

Shoreline

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Shoreham Beach

Spring 2024

50p





Church of the Good Shepherd

Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion in church .

10.00am Parish Communion in church.

Also available live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

On the first Sunday of most months there is an all age service at 10am and a Taizé healing service at 6pm

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion in church.

Wednesdays

6.00pm Celtic Evening Prayer on Zoom.

Saturday

8.00am Morning Meditation — *also on Zoom.*

The service on **Sunday** is followed by fellowship in the church hall.

See the church website for details:

<https://www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk>

First Thoughts: Breathless

*A reflection on the glory of creation — and those who study and learn from it
— by Peter Wolfenden, triggered by the recent eclipse.*



I am writing this soon after the total eclipse of the sun has taken place. What an extraordinary event! Somehow just seeing the pictures sends a shiver down my spine; the unfolding coverage of the sun's orb by the bite by bite of the moon's shadow was like a text book demonstration in a school laboratory. Yet it was for real! I understand that such events are more frequent than I had supposed – the reality is that they are mostly only visible from the oceans. But it still fills me with wonder that our scientists are able to predict an occurrence like this with such accuracy, and that the universe is actually built on observable and universal laws. For the universe is

no random, haphazard soup of molecules and atoms.

So, let's hear it for our scientists first of all. The rapid strides being made by science in pretty much every area of life is surely apparent to all of us; yes, there are areas where the dangers need to be faced and not every step forward is automatically beneficial. But a moments reflection will surely lead to a greater appreciation of the wonder of the world.

And let's hear it for the Creator! The laws which apply on this tiny planet apply across the creation. Our capacity to delve into them, to test and

comprehend them is surely also part of the Creator's intelligent plan.

When we use our brains to inquire into creation, we are not challenging God, but worshipping Him.

I was reminded, too, of those verses from Mark's Gospel chapter 13, particularly verse 24, "In those days the sun will grow dark, and the moon will no longer shine."

Some Christians will see this (and surrounding verses of this particular chapter) as Jesus predicting events which are coming true in our day. Others will want to see these verses as part of a kind of writing called

"Apocalyptic" where visions and catastrophes are linked to the end of time. There are examples of this in the Book of Revelations as well as in the second part of Daniel. Mark Chapter 13 is like this, and is so different from the rest of the Gospel that it must be interpreted according to different criteria.

Whatever your view, rejoice in the wonder of the universe, celebrate the constructive progress of science, and enjoy the sunshine if it comes!

Peter Wolfenden



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Christian Aid Week 2024

12th to the 18th May: seven days, so many ways to make a difference.



Thank you so much to our fellowship of The Church of the Good Shepherd and our Shoreham Beach community for your support for Christian Aid Week last May. Our fundraising featured the normal envelope collection, and we held a very successful Big BBQ Bonanza. We were blessed with sunny weather and our generous guests, supportive Church Fellowship and super team of volunteers helped us to raise nearly £1800. This fantastic amount went to support Christian Aid's ongoing work in Malawi, helping farmers to plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops and build happier futures for their children.

This year, money raised will help fund projects in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world — places like Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Christian Aid local partners have been helping set up Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save or borrow what they need to start a business or expand and change their lives.

Among the people Christian Aid has worked with is Aline, who leads and supports some 25 families. She has shared her inspirational story for Christian Aid Week 2024.

There will be a film and more detailed information regarding the work of Christian Aid at The Church of the Good Shepherd on Sunday, 12th May, at the 10 o'clock service. We will also be welcoming Kevwe, The Church Engagement and fundraising officer for Kent and Sussex, at the same service.



Please look out for the red envelope that will be dropping through the letterboxes of all houses on the beach during Christian Aid Week in May. We no longer collect the envelopes, but each envelope has a QR code with a direct link for your donation from the safety of your armchair! There are also addresses of drop off points on the Beach for you to directly deposit filled and sealed envelopes. Please don't forget to Gift Aid your donations if you are eligible.

Many thanks to those who joined us from the Fellowship, the community and from The Shoreham Beach Residents' Association in helping to deliver the CA envelopes last year. We do hope we can count on your help again this year. If you can help, then

please contact Jill Charlish. Look on it as gentle exercise that will be helping others to live a better life.

In addition, please save the date of Saturday 11th May for our BIG BREKKIE Christian Aid Community fundraising event. You can join us at the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall from 0930-1200 to enjoy drinks, hot breakfast rolls and continental breakfast choices. (See overleaf.)

Once again, thank you so much for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to help or be involved with any of the Christian aid Week events.

Jill Charlish

Christian Aid coordinator for The Church of the Good Shepherd.
jillcharlish@hotmail.com



You're invited to a Big Brekkie!

Want to change the world over breakfast? Then come and tuck in at our Big Brekkie! We'll be serving a delicious morning meal, while raising money to fight poverty and injustice worldwide.

**Saturday May 11
from 9.30pm-12 noon**

**only £10 per adult
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at the Good Shepherd Hall,
Kings Walk, Shoreham Beach**

**Order your breakfast from Jill
on: 07796932420 or
email: jillcharlish@hotmail.com**

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Audrey Chapman

Dear Church congregation, my friends. I firstly have to apologise for not writing this sooner.

I wanted to thank everyone for all the good wishes sent to me regarding Audrey's passing. Audrey and I had been together for the past eight years, or thereabouts, and for the past four or more years, we lived together at Audrey's home in Lancing as her medical conditions worsened and she needed constant care.

The last few years meant Audrey wasn't able to attend church, yet thanks to Sheila, Sally and Judy, who came every fortnight to give us communion, Audrey and I could greet God regularly together. This was something Audrey was very pleased and happy about, not only because she received communion, but also because it allowed her to catch up with news about and from her friends.

At Audrey's untimely death, I was, and am still, devastated. Audrey was, to me, my soulmate in every sense of the word. She filled my heart with love and showed me kindness I'd forgotten there was in this world.

When I invited you all to her funeral on the 8th of February, little did I envisage that day when, as I assisted in carrying her into the church to say farewell. The sight that befell me was a sea of faces that filled the church to overflowing, 90% of whom I knew personally, and so did Audrey. As I was, Audrey would have been overwhelmed at how many of you crammed into the church to say how much you cared about her and me.

Audrey loved all of you at COGS; she had no favourites... you were all her favourites. As you are mine.

Thank you all for your generous donations to Audrey's charity. I was amazed to see it raise £415, which I increased to £500 and sent off to the MS Society earlier this month.

I can never thank you enough for the kindness you have shown Audrey and me; we are forever in your debt.

With much love and affection.

George xxx

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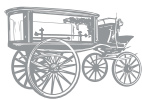
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Christian Aid Changemakers Conference

On Saturday 2nd March three of us from the benefice travelled by train to London to take part in the Christian Aid Change Makers Conference at St James's Church Piccadilly. I found it an inspiring event that opened my eyes to the valuable work being done by Christian Aid all around the world.

The conference, attended by 600 people, was livestreamed to 20 regional watch-parties. We heard from key speakers about the history of Christian Aid Week — started in 1957 and now the longest running charity appeal in Britain. Philip Galgalo from Christian Aid Burundi told us about their partnership model, working closely with communities and local knowledge.

This year the focus for Christian Aid Week is on Burundi, where 70 per cent live in poverty. We have a committed team at the Good Shepherd, led by Jill Charlish, that fundraises during Christian Aid Week, through door-to-door collections and



the hosting a community event. Last year we raised nearly £1800.

This year for the first time, in addition to fundraising, we will be running a course developed by Christian Aid - 'Act on Poverty' to help Christians think more deeply about the causes of local and global poverty. This is open to all in the benefice. It will run during May around the time of Christian Aid Week. More information to follow.

I hope you will join in with Christian Aid Week this year and be part of a local community transforming the world.

Revd Jane Bartlett

Canon Tim Higgins reflects on the conference.

On the journey to share in the Christian Aid Changemakers Conference I realised that I was feeling embarrassed. How was I a 'changemaker' and representing St Mary's? As the contents of the day were unwrapped and explored the power of asking questions became even more clear.

Listening and watching images of villagers and farmers in the Global South of our planet made me ask again: How is it that African countries like Burundi, the second poorest, are still so deprived of health and wellbeing. Poverty is not an accident; it is an outcome of the way we trade and live globally. In Burundi the resilience of the farmers means they grow crops for food and trade. Now, locally there is a community fund that provides cash for these industrious farmers to grow more food for themselves and for the market. This growth also grows the same common fund as farmers give back the cash they have used from



the produce it has grown. This year Christian Aid is celebrating success and giving us the chance for us to help grow that same fund. With such partnerships Christian Aid Week will focus the story of resilience and success and so contribute to more growth of food and farming business.

I was inspired by the stories we heard at the Conference because Christian Aid is making a difference that is permanent rather than just first aid. Funding that empowers young leaders, especially woman and girls, will get their gifts where they can make change happen in decision making and expertise. Because poverty is not an accident the good news is that we can all share as changemakers. Decisions in our country can open paths for hope.

Cousin Crow and

Walking on the beach with Pegotty Whippet, I found myself musing on something that Rev Jane had said in her recent sermon. She had explained enthusiastically that we humans all share the DNA of everything else on the planet from star dust to a snail... a spider (a particularly horrendous thought to me!)... a caterpillar... or an elephant!!

(Please note that I am not actually quoting Jane here, just adding my own imaginings to her concept regarding DNA!)

Anyway, on a bright Monday morning with these thoughts firmly planted in my subconscious, I clambered laboriously up the steep bank of stones on the beach to where my dog was devouring a forbidden delicacy of dead fish. Out of my reach and ignoring my commands to 'Come here!!', she stripped the skin of the thing from its skeleton and gobbled it down before I reached her.

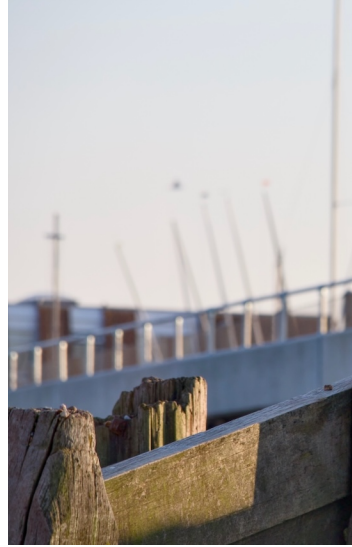
When I got to her, huffing and puffing from my climb up the pebbles from the shore and feeling none too pleased at her disobedience, I noticed a large crow

sitting high up on the break-water and looking down at me. I acknowledged him with a "Good Morning Mr Crow!" (as one would a distant relative) and continued toward my errant whippet, who snatched up her prey and dodged out of reach as soon as I got near enough to grab her.

So, I turned to Mr Crow and said to him; "Now what do I do Mr Crow?" to which he responded with a turn of his head from regarding me to looking down at Pegotty.

He pointed his long beak in her direction and said (in a very crowish voice) "Drop it!"

And she did!!!



Chrystabell



I said “thank you” and he nodded at me, before hopping back to where he had been perched. I grabbed the dog, hooked up her harness and began to continue on my journey up the beach... But I couldn't.

The stormy winds and high tides had created a high bank of pebbles that, every time I

attempted to climb, came rumbling down on my feet, causing me to land on all fours as I slid downwards in the pebble avalanche with nothing to hold onto!! So, rather than walk right along the beach from where I had come, I looked around for another way to get up to the top of the ridge.

I could not see anything obvious, so I turned again to Mr Crow who was sitting on his perch looking down on this situation and I asked him: “What do I do now? Have you got any ideas?”

I expect by now 50% of readers will have given up on this story as a piece of mythical imaginings from Chrystabell's brain and best to be ignored. But please bear with me further, dear reader, because this was not all a figment of my imagination. I only wish you had been there to see it happening and not have to rely on my poor reporting of the experience, because then you too would have been convinced!

At the sound of my voice Mr Crow looked at me and in response to my question ‘What do I do now?’ he flicked his head behind me to the higher level of the breakwater, nodded at it and crowed; “Up here, up here!!”

So, obediently, I climbed up onto the breakwater indicated and walked along it as it went up the ridge of stones and took me safely to the level where I wanted to be.

I turned and said “Thank you, Cousin Crow, you have been very helpful.”

“Caw,” he said. And flew away.

Chrystabell

‘Will You Tarry Here and Watch With Me?’

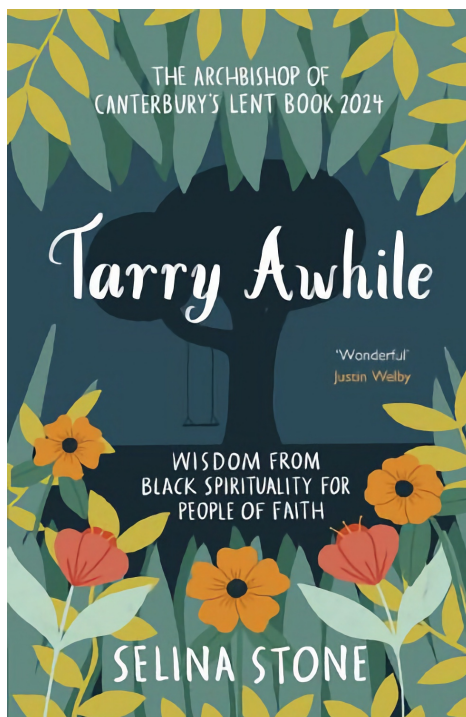
Our Lent Group was led by Rev’d Jane and we explored the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book for 2024, *Tarry Awhile*. It was written by Selina Stone, a young African Caribbean woman, raised in Birmingham.

Each week we read one or two chapters ready to discuss at our Wednesday afternoon group meeting at the Vicarage. It was a challenging read, at times inspiring and always interesting. We had much to reflect upon and we have really appreciated this opportunity to learn about Black Pentecostal Christian Spirituality.

From her own perspective, Selina writes: *‘Tarrying is a particular spiritual practice.... a collective time of waiting on God.’*

The 7 chapter headings are:

- Darkness
- Oneness
- Movement
- Spirit
- Quiet
- Healing
- Weeping.



This book has inspired us to ‘remain curious’ and ‘open to finding God’

It is a deeply hopeful book and Selina’s many stories encouraged us all to gain a deeper understanding of our faith and to empathise with what it might mean to be the subject of injustice, suffering, persecution and oppression. We learned the importance of waiting (‘Tarrying’) and resting, ready to be restored by hope in the arms of God and the support of our communities.

Our favourite chapters as a group were 'Quiet' and 'Healing' and we chose to reflect on these in our presentation for the Monday evening service of Holy Week. Jane welcomed all who came, arranged the beautiful music and controlled the sound system.

With various group members taking the parts of the characters, we dramatised the story of Mary and Martha welcoming Jesus into their home, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke chapter 10 vs 38-42

Selina used this story to illustrate the importance of seeking out quiet places in our lives to contemplate God and listen to Him. We prayed, 'Lord meet us in the silence and hear our prayer.'

As part of 'Healing' we read the poem 'Mary and Martha' by Annie Johnson Flint, which was introduced and explained by Mother Anne-Marie as she linked together all the aspects of the service.

Our service ended with the beautiful Taize chant:
'*Stay with me
Remain here with me
Watch and Pray
Watch and Pray...*'

Angela & Janet

Mary and Martha

*Mary was busy and hurried,
Serving the Friend divine,
Cleansing the cups and the platters,
Bringing the bread and the wine;
But Martha was careful and anxious,
Fretted in thought and in word,
She had no time to be learning
While she was serving the Lord,
For Martha was "cumbered" with serving
Martha was "troubled" with "things"—
Those that would pass with the using—
She was forgetting her wings.*

*But Mary was quiet and peaceful,
Learning to love and to live,
Mary was learning His precepts,
Mary was letting Him give—
Give of the riches eternal,
Treasures of mind and of heart;
Learning the mind of the Master,
Choosing the better part.
Do we ever labour at serving
Till voices grow fretful and shrill,
Forgetting how to be loving,
Forgetting how to be still?*

*Do we strive for "things" in possession,
And toil for the perishing meat,
Neglecting the one thing needful—
Sitting at Jesus' feet?
Service is good when He asks it,
Labour is right in its place,
But there is one thing better—
Looking up into His face;
There is so much He would tell us,
Truths that are precious and deep;
This is the place where He wants us,
These are the things we can keep.*



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Number on the day for enquiries: 07791148954. Cancellation will be notified on Facebook and website

Still

On March 3rd a small group of us went on an informal peace walk round Shoreham. We held white roses and walked in silence. I wrote this poem for the walk and read it on the old wooden bridge with the river at high tide.

*Stay still with love
silent in your grief
people are suffering
they need your silence
your love, your prayers of hope
the arms you sell surrendered*

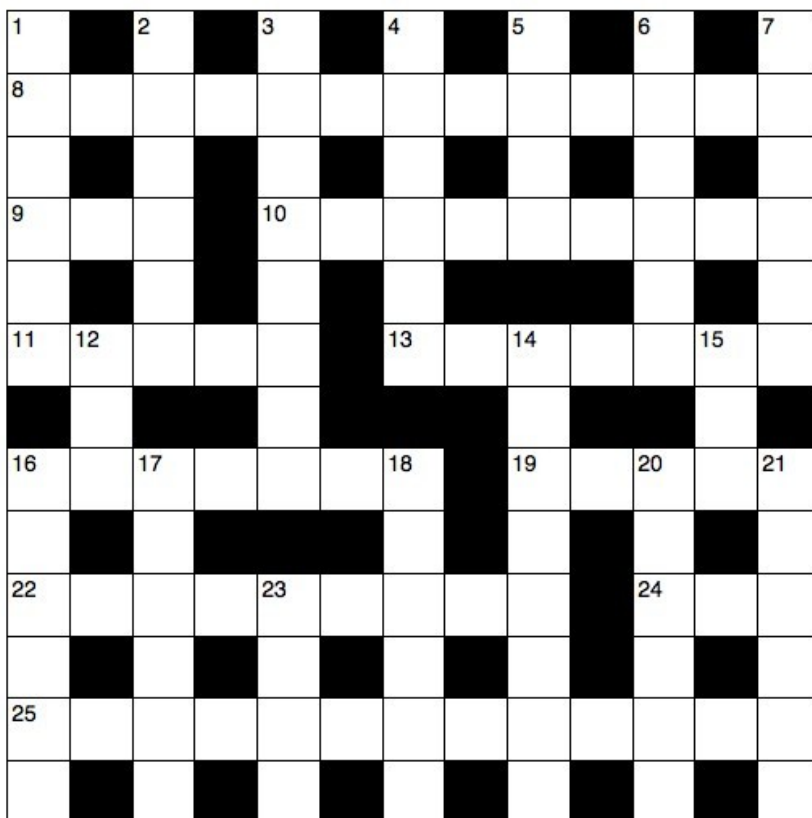
*Make peace your every step
placed boldly on this earth*

*Stay still with love
Look for the war within
The fighting for position
in outrage your division
Witness the tortured souls
that bring such devastation*

*Stay still with love
Where hope has gone
kindle the candle
for each child in the rubble
Think of your wildest fantasy
to make peace a possibility*

Stay still in silent song

©KateCollier 3/03/24



Across

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —'

(Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives

(Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant

(Genesis 15:2) (9)

24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)

25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)

- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

For answers to this crossword — see page 25.

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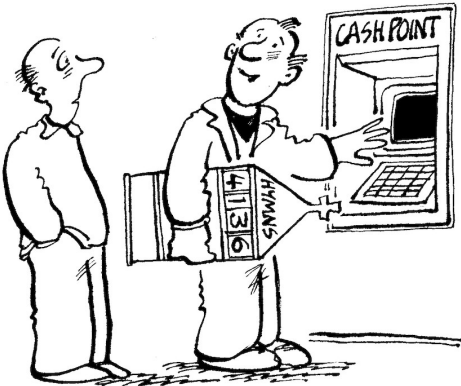
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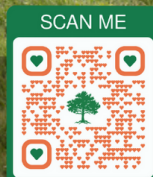
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Shoreline

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ShoreLine is the parish magazine of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach and is provided as a service to the community and the congregation. The church is part of the Church of England's Diocese of Chichester and is also part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. If you would like further information on the Church of England and its beliefs, please use the 'Useful Links' on the back cover.

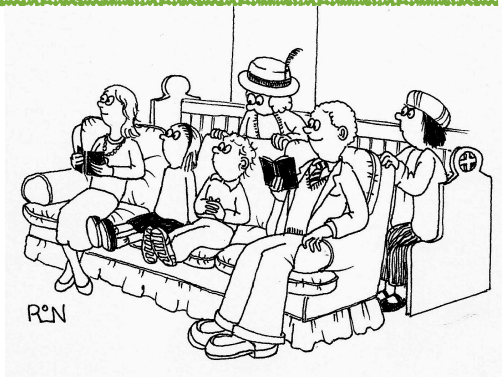
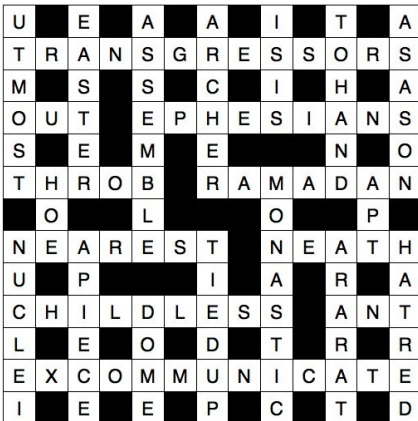
The magazine is also available as a PDF file on the church website: the address is on the back cover.

Any and all contributions are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor by the 15th of each month. Contributions should ideally be as a Word or rtf file. Please send to the editor's e-mail above.

For advertising requirements, please contact Chris and Richard on the above email address. Advertising copy deadline is the 20th of each month for inclusion the following month.



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Last Thoughts: the journey that changes us all

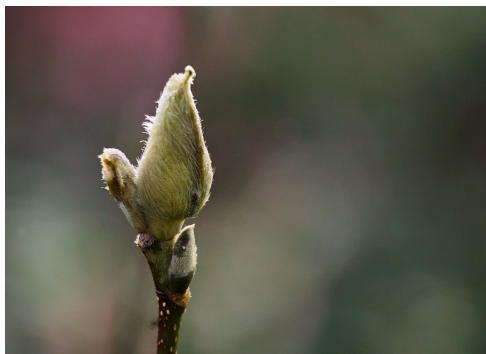
Paul, always a prolific writer of letters, had plenty to say to the Corinthians. (How easy it can be to forget that Corinthians were the people of a city, not just the name of books in the Bible...) And one of them has a particular resonance in difficult and challenging times:

No temptation has overtaken you, except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

— 1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

It's always hard to discern who around us is struggling with temptation, or the tribulations of life. It's what makes pastoral work so crucial, and yet so difficult. The Christian life can be a challenging one. And temptations are manifold.

Right now, I'm finding turning the other cheek to be... a struggle. And if I make it through that, there's the long slog towards forgiveness ahead. But sometimes that's the price you pay for both your faith, and for living amongst others.



But I realised, many years ago (but many more years later than I should have had this insight), that forgiveness is much less about the person being forgiven, and much more about what you carry around in yourself. God charges us to forgive, lest we let bitterness or anger poison us.

When we walk with the spirit, there's a literalness to that statement. And we shouldn't expect to journey through life with God without that experience changing us profoundly. Temptations lie along the path. But so too do the ways out, so we may endure it. And in that endurance, grow in faith and in relationship with God.

Adam

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