

The Magazine of St Luke's & the Church of The Holy Spirit

BURPHAM TIMES

January 2021



BURPHAMCHURCH
SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS



Our news, events and talks at...
www.burphamchurch.org.uk

35p

EVERY DAY, EVERY YEAR, A NEW START



So, 2020 was not an easy year for most of us, and not just because of COVID-19 - even if that was what filled our news! For some of us, we messed things up all on our own; with relationships, work or in some other way. For others of us, unkindness was shown to us and maybe not for a particular reason. For others, it was a battle with illness or someone we love's illness. It might be that we are going into 2021 carrying a heavy burden that feels like it could consume us. Then we read this...

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. **Lamentations 3: 22-26***

God's great love and compassion ensures "*we are not consumed*". But there is more; His love and compassion are **NEW EVERY** morning for **YOU**. That means we get a fresh start with God every morning, even if we mess up everyday or others are unkind to us everyday or trouble comes our way for no good reason; we get a new start every morning! But there is a condition, we must choose every day to put our hope in Him to receive that new start. We must seek the LORD and wait quietly for our salvation. So, each and every morning God chooses to give us a fresh start and each and every morning we need to choose to receive that new start by putting our hope in the LORD.



Finally, if God treats us in this way what a transformation we would see in our world, our workplace, our friendships, our families and our marriages, if we treated each other like this too. As we put our hope in the Lord, we could give those we know and love a fresh start every morning. Choosing not to hold unkind words or deeds against those we know or love but giving them a fresh start every morning. Not gossiping the misdeeds of our work colleagues, children, and partners to other people, but giving them a fresh start every morning.

The Bible says, “*love keeps no record of wrongs*” and that’s a good thing as we face God! The Bible also says the measure we use against others will be the measure He uses for us! Now that’s inspiration to me to forgive and hold no record of wrongs, even if others remind me of my wrongs or talk to others about them!

Let us make a fresh start to 2021 and decide to receive God’s love and compassion every morning but also choose to give everyone else a fresh start each morning too. Now that would start a whole new and better world in 2021!

Rev’d James Levasier

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2021

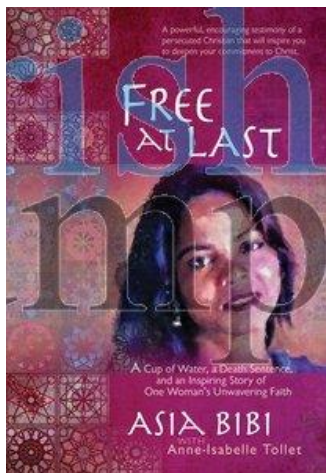
As COVID-19 restrictions look set to remain in place, we will continue with our 2 Sunday morning services in January:

10am Communion service at CHS

(book through the vicarage for Jan 3rd, and with the office after this time)

10am Streamed Celebration service on YouTube

The PCC will continue to monitor the situation and add in additional services as it seems wise.



FREE AT LAST By Asia Bibi, Authentic, £9.99

Here is the remarkable story of the woman who refused to renounce her faith and unwittingly became the global symbol of the fight against religious extremism.

After drinking water from the same glass as a Muslim woman, Asia Bibi, a Christian, was sentenced to hang by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2010 on charges of blasphemy.

Bibi’s case polarised all of Pakistan and mobilised international support from across the globe, including politicians, journalists, and countless organisations. For nine long years, Bibi awaited death in prison until she was formally acquitted in January 2019. Now a political exile, Bibi is reunited with her family in the West, but she will never be allowed to return to her homeland.

AS I SEE IT - by Joan Barnett

From The Old Into The New

Isaiah 55:12 NIV. *You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace. the mountains and hills will burst into song before you and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.*

What will 2021 bring I wonder? The last year has been quite a strange one to say the least. For many people the changes left them feeling very anxious, lonely, wondering what would happen next.

Others of us found life more or less the same.

The days may be dark and gloomy, the weather cold and damp. Is this the ideal time to turn our thoughts around and think the way the verse from Isaiah suggests. Going forth in joy, being led in peace would certainly make the mountains sing and the trees clap. Our imaginations can be let loose. We do not need sight to sit quietly and imagine we are out in the sun maybe by a stream listening to the water as it rushes past. On the beach making a sand castle, thoughts from our childhood! The list is endless.

The verse also reminds me of those days long ago when I used to play my guitar along with a friend in her home. For many years those weekly sessions singing together then chatting over a cup of tea brought much delight. Every time I read chapters of Isaiah I am transported back. To add to my memories I have a tape recording of us singing a few of those songs.

Last January I suggested reading the Bible in a year. Now it is time to start at the beginning again. As well as my New International version of the bible read by David Suchet I have also found it interesting listening to the King James version. This one is not read by David Suchet. Instead there is a variety of actors who read very well as one would expect. Hopefully by the time I reach the end and the year is drawing to a close, life will once again be 'Back to Normal!' Oh yes, there is that other new venture, Brexit! Will that bring a new normal?

With every blessing for the New Year.

Burpham Times for February 2021
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Last day for copy - Sunday 17th January

All in the month of JANUARY It was:

500 years ago, on 3rd January 1521 that German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May. This imperial assembly culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which branded Martin Luther as a heretic, and banned his writings.

150 years ago, on 26th January 1871 that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was founded in England.

125 years ago, on 28th January 1896 that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2 mph and a person carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But Arnold drove at 8 mph without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle, arrested, and fined one shilling.

100 years ago, on 28th January 1921 that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was installed beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It honours those who died in WWI (and later also WWII) who were never identified.

80 years ago, on 5th January 1941 that Amy Johnson, pioneering British aviator, drowned in the Thames Estuary, aged 37. She had bailed out after her plane ran out of fuel and crashed in adverse weather conditions.

75 years ago, on 3rd January 1946 that William Joyce ('Lord Haw Haw'), British fascist politician who broadcast Nazi propaganda from Germany during WWII, was hanged for treason.

60 years ago, on 20th January 1961 that John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

40 years ago, on 2nd January 1981 that British serial killer Peter Sutcliffe (the 'Yorkshire Ripper') was arrested in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. He was charged with murdering 13 women. He died of Covid-19 in November 2020.

Also 40 years ago, on 20th January 1981, that Ronald Reagan was inaugurated the 40th President of the United States.

30 years ago, 17th January to 28th February, that the Gulf War's 'Operation Desert Storm' took place. Invading Iraqi forces were expelled from Kuwait and the Kuwaiti monarchy was restored. It was a decisive coalition victory.

25 years ago, on 27th January 1996 that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, that George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States.

10 years ago, on 4th January 2011 that Gerry Rafferty, Scottish rock singer and songwriter, died. Best known for his solo hit 'Baker Street'.

Editor: Martin Luther helped bring in the Reformation, and this month marks an important stage in that process. Tim Lenton reports.

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE DIET OF WORMS – 500 YEARS ON

Five hundred years ago, on 3rd January 1521, German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May.

This amusingly titled event (Diet means assembly, and Worms is a city in the Rhineland) culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which declared that Luther was a heretic, and banned his writings.

Luther was a monk and professor of biblical interpretation at the University of Wittenberg who came to oppose the Church's corrupt practice of selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sins. His 95 theses, which he is famous for nailing to a church door in 1517 – though some historians doubt that it actually happened – were based on the belief that salvation is by grace through faith and cannot be bought by cash or actions, however good.

Luther was defiant and was supported by powerful princes. He lived until 1546 and with others brought about the Reformation, though he would doubtless have been amazed at the sheer number and variety of different Protestant denominations (including various forms of Lutheranism) that would trace their origin to his actions.

US PRESIDENTS – YOUNG AND OLD

A look back over the last 60 years, at 20-year intervals, reveals the following snapshot of the ages of various residents in the White House:

60 years ago, on 20th January 1961, John F Kennedy became the 35th President of the United States. The youngest to become president by election, Kennedy was only 43 years old at his inauguration.

40 years ago, on 20th January 1981, Ronald Reagan became 40th President of the United States. At 69 years of age at the time of his first inauguration, Reagan was the oldest first-term US president, a distinction he held until 2017, when Donald Trump was inaugurated at age 70.

20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States. He was 55 years old, almost the exact median age of US presidents on their inauguration day (which stands at 53 years and three months).

This month, on 20th January 2021, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States. He is 78, which makes him the oldest-ever person to become president. (He turned 78 on 20th November 2020.)

Editor: It seems that ever since the car was invented, some people can't resist the urge to put their foot down... By Tim Lenton

THE FIRST MAN TO GET STOPPED FOR SPEEDING...

It was 125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling.

Mr Arnold was four times over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph, which is probably a bit excessive.

The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph. Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to having driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway. As Edmund King, AA president, points out: "Generally men have riskier attitudes towards driving than their female counterparts."

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY CALLS FOR 'LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS' OF TODAY

It was 25 years ago this month, on 27th January 1996, that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in 2021 is '**Be the light in the darkness**'. The aim is to encourage people to "reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide."

HMD is encouraging people to heed the 'Be the light in the darkness' theme as a call to action. "The utterly unprecedented times through which we are living currently are showing the very best of which humanity is capable but also – in some of the abuse and conspiracy theories being spread on social media – the much darker side of our world as well.

"We can all stand in solidarity. We can choose to '**be the light in the darkness**' in a variety of ways and places – at home, in public, and online."

More at: www.hmd.org.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS INCREASED DISASTERS

Climate change is largely to blame for the huge rise in natural disasters between the years 2000 to 2019. So says a recent report from the United Nations office for disaster risk reduction.

It goes on to warn that the earth is rapidly becoming “uninhabitable” to millions of people worldwide. Three quarters of a billion *more* people were hit by catastrophic events of nature over the past two decades than were affected in the preceding 20 years (1980 to 1999).

The UN report calls humanity “wilfully destructive” and says that too many governments have failed to take the threat of climate change seriously.

“It is baffling that we willingly and knowingly continue to sow the seeds of our own destruction, despite the science and evidence that we are turning our home into an unimaginable hell for millions of people.”

Climate related disasters numbered 3656 during the period 1980-1999. This doubled to become 6681 in the period 2000-2019. Floods and storms have been the most common events.

2020 was not included in the data, but it saw one of the most active fire and hurricane seasons the US has ever experienced, as well as significant flooding in Asia.

OPEN THAT WINDOW

Here is an easy resolution for the New Year: open your windows at home for ‘short sharp bursts’ of 10 to 15 minutes at a time, several times a day.

The government’s public information campaign says that regular fresh air can cut the risk of Covid transmission by more than 70 per cent.

So, either leave a window open a small amount continuously, or open it fully on a regular basis throughout the day, especially if anyone has come to visit you in your home. Coronavirus is spread through the air by droplets and smaller particles known as aerosols. They can hang in the air for hours and they build up over time.

Some miscellaneous observations on life...

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.

You should not confuse your career with your life.

The most powerful force in the universe is gossip.

Success is relative – the greater the success, the more relatives.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham finds the wise men's gifts to be of help to us now.

EPIPHANY FOR TODAY

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.' ('We Three Kings').

Looking forward to 2021

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in His way.

– *Psalm 37:23*

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

– *Proverbs 3:6*

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. – *Corrie ten Boom*

In His love He clothes us, enfolds us and embraces us; that tender love completely surrounds us, never to leave us. As I saw He is everything that is good.

– *Julian of Norwich*

Endurance and perseverance are qualities we would all like to possess, but we are loath to go through the process that produces them. – *Jerry Bridges*

You can never plan the future by the past. – *Edmund Burke*

What we look for does not come to pass. God finds a way for what none foresaw.

– *Euripides*

CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded – and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament. Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.

What's in the Bible (for me)? – 50 readings and reflections

By Lucy Moore, BRF, £4.99

Lucy Moore's pocket-sized guide to the Bible takes readers on an epic journey through 4,000 years of history. Spanning Old and New Testaments from Genesis to Revelation in 50 bite-sized readings, the founder and leader of Messy Church writes for families and individuals who are new to the Bible: its riches, puzzles and complexities.

Taking a single theme, she explores 'the big journey' of God's people in order to help the reader to better understand their own journey. She explains the different kinds of writing within the Bible and the different perspectives of the writers.

For anyone who wonders where to start reading the Bible, this is the perfect introduction and companion. It will, writes Lucy, 'fit in your bag or pocket, so it can go with you to the place where you have time to read it – on the bus or train, in the cafe or playground or on your lunch break. Scribble on it; wave it at your local minister or Christian friend and make them answer your questions or listen to your theories. Safe travels!'

If biblical events were being covered by today's media...

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE

Enforcement Officials Killed While Pursuing Unruly Mob

On the prophet Elijah on Mt Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS ACTIVIST INTO FRENZY

400 Killed In Unprovoked Attack

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS EJECTED FROM SHELTER

Animal Rights Advocates Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:

LAY PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:

QUACK PREYS ON TERMINALLY ILL

Authorities Investigating Use of Non-traditional Medical Procedure

On raising Lazarus from the dead:

ITINERANT PREACHER RAISES STINK

Will Now Being Contested by Lawyers of Heirs

'QUARANTINE' – THE 2020 WORD OF THE YEAR

The Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as its 'word of the year' for 2020. Apparently, it was the word most looked up between January and October of last year. 'Quarantine' even beat 'pandemic' and 'lockdown'.

The Cambridge Dictionary has now added a new meaning to the word 'quarantine'. It runs: 'A general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely, so that they do not catch or spread a disease.'

The editors are also considering some possible new words for the dictionary. These include 'Quaranteam' (a group of people who go into quarantine together), Lockstalgia (a feeling of nostalgia for the lockdown period), and Coronnial (someone born around the time of the pandemic).

BURPHAM GARDENING CLUB

The Club still remains closed at present, hopefully we can open in the Spring when we might be lucky enough to have come out of the tiers and life has returned to normal whatever that may be. I wish you all a successful year in your garden and that you will grow plenty of entries for our shows. *John Boon.*

Gardening Hints for January.

If you cannot garden because the soil is rain sodden or frosted you can use your time by studying plant catalogues which have arrived in the post on a regular basis.

The same advice applies as when ordering spring flowering bulbs, the larger the plants you buy the better they will be when planted out in May. If you only need a few plants it would probably be better to visit a local nursery such as Elm Nursery at Sutton Green in May where you can select your plants first hand.

New seed varieties which are usually F1 Hybrids are expensive to buy and often difficult to germinate, so look on the back of the packet to see how many seeds you are buying for your money, remember that this year`s novelty seeds are likely will be next year`s ordinary seeds.

When sowing seed, the general rule is that finer seeds will germinate into small seedlings and so they should be sown on or close to the surface of the compost, larger seeds should be sown deeper as the shoots can reach the light before they exhaust their food reserves. The seed packet will suggest the depth required. Seeds should be sown evenly and sparingly to allow the seedlings space to develop once they have germinated, closely packed seedlings will be liable to "damping off" which is a fungal disease. Consider how many plants you will require before sowing the whole packet.

Sweet Peas can still be sown indoors, those sown in the autumn should be potted on, pinching out the tips at 2-3 inches.

Dahlias should be inspected and any rotten tubers should be cut off, any shrivelled tubers should be placed in a bucket of tepid water overnight.

There is still time in mild conditions to plant bare rooted roses.

Keep the crowns of herbaceous plants and alpines free of dead leaves to avoid rot. Start pruning Wisteria cutting back the current seasons growth to within three buds of older wood.

Whilst the fruit buds are still dormant Apple and Pear trees can be pruned, cut out any congested growth to increase airflow which will improve the quality of next seasons fruit, cut back to a fruit bud which is large and rounded on older growth, one year old shoots should be pruned back to a slender bud.