Good News

October 2021

The Magazine of St John the Baptist, Leytonstone



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This Month's Articles

Welcome	5
News	7
God in the Sciences	10
Bellnotes	12
Trailblazing	15
Flowers In Church	19
Good reasons to have a church magazine	22
Sorry, Lord, I just couldn't make it	23
God in the Arts	25
Book Reviews	27

Click on an article title to go to it.

Click on the menu icon at the bottom of a page to return here.

Magazine Publishing Calendar 2021

Magazine Issue	Copy to Editor by	Magazine to Printer by	Publication Date		
November	Sunday 17th	Sunday 24th	Sunday 31st		
December/January	Sunday 21 st	Sunday 28 th	Sunday 5 th		
February 2022	Sunday 16 th	Sunday 23 rd	Sunday 30 th		
March	Sunday 13 th	Sunday 20 th	Sunday 27 th		
	February	February	February		
April	Sunday 13 th	Sunday 20 th	Sunday 27 th		
	March	March	March		



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Good News

October 2021

The Deadline for all articles for the next issue of the magazine is Sunday 17th October.

If you have an article for the magazine please email it to magazine@stjohns-leytonstone.org.uk_or give it to one of the editorial team.

Editorial Team:

Ian Boyce Maureen Dennis Barbara Elliott John Wilson

The PCC of St John's welcomes you to contribute articles to our Good News magazine. In general, articles should not be more than 2-3 pages. If you are planning a longer article, please speak to one of the editorial team first.

Articles must be your own. Articles previously published elsewhere can only be used if you provide written permission from the copyright holder.

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Welcome

This month, we have our St John's regulars, Bell Notes and Flowers in Church as well as God in the Arts and God in the Sciences from our partner, 'Parish Pump'.

We also have a welcome article from 'Parish Pump' that argues the importance of a parish magazine. The St John's parish magazine was instigated by Reverend Bettison in the early 1880's and has been published most years since then, including throughout both world wars.

Today, we provide the magazine in both paper format and as a PDF file that can be downloaded. Both formats, however, rely on contributions, in the form of articles and our editorial team welcome both one-off and regular articles from anyone at St John's. Articles need to be yours and not published elsewhere. Just speak to any of the editorial team to find out more.

John Wilson





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News

'Wake up world!' – Bishop calls for action after climate report

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, has called for immediate action on climate change, following the publication of the major UN scientific report.

He said: "The message of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report is loud and clear: 'Wake up world!'

"It is time to stop playing political games and take action now. We are already seeing the effects of the climate emergency around the world - and it is the world's economically poorest people who are already suffering the most.

"So it is our moral duty, and a Christian calling to do all we can to try to turn the tide.

At COP26 there will be an opportunity to act, our leaders must seize this moment and deliver real and impactful change for the future of God's creation.

"We don't have a spare Earth."

New network launched to support ordinands from minority ethnic backgrounds

An independent network for people training for ordained ministry in the Church of England who are from minority ethnic backgrounds has been launched.

The UKME (UK Minority Ethnic) Ordinands and Curates group hopes to meet every three months to provide a voice and support for a growing number of UKME ordinands and curates.

The group has been set up by former junior doctor Angela Sheard, who is training Queen's Foundation theological institution education in Birmingham and former biomedical scientist Tariro

Matsveru, who was ordained in June and is now a curate in King's Heath, Birmingham.

Revd Tariro, who was born in Zimbabwe and trained Cranmer Hall in Durham, said: "We want to encourage and support the vocations ordinands and curates UKME/Global Majority Heritage in the Church England within dioceses and theological colleges."

The group has been set up as the proportion of people from UKME backgrounds starting training for ordained ministry in the Church of England rose last year to 10.9%. A total of 8.9% of



stipendiary clergy ordained last year were from a UKME background. This compares to 4.1% of the current pool of stipendiary clergy.

In a pre-recorded message, The Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, welcomed the launch of the group. "I am encouraged by the number of us who are knocking on the door, but sometimes we have to push the door. We are not guests to be welcomed, we belong, it is our church and we are here to stay."

New research reveals significant contribution by cathedrals to local economies

A new report has highlighted the hugely positive economic and social impact England's cathedrals have on their cities.

In 2019, England's 42 Anglican cathedrals contributed £235m to their local economies. They provided 6,065 jobs, full time equivalent jobs and volunteering posts for 15,400 people who gave 906,000 hours of their time. They welcomed more than 14.6 million visits, 308,000 by schoolchildren for educational events, and 9.5m from tourists.

In the same year, cathedrals hosted a rich programme of arts, music, heritage and culture – amounting to 9,580 events

equivalent to two every three days – as well as providing the venues for film shoots such as The Crown, Doctor Who and Avengers: Endgame.

The cathedrals have also run foodbanks, supported groups for the vulnerable, more unemployed, and the homeless. They have helped outreach activities in schools, residential homes and hospitals, lunch clubs, parent and toddler groups, as well as community cafes. Also, over two-thirds of cathedrals are part of the A Rocha Eco Church programme, helping the Church of England achieve its carbon reduction targets by 2030.

New Chair for Christian Aid

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, will be the next Chair of the board of international development agency Christian Aid.

Dr Sentamu – who has been outspoken on issues of poverty and justice in the UK and globally for many years - served as the Archbishop of York from 2005 until 2020. He was created by Her Majesty the Queen, Baron of Lindisfarne in the County of Northumberland and Masooli in the Republic of Uganda. He is a member of the UK Parliament, in the House of Lords.

Born in Kampala, Uganda, Dr Sentamu will be the first person of African descent to take up the



position of Chair in Christian Aid's 75-year history.

Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Chair, will stand down at Christian Aid's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, having served two full terms of office.

Announcing the appointment today, Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi said: "This is wonderful news for

Christian Aid. Dr Sentamu brings with him a passion and energy for global justice, a deep love of the Church and a profound theological understanding that will be able to speak into the crises of climate change, Covid, conflict and debt that are affecting the world's poorest communities. We look forward to welcoming him to the Christian Aid family."

Christian Aid's emergency appeal for Haiti

Following the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in August, Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal to help people that have been affected.

The nation - which is still recovering from the 2010 earthquake that killed 300,000 people and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and more recently dealing with Covid and the aftermath of the assassination of its president – has now been struck another blow.

Figures of those killed impacted are still uncertain. Houses have been destroyed, off due roads are cut landslides, power lines and communications have been damaged. People have lost their homes, belongings and means to make a living.

People will need emergency food, drinking shelter, water, access to healthcare and protection assistance, but in the long-term they will housing, livelihood and psychological support.

Marc Pascal Desmornes, Regional Programme Manager for Christian Aid in Haiti said: "We see families moving to wherever they can to stay safe with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Swaths of Haitians are facing growing hunger and healthcare services are already overwhelmed by Covid-19."





God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person was once a sperm and an egg. Those two unique germ cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. One of the most important stages

of this process is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity.

this In context, identity means what shape it takes, and which limbs internal organs grow there: legs or arms, lungs or pancreas, and so on. The source of that physical identity is DNA: the networks of genes that are switched on or off in each segment of the body, making all the proteins that are needed to grow and develop in the Danny Allison, © Lion Hudson IP Limited way. The

master-genes that control the whole called process are

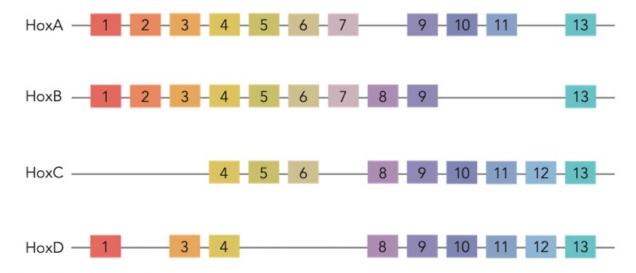
homeobox, or Hox genes for short.

The most beautiful thing about the process of body patterning is the way it brings the dimensions



of time and space together in such a tidy way. The Hox genes organised into are several





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clusters on the chromosomes, in the order in which they are needed during development and the order in which they appear on the body.

As the embryo develops, the cells near the head end activate the first genes in the Hox clusters. The cells just below the head then switch on the second genes in the cluster, and so on. A wave of gene activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

Once a Hox gene is switched on it can stay switched on in the next few sections of cells, and it is the overlapping activity of the genes which gives each section of the body its proper identity.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth." The story of the tidy Hox genes is very relevant to these verses, bringing out the hidden beauty in the process.

The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made"!





Bellnotes

By Michael Wareing

St. John's Leytonstone has eight bells, the oldest six are named after the wives and daughters of our benefactors, the other two are a memorial to a top ringer. Not every church has ringing bells and some just have a couple; Ben one of our ringers sent us a photo on WhatsApp recently of a church near him with three bells set up to chime and quite a few churches only have one or none. We are in the of Waltham Deanery (L.B.O.W.F>) and we only have four churches that have ringing bells. Walthamstow has two, well Walthamstow always gets more than the rest! The other one is in Leyton and the Parish of St' Mary's used to Leytonstone. Most churches are in a Parish some even have two. It sometimes causes problems explaining what a Parish is? In the good old days Vicars could get 'up tight' if they thought another Vicar over stepped into their Parish......of course that never happens today. It is interesting that possibly even today Deanery's don't have much contact with each other. It's funny that St. John's is bordered by two parishes in the next Deanery but by tradition we have little contact with them. We do have contact however when it comes to finance as the system, we all have is complicated.

A Parish is an area, sometimes quite small and the Vicar used to be for 'care for all the souls' of the Vicar parish and the Churchwardens would dole out Alms to the poor of the parish. It was also the case that every 'householder' in the would have to pay a tax to the parish church. It did not matter if you didn't have a Faith or you were a member of another church, you had to pay and also within the church you had to pay a 'pew rent' (don't let Paul find this out). I wonder if it is a throwback that people like to sit in he same pew today....it is their I remember going into churches and it was made clear that you could not sit in 'that' seat'.....well it was the Vicars!

In the past ringing was just the same....no not paying a fee....but every ringer had their own bell and to ring that bell, they had to die, you could ask them for permission to ring it but they often refused.

It has now changed as we want all ringers to ring all bells for experience. Today not all ringing bells ring, a number of churches have no ringers so if they can neighbouring ringers help out and of course today a Vicar may be in charge of five churches so on a Sunday the ringers follow the Vicar round and ring the bells at the various churches. Mainly



we book a ringing outing by contacting a local ringer. We get the details from the ringing Associations, and it is now mostly by email but sometimes we have to do it by the Parish Office of that church. When ringers contact ringers, most ringers are very helpful but some times the P.O's. are mixed, so who is a ringer, who do you represent...can we have an email from your Vicar etc. etc. From one office they demanded a fee that worked out to over £200. Imagine that times four, five or six the number of churches we would ring in a day. From ringers you almost always get a 'yes', subject to the **Vicars** agreement.

In the 'good old days' there was a problem if you finished the outing in the late afternoon as you would quite often find the local Vicar lurking at the bottom of the stairs. In those days a Vicar had to say, in church each day the morning and evening Services.....mostly on his own, except Sundays.

So when he had a captive group of ringers in his church, they would pounce. 'Would you like to join me in the Evening Service?' Well, it was rude to say no and the Vicar was very pleased that he was not on his own for once. I can remember when the rule was relaxed as they then could say both services anywhere, as one Vicar said 'even mowing the lawn! where it is where I get the most peace! and we have no worries of leaving the last tower of an outing Funny though it was sometimes nice to sit down on a summers evening in a quiet church and say a Service with the local priest that had been said in churches over hundreds of years......and then off to the pub over the road.







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We will be following current Government guidelines on COVID-19

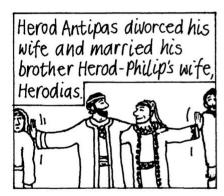
Trailblazing

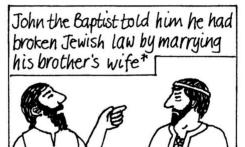
For our younger Members



A short story from the Bible

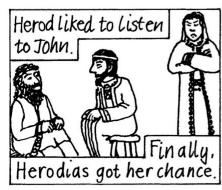
It can be read in the Bible in Mark 6:17-28, Matthew 14:1-11 After Herod Antipator died, the Romans allowed his son Herod Antipas to rule Galilee and Peraea. He was hated by the Jews



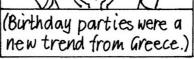


Lev 18:19,20:21. She was also his neice.

Herodias hated
John and wanted
him dead.
Herod was afraid
of John and
wouldn't kill him
but put him
in prison.









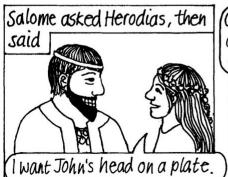




(No decent girl would do this.)







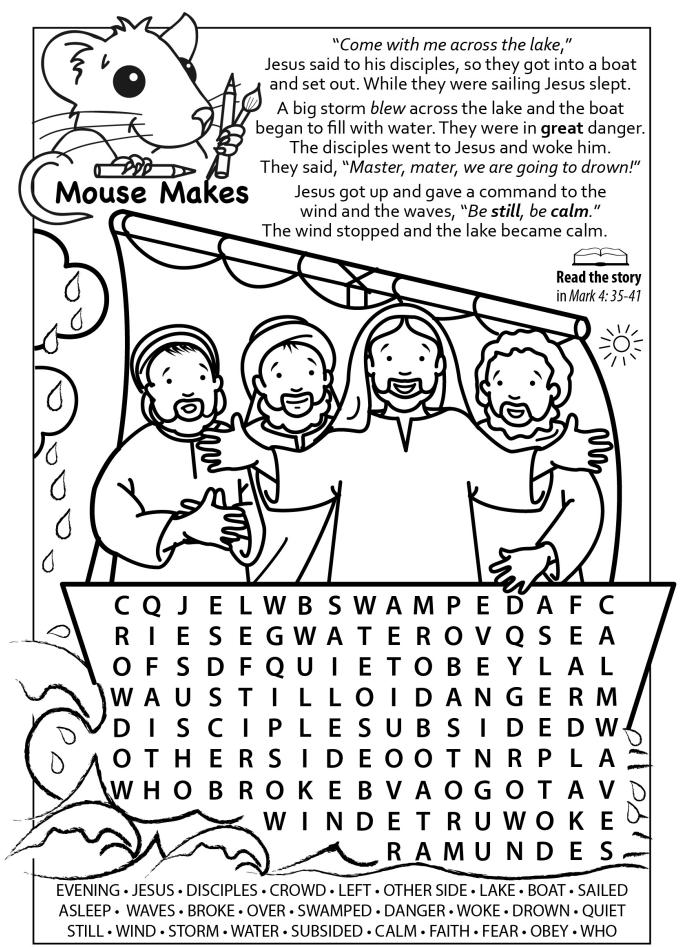
Oh, no! But I made a promise in front of everyone!



So John was killed* and Salome was given his head. She gave it to her mother.



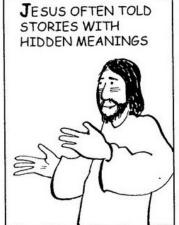


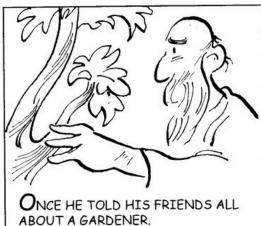


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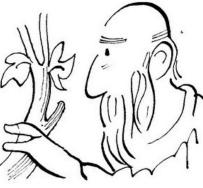


The gardener and the Vine







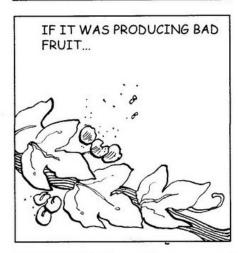


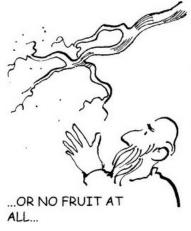
... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING

GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE

FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.

HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

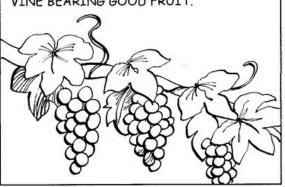


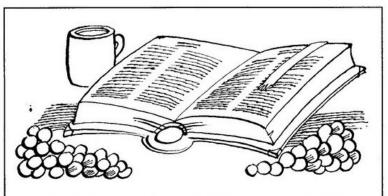




CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.





THE FIRE!!

YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



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Flowers In Church

By Lynda Wareing

Anniversary

The pedestal flowers on Sunday 22nd were in celebration of Maureen and Des' 18th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to you both.





Welcome

Liz was ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral on the 11thSeptember. She was officially welcomed at Saint John's on Sunday 12th. Liz told me her favourite colour is purple [not always easy to get purple flowers – but I got lucky] There are purple asters and stocks plus white asters and chrysanthemums.







'Looking ahead'

Harvest Festival 10th October and Remembrance Sunday on 14th November. Then it will soon be Christmas!!! Thank you so much for your gifts to the flower fund.

God bless



Good reasons to have a church magazine

After a year of lockdown, should we still bother with church magazines now that church life is picking up again? Yes!

It is read by lots of people. If each issue is read on average by two people, then more people see it than ever go to church. So, it is a very good way of putting Christian values and ideas into people's hands, whether they come to church or not.

It is a service to the community. Communities need local networks to thrive. Magazines are a great way of binding the people who live in one place together. Just delivering the church magazine is a way to get to know the area and the people.

It helps build bridges with other Christian churches in the area. We can share some details of their meetings and events.

It can make money. Well, enough to cover the costs of production! Let's aim for a revenue balanced on paid subscriptions and advertising.

It is seen by those outside the church family. Think of the people just moving into our area, or those who live here already and want to get married or to baptise their child. Our magazine can help them see the sort of community we are, and

that we would welcome them to join us.

It is read by people who do not go to church, but who know someone who does. This is a major way of how groups, including churches, grow. Not many people walk into a church off their own bat. Most people are invited, or already have a connection.

It supports local businesses. Local businesses who advertise locally, can thrive.

It helps people develop skills. The editorial team will learn about design, marketing, GDPR, editing, copyright, writing, selling, artwork - and apologising.

It can help inform our community about itself – especially if we include a local history or local natural history section!

So, don't believe it if someone tells you that print is dead. It is not. Many people still prefer to read something they can hold in their hands. The future is not EITHER print OR digital, but BOTH AND. People will flick through a magazine that arrives through the door, even though they may never dream of visiting their local church's website.



Editors remarks: This article was written by David Pickup for Parishpump, a resource we use for the our magazine. It summarises well what a good parish magazine can do.

St John's magazine was started by Revd Bettison in the 1880's and has been published most of the time since then. If you would like to find out more about the magazine and would like to help by being a part of the team that produces the magazine or write articles for it please talk to one of the team - Ian Boyce, Maureen Dennis, Barbara Elliott, and John Wilson.



Sorry, Lord, I just couldn't make it

Editor: Here is a poem with a sad ring to it...

The bells ring out on Sunday morn, O did you hear their call? They call the faithful ones to prayer To Church they summon all

But Lord, I cannot come today, I live a busy life, Still, when there's something special on I'll try and send the wife.

It poured with rain last Sunday An inch or two, I bet. You surely can't expect me then – I'd get my new suit wet.

Today the sky is blue and clear, but the car's as black as ink.
And if I do not clean it soon,
What will the neighbours think?

You know I do my bit, dear Lord I have a golden rule, I sometimes send my kids along To be at Sunday school.

But I really couldn't come as well, There's grass to mow, and beds to weed Shelves to fix, a dog to walk, and Sunday newspapers to read.

And now this day has ended, Lord How fast the weekends go! I ask for faith and strength this week For I feel (spiritually) quite low.

Inflame, O Lord, my feeble faith My lamp burns rather dim, For God depends on me, of course, And I depend on Him.

Author unknown



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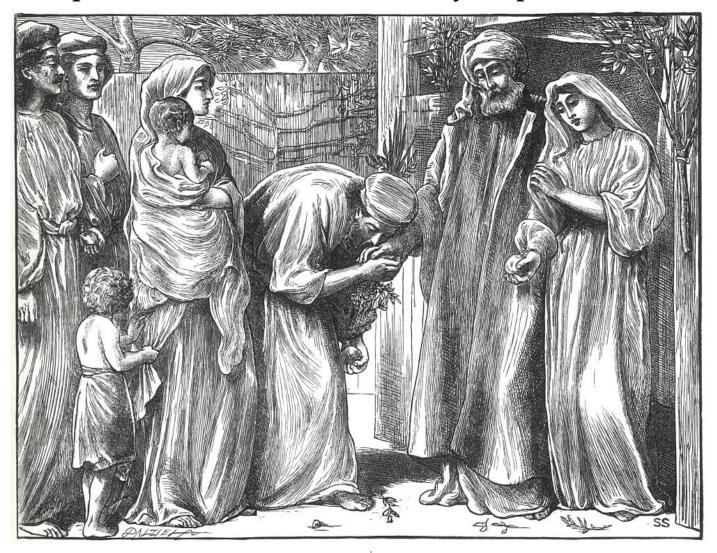
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God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish.

'Spread over us the tabernacle of your peace, O God'



For nine days at the end of September Jewish families will have gathered to celebrate the festival of Tabernacles. It is always a happy season as adults and children alike join for their Harvest feast. Many churches will be having their own Harvest Thanksgivings at the beginning of this month. We know this was a custom revived by Parson Hawker in the Victorian period,

but its roots lie in that Jewish feast which Jesus Himself knew and celebrated.

Each family erects a tabernacle or tent in the garden or back yard. They will have their meals and spend time there, relaxing with one another. The roof of each tabernacle might have branches of trees covering it, hung with fruits and fragrant flowers. The



children decorate the tent with drawings and pictures.

Because it is only a temporary building for that time of the year, and because the roof is fragile, it is a reminder of the journeying of the Israelites in the wilderness when their safety rested on the goodness of God. It was God who watched over the people then. It is God who watches over them now and watches over the earth, so that it is fruitful, providing food for their health and happiness.

This feast is the subject of this month's picture by Simeon Solomon. He was a Jewish artist, born in London in 1840 into a family of artists. He made his own reputation through meeting the Pre-Raphaelites and the poet, Swinburne. Solomon was colourful character of period, whose life sadly ended in poverty and alcoholism. But this wood engraving was made early on in his life in 1866. It is part of illustrating Jewish series Solomon which customs, provided for 'Leisure Hour.'

We see an elderly person on the left making his way into the tent, and at the other side a mother leading her children. The walls outside are adorned with palm branches and inside the tent a feast of fruits and food await them. The young boy seems hesitant, wondering what he will find and clinging to the hand of his mother. But all is well, for inside other members of the

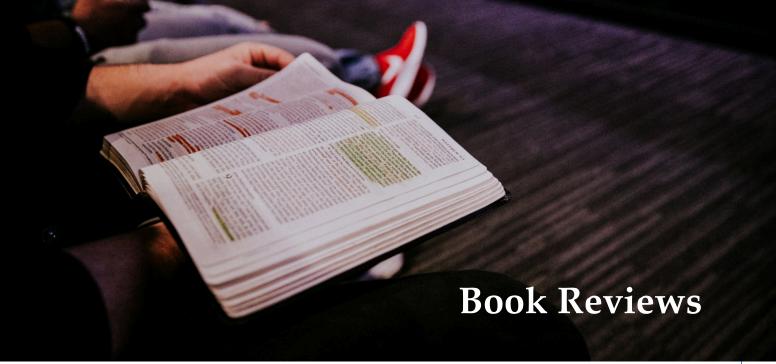
family are there to welcome them.

Solomon conveys domesticity of this feast, and the young boy outside reminds us that Jesus Himself would have celebrated this feast with Mary and Joseph. They would also have gone up to Jerusalem to join the thousands of pilgrims there, as Jesus was to do later in His adult ministry. Each pilgrim would carry a branch of myrtle, palm and willow in one hand and a citrus fruit in the other, symbols of the fruits of the promised land. The air would be full of hosannas and praises to God.

Like the Jewish families at the Feast of Tabernacles, we shall gather Harvest for our Thanksgivings. Like them, we shall thank God for His faithful goodness in the past. Like them, we shall look ahead to the coming of God's kingdom, where God who feeds us now in food drink will nourish eternally. Like them, we shall proclaim, 'O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the one who trusts in Him.'



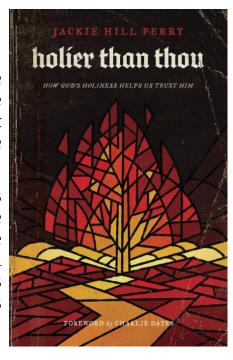




Holier Than Thou By Jackie Hill Perry, 10Publishing, £12.49

Why is it so hard to trust God sometimes? We say we trust Him, but often we live as if He can't be trusted. We assume that He doesn't really want what is best for us; that He withholds good things from us.

Bestselling author Jackie Hill Perry walks us through Scripture, shaking the dust off of the concept of 'holy' as we've come to know it. The concept of 'holy' is something that offers us an amazing truth — God is good, He is trustworthy. So, God being 'holier than thou' is actually the best news we can possibly have.





Christ, the Cross and the Concrete Jungle By John Caldwell, 10Publishing, £4.99

Many communities are ravaged by problems associated with poverty, crime and drug and alcohol abuse. Substantial answers to the urban crisis are all but non–existent.

This is the story of a young man's deliverance from a lifestyle of desperation and delinquency to a new life of freedom and hope. It is a remarkable journey of transformation and redemption, only made possible through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

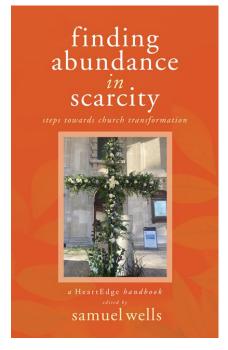
Finding Abundance in Scarity – step towards church transformation

By Samuel Wells, Canterbury Press, £13.49

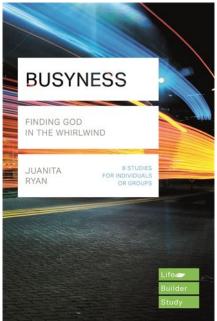
This past 18 months, all churches have had to learn to do things differently during closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

None has been more imaginative or inventive than London's St Martin in the Fields, working through its HeartEdge programmes. It is now a virtual college, with an impressively varied programme for practitioners.

Here the St Martin's team shares pastoral and practical wisdom on: finding God in lockdown; meeting God and one another online; rediscovering contemplative prayer; facing grief amidst separation; preaching at



such a time as this; singing the Lord's Song in a strange time; hearing Scripture together in difficult times; praying through crisis; creating a community of practitioners; and finding faith at home.



Busyness: finding God in the Whirlwind (Lifebuilder Study Guides) By Juanita Ryan, IVP, £4.99

Most of us have lives that are too busy, with many demands upon us. It may seem impossible to make time to focus beyond the noise and activities to anything more 'spiritual'.

This study guide suggests way we can live 'centred' in God's loving presence, in a way that allows all our activity to flow from that centre. As we entrust ourselves to God's care, so we can live in the present, where God is with us, providing for us.





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