wants us to use our lives. For most of us life is lived between high and low points: we look forward to something on the horizon or we are seeking to recover from something. So, it should be no surprise that ordinary time is the longest season in the Church calendar. Abraham Lincoln once said that: “God must love ordinary people because He made so many of them”!

Ordinary people, it seems to me, need ‘ordinary time’. Sundays and weekdays in-between, to sense God’s presence with us in the day-to-day mundane, and ordinary comings and goings of life. He is there in the heights of resurrection joy and celebration. He is with us in the vulnerability and frailty of human weakness, modelled in the incarnation. He is with us in our efforts to discipline ourselves and be moulded by him (Lent) but He is also with us whenever we are conscious of life just being ordinary. When our eyes are opened to these things, we will see what an extraordinary God we have!

The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

## **All in the month of June**

500 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1525, that German Protestant Reformer Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun whom he had helped to escape from a convent.

250 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1775, that the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Army. Later it became the United States Army. On 15<sup>th</sup> June, George Washington, who would become first President of the USA, became the Army's Commander-in-Chief. This army would defeat the British army, and America would declare independence the following year, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776.

175 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1850, that Herbert Kitchener, the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during WW1, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army. He was killed in 1916 when his ship was hit by a German mine.

125 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1900, that Louis Mountbatten, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was born. He became Governor-General of India (1947-48), First Sea Lord (1955-59), and Chief of the Defence Staff (1959-65). Assassinated in 1979 by an IRA bomb planted on his fishing boat.

90 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1935, that driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

80 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1945, that the Battle of Okinawa in Japan ended (after 82 days). This battle saw the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theatre of the war, with more than 12,000 forces, 110,000 Japanese forces, and 140,000 civilians killed.

70 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1955 that the Le Mans disaster took place. A car spun off the track during the Le Mans 24 Hour race in France, and the driver, Pierre Levegh, and 83 spectators were killed, with 100 more injured. It was the greatest loss of life in the history of motorsport, but bizarrely, the race was not stopped. The survivors carried on for the full 24 hours, while the dead and the injured were removed from the site.

65 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1960, that the Six Bells Colliery disaster took place in Monmouthshire Wales. 45 coal miners were killed by a gas explosion.

50 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1975, that the first Cricket World Cup to be held in England began.

50 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1975, that the first North Sea oil was pumped ashore to Britain.

40 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1985 that UEFA banned all English football clubs from playing in European competitions following the Heysel Stadium disaster of 28<sup>th</sup> May. The ban was lifted after five years.

30 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1995 that Ernest Walton, Irish physicist died. He was the first person to split an atom.

25 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2000, that the Millenium Bridge opened in London. It closed for a while two days later, when it was found to sway uncomfortably when people walked in step.



Lower Windrush Choral Society

# Requiem

Mozart's Requiem in D Minor  
Excerpts from Michael Haydn's  
Requiem in C Minor

**Saturday 14 June 2025 at 6.00pm**

(Doors/bar open at 5.30pm. No interval.  
Bar reopens after concert.)

**St Mary's Church, Church Green,  
Witney OX28 4AW**

Soloists, Choir and Organ  
Organist: Francis Rumsey  
Directed by: Terry McNamara

Admission free: donations welcomed towards the  
Society's concert costs.  
Bar proceeds to St Mary's Church.

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