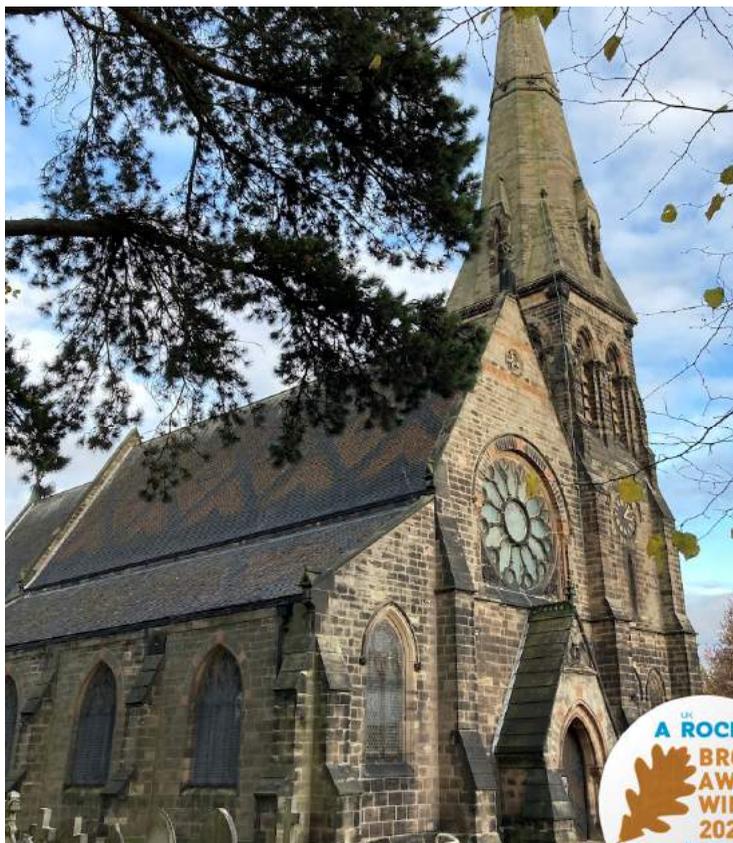


Winshill Parish Magazine

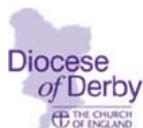
January 2022



St Mark's Church

+ Welcoming All +
+ Worshipping God +
+ Reaching out to share His love +

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Services for January 2022

Sunday	Readings	Time	Service & Church
2nd January Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.[1-9]10-15 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	9.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> St Wystan's
		10.45	Parish Eucharist St Mark's
		18.00	Evensong St Marks
9th January Baptism of Jesus	Isaiah 43.1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8.14-17 Luke 3.15-17,21,22	9.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> St Wystan's
		10.45	Family Service St Mark's
		18.00	Holy Communion St Marks
16th January Epiphany 2	Isaiah 62.1-5 Psalm 36.5-10 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11	09.15	<i>Service of the Word</i> St Wystan's
		10.45	Parish Eucharist St Mark's
		18.00	Café Church St Marks
23rd January Epiphany 3	Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21	09.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> St Wystan's
		10.45	Service of the word with Holy Communion St Mark's
30th January Candlemas	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.[1-6]7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40	09.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> St Wystan's
		10.45	Parish Eucharist St Mark's

A note from the Vicar

Starting anew...

With the New Year come new hopes, new dreams and the promise to change something in our lives. Many people stand at midnight on New Years Eve and make their resolutions... 'To spend more time with the children...' 'To go to the Gym...' 'To read more...' The list is endless and sadly the endeavours and promises we make to ourselves often fade before we see January out.



This is all rather depressing, it means for many that they start the New Year with a failure, and that is not a good way to start out anew. Perhaps we need to be kinder to ourselves, place less pressure on ourselves and set or aim at some more realistic targets.

So many peoples targets seem to be about how to make ourselves fitter, stronger, slimmer, healthier... to change our lifestyle for something that we think is better. I don't deny that it is good people wish to live a healthier lifestyle but isn't there a better way.

In Matthews Gospel there is a section from the start of Chapter 5 through to the start of Chapter 8 called 'The Sermon on the Mount'. (In the East window of St Marks, we have Jesus sat on the hillside teaching.) Halfway through Chapter 5 and into Chapter 6, Jesus in his teaching addresses the 'concerns' of those listening. In my bible each section is titled, 'Concerning...' These concerns include: anger, adultery, divorce, swearing an oath, giving, prayer, treasures, etc.' And with each section Jesus reframes the concern. Taking 'anger' as an example, Jesus says, rather than letting it consume you, go and make peace with the one who is causing you such unrest. Or perhaps if we look at giving, Jesus says, just get on and do it, don't make a song and dance about it so others might notice, and again in prayer, keep it simple, and by the way here's a model prayer for you, the Lord's Prayer.

At the end of Chapter 7, we have in a summing up of these concerns, which extends to all our concerns about life, and to all those changes that we think we need to make in our rash promises on New Years Eve. Jesus puts it quite simply, 'don't worry...' telling us that we worry for all the wrong things, like what we will eat, what we will wear.

'Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?' he says
(Mt 7.25)

These two things would have been the focus of every person in Jesus time, and whilst they remain true for us also, we have added to our lives a large number of other things that seem to us really important, many of which seem to dominate and drive our lives far more than the basics of what we eat and wear..

Jesus calls us to reset our lives, to *'strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness...'* (Mt 7.33) We are called and challenged to look outward, to look God-ward. We are not to make rash promises that we cannot keep, but to make an adjustment in our focus, to be right with God. This is not about unrealistic goals but reordering our priorities.

'Simpler, Humbler, Bolder' is a strap line being used by the Church of England. For me as I move into 2022, I will concentrate on the first two words of the three to start with, to live life a little simpler and a little humbler and then I might be in the right place to be a little bolder. We will see how the first two go!

Every Blessing for the coming Year and all that it may bring.

Philip

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If you have any items for the weekly church pew sheet please email them to Revd Philip (see p3) or drop them off at The Vicarage on Mill Hill Lane by 5pm on the Friday before.



If you have items for next month's magazine, please contact Helen Duke. Find me at church, email helenjayne88@gmail.com

Deadline for February 2022 magazine will be Sunday 23rd January.

St Mark's News and Events

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to the 25th January We Saw His Star in the East'.



Introduction

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity God desires of all that is created.

The material this year has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to the human being, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalised. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

Booklets of Readings, Reflections and Prayers will be available in the back of Church.



CANDLEMAS
Sunday 30th January
10.45am
Celebrating Baptism



Candlemas is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and marks in its celebrations the turning point in the church's year from Christmas towards Lent and Easter.

Baptism is a turning point in our lives from *slavery of self* to *freedom in Christ*, and so it is appropriate that we mark our being baptised within this festival.

If you have your baptism Candle, please bring it with you and we can light it as a part of our service.

We look forward to seeing you.

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Lent Course 2022

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday - March 2nd

During Lent there will be Lent Course Meetings on Tuesday Evenings and Friday Afternoons.

Full details next month.

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Bible Study



We hope to restart St Mark's Bible Study on Tuesday, 18th January at 10am in the Vestry.

We will begin to explore the Old Testament book of Daniel. All are welcome.

More information from Philip or Robert Baker.

For Interest

Our thanks to Gill Williams for this beautiful nature article, we look forward to reading more in future months.

If you have a particular interest you would like to share with our readers, please contact Helen. Find me at church or contact email helenjayne88@gmail.com

STARS AND SNOWDROPS

As we go further into the Winter season, two wonders of the natural world come to my mind. The first is the Milky Way – that brilliant arc of 100 thousand million stars which every night traverses the sky. Only a handful of times have I seen it in all its true glory, because that requires a cloudless sky unpolluted by both artificial light and Moon-glow. At those times I have been overawed by the sight of this part of our own Galaxy, set in the immensity of the Universe.

On a New Year holiday, in a cottage in an isolated valley, I thought I had drawn the 'short-straw', having to take our dear old collie dog out for her last walk before bedtime. I wrapped up, struggled into my walking boots, grabbed torch and other essentials and called Sally from her cosy place, lying by the fire. We set out up the track behind the cottage. Within a few yards I turned off my torch and looked up to see if I could spot what planets might be on view, - maybe Mars, Jupiter or Saturn - but I was stunned by the sight of the Milky Way stretching from horizon to horizon. It was as if someone had taken black velvet and cut out a silhouette of the mountains which enclosed the valley, and above the peaks a sky of deepest Prussian blue – not quite black - had been scattered with innumerable diamonds, shimmering fine grains and dust, swirling and sweeping across the sky in an utterly dazzling spectacle. I returned to the cottage and roused out my husband and son – this was something not to be missed. They had to agree it was worth leaving the warmth of the hearth.



At the other end of the scale from this vision of Creation, is the display of snowdrops in the 'Rococo Gardens', at Painswick in the Cotswolds, near Stroud. When we lived in Gloucestershire, we made annual pilgrimage to walk around the grounds and enjoy the sight of around 5 million blooms. You might have been there yourself and seen the naturalistic planting on the hillside, by the lake, and through the woodlands (and visited the splendid tea-rooms afterwards!). Once it was thought that the Romans brought snowdrops to Britain, but now there is evidence that it was in the 15th and 16th centuries that Italian monks introduced them into the gardens of their monasteries here. At Painswick there are several subspecies on display; double and single flowered, large showy bells and smaller simpler forms which all bring delight and wonder to Winter, and a promise of the return of life to the land as the days lengthen.



Here are two extremes of Creation. On one side our Solar System, one of millions in our Galaxy, which is itself one among an estimated 2 trillion galaxies in just the part the Universe which astronomers have mapped. At the other end of the scale are tiny, exquisite flowers in a few acres of ground on this little blue-green planet of ours, set in the vastness of the Universe. I can't help but be in awe of what God has created both when I see the night sky, and when I look at the beauty of snowdrops. I think of what the Son of God asserted (in Matthew 10) that God cares about the smallest detail of everything He has created – not a single sparrow falls without He sees it, and even the hairs in our heads are counted. In the same way not a solitary flower within the vast Universe misses His notice! It's an extraordinary claim. I have learned not to mis-interpret times when I feel lost and alone as a sign that I have been somehow abandoned by God – but remember that nothing and no-one escapes His constant attention and loving concern. Whether looking at stars or snowdrops, I find cause to praise, wonder and hope.

Gill Williams

Robert Baker's Hymn of the Month



He who would valiant be
Originally – 'Who would true valour see'.

No 205 in our green hymn books.

This hymn originated in John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'.

John Bunyan (1628-88) was born in Bedfordshire, the son of a tinker. He served in Oliver Cromwell's army during the English Civil War and on return home became a Brazier and a Preacher.

Following anti-nonconformist laws at the restoration of Charles II in 1660, Bunyan was imprisoned in Bedford Jail for twelve years. It was during a second period of imprisonment that Bunyan wrote 'Pilgrim's Progress'.

The hymn became popular when a version by Dr Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) was included in the English Hymnal in 1906. It is this version that we have in our hymn books.

The tune 'Monk's Gate' is based on a song called 'Our Captain Calls' and was collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams from a Mrs Verral in the village of Monk's Gate near Horsham in West Sussex.

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Strength

Between the heavy flags a tiny plant has made its way. Through the great cemented slabs and clods of leaden clay, a frail green shoot has struggled up, unaided and alone – and matched its puny strength against a block of solid stone.

It is not the largest things that have the greatest power. From a thread-like root has come a small exquisite flower. You could think that such a little thing would suffocate – pushing, pressing, struggling up between the crushing weight.

So may we do wonderous things with quiet determined strength. If we're rooted in our faith we make our way at length – and force a path through circumstances, failure and distress – Pushing up between the stones – to freedom and success.

Community News and Events



22nd Burton-on-Trent (St Mark's) Scout Group

In December we did a sleep over with the Cubs. I'm not sure how much sleeping went on, because everyone looked really tired when they were woken at 6am. For some it was the first time away from home and their own beds, so it was quite daunting, but we all had a good time.

We are hoping that the Scouts will be able to attend E-dale this year, but like everything, it depends on the conditions at the time. Fingers crossed!

We ended 2021 with a magic show by Magical Mayhem, attended by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. It was a fine end to an interesting and challenging year.

During the Christmas shutdown the leaders from all sections met to do the programme for the coming term. Conditions at the moment make that difficult because we do not know what restrictions may be imposed on us, but like previous years, I can guarantee that Scouting in Winshill will continue!

It is good to see the Beavers in the Scout Hut again. Every section that I have been involved in, has always had 'old hands' that knew the ropes and could teach the new intake. With Beavers, this was completely different. The Beavers didn't have any 'old hands', so every single young person who came into Beavers had to learn it from the start. It was most challenging and rewarding to see the Beavers slowly get used to the routine, and know what to do.

If you would like to get involved with Scouting, why not get in touch and come and see what we do. You will be made very welcome.

Raksha



In an effort to help the whole community to think a little more eco, we will be publishing a simple eco-tip every month. Small actions put together make big differences.

TIP 5. Simpler nourishment.



There has long been talk that we ought to start consuming less meat. It is only in relatively recent years that we have become accustomed to having meat at most meals. It used to be, and still is for many cultures an occasional treat.

This year, consider altering the quantity you consume, there are thousands of delicious vegetarian and vegan recipes, or you can start by using half the meat you usually would in a meal and substitute the rest with something else. It takes a little effort initially to learn new ways, but it will soon become second nature, and. When you do buy meat, check its source and welfare. If we eat less, we might be able to afford the higher welfare when we treat ourselves.

Better for the planet, better for the animals, better for us.

Elsie's Corner

"Come work for the Lord"

The labour is intensive, the hours are long
and the pay is low, but the retirement benefits
are out of this world.

Christmas Tree Festival

'Eco' Christmas

Thank you to all who contributed to and supported our Christmas Tree festival this year. As always, there were some wonderful and inspiring exhibits.



See our website for a selection of photos.
www.stmarkswinshill.co.uk



St Mark's Church Yard Gardening

Saturday 16th January

10am-12pm weather permitting

Going forward we will be meeting on the first and third Saturday every month, weather permitting.

Please join us if you can. There is always much to do to keep the church grounds tidy and to keep on top of the brambles and scrub which encroach on our meadow meeting area beyond the overflow carpark. We have big plans for our outdoor space, but it will take time and many hands. New help is always welcome!



Children in Church Bumps, Babies and Beyond



In December we have been looking at the Christmas Story. We started with our very own Christingle and then learned about the birth of John the Baptist. This was followed by a wonderful Nativity service led by Revd Richard Tebbs, where all the parents, grandparents, volunteers and children followed the star up the aisle to the stable. The children, with the help of the adults, then put the characters in the stable scene as Richard read the story and we all sang some Christmas songs and carols.



The children have enjoyed playing, singing and doing many crafts. They are now settling into the routine which we have set up and are great at helping to tidy up the toys ready for snack time.

The babies are also well settled and move between the Lions Den and the main part of church to take part in different elements of the morning.



We enjoy seeing how comfortable the children are when they crawl from the Lions Den into church, push a dolls pram around the building, or giggle when the Vicar joins in with the dressing up!



Next term we some of our topics will include Epiphany, Noah's Ark and hedgehogs! (part of our learning about God's wonderful creation).

We would like to thank everyone who has baked cakes, knitted dolls clothes, prayed for us and shown an interest in what we do on Tuesday mornings: it is very much appreciated.

If you have a child or grandchild you would like to bring along on a Tuesday morning then we would love to see you between 10am -12pm.



Bumps, Babies and Beyond!

A quiet room for expectant* and new parents and carers of **babies** under 1 year old to meet and socialise. *3rd trimester onwards please

With free play for **toddlers** and their grown ups in church, followed by crafts and snack.

Join together at the end for family story and song time.

A place to make friends and play, for chat over tea, toast and cake, for quality family time shared together, and for discovering God's love.



St Mark's Church, Winshill Every Tuesday 10am-12pm

www.stmarkswinshill.co.uk

Lemon Curd

There is nothing quite like homemade lemon curd.

Zesty, buttery, sweet and creamy; heavenly on hot toast, or filling a simple sponge, (hard not to eat by the spoonful)! If you've not tried it before, I urge you to give it a go. It's a million miles away from the vivid gloopy stuff from big supermarkets.

A little effort makes for a wonderful result. Great for gifting too!

You could mix it up and try different citrus fruit. Lemon and Lime or lemon and Orange, or Grapefruit.. Just check your quantities are equal to that of lemons.

Makes approx. 3x 200g jars

Lasts up to 2 weeks in the fridge.

6 lemons—zest and juice

300g caster sugar

150g butter

6 eggs—beaten

- Combine the zest, juice, sugar and butter in a large bowl placed over a pan of simmering water, heat until the butter and sugar have all melted. (Make sure the simmering water doesn't touch the bowl, it's there to allow the heat to gently melt the ingredients.)
- Keep the bowl over the simmering water (check the pan doesn't boil dry), add the beaten eggs and gently whisk over the heat for approximately 10 minutes, until the mixture has thickened and coats the back of a spoon. It should resemble a pouring custard, it will thicken as it sets.
- Recommended step— carefully pour the mixture through a sieve into another large bowl or jug to remove the zest and any stray bits of egg (the albumen can appear like a gloopy string).
- Pour into sterilised jars and seal. (to sterilise your jars, make sure they are washed in hot soapy water, then either pour boiling water into them— or simply put on a tray in a hot oven for a few minutes.



For Interest — from the archives

Science and Religion

Part Five.

This is the fifth article of the series and by the end of it we will only have got as far as the end of Genesis, Chapter One, so there is still a lot of the Bible to go! In part four we saw how science tells us how God formed the planet Earth over billions of years and how, to do that, he made use of three types of fundamental physical processes. It seems that everything that happens in our material world is the result of one or other of them. To recap, these processes are either predictable; like planetary motion which follow certain set laws, random; like the result of throwing a dice or the ways in which atoms behave, and those which are a combination of the two; like weather systems that, although following laws, are nevertheless unpredictable.

Our story so far has reached a point in the creation, after billions of years, where our lifeless planet, the Earth, formless and empty, was orbiting the sun every three hundred and sixty five days whilst revolving about its axis once every twenty four hours. We have reached the point, as Genesis does in chapter one, verse six, where water begins to cover a large proportion of the surface of the earth. Genesis tells us that God achieved this by making a vault to separate the water under the vault from that above it and the vault he called sky. This was how the writers of Genesis explained the presence of water on the Earth and also the presence of a blue sky overhead, containing clouds. Without the science and observational abilities that we have at our fingertips today, this was the best the writers of Genesis could do but their account does imply that the massive quantity of water we have on our planet, today, came from the sky. Interestingly, this is how science explains its presence too.

We have seen how the Sun and Earth were formed through the action of one of our fundamental processes, gravitation, from a large molecular cloud left after a super novae. Hydrogen and oxygen were two of the elements making up a large part of this cloud and in areas far from the centre they combined, through random and non-random physical processes, to form water molecules. Far away from the heat of the sun these water molecules existed as ice and it is thought that comets and asteroids contained large quantities of it. Over millions of years these bodies collided with the Earth and released their water onto its surface and in this way, it is thought, the oceans gradually built up. If you look at the surface of the moon you will see that it is covered with craters resulting from similar collisions with meteorites, asteroids and comets. However, because the moon is much smaller than the Earth, its gravitational attraction could not retain the water

on its surface and so it evaporated away. The craters which formed on the Earth have been hidden by volcanic and tectonic plate action over the years due to the Earth's molten interior which the moon does not have.

So, as Genesis chapter one verses 6-10 tells us, God caused water to appear on the face of the Earth and it came from the sky. Not enough to cover the whole surface but just enough to allow for large oceans with areas of dry land. Science shows us the detail of how this happened. Through the action of our three fundamental processes, firstly to cause water to form on small heavenly bodies which then, under the influence of gravity, brought it to the surface of the Earth. Theology tells us that God was behind this process.

We have now arrived at Genesis chapter one, verse eleven, and from here to verse twenty eight we hear how God first brought vegetation and trees into existence on the land. Then, from verse twenty, living creatures in the water, birds in the air and living creatures also on the land. Finally, in verse twenty four, we hear that God made mankind in his likeness with dominion over all the plants and animals he had created.

Isn't it fascinating, that science tells us exactly the same thing. It fills in the details a bit and is a lot more nuanced but, essentially, it describes the creation of firstly vegetation, then fish, then animals and lastly mankind in exactly the same order. It also tells us that all of these things came from the land or, to put it another way, from the dust of the Earth.

The scientific detail is complex and I cannot give anything like a full account of how science explains the process by which human beings came into existence from the dust of the Earth. I therefore offer my apologies now to those who have studied the various scientific theories in any detail. Essentially, though, the process can be explained by reference to our three fundamental physical processes which have conspired together, over millions of years, to bring us to where we find ourselves today.

The story begins with a lifeless Earth which is partially covered with water. Where the water meets the land it successively covers and exposes it through the action of tides caused by the gravitational attraction of the moon. It is a very hot place, due to the action of our three processes in the sun, and contains all of the elements essential for the formation of life. These elements, hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, calcium, iron etc., had been formed in the heart of stars as explained in the last article again through the action of the three fundamental processes. In various places, over the surface of the planet, lakes and pools of water formed. These pools contained all of the atoms we find in the make up of plants and animals. Within these warm pools, perhaps aided by the energy from lightning strikes or lava flows, the first single celled organisms formed through the action of our physical processes. This happened some four billion years ago, soon after the

Earth had formed, and gradually, over many years, these initial cells evolved to become the first bacteria. This evolution continued and, over very long periods, multi celled organisms began to appear. These microscopic creatures preceded the coming of plant life which is believed to have evolved from a particular form of them, green algae. Algae can form today in still water anywhere, seemingly in a spontaneous fashion. Anybody who has a pond knows that only too well. It is thought that as long as 630 million years ago land plants began to evolve from a particular species of this green algae. Alongside the evolution of the land plants, the multi celled organisms were evolving rapidly until, some 500 million years ago, we reached the start of what is now known as the Cambrian Explosion. This was a relatively short evolutionary event during which most major animal types evolved as recorded in the fossil record. The event lasted for between 20 and 25 million years and over the following 70-80 million years the diversity of life we see today evolved. Eventually, and after many blind allies and diversions along the way, human beings evolved from other life forms. As Genesis tells us, we have truly been formed out of the dust of the Earth but it took millions of years for this to happen. It happened through the action of our three fundamental processes and we call the overall process 'Evolution by Natural Selection.'

Evolution by Natural Selection, or simply evolution, as I will call it, happens through the action of many different physical processes but they are all specific examples of one or other of our three fundamental types. In order to bring humankind into existence, out of the dust of the Earth, science points us towards these processes and theology tells us that, actually, the processes are the means by which God brought us into being.

Before we look at what this might mean for how we should understand God's action in the world, which I will begin in the next article, I would like to finish this article with a brief look at evolution.

Evolution is the process by which the dust of the Earth has been transformed into human beings. It involves the idea of descent with modification. In this the modification happens in gene frequency or, to put it another way, in the modification of the DNA molecules within cells. These DNA molecules consist of large numbers of atoms arranged in a particular sequence. The sequence of atoms determines the form of the organism. It is a code, if you like, for that particular organism and every time the cell divides the code is replicated in the new cell. Each of our cells contains the same DNA molecule but my DNA is slightly different to yours but a great deal different to that of a fly. When a cell divides, and our cells are dividing all the time, there is sometimes an error in the transcription of the DNA code and a slightly different DNA molecule results. This is known as a mutation and is the process by which change in organisms can occur. Mutations can be caused by other events such as radiation or chemical action. Mutations, though, are random, they cannot be predicted, they are indeterministic

and so they occur through one of our three types of fundamental processes. When a mutation occurs the organism can change and its offspring might show different traits to other offspring in the species. For example, giraffes might originally have had short necks but a random mutation in their DNA might have occurred, resulting in giraffes with long necks so that the species then had two different types. Giraffes with long necks and giraffes with short necks. This is where the idea of natural selection comes in. The giraffes with long necks could reach food sources higher up in trees so more food would have been available to them. The long necked giraffes therefore had an advantage, more available food. Over many years this would result in there being a greater number of long necked giraffes than short necked ones until, eventually, there were only long necked ones and all the short necked examples would have died out. This is an example of evolution by selection. A mutation leads to change within a species resulting in a slightly different species taking the place of the original one. This process has been going on for millions of years and we see it today in the Covid virus with the rise of Omicron. Many individual small changes in organisms, due to mutations over extremely long time periods, leading to massive changes overall. Hey presto. The first single celled organisms that developed in the warm rock pools when the Earth was formed, four billion years ago, have evolved through many small changes, due to mutations, into us.

On the face of it we have two competing theories for answering the question, 'how did we get here?' The scientific one which tells us it happened over very long periods of time as a result of evolution due to our fundamental physical processes. This is the view of the fundamentalistic scientists, the atheists, who point to the scientific theory and say they have it all worked out, we don't need God to explain our existence. Then we have the fundamentalistic believers, I say believers, rather than Christians, because fundamentalism is not confined to Christianity. These fundamentalistic believers hold that the Bible is literally true. That, about six thousand years ago, God created the universe in the form we see it today over a period of six earthly days. That He created a man, Adam, out of some dirt and then a wife for him, Eve, out of one of his ribs. They refute the scientific explanation entirely and say that the things science reveals that support the scientific theory, like the fossil record, were put there by God at the creation. They accept, it seems, that by doing this God attempted to deceive humanity by creating a world that cried out in its very structure a story of evolution but in reality God had spoken and the world had appeared, from nothing.

We don't, however, need to hold either of these two extreme views. Which is just as well because they are both misguided. If we accept both accounts, science and theology, treating science as descriptive, answering the question, 'how,' whilst the other, theology, answering the question, 'why,' we will arrive at a better understanding of reality

which, ultimately, both disciplines set out to achieve.

I have now written far too much for this month's article so I will have to leave the matter there for the moment. Over the course of the next few articles I will look at what some of the consequences are when we accept that both science and theology are correct. The consequences are extremely interesting and enable us to answer many of the questions which have plagued religion for years.

Mervyn John

From January 2013 - anonymous

New Year Resolution

Have you made yours yet?

I do, every 1st January, I promise to try harder to be a nicer person. Of course I don't change, and in a few weeks (maybe days) I am back where I was before.

If you are going to make a resolution, it has to be measurable. You need a starting point and a finishing point with stage pointers to make sure you are on track. Things like, by the end of the year my bedroom will be extremely tidy, so at the end of each month a stage has to be achieved, by the end of January I will put my lovely, clean, just ironed clothes away as soon as they are ready, followed by the end of February, I will put all my dirty washing in the wash basket.

So each stage can be measured. Of course, if a stage is missed, is there going to be a penalty, and who is going to judge? Since the resolution is mine, and I am the judge, would I really set myself penalties?

So, what is my New Year Resolution this year? I have a few; to speak to friends more frequently, to phone my relatives regularly and to visit more than I do. To ask after someone's health and listen to the answer, and be supportive when I can. When I promise to do something, to do it, no excuses, but the one I really want to keep above all others is to write everything on the calendar so I don't forget an important appointment, whether it be friend, family, hospital or dentist. Together with all the scheduled appointments I could also add all those extra phone calls and visits.

I might need a bigger calendar!
So what is yours?

Garden Hints for December

In memory of John and Margaret Thacker, we are continuing with Garden Notes and the following notes were published in 2002.

Seeds. Look at your seed catalogues and get your order off as soon as possible to make sure you get any new varieties that may be in short supply.

Tools. Clean, oil and put away any tools not needed during the Winter. Send mowers, cultivators, shears, trimmers and hedge trimmers to be sharpened and serviced.

Bulbs. Bring in bulbs for indoor flowering, as they become ready, any which have finished flowering can be planted out in odd corners of the garden.

Greenhouses. Vines root quite easily from cuttings – take some now from existing plants. Bubble insulation is a good ideal in greenhouses, especially if you heat yours in order to reduce ever increasing fuel bills. Sow seeds of Spring onions and radishes in the greenhouse border or in grow bags for some tasty early crops.

Biennials. Freezing weather may cause the roots of Sweet William, Wall Flowers and Polyanthus to lift from the soil, firm back into position as quickly as possible. Sow Begonia seed, Gloxinias and Streptocarpus in a heated propagator.

A happy New Year in the garden to you all. JST



For Fun

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

WORDSEARCH

British rivers

AVON
CALDER
CLYDE
DERWENT
FLEET
FORTH
IRWELL
MEDWAY
MERSEY
OUSE
SEVERN
SPEY
STOUR
TAMAR
THAMES
TRENT
TWEED
TYNE
WEAR
WHARFE

My apologies for the error in last month's Sudoku. To make amends, have two this month. Helen

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

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		2			7			
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			4			9		
	9		7			6		
6				8			5	1