



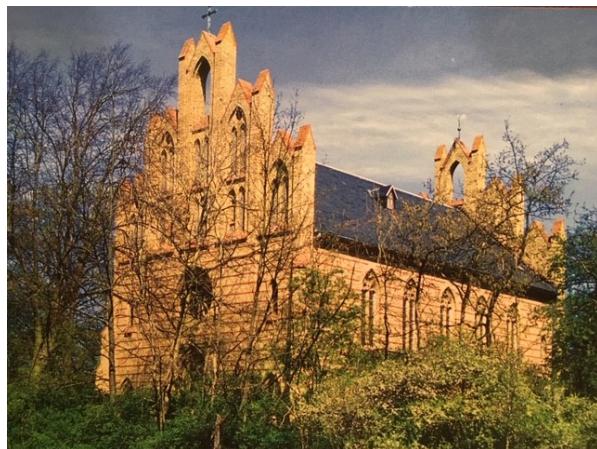
How brave am I?

(Well, not very, if I'm honest)

The other day I received a mysterious letter from Germany. Initially I imagined this to be from my "German" sister (she has lived there for over 50 years and indeed took on German nationality in the wake of the Brexit vote: her sons thought she might be deported back to the UK. They should be so lucky!). However, the writing on the envelope was unfamiliar and, anyway, Hilary communicates daily via 100 almost incomprehensible WhatsApp messages - so why the need to write?

In fact, inside the envelope was a booklet (in German) and a postcard. More and more mysterious. I don't speak German. Fortunately the message on the postcard was in English and was signed – Heike! Alles klar.

Heike and Marek have just enjoyed a 12-day singing holiday on the campus where Dietrich Bonhoeffer spent 6 weeks teaching in 1935 as part of his work in the underground seminary,



This is the picture on the card. It is the church where Bonhoeffer spoke in June 1935 on the theme of Psalm 42, the psalm which begins:

"As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."

As I'm sure many of you will know, Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, was part of the German resistance to the Nazi dictatorship, and tragically he was hanged at the very end of the Second World War for involvement in a conspiracy to assassinate Hitler. His resistance arose from his deep Christian conviction.

For our March 2020 Treacle Sunday, Heike and I had planned a service commemorating 75 years since the death of Bonhoeffer. Naively, when lockdown

Caveat emptor!

(not that anyone actually buys this)

Those of you looking forward to another "Sue Special" edition of the weekly newsletter will be sadly disappointed this week.

It is Lynne doing the editing - rather a grand term for attempting to follow Sue's copious and complicated instructions. Manage your expectations everyone!

prevented this from happening, we thought it might be delayed by just a month or two! Little did we know. However, most of you should have been sent or emailed a copy of the prayer/poem which Heike produced in lovely card-form to hand out at this service, as we felt that it was appropriate to the challenging circumstances we have all been experiencing over the last 5 months. It begins:

***By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may***

and it goes on to thank God joyfully and confidently for being with us through good and bad alike.

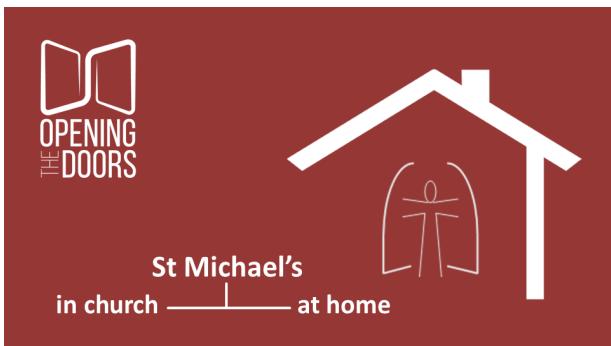
I hope that you have been able to feel God's love and protection throughout this strange and worrying time.

Heike's postcard and her pamphlet, all about Bonhoeffer, took me back to the planning we put into that service. We wanted it to be an optimistic experience: people can and do show tremendous courage and resilience even in the most difficult and frightening of situations. But it would also have been a challenging service. Would I ever have been brave enough to undertake underground activity against a regime like that of Hitler's? I fear not.

But I do know that, when it comes to it, we can and often do find we have courage beyond our imagination.

Lynne

St Michael's Merged Worship 30th Aug 2020
at 10.00am Join in person in church or by
clicking on the image below from 9.45am



Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Lynne Spedding
Preaching: Barry Langman
Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

You will have the opportunity to talk to a smaller group in a break out room at the end of the service.

Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?

Watch the recording at a time to suit you after Sunday lunchtime [here](#)

No Computer? No problem!

You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and services with your landline phone

If phoning:



Dial **0330 088 5830**.

When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID** from any of these boxes followed by #

[For Sunday's service: **939 7279 7379**]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:
[Click here for more info](#)

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources: [click here](#)

NEW Summer Club for families:

[Parents Notes](#) and Resources for [30thAug](#)

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Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)

NEW!

Meeting ID: 982 3541

9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate Wednesday evenings

Dates: 2nd & 16th Sept

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)



Meeting ID: 912 6715 2374

Password: 980944

Particularly aimed at those of working age (whether on furlough, unemployed or working flat-out). Nothing heavy – at least not at this stage – but just the opportunity to share life and faith with others in a similar situation.

Thursday Homegroup

We are meeting via Zoom at 7.30pm. We are continuing with our study of Luke's Gospel. Any one is welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone. For details, including the Zoom link, please contact David Mayers by [email](#) or by phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802 659

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Dates
for your Diary

Thursday Evening Homegroup

The Thursday evening home group meets via Zoom at 7.30pm.

We have now completed our study of Luke's Gospel and are holding discussions of our respective faith journeys.

All are welcome to join for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, including by phone.

For details, including the Zoom link, please contact David Mayers

by email: davidjmayers@btinternet.com

or by phone 01625 420716 or 07963 802659



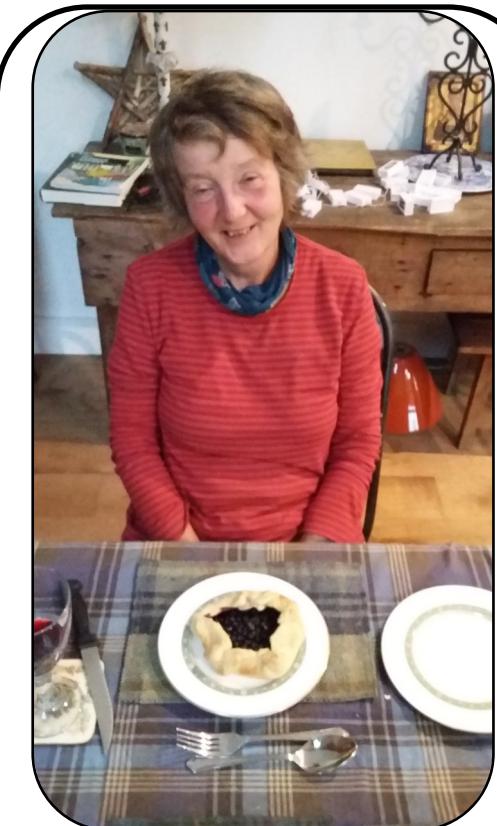
FACE MASKS



Scoop and scales pop-up shop:

Sunday 10.00am-3.00pm
in the Heritage Centre.

More details on the
web-site.



Rachel displays the fruits of her (and David's) labours—bilberry pie: bilberries harvested beforehand from the wild.

**REJOICE
IN HOPE,
BE PATIENT
IN TRIBULATION,
BE CONSTANT
IN PRAYER.**

ROMANS 12:12



Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's ministry





Coffee & Chat

Wednesday Morning Coffee and Chat

For the last few weeks we have been looking at the three Wisdom books and getting an overall picture of their content and purpose. These books help us to think about what it means to 'live well'.

Proverbs is likened to a bright young teacher who is optimistic about life - if you use wisdom you will live well

Ecclesiastes is the critic who says it's not as simple as that - life is like looking through smoke... you can't catch it, so stop worrying about it - enjoy the moment

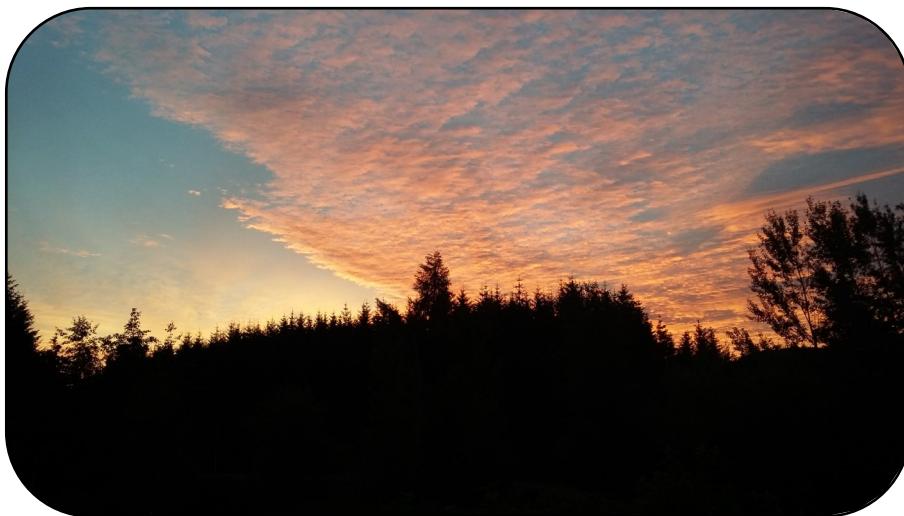
The book of Job helps us to know something of God's wisdom - bad things can happen to good people.

Next week - Wednesday 2nd September, we are re-visiting Ecclesiastes. Here is the link. You may need to copy and paste into your browser:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/wisdom-series/>

Join us on Wednesday morning with a cuppa. We always have a good chat too.
Let's continue to **do** Proverbs 3.5

The link is on page 2 of this newsletter.



Rachel and David have been enjoying a break in Scotland.

Here are some of their holiday photographs

Dawn over Loch Ness

Walking in the NW Highlands near Ullapool

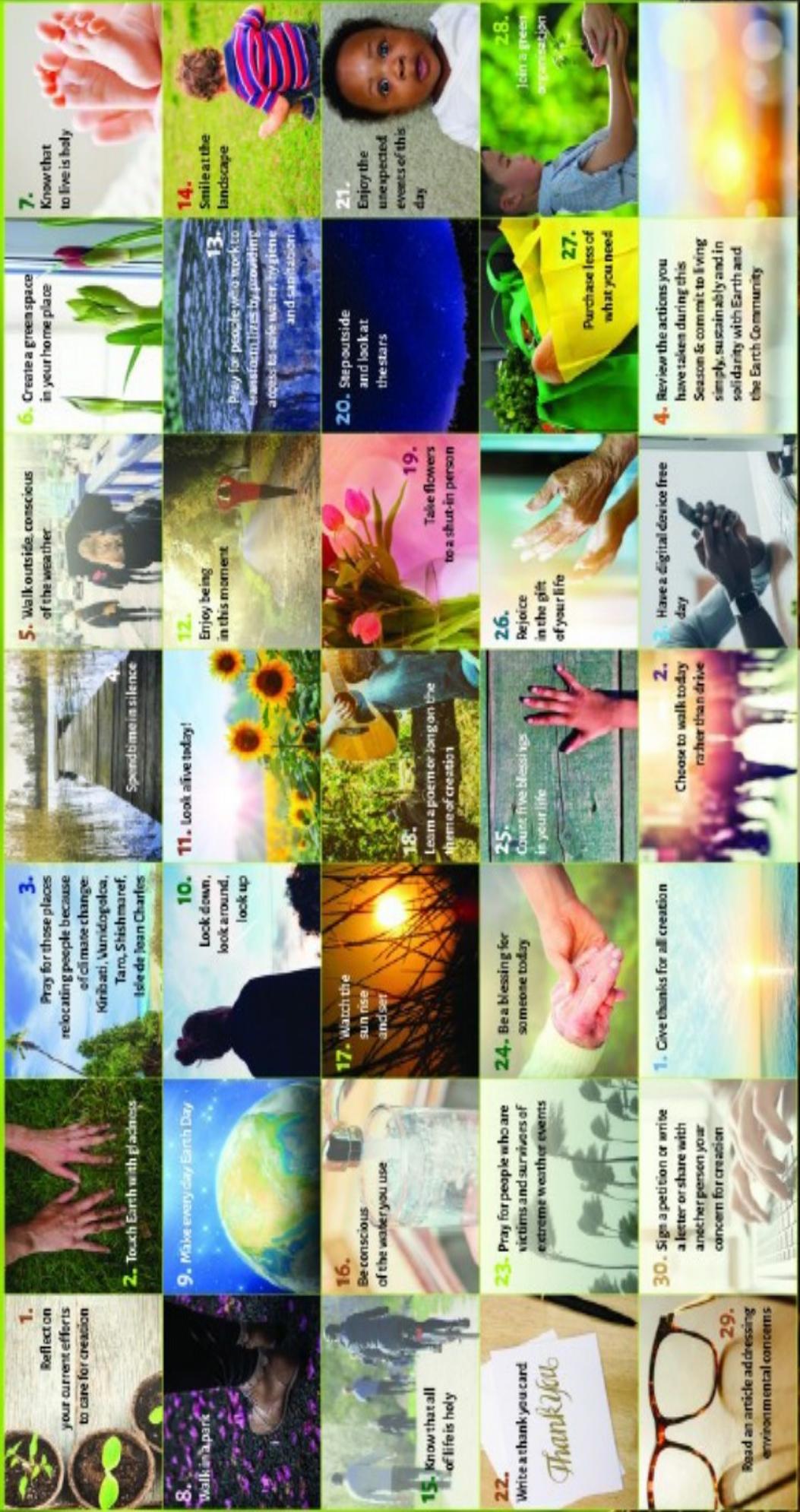


Rachel hard at work on her 1000 piece jigsaw - 3 days in the completion!

Mercy International Association
SUPPORTS THE

SEASON of CREATION

CALENDAR
1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER



'Each human being is an image of God... each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love; his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a creature of God... The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the immeasurable riches of God!' Laudato Si #24, #56

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'We need to take up an ancient lesson... the conviction that "less is more" - a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack...' Laudato Si #222

Art: Anne McElroy, Design: Clive Liddle