

Winshill Parish Magazine

September 2021



St Mark's Church

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

www.stmarkswinshill.co.uk



Services for September 2021

Season of Creation & the Environment

Sunday	Readings	Time	Service & Church
5th September Sowing	Genesis 1.9-13 2 Corinthians 9.9-11a Matthew 13.1-9	09.15 10.45 18.00	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>St Wystan's</i> Parish Eucharist St Mark's Evensong 1662 St Marks
12th September Growing	Ezekiel 47.[1-6a] 6b-12 Psalm 147.1-13 Philippians 4.4-7 Matthew 6.7-15	09.15 10.45 18.00	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>St Wystan's</i> Family Service St Mark's Holy Communion St Marks
19th September Gathering	Leviticus 23.9-14 James 5.7-9 Matthew 15.32-39	09.15 10.45 18.00	<i>Service of the Word</i> <i>St Wystan's</i> Parish Eucharist St Mark's Café Church St Marks
26th September Treasuring Harvest Festival	Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Colossians 1.1-15 Luke 12.16-30	09.15 10.45	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>St Wystan's</i> Harvest Festival with Holy Communion St Mark's

Covid Safe in church.

Whilst restrictions have been lifted, we continue to be cautious. Any specific church recommendations will be given on the notice sheet week by week.

If you are unwell or have symptoms, please stay at home and follow NHS advice.

A note from the Vicar

The Season of Creation and the Environment

1st – 30th September 2021



During September our focus through worship, study and action will be God's created order, the world in which we live and our call to be stewards and fellow workers with God in its care.

We cannot escape the news of changes in weather patterns around the world, from wild fires to torrential rain, heat bubbles to flash flooding. There is concern for the global temperature that is rising and the effects on all creation. Sadly it is the poor who feel the impact first, from inequality of technology and better commercial practices to help mitigate climate effects, to the simplicity of rising sea levels causing their land to disappear.

These are headline grabbing events, but perhaps the most important event on the global stage is the upcoming COP26 gathering in Scotland in October, where governments, world leaders and their representatives will come together to, we hope and pray, make short, medium and long-term commitments to reduce the impact of humanity on the world. The talking, whilst not easy, is only the start, it will be the delivery of those commitments that count.

As a Church we have our part to play, not as political leaders, although our voice matters, not necessarily as radical activists, although our actions matter, but as people who have it in their Christian DNA the understanding that the World is God's and we have been called to share with God in its beauty but also in its care.

We have a prayer that we use at the offertory at our services from time to time, 'all things come from you and of your own do we give you...'

All things come from God, it has always been God's gift to us, but with that gift comes responsibility. We know that we are called to respond by caring and cherishing that gift and we perhaps need to be more overt in doing this.

This is not new, Julian of Norwich, Spiritual writer in the 14th/15th

Century wrote in her Revelations of the Divine the following:

'And he showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered, 'What is this?' And the answer came, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled that it continued to exist and did not suddenly disintegrate; it was so small. And again my mind supplied the answer, 'It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it.' In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God. In this 'little thing' I saw three truths. The first is that God made it; the second is that God loves it; and the third is that God sustains it.'

Through this season and beyond, our focus is on those three truths, God made it, God loves it, God Sustains it, and within these truths we have our part to play. Our part is, to proclaim, worship and adore the God that made it and that we are part of that creation. To demonstrate though our own love for God and our neighbour, (which is as much about where our neighbour lives as the person themselves) that God loves the world. Third, that we are called, not to be passive but called to be stewards, fellow workers with God in sustaining not just our part of the world but the whole world.

These are challenging times, and the road is long, but it starts as it always should in prayer.

Philip



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. Thank you.

St Mark's News and Events

EXPERIENCE HARVEST

28th September – 8th October
In St Marks Church

We welcome again KS2 pupils from Tower View & Winshill Village Primary Schools to St Mark's for a learning Experience.



HELP IS REQUIRED:

The Experience is based on 5 Stations around the church, which the children visit in small groups. We need an adult leader at each station.

There will be a walk through in the afternoon of Monday 27th to look at the teaching points for each station.

We need a minimum of 6 for each session (7 is preferable)

There is a **sign-up sheet** at the back of St Mark's Church, or you can contact the Vicar by phone, email or in person.

27th Sept	SET UP	4th	AM & PM
28th	PM	5th	PM
29th	PM	6th	PM
30th	AM & PM	7th	AM & PM
1st Oct	AM	8th	AM

Mornings: 9.30-11.15am **Afternoons** 1.00 – 2.45pm

Without your generosity of time we cannot do this.

**Help share the narrative of
Gods Generosity in
the Fruits of the Earth and the
Fruits of the Spirit.**

St Mark's Church Yard Gardening

Meeting Twice a month
through the Summer on the
1st and 3rd Saturdays.



This month:
5th and 19th September
Starting at 9.30am.

A final push while the weather is good... more hands make light work.



We will be there from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
Do come and join us for as long as you can, you will be very welcome.
Refreshments will be served towards the end of the morning.

Opening Children's Society Collection Boxes



Saturday 18th September, 10am – 12 noon.

This year I hope you will bring your box to church so that we can count the money together. There will be refreshments available, there may be a raffle, and we can watch the gardeners at work!

If you are not able to make the 'big count' please bring your box to church before Saturday 18th September so that we can count it in your absence.

Thank you very much for your support of the Children's Society.

Janice Barratt



Services at St Marks: Coming out of Restrictions

Through September we are looking to re-establish the Worship Pattern pre-pandemic with one change. Listed below are the Services and what you might expect:

1st Sunday of the Month

10.45 Parish Sung Eucharist



A service of Holy Communion with hymns and parts of the service sung. Vestments are worn. As we rebuild, we hope to have a choir and servers, but that may take a little while. Refreshments are served after the service.

18.00 Sung Evensong



Prayer Book (1928). Hymns, psalm and sung responses. Robed. Takes place in the Choir.

This is a traditional service that has been said and sung throughout England since 1662.

2nd Sunday of the Month

10.45 Family Service



An informal non-eucharistic service, which looks to be more interactive and reactive. There will be hymns and songs for all ages. No robes. Refreshments after the service.

18.00 Holy Communion



This replaces the 8am Holy Communion Service that used to take place on the 2nd Sunday.

This is a work in progress. Maybe similar to the Midweek Service, maybe stripped back no singing, more silence, we wait to see.

3rd Sunday of the Month

10.45 Parish Eucharist

As for 1st Sunday. (above)



18.00 Café Church



An informal service gathered around tables with plenty of tea and coffee on offer with cakes and biscuits throughout the service. Hymns, songs, table talk... anything can happen and possibly will. In the Space at the Back of Church.

4th Sunday of the Month

10.45 Service of the Word



A more formal service of hymns, readings and prayers. Robed. As we rebuild we will hope to have a choir, but that may take a little while. Refreshments after.

Following on from this service, allowing time for refreshments there follows a short service of Holy Communion either in the Lady Chapel or in the Choir.



18.00 No evening service

5th Sunday of the Month

10.45 Parish Eucharist



As for 1st Sunday. (previous page)

We will look in the New Year about restarting the shared service with St Wystan's on the 5th Sunday. (4 times per year)

Midweek Services

Wednesday

10.15 Said Holy Communion



A service of word and sacrament with short address. Vestments are worn. In the Lady Chapel. Refreshments after.

Friday

18.00 Be still... (Used to be www.prayer)



A time of quiet with the opportunity to pray as the Spirit moves you. 30 minutes of stillness at the end of the week or in preparation for the weekend. Location in church variable.

St Mark's Church Choir

Do you enjoy singing?

Please come and join us in the church on
Wednesday evenings 7pm until 8pm



For more information, please contact Simon on
via email;
directorofmusic@stmarkswinshill.co.uk

Robert Baker's Hymn of the Month



Be Still My Soul

No 54 in our green hymn books.

This hymn is based on the German *'stille, mein wille dein Jesus hilft siegen!'* written in 1752 by Katharina Von Schlegel (born 1697)
The translation into English was made in 1853 by Jane Borthwick (1813-97)

Miss Borthwick was a devout member of the free church of Scotland and, with her sister, she compiled a volume of translations entitled 'Hymns from the Land of Luther'.

Biblical references in the hymn include:

- 'Be still and know that I am God' – Psalm 46 verse 10
- 'In your Patience possess ye your souls' – Luke 21 verse 19
- 'What manner of man is this, that even the wind and sea obey him – Mark 4 verse 41

The tune for this hymn was originally 'St Helen' composed by Walter Hately (1843-1907). However, in 1933 it was set to the chorale-like melody in the symphonic poem 'Finlandia'.

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), the composer of 'Finlandia' was born in Finland and he wrote the poem in 1899 in a patriotic demonstration when the Finns were struggling against Russian domination.

.....

Karma

Every action – every word- and every passing thought – is a Cause that brings Results ... and thus our lives are caught – within the web of circumstance. We cannot struggle free – for good or ill we weave the secret threads of Destiny.

Christ told us this – in different terms. He said that as we sow – So shall we reap; this is the Law. Its action may be slow, but in this world in in the next its working is exact – We're creating causes every day – with every act.

But by God's great mercy we may touch a higher Law – the Law of Good. Through faith I Christ – the Hand of God can draw – the crimson threads of sin out of the pattern we have made – and by His Grace. We may fact the future – unafraid.

St Mark's Altar Flower Rota

Date	Donation	Arranging
4 th July	Celia Zaman & Pauline Becket	Celia & Pauline
11 th July	Marie Hopkins	Marie Hopkins
18 th July	Mary Mills	Mary Mills
25 th July	Janice Barratt	Janice Barrett
1 st August	Shirley Shipton	Janice Barrett
8 th August	Mrs B Brian	Judith Keen
15 th August	Shelia Bucknall	Judith Keen
22 th August	Lynn Tebbs	Lynn Tebbs
29 th September	Robert Baker	Lynn Tebbs
5 th September	Mr Gregory	Helen Duke
12 th September	Keith & Pat Mann	Helen Duke
19 th September	Marie Hopkins	Marie Hopkins
26 th September	HARVEST Congregation	All available arrangers
3 rd October	Lynn Tebbs	Lynn Tebbs
10 th October	Helen Duke	Helen Duke
17 th October	Roger & Jennifer Easton	Jennifer Easton
24 th October	Mitchell family	Janice Barratt
31 st October	Janice Barratt	Janice Barratt
7 th November	Jean Waterfall	Jean Waterfall
14 th November	REMEMBRANCE. Congregation	Marie Hopkins
21 st November	Brenda Yates	Marie Hopkins
28 th November – 19 th December	<i>ADVENT. No flowers</i>	<i>No flowers. Advent</i>
25 th December 2nd January 2022	CHRISTMAS. Congregation	All available arrangers

Any problems, or if you are unable to arrange please contact Janice

Help for Easter/Harvest/ Christmas will be greatly appreciated



God created the heaven and earth
He said let there be light
He called this day
And the darkness he called night

The earth was dry land
And the water seas
Let the earth bring forth grass
And yield plants, seeds and trees

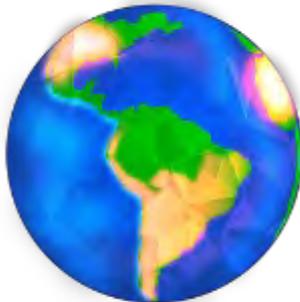
Two great lights in the sky
To rule the day and the night
With clusters of stars
What a beautiful sight

Moving creatures with life
And birds up above
He blessed all these creatures
With all of His love

In his own image
God created woman and man
Be fruitful and multiply
And to the best that you can

Then on the seventh day
It was a time for a rest
Sunday is a holy day
It's the day our Lord blessed

Written by Liz Ballinger





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.

This month's tip is inspired by an one of the activities from our children's activity day on 30th July.



**TIP 2. Recycle your plastics -
and anything else you can**

We've been doing it for years but don't get complacent!

At holiday club we used a small amount of the recycling collected by a few of us to create incredible sea creatures, we also learnt that on average it takes a plastic bag 20 years to decompose in the ocean, while a plastic bottle and plastic toothbrush can take 450 and 500 years respectively! Also, 13,000,000 tons of plastic leak into the oceans each year, and over 100,000 marine wildlife are killed each year due to plastic contamination. (Figures from WWF)

We must continue to recycle all we can and reduce our own use of single use plastics so they don't make their way into oceans and other habitats, but we also need to keep pressure on big companies to use more responsible packaging, and for councils to increase the varieties of plastics they recycle.



St Mark's Holiday activity day



Our wonderful world

Friday 30th July.

'Finding God in the big and small wonders all around us.'

A fantastic day full of activities, games, food and fun. Thanks to all the children who came along and made the day so much fun, and to all the adults who made it possible through planning and helping on the day!



Philip gave the day an introduction, drawing on Genesis 1.31 talking of our responsibility of care for Gods creation, culminating in the excitement of an erupting volcano.

Bug hotels- Made from recycled tin cans, filled with sticks, twigs, pine cones. Big or small we all have a place to play and the littlest things need our help too. Psalm 8.4-8



Ocean creatures - Made from recycled materials, that might otherwise end up in the sea, we created something good out of rubbish. We learnt how long plastic takes to break down and the impact on the oceans and its creatures. Psalm. 104.24-25

Fun and Games



Small to big - Using magnifying glasses children and adults looked closely at small things and draw them large scale on paper. Taking time to look and discover the detail and beauty even in the smallest things.
Psalm 148.7-12



Still small voice - Thinking about Elijah waiting for God, and finding him not in the Earthquake but in the quiet. We played listening games - focusing in from noises outside to within us. Listening to others- listening for God.
1 Kings 19.11-12

Patchwork - Bringing together all we thought about in one large craft, which will be used as an altar frontal during Creationtide.



Community News and Events

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



I have been a member of The Scouts for about 29 years. In that time, I have been Skip in Scouts, Akela in Cubs and Badger in Beavers. I have enjoyed my time with all sections, and have now settled in Cubs as Raksha.

Someone asked me who Raksha was, and why was that name used in Cubs, which has prompted me to do a little bit of a history lesson on Scouting.



Everyone has heard of Robert Baden-Powell and how he started scouting in 1908. It all started when he was a boy at Charterhouse where he was happier in the grounds, hiding and tracking, than actually doing lessons. He learnt his outside craft which was to catapult him to fame after the siege of Mafeking in 1899.

He wrote a series of articles called 'Scouting for Boys' which were published monthly on the back of his famous camp at Brownsea Island. They were bought and followed avidly until he decided to formalise it and create the Scout Association – now called The Scouts.

The Scouts has changed drastically from the early years and have moved with the times, but there is still the basic organisation of the Troop that remains constant. The Troop is divided into Patrols with each Patrol have a leader and second in command. This has also followed through to the Cubs and Beavers with Sixes and Lodges respectively.

The Scout section was based on a ship. The leader is Skip and other titles are used for the assistant leaders, such as Chief, Bosun and Pilot.



The Cub section was based on the first story in the Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling, which is about a boy called Mowgli brought up in the jungle by a pack of wolves. The leader of the pack is Akela. There are many characters in the Jungle Book, and all were considered until I took the name of Raksha who is the mother wolf.



The Beavers could never quite decide what to do, so every colony did their own thing. Some are based on colours, and some, like 22nd, use animal names, such as ladybird, owl, fox and badger.

From 'Scouting for Boys' and the start of the Scout Association, The Scouts has changed and evolved to be dynamic and challenging. Their aim is to provide "Skills for Life" for all our young people – and I believe that is what we are doing.

If you have a child aged between 6 and 14 years, or you think you would like to join the leadership team, please get in touch, or visit our web site

winhillscouts.org.uk

SCOUTING GIVES YOU
SKILLS FOR LIFE

We help young people and volunteers develop the practical, employability and character skills they need to succeed

Bumps and Babies



For parents/guardians with babies under 1 year old.
Meeting every Tuesday 10am-12pm at St Mark's church.

A lovely relaxed atmosphere where little babies can play safely and develop social skills, while mums chat over a drink and cake.

If you know of any families with little ones, please let them know about our group. Pick up a postcard for them next time you are in church. Offers for cake and additional willing volunteers are always welcome.

Baby Welcome Packs

At St Mark's we support Life Charity "Baby Welcome Packs" which collects newborn clothing and baby toiletries for local agencies to distribute to new mothers.

If you have any new or good second-hand baby clothing aged up to 0 - 3 months of age, or if can support by providing new baby toiletries and baby wipes, please place them in the collection box at the back of church.



YMCA FOOD BANK

Can you help to support our local YMCA food bank?

You can donate your items by placing them in the box at the back of church.

Please donate dry or tinned goods.

They need items that can be made into meals.

A treat is always welcome.



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

For Interest

Houseplant profile

Many of you will have been growing houseplants for decades, maybe it's pelargoniums in the conservatory and the odd aspidistra, or perhaps your living room is an indoor jungle as seen in many a Gardeners World home video. Houseplants are certainly on trend, and it seems I've got the bug! (Perhaps the first time I've ever been remotely on trend..!)

House plant of the month **Ceropegia woodii (String of hearts)**

A beautiful very easy to care for trailing plant with heart shaped leaves, and potential for small purple flowers.

Location. Anywhere with moderate to bright, but indirect sunlight.

Planting medium. A fairly fine and sandy mix is best. Free-draining, it won't like to be waterlogged.

Watering. Treat it like a succulent. Water infrequently, allowing the soil mix to completely dry out between watering.

Care. An ideal plant for beginners or those who like to go away, as it will tolerate moderate neglect.

Propagation It will root easily in water or soil if you take cuttings below a leaf (make it a few inches long and strip the bottom leaves so they are not below the water or soil level). Sometimes you will notice it puts out little roots along the stem without you having thought about propagation, if so snip the stem below the roots and you're half way there already. This is how it would naturally spread on the tree tops of its home in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Alternatively, when you get a long stem, bend it back and bury a little of the stem in the pot at a leaf node and it will soon root itself, giving a fuller pot of plant.

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

Coconut Macaroons

Super simple, super sticky. Great fun for all ages!

45g plain flour
Pinch of salt
225g desiccated coconut
170ml sweetened condensed milk
1tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 180/160 fan
Grease/line 2 baking sheets

Sift flour and salt in a large bowl, mix in the coconut.

Add in the condensed milk and vanilla.

Mix together to form a thick, sticky mixture.

Drop heaped teaspoon blobs of the mixture onto the sheet pan

You can leave them raggedy or squash together to make neat balls. (If you want them in neat balls, I recommend having damp hands, however even this will not stop you being very sticky very quickly. I prefer giving them a gentle squish once dolloped onto the tray making little rough pyramids—not just to save they mess, but I like how the rough edges darken when baked. A little squeeze also means they wont fall apart when cooled.

Bake until golden- my oven takes 10-12 mins. Allow to cool (and harden) on the tray and gently remove.

Lick the bowl/ try not to eat them all with your congratulatory coffee.

If you want to make them extra special, try dipping their bases in melted dark chocolate when cold.



For Interest — from the archives

Garden Hints for September

In memory of John and Margaret Thacker, we are continuing with Garden Notes and the following notes were published in 2003.



Hardy Perennials. Now is the time to sow hardy annual seeds, whether to renew older plants or to introduce new species.

Greenhouse. Clear dead flowers and leaves from plants as they fall to prevent disease. Discontinue feeding many summer growing plants, but continue with winter flowering plants such as cinerarias, calceolarias and cyclamen. These plants need to continue to grow and build up strength ready for flowering later. Check wallflowers for clubroot.

Dahlias and Chrysanthemums. Before plants finish flowering it is worth checking to see which ones are giving a good display or not. There is little point overwintering tubers and stools that don't perform very well. Plants that you are going to keep, check that you have the correct label so you know the variety.

Tender Perennials. Many tender shrubs and Herbaceous plants need protection. A thick mulch around the stems should protect the plant even if the top growth is killed by frost. Use mulch such as bark or other open material to let air circulate around the stems.

Bulbs. Continue planting spring flowering bulbs when the ground becomes vacant.

New Plants. Now is the time to order fruit bushes, trees and other plants.

JST



Science and Religion

The relationship between science and religion is a very interesting area of theological research and during the last interregnum I wrote a series of articles on the subject for the magazine. Unfortunately I never got round to completing them so when Pat asked me if I still had the articles so that they could be included in the magazine again I thought it might be a good idea to complete them this time. So, hopefully, over the course of the next few months they will once again appear in the magazine but this time they will be concluded. I will also take the opportunity to review what I wrote last time and possibly change things or, even, correct them. This first part attempts to explain why it is that science might be a fruitful resource in theological study and looks at one important application.

Mervyn John

Part One

Christians believe that God created the material universe out of nothing (creatio ex nihilo). This idea is made quite clear in the Book of Genesis even if the details it provides are not usually taken literally. Because we believe that the universe was created by God then studying the ways in which it works might provide us with certain insights into the mind of its creator. Science is the tool by which we can find out the ways in which the universe works.

We are part of God's creation but we have no direct access to God other than through His creation. Although we can pray, we cannot ring God up for a quiet chat or write Him a letter. In fact we cannot have anything other than a one way conversation with God since any response we might receive to our prayers can only come through ourselves or through our interaction with the created universe. We do not receive direct replies from God, only implied responses, and these come from things like people or events or the ways in which the world works, and we have to perceive God's answers for ourselves, using our faith. Hopefully we receive help in this endeavour from the Holy Spirit but even this help is sublime and not directly discernible.

This idea is also something that is apparent in scripture. The bible consists of many types of writing but a major part of it comprises stories of peoples and individuals who encounter God through the natural world. From the events of their lives the players in the bible discern things about God. Jesus, too, became a part of the material universe in order to reveal God to us and we believe that he was fully human (as well as being fully divine). The upshot of all this is that we

can only really know anything about anything, including God, by making observations on the created world for we have no access to anything other than that, including that which we call the unseen. Science provides the means by which we can make those observations and draw conclusions from them. By studying the universe around us, how it has evolved, how we came to be a part of it and how it continues to progress in time can enable us to infer something about the nature of God, its creator. This belief lies at the heart of the idea that science can inform religion.

When we look at the world around us we see that the created order is not all sweetness and light because there exists a good deal of evil and suffering within it. The cause of this evil and suffering, though, can be seen to fall into two distinct categories. The first category comprises the evil that comes from the actions of human beings and is due entirely to the abuse of the freewill God has given them. Human beings can choose whether or not they act in evil ways and, unfortunately, all too often they choose evil and by doing that they bring about suffering in others. The second category includes the causes of all the suffering that is not due to mankind. This comes from the natural processes of the world such as those processes that bring about earthquakes or tsunamis that bring with them death and destruction on a vast scale. Then there are the natural processes that cause illness in God's creatures, such as cancer or the coronavirus. Then, in order that they may survive, all creatures, including ourselves, are required to use other creatures as sources of energy. We call this the food chain but it is a chain which entails death and suffering on a grand scale. All these things cause creatures to suffer but this suffering does not come from the actions of humankind. It exists because of the way in which the world has been crafted and as such is a part of the structural fabric of creation. It is a natural evil and without it the world would not be as we know it and, furthermore, we would not exist.

It has been said that the only respectable argument for the non-existence of God is the problem of the existence of this evil and suffering in the world. The theologian, Jurgen Moltmann, called this the 'Unanswerable Theodicy Question.' It is probably the main reason why many do not come to faith and is one of the major factors for those who drift away from it. This is a natural reaction to all the evil and suffering we see around us. God, though, has a very good defence for the evil perpetrated by humankind but when the well known atheists Stephen Fry, Daniel Dennett and Richard Dawkins, amongst others, take great delight in pointing out the natural evils there seems to be no defence for them and they gleefully use that fact to support their views. If God is a God of love and at the same time an omnipotent God, they argue, why do such monstrous things as childhood bone

cancer and insects whose life cycle consists of burrowing into the eyes of children, making them blind, exist. Therefore, they say, God cannot exist because if he did, he would put an end to those things.

That these terrible things exist in our world cannot be denied but they cannot be blamed on the fall of humankind in the Garden of Eden either because they predate us. They existed before we evolved and are now a structural and necessary part of reality so Christians must confront them. Saint Paul referred to the problem in his letter to the Romans when he said, 'we know the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.' [Romans 8:22]. In the Book of Job we hear Job asking why he has had to endure great suffering even though he had a devout faith in God. In Ecclesiastes we hear the teacher declaring that 'everything is meaningless.' What, then, are Christians to do when they are confronted with questions about the existence of natural evil. It is not good enough to answer that, 'God knows best,' or 'it will all turn out alright in the end' for these answers do not address the problem of why a loving, omnipotent God can allow his creatures to suffer in the way they do.

Thankfully, though, science can provide an insight into the problem. Science can show how it is possible for God to be an omnipotent God of love and also create a world in which these terrible things can happen. In fact, it shows that the only way that God could create thinking, conscious beings with freewill, like ourselves, must also allow the sort of evil and suffering we see in the world around us. It is not possible to have one without allowing the other to occur.

The reason why this must be the case can be perceived via an understanding of Science applied to Theology and future articles will explore this and other topics further.

Our thanks to Mervyn for providing these essays for us, and for taking the time to tinker and update them. We look forward to the continuation of the series.

For Fun

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

Have you been watching the cricket 100? If so you will recognise the team names in our Wordsearch.

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|--|--|
| BIRMINGHAM
PHOENIX
LONDON
SPIRIT
MANCHESTER
ORIGINALS
NORTHERN
SUPER-CHARGERS | INVINCIBLES
OVAL
SOUTHERN
BRAVES
TRENT
ROCKETS
WELSH
FIRE |
|--|--|

S
U
D
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K
U

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