

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in shades of green and blue, set against a dark night sky. In the foreground, there is a silhouette of a tree and a dark landscape.

Holy
Trinity
WATERHEAD

holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk

January 2025

barnabas-oldham.co.uk

SAINT
Barnabas
CLARKSFIELD

Letter from the Editor

SERVICES AT OUR CHURCHES

Sunday 9:30 am Worship at St Barnabas
Sunday 11:00 am Worship at Holy Trinity
Wednesday 10:00 am Bible Study at St Barnabas
 Led by Robin Wilding
Wednesday 7:00pm Worship on Wednesday
 (WOW) at Holy Trinity

PEOPLE AT OUR CHURCHES

Vicar Post vacant

Lay Readers Peter Haslam 0161 345 0215
 Lucie Reilly 07880 861751

Wardens Peter Haslam (StB) 0161 345 0215
 Val Crane (HT) 0161 628 4977
 John Wolstencroft (HT) 0161 620 2401

StB Administrator Sarah Gura 07708 714813
HT Church Secretary Zoe Liles 07765 963899
Community Worker MaryAnne Oduntan 07908 004682
Treasurer & Gift-Aid Mrs Vicky Heaton 07468 463753
HT Parish Hall Manager Daniel Reilly 07788 860764
StB Centre Manager MaryAnne Oduntan 07908 004682

To sign up for the magazine online, or to send contributions, please email Sarah Wilding at sarah.churchmag@gmail.com

Cover image by [stevenrobinsonpictures](http://www.stevenrobinsonpictures.com)

Dear lovely people

A while ago I was in the supermarket, going around on automatic pilot, when I put out my hand to pick something off the shelf and it wasn't there! I came out of my daze and looked about me and, yes, I was in the right aisle but the products were completely different than what I expected. I felt really grumpy about this because it meant I had to not only pay attention but go hunting round the store for what I actually wanted. Grumble grumble; mutter mutter. Supermarkets do this on purpose. They want to make you look again at what is available, in the hope that you will pick up on something new and spend more money.

None of us likes change, especially those that disrupt our normal pattern of life. We are experiencing change in the church right now and it's not comfortable, not what we've been used to. But perhaps the Lord is doing it on purpose; perhaps he wants us to come out of automatic and look at the church differently; perhaps he wants us to change our own patterns of thought and behaviour a little in response to these changes; perhaps he wants us to pay more attention, to him and one another.

As we renew our covenant with him and the church in January, let us be willing to accommodate change and do our best not to grumble.

Happy New Year

Sarah W

News

From the church and parish

The Bishop of Manchester led the Christmas Day service
at St Barnabas



The Right Reverend professor David Walker, Lord Bishop of Manchester

Cover photo by stevenrobinsonpictures

Bible readings for January

Sunday 5 January

Epiphany

First: Isaiah 60:1-6

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 12 January

Baptism of Christ

First: Isaiah 43:1-7

Epistle: Acts 8:14-17

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday 19 January

Epiphany 2

First: Isaiah 62:1-5

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Sunday 26 January

Epiphany 3

First: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Preachers for January: Chris Bracegirdle; Robin; Archdeacon Karen; Lucie.

Church Diary

Sunday 5 January

9:30 am: Annual **Covenant Service** in St Barnabas

11:00 am: Annual **Covenant Service** in Holy Trinity

**Change is inevitable -
except from a vending machine**

Robert Gallagher

From the Holy Trinity Memorial Book

- 1 **Clara Johnson** died 1998 aged 88 years. Remembered with love.
- 6 **John Murray**, loving husband, father and grandfather, died this day 1998 aged 71. Loved and remembered always
- 9 **Millicent Borrell** died this day in 1999. Time passes, memories stay. Loved and remembered every day.
- 11 **John Shaw Crossley** died this day 1990. Looking back as we always do, we will treasure the memories we have of you.
- 12 **Harry Watton** Beloved Husband and father. Died on this day 1983, aged 63 years.
- 15 **Elsie Kershaw**, died this day 2004. A loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend. 'Pal of my cradle days.'
- 18 **Alan Wolstencroft** died 2000 aged 68. Much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad.
Amy Wainwright died this day 2006 aged 91 years. A devoted mum and grandma, remembered every day with love and affection.
- 23 **Annie Chadwick** late of 560 Huddersfield Road. Born 29th October 1896 . Died this day 1995. 'In Heavenly Love Abiding.'
- 25 **Tom Slater Henthorn** died this day 1959. 'A Devout and Well Loved Church Worker.'
- 26 **Caroline Brooks** Beloved Mother and Grandmother. Died 1979. 'Reunited and sings in Heaven.'
Mrs Mary Robinson died this day 1989. 'A much loved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.'
Elsie Dearden nee Brooks, died this day 2002. Dearly loved daughter, wife and mother. Reunited with her loved ones.
- 29 **Wilfred George Graham** died 1979 aged 69. Treasured memories of a loving Dad and Grandad.
- 30 **Jane Ann Stott**. Died 1956. 'A muck loved Mother and Grandmother.'
- 31 **John Fletcher** died 1948. Always remembered.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Mary Louise Haskins

[Extract]

God Knows

On the Unseen

The conversation might go like this, and maybe you've experienced it or something like it yourself:

- Do you believe in God?
- Yes, I do.
- Well, I don't.
- Why not?
- Because, well, I've never seen God, have I, and so why should I believe in Him?

At which point, it might prove tricky for you to explain your beliefs. But it really shouldn't be. This is because there are plenty of things obtaining in this world that cannot be seen by the naked eye -- the so-called 'fundamental forces' being a case in point, i.e. gravity, electromagnetism and the two 'interactions' operating at the atomic and subatomic levels of physics. The God-deniers might argue that such phenomena have been witnessed in action by scientific observation. To which, one might counter that, for those with a less narrow mind, people less likely to prejudge, there is plenty more in the natural world to be observed that testifies to the existence of an unseen creative power at work in the world, while the unseen forces just referred to have not only been established by scientists but also taken by many to be proof of God's existence.

To say that a thing is not there just because you cannot see it is but one step away from covering your eyes, as small children do, and believing no one can see you! Which suggests that perhaps it isn't the theists who are being naive, but the non-believers and doubters by adopting such a superficial view of things.

To give one striking example: the intricate 'fine-tuning' of the universe alone is hard to ignore, let alone discredit as random, as the British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle (who was knighted in 1972) went on to discover, prompting him to revise his attitude. Starting out on his scientific career in the 1940s as a convicted atheist, Hoyle, having originally described religious belief in 1951 as 'but a desperate attempt to find an escape from the truly dreadful situation in which we find ourselves', came to predict through his research into stellar nucleosynthesis* that, for life to exist on earth, one particular nuclear reaction, the triple-alpha process, which generates carbon (a heavy

element) from helium (a light element), would require the carbon nucleus to have a very specific resonance energy and spin for it to work. If the variation were more than 1 per cent either way, the universe could not possibly sustain life. This evidence of fine-tuning made Hoyle question his atheism. As he later wrote, 'Some super-calculating intellect must have designed the properties of the carbon atom, otherwise the chance of my finding such an atom through the blind forces of nature would be utterly minuscule. A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question.'

In short, the next time someone tells you that you are a fool to believe in a creative intelligence, aka God, on the grounds that God cannot be seen -- as if they were trying to suck you into a rigged game of *Where's Wally?* -- you can tell them that evidence of God can be found wherever you look: -in the natural world around you, in the kindness of strangers and, if you care to look into things more deeply, at the minutest level of the known universe.

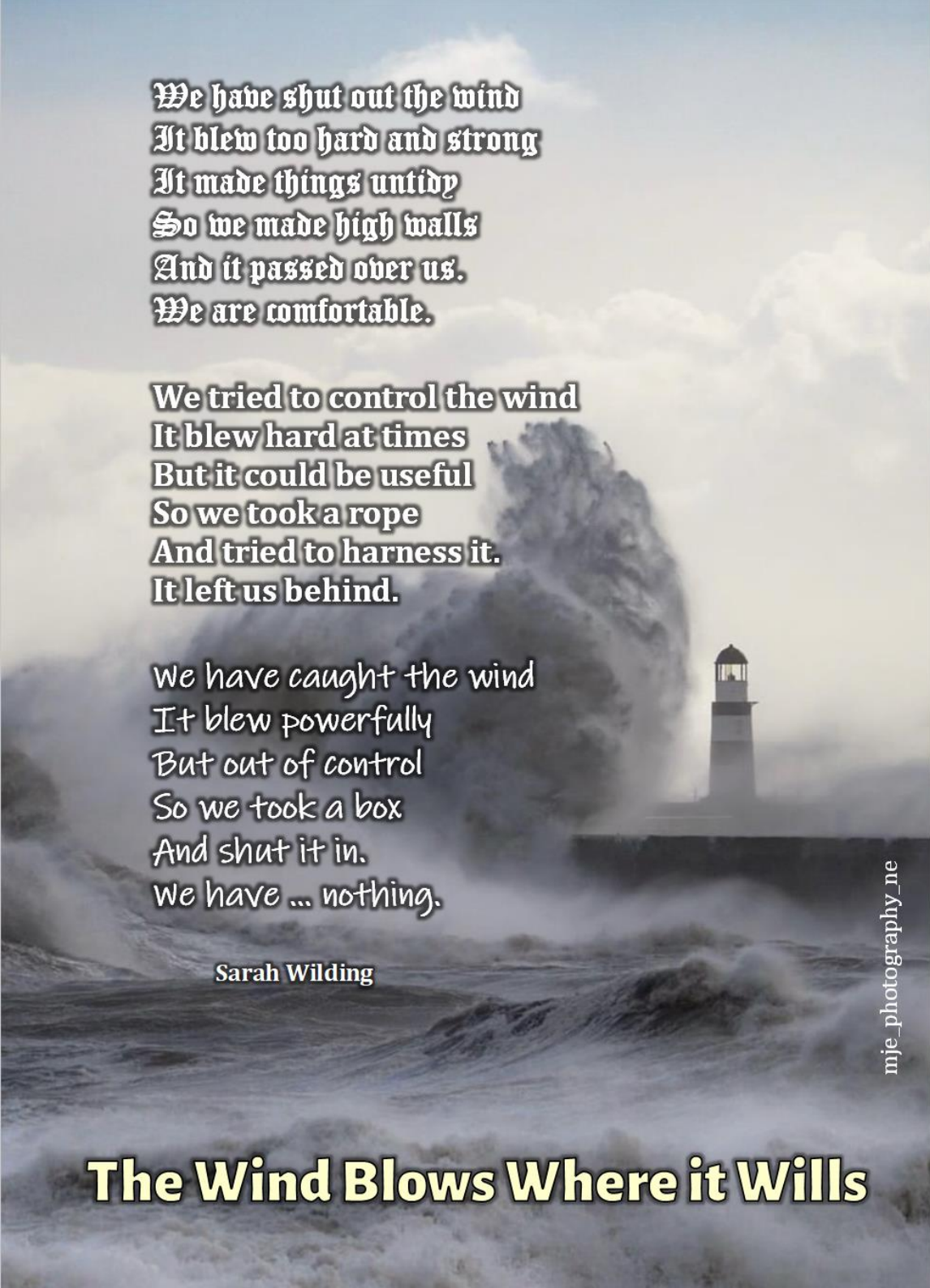
John Booth

* Stellar nucleosynthesis is the process within stars where nuclear fusion reactions occur, leading to the formation of elements such as carbon, hydrogen, iron and oxygen, which are essential building blocks for life on Earth.



Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God, but only he who sees takes off his shoes.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



We have shut out the wind
It blew too hard and strong
It made things untidy
So we made high walls
And it passed over us.
We are comfortable.

We tried to control the wind
It blew hard at times
But it could be useful
So we took a rope
And tried to harness it.
It left us behind.

We have caught the wind
It blew powerfully
But out of control
So we took a box
And shut it in.
We have ... nothing.

Sarah Wilding

mje_photography_ne

The Wind Blows Where it Wills

It's All Greek to Me...

...the Divine wind

The Greek word for spirit is *pneuma*, which has all the subtleties and range of meaning as spirit does in English. It is used of the inner being of a person, the part that is aware and alive, embodied or disembodied; there is no other word for ghost, it is all *pneuma*. Spirit is used to refer to the character or moral quality of someone. Divine gifts and gifting are described as spiritual (*pneumatikos*), as is the resurrection body.

There are also invisible and immaterial spirits, powerful beings that are described as unclean spirits and ministering spirits. And, of course, the Holy Spirit of God. *Pneuma* is a neuter noun (all nouns are masculine, feminine or neuter), which is not necessarily impersonal in Greek, but the Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as 'that one' in its masculine form, which emphasises its personhood. The neuter is helpful, though, as the indwelling Spirit inhabits men and women and therefore is not exclusively male. We can be in the Spirit as well as the Spirit being in us.

In addition, *pneuma* is also the word for breath and wind, and comes into English in that sense in words such as pneumatic and pneumonia. In John 3, where he is talking to Nicodemus about being born of the spirit, Jesus makes an apparently odd shift to describing the wind (John 3:8). This is only strange in English; in the Greek, Jesus is using exactly the same word in a very clever play on words.

All this sounds quite complicated but the meaning is usually evident from the context.



Kristus

This large marble statue of the risen Jesus is the centrepiece of the 13-piece group of sculptures 'Christ and the Twelve Apostles' (*Kristus og de tolv apostle*) from 1821/22 by the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. It depicts the resurrected Christ revealing himself with the marks (the stigmata) on his hands and feet. The Christ statue itself was originally placed in the Church of Our Lady (*Vor Frue Kirke*), an Evangelical-Lutheran church in Copenhagen (since 1924 the national cathedral, aka the Church of Denmark), but the church was destroyed during the bombardment of Copenhagen by the British Royal Navy in 1807 at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. It was when the church was rebuilt in 1833 that Thorvaldsen was commissioned to add the statues of the apostles, with St Paul replacing Judas Iscariot.

The statue has been widely reproduced since for public show at various places of worship and centres of art, while the ensemble can be seen today not only at the Church of Our Lady but also at the Thorvaldsens Museum in the centre of Denmark close to the royal palace, where this photograph was taken.

Having spent much of his life in Italy, Thorvaldsen is reputed to be the only non-Italian to have produced works of art for display at the Vatican.

John Booth

Song of the Month

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

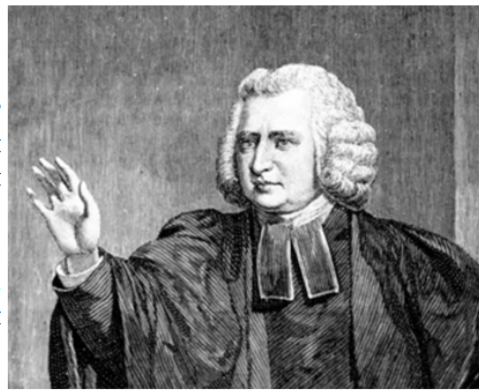
Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your saviour come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of thy name.

Charles Wesley

Listen to one version here: <https://youtu.be/2e475ww32lg>
(There are several more verses.)

Charles Wesley was a prolific writer of hymns in the 18th century, those that have endured being arguably the best known and loved in the English language. In fact, he published over 6,500 hymns in his own era, on many subjects, both personal and concerning current affairs as well as congregational ones.



Charles Wesley was born in 1707 in Epworth, Lincs. He was the youngest and third surviving son of Samuel and Susanna Wesley, who had 10 of 19 children survive infancy. Their mother brought them up in a very strict and 'methodical' manner and she has been described as 'the powerhouse of Methodism'. Charles attended Westminster School in London from 1716, where he was given home and board by his eldest brother, Samuel. In 1721 he was elected King's Scholar, which meant he was given his board and education for free. While he was at Westminster, a wealthy Irishman wrote to his father asking him if he had a son named Charles, and if so, offering to adopt him and make him his heir. His parents left it to Charles himself whether or not he accepted this offer, which he declined.

From 1726-1729 Charles studied at Christ Church College, Oxford. There he translated Greek and Latin classics into English verse, already showing his poetic talent. He went on to become a tutor at the college.

In the winter of 1728-29 Charles experienced a spiritual awakening and began the Holy Club, with two other men. This club was soon joined by his brother John. The members devoted themselves to frequent holy communion, Bible study and regular visits to the filthy and unhealthy prisons of their day. John soon became leader of the club, dubbed derisively 'Methodist' because of its methodical approach to devotion and study.

In 1735 Charles took holy orders, with the intention of helping John on a mission to Georgia, North America, as secretary to General Oglethorpe. Sadly Charles fell prey to spiritual despair and physical exhaustion which left him unable to continue and after only a few months he returned to England. In 1737 he was helped by members of the Moravian church and on May 21 of that year, at Pentecost, he described himself as having found 'rest to his soul'.

In 1738 Charles became a curate in Islington, where his friend Mr

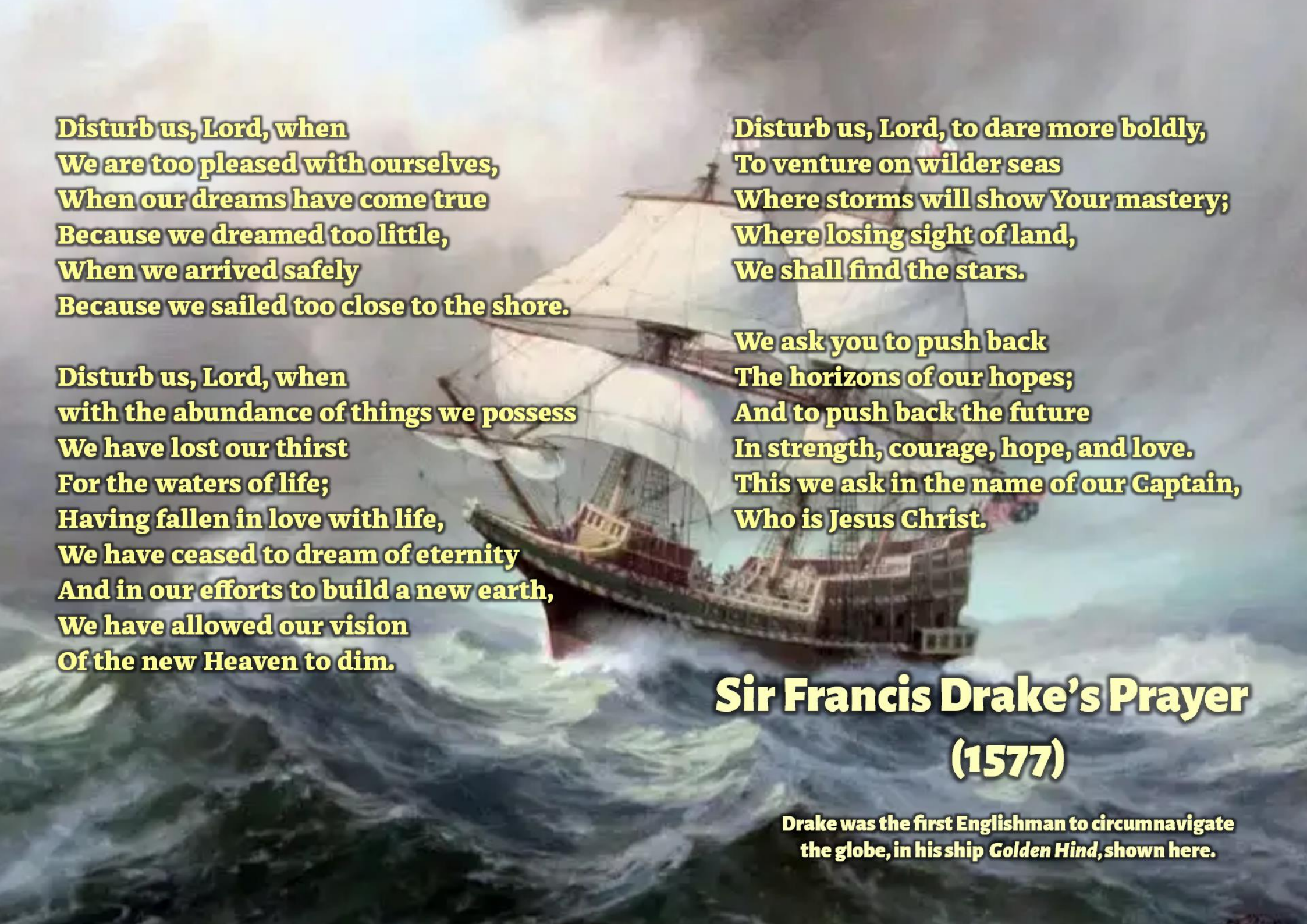
Stonehouse was vicar, but he was stopped from preaching after vigorous opposition by the churchwarden. After that he became itinerant with John and was an eloquent preacher. It was during this time that Charles notably put the gospel message into hymns, as a means of evangelism.

In 1749 he married Sarah Gwynne. Charles and Sarah's marriage was a happy one and they had two sons and one daughter, the only survivors of eight children. Charles continued to travel until 1756, when he settled in London and mainly worked with the Methodist Societies there and in Bristol. During this time he became concerned about the relationship between the Methodist movement and the Church of England. Charles vociferously disapproved of John's practice of ordaining ministers and distanced himself from Methodism, though the rift in ideology did not affect the brothers' relationship and they remained close friends. Charles died in 1788 in London, and was buried in Marylebone churchyard.

Charles did not write music, only the words, and there is a popular myth that he used pub tunes to accompany his songs. This is not, in fact, correct. The Wesleys did encourage the use of more up-to-date musical styles, and used music from folk songs as well as secular orchestral works and operas. They were careful, however, to use melodies which would enhance spiritual experience and communion with the divine.

During the American Civil War, a Confederate sentry was on duty one night when he heard the sound of singing coming from the Union lines. He approached carefully and saw an enemy sentry pacing up and down, singing *Jesu, Lover of my soul*. He was about to shoot, when the singer came to the words 'Cover my defenceless head with the shadow of Thy wing'. The Confederate then felt unable to take the shot. Many years later he was aboard an excursion steamer on the Potomac River, when he heard an evangelist singing this hymn. He thought he recognised the voice and, talking to the singer, found that he was the sentry he had nearly shot. They were both overjoyed to realise what had happened.

Charles Wesley



**Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, Lord, when
with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.**

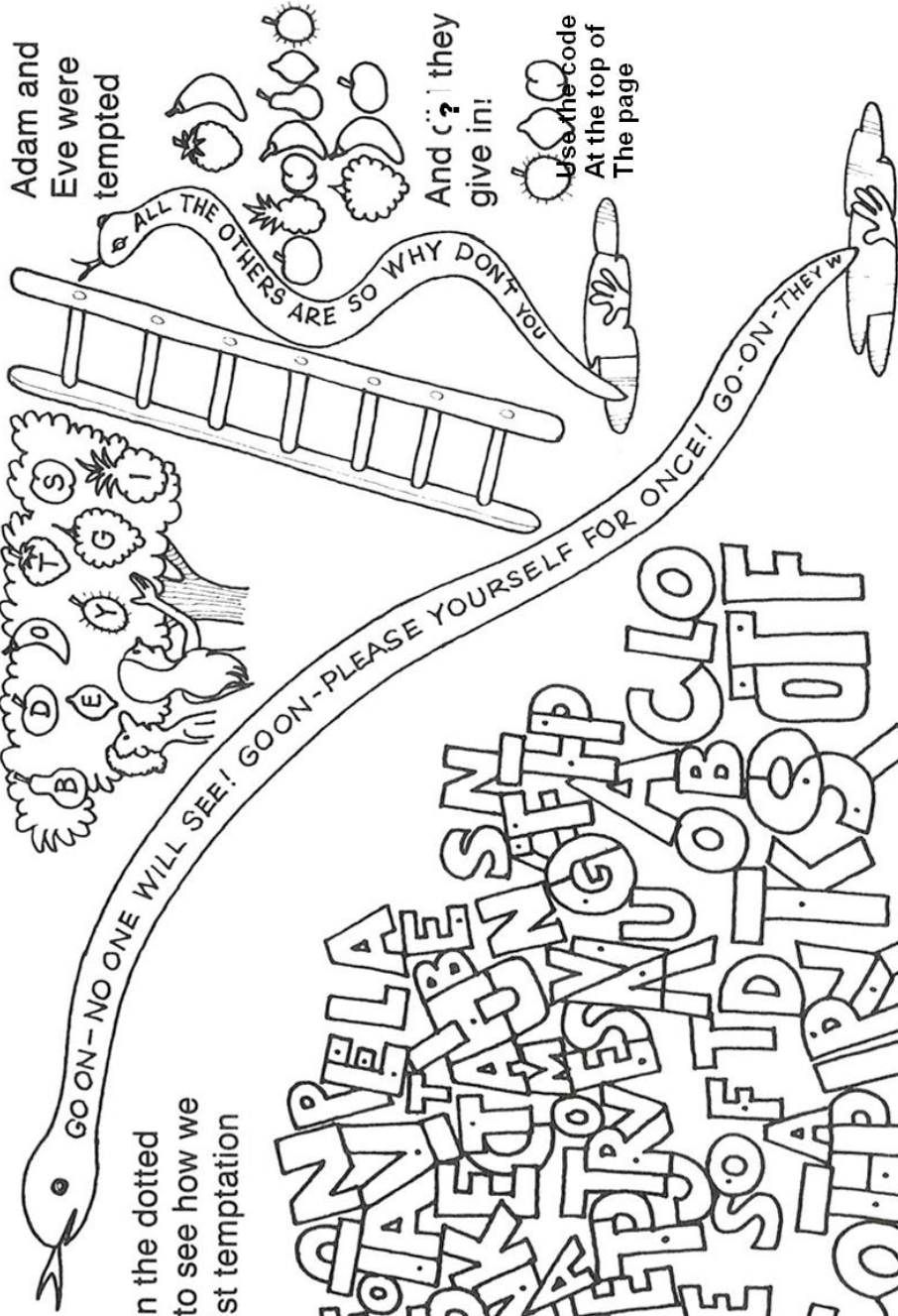
**Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.**

**We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.
This we ask in the name of our Captain,
Who is Jesus Christ.**

Sir Francis Drake's Prayer (1577)

**Drake was the first Englishman to circumnavigate
the globe, in his ship *Golden Hind*, shown here.**

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

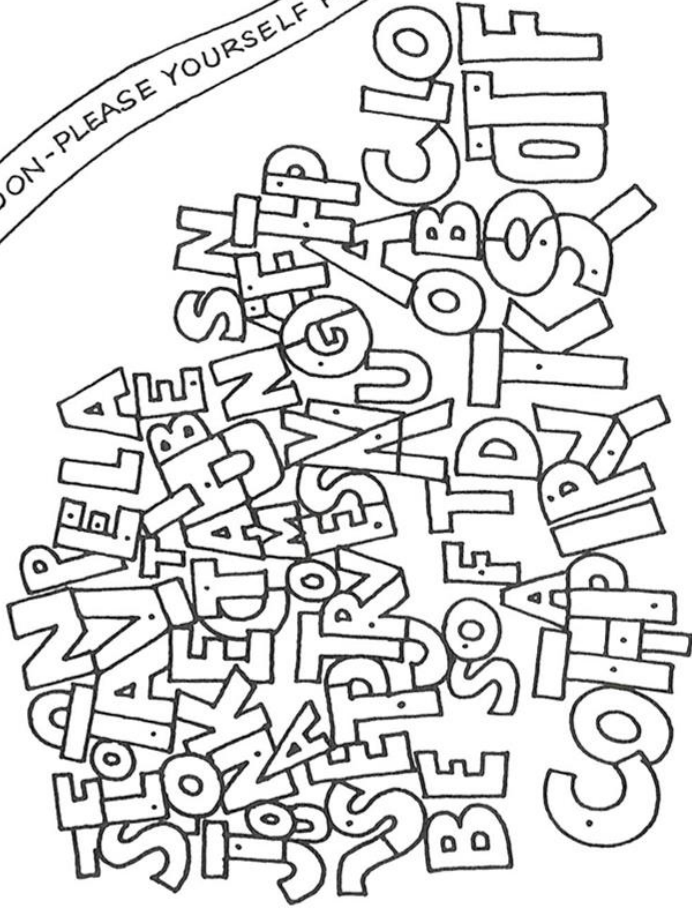


Adam and Eve were tempted

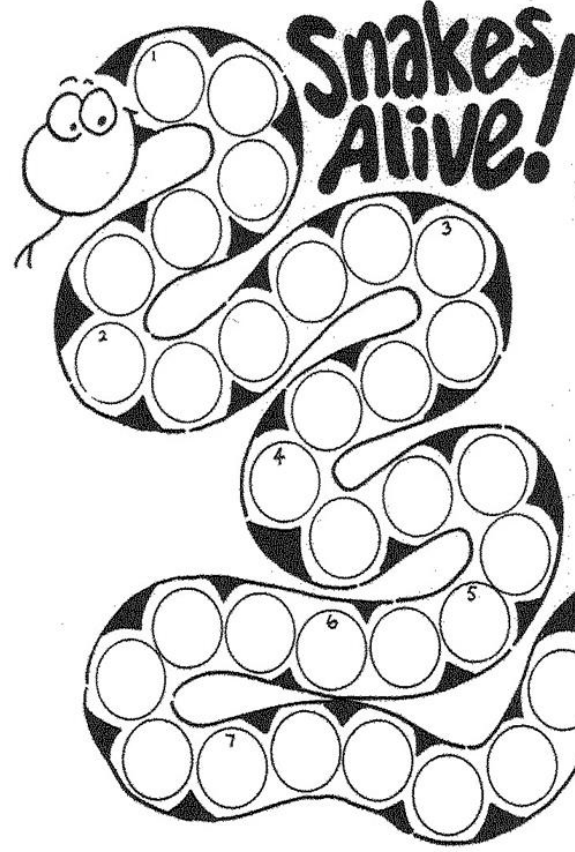
And if they give in!

Use the code At the top of The page

Colour in the dotted spaces to see how we can resist temptation



CHILDREN'S PAGES



Use the clues to fill in the circles on the snake. The last letter of each name is also the FIRST letter of the next one.

CLUES:

- ① He was captured and sent to Egypt.
- ② Samuel's mother.
- ③ He tried to have Jesus killed shortly after he was born.
- ④ He refused to stop praying to God, and was thrown into the Lions den.
- ⑤ His wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
- ⑥ He wouldn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- ⑦ Strong man of Israel.

Answers: Joseph, Hannah, Herod, Daniel, Lot, Thomas, Samson

**There are cracks in my world
I noticed them one day and now they are everywhere:
Sinister hairline cracks that start and finish out of sight
cracks that grow and gape and laugh at my certainties
My world has been declared unsafe**

**I have tried to paper them over,
paint them out,
move the furniture to hide them,
but they always return,
cracks that hang like question marks in my mind.**

**And now I begin to think:
why do the cracks appear?
from where do they come?
They have made my room unsafe
BUT**

**They have thrown it open to new horizons
drawn back the curtains
raised long closed shutters.
One day I looked and crack had become a window.
Step through it said, what have you to fear?
Do you wish to stay in your crumbling room?**

**And then I remembered a childhood dream.
Watching the egg of some exotic bird
oval and perfect, spotted blue and cream**

**I wished to hold that egg and keep it on a shelf
BUT**

**As I watched it, cracks appeared.
Tiny fissures spread like zigzag ripples.
It broke in two and life struggled to its feet,
Wet and weak and blinking at the world.**

**Without those cracks that egg could hold
no more than rotting stagnant death**

**without its cracks my world would be
a room without a view
Cracks maybe uncomfortable, disturbing gaps
BUT**

**Could it be that I need them?
Do you believe in cracks?
Because I keep searching for God in the room
and find he is hiding in the cracks.**

*Dave Bookless from **God Doesn't Do Waste***

CRACKS

Tour of Israel

First Impressions

Back in 2011, while Robin was on sabbatical, we were fortunate enough to go on a tour of the Holy Land and found it very beneficial, both in increased Biblical understanding and at a personal level.

We flew in to Tel Aviv as part of a group of 18. Passport control was quite severe and we were grilled about our purpose in coming to the country; it was a chill reminder that this is a country where they have to be careful of terrorism.

As we travelled east across the country, the surroundings sometimes looked very familiar and sometimes quite different: it was May and the fields were ripe for harvest and partially cut; there were fields of sunflowers; there were familiar trees but also short stubby olives; verges with cow parsley but then cactus; horses then camels. The fields had no hedges or boundaries; the animals wandered freely except for the sheep, which were gathered about a



No escape from MacDonalDs

shepherd. I saw a road sign to Lakshish, which gave me a bit of a buzz as it's a town mentioned in Isaiah.

As we travelled further east and south, the fields gave way to desert conditions and dried up river beds. Dust, dust and more dust. There was a pink haze to the sky as we came into Be'er Sheva, biblical Beersheba (pronounced as in 'bear' and 'shed'), in early evening. The older blocks of flats had external air conditioning units on the outside and tanks on the roof, for fuel or water, while newer ones were very pleasant and dotted about with trees.



The air conditioning was very welcome as we disembarked to our rather dingy but comfortable hotel, with water saving notices in our rooms a reminder that we were in the desert. I looked out and saw an eagle soaring in the distance, even that small thing a heartening connection to the Bible. We were fed well throughout the trip, and that night went to bed very tired but with the thrill of anticipation for what the morrow would bring.

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Sunday 5 January

9:30 St Barnabas

11:00 Holy Trinity

Covenant Services

**To accept visible
nature as the only
reality is ignorance
personified.**

B.K.S Iyengar, in *Light on Life*

Image: supermassive black hole
© the EHT collaboration

**ZIG
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**"Never be afraid to trust an
unknown future to a known God."**

- Corrie ten Boom -

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My New Year's resolution this year is to do the things I should have been doing last year!



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**It is only with the heart that one can see rightly;
what is essential is invisible to the eye.**

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, in *The Little Prince*



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