

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born Kings of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Written by Peter Cornelius



JESUS

KING OF KINGS

Good News Parish Magazine January 2021

High Downs Parish

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Canon Paul Hardingham finds the wise men's gifts to be of help to us now.

Epiphany for today

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?' (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: 'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' (2:11).



The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate to Him all that we are and do?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?



The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and it was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?



*'Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:
Hallelujah the earth replies.'
(We Three Kings).*



Prayer Pointers January 2021

Mondays - Give thanks for the gift of friendship.

Tuesdays - Praise God for the gift of forgiveness.

Wednesdays - Give thanks for the gift of healing, pray for all who are unwell.

Thursdays - Praise God for doctors, nurses, ambulance crews and all in the care sector.

Fridays - Give thanks for the gift of education and pray for teachers worldwide.

Saturdays - Praise God for the knowledge of His love for all creation.

Sundays - Give thanks for a New Year and pray for new beginnings after Covid.

Kings of Orient

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and
mountain,

Following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again -
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

O star of wonder, star of night ...

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all men
raising,

Worship him, God most high:

O star of wonder, star of night ...

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering
gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,
dying,

Sealed in a stone cold tomb:

O star of wonder, star of night ...

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies:

O star of wonder, star of night ...

Words and melody by
J.H.Hopkins (1820 - 91)

A New Start to 2021

Pray First

A fresh start in prayer can be found on the site -
[21days.churchofthehighlands.com/files/2021/2021-pray-first.pdf](https://www.21days.churchofthehighlands.com/files/2021/2021-pray-first.pdf)
I think this is a quite interesting plan and easy to use but, a gentle warning, it is from the US so some spelling differences may be found! - Ed.



Happy New Year
to all our
readers



Friends and Neighbours

For my Christmas and Boxing Day lunches

and all the gifts and phone calls making sure I was okay.

This made my Christmas very special. Also thank you for the entertainment on Sunday 20th December.

Love and best wishes to you all and a safe 2021
Eileen (Neaves)



Stalisfield Village Christmas Tree

There was great disappointment that our 'treeside' caroling was not able to take place due to the heightened alert for Covid-19, but that did not stop the joy of seeing our village tree lit with lights for this special holiday.

Thank you to the Dad's Army shoot (and particularly Peter Butt) for the very kind donation of the Christmas Tree which has been erected on the village green in Stalisfield outside the Plough, thanks also go to Richard Vant for collecting it for us.



To make you smile!

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs.

Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."



Photos - Tracy Dove

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In the story of Noah's Ark we see that God is equally interested in rescuing the human and the non-human from the threat of disaster. In fact the Ark is largely full of all the other species – with very few human beings on board! God also makes it clear that the animals, birds and creeping things are not simply included for Noah's sake, but because they have value in their own right. They are to be included “to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth” (Genesis 7.3) In other words the God who made every creature and who sustains all life on earth is committed to what today we would call ‘biodiversity conservation’.

Moreover, when God sends the rainbow as a sign of his Covenant promise, it is a promise that includes more than Noah and his descendants. Time and again in Genesis 9, God repeats that his covenant is with ‘every living creature on earth’, with ‘the earth’ (v.13) and with ‘all life on earth’ (v.17).

Somehow, our salvation theology as Christians has become too small. It has focussed largely on God's



Do all God's creatures have a value?

saving plans for me and people like me, and forgotten that God might have a bigger picture. Noah reminds us that God has plans that are far bigger than us. As St. Paul reminds us in Colossians 1, Jesus' saving work was “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross” (Colossians 1.20). ‘All things’ includes the non-human creation, reconciled - brought back into relationship - to God through Christ's saving work - human beings also have a job to do.

The final thing that Noah reminds us of is how we human beings fit into God's bigger plans for the whole creation. From God's perspective we are not simply one randomly evolved species amongst the millions of others. We have been set apart with a particular role and calling within creation. At the time of the great flood God had a plan to save people and other animals, and he could have implemented that plan by himself. However, he chose to use a human being – the creature made in his image –

to fulfil his plans. Noah was the first great conservationist, but in another sense he was also the first great missionary. He was the first person to whom God gave a specific calling and job description – a mission to fulfil. Noah's mission was very specific – you and I are probably not called to build large wooden boats. Yet the wider picture - looking after God's creation – is something we are all called to. Back in Genesis 1 and 2, the creation accounts show God's very first words to human beings as a call to responsible leadership within creation. In ‘The Message’ version of Genesis 1.26-27 God says: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature, so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”

This responsibility for creation's welfare is fundamental to who we are as human beings. It is not about having a ‘dominion’ that results in domination and exploitation. It is rather about reflecting God's image in how we exert our rule and responsibility for creation's well-being. Therefore we can truly say that wildlife conservation as for looking after his planet, is an essential expression of Christian mission.

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Help feed local people in crisis

Faversham Foodbank January 2021

With the COVID crisis escalating we are all aware that there are increasing numbers of families coping with food poverty. If you know anyone who needs to access Foodbank help please go to www.faversham.foodbank.org.uk where you can find details of how to get foodbank vouchers and the opening times for the foodbank itself.

The organisers have sent their thanks for the very generous Christmas food gifts they were able to give out in time for the festivities. Currently, as we are under level 4 restrictions, it would seem best if villagers make their donations via the local supermarkets as our church and pub opening times are limited.

Items required for January

Tinned carrots; pasta sauce; long life fruit juice; shampoo.



Faversham Town Council is working with the external lottery management company, Gatherwell, to help local charities and community groups raise funds following an unprecedented year. Their aim is to help protect and revive the many community assets of Faversham and the surrounding villages.

The lottery will provide an additional platform for regular giving.

A wide range of voluntary and community organisations are invited to get involved, including arts, culture and recreation providers.

If you are a local good cause, find out more at the Virtual Launch Event which is online, Friday 15th January at 11am - 1.30pm.

For more details and to book a place go to <https://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/community/faversham-district-community-lottery/>

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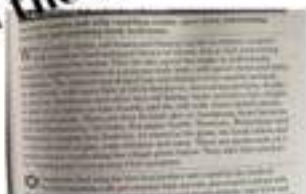
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In the sadness that COVID has left our industry in we are delighted to be able to share some good news.

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A little ray of light in the dark times!



The year we have experienced has been challenging for an independent free house like ours and for sure we know we are not alone in this terrible time for the Hospitality sector so this news could not have come at a better time – what a great way to start 2021.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of those who have helped us achieve this award, foremost our amazing team and of course all our lovely customers who have supported and especially those who have nominated us too.

Stay safe and we hope to see you soon
Marianne, Richard & Nathan!

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Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)
4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

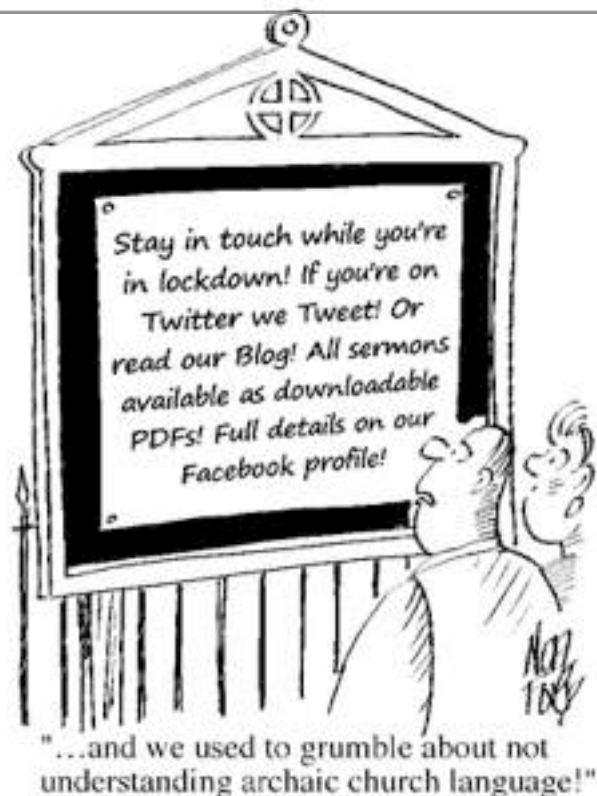
Stalisfield with Otterden

Jean West (01233 712270)

Administrator Sheila Moger (01233 463746)
E mail: samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
[facebook.com/highdownsbenefice](https://www.facebook.com/highdownsbenefice)



We are sorry that our
Sunday Services in church
have been cancelled until further
notice.

However thanks to our Rector, Revd Dr Steve Lillicrap, 9am Morning Prayer will continue daily and be live online on www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

3rd January Epiphany

1 John 3.22 - 4.6, Mark 6. 45 - 52

10th January Baptism of Christ

Acts 19. 1 - 7, Mark 1. 4 - 11

17th January Epiphany 2

Revelation 5. 1 - 10, John 1. 43 - 51

24th January Epiphany 3

Revelation 19. 6 - 10, John 2. 1 - 11

31st January Epiphany 4

Revelation 12. 1 - 5a, Mark 1. 21 - 28

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like submit articles or stories, or to advertise in the February 2021 magazine, send your submission by 20th January 2021 to:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews or www.goodnews.rf.gd

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Throwley and Eastling church buildings will continue to be open for private prayer.

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by Audrey Keen



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There have been some idiots shining laser pens into oncoming vehicles in the location of Glebe cottages. This behaviour could cause a serious accident so, should this happen to anyone please call it in on 101.

Congratulations to the all the people who sacrificed their normal Christmas with family and friends to protect others, namely the elderly and vulnerable, from this horrible pandemic. It is notionally only spread from contact and airborne particles which are passed on by those not obeying the basic principles.

Hopefully now that the vaccines have arrived we can look forward to a return to more normal life perhaps from Easter onwards.

Wishing you all a happy and safe New Year
Alan.

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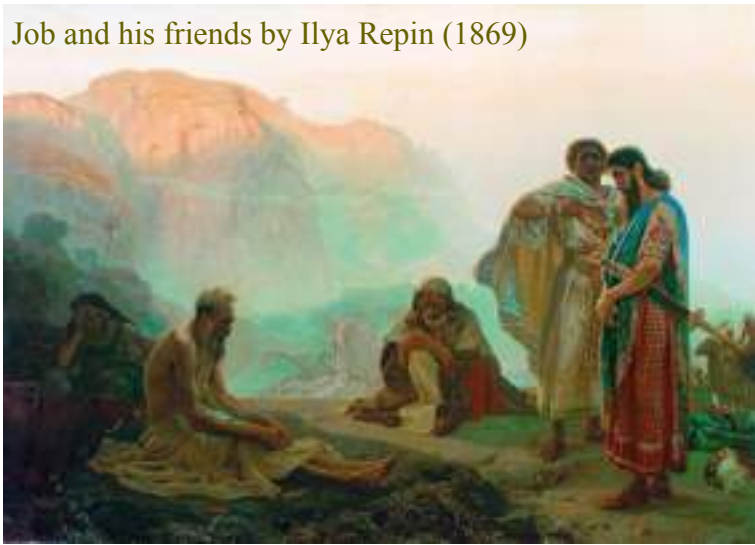


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Job and his friends by Ilya Repin (1869)



This article is based on a recent feature by Paul Valler, Chair of the LICC Board (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.)

How many more waves?

As the days are dark, and winter still stretches ahead, many of us find the prospect of more restrictions for months to come even harder than when we first went into lockdown.

After nine months of coronavirus, we are emotionally drained. We are financially drained. We are lonely, depressed, frightened, and facing deep uncertainty, from job losses to health problems to relationship breakdown. We are running out of steam, and the virus is still going strong.

There is a strong parallel in all this with the ancient book of Job and his experience of loss and pain. Like Job, we are discovering that we are not always entitled to health, wealth, and happiness; and like Job our suffering inexplicably goes on and on. Like the irritating moralising of Job's comforters, the constant critique of the media only seems to make things worse. And, like Job, our minds are incapable of totally grasping the meaning of all this suffering. We need hope.

Job was deprived of everything, yet even in his despair he never lost his belief that God was there. Occasionally an indestructible hope burst forth like a ray of light in the darkness of his pain. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:26).

But the truly transformative moment for Job came when, instead of seeing his situation in front of God, he finally *saw God in front of his situation*. Then, even in the intensity of his suffering, the greatness of the Almighty eclipsed the problem. That is the revelation we need.

In this sad and weary time lament is therapeutic, and we can be completely real with our Father in Heaven. Yet in our lament, the path to rekindling true hope lies in the possibility of focusing on the character and immensity of God. Greater is He that is in us than the pandemic that is in the world.

Join in with the ancient words of Psalm 42: 'Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.'



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It seems that ever since the car was invented, some people can't resist the urge to put their foot down... By Tim Lenton

The first man to get stopped for speeding...

It was 125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling. Mr Arnold was four times

over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph, which is probably a bit excessive. The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph, but there is no record of Mr Arnold getting his money back. Nor is there any evidence that he was endangering life and limb, which used to be the

criterion: the 1832 Stage Carriage Act introduced the offence of endangering someone's safety by "furious driving". Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to having driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway. As Edmund King, AA president, points out: "Generally men have riskier attitudes towards driving than their female counterparts."

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2021
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 Than that horrible year that has passed?
 by Nigel Beeton


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sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses

**MAKE
A WILL
MONTH**
FEBRUARY
2021



FEBRUARY
2021

FEBRUARY
2021

**HAVE
YOU MADE
YOUR
WILL?**

Solicitor firms across east Kent have very kindly agreed to donate their time and expertise completely free of charge, to write Wills during February 2021 in return for a donation to the hospice. All money kindly donated will directly support Pilgrims Hospices.

Appointments are limited so book early to avoid disappointment

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Canterbury

Boys and Maughan
01227 207000

Direction Law

01227 764141

Girlings Solicitors

01227 768374

Gardner Croft

01227 813400

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01227 643250

Tenterden

Whitehead Monckton
01580 765722

Ramsgate

Boys and Maughan
01843 595990

Robinson Allfree

01843 592361

Margate

Boys and Maughan
01843 234000

Broadstairs

Boys and Maughan
01843 868861

Robinson Allfree

01843 865261

Prospero

01843 869042

FIND
OUT
MORE

For more information on Make a Will Month please contact our Gifts in Wills team on **01227 782062** or email giftsinwills@pilgrimshospices.org

pilgrimshospices.org/makeawill

[f pilgrimshospices](https://www.facebook.com/pilgrimshospices) [@PilgrimsHospice](https://twitter.com/PilgrimsHospice)

Pilgrims Hospices in East Kent is a company limited by guarantee. Registered charity number: 293968. Registered company number: 2000560. Registered office: 56 London Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 8JA



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 26 - 27:1

When King Saul wasn't fighting the Philistines to stop them invading Israel he was still trying to hunt down David.

People came to tell King Saul where David and his men were hiding. Saul took 3000 of his best soldiers and went to look for David...

They camped near where David was hiding



When David heard that Saul was near, he crept up to the camp.



He saw that Saul and his army commander Abner were sleeping in the middle of the camp.



Who will come with me into the camp?



That night God made all the camp sleep soundly.



David and Abishai reached the centre and found Saul



This chance is from God! I'll kill him!



They took Saul's spear and water jar and crept out of the camp.



When they had got far enough away, David shouted



King Saul heard David and shouted back



But David knew that Saul would try again to kill him, so he left Israel and went to Philistia.

p	e	o	p	e	e	p	a	p	m	b	
a	b	n	e	r	t	q	c	w	a	d	e
j	r	s	o	u	n	d	l	y	b	a	p
c	a	m	l	u	e	o	r	c	i	v	s
x	p	l	y	t	g	e	k	t	s	i	a
m	i	r	u	y	t	h	s	h	h	d	u
k	i	o	o	a	d	i	s	r	a	e	l
a	h	d	w	t	l	h	i	d	i	n	g
s	o	l	d	i	e	r	s	l	e	e	p
z	i	p	h	l	f	c	s	p	e	a	r
c	v	p	c	r	e	p	t	h	u	n	t
c	a	m	p	k	i	n	g	f	t	s	n

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|---------|
| crept | kill | Philistia | camp |
| protect | enough | people | middle |
| shouted | army | hunt | Abner |
| Saul | David | spear | soundly |
| Abishai | soldiers | hiding | king |
| sleep | water | Israel | Ziph |

Smile Lines

The vicar was praying for the sick and said "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."



Ryan was delighted with the cloak, but not so sure about the face mask



Mouse Makes

What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East? ☆

Why had they come? ☆

What were they following? ☆

Who was alarmed by their arrival? ☆

Who had the prophet written about? ☆

Where were they then sent? ☆

What were they to look for? ☆
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them? ☆

Who did they see? What did they do? ☆

How were they warned to go home another way? ☆



READ Matthew 2:13-23

Who appeared to Joseph? ☆

What was he told? Why? ☆

What did he do? ☆

Who then became angry? and why? ☆

What horrible thing did he then do? ☆

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family? ☆

Where did Jesus finally grow up? ☆

