

The Beacon Churches

*Serving the communities of
Up Holland & Dalton - including
Ashurst, Birch Green, Crawford, Digmoor, Elmers Green,
Fosters Green, Roby Mill, Tanhouse & Whalleys*



We Love
because
he first
Loved
us

F
E
B
R
U
A
R
Y
2022

www.uphollanddalton.org.uk

What's going On?

STM=St Thomas the Martyr SMD=St Michael's Dalton CTS= Christ The Servant

Services Every Week

Sunday	Eucharist 9am STM
	Eucharist 9.30am SMD
	Eucharist 10.30am STM and CTS
	Fun in Faith 10.30am SMD
Monday	
Tuesday	Eucharist STM 7pm
Wednesday	Eucharist CTS 10am
Thursday	Eucharist STM 10am
Friday	Open Table Café CTS -now serving hot meals 12noon–1pm
Saturday	

Social Events

Tuesday 15 February—Chat and Lunch at SMD 12noon to 2pm. Tickets £5 available from Steph Ellis 07592 585607

Wednesday to Friday 16th to 18th February—Parish Panto at CTS. This year it's Aladdin. Fun for all the family. Tickets £3 for adults £2 children and concessions. Contact Paul Givens paulgivens68@gmail.com Tel: 07951 522054 for tickets and more information.

Foodbanks

CTS 9.30-10.30 Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun

STMS (St Thomas the Martyr School) Monday to Friday 8.45 - 11.15am

No charge. No vouchers or referrals.

Community Hub

Becket's Café STM Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm (Sat 'til 1pm) 01695 814731
Post Office STM Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm (Wed 'til 5pm)
Sat 9am - 1pm

Toddler Group Story Time STM - Thursday 10.45am

Sew Crafty - sewing group STM - Thursday 1pm - 3pm

Guitar Group STM Alternate Fridays 10.30am - 12noon

For other Community Hub info see Pages 8 & 9



Contents

Article	Page
Priestly Ponderings	4 - 5
Worship and Events -	6
Goodbye Magazine - - Global Food Crisis	7
Community Hub info	8 - 9
Poem	11
Children's Pages	12 & 13
Book Review	14 & 15
Prayer for February	16
Christian Basics - What's Wrong with the World?	17
Diocesan News	19
How Full is Your Love Tank?	20
No Cheques Please — — Cartoons	21
A Reply to In Praise of Established Congregations	23
Contact information	24

INFORMATION

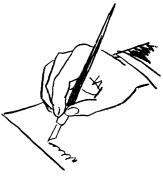
The SUNDAY Service of Holy Eucharist at St Thomas The Martyr is Live streamed on Facebook and Online on the parish website under 'services'.

Socially distanced seating is available in all churches if needed.

For Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals—see website for forms to complete and contact Paul Lock on 01695 622936 or 07813 019863



Priestly Ponderings



Dear friends

It was on a holiday in France many years ago that I came across this statue of Cyrano de

Bergerac. Not at all flattering! Cyrano de Bergerac was a real person whose life was fictionalised in the play written by Edmond Rostand in 1897. In the play Cyrano is a young French nobleman and soldier. He is also a gifted poet, but he has one problem – his enormous nose. So ashamed is he of his appearance that he is reticent in expressing his love for the beautiful and intelligent Roxane. His rival in Roxane's affections is a young man named Christian, who sees himself as a simple, uneducated man. Cyrano has

the bright idea of writing to Roxane pretending to be Christian. It allows the poor, love-smitten Cyrano to express his thoughts and feelings. Roxane is deeply moved by Cyrano's words and she starts to fall in love the writer, who she assumes to be Christian. Cyrano even speaks his love directly to Roxane, under cover of darkness, while she still thinks it is Christian who is speaking to her. It is not until many years later, when Christian has died and Cyrano is gravely ill, that Roxane finally realises who wrote such tender words to her, and that it is Cyrano with whom she has been in love all along.



The month of February sees the end of the Christmas Season (40 days after Christmas) on the 2nd February with the Feast of Candlemas. This is the celebration which recalls Jesus being presented in the Temple. Here Jesus is recognised as the Messiah by Simeon and Anna, who have put in years of faithful service at the Temple. They have waited patiently for God's promise to be fulfilled. In the Temple they do not see a strong, grown man striding in with a large following, but a baby carried by his mother. The saviour of God's people is wrapped in a baby's shawl!

This theme of reversal runs throughout Luke's Gospel. Before Jesus was born, Mary praised God in the Magnificat, rejoicing that God brings down the powerful and lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things and

sends the rich away empty. Now her baby son is greeted with words that have also entered our worship. Simeon's announcement has become the Nunc Dimittis, said at Evening Prayer, as Mary's Magnificat is said in Morning Prayer.

Morning or evening, the theme is the same. God turns our expectations upside down. Anna connects this baby from a humble background to the promised redemption of Israel, and Simeon recognises him as God's salvation, the glory of Israel and a light to the Gentiles, foreigners, non-Jews.

Joy is dominant in this event, and joy will ultimately prevail, but first comes sadness. Mary's child will grow into a man whose words and deeds will offend those who are complacent and prejudiced, as he turns their preconceptions upside down. Jesus will mix with sinners and outcasts, discuss theology with women, heal foreigners, welcome children and rail against the hypocrisy of the religious establishment. Offended and outraged, they will seek to silence him. But death on the cross will not be the end, because the human baby presented in the Temple is also the Son of God.

Perhaps it's understandable that Roxane failed to appreciate the man who really loved her, because she was being tricked by both Cyrano and Christian. Simeon and Anna, too, might have failed to see the true identity of the baby who was brought to the Temple by his parents. Their vision might have been blighted by the prevalent expectation that the messiah would be an avenging warrior. But instead they recognised this baby – presumably just one baby among many, presented as was “customary under the law” – as none other than the Son of God.

Nunc dimittis servum tuum – “now let your servant depart”. Simeon is ready to go now, in peace; his faithful work is done. It may be the end of an era for him, but it is also the beginning of a whole new life for all of us, made possible by a little baby.

Christians today are called to care for all God's children, both literally and metaphorically, to see past our individual prejudices and our cultural preconceptions. What can we do to help overcome prejudice and discrimination? Can we be open, as Anna and Simeon were, to the amazing potential of any human being?

Yours in His Service

Paul

The impact of Covid 19 pandemic forced us to close our churches and stop many of our usual activities for long periods of time. The effect of this on our finances has been considerably detrimental. If you can help us to continue to exist and continue to make a difference to our local communities by making a donation of any amount please click on the donate button. Thank you.

DONATE
To The Parish of
Up Holland & Dalton



Full details of February Services and other events in February can be found on the Parish Website here
[February Services](#)

Two Ways to help our Church get money free money

FOOD BANK & CO-OP

We can now do even more to support our Food Bank. If you shop at the Co-op, please make sure you have a membership card and swipe it every time you shop there. Also, make sure you register and say you want to support Up Holland Community Hub Food Bank. Then for every £1 you spend in the Co-op, 2p goes to your membership card and 2p to the food bank! You can register by [clicking here](#). Simply sign in or register, go to 'Choose a local cause' and select the Food Bank. The Co-op is also one of the generous suppliers to the food bank, so thanks to everyone involved.

EASYFUNDRAISING

If you download the Easyfundraising app, or go to the easyfundraising website, and go through this to buy your online shopping easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use them to shop with over 6,000 retailers such as eBay, Etsy, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, ASOS and Booking.com.

Retailers then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.

Please register using this unique link – just click sign up -
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/uphollandanddalton/?invite=9OYP6Y&referral-campaign=s2s>

Plus, once you've signed up and raised £15 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £15 donation.
There's no catch or hidden charges and Parish of Up Holland and Dalton will be really grateful for your donations.

Goodbye Church Magazine, Hello The Beacon Churches Newsletter!

Sadly the time has come for the us to stop producing our monthly magazine.

I have produced a joint parish magazine since April 2020 and before that I was the editor of the Dalton Magazine from May 2018 until March 2020.

I'd like to thank all the parishioners who have submitted articles for inclusion over the years, which has made my life as editor much easier. Sadly, since the pandemic, and the magazine being produced in an online version only, the flow of articles has become a trickle and this has made the job of editor much harder.

At a recent PCC meeting the members voted against continuing to produce the magazine in favour of the monthly 'The Beacon Churches Newsletter', which better promotes the mission of the Parish.

As we seek to deliver the message of God's kingdom we must continually strive to do this in new and more efficient ways—if you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got—and that's not what we want. We want to bring the Good news to everyone in our Parish, so we need to find new ways to do it.

Jacky Jolley

Global Food Crisis Worsens

An estimated billion people worldwide are facing malnutrition as the global food crisis worsens, with 45 million already on the brink of famine.

Of these billion people, 239 million are African. Countries such as Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are among the worst affected.

Recent studies also show that, globally, 22% of children under the age of five are 'stunted' due to lack of nourishment, and that many of these – an estimated 14 million babies and young children – are suffering acute and severe malnutrition.

Nearly a third of the world's population – more than two and a half billion people – lack an adequate supply of food. Millions of people are going to bed hungry, every single day.

In Madagascar famine has followed years of drought and other environmental disasters. Many people have been reduced to trying to eat bark from trees or cactus leaves, and many have already died.

While famine is an issue that affects all people, Christians who are already persecuted and impoverished are often among the worst affected.

Reports also indicate that famine and food insecurity only increases the likelihood of violence and conflict, which includes the anti-Christian violence experienced by believers across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

To try and help, Barnabas Fund has launched a new initiative, food.gives. If you would like to join others who are filling up their food boxes in their homes and churches, please visit <https://www.food.gives/>

UPHOLLAND COMMUNITY HUB AT ST THOMAS THE MARTYR CHURCH

A BEACON OF HOPE, A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Website: www.uphollanddalton.org.uk/up-holland-community-hub

If you are interested in helping with any activities or have other ideas of how you can help the Hub a success in serving the community please contact the Hub via Facebook or email us at info@uphollandcommunityhub.org.uk or alternatively click [here](#) and apply to become a Hub volunteer.



Up Holland Community Hub is an initiative designed to develop the historic church building into a place to be used by, and to serve, the whole community of Up Holland and the surrounding area.

Post Office

In STM Church, Up Holland

Mon - Fri : 9am - 5.30pm
(Wed until 5pm)
Saturday 9am - 1pm

Becket's Café

In STM Church, Up Holland

Mon - Fri : 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

Food Bank

STM School

Highgate Rd, Up Holland

Monday - Friday
8.45 - 10.30am & 2.30 - 3.30pm

'Sew Crafty'

New sewing group

In STM Church
Thursdays 1pm - 3pm

Story time

for Toddlers & Pre Schoolers

Thursday 10.45 am

Sit in a cosy environment, make new friends, listen and join in, with some songs and rhymes.

Guitar Group

Alternate Fridays
10.30am—12noon

Open Table Café

In CTS Church, Digmoor

No charge for the lunch provided
Friday : 12pm - 1pm

Main Contact Details

Chairperson

Gill Sinnott 07919 176080
hubchair@uphollanddalton.org.uk

Secretary

Helen Foster 07801 287638
Helen.rob69@btinternet.com

Food Bank

Rob Foster
Helen.rob69@btinternet.com

Becket's Café

01695 814731

Please also contact

Paul Lock or
Jack Shepherd

Volunteers Needed

Contact Gill Sinnott for more information.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Could you spare a few hours each week to help?

In Becket's Cafe;
In UpHolland Post Office;
Run a bingo session;
Run a music group;
Run a craft or art group;
Set up a community cinema programme.

Please Contact: Hubchair@uphollanddalton.org.uk
Becket's Cafe 01695 814731



Come and be part of the next stage of this exciting project!

SKELMERSDALE FUNERAL SERVICE

We cover all areas of Skelmersdale and surrounding districts,
including Dalton, Newburgh, Parbold, Roby Mill & UpHolland

A PRIVATELY OWNED BUSINESS

- Caring & sensitive service in your hour of need
- We offer a range of funerals and pre-paid Funeral Plans to suit all budgets and personal tastes.
- Newly refurbished premises with private chapels of repose
- Funerals can be arranged in the privacy of your own home or you can visit the office



FOR A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTACT MARGARET WHITELAM

29-31 Sandy Lane, Skelmersdale WN8 8LA

Tel: 01695 559868 (24 hours)

MANOR HOUSE

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

From a spot stain to a full clean

Free on-site quotations

A professional clean every time

Have a cleaner & healthier home

Tel: 01257 251221

Mob: 07908 770808



W. Newman

ROOFING & REPAIRS

THE ROOFING SPECIALISTS
FOR INDUSTRIAL & DOMESTIC SERVICES

Slate and tile specialists;
All plastic fascias /soffits;
Insurance work undertaken;
All work guaranteed.

Tel. 01695 627212

mob. 07774 943706

Solitary Woods in February

In woods filled with February a biting
wind blows dead leaves into an icy stream
only the oak keeping ragged remnants
to the bitter end. Graceful branches traced
on an opal sky, naked save those wrapped
in ivy, sometimes leaning to the left
and the right, creaking as the wind rises,

Silhouettes. Gaunt. Forlorn. Sombre.

In February woods there is nothing to fear.
Even when night descends and the silence
is tangible, broken only by a moaning
wind . To one side a full moon rises.

To the other side a solitary stag
coming as a surprise and no surprise.
Eyes shining. Alert. Legs trembling.

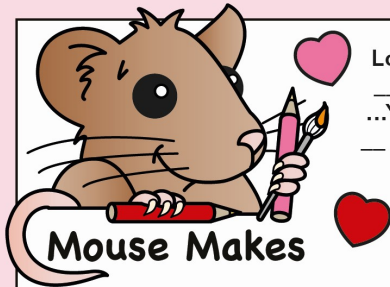
Forest dweller meets forest visitor.

And in that moment in nightdark woods.
Eyes gentle. Inquisitive. Hesitant.

And in that fleeting moment
on the very edge of nightdark woods
you you know you hold the world
in the palm of your hands
before February runs of time.

I know about February woods and know
that the deer is involved in what I know.

Maureen Brandon Bold



Mouse Makes

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

1 John 1:3

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

Psalms 86:1



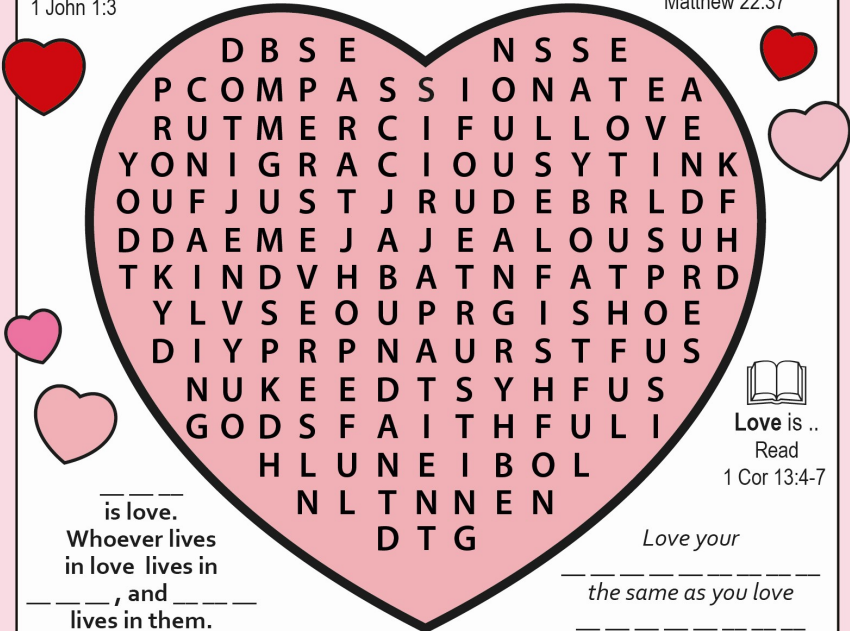
How did
God show
He **loved** us?
Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your
God with all your

_____ with all your

_____ and with all your

Matthew 22:37



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

1 John 4:16

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

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

Feb22© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Did you find the Church Mouse in December's magazine? He was on page 7 with his friends who were making snowballs. He's in this month's magazine though. Can you find him? He looks like this.




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.





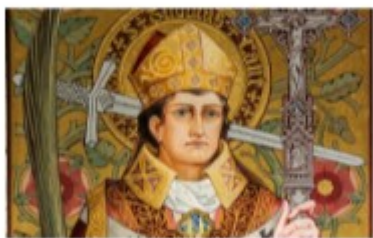

FEBRUARY BOOK REVIEW

This month I have the privilege of introducing you to two books written by members of our own congregations.

Thomas Becket Saint and Martyr

THOMAS BECKET

SAINT AND MARTYR



DR ALLAN MILLER

During the pandemic Dr Allan Miller has written a detailed biography of Thomas Becket. Allan has been in voluntary self isolation for nearly two years because of his age, diabetes and retinitis pigmentosa (blindness). To maintain his mental health he has produced his latest book even though it has taken a heavy toll on his physical health, i.e. his eyesight.

The book has been written in the genre of a true crime as often seen on television. It starts with a detailed description of the brutal murder of Archbishop Thomas in Canterbury Cathedral in December 1170. Four knights believing they were carrying out orders from King Henry II engaged in a war of words with Becket and proceeded to enact GBH and then murder. Gruesome details of the murder were recorded by SOC eye witnesses.

The evidence is examined in forensic detail. The deep background of the two main characters - Becket and Henry - is trawled through. Becket came to the attention of the King because of his success in his early career, especially when he became Archdeacon of Canterbury. King Henry appointed Becket as his Chancellor and according to legend they were very close friends and colleagues. However, there were fundamental differences between the two men, for example, social status, education and morality.

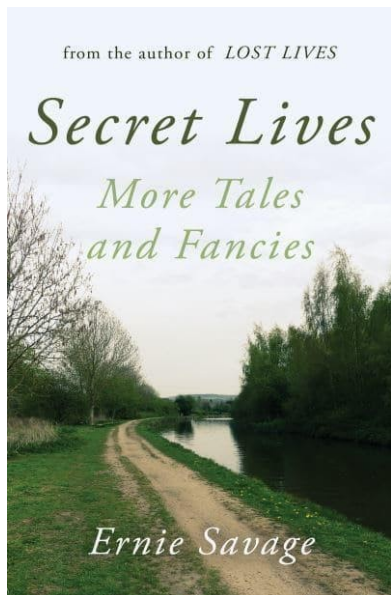
The problems between the two men came to a head when Thomas Becket was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury with Henry's support and approval. Becket determined to live the life of an Archbishop and drifted away from the King. The different motives of the two men became very evident and their quarrels intensified to the point where King Henry asked "who will rid me of this troublesome priest". Four knights interpreted this literally.

Other sections of the book offer verdicts on the main protagonists in the drama - King Henry, Archbishop Becket, the four knights, and the Pope, who tried to mediate. What happened to all the parties is described and the aftermath of Becket's murder is spelled out, including the miracles attributed to Thomas. Partly because of these miracles, Thomas was made a saint by

the Pope soon after this martyrdom. A final section of the book relates the Up Holland connection with St Thomas Becket.

It is a very complex story and the book is only available now electronically. If you would like to read it just send your email address to allanm39@sky.com. Alternatively, if you would prefer a written version of the book please request a copy from Reverend Paul Lock when the photocopier has been repaired. Allan intends to donate any profits to the Church. His aim is to sell 100 copies at £10 each, equalling £1000.

Secret Lives



A novella and five short stories set in the middle class England of the author; even there parts of some peoples' lives are kept from others.

Many people have investigated their family history; in the early days, this meant visits to public record offices, which for some involved travel to other towns. Some were hoping, or fearing, to find skeletons in cupboards. Others have found cousins of distant kinship engaged in the same investigation. Both these themes come together in ***The Secret Sits*** a novella spanning the centuries; the details of the life of a late nineteenth century Yorkshire businessman, who was airbrushed out of family history, because of a scandal, are finally revealed when his family gains access to the censuses of the period. The scandal caused a rift in the family and one branch may have lost an inheritance.

The other parts of the work are short stories.

In ***Roy*** a bombastic self confident fourth former in a 1950s grammar school who disappears into obscurity.

In ***Helena*** a rather lonely, late middle aged woman in a Midlands town may have found love when she meets a charming, handsome, but somewhat secretive man. In ***The Lost Phone*** a chance encounter leads a widowed man to find two sisters searching for family secrets; they become his new family.

The Strange Tale of Walter Greenough is about a man who tries to create his own secret life, but is unmasked.

Sue's Caff is a busy city centre eatery with a largely working class clientele; Sue describes a notable day when secrets were shared, though one man is brought to a sort of poetic justice

You can buy a copy direct from Ernie (for which he will donate £1 per copy to church funds) or from <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/Secret-Lives-by-Ernie-Savage/9781800464384>. or Amazon.

You can also buy it as an ebook on Amazon, Apple's iBookstore, Kobo, Google Play and other ebook stores.

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



D.J.M. TRAVEL

Specialist in Airport Transport

Local, Reliable, Independent Company

**LWB 8 Seater Minibus offering
Leather Seats & Air Conditioning**

**All areas and jobs considered at Competitive
Rates**

**Airport Transfers, Nights Out,
Weddings, Race Trips,**

**Hospital Appointments,
Railway Stations**

CRB checked and
fully licenced driver

01695 627907

07967 360403

David.martland@live.co.uk



CHRISTIAN BASICS NO 2: WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

'How can a God of love allow suffering?' Many people struggle with such questions, however the Bible helps us to understand how sin affects both our own lives and the world.

Genesis provides us with a picture of how sin entered the world. In Genesis 2:16-17, God gave Adam and Eve both permission (*'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden'*) and a prohibition (*'But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'*), alongside warning them of the consequences of disobedience (*'For when you eat of it you will surely die'*).

In Genesis 3, they broke God's law by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. As a result, their eyes were opened to the nature of sin (they knew *shame*) and their relationship with God was broken (they *hid* from Him). As a consequence, death entered their lives. This story reminds us that God gives us free will (an essential aspect of being human) to choose whether God will be at the centre of our lives or not.

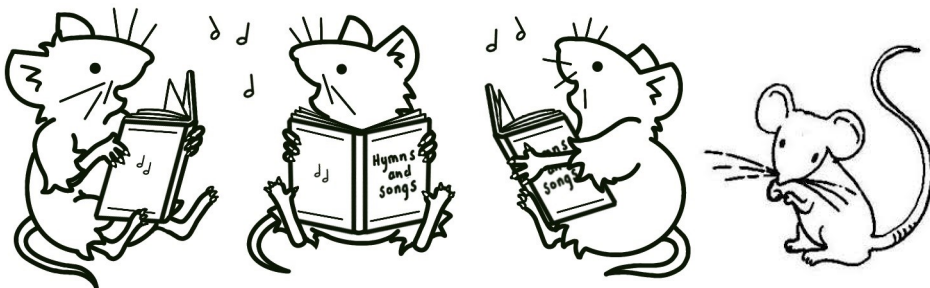
The Bible offers different ways of describing how sin:

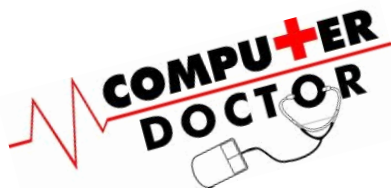
a spirit of independence: we don't want God to interfere with our lives, preferring our own ideas, plans and ways of behaviour.

ignoring the Maker's instructions: if you ignore user instructions, you only have yourself to blame when things go wrong! God created us to function with Him at the centre of our lives.

missing the mark: we fail an exam even when we miss the pass mark by one mark: *'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'* (Romans 3:23).

In a famous correspondence in *The Times* under the title *'What's wrong with the world?'* GK Chesterton's letter simply said: *'Dear Sir, I am.'*





On call for Computer repairs
And Internet problems

Excellent references

Call Ron: 01695 559572



GARDEN RESCUE TREE SERVICES

Trees felled and pruned

Qualified & Insured

Hedges trimmed

Free Estimates

Vince & Duncan Brady

01695 623909 07903 290878 07534 389506

www.gardenrescuetreasureservices.weebly.com



ALAN
BOWEN LTD

Fashion eyewear specialists
Free examination for exempt groups

CONTACT LENSES
HOME VISITS

BSc. (hons) M.C.Optom.

Optometrist & Contact Lens Practitioner

7 Dingle Road, UpHolland WN8 0EN

01695 625437

H.ATHERTON & SON

(The Service Station)
Alder Lane, Parbold



Repairs Servicing Accessories Petrol and oils

Telephone: 01257 462257



From The Diocesan Website

View the website at <https://liverpool.anglican.org/home>



If you pay UK tax why not consider using the Parish Giving Scheme? This helps us to recover your Gift Aid far quicker, and is less of a burden on our Gift Aid Secretary. You can find more information [here](#).

Read how a melting iceberg helped a St Helens church focus on 'Fit for Mission' and helped them to work proactively together. You can read the article [here](#).

10 days of Prayer 2nd to 11th February

Bishop Paul is calling for the whole diocese to pray for our world, our nation and our diocese in the 10 days leading up to his last day as our Bishop.

So each day from 2nd February to 11th February we are called to pray, with a different intention each day:

Feb 2 (Candlemas) - Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness

Feb 3 - For the future of our diocese - for direction and listening to God's word and God's Spirit

Feb 4 - Covid, the sick, all affected, the NHS

Feb 5 - For refugees & asylum seekers

Feb 6 (Sunday, Accession Day) - for the Queen and all who serve under her in national and local government

Feb 7 - For our archbishops and leaders of the church & for the General Synod

Feb 8 - For all in ministry in our diocese and all discerning their call

Feb 9 - For peace

Feb 10 - For schools, families & children

Feb 11 - for our ecumenical and communion partners

The Cathedral has provided some material for each day, with a passage of Scripture for us to use, some points for intercession and a prayer which you can use, details will follow on this.

There will also be an online gathering for prayer at 6pm each day from 2nd Feb, with members of senior staff leading a brief evening prayer and time for intercession. This will be held on Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86242683985?pwd=TWIrU2pJdmp1ZGIEVEN0OStqT1Rzdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 4268 3985

Passcode: 962141

How full is your 'Love Tank'?

Everyone has times when, if we are in a relationship, we feel really loved by our partner, there's a close connection and lots of fun and laughter. The relationship is flourishing.

There are also times when we feel distant, frustrated, angry perhaps, and all the love seems to have leaked out of the relationship.

Imagine we have an inner emotional 'love tank', and how full or empty the tank is represents how loved we feel. What's the 'fuel gauge' showing, how full is your love tank right now?



The question is not designed to be an opportunity to start thinking negatively about our partner, for criticising or demanding things, because we know that love is about giving, not getting.

The thing is that we all experience love in different ways. For one person hearing the words: 'I love you' makes them feel on top of the world. Words alone might feel quite hollow for someone else; regular cuddles and kissing may be what makes them feel loved.

Gary Chapman, author of *The Five Love Languages*, describes ways in which we can GIVE LOVE in the way our partner can receive it, when we know their 'love language.'

The five love languages are:

Words of affirmation, Quality time, Physical touch, Acts of service, and Thoughtful gifts

It comes naturally for each of us is to show love in OUR particular love language. I tend to do practical things, like making a nice meal or organising time together. There's nothing wrong with either of those things, it's just that my husband's top love languages are: 'words of affirmation' and 'physical touch'. So the candles on the table do very little for him. If I want to express love in the way he's going to receive it, I need to tell him how special he is and whisk him off to the bedroom! In short, if I want my husband to feel loved I need to be thinking of HIS needs.

The 5 Love Languages are a great tool to help people understand different ways they feel or experience love. You and your partner can explore these in Toucan Together's Loving Module. Toucan can help you start some really great conversations. It's really worth learning how to fill each other's 'love tanks', and then get filling!

Christine Daniel is a speaker and blogger for FamilyLife UK, developer of the Toucan Together resource. Toucan Together is a relationship wellness app for couples that covers friendship, intimacy, resolving conflict, love language, and money management. Visit it at www.toucanttogether.com

No Cheques Please (if possible)

The bank have now informed us that for every cheque we pay in they will charge us 40p.

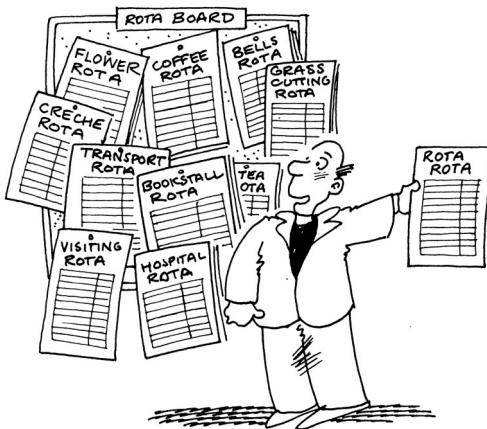
We realise that this may be the best or only option for you to give to support the church and the work we do, and if that's the case then please continue to give in this way.

However if you can make your donations by either cash or direct payment please consider doing so, as it will minimise the bank charges we pay.

To make a direct payment please use the following details:

Bank	HSBC
Sort Code	40-35-29
Account Number	51610481
Account Name	Up Holland and Dalton Parish
Reference	please use YOUR NAME as the reference

Thank you for your co-operation.



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota
rota... do I see a hand...?"



"The knitting circle are playing their part
in our heating efficiency programme."

We insure it. You enjoy it.

Our insurance collection is geared to give you the protection you need to look after the things you care about.


BESPOKE
THE NFU MUTUAL
INSURANCE COLLECTION



For more details, speak to Hedley on 01695 511 77
email hedley_roberts@nfumutual.co.uk or visit us at
Centenary House, Unit 3c, Maple Court, Whitemoss
Business Park, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9TW



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Our Agents are appointed representatives of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 11982). Registered in England. Registered Office: Tiddington Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7BJ. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. A member of the Association of British Insurers.
For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

D-065BB13C

Response to "In Praise of Established Congregations"

The January Newsletter contained an article by Roger Hardcastle with the title, "In Praise of Established Congregations".

This was in response to a brief article in the Beacon Churches December newsletter – "Why multiply". Roger was clearly concerned by the phrase – "There would be no more spectators" referring to "each new person having a vital part to play within new congregations."

I would support the view that each person within a congregation has a vital part to play, but on reading through Roger's article I can see that he has a very valid point to make.

I have therefore been prompted to expand a little on the ideas raised by the two articles. I hope to be able to support Roger's concerns as well as to be able to dispel the idea that some may feel the need to remain spectators.

The verse of scripture that immediately springs to mind is 1 Corinthians 12, verse 27 which states – *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

The imagery within the rest of this chapter clearly shows that anyone who is a Christian is a part of the body of Christ and therefore by implication has a role to play. That role may vary according to ability, interests and indeed the "baggage" that we may be carrying, but that does not mean we have no role. Those roles are likely to vary over time with increasing confidence and experience, indeed it may be appropriate for some people after years of dedicated service to step back from certain of their roles.

Roger states *"I expect there is value in multiplying congregations and in keeping them small. But I do wonder how those with a criminal record, those who are broken and those who are disruptive could find their place in them."* I would argue that such people are being failed by the church if they are unable to find their place. Clearly a convicted sex offender should not be given a role within a Sunday school, or a convicted fraudster appointed as treasurer, but they are equally loved by God as any one of us and He has a role that is appropriate for them.

Looking at verses 21 – 26 of 1 Corinthians 12 – *"21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."* – it is perhaps true that some of our members may need to be treated with "special honour", but they should also share in the rejoicing of the whole body.

This begs the question – "is this true of all of our churches?" - the honest answer is undoubtedly NO!

People come, don't feel comfortable and don't come back. Others struggle on for a while and eventually find a different church that suits their needs better. More positively others may have found it difficult to fit in with one church and then find that they are truly at home in our churches.

One benefit of the idea of multiplying congregations is that it increases the chances of everyone finding a congregation where God can enable them to fit in and fulfil His plan for their life. That of course should not mean that the existing congregations need not be looking for ways to ensure anyone who comes through their doors can feel at home and valued.

Roger's concluding point "It sounds as if there is no room for people like them" is perhaps too true for comfort, but if we call ourselves Christian, then it is each of our responsibility to prove that point wrong!

Alaric Hicks

The Parish of Up Holland & Dalton

The Churches in The Parish are:

St Thomas the Martyr, Up Holland St Michael and All Angels, Dalton

Christ The Servant, Digmoor

Contact Information

Rector

The Revd. Paul Lock

The Rectory, 1a College Road,
Up Holland, Skelmersdale WN8 0PY
Email: pauill.uph.dal@outlook.com
Tel: 01695 622936
Mob: 07813 019863

Missional Priest

The Revd Jack Shepherd

Email: revjshepherd@gmail.com
Tel: 07415 122370

Honorary Associate Priests

The Revd. Ruth Byworth

Tel: 01744 886481
Email: byworth@tiscali.co.uk

Curate

The Revd Chris Dunbar

Chrisdumphdal@outlook.com
Tel: 07734 321797

Pioneering Apprentice

Becky Poole

rebeccapooleopl@gmail.com

Parish Ordinand & Reader

Paul Givens Email: paulgivens68@gmail.com Tel: 07951 522054

Churchwardens UpHolland

Dennis Roughley Tel: 07740 164447
Email: crm.ltd@live.co.uk
Brenda Entwistle Tel: 07534 623544

Churchwarden St Michael's

Steph Ellis Tel: 07592 585607
Email: stephellis1812@hotmail.com
Neil Girvin 07548 772759

Churchwardens Digmoor

Denise Givens Tel: 07904 364347
Email: denisegivens68@gmail.com
Steve Holmes Tel: 07752 580982

Readers

David Barker Tel: 07814 641094 Email: d.barker362@btinternet.com
Nick Daunt Tel: 01695 632326 Email: jnickdaunt@gmail.com

Dalton C of E (Aided) Primary School

Head Teacher Mrs Robinson
Tel: 01257 462082
Email: bursar@dalton-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk
Website: <https://dalton-stmichaels.co.uk/>

St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School

Head Teacher Mr Roscoe
Tel: 01695 622970
Email: head@st-thomasmartyr.lancs.sch.uk
Website: <https://stthomasthemartyr.co.uk/>

Roby Mill CE Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Stephens
Tel: 01695 622536
Email: bursar@robymill.lancs.sch.uk
Web: <http://www.robby-mill.lancsngfl.ac.uk/>

Bishop Martin CE Primary School

Headteacher: Mr McDonald
Tel: 01695 724730
Email: <https://www.bishopmartin.lancs.sch.uk/contact>
Web: <https://www.bishopmartin.lancs.sch.uk/>