

Yes or No?

On a recent day visit to France one could not help but notice all the posters on trees, buildings, lamp-posts simply saying "Non". The French people were voting in their referendum on the European constitution. The outcome was a decisive "Non"!

Whatever the pros and cons of European politics may be, none of us like change. There has been uproar over the new BBC weather forecasts. Our green and pleasant land has been transformed into a barren desert. The nauseating zooming in and zooming out to different regions made many people feel distinctly queasy. It was not only Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells who wrote to complain!

It is so easy to be negative and say no. We have all met the pessimist who never sees anything positive. Everything is doomed to failure, and every suggestion is met with a no.

So often the Christian life is depicted as a series of no's too. People focus on the 'thou shalt nots' rather than on something more positive. Jesus said he came to give us life in all its fullness. He came to offer freedom for the

captive, sight for the blind, release for the oppressed. There is nothing negative here.

I love those words of St Paul to the Corinthians in which he speaks of God offering a resounding yes to our highest aspirations.

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among

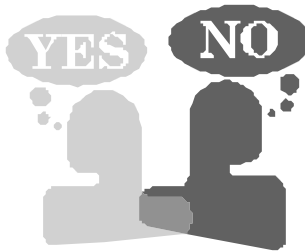
you..... was not "Yes and No"; but in him it is always "Yes." For in him every one of God's promises is a "Yes."

As we seek to be faithful to our calling

as followers of Jesus, it is encouraging to hear these words which Paul offers. Let us be positive and rejoice in a Christian life full of hope and confidence. To continue Paul's letter:

And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

To that we can only say, "Yes"!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph'.

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

*A monthly service on the first Tuesday of the month,
alternating between St James and St Francis Churches*

Healing Services:

Tuesday 7th June 7.30 pm

St James Church

Tuesday 5th July 7.30 pm

St Francis Church



The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC HALL SONGS



**St Francis Church
Saturday 18th June**

6.30 - 9.30PM

*In aid of Saint Francis
Church Heating Fund.*

Fancy Dress optional !!!!

Can you find 30 books of the Bible hidden in this passage?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs. During a recent fundraising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phil-Lemonade booth set a new sales record.

The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel appear without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

Answers: Books as they appear in the quiz: Amos, Mark, Luke, John, Joel, Judges, Job, Hebrews, Esther, Acts, James, Ruth, Romans, Titus, Matthew, Genesis, Philimon (spelt Phillimon in quiz), Chronicles, Daniel, Nahum, Hosea, Lamentations, Revelation, Timothy, Samuel, Numbers, Malachi, Peter, Exodus, Kings

Father's Day - June 19th

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. Ever wonder how the idea of Father's Day came about? Well...

It all started way back in 1909 because of a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time

to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad

(shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day in America than on any other day of the year!



MIDSUMMER'S DAY - June 21st

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.

He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

God in All

He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

St Patrick





Rosanne interviews Diana Pope

It was very kind of Diana to concentrate on giving us her interview this month, when her mind was miles away in Germany. Her daughter Susan was about to give birth to her second child and as all grannies will tell you, it's not easy to think of everyday things at such a time. Diana's bags were I think literally packed and she was ready to fly off to help take care of her son-in-law and much loved granddaughter to say nothing of wanting to make a fuss of her daughter and the new baby.

We got talking about her childhood and how important the bonding between children is in a family. She knows about this only too well because when her baby sister Aileen was born, she at five years old was sent to stay with her grandparents in Marston. Back home in Jericho (Oxford) were her mum, dad and new baby sister to whom, consequently, she was never very close. Not that it was any hardship to stay with her grandparents. She talks about them with great affection.

It was her grandmother who 'introduced' her to God. Nan, as she called her, would take her to church and during the week would allow Diana to help clean and polish the candlesticks. She would sing the lovely, old children's hymns to her and was so pleased when, at the age of

eleven, her granddaughter was confirmed. The new white dress Diana wore that day is a fond memory, but even more so is the silver crucifix she received as a confirmation present from Nan. Grandad had a big garden and taught her the joys of growing things. To know her is to realise this is a lifetime's pleasure. We, like many other people in Cowley, I guess, have several cuttings and roots of plants that originated in her Bulan Road plot. Her grandparents also had a lovely boxer dog and it was through him she developed a love of animals. But best of all on her visits she was allowed to go out to play with the local children in the street, something she was absolutely forbidden to do at home. Her parents, particularly her father were very strict. She and her sister were expected to present to the world, neat, well-spoken, polite faces. On Sunday afternoons they were taken for walks, the whole family in their 'Sunday best'. No romping was allowed, appearances were everything.

While she was at primary school her father told her that he really didn't expect her to pass her 11+ scholarship, but if she did he'd buy her a bicycle. Well she did pass, with flying colours, but the promised cycle never materialised. Even her Milham Ford uniform was all bought second hand. Her

strongest subjects at school were humanities and the sciences "because I always wanted to know about real things". She passed all her O Levels but her father decided that the sixth form was not for her and insisted that she left school.

It was obvious that a job in the science world would be ideal so she applied and was interviewed at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology. Her father accompanied her to the interview. She became a junior technician and talked proudly of the great men of penicillin with whom she worked. Determined to pass her 'A' levels she studied part time at technical school in Headington and went on to attain her Higher National Certificate. At the school of pathology she became the protégée of a very distinguished doctor, Dr. van Heyingen, who encouraged her in her academic work. He even offered to sponsor her at university, but this was frowned upon at home. Later in her adult life Diana got her degree through the Open University.

Whilst still in her teens she joined a youth group attached to the Worcester Boys Club, an association that did excellent work amongst the young people of Oxford. Her family had by now moved to Botley, Diana believes to

deliberately break up a boy/girl friendship she had made. At the club she met a shy, quiet young man, Alan and through the matchmaking moves of the club leader they paired up. She says that marrying Alan at the early age of twenty-two was a perfect way to set up their own home away from the restricting influence of her parents. Home for the young couple was a flat in Silkdale Close, Cowley. Because Alan was the organist at St Alban's Church in East Oxford the couple worshipped there. Both their daughters, Susan and Gill were baptised there too.

The Revd. Patrick Parry-Oakden persuaded Alan to become the organist at St Luke's and so it was that the family joined our parish. Many *Chronicle* readers will remember well the years of church music played by Alan before St Luke's closed and its fine organ sent off on a journey half way round the world.

Before her first baby was born a move to Bulan Road provided Diana with her garden. Through her toddler daughters she found the Slade nursery, which she describes as 'excellent'. She became fully involved there, discovering huge amounts about how children learn through play. She feels she owes the nursery a great deal and has attempted to pay a little back by taking on the role of governor. Both she and Alan were enthusiastic participants in school activities and the education of their daughters and now find joy in watching the development of their grandchildren.

Amongst her many other activities of course she has been the Sheriff of Oxford's Lady and the Lady Mayoress. She represented the Wood Farm area on the city council and has held a deanery post in the Mothers' Union. Ill health forced her to take time out from many of her public positions but she is beginning to participate once again. After a break of several years she has rejoined our parish council and is coping more readily with the demands of a busy life. Throughout it all there is the quiet stability of her husband, the strength of her faith and the abiding joy of her garden.

How would you describe yourself as a small child?

Lonely, very quiet, frightened of doing the wrong thing.

Do you have any childhood memories you'd like to share?

Laying in Nan and Grandad's garden, climbing the apple trees and feeling very brave even though I was only a couple of feet off the ground.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

Yes because of my Nan. She didn't lecture me about Him, but she talked to me at bedtime and sang little hymns to me.

What do you consider the best part of modern life?

The fact that modern women can have full careers and also run their families successfully.

What makes you angry about life today?

Violence and all cruelty to animals.

If you could change something in a spectacular way what would it be?

Get rid of the selfishness of the multinational companies and create fair shares throughout the world.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Gardening, fiddling with 'crafty' things – according to Aiden (my seven year old grandson) I'm artistic! I like TV documentaries especially if they're history or animal based.

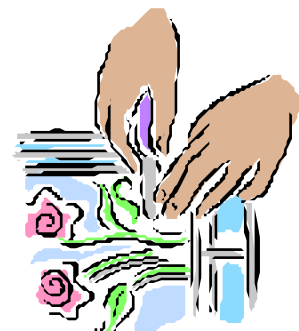
What makes you laugh?

Clever, witty humour like 'The Two Ronnies' or 'Porridge'.

Do you have plans for the future, say in ten years time?

Just being a very important granny.

By the way in case you are wondering the new baby has arrived and it's a little girl.



I AM SO THANKFUL ...

Daily life has a lot in it to be thankful for...

For the wife who says 'It's sausages and mash tonight',
because she is at home with me, and not out with someone else.

For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato,
because he is at home with me, and not out in the pub.

For my teenage daughter who is complaining about doing dishes,
because it means she is at home, and not on the streets.

For the taxes I pay,
because it means I am employed.

For the mess to clean after a party,
because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

For the clothes that fit a little too snug,
because it means I have enough to eat.

For my shadow that watches me work,
because it means I am out in the sunshine.

For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that overflow,
because it means I have a home.

For all the complaining I hear about the Government,
because it means we have freedom of speech.

For the parking space at the very far end of the car park,
because it means I am capable of walking, and have been blessed with transportation.

For my huge heating bill,
because it means I am warm

For the lady behind me in church who sings off-key,
because it means I can hear

For the pile of laundry and ironing I've got,
because it means I have clothes to wear

For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day,
because it means I have been capable of working hard.

And finally – for too much email,
because it means I am not forgotten by other people.



You and Us

Lord, since you exist, we exist. Since you are beautiful, we are beautiful. Since you are good, we are good. By our existence we honour you. By our beauty we glorify you. By our goodness we love you. Lord, through your power all things were made. Through your wisdom all things are governed. Through your grace all things are sustained. Give us power to serve you, wisdom to discern your laws, and grace to obey those at all times.

By Edmund of Abingdon, c. 1180 – 1240 Scholar and Archbishop of Canterbury

FROM JOHN GOODWIN



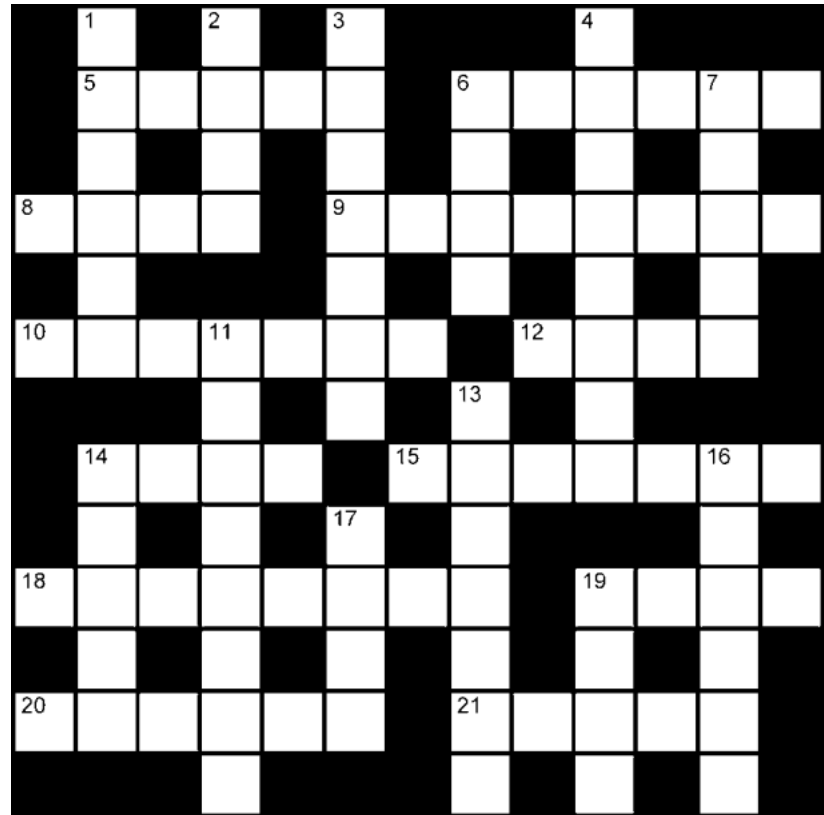
*Dear fellow-members of
St James and St Francis,*

Thank you so much, all of you, for making the sixtieth anniversary of my Ordination such a wonderful experience. Together with Millicent, my companion and fellow worker for most of the 60 years, I thank Stephen, our Rector, for all he did in preparation and for the vision and leadership he showed with Bishop Henry Richmond, the celebrant, and Canon Richard Orchard, the preacher. We thank Gwen our Churchwarden for her hard work and organising skill; we thank all the ladies who provided the wonderful lunch, and all friends who helped in other ways "on the ground". Thank you for the lovely gifts from the parish and the cards which you so kindly sent. We thank God, too, that the weather was good enough for most of the plans to go forward without a hitch.

Stephen reminded us in last month's *Chronicle* that God calls us clergy to be "humble labourers in his vineyard". God is showing us now that he wants all Christians, in our own lives, to be sharers in this work. May he bless you all for making my anniversary so much a day to remember.

John Goodwin

June's Crossword



CLUES

Clues Across

- 5 Approximately (5)
- 6 Accidental (6)
- 8 The sacred writings of Christianity (4)
- 9 Dear fellow-servant of Paul (8)
- 10 Poisonous fern-like herb (7)
- 12 Young cattle (4)
- 14 Implement (4)
- 15 The scene of Jesus's ministry (7)
- 18 Consecrate (8)
- 19 Innkeeper (4)
- 20 Begrudge (6)
- 21 Sound of any kind (5)

Clues Down

- 1 The wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John (6)
- 2 Recounted (4)
- 3 Elongate (7)
- 4 The fifth son of Jacob (8)
- 6 Soft wet earth (4)
- 7 The refuse of winnowed corn (5)
- 11 City in Asia Minor, an early seat of Christianity (8)
- 13 Inns (7)
- 14 More than one of this (5)
- 16 Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ (6)
- 17 Wagon (4)
- 19 Successor (4)

*Apologies for the wrong grid being used for last month's crossword.
The correct grid is shown above*

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion |
| 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>) |
| 1.00 pm | Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship |

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

| | |
|----------|---|
| 10.30 am | Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i> |
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Monday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 10.00 am | Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| Tuesday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 10.00 am | Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| Wednesday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 12.00 pm | St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| Thursday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 9.30 am | Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i> |
| | 11.00 am | St Francis Prayer Group |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 7.00 pm | Eucharist - <i>St Francis</i> |
| Friday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 7.00 pm | Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i> |
| Saturday | 9.15 am | Morning Prayer & Breakfast - <i>St Francis</i> |

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Day Off

Stephen has Friday off; Except in emergency, please try and respect this day of rest. Lorne can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends.

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