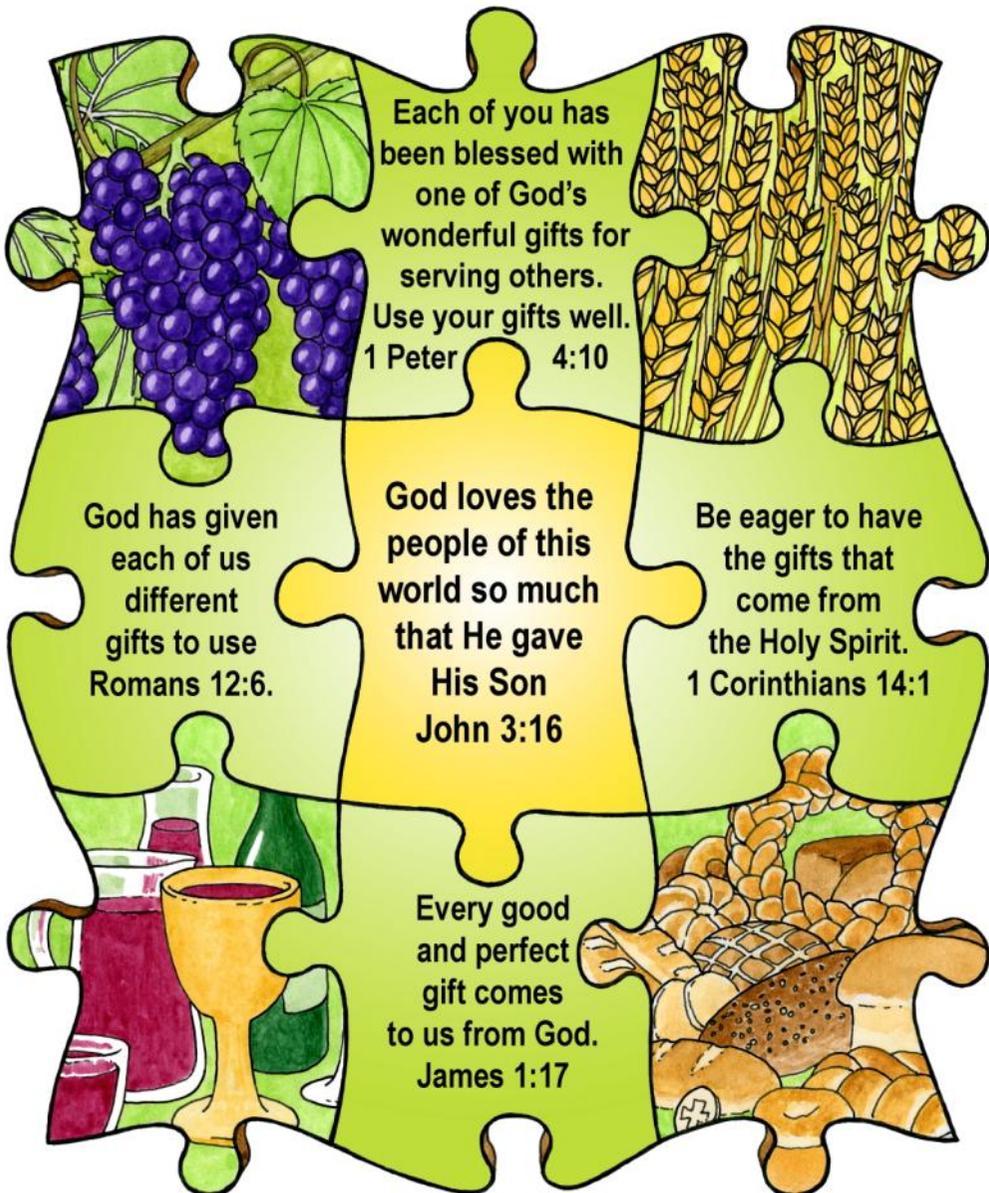


CROSSROADS

The Family Magazine of St Hilda's, Ashford, Middlesex

No. 703 October 2019

Free - but donations welcome!



The Parish of **St Hilda, Ashford** in the Diocese of London
Charity Reg. No. 1134119

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crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com

*An item submitted after the deadline
may be accepted for inclusion IF the
Editor has been informed by the dead-
line that the item is on its way.*

**When is the Vicar not available
in October?**

Every Saturday: day off



'Let my people go'. In the midst of so much upheaval, the long-standing convention of avoiding the subject of politics at the table has become untenable. Under the current climate, not only has it become acceptable to discuss politics, but also to quiz others on their views with respect to 'Brexit'. If they are on the other side of the argument, it will be followed by a discussion on why I am right, and you are wrong. It might progress towards 'I understand where you coming from', but invariably will be followed by a sanctimonious 'but'.

It no longer matters which side of the political spectrum one might position oneself, but which side of the binary vote, remain or leave. It is such a visceral subject that it has divided a nation, communities, institutions (including churches), families and friends. Any opinion expressed publicly is scrutinised, with the intent to ascertain what is the agenda behind it. Any attempts at providing so much as an opinion are often received with contempt from both sides of the argument. It has become about victors ('get over it') and losers ('it is not fair').

It started as a journey leaving behind the shackles of Brussels towards a better place of national pride and independence. Just like the pharaohs of old oppressing the people in captivity, one voice claimed on behalf of the nation: 'let my people go'. The plan on what to do next was not fully known, but it was hoped all would be fine. And so the preparations to leave began.

Fast forward two years and the promised economical manna seems to be scarce. As for the people, those who wanted to leave captivity are focused on arriving at the destination, no matter what, and will fight anyone who crosses their path seeing them as an enemy, a stranger, an obstacle. Those who wanted to stay perceive themselves to be better informed, better educated and Europeans. There is a deep sense of injustice and the feeling that their voice is not being heard. In the midst of all of this there seems to be a lack of any mention about reconciliation between the two sides of the argument, and in fact in the wider society. It came as a surprise, or perhaps not, that several MPs have asked the Church of England, through Archbishop Justin Welby, to hold citizens forums in order to provide a safe place for a balanced shared conversation to take place. Archbishop Justin, following the revelation that his father had a turbulent personal life, was asked if he felt bad and embarrassed about it, and he replied that it was a difficult subject, but ultimately his sense of identity was rooted in Christ, and through him, he did carry shame.

Churches are to provide a safe place where all members of a community, not only those already in church, feel respected and accepted, where, as the Revd Sam Wells says, 'it no longer matters where people are coming from, but where they are going to', to a place where the plenitude of God's creation takes place, and lasts for eternity. In this light, regardless of the outcome, Brexit is no longer a place of despair and gnashing of teeth. Certainty is provided by trusting that God is not absent from the debate, and Jesus is journeying alongside.

'Let my people go' we will not be abandoned.

Fr. Joseph Fernandes

AUTUMN FAYRE 19th October 11:00am-3:00pm

How can I help?

The mainstay of any Fayre is the Cake stall – if you bake, can you bake a cake (big or small) or some tray bakes for us and bring them on the day ?



We would love you to let us have a jar to two of any jams, preserves, pickles or chutney you may be making – labelled of course.

If you are at all crafty (knitting, sewing, wood turning to name just a few) could you make something which we could sell on the Gift/Christmas stall?



We are having a cash prize raffle so if you can take some tickets to sell it would be brilliant.

If you are having an Autumn turn out here is a list of things we can use

- Good quality bric-a-brac
- Full unopened bottles of anything, booze to beef stock, shampoo to sauce, body lotion to bath gel
- Toys in good condition
- Jigsaws (with all the pieces please)
- Jam jars (at the risk of being inundated)

Last but not least come along on the day and make all our efforts worthwhile. Stay and have a hot lunch and pudding to save yourself cooking and enjoy the company.

There is a bag of jam jars under the table at the back of Church: please feel free to take some if you are making any preserves. There is also a box in which to put any donations . Thank you.

Christine Taylor and the fundraising committee

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

For as long as I can remember we have had a greengrocery shop in Ashford next to St Matthew's Church. The owner was Jim Hennessey ably assisted by Brian and Dave. The shop was his life until he had a stroke earlier this year and he has been on our prayer list ever since. I understand his health is now improving but the shop was closed down.

In July the shop re-opened under the new management of the owner of the greengrocer on Stainash Parade. Unfortunately the opening almost co-incided with the closure of the High Street and the start of the school holidays. It is a very well stocked shop with a great variety of fruit and vegetables and they are all beautifully displayed.

Please do support this new business in Ashford or run the risk of losing it.

Joyce Rouse

Aladdin



ST. HILDA'S
ENTERTAINERS

With the summer behind us, it's time to start thinking about booking tickets to see this year's pantomime to be performed by St Hilda's Entertainers. I am sure you will be delighted to know it's the ever-popular *Aladdin*.

As always with Entertainers' pantomimes, this version of the Arabian Nights 'rags to riches' tale, written very skilfully by Alan Frayn, has family audiences very much in mind. It is packed full of Eastern promise, with adventure, romance, music and an abundance of humour.

The demand for tickets is always high, so we continue to offer a morning performance on the first Saturday. This will be at 10.30am on Saturday 7th December. This particular audience will consist largely of Rainbows, Brownies and St Hilda's Junior Church, but it is a public performance for those, particularly young families, who may find the morning more convenient.

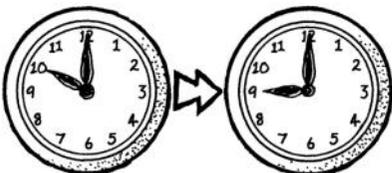
For booking details see the advert on page 14. Chris or Mike Davenport are happy to take your orders, pass them on to the box office and deliver your tickets.

We anticipate this will be a very popular show, so please do book early to be sure of getting seats on our equivalent to a magic carpet ride.

Mike Davenport

WHAT'S ON in OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY			
6th	8am	Said Eucharist (BCP)	Trinity 16
	9.30am	Harvest Festival Family Service	
13th	}		Trinity 17
20th	} 8am	Said Eucharist	Trinity 18
27th	} 9.30am	Eucharist and Junior Church	Trinity 19
MONDAY:			
TUESDAY			
Every Tuesday	9.45am	Eucharist ; 1st is MU Corporate Communion	
8th	12.45	Mothers' Union Lunch in Small Hall: <i>Action and Outreach</i> (Beryl Rickson)	
WEDNESDAY			
Every Wednesday	8pm	Bible Study at 6 Seaton Drive	
2nd, 16th, 30th	7.30pm	Ladies' Homegroup at 148 Feltham Hill Road	
16th	7pm for 7.30pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Supper at St. Hilda's	
THURSDAY			
3rd	2.30pm	Feed My Sheep in church: <i>Jargon Busting revisited</i>	
FRIDAY			
Every Friday	7pm	Choir Practice in church	
11th, 25th	8.15pm	Community Singing in church - all welcome	
SATURDAY			
Every Saturday	9.30am-noon	Church Open , refreshments available; Knitting Project for the Upper Room	
5th	6.30pm	Harvest Supper in Church Hall	
12th	2pm	Jumble Sale and Auction in Church Hall	
19th	11am	Autumn Fayre	



*Sunday morning 27th October:
clocks go back!*

NOTICES



LIGHT PARTY



31st October

5:30pm to 7:00pm

School aged children are invited to our Light Party.

A Light party is a Christian alternative to Halloween. It is an opportunity to dress up, play games, make stuff and there will be cakeoh and sweets.

HARVEST SUPPER - 5th October 6.30pm

See in church for more details

HARVEST FESTIVAL 6th October at 9.30

Please give gifts suitable for the Upper Room: dried or tinned food well within its Best Before date, toiletries, cleaning material.



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION: 15th - 17th October at Sandown Park

for more details see creonline.co.uk

JUMBLE SALE & AUCTION

on Saturday

12th October

in St Hilda's Hall

Opens 2.00pm

Admission 50p

Goods to the Hall
from 10.00am

Phone 01784 252170
for collection

Proceeds towards
maintenance of
St Hilda's Church Hall

OPTING OUT

There are 100 members in our church,
But 30 are frail and elderly.
That leaves 70 to do all the work,
But 18 are young people at college.
That leaves 52 to do all the work.
But 14 are tired businessmen,
So that leaves 38 to do all the work.
But 16 are busy wives with jobs and
children,
That leaves 22 to do all the work.
But a further 10 have most important
outside interests,
That leaves 12 to do all the work,
But 5 live too far away to come regu-
larly,
So that leaves 7 to do all the work.
And 5 say they've already done their
bit for the church.
That leaves you and me,
And I'm exhausted.
Good luck to you!



1st Thursday in the Month
2.30 – 4 pm in the Church
Tea/coffee, cake and a donation of £1
All Welcome

3rd October Jargon Busting revisited
7th November The Bible and how we should read it
5th December The Christmas Stories

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Please call first as spaces are limited! **07506001406 Richard**

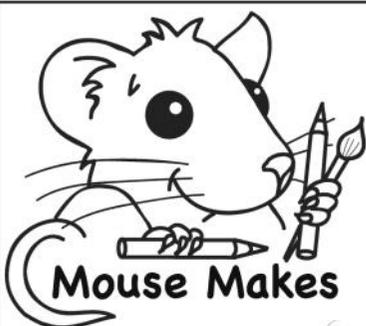


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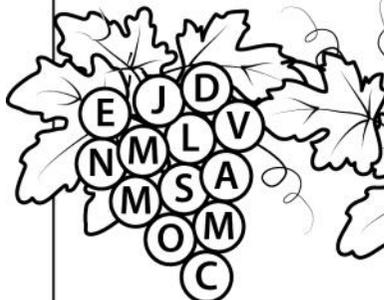
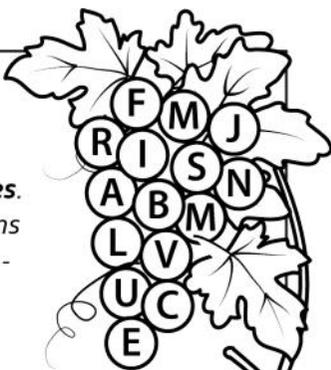
markgilson@ovenwizards.com



THE TRUE VINE

Jesus said:
*"I am the **vine**;
 you are the **branches**.
 The one who remains
 in me -and I in him -
 bears much fruit,
 because apart
 from me you can
 accomplish nothing."*

John 15:5



*"My commandment is this -
 to love one another just
 as I have loved you."*

John 15:12



*"No one has greater
love than this -
 that one lays down
 his life for his friends."*

John 15:13



You can read
 Jesus' teaching on
The True Vine in:
 John 15:1-17

Each of the word
 in **bold** on this page
 is hidden in the
 bunches of grapes.
 Can you work
 out which bunch
 each word is in?



How many other
 words can you make from:
THE TRUE VINE

BISHOPS ISSUE OPEN LETTER ON BREXIT

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conditionally agreed to chair a Citizens Forum in Coventry and, without prejudice for any particular outcome, we support this move to have all voices in the current Brexit debate heard.

However, we also have particular concerns about the potential cost of a No Deal Brexit to those least resilient to economic shocks.

As bishops with pastoral responsibilities in communities across urban and rural England, we respond to the call by Jesus to tell the truth and defend the poor. We also recognise that our obligations go beyond England and impact on relations with the wider UK and our neighbours in the EU.

Exiting the EU without an agreement is likely to have a massive impact on all our people and the Government is rightly preparing for this outcome. The Government believes that leaving the EU on 31 October is essential to restoring trust and confidence.

It is unlikely, however, that leaving without an agreement, regardless of consequences, will lead to reconciliation or peace in a fractured country. “Getting Brexit done” will not happen on exit day, and we have to be transparent about the years of work ahead of us in bringing the country together for a better future. We also need to be frank about the potential costs.

Our main social and political priority must be to leave well, paying particular attention to the impact of political decisions on those most vulnerable.

We hold different views about Brexit and how our country should proceed from here. However, although we agree that respecting a public vote is essential, democracy and committed debate do not end after the counting of votes. Our concern for the common good leads us to express concern about a number of matters. Our conviction is that good governance can only ever be based on the confidence of the governed, and that includes minorities whose voice is not as loud as others.

Seeing the evidence of division in every part of England, we are deeply concerned about:

Political polarisation and language that appears to sanction hate crime: the reframing of the language of political discourse is urgent, especially given the abuse and threats levelled at MPs doing their job.

The ease with which lies can be told and misrepresentation encouraged: leaders must be honest about the costs of political choices, especially for those most vulnerable.

The levels of fear, uncertainty and marginalisation in society, much of which lies behind the vote for Brexit, but will not be addressed by Brexit:

poor people, EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in Europe must be listened to and respected.

The Irish border is not a mere political totem and peace in Ireland is not a ball to be kicked by the English: respect for the concerns on both sides of the border is essential.

The sovereignty of Parliament is not just an empty term, it is based on institutions to be honoured and respected: our democracy is endangered by cavalier disregard for these.

Attention must be paid not only to the Union, but also to the meaning of Englishness.

Churches serve communities of every shape, size and complexion. We continue to serve, regardless of political persuasion. We invite politicians to pay attention with us to the concerns we register above and encourage a recovery of civil debate and reconciliation.

The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

The Rt Revd Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough

The Rt Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter

The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool

The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark

The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford

The Rt Revd Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester

The Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol

The Rt Revd Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth

The Rt Revd Richard Frith, Bishop of Hereford

The Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury

The Rt Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield

The Rt Revd James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Gregory Clayton Smith, Bishop of St Albans

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

The Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich

The Rt Revd Dr David Walker, Bishop Of Manchester

The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield

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Aladdin

at St Hilda's Hall

Friday 6th December
at 7.45pm

Saturday 7th December
at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 7.00pm

Friday 13th December
at 7.45pm

Saturday 14th December
at 2.30pm and 7.00pm

Tickets £10
(Concessions £8)

Box Office

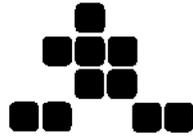
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that conditions never get so bad that they couldn't get worse.

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MISCELLANY

mostly from Parish Pump

A WEST COUNTRY TALE

Reading the pieces in ‘Crossroads’ recently, of anniversary reminiscences and our own 60th celebrations, I was reminded of one such similar of my own.

Beryl and I were on the way home from our honeymoon, when our train made a stop at Swindon. There, to my amazement and delight, two tracks away, resplendent in its Great Western Railway dark green livery and a wisp of steam, was the famed locomotive, ‘City of Truro’. To the surprise of Beryl and the lady sharing our compartment, I was out of my seat like a shot and into the corridor so as to gain a good look at the loco. ‘City’ achieved fame in 1904 travelling at a speed of over 100 mph, hauling an Ocean Liner express. On withdrawal from service in 1931, ‘City’ was placed in the York Railway Museum, to be brought out of retirement in 1957 and used to haul railway enthusiasts’ specials. The loco is now preserved in the Swindon Railway Museum where it can be inspected at leisure.

Brilliant! One for my book of locomotive numbers!

Terry Rickson

ACTIVE SOCIAL LIFE MAY HELP CUT RISK OF DEMENTIA

If you can continue a healthy social life during middle age and onwards, you might be able to prevent the onset of dementia.

It has been found that people of 60 or over who see family and friends almost every day have a 12 per cent lower risk of developing the disease. According to the research done at University College London (UCL), frequent social contact builds cognitive reserve, or greater brain resilience, against the damage that occurs in neuro-degeneration.

As one scientist explains, “Dementia is a major global health challenge, with one million people expected to have the condition in the UK by 2021. But we also know that one in three cases are potentially preventable.”

BEFORE YOU TWEET

The Church of England has recently published guidelines on the best way to use social media. The Rt Rev Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, explains: “We human beings have great potential either to help or to hurt, and so it is worth thinking whether what we post online, as much as anything we do, will end up healing or harming those who read it.” He also observes: “We all know when someone has acted kindly towards us, but we don’t always think to act out of kindness ourselves. Tweeting in haste or in anger is rarely a good idea.”

IN PRAISE OF GRANDPARENTS!

6th October is ‘Grandparents Day’. Grandparents in the UK number about 17 million, or more than one in four of the adult population. Grandparents average out at 68 years of age, have four grandchildren who live 10 miles away, and who spend five hours per visit.

Grandparents have multiple roles as their grandchildren grow up: playmates, teachers, confidants, spiritual guides, mentors, role models and nurturers, as well as pray-ers. They also can keep children’s milestones, family history and family events alive. Grandchildren will often discuss their personal concerns with a trusted grandparent.

Grandparents are also important for the UK economy! Nine million of them looked after their grandchildren in 2017. On average they did so for eight hours a week, and 96% received no payment.

Research has found that if grandparents go to church regularly, 60% of their grandchildren are likely to go to church also. Grandparental example is followed!

As about 10% of UK grandparents are churchgoers, would a church ‘Grandparents’ Group,’ to help grandparents meet, discuss issues and pray for their grandchildren be useful? Moses’ injunction to the Israelites “not to forget the things your eyes have seen ... make them known to your children and children’s children” (Deuteronomy 4:9) is a constant challenge, but Psalm 92:14 is a wonderful promise!

CELEBRATING GIRTON – ONE OF THE FIRST COLLEGES FOR WOMEN

It was 150 years ago, on 16th October 1869, that Girton College was established as one of England’s first residential colleges for women. It became part of Cambridge University in 1948, and co-educational in 1976.

Girton is one of the biggest of the 31 Cambridge colleges, situated next to Girton village about two miles from the city centre. It was established by Emily Davies, Barbara Bodichon and Lady Stanley of Alderley as the ‘College for Women at Benslow House’ – originally in Hitchin, before moving to its current site (and new name) in 1873.

Among Girton's notable alumni are Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, HuffPost co-founder Arianna Huffington and the comedian Sandi Toksvig. Christians may be equally familiar with Malcolm Guite – chaplain, poet and rock musician.

Girton is known for the richness and diversity of its musical life. But it did not have a chapel until 1902, as one of the founders opposed spending money on it. The college however did from very early times have services in the form of family prayers, and it was reported that “from 1881 Mr Cooke of King's College had come out to take services on Sunday evenings, which were said to have greatly improved the tone of the college”.

BEYOND THE PARISH

from Parish Pump

SPORTS MINISTRY RECEIVES BOOST FROM CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Five-a-side football, running groups, after-school sports and a boxing club are to be supported by the Church of England as part of a drive to reach people who may never have been to church before, it was announced today. Football, netball and fitness groups are to be funded by the Church of England in Norfolk alongside holiday sports schemes and sports clubs aimed at children and young people.

The scheme is among projects across the country aimed at spreading the Christian faith, supported by more than £12 million of Strategic Development Funding, a key part of the Church of England's programme of Renewal and Reform. The projects range from an expansion of Spanish-speaking congregations in south London to work with young people and students in Bradford, Exeter and London and a network of new churches meeting in venues such as community centres, cafés and a former pub in Cornwall.

The grants continue the Church of England's commitment to invest in communities with significant levels of deprivation with projects in St Austell, Liskeard and Camborne in Cornwall receiving funding. Other areas to receive support include Deptford and Erith in south east London, Gillingham in Medway, Kent, and Bradford in West Yorkshire.

Social action projects to receive support include a food bank and other services based at a church in Truro, work to help homeless people in Exeter and plans to support lunch clubs and toddler groups in Keighley.

A church-run boxing club in Anerley, south east London, working to prevent young people turning to knife crime, is one of the parish projects in south east London set to receive support.

In the Diocese of Leicester, a £1.5 million grant has been awarded to encourage greater participation and leadership in Church of England churches by black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) heritage Christians. The project will focus on developing intercultural church communities where people of different cultural and ethnic heritage seek to learn from one another in order to deepen their understanding and experience of God and of each other.

The sports ministry project in the Diocese of Norwich takes its inspiration from work already under way at St Thomas's Church in the city where 'sports ministers' work alongside children and adults.

The project is the first sports ministry work to be funded by Strategic Development Funding. It could act as a blueprint for dioceses across the country interested in promoting the Christian faith through sports.

Tim Henery, who leads sports ministry at St Thomas's, said: "A lot of young people see the church as just pews and hymns - not something that relates to

them. Through playing sports they realise that there are people who come to church and are like them.

“Sports ministry is helping us to reach people who may never have heard the message of the Gospel, helping us to transform their view of the church. We are building relationships and changing lives.”

Ruth Anderson, who founded the sports ministry work at St Thomas’s, said: “Interest in sports and fitness is at an all-time high with huge audiences for the Cricket World Cup and England’s women’s football team in recent weeks. Our work presents an opportunity, through a shared love of sports, to talk about faith and the wider questions of life that we might not otherwise have had.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “From congregations in cafes and community centres to sports ministry and social action, these projects are moving the heart of our mission to where it should be, recognising Jesus beyond the borders of the institutional church. The Good News of Jesus Christ cannot be contained within existing worshipping communities. We want everyone to know how much they are loved by God.”

TO SEE AND TO SERVE: NEW INFORMATION OFFICE SERVES REFUGEES

Refugees and asylum seekers in Malta have a new place where they can get much needed advice, help with immigration paperwork, internet access and – most importantly – thoughtful hospitality.

The Peace Lab information centre, which CMS mission partners Doug and Jacqui Marshall have recently established in cooperation with a local Franciscan friar, is situated near the Hal Far open centre. This is where refugees and asylum seekers are sent once released from detention.

“This information office is a long-held dream that has come to fruition,” said Doug.

“In our first few weeks we met a number of people with diverse stories and needs: a proactive young man who is looking to volunteer, a young woman who was trafficked into the sex trade but subsequently found freedom, and many who just want to have their dignity recognised and be given an opportunity to work.”

At the centre, the Marshalls are seeking to “provide some hospitality in an otherwise inhospitable place”.

They offer tea and coffee and time, which Doug says is key: “It’s about seeing people, not just serving people, actually spending time with them, whether that’s going over their documents or their CV, or just listening, so that people know they are valued.

“This is the most important thing we do.”

NATURAL DISASTERS WAKE PEOPLE UP TO THEIR NEED FOR GOD

People who live in an area that suffers from natural disasters are 7.6 times more likely to be religious than people who live in areas without natural disasters.

Such was the finding of a recent report from the University of Copenhagen, published in *The Economic Journal*.

Dr Jeanet Bentzen explained that by using natural disasters as a determinant of random and adverse life events, she had found ‘that individuals across the globe become more religious when hit by earthquakes, particularly individuals in districts that are otherwise rarely hit. The effect of any earthquake lasts six to 12 years, but a residual impact remains, and is transmitted across generations.’

For example, she found that church membership in the US increased by 50 per cent in states hit by massive earthquakes in 1811 and 1812, compared with one per cent in other states. Likewise, in Christchurch, after the 2011 earthquake, more people converted than in the rest of New Zealand.

‘People are more religious in areas with a high risk of earthquakes or tsunamis – but even more so if the risk of both disasters is high.’ And for a volcano to scare you towards God, you need to be within 1000 kilometres of danger.

Storms and hurricanes, on the other hand, do not cause an increase in religiosity. Dr Bentzen accounts for this by the fact that weather systems can be predicted.

AMAZON RAINFOREST FIRES

Recently responding to the fires in the Amazon rainforest, the Church of England's lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, has said:

"There is a climate emergency which does not know international boundaries. The Amazon is a global resource as well as a national one.

"I have been asked to sign a variety of climate related petitions and letters. People are concerned. So our politicians should be talking about it and finding ways to act collectively.

"The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment. At the moment there are so many initiatives to plant trees to help carbon capture. It is appalling to see such large areas of rainforest burn.

"They destroy more than the trees. They destroy hope."



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*"So really, it is very easy to understand
how Brexit will affect our parish..."*

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Our Mission Prayer:

*Bless our Community.
Make its people;
Strong in Faith,
Steadfast in Hope,
And Generous in Love.
Amen.*

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