

Parish Magazine

February 2022

30p



St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

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The church will be open for regular services on Sunday and Wednesday. Service times:

Sunday: 10am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

For the time being, these will be spoken services, with a few hymns. We are slowly returning to more normal services.

Paul, the organist at St. Cuthbert's writes...

How much of a book worm are you? I must admit that I am. In my flat, I have at least three bookshelves full of literature and books under my bed, on the floor and in other places, cover a host of subjects-music, religion, theology, general knowledge, art, together with sheet music, ordinance survey maps and files full of notes from my student days that I treasure and simply cannot part with. I have an aunt who bemoans me buying any more books at Christmas time simply because, when she comes to visit me, all she often sees is books everywhere!

I must admit that on my shelves I have only a few books that I have actually read cover to cover, and my reading habits these days usually involve me dipping into a chapter here and there. I had a great English teacher at school who taught us boys that some people are fast readers and others really digest and re-read what they have encountered. One of the lessons that I am still learning is to be patient with myself when I am reading because I will often forget some of the issues in a chapter despite the fact that I've underlined parts of the text!

One of the things that I enjoy doing in my spare time, and you will probably not be surprised to learn this, is to leisurely visit book shops: second-hand book shops, places like Dillons, Borders (before it closed) and, of course, the library. In a library, and indeed any modern bookshop, you can access literature across a host of different subjects that take your fancy. Over the past thirty or forty years, a new section has emerged in our book shops, the "Self-Help" section. Titles of books such as "How to Make a Thousand Pounds before Breakfast," "How to have Lots of Friends and have Influence," "How to have Lots of Confidence," "How to Assert Yourself." The list goes on.

Some of the psychology that underlies these books is influenced by aspects of our Christian Heritage. However, if you closely analyse some of their content, there are usually a few conspicuously absent aspects that most of them do not address, some of which are: where is the communal fulfilment? Where is the "us" as well as the "me"? Where is the struggle as well as the victory? Yes, they will undoubtedly provide solutions, "temporary victories" to struggles, but self-help is primarily about individual and personal fulfilment and the chief flaw of these books is that they begin in the self and end in the self.

While it would be very wrong to suggest that any use of these books is bad and that personal fulfilment is wrong (indeed a life that has no personal fulfilment whatsoever would be a deeply impoverished life), there is a side to me that questions the "success theology" underlying some of the psychology of these books, particularly in the light of the one who on Good Friday experienced no success or no affirmation through the prism of this world.

That "love him or hate him" fifth century theologian Augustine of Hippo, once observed that "our hearts are restless until they find rest in Him." Lent calls us, I think, to reflect upon habits that are not constructive and to ask our Lord for help in our life's journey.

As we enter the holy season of Lent, we remember the one who forsook worldly power and might and whose life was not ruled by obsessions about self-esteem or possessions as he furthered the peace-loving purposes of the Kingdom of Heaven and who suffered, suffered even to death upon a cross.

May I wish you all a holy, reflective Lent as we once again contemplate the meaning of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Paul Jones.

Editor: This may be of interest to your readers, as Archbishop Tutu was so widely respected.

Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

“Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”

“Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.”

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th February

10am to 12 noon

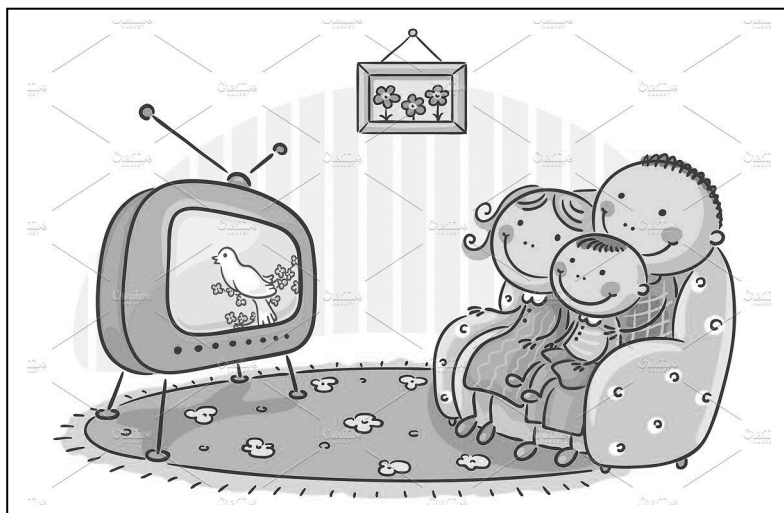


CAKES AND RAFFLE

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Christian reflections
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Topical and Local Interest Items
and much more



YouTube Channel:
"North Meols Team Ministry Southport"

ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

6 th February	Chris D & Eileen Baldwin
13 th February	Heather & Jenny
20 th February	Eileen Ball
27 th February	Kath & Jane
6 th March	Nicola & Chrissy
13 th March	Chris D & Eileen Baldwin
20 th March	Heather & Jenny
27 th March	Eileen Ball



WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

2 nd February	Chris & Janet
9 th February	Brenda & June
16 th February	Jean & Mavis
23 rd February	Chris & Janet
2 nd March	Brenda & June

Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

Sanctuary Flowers

February 6 th	Mrs J Navin
February 13 th	-----
February 20 th	-----
February 27 th	-----



As you see, we have fewer donors to our flower fund because of the Covid situation. Any donations, however small will be most welcome so that we can continue to provide fresh flowers for our church. ECB.

HOLY DAYS

2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



PUZZLES - SUDOKU

		3		8			2	
8	7		2	9	3			
	4	2	6			5		
5	1			3			7	4
2	3						9	5
7	8			4			3	6
		7			9	4	1	
			4	5	1		6	7
	9			6		3		

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Easy

		5			7	3		
	1					2		
7				1	5			6
	5	9			6			
			3			4	2	
6			5	4				7
		1					8	
		8	2			6		

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Medium

Some colouring - for all ages...



WORDSEARCH

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romance can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good - unless we accept it!

Valentine
Rose
Romance
Love
Present
Restaurant
Hearts
Kiss
hug
girlfriend
boyfriend
fiancé
worship
repentance
angels
baby
temple
Mary
Candlemas
presentation

D	C	L	E	M	A	R	Y	B	A	B	E
S	T	R	P	L	D	T	E	M	P	L	E
D	N	E	I	R	F	L	R	I	G	N	N
N	A	P	H	L	A	I	C	R	I	E	D
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N
E	U	N	R	T	A	A	N	N	E	L	E
S	A	T	O	I	R	E	D	S	C	C	I
S	T	A	W	G	L	A	L	S	N	É	R
I	S	N	L	A	U	E	E	A	R	O	F
K	E	C	V	O	G	H	M	H	S	A	Y
R	R	E	M	N	V	O	A	E	O	P	O
M	O	S	A	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	B

A Prayer at Candlemas

Dear Lord God,

February can be a difficult, cold month, and this year there is much to be concerned about, with the pandemic still affecting our lives in so many ways. But thank you, Lord, that February can also be a month of wonderful signs of hope.

Help us, when we look down, to see the snowdrops – sometimes known as Candlemas Bells – and other bulbs pushing through the dark earth, showing the promise of Spring and brighter days ahead.

And then, help us to look up, to see the light of Jesus, Your revelation to all the world, in that baby who grew and died and rose again to offer salvation, hope and life to all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus and that, because of Him, nothing – no pandemic, no circumstance – can ever separate us from You.

Thank you for Your Holy Spirit, living in all who trust in You, giving us strength for each new day of this and every month.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



The tale of the Lost Sheep



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT A GOOD SHEPHERD.



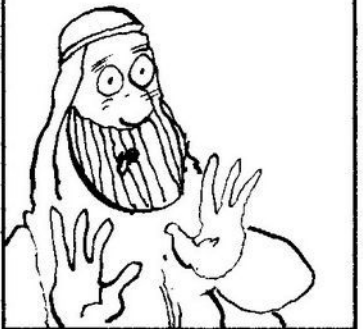
WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL HIS SHEEP

THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.



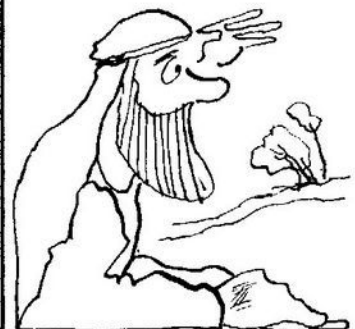
HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT THE END OF EVERY DAY

BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING

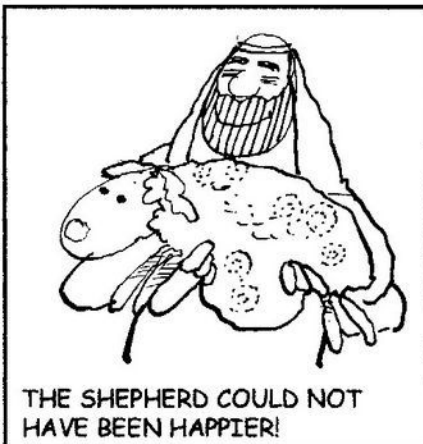


THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP

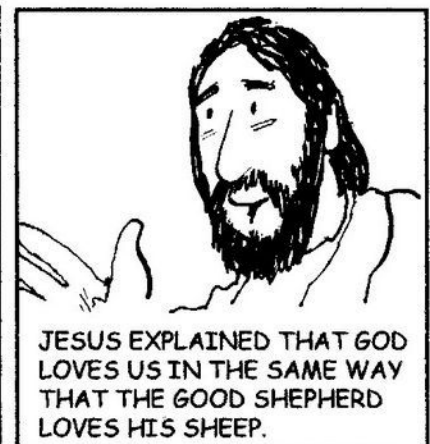
HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW



AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!



THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOVES HIS SHEEP.


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32


Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them..



So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100 sheep..



Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...

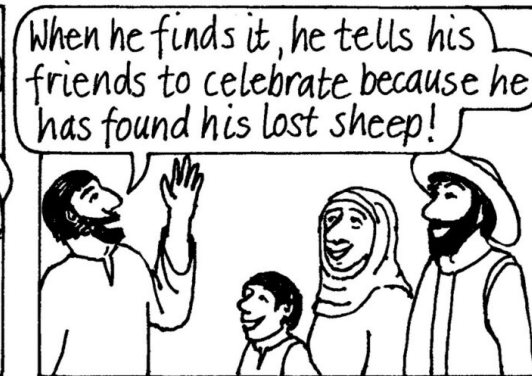


How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?



When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!



In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents..



than the 99 who don't need to repent.



Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?



What's special about a small coin?

Won't she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?



That's what I'd do.

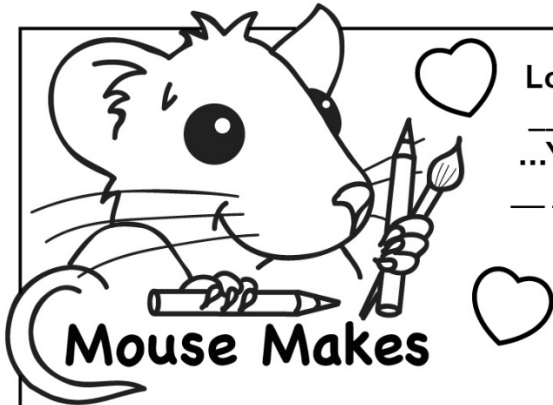
When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.



It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.





Lord, you are a God who shows _____ and is _____
 ...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1

Love the Lord your God with all your _____

with all your _____

and with all your _____

Matthew 22:37

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His _____

1 John 1:3

How did God show He **loved** us?
 Read 1 John 4:9

DBSE NSSE

PCOMPASSIONATEA

RUTMERCIFULLOVE

YONIGRACIOUSYTINK

OUFJUSTJRUDEBRDLDF

DDAEMEJAJEALOUSUH

TKINDVHBATNFATPRD

YLVSEOUPRGISHOE

DIYPRPNAURSTFUS

NUKEEDTSHFUS

GODSFAITHFULI

HLUNEIBOL

NLTNNEN

DTG

Love is ..
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

_____ is love.
 Whoever lives in love lives in _____, and _____ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

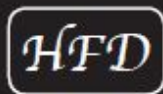
Love your _____ the same as you love _____

Matthew 22:39

Love is:
 PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:
 JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:
 LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



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