

Winshill Parish Magazine

November 2021



St Mark's Church

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

www.stmarkswinshill.co.uk



Services for November 2021

Sunday	Readings	Time	Service & Church
7th November 3rd before Advent	Jonah 3.1-5,10 Psalm 62.5-12 Hebrews 9.24-28 Mark 1.14-20	09.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>St Wystan's</i>
		10.45	Parish Eucharist St Mark's
		18.00	All Souls service St Marks
14th November Remembrance Sunday	tbc	10.45	<i>Remembrance</i> <i>St Wystan's</i> <i>OUTSIDE</i>
		10.45	Remembrance St Mark's OUTSIDE
		18.00	Holy Communion St Marks
21st November Christ the King	Daniel 7.9-10,13,14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1.4b-8 John 18.33-37	09.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>St Wystan's</i>
		10.45	Parish Eucharist St Mark's
		18.00	Café Church St Marks
28th November Advent Sunday	Jeremiah 33.14-16 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 Luke 21.25-36	09.15	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>St Wystan's</i>
		10.45	Service of the word with Holy Communion St Mark's

A note from the Vicar

BIG WORLD - little me...

The eyes of the world media will be looking to Glasgow from 31st of October to 12th November 2021, and ours should be looking and watching as well.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Why should this matter to me?

What can I do?

The world is so BIG and I am so small.

Surely what happens at the Vicarage, or your home will have no impact on helping restore this planet?

I have copied from the COP26 briefing material the aims of what is seen as a landmark conference. Much of it is about big deal things, for Government intervention, putting in place policy and helping with financial assistance. Yes we need that big stuff put in place, we need assistance to help change our homes and the way we use energy, but there are always little things that each one of us can do now, which collectively will have an impact on the climate for good. Small things like using less single-use plastic, turning the tap off as you brush your teeth, only turning it on for the rinse stage. Turning the heating down by 1 degree and putting on an extra jumper. Walking more, using the car less. Eating less meat... wasting less food... there are so many small things that we can do. Each little change, multiplied, becomes something bigger.

We will though need to make some bigger changes going forward. At the time of writing Air Source Heat Pumps are in the news with a Government subsidy promised to help us move away from Gas boilers. I will need to change my car to Electric, and if I want to fly overseas, I will need to offset the flight.

As Christians and as a Church we have a duty to care for and to be stewards of God's Created Order. The Anglican Church has Marks of Mission, with the 5th mark of Mission stating that we should:
'Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'

We do that alongside the other 4 marks:

Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers.

Responding to human need by loving service and seeking to transform unjust structures of society, and challenge violence of every kind, pursuing peace and reconciliation.

If such catchy strap lines don't work for you, we can go back to the Gospels and the great commandments Jesus underlined for us.

'Love God with all that you have, and your neighbour as yourself.'

Whichever way we cut it we are called to love and to care not just for ourselves but for those who share this world with us. We might not like everyone in the world, but we are not called to like, but to love. And in loving we are compelled to care. 'Who is our neighbour?' It is the person next door, but also the refugee, the victims of drought, flood and fire, the person on a Pacific Island watching the sea levels rise. Humanity is our neighbour and that includes where they live the land and creatures they share it with.

These are big challenges, but together with prayer and action we can help bring about radical change for the whole of Gods created order.

Philip

For a copy of the full briefing notes: <https://ukcop26.org>

COP stands for Conference of the Parties.

Parties are the signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994 which has 197 Parties (196 countries and the EU). The 2021 conference, hosted by the UK, together with our partners Italy, in Glasgow, will be the 26th meeting of the Parties, which is why it's called COP26. United Nations climate change conferences are among the largest international meetings in the world. The negotiations between governments are complex and involve officials from every country in the world as well as representatives from civil society and the global news media.

The 4 main aims of this year's conference are: *(on the next page..)*

The 4 main aims of this year's COP26 conference are:

SECURE GLOBAL NET ZERO BY MIDCENTURY AND KEEP 1.5 DEGREES WITHIN REACH.

Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets (NDCs) that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to accelerate the phaseout of coal, encourage investment in renewables, curtail deforestation and speed up the switch to electric vehicles.

ADAPT TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL HABITATS.

The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects. At COP26 we need to work together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to protect and restore ecosystems, build defences, put warning systems in place and make infrastructure and agriculture more resilient to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and lives.

MOBILISE FINANCE.

To realise our first two goals, developed countries must deliver on their promise to raise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year. International financial institutions must play their part and we need to work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.

WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER.

We can only rise to the challenges of climate change by working together. At COP26 we must finalise the Paris Rulebook (the rules needed to implement the Paris Agreement). And, we have to turn our ambitions into action by accelerating collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society to deliver on our climate goals faster.

St Mark's News and Events

your invitation...

This is an open invitation to join Bishop Libby as she 'tours' each Deanery before Advent for an open time of question and answer.

Day: *Saturday 6th November*

Time: *9.30am-12noon*

Where: *St Marks, Winhill*

We will be starting with Coffee/Tea and pastries followed by a short service.

10.00am - Q&A time lead by Bishop Libby



Church Hill Street, Winhill, Burton upon Trent, DE15 0HS
There is a carpark up the drive next to the church.

Licensing. Sunday 28th November

At Immanuel Church Stapenhill, starting at 4pm Revd Philip Boshier will be licensed and inducted as Priest in Charge of Immanuel Church Stapenhill, Revd Frank Startin will be licensed as Associate Priest of Immanuel Church Stapenhill

The service will be conducted by The Bishop of Repton (Bishop Malcolm)

Light Refreshments will follow the Service. (Restrictions permitting)
All are welcome to attend.



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.



All Souls Service **A Service of Remembering**

**Sunday 31st October and
Sunday 7th November 2021**

**Starting at 6pm, with the Church open for
refreshment from 5pm.**

Last year we were unable to hold our All Souls Service in person.
This Year we will hold it over two Sunday evenings
allowing us to invite all those who couldn't attend last year
as well as those we have ministered to this year.

The services are open to all who wish to remember those
whom they love but see no longer, no matter when they died.

There will be the opportunity during the service
to light a candle and to remember by name.

All Welcome.

Remembrance Sunday

14th November 2021
10.45am
In the Church Yard



We will again meet outside church for our Remembrance Service,
forming up on the grass area near to the main entrance.

It will be amplified, there will be hymns, and wreaths will be laid.
If we please dress appropriately and bring an umbrella.
There will be limited seating for those who find it difficult to stand for a
length of time.

If you are driving please come extra early as the drive will be shut at
10.45am.

Experience Harvest

Thank you to all who helped make this such a success. We delivered 11 sessions over two weeks to approximately 340 children.

We delivered XP Harvest to Key Stage 2 Children, and we would like to deliver XP Christmas to Key Stage 1 children in the build up to Christmas.

Please see below for details:



XP Christmas

A chance to share the great narrative of Christmas in an interactive way with KS1 children.

8 sessions spread over 2 ½ weeks

Each session is 1½ hours. There is a script for each station.

We need 6 people per session.



The dates for XP CHRISTMAS are:

WVPS	TVS
Tues 30 th Nov - PM	Fri 10 th Dec - AM
Wed 1 st Dec - PM	Mon 13 th Dec – AM & PM
Thur 2 nd Dec - PM	Tues 14 th Dec - PM
	Wed 15 th Dec - PM

If you are able to help, please either contact the Vicar, (phone and email are on the contacts page) or sign up on the sheet at the back of St Marks Church.



**21st November
6pm in St Marks**

An informal time of
worship in a café style.

Coffee - Cake - Chat

Reading - Discussion - Prayer

Music - Silence - Fellowship

Come with an open mind and an open heart and bring a friend.
Everyone is very welcome.

Social Committee Programme, 2021.

After the major break in our events during the COVID pandemic, this is what we will be doing for the rest of this year.

- Coffee and cake will be served from 5pm at the Services for All Souls on 31st October and 7th November.
- The bazaar this year will be replaced by a social afternoon on Saturday 27th November between 2pm and 4pm in church. There will be refreshments, raffle and surprises!!
- The Christmas Tree Festival will be held Thurs 2nd – Sat 4th December. The theme is "Eco Christmas". See the detailed schedule on the next page. Looking forward to seeing your creations!
- There will be mince pies and other refreshments with the carols and readings at the evening service at 6pm on 19th December.
- Unfortunately we will NOT be arranging a Christmas lunch this year, but there will be details of our events in 2021 in the December magazine.

St Mark's Church Winshill Christmas Tree Festival December 2nd - 4th 2021

Theme: "Eco Christmas!"

Timetable:

Wed 1 st Dec	Exhibitors set up trees in church between noon and 2pm
Thurs 2 nd - Sat 4 th Dec	Festival open for visitors 10am – 4pm. Refreshments available
Mon 6 th Dec	Exhibitors collect trees from church between noon and 2pm.



Details for exhibitors:

In summary, exhibitors bring their decorated tree to the church, where it is displayed for the period of the festival, and collect it at the end. The theme for the festival this year is 'Eco Christmas!' We hope this will give you lots of design ideas!

Trees may be traditional, fresh, evergreen, or artificial, or made from cut twigs or branches, or cardboard, wood, metal, reused or recycled plastic, etc.

Trees should be a maximum of 1.5metres tall and 1 metre wide. You could make a forest of small trees if you like.

Trees may be any colour.

Decorations may be any style: a single colour theme; Christmas symbols (bells, stars, angels); hand crafted (knitted, salt dough shapes, handprints); telling the Christmas story; crackers or presents, etc.

Any lights used to decorate the tree **MUST** be battery powered.

Exhibitors should provide a laminated A4 label with their name/name of their organisation and a title/theme for your tree, so that visitors can identify your handiwork. Please also include a couple of sentences to tell visitors how your tree meets the 'Eco Christmas' theme.

Please let me know as soon as possible (and by Sunday 21st November at the latest) if you would like to take part.

If you need further information please contact Janice Barratt
Tel 01283 534960 Email janicebarratt@yahoo.co.uk
We look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Shoe Boxes

We are once again be collecting shoeboxes for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. Leaflets will be available in church from the beginning of October and there are some shoeboxes which will also be made available. Please pay careful attention to what can/cannot go in the box. Thank you.



The filled shoeboxes will need to be in church by **Sunday 22nd November.**

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Outside steps

We apologise for the inconvenience of the temporary closure of the steps leading up to St Mark's from Church Hill. Concerns over their safety have been raised and to ensure no one comes to any harm when using them they are closed until they can be made safe.

We are making plans for a future project to find a long-term safe solution for pedestrians walking up to church, but for now we hope to simply make the existing steps safe for the winter. We will try to have them back in usable order as soon as we can.

In the meantime, drivers, please be aware that pedestrians take priority on the road. Please hang back and wait for them the ascend or descend. Walkers should not need to step into the gutter or onto the grass.

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Bible Study



We hope to restart St Mark's Bible Study in the New Year.

The date of Tuesday 18th January at 10:00 am in the vestry has been suggested for our first meeting.

More information from Philip or Robert Baker.

Robert Baker's Hymn of the Month



Nearer my God to Thee

Hymn number 348 in our green hymn books.
Written by Mrs Sarah Adams (1805-48)

Mrs Adams was born in Harlow, Essex and was a close friend of Robert Browning, the poet.
Her hymn 'Nearer my God to Thee' is based on the story of Jacob's dream at Bethel. (Genesis 28 verses 10-22)

At the time of its writing, it brought controversy because it did not mention Christ. Therefore, it was considered unsuitable for worship in Trinitarian Churches.

The best-known tune for this hymn is 'Horburg' by John Bacchus Dyke (1823-76).

Was this the hymn that the band played on the Titanic as it sank after hitting an iceberg on 14th April 1912? There are conflicting reports about this, other hymns having been suggested include 'The Year is Swiftly Waning' and 'He leadeth me! O blessed thought'.

Keep Calm

When trouble threatens everywhere – and there is danger in the air – Maybe it is just a scare Keep calm.

The wise are steady, quiet and cool, knowing the wisdom of the rule ... keep calm.

Take your line – and do not swerve – left or right; control your nerve, keep something in reserve – be calm. Even when last hopes have fled – and the storm breaks o'er your head – You'll be strengthened; you'll be led ... Keep calm.

Love to Sing?

I love to sing! I have always loved to sing, although now after a lot of years, my voice is a bit croaky.

One of my fondest memories was when I was a member of the inter-schools' choir and we sang in Holy Trinity Church in Horninglow Street - many years ago now.

St Marks has always had a lovely choir, so it was very sad when we could not sing or have the choir sing in church for the last eighteen months or so, although it was wonderful the way St Marks has kept open for worship.

Hearing that we had a new organist coming to our church was wonderful news and then when Simon our new Organist and Master of Music said he was to start the choir again that was perfect. It was announced that choir members and anyone wishing to just sing with perhaps a view to joining the choir should go along on a Wednesday evening to sing along.

I did not go then as I thought there would be many turning up, but unfortunately that proved incorrect, as many of the former choir had either found a closer church to attend or had other plans.

That persuaded me that my slightly croaky voice might after all be a little use, so I went along. Together with six or seven others, I had a wonderful time and now I love every minute of the practice, and on Sunday mornings helping to lead in the hymns we love to sing. But we do need some more voices so please - if like me you love to sing, come along at seven on a Wednesday evening and join us, so we can fill the choir stalls and help to lead the congregation in "singing praises" to the Lord our God.

Let us fill St Marks with happy prayerful music.

Shirley Harrison





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 4. Pray, for wisdom to know how to do better.

Pray for you, for us, and for the leaders meeting at Cop26 that brave commitments will be made and kept.

Our Eco-tips are usually practical snippets of advise and ideas, but to pray earnestly for wisdom and guidance, for help to do what we know is right even (especially) when it is hard is practical too. Go back to page 4 and re-read Philip’s ‘note from the Vicar’. Then set aside time to stop and pray, for you and for our world leaders to make the changes needed to make a difference and to do what is right and what is needed.

Elsie's Corner

“What, giving again?”

I asked in a daze,

“And must I keep giving, and giving always?”

“Oh no!” said the Angel

Whose eyes pierced me through.

“Just stop when the Saviour stops giving to you.”

Bumps, Babies and Beyond!

A quiet room for **babies** under 1 year,
with play for **toddlers** in the main church
and family story and song time to end.

Crafts, fun and snacks for children.
Coffee, cake and chat for adults.



St Mark's Church, Winshill

Every Tuesday 10am-12pm

A place to make friends, for quality family time
shared together, and for discovering God's love.

www.stmarkswinshill.co.uk

Starting from Tuesday 2nd November!

Bumps, Babies and Beyond



St Mark's Children in Church team are very excited to be expanding our existing Bumps and Babies group to now welcome children up to school age too!

We have been very busy planning sessions, contacting previous attendees and baptism families, sourcing equipment and seeking funding.

THANK YOU to Winshill Parish Council for their generous funding which will enable us to purchase toddler tables, chairs and a 'tuff tray' (used for messy and sensory play). Thanks also to those who have donated toys, in particular The Community Church in Stapenhill, and those who knitted dolly clothes.

We will continue to welcome parents and carers with babies under one year old in the Lions Den. We think it is so essential for there to be a designated space that is safe for tiny ones, where they can interact with other babies without being run over by toddlers, and for new parents to chat freely and seek advice and friendship from one another.

From Tuesday 2nd November toddlers and their parents/carers will be using the space at the back church for free-play for the first hour, followed by snacks and bible themed craft, then family story and song time which we hope all will join in for.

If you are interested in bringing your little one to the group then please contact Claire Smith on 07890 127848, or email hello@stmarshinshill.co.uk

If you would like to volunteer your time to come and help out, or bake us a cake we would love to hear from you! Please speak to Claire Smith after church one day or on the number above.

There are still items we would like to purchase and there will be an ongoing cost for craft supplies and snacks, so if you can offer a monetary donation please pop it on the offering plate in an envelope marked 'Toddler group'.

Finally and most importantly, please pray for us, that this new venture will be well received, that those who need it will find us, and that we will all remain safe and well, and that God's love will be shown through us.

Thank you!

For Interest

Houseplant profile

House plant of the month

Calathea Often known as the prayer plant.

There are many Calatheas to choose from. Mine is the beautiful Compact Star, but you could go for something with huge rounded leaves like the Orbiflora, the stunningly patterned Medallion, or one with long, wiggly edged leaves like the Elgergrass. A lovely feature that gives it the name of 'prayer plant' is that by night its leaves lift upwards as if emulating praying hands.



Location. This is one that rather likes a shady spot, (perfect for my dark house). It would prefer somewhere with decent humidity so could be very happy in a bathroom or even a steamy kitchen.

Planting medium. A nice houseplant compost should do, alternatively add some vermiculite or grit to your usual compost. It won't like to be waterlogged– nor to dry out entirely.

Watering. Allow the top layer of soil to dry out between watering. It likes humidity but won't thank you for letting it sit in soggy soil. Underwatering can cause the leaves to curl inwards, so this is a handy sign. Some people place them on a pebble tray to help increase humidity levels.

Care. Likely to be unhappy with usual tap water, so allow it to stand in a jug for a day before watering to let the chlorine dissipate.

Propagation. The best way to propagate a Calathea is by division. If in the spring you notice yours looks to be outgrowing its pot, use a clean sharp blade to splice it into two or more pieces, ensuring each division has plenty of healthy roots.

*DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE HOUSEPLANT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?
Let me know and have a 'guest slot'.*

Advise on plant care varies depending on the book, blog or website you look at. So if you disagree let me know and I'll make a note in next months mag. Helen

Little Cherry Bakewell Buns

A simple variation to your normal fairy cake/bun

100g soft baking spread
100g sugar
75g self raising flour
25g ground almonds
1tsp baking powder
2 eggs
1/2 tsp almond extract

180g (ish!) sifted icing sugar—*I rarely measure it.*

Just enough lemon juice or water to make a thick icing—*go slow, don't add too much at once it will always take less liquid than you think and you want a thick icing that will stay on the top of the bun and not run onto your plate.*

6 glace cherries, halved. *I tend to pop the cherries in a little bowl of hot water to wash off the sticky syrup. Make sure they are thoroughly dry before putting them on your buns.*

Preheat oven to 180/160°C fan

Prepare a 12 hole bun tin with cases—*Note, bun/fairy cake cases are far shorter than muffin or cup cake cases.*

Using your preferred method (stand mixer, electric beater or a wooden spoon), beat together your main bun ingredients (creaming the fat and sugar first if you wish, or throw it all in together).

Divide equally into your 12 cases and bake for 17-20 mins, or until they are just nicely browned. You can always use a cake tester if you are not sure, but try not to overbake or they will quickly dry out.

Once completely cool, top with a teaspoon of icing and half a cherry.



Community News and Events



WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Following the service in the church, a small ceremony will be held at the Peace Wood for the laying of wreaths in memory those who sacrificed their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts.

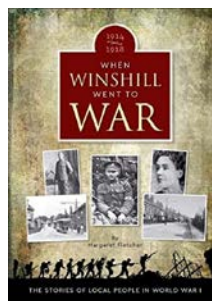
This will take place at 12.30 p.m. on Sunday, 14th November.

They are also remembered in the two books written by Margaret Fletcher and sponsored by Winshill Parish Council.

When Winshill Went To War – WW2 will be available at the ceremony and can be obtained for a suggested donation of £4.

All donations will go towards the future development of the Peace Wood. The book can also be obtained from the Resource Centre or by ringing Margaret Fletcher on 01283 568218

The booklet describes Winshill as it was at the time and tells the stories of the 33 men and one woman who died in the war. These stories are enhanced by the memories of families and friends who lived in Winshill during WW2. You can read about the one woman who was killed in a tragic aircraft accident, the prisoner of war who endured the *Death March*, the sailor who went down with the *Royal Oak* in Scapa Flow and share the memories of a Winshill woman who was a Land Girl.



When Winshill Went to War – WW1 sold 500 copies and is now out of print. However, Kindle editions can be obtained from Amazon for £3.

Both books keep alive the history of the village and it's families for future generations and provoke memories for residents past and present.

COVID MEMORIAL TREE

The Parish Council funded and planted a Copper Beech tree in the Peace Wood in memory of those who either died of the Covid virus or lost their lives during the pandemic. It is there, particularly, for the families who were denied the opportunity to say their final goodbyes in the way they would have liked.



A short service of dedication will be held at the Covid Memorial Tree on Sunday, 14th November at 12.30pm and will follow the Remembrance Day activities.

WINSHILL IN BLOOM



Despite the difficulties of the past year, we have managed to keep the planting in Winshill looking as good as ever and again entered the Royal Horticultural Society's *Heart of England in Bloom*.

Winshill obtained its seventh Gold Award in the Urban category and the Mill Hill Lane Park (which includes the Peace Wood) was awarded Gold in the *Parks and Open Spaces* category. In the category entitled *It's Your Neighbourhood*, the Resource Centre in Canterbury Road was awarded the top award of *Outstanding*. *In the same category* Newton Road Wildlife Woodland obtained the second award of *Thriving* and Wyndham Crescent residents achieved the third award of *Improving*.

Our congratulations and thanks go to all those who helped in any way.



Do you have any news you would like to share?
Or perhaps some writing or a picture that could others will find interesting? Are you part of a community group with an upcoming event?

Let us know by contacting Pat
kp.mannclan@gmail.com 01283 516605

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



It doesn't seem possible that it is half term already. It has been a busy period for the Cubs and Scouts. There are no camps yet – or days out – but they will come. We are busy getting all the badge work up to date, doing the things we have to do face-to-face. We have even done some investitures in the Meadow at St Mark's Church.

There are spaces in Cubs and Scouts – so if you know of a young person wishing to join – give us a shout.

Beavers are still waiting. I am sorry it is taking longer than expected. We had some discussion on whether to bring them into the church grounds. It is easier when there are experienced young people, but the Beavers will be starting completely new – with no "old hands" to show the way. The decision was taken to start the Beavers when we can get back into the Scout Hut. It seems a long time, but return is getting closer all the time. We are operating a waiting list for Beavers, so if you know of a young person, boy or girl, between 6 and 8 years, get in touch.

For Interest — from the archives

From November 2002 magazine

Poem

Each of us need a quiet place
Wherein to meet God face to face.
A very private interlude,
In which no other may intrude.
There are things one cannot share
With another anywhere,
Feelings that the heart has known.
Only meant for God alone.
And entering a quiet place,
Speak to your maker, face to face.

Science and Religion

Part Three.

Last month we saw that some processes in God's creation follow laws and because of that they are predictable. If this were not the case then we wouldn't know, from one minute to the next, what would happen because of the things we did, and our lives would be unbearable. We can predict with certainty things like the paths of the moon and planets in the heavens so we know when eclipses will occur. We can also predict that aircraft will lift off the ground when they reach a certain speed which is a useful thing to know if we are about to go on holiday in one. God has made his creation in such a way that many things that happen follow certain set rules and these rules can be discerned by us. God, it seems, is a God of order and regularity. The weather, too, follows physical laws which we can determine. In this case, though, the laws are complicated and are also dependent on many factors that cannot be measured accurately. Because of this we cannot predict the weather over more than just a few days and even then, our predictions are little more than an educated guess. There are many other systems, such as certain types of pendulums, for example, whose future states cannot be predicted with any degree of accuracy at all. These are known as chaotic systems and although they follow set physical laws, they are extremely unpredictable. God, it seems, has also decreed that some events in his creation can be very difficult, if not impossible, to predict.

Another type of phenomena which occurs in God's created world are random events and these, by their nature, are impossible to predict. If you were to throw a dice it would be impossible to predict what number would come up. A fact that makes the National Lottery jackpot beyond the reach of all but a few of us. Picking out one card from a pack of fifty-two is another random event and what card we pick cannot be determined beforehand. When bees fly around a bed of flowers their paths cannot be predicted and they are essentially random. God, it seems, has also decreed that in his creation there will not only be order and regularity, but randomness will also play a major part.

There are passages in the Bible that recognise randomness in creation. In Luke (1:9) Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was chosen by lot, the equivalent of throwing a dice, to go into the temple to burn incense. In John (19:24) the soldiers cast lots to see who will get the clothes of Jesus. Matthias, the disciple who replaced Judas Iscariot, was chosen by lot. In Numbers (33:54) the land is distributed amongst the tribes according to lot. There are many other references in the Old

Testament where decisions are made according to random processes like throwing a dice in an attempt to discern God's will. The people of Israel recognised that random processes occur and believed that God would show them how to take decisions through those processes. Randomness, though, doesn't only occur in things like throwing dice. It is also an inherent part of the structure of creation. If we look at God's creation in detail, we find that matter is composed of atoms. They are very, very tiny, about 50,000 of them in the width of a single human hair. They consist of a dense nucleus made up of tiny particles of energy called protons and neutrons, surrounded by a cloud of electrons. Different elements have different quantities of these elementary particles. Uranium, for example, has a nucleus made up of 92 protons and 142 neutrons surrounded by a cloud of 92 electrons. Uranium, though, is an unstable radioactive element because sometimes uranium atoms spontaneously release alpha particles (two protons bound to two neutrons) and in so doing change into a different atom. These emissions occur randomly and for individual atoms it is not possible to predict when they will occur. This is not because we haven't yet discovered how to predict their occurrence but is because the emissions are inherently random. The decay of a uranium atom into something else happens, but when it is going to happen, is unpredictable.

The world of these elementary objects, which make up all the matter in the universe, is a very strange world indeed. The particles sometimes behave as if they were waves and sometimes, they behave like point like objects, particles. The interesting thing is the fact that they behave like waves when they are not being observed but as soon as they are observed, or measured, they behave like particles. When measured the wave is said to 'collapse' into a particle. As a wave they do not exist at a particular location but are spread out like a wave on the surface of a pond when a stone is dropped into it. One of the consequences of this wave-particle duality is that it is impossible to determine simultaneously both a particles position and its velocity. A velocity, of course, has speed and direction so this means that if we were to find out where the particle is we cannot know where it is going. Conversely, if we measure its speed and direction of travel we don't know where it started from. This means that for the things that make up everything in the universe we cannot predict what they are going to do. Unlike the planets, whose mode of travel through space can be predicted, the way in which elementary particles travel through space is completely unpredictable.

In the very small, God's creation is not deterministic at all, and this indeterminism is a structural part of it. The indeterminism isn't due to a lack of knowledge on our part either. It isn't that we haven't yet discovered the laws which would enable us to measure both the

location and speed of an elementary particle. Knowledge of these two things is mutually exclusive. If we observe one accurately the other really is totally random and unobservable. God's creation is inherently indeterministic, even for God.

It is recorded in the Gospel of John (16:12-15) that Jesus said this. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth." So, there is much more to find out about God than has been revealed by Jesus during his time on our planet. Some of these further truths were discerned by Saint Paul and others and were recorded in the letters and other books of the New Testament. The process of finding out about God, though, through the help of the Holy Spirit, has continued since the early days of the church. The process continues today, and many people believe that by understanding the way in which God has put his creation together we can learn even more about him.

This is the endeavour on which we are currently engaged and so far, we have found that God has decreed that his creation should work in at least three ways. Firstly, in accordance with processes that are predictable through laws which we can discover. Secondly in random ways that are totally unpredictable and thirdly in ways that are essentially a combination of these two, randomness governed by law. In future articles we will look at how these processes have conspired together to bring into existence conscious creatures with freewill like ourselves. Part of this will involve a consideration of Darwin's theory of evolution and another part will require us to think about some current ideas relating to the origin of consciousness.

Mervyn John

Garden Hints for November



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

Now that there is not so much to do in the garden it is time to check your mower, strimmer, hedge cutters, clean and overhaul. If they need sharpening and you cannot do it yourself arrange to have them done professionally. Clean and oil spades, forks and small hand tools.

Dahlia Tubers. Should be dried off, checked and any damaged parts removed.

Geraniums. Check for rot, pick all dead leaves off, check cuttings.

Lawns. Keep lawns free of leaves and debris.

Bulbs. Bulbs in pots - If keeping them in a dark cupboard check that they are alright. Bulbs in the ground—Continue to plant any bulbs in the garden while there is still a little warmth.
Amaryllis Bulbs. Can be potted up now for a display at Christmas.

Winter Bedding. Garden centres are now selling many winter flowering plants. Colourful cabbages make a great display as do winter flowering pansies and polyanthus. Also wallflowers but with wallflowers watch out for club root

Winter Digging. Now is the time to dig heavy ground so that the Winter frosts will break down heavy cloggy soil.

Roses. Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses can be pruned now. Cut stems down by a third and finish the job off in early spring. This prevents young exposed buds from breaking into growth and being damaged by frost.

Chrysanthemums. Early outdoor varieties should be lifted and over wintered in a cold frame. Then put in trays or boxes to prevent damage from either cold or slugs.

Seeds. Sow seeds of Alpines and hardy Perennials in pots and leave outside in a cold frame.

For Fun

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

WORDSEARCH

Back onto the cricket theme, but this time T20 World Cup nations.

- AFGANISTAN
- AUSTRALIA
- BANGLADESH
- ENGLAND
- INDIA
- IRELAND
- NAMIBIA
- NETHERLANDS
- NEW ZEALAND
- OMAN
- PAKISTAN
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- SCOTLAND
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SRI LANKA
- WEST INDIES

CROSS

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