

Shoreline

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Shoreham Beach

December 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: exploring the pillars of creation

The Christmas story looks to the sky, through the role of the star. The dialogue between science and faith is very much alive, says Rev'd Jane

Christmas is a church season when we look to the night skies. The Christmas story glows with heavenly angels — messengers with good news to share about the incarnation. And of course there is the Bethlehem star, guiding the Magi from lands afar. It is usually an angel or star that tops the traditional Christmas tree.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the days are short, and the nights are long. There is maximum opportunity for star gazing during the festive season.

Light pollution for those of us in urban settings has hidden many of the stars. Our ancestors would have experienced a night sky brimming with light. When



Jesus spent 40 days and nights alone in the wilderness, half of it would have been under a breathtaking canopy of thousands of twinkling stars. An experience like that must change you.

In Biblical times, the stars were understood to be a sign of God's

handiwork and speak of the creator's glory, and there are many passages in scripture that testify to this.

The night sky has inspired science, religion, philosophy, mythology, art, and literature. It is one of the natural wonders that has the power to wake us up to life's bigger questions. We can feel insignificant when we gaze into the heavens, but there is also the sense that life is bigger than our problems, and more miraculous than we dare imagine.

The Pillars of Creation

We are truly blessed by the discoveries that have come from space telescopes. We can now gaze upon extraordinary images, like the famous 'Pillars of Creation' — trunks of interstellar gas and dust, some 7000 light years away from Earth. And science tells us how stars are formed, and how each of us is made up of elements that were made in the stars and have come through several supernovas. We know too that the universe is unfinished, and continually on the move.

Over the centuries, the relationship between science and religion has ranged from conflict to collaboration. The Catholic Church famously tried and convicted Galileo for heresy after

he published works, like Nicolaus Copernicus before him, arguing that it is the sun that is the centre of our solar system and not the earth.

Galileo was sentenced to house arrest for the rest of his life, and his books were banned.

At its best, science and religion are in dialogue, and mutually enrich each other. They are simply approaching the truth from different perspectives. I was fascinated to learn recently that the Vatican now has its own observatory and astronomer. And it was a Catholic priest and cosmologist, Georges Lemaître, who discovered the Big Bang Theory.

The more that science learns about the cathedral of the universe, the more remarkable it becomes, and the more it calls for a renewed sense of divine mystery.

So, do make an opportunity this Christmas, like the Magi, to gaze at the stars, and as you do so consider these words by professor of cosmology Brian Swimme: "The earth was once molten rock and now sings operas."

Merry Christmas and a happy 2025.

Rev'd Jane

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Christ: Restored

The east wall of the church is now repaired and restored



Children's Crib Service



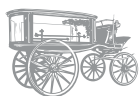
Christmas Eve, 4pm



Church of the
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Kings Walk, Shoreham Beach

Picture by Iris Tinworth, age 9



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Bookshelf

Book recommendations from the Parish Pump team.

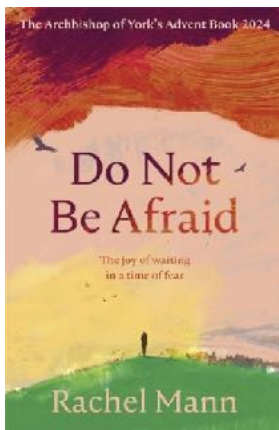
Do Not Be Afraid – the Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear

The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2024

By Rachel Mann, SPCK,

£10.99

These meditations tell stories of God waiting with us when we're in fear or distress; of coming – bidden



or unbidden – to relieve our loneliness; of disconcerting us, desiring us and surprising us with joy...

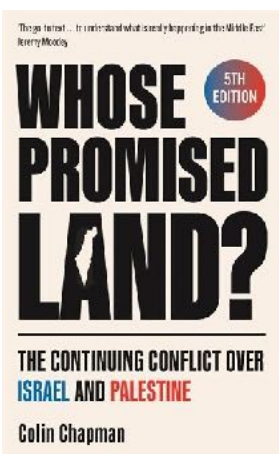
Most of all they remind us that Jesus Christ comes into the world as one long waited for; as the Servant who waits on others; as the One on whom we are, adoringly, called to wait.

Whose Promised Land? – The Continuing Conflict over Israel and Palestine

By Colin Chapman, SPCK, £16.99 (revised & expanded edition)

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has profoundly affected the Middle East for almost 80 years, and shows no sign of ending.

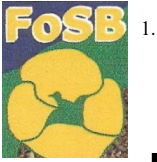
With two peoples claiming the same piece of land, it remains a huge political and humanitarian problem. Can it ever be resolved? If so, how? These are the questions addressed in



this sixth edition of Colin Chapman's highly acclaimed book.

Having lived and worked in the Middle East at various times since 1968, Chapman explains the roots of the problem and outlines the arguments of the main parties involved. He also explores the theme of land in the Old and New Testaments, discussing legitimate and

illegitimate ways of using the Bible in relation to the conflict. This new and fully updated edition covers developments over the past ten years, including the war that broke out between Israel and Hamas in October 2023.



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Website www.fosbeach.com (If cancelled we
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Join us at 2.30pm for a story about labyrinths
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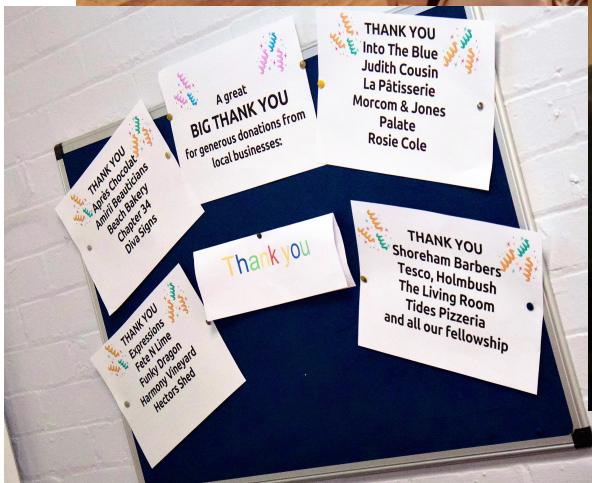
<https://environment-day-2025.eventbrite.co.uk>



The Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre was a big hit this year: not only was it well-attended, with the church hall often packed out, but it raised an amazing £2541. Thanks to everyone involved in organising and running it.





Lady of Snow

A lady of snow came by in the night.
In the morning I greeted her full wedding white
Her lips were a-pale: bright the gown that she wore,
With a cloak of the forest and the scent of the shore

A farmer awoke, looked out over the dell:
The lady had passed. That much he could tell.
He strode through the ice and a wind that was raw.
He'd dreamed of her cloak and the scent of the shore

“Oh lady, I know you: I'm glad that we met.
Your cloak and your scent. I'll never forget”
Then the wind it grew fierce:
Through the Trees it did blow.
Then the lady was gone
And he longed for her so.

In the midwinter deep
When there's snow on the land
Her vigil she'll keep
By rock and by sand:
By dark foaming seas
Under stars far and high
In her Bright shining gown
By the late evening tide.

Song lyrics By Dido Walker, published by permission

*Sung at the festival of trees in Shoreham on 6th December 2024
Dido is the author of Didology*



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



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Embrace the Middle East

Glen Edey reports on the vital work of this Christian charity



I have been involved with Embrace the Middle East for at least 15 years, a charity that has worked to tackle poverty and injustice for 170 years. It partners with Christian-led initiatives in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine – Israel and Syria. Embrace works with partners on the ground in these countries, as they understand the culture and local needs.

People are helped regardless of race or creed, they are helped because they are human beings at risk of being marginalised or excluded. Projects supported are varied,

providing wherever there is a need for refuge, health care including therapeutic help for the traumatised, education, justice and human rights.

Personally, I became particularly motivated when I visited Palestine in 2010. As I looked around, I just kept saying: “but that cannot happen, that just wrong, inhumane.” Each visit has revealed more injustices, but also messages of hope. On the Embrace website there are always photos of smiling children being given opportunities for education, a chance

to play, respite from challenging situations.

In Israel and Palestine, the charity Masalaha, feel there is no option but to continue to work towards reconciliation. Without this, there is no hope for peace. Their role is to bring together groups of Palestinians and Israelis, forging relationships where the truth of the inequalities between the two groups are not overlooked but acknowledged. One such initiative, ongoing since October 7th last year, is the creation of safe spaces where women -Palestinian and Israeli -could meet in person. This is still happening to an extent in Israel, but in the occupied territories it has become impossible. The women try to keep in touch with each other by sending homemade cards. Some Israeli women also buy produce, to support Palestinian farmers.

We have a doll that was bought from a child in Khan al-Ahmar, a Bedouin village that has been under the threat of demolition for over 10 years. This doll represents to me the blessings brought through people recognising the humanity in each other. Women from an Israeli settlement had helped the children to make the dolls.

Recently, I was in communication with a partner in Lebanon, a school

focussing on integrating deaf and hearing pupils, their outreach work aims to reduce the cultural stigma surrounding disability. The school had been providing shelter for displaced individuals when the war in Lebanon began. With the ceasefire, the visitors returned home to find their whole village destroyed, The head of the school, did not mention their own family home and all their treasures and memories were also lost. This humility I often notice in partners, and am humbled to see how rarely I recognise the privileges I have.

Embrace supports initiatives that enhance autonomy:

- * Women learning to write their name and to read.
- * Growth of businesses, as we know from our experience, is important for all communities. Income brings security and hope.
- * The olive tree project replaces olive trees in the occupied territories. Trees are all too frequently destroyed unjustly.

Capni in Iraq offer business loans. One that particularly caught my attention was given to a beekeeper who now has many hives. One of my favourite gifts from the Embrace catalogue are candles made from his wax. The changes in Iraq have meant some communities have been

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displaced many times. Funding such opportunities gives hope for the future.

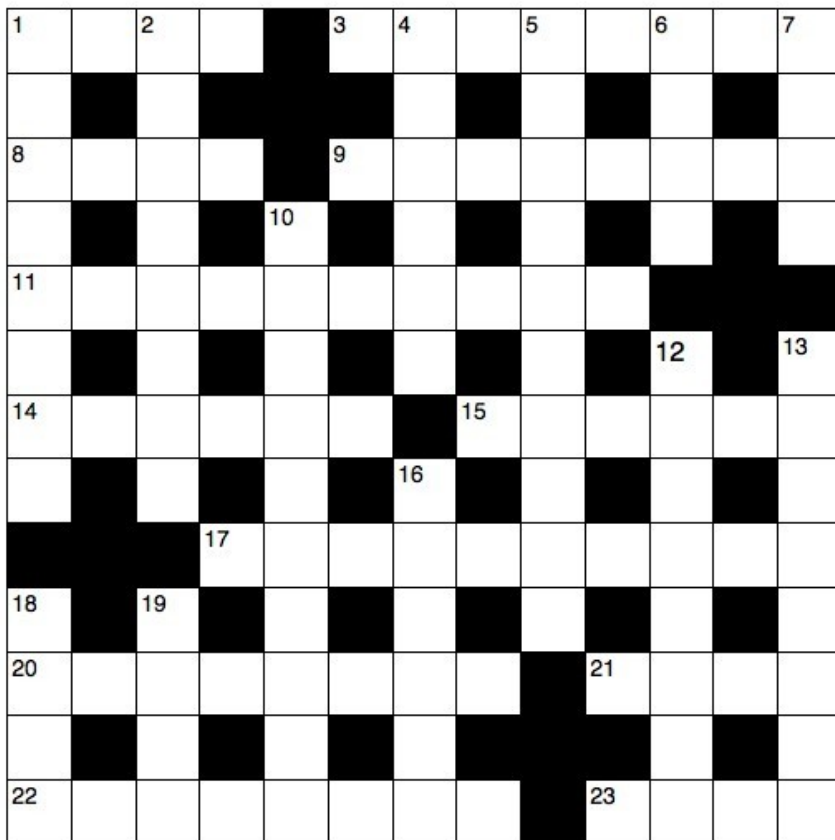
Tourism in the West Bank is now non-existent, causing businesses to fail and, of course, the ensuing hardship. The catalogue continues to market olive oil, soap, hand carved olive wood gifts, ceramics, middle eastern foods dates and almonds and Dead Sea salt products from West Bank Salt company. Such support also brings hope. In fact, whenever contact is made with partners, there are messages of joy and hope. Where there is support and compassion, hope follows. Just this week news came of a

new initiative. Pontifical Mission for Palestine, will support six Christian organisations (a mix of businesses and NGOs) which are in danger of closing or of needing to reduce the services they offer.

We invite you to give generously to support the projects of Embrace partners. Gifts of hope and compassion.

If you would like to know more about Embrace the Middle East, please sign up on their website – on the [Keep in Touch](#) page.

Glen Edey



Across

1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)

3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)

8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)

9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)

11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)

14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)

20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!'

(Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

For answers to this crossword — see page 25.

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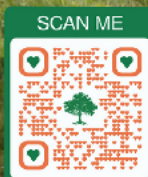
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Shoreline

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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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...Joshua says he's very sorry - but it's something to do with the recent weapons procurement review...



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Last Thoughts: the tales that survive

I was just dropping the cartoon opposite onto another page in this issue, chuckling to myself, when I realised something. Most people in their late teens or below *don't know what an iPod is*. There hasn't been a new model in over half a decade — the line was killed by the iPhone & apps.

I bought one of the very original iPods, back in 2002, and was roundly mocked by Lorna — then just my girlfriend — for looking like I had medical equipment hooked up to me: the now iconic white headphones were weird and unselling originally. Now? What was an innovation 23 years ago is obsolete. I take my old iPods to work, on occasions, to illustrate to unbelieving undergraduates that they're the reason podcasts are called what they are. (You were *broadcasting* to an *iPod*, hence the name.)

Things come and things go, but one of the delights of the crib service is that it's a thread of continuity through time. As my girls rehearse, I can think of my own school and church nativities as a child in Scotland, and



*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

back through time to my parent's upbringing post-war in London.

It's fair to say that the Church of England is going through a rough patch at the moment. But that thread of continuity, of love and of hope that the crib service represents reminds us that some stories, some messages, are bigger than the latest tech innovation, or the political narrative of the day.

Children may not know about the iPod, but they know about baby Jesus in his manger.

Adam

Don't forget to visit our church website

www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk



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