

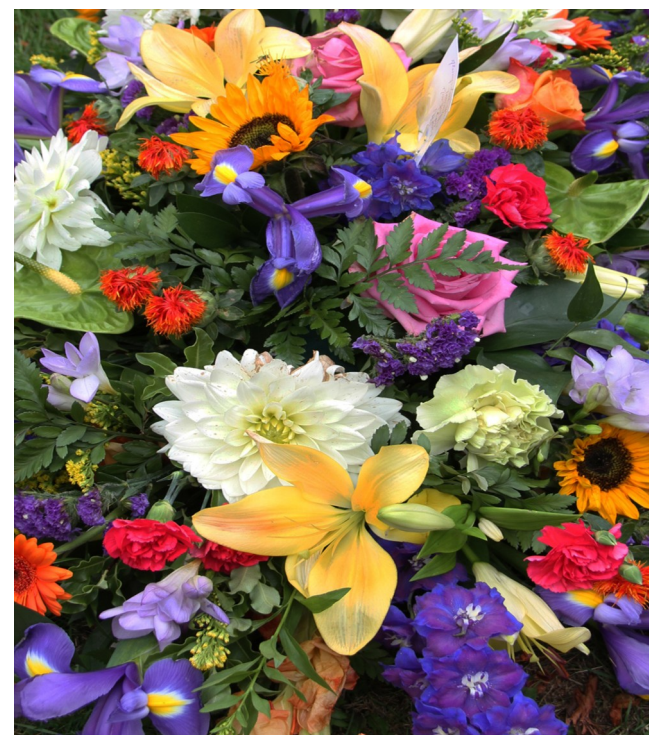
Useful Contact Numbers

Vicar	Rev. Rupert Higgins 20 Alton Road, Bournemouth.BH10 4AE	939799
Parish Secretary Parish Office	Mandy Williams 9am to 11.30am. e-mail stmarkschurch-talbotvillage@btinternet.com www.stmarkschurch-talbotvillage.org.uk	529349
St Mark's website		
Assistant Priest University Chaplain	Rev. Diana Newman	745136
Churchwardens	Mrs Marion Marks Mrs Janet Lee	520840 710533
Deputy Church Wardens	Mr David Humphreys Mr David Way Mr John Gray Mr David Kellard Mr Trevor Adamson	527136 768410 511745 382349 511588
Verger	Mr Bob Tait	512409
Safeguarding Officer	Mr Kieran Marshall	570863
St Mark's Organist	Mr Paul Simkin	
Choir Master	Mrs Valerie Cox	746480
Mothers Union	Mrs Janet Moyse	527717
PCC Secretary	Mr Jeremy Turrell	553523
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Gift Aid Secretary	Mrs Janet Lee	710533
Planned Giving	Miss Alex Morris	07947842400
Youth & Children's Minister	Mrs Lyndsey Wilson	517648
Church Cleaning	Mrs Celia Hurn	01202 027031
Church Flowers		
Parent and Toddlers Group		
Electoral Roll	Mrs Alex Grimes	
Flag Officer	Mr. Adrian James	07779613052
Intercession Readers		
Lost Property	Ms Angie Cornish	520052
First Friends Pre-School	Dani Haigh (Manager) St.Saviours	07826 040775
Magazine Editor	Rev. Diana Newman	745136
Archivist	Mrs Carol Medlicott	01425 672899
S.Mark's Sch.Head Teacher	Mrs Caroline Burn	512241
Uniformed Groups:	(see inside magazine)	
Visitors Group		
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mr Trevor Adamson	518737

St Mark's Church

Talbot Village ⊕

with St. Saviour's, Scott Road



Parish Magazine 60p

June/July 2021

The Living World

SERVICES AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

At the present time during the pandemic services at St. Mark's are temporarily changed

Sundays 9 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Service followed by shortened communion

Week Day Prayers in Church – The church is open on a Wednesday morning from 11am-12pm for prayer

SATURDAY PRAYERS IN CHURCH

Saturday prayers (the first Saturday of each month) will resume from Saturday 3rd October at 10am in church. All are welcome to share in this informal time of prayer for our church, community and other world issues that we feel we need to bring before God.

Parish Office:

Open weekdays Tues. 9 -12.30pm, Wed. 10 -12.30 pm

Thu. 11-12.30 pm, Friday Closed. Tele: 01202 529349

When the Secretary is working from home: Telephone 01202 679841

Post: St Mark's Church, Wallisdown Road, Bournemouth.
BH10 4HY

E-mail: stmarks_talbotvillage@btconnect.com

Website: www.churchofstmark-talbotvillage.org.uk

HALL BOOKINGS

Bookings for the new hall complex are taken in the Parish Office between 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday.



Don't forget to send in your photographs and articles of any thing that might interest others

HOLY BAPTISMS



Molly Faith Burgess

MARRIAGES

No Weddings

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

We offer our sincere sympathy to friends and relatives of:

Linda Marshall

Ann Edmondson

Uniformed Groups:

St Mark's Brownies	Mrs Eileen Ferbrache	579637
St Mark's Guide	Mrs Eileen Ferbrache	579637
St Mark's Beavers	Elizabeth Kimber	07507422197
St Mark's Cubs	Elizabeth Kimber	07507422197
St Mark's Scouts	Elizabeth Kimber	07507422197
St Saviours's Rainbows	Mrs Teresa Wray-Cook	731753
St. Saviour's Guides	Mrs Teresa Wray-Cook	731753

St Alban - the first British martyr

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22nd June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Alban
martyr
persecution
Roman
emperor
Diocletian
priest
converted
soldiers
sacrifice
gods
condemned
death
execution
serenity
died
site
town
name
doorstep

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

A note from the Editor

Thank you to those who have provided material for this magazine. I hope that now things are beginning to open up again, more of you will feel able to contribute something. A story you have written, a hobby you have that might interest others, a photograph you have taken with details about it, a place you have visited, or an organisation you belong to as well as news about the church. Send them to me by email or put a note in the clergy tray in the vestry. Nest Magazine: August/September Articles should be sent in by 15th July. diananewman36@gmail.com

Always believe something wonderful is going to happen. Even with all the ups and downs, never take a day for granted. Smile,, cherish the little things and remember to hug the ones you really love.

To Each is Given

Isn't it strange that princes and kings
and clowns that caper in sawdust rings
and ordinary folk like you and me
are builders of eternity.

To each is given a bag of tools
an hour glass and a book of rules,
and each must build, e're life is flown,
a stumbling block or a stepping stone.

As you are aware **Bishop Nicholas retires on 3rd July** having been **Diocesan Bishop** for the last ten years. We shall be marking this in a number of ways: We will say farewell to Bishop Nicholas and to Helen at Choral Evensong in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 3 July 2021, at 5.30pm. At this stage we do not know how many people will be able to attend in person, but we will monitor the progress of the Covid restrictions carefully and will keep the Diocese informed of what is possible as we approach the date. The service will be livestreamed here: [Live Stream Channel | Salisbury Cathedral](#), and we hope that wherever you are, many of you will join us to worship God, to give thanks for our Bishop's ministry among us, and to pray for him and Helen as a new chapter opens for them. + **Bishop Karen**

Clergy Letter

At the time of writing, the good news is that we are planning events for the summer. As far as we can tell, we will be free of most of the restrictions by the end of June. Do look out for the dates in this magazine of what's coming up. They include two weekends away, our summer fete in July, a dementia evening and some concerts

One thing that this last year has taught us is that we need each other. It is such an obvious lesson and one that we already knew. But, as is so often in life, it is actual events (usually a crisis) that underline things that we can so easily take for granted. What we must not do is lose this lesson as the hubbub of normal life gets going again.

Jesus makes it quite clear that we need each other and mustn't try to do life alone. Loving our neighbour is an obvious application of this. Normal loving human interaction is vital for a healthy life. In so-called normal times we don't notice it so much, it just happens. But take it away and suddenly we realise how precious it is. It's a bit like the air we breathe. We don't really think about it much - we just breathe. But take it away!

The church is the place where we can encourage others and be encouraged ourselves, especially in our following of Jesus. It would be a good outcome of this last year of lockdown if we all renewed our commitment to each other and rediscovered our connection as the church family.

With my love, Rupert

squashed between the window and a portly chap who spent the entire journey talking on the phone trying to arrange a business deal. Eating my sandwich was a masterclass in inventive management of hand to mouth !

At St.Pancras I had to negotiate the underground to Victoria (it took me 10 minutes to figure out how to get a ticket from the machine without ending up with Oysters or season tickets - I really should get to London more often. The poor bewildered American couple next to me were still trying to get their American Express card to be accepted when I left. Then the fifteen minute walk outside to Victoria coach station. Fortunately it wasn't raining.

I arrived there with just enough time to go to the toilet (and that was not easy since the only one without a flight of stairs - still having to manage my suitcase - was at the wrong end of the building). Anyway, I did have a comfortable, if very long, ride to Bournemouth, and got a taxi to my home. Having set off from Fontainebleau at 8am I arrived home at 7.30pm.

I dumped my case; didn't even bother to take off my coat; went to the local pub for some food, and then went straight to bed. So, today I am taking it easy and shall not make it to the 9am church service.

I really think that at 84, I should probably curtail my travel plans to shorter distances in the future.

Lorna Doubleday

Where are our birds?

British birds are in big trouble. 80 per cent of our most popular species are in severe decline, according to recent data from the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

The world's largest wildlife survey has found that 16 out of the 20 most spotted garden birds have been in decline since 2020. There are now concerns about the greenfinch and chaffinch, which were seen in their lowest ever numbers this year.

The top five birds seen in people's gardens were: house sparrows, blue tits, starlings, blackbirds and wood pigeons. Only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush grew in number in 2020.



THE JOYS OF TRAVEL



Having spent a wonderful couple of weeks (2019) with my family in Fontainebleau France, I now had to face the journey back to the U.K. The transport strike there was in its fifth week, with no possibility of a settlement in the near future.

I decided that maybe the best thing would be to change my travel plans. Well, the strike would still be on, but the day I was due to return to the UK was a total shut down of everything and demonstrations in the centre Paris, which meant road closures. In other words gridlock.

So having decided on that, I set about trying to organise my return to the UK and some sort of normality.

My Eurostar ticket, which was originally quite inexpensive, cost me four times the price to change. I guess everyone tries to make a profit when disaster strikes, knowing there is no alternative but to accept what is available.

Actually getting to the Gare du Nord was quite an event in itself. There was one train scheduled from Fontainebleau to the Gare de Lyon in Paris for those needing to get to work, but this was cancelled and the next was an hour late. Needless to say it was crowded with standing room only. And my suitcase was not a help. My daughter insisted on coming with me to get me onto the Eurostar, and I'm grateful she did. My French is fluent, but I'm not quite up to speed on changes to the various underground lines etc.

Anyway I had to get to the Gare du Nord from the Gare de Lyon, and the high speed line directly linking the two stations was not running at all. Which meant a circuitous route via the underground, changing at Chatelait (one of the busiest stations on the line) still with my suitcase, and with hundreds of milling humanity all trying desperately to get somewhere.

Finally arriving at the right place we had a drink and I bought a sandwich to eat on the Eurostar. That was crowded of course and I was

Parish News

ST. MARK'S SUMMER FAIR 31ST JULY 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM

We very much hope this event will be able to take place in the church grounds and that the weather will be good. The Mothers Union have put in a request for cakes to sell and they will hold a raffle. If you can help with baking a few cakes they would be gratefully received on the day. A meeting of the Fete Committee has been held and plans for the Fair are well under way. If you can help in any way or have gifts you can offer for the fair, please contact **Marion** on **01202 520840**. Thank you.

ST. MARKS AGM RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Parish of St Mark' Talbot Village

Deanery of Poole

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on 16th May 2021

The following were elected as **Churchwardens**:

Name: Marion Marks

Name: Janet Lee

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod**:

Name: Sue Divall

Name: Jonathan Williams

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council**:

David Broom, Val Cox, John Gray, Pam Harrison, David Humphreys, Adrian James, Janet Moyse, Angela O'Dell, David Way, Lyndsey Wilson, Trevor Adamson.

Parish News from Marion our Churchwarden

It is such a privilege to be voted in again as your Church Warden to serve you all and be part of Gods Church here at St Mark's and St Saviour's God has blessed our Churches with many special and dedicated people using their gifts we have so much to be thankful for and have been much blessed throughout the lockdown!

Janet Lee has all so been voted in to join me as Church Warden , we must give great thanks to the deputy Wardens David Humphreys, John Gray, David Way , always willing to help in anyway during the services for Sue and Jim Divall at St Saviour's we thank God for their dedication!

Grateful thanks the many Volunteers, our wonderful Flower Ladies and Cleaning team, to all the phone caller's just a few comforting words during those worrying difficult, anxious ,scary times this help so many during the lockdown .How thankful that God brought about the technology that enabled us to meet and watch electronically!

The sofa services came into our homes The Children's services The thoughts of the day grateful thanks to Rupert Jo and Alice Rose for lifting our spirits every Sunday from the vicarage. Rev Paul Collins and Rupert for thoughts of the day , Alex for her amazing Children's services , Mandy making sure parish news was received by all and working from home sorting complex problems arising from lockdown to Rev Diana Newman who carried on with our Parish Magazine keeping us much connected with all Church and Salisbury Cathedral news how bless we are heartfelt thanks to you all.

MARION

VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOUR HELP MAYBE YOU COULD YOU PREPARE A ROTA AT HOME?

LIKE TO BE A READER OR INTERCESSER (SAY PRAYERS AT OUR SERVICES)

BE INVOLVED WITH THE EVENTS TEAM, CLEANING TEAM: COULD YOU GIVE 1HOUR A WEEK OR ONCE A MONTH? MAY BE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE AS A DEPUTY WARDEN? OR HELP THE FLOWERS LADIES , OR ALEX WITH THE YOUTH GROUP OR TOLDDERS: YOU MIGHT HAVE THAT AMAZING GIFT PLEASE PLEASE COME FORWARD .SPEAK TO RUPERT MARION JANET ALEX OR ANY WARDEN ON CHURCH DUTIES LORD LETS US OVER FLOW WITH VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN ALL ASPECTS OF CHURCH LIFE .

rather archaic, but they are also rather lovely, and it is with a touch of sadness that they are to be replaced with an electronic system which we are assured is easier and more secure.

Thankfully, the marriage service remains unchanged. The bride can still walk down the aisle, the best man can fumble with the rings and there is even a moment to sign the new 'Marriage Document'. This is a boring A4 sized printed piece of paper, but the couples can still pose with pen in hand while the photographer rounds up their nearest and dearest for a formal photo.

Even if marriages are made in heaven, man has to be responsible for the maintenance. -Anon

Medical terms for non-medical people:

Artery: the study of paintings

Bacteria: the back door to the cafeteria

Barium: what doctors do when patients die

Caesarean section: a neighbourhood in Rome

Catscan: searching for kitty

Cauterize: made eye contact with her

Coma: a punctuation mark

Enema: not a friend

Fester: quicker than someone else

Labour pain: getting hurt at work

Nitrates: cheaper than day rates

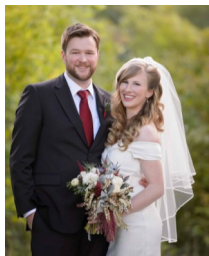
Outpatient: a person who has fainted

Post-operative: a letter carrier

Terminal illness: falling ill at the airport
and finally

Claustrophobia: fear of Father Christmas





The way marriages are registered in England and Wales has just changed on 4th May 2021, when The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration Etc) Act came into force. A single electronic marriage register has been created, replacing handwritten registers. So what does this mean for our parishes?

Wiltshire's Revd Catherine Blundell
writes with her view:

As if a pandemic isn't difficult enough, the government has chosen this year to change the way marriages are registered in England. This is of insignificance for most people however, for those of us who have spent hours nervously writing the names, addresses, occupations, and other information about a couple to be married into the registers, it will be a poignant moment. From the 4th of May our marriage registers have to close.

In England, registering what are now called 'Life Events' was done only by the church until 1837. However, in the early 1800s, Parliament realised that if they wanted to accurately tax or count the population, or pressgang men to fight, they ought to know a bit more about what was going on. Thus, was born a hybrid of both church registration for baptisms, confirmation, marriages, and deaths alongside a civil registration process of births, marriages, and deaths.

Ever since then clergy have had to master the art of recording marriages in registrar's ink and trying not to blot, smudge or misspell entries into what was now a legal document.

It was also supposed to be done in a very formal way. For example, the registers were supposed to be written up after the couple had married. This would have meant the 'Signing of the Registers' part of the marriage service would take most of the afternoon unless we sneakily filled them in ahead of time. Then there is the fearsome registrar's ink. A blue black substance that stains fingers, clothes and desk tops. Permanently. As well as the language you don't see or hear much anymore. A marriage is 'solemnized', according to 'rites and ceremonies' of the Church of England and the registers ask we record the 'condition' of the couple, meaning were they single, widowed, or divorced.

Yes, our marriage registers are old, large, fusty smelling and

From Quaker to Church of England at St. Mark's

Recently my wife and I have started attending St Mark's church and we hope this will be a spiritual home for us. I was a Quaker for 15 years. Quakerism is also called The Society of Friends and for a good reason: Quakers are extremely friendly, kind and caring people and I still have many friends who are Quakers, and so it is easy to understand what a wrench it was to leave Quakerism in 2018. This was not to do with the Quakers themselves but the direction that I increasingly found Quakerism going in, especially at HQ level. Two things especially are worth remarking on.

First, when I joined the Quakers it seemed to me to be very Christian in terms of George Fox's 'that of God in everyone' and its meaning that, as Fox claimed, that 'there is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition'. In other words, the centrality of Christ in all things. This, it seemed to me, has been seriously eroded by a shift to an internal 'god' who is there to reflect our 'feelings' and what we think is 'right'. This is summed when one increasingly hears the expression, 'I can't believe in a God who does this or that': we sit in judgement of God rather than being judged by God! Our personal feelings are more important either than revelation or truth.

It will come as no surprise that this is an incipient form of the 'Wokism' that now besets our society. Sadly, Quakerism is deeply falling into what used to be called the Pelagian heresy: man through good works can reach heaven, indeed, can be perfected. As Quakers increasingly become secularised, politicised and obsessed with 'issues' and good works, I could think of no myth more powerful than the building of the Tower of Babel.

Second, as I observed these changes, I also went in 2018 to visit Dante's grave in Ravenna and whilst there visited many basilicas. I was amazed at these 4th and 5th century buildings, their mosaics of early Christian life before the Great Schism or the Protestant Reformation. Quakers had a philosophy, which is admirable; but Christians had and have a cosmology – there on the ceiling! – and this was necessary and essential. In that cosmology we see very clearly the risen Christ – the true and only hope for the fallen world.

James Sale

(Photo of Basilica over page)

Image attached: Basilica of Sant'Appollinare in Classe, near Ravenna, founded 549 AD



Image attached: Basilica of Sant' Appollinare in Classe, near Ravenna, founded 549 AD

James is a professional writer and has had over 40 books published on education, management and poetry and currently is a feature writer on culture for New York's The Epoch Times:
He is also a Management Consultant. We look forward to hearing more from James in the parish magazine, and we are pleased to have him as a member of St. Mark's Church.

10 - 21 June 2021

The Wider Circle A Journey with Dante

An exhibition inspired by the startling yet accessible epic poem HellWard by James Sale. With Dante as our guide we journey into hell and out, accompanied by evocative artwork by artists Linda Sale, Angela Perrett, Judith Warbey, with contributions from writer Joseph Sale and other collaborators.

Upton House Country House, Gallery Upstairs: it is called The Wider Circle.

Exhibition for 12 days Free Entrance

A Prayer

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we pray that you will so guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget you, but remember that we are always walking in your sight: through Christ our Lord. Amen

Don't forget these DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**ST MARKS SUMMER FUN DAY FAIR
SATURDAY 31ST OF JULY 10.30am—2.00 pm**

**JUMBLE SALE GRAB A BARGAIN
SATURDAY 21ST OF AUGUST 9.30am—12 noon**

FASHION SHOW FRIDAY 10TH OF SEPTEMBER 6pm—9 pm

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE OR GIVE HELP AND
SUPPORT ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT :**

**Marion 01202520840 and Janet 01202710533 or any Wardens on
Church duties, also we welcome anyone wishing to join the events
team ! ☺ Marion**

Also another date for the diary **Friday 13th August 2021**. Decade's live will be performing in our hall.

These 4 guys are amazing singing songs from TakeThat, the Beatles, Frank Valli . Tickets £15 Adult on sale from 1st April look out for more information at church.

Saturday 14th August 2021 celebrating over 150 years of Talbot Village in the grounds of St Marks Church. Fun for all the Family more information to follow.



St. Mark's Dementia Group Meeting



How amazing we were able to host our first ever Memory Lane Dementia Group, In 2019 plans were being made for this group but because of the Virus everything was put on hold.

It was attended by 11 Church Family who enjoyed a cream tea which was so kindly provided by The Leonardo Trust and those unable to join us had tea delivered to their homes .

Tess Champion one of the Pramacare Managers in Bournemouth was on hand to put everyone at ease connecting and reaching out by stimulating both mentally and physically the group had a food word search, guess the Flim , Advertising Slogans, a Music quiz that got everyone involved and singing and then play Hoy !!a card game and the lucky ones got a really lovely prize.

Many of the group who are caring for their loved ones received helpful advice and information. It is well known that Carers often do not like to ask for help assuming that friends and neighbour's will be too embarrassed by the changes in their loved ones or family members as a group we hope to make sure everyone feels comfortable happy, loved and as a group we can willingly respond and feel privileged to be involved in helping all have wonderful afternoons with us !

We are now looking forward to making plans to insure this group will be held regularly at St Mark's Thankyou God for leading and guiding us on in all we do for the love of YOU .

And please put the group in your thoughts and prayers
Gods Blessings Marion

Both Terry and I and the Jacques really enjoyed Marion's tea and games !

Jo x

20th June Summer Solstice – longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol* + *stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are 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.



A prayer of St Patrick

This article is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Wonders of the Living World

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that co-operation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways.

. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org.

GARDENING NOTES FOR JUNE / JULY

Greetings. I hope you are enjoying your garden with Birds and butterflies.

The house sparrows have come back. They have set up home and are feasting on ants and green fly on the roses. Hooray!

Dahlias and other summer bulbs are around and worth trying

Keep feeding your lawns and baskets and of course keep mulching

We have planted an apple tree, climbing roses and clematis.

All blessings.. Joanna



Out to graze

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?"

A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"

