



All Saints Guildford

Joyfully Living Jesus

Welcoming Everyone

Growing Disciples Deepening Community



DECEMBER 2023

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If you'd like to feature anything in the magazine, we would love to hear from you! Articles should be emailed to **allsaintsmag@gmail.com** by the **15th of the previous month**, or submitted to Yvonne Quittenton for typing by the 10th. We like to keep content varied and interesting so almost anything goes. Please get in touch if you have any questions. Thank you!

ALL SAINTS SERVICES AND OPENING TIMES

Our pattern of services is as follows:

- ★ Morning Prayer takes place Monday to Wednesday at 9.15am in the church and via Zoom for anyone who would like this option.
- ★ A service of Holy Communion is held in church every Thursday morning at 9.30am.
- ★ An 8am service of Holy Communion is held in church on the first and third Sundays of the month (the third Sunday will use the Book of Common Prayer).
- ★ Our 10am Sunday services follow this pattern:
 - ◇ First Sunday: Café-style Altogether Worship
 - ◇ Second, fourth and fifth Sundays:
Family Communion with Children's Church
 - ◇ Third Sunday: Morning Worship with Children's Church

Note: Children's Church is term-time only

- ★ Each Sunday, we hold 'Tea-Time Church' at 4pm.
- ★ Each Sunday, we record the sermon and this can be found on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@allsaintsguildford
- ★ We provide a 'Dial All Saints' service, for those who wish to have an at-home audio option. Phone 01483 600674. Calls cost the same as a local call.



MISSION FOCUS: ANDREW AND CLARE KOENS WITH WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

News from Clare and Andrew Koens including exciting news of Levi, Heidi and Eowyn choosing to be baptised and declaring their faith in Christ. Here is Andrew's story.

Ukarumpa doesn't have a church. Okay, that's not quite true. As the Body of Christ, we, of course, are the church. But the members of our community come from all over the world, from many different cultural and denominational backgrounds, and as you can imagine in a missionary community, there is a higher than average number of ordained pastors per capita. But there is no "church" as you might imagine. We have a meeting house where we meet on Sundays and usually one of the aforementioned pastors will speak, or a visiting pastor might be in town and he'll speak. But we don't have a regular pastor or a regular church staff. It's all done by members of the community, which is either fantastic or really awful, depending on what you need, I guess.

So some time ago my kids (all three and without any pressure from me) let me know that they all wanted to be baptised. I was happy about this and thought that probably the next time we were in the US or the UK the kids could enroll in some kind of pre-baptism training (just like I went through when I was a kid and got baptised) and hopefully God would provide a pastor or a youth group leader who they would want to baptise them. I said all this to them. "But Dad", they said, "we want YOU to baptise us!"

Now I know that the correct response should have been unbridled joy at the thought of such a wonderful opportunity, but no! I was freaking out. Was I qualified to baptise people? Didn't you have to be a pastor? At least a youth group leader? I'm ashamed to admit it now, but I put them off. We had lots of stuff going on and no time, etc. I knew it wasn't great to be putting them off, I mean, I really didn't want to "quench the Spirit" so to speak.

Time went by. And then several other kids in the community decided that they wanted to get baptised, and my kids decided that they did, too. I knew I should be excited, but I was filled with dread. What if I got it wrong? What if I accidentally swerved into heresy? Who am I to be

baptising people? I'M A MECHANIC!

The big day came and over breakfast I let my son know what I was thinking. "What if I get it wrong?" "Dad", he said, "that's silly! You won't get it wrong." And of course I knew he was right. Looking back at Biblical baptisms, there's no great long liturgy that needs to be memorised and delivered in iambic pentameter. It's just stuff like the Ethiopian who said "Hey look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptised RIGHT NOW?!" And of course Philip baptised him.

So, at 2pm, we and about 50 other people made our way down to a local river. One of the pastors from our community gave a short talk about baptism and the ten kids who had chosen to be baptised that day were baptised. Some by the pastor, some by their dads. My kids were the last, numbers eight, nine, and ten.

We decided to go in birth order, which seemed to make sense. My son and I walked towards the water. At some point it sank in what we were doing and I started crying. I stopped at the edge of the water, facing away from the crowd and tried to regain my composure, but all to no avail. Others saw me and they started crying, too. It was either a really special time or a real mess, depending on your point of view, I guess. I'm super thankful that my kids were not embarrassed by my tears.

I spoke to the crowd, and it was hard because I was crying and couldn't stop and my voice broke. It was a disaster, but a special and holy time. "I'm not a pastor", I said, "by God's grace I am a mechanic!" I paused and spoke to the crowd again, "I hope nobody will be offended if I ask my wife to help me." There did not seem to be any objection, especially as I was so emotional, and my lovely wife came forward and asked each of the kids the questions we had agreed to ask them and together my son and I walked out into the river.





So that's how it went! In the end I realised what a special thing it was to be able to baptise my own kids. I am thrilled that they have made public their commitment to follow Christ and I love them all very much! Pray for MKs (missionary kids). We love them, but like all kids, they do have their struggles, some more than others.

Thank you to Andrew for sharing such a very special milestone in their family's life. Let us pray for Levi, Heidi and Eowyn as they journey in faith as well as the other young people who took their own step of faith that day.



THE BIG BUILD

Currently we are waiting for some further surveys to be carried out. These include some further geotechnical work which will help to make decisions about the design of the foundations. This will also show whether further strengthening is needed for the existing church structure.

We have recently received an initial indicative cost for the four parts of work that we would like to carry out: namely the entrance and foyer, the church store, the hall store and the 'band stand' area. To achieve the complete Big Build will require eye watering sums of money and we are contemplating phasing the work over several years.

The current steering group will shortly be split into three smaller working groups each looking at specific needs for the Big Build. These are finance; building; events and communications. The new groups will all work with the existing relevant Vision Groups.

Read more about the project on our website:

allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/the-big-build/

Robin Holdsworth

A CHRISTMAS CAROL TURNS 180

On 19 December this year, the greatest novella in history turns 180 years old. Well I think it's the greatest anyway.

A Christmas Carol wasn't Dickens' first piece of festive writing. Nine years earlier, he had written a short essay – 'Christmas Festivities' – encouraging warm hearts, nostalgia and seasonal optimism. This was a time when Christmas was not a rosy cosy festival at all. Old traditions had been forgotten. In 1643, Christmas had been banned by the Puritan government; when it returned seventeen years later, the spark didn't rekindle a flame. Christmas was a boozy affair on the streets and a quiet commemoration in church.

A year after that essay, Dickens penned his first novel. The Pickwick Papers claimed that Christmas 'can win us back to the delusions of our childish days'. There was a template for Scrooge too, as a lonely miser sees the error of his ways when mystical creatures show him the past and future.



Seven years after that, Dickens' finances weren't looking good. Oliver Twist had sold well but Martin Chuzzlewit hadn't, leaving his publisher out of pocket. With a fifth child on the way, Dickens turned to self-publishing. But what story?

A recent speaking tour of America had given him a new zest to encourage change. He had campaigned against slavery and visited Cornish tin mines and industrial Manchester. He was eager to show his middle- and upper-class readership the social injustice under their noses. He tried writing a political pamphlet, but then turned it into a festive ghost story, a genre with 'twenty thousand times the force of my first idea'.

He wrote Ebenezer Scrooge's tale in six weeks in late 1843, pacing the streets of London through the night for inspiration, then returning to his typewriter.

Tiny Tim was the key. By creating empathy for the most vulnerable member of the Cratchit family, readers would understand Scrooge's transformation from skinflint to philanthropist. Along the way they'd read of various wholesome Christmases, from party games to dinners, turkey to mulled wine. The phrase 'Merry Christmas' had been around for years, but this book popularised it, as well as its opposite: 'Bah, humbug!' There was goose, turkey, Christmas pudding and Blind Man's Buff. Dickens even included the mulled

wine of his youth. (Dickens grew up drinking Smoking Bishop, apparently safer than water at the time. Those living in Onslow Village this November may have been tempted to do likewise...)

It's fair to say the book was a hit. It was released into Victorian London the same week as the first Christmas card, but while Sir Henry Coles sold a thousand cards by Christmas, Dickens sold six thousand copies of his book, selling out its first print run within a day. The first stage adaptations appeared in the New Year, without Dickens' approval.

The book won over the hardest of hearts and increased charitable giving. Even Dickens' literary rival William Makepeace Thackeray noted that: 'A Scotch philosopher, who nationally does not keep Christmas Day, on reading the book, sent out for a turkey and asked two friends to dinner – and that is a fact.'

Some called Dickens 'the man who invented Christmas'. Arguably his take on the season has nudged out the Christian Christmas. Ask someone today about the true meaning of Christmas, and they're just as likely to say family, cosiness and charity, as a celebration of the birth of Jesus.

That said, what version of Christmas would we have today without Dickens? I think he wrote from a good place, the best place – a Christian creative individual seeking to better his readers. He had little time for the organised church, but he once wrote to a fan: 'I have always striven in my writings to express veneration for the life and lessons of Our Saviour... But I have never made proclamation of this from the house tops.' Tolstoy called Dickens 'that great Christian writer'.

Dickens religiously educated his children by writing for them *The Life of Our Lord*, a book so personal to his family that he banned its publication for as long as he lived. It contained eight gospel stories, one of them bearing a striking resemblance to *A Christmas Carol*.

In Luke's gospel's Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, a rich man dies and is condemned after a lifetime of luxury. Looking up from his torment, he sees a familiar poor man, Lazarus, with Abraham on the heavenly side of the chasm. Abraham refuses the rich man's request to send Lazarus to his family, as a ghostly warning to change their path. You can almost hear Marley's chains a-rattling through that biblical story.

I wonder if Dickens was partly inspired by that biblical parable to write one of his own. He helped clean up Christmas, highlighting its positive, charitable, family-focused aspects – even if the drunken party side still rears its antler-adorned head today. And it's a reminder that we can all change. If

Scrooge can undergo this transformation, what new outlook might we have if we reflect on our past, consider our future, and appreciate those around us in the present?

Dickens' final paragraphs convey his message of peace, good will and a divine blessing for all. Scrooge 'knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!'

I'm sure our descendants will still read this book in another 180 years – and they'll still treasure as I do its last line: a blessing for us all, for as Tiny Tim observed, 'God bless us, every one!'

Paul Kerensa is author of 'Hark! The Biography of Christmas' (Lion Hudson).

COMMUNION CUPS

At our PCC meeting on the 19th June this year, we reviewed the use of individual cups at Communion. Following the challenges of Covid, Bishop Andrew made provision for churches to adopt using individual cups, rather than a common cup, for a time. We discussed this as a PCC at the time, and felt that it was an appropriate way forward for our church, allowing people to receive the wine at Communion, but without any concerns around spreading the Covid virus.

On the 19th April, our Worship Vision reviewed this decision, and came to the conclusion that we should continue to use individual cups for another year. Although Covid is much less prevalent, it is still a threat, and particularly to our more vulnerable members. The PCC considered this proposal, and agreed that safety was paramount, and that we wouldn't re-introduce the common cup for at least another year.

I know that some of us miss the symbolism of a common cup, and find it a loss; and I recognise the importance of that view. My hope is that at some point we'll be able to bring back the common cup; and in the mean time we will continue to review the situation on an annual basis .

Beverly

All Saints' Church Hall

is available for children's parties on
Saturday and Sunday afternoons.
We offer a 4 hour party package for £82
(bouncy castle not included)



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A CHRISTMAS RECIPE: PEPPARKAKOR

Pepparkakor is a kind of Scandinavian gingersnap biscuit or cookie that is very popular in Sweden during Christmas.

Pepparkakor or pepparkaka means pepper cookie/pepper cookies. Peppar means pepper in Swedish and kakor or kaka means cookie or biscuit and can also mean cake so it can be a bit confusing.



What's even more confusing is that modern pepparkakor does not contain pepper. But there are old recipes dating back as far as 1444 where there was pepper in the recipes. Another reason for the name is that in the past, a lot of exotic spices in Sweden were called peppers as a group, so the name could just have meant spice cookies.

There are few sources showing where pepparkakor came from. There are some claims that they originated in Mesopotamia as early as 1700 BC. But it is more likely that they came to Sweden from Germany. Pepparkakor used to be common in both England and Germany and trade between Germany and Sweden goes a long way back in history.

The first evidence of pepparkakor being consumed in Sweden dates back to the 1300s and the first recipes in cookbooks appeared from the 1700s. But it was in the 1800s that pepparkakor first started to be associated with Christmas.

Here's a recipe for you to try:

Ingredients: (Makes around 75 pepparkakor)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ★ 75g butter | ★ ½ tsp of ground cardamom |
| ★ 125g soft light-brown sugar | ★ ½ tsp ground cloves |
| ★ 25g golden syrup | ★ ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda |
| ★ 10g treacle | ★ 50ml water |
| ★ ½ tbsp ground ginger | ★ 225g plain flour |
| ★ ½ tbsp ground cinnamon | |

Method:

1. Mix the butter, sugar, syrup, and treacle in a saucepan. Heat gently until the butter melts, stirring continuously.
2. Add the spices and mix thoroughly. Add the bicarbonate of soda, water, and flour and stir thoroughly until it is completely mixed in.
3. Empty the mixture into a bowl. When cool, cover with cling film and then leave the dough to rest in the fridge (ideally overnight for the flavours to develop).
4. Preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F, gas mark 6, fan 180°C).
5. Knead the dough and then roll it out thinly on a lightly floured surface. Cut it into shapes using a biscuit cutter.
6. Transfer to a greased baking tray and bake for 5–8 minutes until golden brown. Keep an eye on them as they burn very easily, but they should be crisp.
7. Leave to cool on the baking sheets as they break easily when hot.
8. When cooled, decorate with icing and enjoy!



GREETINGS FROM ESTONIA

Hello from slightly snowy very dark Tallinn!

We are settling in well. All of our things finally arrived in late September and it was lovely to be reunited with them!

The kids are settling in well to school and getting used to another new way of doing things.

Ryan has hit the ground running with work and it is keeping him very busy.

I have been setting up the house and finding my feet in Tallinn. There was a big influx of new people with the US embassy and the British military this summer so it has been good to have fellow newbies who are also in the same position. We have been making time to go out for lunch and evening drinks together.

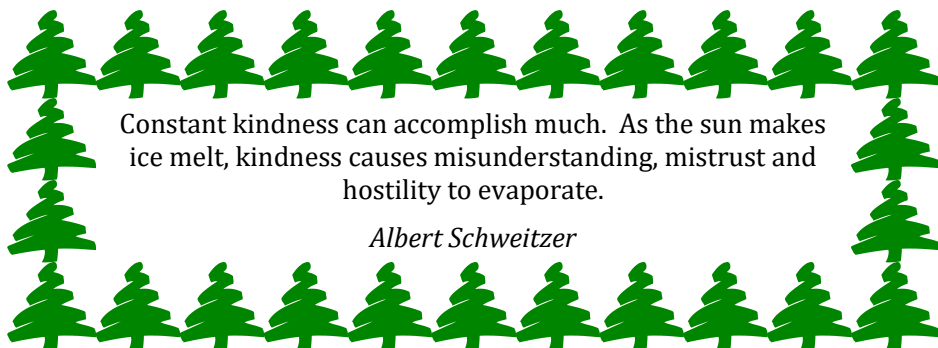
I am missing everyone at All Saints. Estonia is one of the least religious countries in the world and I haven't yet found my place. I'm experimenting with an American church which has been interesting but the congregation are very welcoming and friendly and have similar values to me even if the church is very different.

The kids were ecstatic to have some snow earlier in the month and we had a little more this week.

It looks like it's going to be a cold winter!



Caroline Coatalen-Hodgson



Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.

Albert Schweitzer

Send in your entry...

Get out into nature, take some photos inspired by “the gift of our natural world” and submit your best image in an email with a few sentences on what it felt like to focus in on the wildlife around you...



ONSLOW NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAY

DEC

submit entries to giftnaturalworldphotog@gmail.com

08



Please don't include any people in any images and make sure to get your entries in by the 8th of December! Email in with your name and age, then wait to see your entries in the foyer of All Saints Church...

***“The Gift Of Our
Natural World”***

OVRA IS ALIVE AND WELL



I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Onslow Village Residents' Association back in October. Seeing such a great turn out reassured those of us who had come along, with the intention of volunteering, that OVRA is still a valued part of village life, and people didn't want it to come to an end. And so I'm delighted to announce that OVRA is alive and well,

with a full committee and lots of energy and enthusiasm!

The mission statement for OVRA is 'To safeguard the amenities of Onslow Village and to promote the welfare, interests and well-being of the residents'. This covers a lot! It means, as a committee, we're passionate about making sure Onslow Village remains a safe place to live with clean air, safe roads and a reliable water supply (!). It means we want to make sure OV remains a vibrant place to live with shops, businesses, children's play areas and well-kept facilities and environments for all. And it means we're passionate about helping people feel they are a valued part of a supportive community, enabling us all to feel connected and to get involved.

Having said all that, our role in OVRA is not to do all of that, but rather to facilitate it. We want to let you know the issues and to tell you who is doing what about them, and what you can do to help. We want to let you know about all the great things going on in OV and how you can get involved. OVRA will certainly be organising a few of our own social events but there is so much more going on in the village that you may not know about! Our key role will be sign-posting you to what is already going on and offering a communication tool for people wanting to initiate something that is in line with our mission statement.

To this end, one of our first priorities is to redevelop the OVRA website. Not only will we make it easy for people to be able to join online, but we want it to become the first place to go to find out what's happening in Onslow Village: local issues, special interest talks, voluntary groups, kids' clubs, sports activities, local businesses, social events. The website will either give you the information you need or will direct you to where you can find it.

Obviously this will take us a little while to achieve so we're aiming to launch the new website shortly before the AGM, which will be on Tuesday 19th

March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Look out for your copy of 'The Village Voice' which will be delivered to every home in the village, announcing the unveiling of the website, and inviting everyone to become members of OVRA so that we can strengthen and support our local community. The Village Voice will also present the diary of OVRA events including some fascinating talks and some really fun social events, which our team is busy planning.

Please add the OVRA AGM on 19th March to your diary and come along. We'd really love to introduce you to the new committee and to say a public thank you to the old committee members upon whose wonderful work we are building. We're also keen to hear your ideas for what we can do in the future to fulfil our mission statement and make OV a fantastic place to live!

But before all of that, we hope you will enjoy our Advent windows which are rapidly becoming a treasured village tradition. A map showing where all the windows are located will be posted on Facebook and the existing OVRA website before the first window is lit up on 1st December. The windows will then remain lit up between 4-8pm every day until 31st December. We hope you will enjoy walking around the village to see them, but if you can't get out, don't worry, we'll be adding a photo of each new window as they appear, to the online map and to the website, so you won't be missing out! Happy Advent everyone, we look forward to seeing you on March 19th!

Jo Rew

CHRISTMAS ABROAD

We asked some of our friends to tell us about a Christmas that they have spent abroad...

Jeanette Whiteman told us about her strangest Christmas ever!

Just a few days before Christmas in 1964 my Dad, Mum, sister and I disembarked from the SS Remuera in Auckland to start a new life in New Zealand.

This was not something that I had wanted, but as a 14-year-old I had no choice but to go with my parents wherever they felt it was right to go. And my mother had decided that the climate on the other side of the world would be better for my father's ill health. So, there we were in a foreign land far, far away from family, friends and all that was familiar. I have never felt so lonely and disorientated as I did then. Christmas was just a few days away, but it didn't feel like it.

With the sun shining and people walking around in light summer clothing it

seemed incongruous to see all the snowman and snowflake decorations that were everywhere, and a huge Father Christmas dressed traditionally sitting in his sleigh and waving from the top of a shop!

As my parents still needed to find somewhere for us to live, those first few days were spent in a hotel. I don't remember much about Christmas Day, although I am sure that the hotel owners made an effort with the celebrations, and I did receive from my parents the best of presents – the latest Beatles LP! But it was just not the same as our usual family Christmas gatherings.

So not a truly memorable Christmas, I am afraid.

In writing this, however, it has made me reflect on that very first Christmas, and how Mary must have felt as she arrived in Bethlehem disorientated and a long way away from family and friends. Like me she was in a foreign city, she had no home to go to but, unlike me, there was not even a hotel or guesthouse for her to stay in. What is more, she was pregnant and due to give birth at any time!

Now I have been pregnant four times and each time I've had the luxury of giving birth in a hospital with doctors and midwives to support me. How would Mary have been feeling as Joseph and she search frantically for somewhere to rest, somewhere safe for the baby to be born? With no other options left, in the end, a stable must have felt like a blessing. And once baby Jesus had been born how much did Mary miss having friends and family around to share her joy and to offer her support? I know that on that first Christmas in Auckland, although I was with my father mother and sister, it was my wider family, friends, and familiarity that I missed most.

PS If that all sounds too depressing, I should add that we quickly found a home and settled down and I have much to be grateful for in the three years that I lived in New Zealand, and I do have many happy memories.

Jay Woogara gave us an impression of Christmas in Mauritius:

Unfortunately, my experience of Christmas celebration in Mauritius is very limited. I know, though, that although Christians are a minority group, being a past British colony, Christmas and Boxing Days are public holidays. When I was in Mauritius three years ago during the month of November I was rather surprised to see that Christmas trees were found in all the shopping malls and in the houses of my closest relatives although they are all Hindus.

What was obvious then was that the wealthier they are the bigger were the trees. The significance of Christmas Day is not understood by the majority of the Hindus. They just want to imitate the western style of living and have a

great time by the beach or at home.

On the other hand the Christians, being mainly Catholic, do go to church and attend the midnight mass. The majority are very religious and maintain their faith in a very dignified and respectful way.

Carolyn Nicholls tells us of Christmases with Tear Fund

Whilst we were overseas working with Tear Fund we experienced quite a few Christmases which were a bit different!

In 1995, we travelled to Darjeeling for a Christmas holiday. The children were all at a Christian school in South India whilst Peter and I were working in Dhaka, Bangladesh. They came by train to Calcutta with a school group which involved two nights on the train. We met them at Howrah station, transferred to Sealdah station and continued together on yet another overnight train to New Jalpaiguri at the foot of the hills. Then we took the local bus up the 'hill' to Darjeeling. Darjeeling lies at 2000m above sea level but compared to the snow covered Himalayan peaks visible from the town, it is a mere hill! The children's school in the Nilgiri Hills was also at just over 2000m, but in Bangladesh we were never much above 50-100m and usually lower.

We took a few days to recover and acclimatise before travelling out of Darjeeling. We were advised of a five-day trek into the hills, so we needed to find warm clothes from the second-hand market in Darjeeling before taking a bus to the start point. With our rucksacks on our backs, we set off, walking for some of the time along a track marking the border between India and Nepal. Lizi was only eight and had picked up a tummy bug but she still kept going as we climbed higher and higher – up to 4000m before descending back to the road to get a bus back to Darjeeling. We had wonderful views of Kachenjunga standing at 8,500m, and walked past little villages only accessible by foot. We stayed in little tea shops along the way eating the local dhal bhat with a few vegetables. It was very cold at night so we put on all our clothes before getting into our sleeping bags to keep warm! In the morning the only tap (outside) was frozen. It was an amazing and very special time together.

When we got back to Darjeeling, it was Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning we went to the English speaking church. The lasting memory was when the person leading the singing (no organ or piano) started to sing Once in Royal David's City to the tune of Hark the Herald Angels Sing, with the small congregation joining in. Very soon, someone called out 'Shall we try the correct tune?!' After church we went to find somewhere to eat – we had bacon sandwiches! The children still talk about it as the best Christmas lunch ever!

Bacon was a real treat – it wasn't available for us in Bangladesh and they never had such delights at boarding school! Then to top it all it started to snow. The children played in the snow a bit and then we made phone calls to our parents in England (a rare occurrence in pre-mobile phone days!). We ended a very memorable day playing 'Risk' in our guest house room.

We did a bit more travelling in the area before returning to Bangladesh for the remainder of the school holiday and Peter went back to work. It was a Christmas to remember.



Guildford Travel Club

travel for travel's sake

December Talks

Tuesday 5th December is a members' only social evening which includes British award winning journalist Monisha Rajesh discussing the highs and lows of her 4,500-mile journey around the world by train, offering stories that only trains can tell.

Following on **Tuesday 12th December** Andy Skillen, multi-awarding winning wildlife photographer and photojournalist will talk about his high-octane assignments worldwide, from the slopes of the Himalayas to the Patagonian steppe.

Join us at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford, GU2 7QR.

Doors open at 7.30pm and the talks are from 8–10pm with a break for free refreshments.

New members and visitors welcome. Membership: £35 for the season.

Student Card holders: £18 for the season. Visitors welcome subject to space: £7 per talk.

Visit www.guildfordtravelclub.org.uk for more information or contact our membership secretary:

Barbara Rogers **07899 868128** or email: info@guildfordtravelclub.org.uk if you wish to join the club or attend as a visitor.



THE BIG BUILD FUND

Plans are almost in place for the redevelopment of our buildings. Our vision is to significantly redevelop the foyer adding a kitchen, a new office, new toilets and a hospitality space. We also hope to add storage spaces in various areas of the building, including the church hall to support this vision. This will enable us to further fulfil our wider vision to:

'Welcome Everyone', 'Grow Disciples' and 'Deepen Community'

Final plans are being drawn up by our architects (Robin Nugent Architects), for approval by the PCC, and sharing with members of All Saints. Do have a word with any member of the Big Build team to find out more (their names and photos are in the foyer).

To progress further, we now need to pay a number of significant professional fees, to our architect and various surveyors. We need to raise **£25,000** to launch the Big Build project, and to secure the future of our buildings.

Please give as generously as you can, as we begin this venture of faith together.

All donations will be placed into a '**restricted fund**' which means we will only spend your donation on the Big Build project. In the event that there is a surplus in the fund at the end of the project, the money raised will be moved to the PCC's general fund.

Claiming **Gift Aid** on your donation is a great way to boost the fund, so if you haven't completed a gift aid declaration before, then please do so now if you are eligible. If you're not sure if you've completed one, please fill one anyway, it's online at bit.ly/AS_GiftAid

You can give:

- via bank transfer: Sort code **40-52-40**; Acc: **00017975**
(please use ref. *Big Build*)
- Cash or cheque to the office (Pay to 'All Saints Church, Guildford' and please use ref. *Big Build*)
- At our online giving page for the Big Build: bit.ly/build_donate

Thank you for your generosity



CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS



Christingle

**Sunday 3rd
December**

Café-style
Altogether Worship
10am

Tea-time Church
4pm



Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 10th December
at 6pm



MORNING WORSHIP & NATIVITY

Sunday 17th December at 10am

*A contemporary service with our
Worship Band, featuring a short
nativity play*



Crib Service

Sunday
24th December
at 4pm



MIDNIGHT MASS

Sunday 24th December
11.30pm



Christmas Day

All-Age Communion at 10am

ASPECTS OF LATER LIFE—COURSE REVIEW



We have just completed the five week course on Aspects of Later Life and I was asked to share with you our experience of this new course. Beverly and I created it as a result of me attending a diocesan training day for Pastoral Assistants where it was being highlighted that feeling prepared for the issues that might arise as we get older was not something that most churches had considered, let alone provided for.

Beverly was also struck by the fact that having taken a funeral for someone who had been a longstanding member of our congregation, she had not known what the person's wishes were regarding their funeral: the hymns, readings and prayers. or how they would have wanted it to be conducted to reflect who they were.

As a result of this Beverly and I met and planned together what might be appropriate to offer as a course at All Saints' Church to address relevant aspects of later life including matters which needed to be dealt with practically.

The resulting course was open to anyone who was interested, whether they were linked to All Saints or not. So we were delighted that at the first session, 35 people attended and wherever possible continued for the whole course, with some new people joining us when they could. The course comprised five sessions:

- Week 1. Getting to know one another - sharing our experience of the later stages of life.
- Week 2. Facing some of the challenges of later life - loneliness, loss, health issues etc.
- Week 3. A Christian perspective on dying and death as the gateway to eternal life.
- Week 4. Planning a funeral - choosing favourite hymns, readings and the tribute.
- Week 5. Considering the legal aspects of later life - making a will, Powers of Attorney etc.

Each session was led by Beverly with outside specialist speakers on week 2, 3 and 5. There were five facilitators for small group discussions with questions relating specifically to that day's subject. The subjects proved to be

relevant and meaningful and gave us all an opportunity of talking about and exploring things that we don't normally talk about, facilitated in a small group.

The age range of people, in their 60s until late 90s meant we had a broad spectrum of experiences and lively and relevant input. Because this was a newly created course we asked people to complete a feedback form which some were able to do right away, and others who will return it to us when completed.

So far the feedback indicates that the participants found it appropriate and (although not sure what they would like), would be interested in something further. There were also comments for us to take on board if we were offering this course again, which was very helpful.

Please do let Beverly or me know, having read about the course, if it would be something you would also find helpful if we ran a similar course again. It could be relating to you where you are yourself, or perhaps you are having to support your parents with some of these issues and would like to have an opportunity of talking things through with others or someone from the Pastoral Team.

The following has been written by one of the attendees who came with his carer, which gives a lovely insight into what it meant to him.

Marguerite Barclay, Pastoral Team Leader

'Three score years and ten' said the psalmist, but many of us in prosperous Guildford seem to be exceeding that limit and even the four score years he mentions in his follow-up. Our Tuesday afternoons in October and November have been taken up with the course on 'Aspects of Later Life'. Beverly told us the stories of some of the older characters in the Bible: Abraham, Naomi, Simeon, Anna and Jacob. Our speakers, Beverly, Annie Cox, Paul Fenner and Tony Cox enlightened us on the medical, spiritual and legal aspects of later life. We were reassured that those nasty aches and pains we suffer from are the body's natural ageing process. As we sat at round tables in small groups, we learned from the experiences of others, and found out about, among other things, Respect Forms, Powers of Attorney and how we should store some of our documents in the fridge where the emergency services are trained to find them. This visitor from St Nicolas Church would like to thank those who organised such a worthwhile course and showed us how to manage those extra years that, in many cases, God has given us. Not to mention the delicious tea and cake.

Tim Bryers

JOSPEH & PAUL'S TUBE LINE CHALLENGE

On Monday 6th November, I (Joseph) and my Dad (Paul) did a challenge where you have to go on all the different tube lines in under two hours. Read on to find out if we completed the challenge!



We departed at 10.36am to start our journey to London. After stopping off in Woking for a haircut, we arrived at Waterloo. Our first line to tick off was the shortest tube line (only two stations!), the Waterloo & City. After this four minute trip, we went to our largest connection which was Bank. We took a Central line train to Liverpool Street, where we had a dilemma.

The next three tubes were the Metropolitan, Hammersmith & City and Circle lines. The route we were taking was Liverpool Street to Farringdon via Moorgate and Barbican. However, all three lines are on the same train! Therefore, we decided to go on the train to Farringdon and every time we reached a stop in between, we got off and came back on again!

After ticking off these three lines, our next one was the newest, best looking and my favourite, the Elizabeth line, (aka the Purple line or the Crossrail) named after Queen Elizabeth II. We set off on the 11 minute trip to Oxford Circus.

Our next train was the Victoria line which was departing from Bond Street. We could've walked there but there was a quicker route, the Central line (already ticked off) from Oxford Circus to Bond Street. So we took that instead.

After coming off the Victoria line from Bond St. to Green Park, we took a two minute Piccadilly line train to Piccadilly Circus. After having a cheeky little cookie on the way, we took a brown Bakerloo line to Charing Cross. Then we took a Northern line which was our shortest transfer (less than 30 seconds!)

Once we arrived in Embankment, we went on the District line to go to Westminster. Here marked the end of the older tube lines, bar the Elizabeth line, and now we had the more modern ones such as the Jubilee, Overground and DLR (as well as good ol' walking!).

We went from Westminster to Canada Water on the Jubilee which was a slightly longer journey so we could sit down and breath! Once we got to Canada Water, we took the one line that I had never been on before, the London Overground or the orange line! Sadly, the section we were in was under-

ground so no fresh air for me!

After this five minute journey, we reached Shadwell where we had to get on the DLR. Technically, as soon as the DLR started moving, we could stop the stopwatch. We ran up the steps as the train was just pulling into the platform.

Finally, at the Shadwell DLR Station, our last train left and headed for Bank! We had done it! The challenge was completed successfully in 1 hour, 30 minutes and 8 seconds!

To get back to Waterloo, we took (another) Waterloo & City line to get back to Waterloo main station. We had a nice sit down and some lunch before heading home again to Guildford Station. By 17:00 that day, we both went on 21 trains each in total!

Now that is an inset day to remember!

Joseph Young



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis chapters 39: 20-41:44

Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave
and he had ended up in Egypt. Then he was
wrongly accused and was sent to prison.



Joseph was trusted to look
after the other prisoners.

Then Pharaoh's butler and baker were sent to
the prison. One night they had strange dreams.



... I made
juice from the grapes
and gave it to Pharaoh..

.. all the
bread in my baskets
was eaten by birds.

God knows what your dreams mean -
you will be pardoned ... but you won't.



The two men
left the prison.



Don't forget me!

But they did

Two years later
Pharaoh had a dream

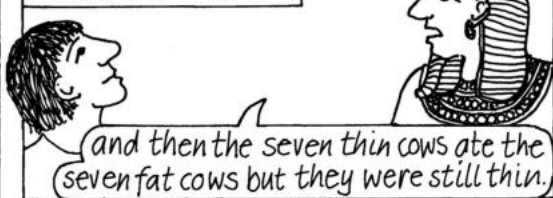


None of his advisors could
explain it...



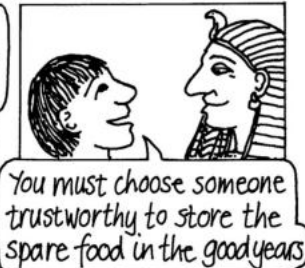
... then his butler
remembered Joseph.

So Joseph was cleaned up
and sent to Pharaoh



and then the seven thin cows ate the
seven fat cows but they were still thin.

God says there will be
seven bumper years, then
seven years of famine.



You must choose someone
trustworthy to store the
spare food in the good years

Pharaoh was so impressed
he gave Joseph the job!



To be continued next month....

O Simplicitas by Madeleine L'Engle

An angel came to me
And I was unprepared
To be what God was using.
Mother I was to be.
A moment I despaired,
Thought briefly of refusing.
The angel knew I heard.
According to God's word
I bowed to this strange choosing.



A palace should have been
The birthplace of a king
(I had no way of knowing).
We went to Bethlehem;
It was so strange a thing.
The wind was cold, and blowing,
My cloak was old, and thin.
They turned us from the inn;
The town was overflowing.

God's Word, a child so small,
Who still must learn to speak,
Lay in humiliation.
Joseph stood, strong and tall.
The beasts were warm and meek
And moved with hesitation.
The Child born in a stall?
I understood it; all.
Kings came in adoration.

Perhaps it was absurd:
The stable set apart,
The sleepy cattle lowing;
And the incarnate Word
Resting against my heart.
My joy was overflowing.
The shepherds came, adored
The folly of the Lord,
Wiser than all men's knowing.



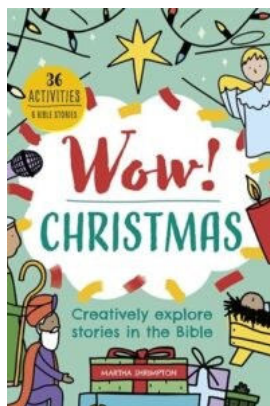
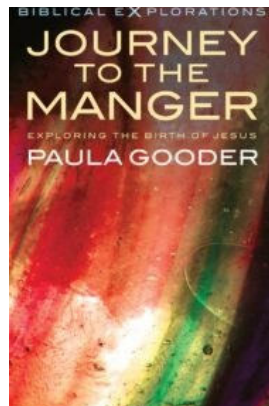
BOOK REVIEWS

Journey to the Manger – Exploring the Birth of Jesus **By Paula Gooder, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

Journey to the Manger explores the New Testament's various accounts of the birth of Jesus: their origins in Old Testament prophecies, the genealogies, the angelic announcements, the journeys and arrivals, and the aftermath of Jesus' birth for the powerful and the poor alike.

Although many biblical scholars have puzzled over historical details in the accounts, Paula Gooder argues that in doing this, they risk missing the point. Engaging seriously with biblical and historical criticism, she uncovers key similarities running through the Gospel writers' accounts and focuses on their shared understanding of the significant events they describe.

Her detailed exploration of the texts will breathe new life into the familiar Christmas stories. All in all, an accessible and informed study of the best loved texts in Scripture.



Wow! Christmas – creatively explore stories in the Bible **By Martha Shrimpton, SPCK, £10.99**

Here is a well designed, colourful, and creative Christmas activity book for children.

The book explores six aspects about the birth of Jesus, including Jesus as the light of the world, ordinary yet extraordinary shepherds, the journey of the wise men, the giving of gifts, the excitement and anticipation waiting for Christmas, and why Christmas is something to celebrate.

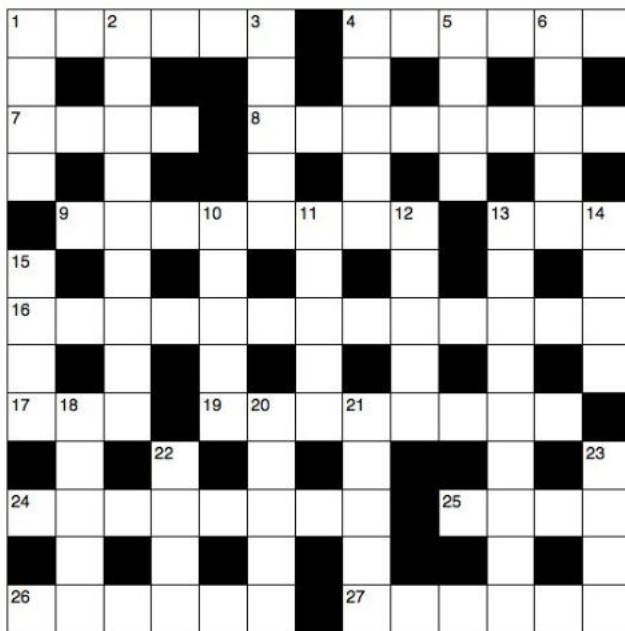
Each story is explored through innovative activities such as engaging prayer, craft and create, acting the scene, time for reflection, ideas for discussion, and creative praise



PUZZLE PAGE

CROSSWORD

Answers on page 36



Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

SUDOKU

Solution on page 36

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

The
Tale of the
**TWO
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

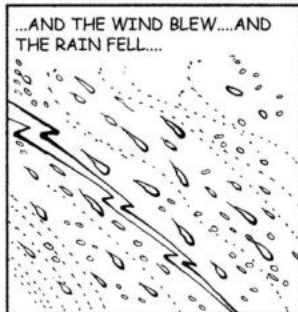


THE OTHER BUILDER
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE
BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



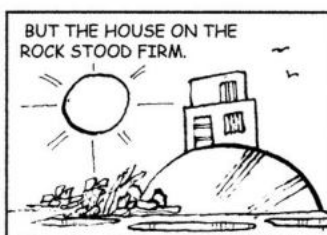
BUT ONE DAY THE
STORM CAME....



...AND THE WIND BLEW....AND
THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON
THE SAND COLLAPSED!



BUT THE HOUSE ON THE
ROCK STOOD FIRM.

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HO-HO-HO

Q. What's red and white, red and white, and red and white?

A. Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

Q. What did Santa say when he stepped into a big puddle?

A. It must have reindeer.

Q. How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

A. Nothing, it was on the house!

Q. What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

A. Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Crossword answers (grid on page 32)

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah

Sudoku solution (grid on page 33)

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

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 A better cup of tea!	X	✓

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WORSHIP AND READINGS

	8am	10am	4pm
3rd December Advent Sunday	Holy Communion Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24- end	Café-Style Altogether Worship Christingle Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24- end	Tea-time Church Christingle Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24- end
10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent		Family Commu- nion with Chil- dren's Church Psalm 46:1-7, Ephesians 6:10- 17 and Luke 6:27 -31	6pm Nine Lessons and Carols Psalm 23, 2 Co- rinthians 1:3-7
17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	BCP Communion Isaiah 61:1-4, 8- end; 1 Thessalo- nians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8, 19-28	Morning Wor- ship with Nativity Isaiah 61:1-4, 8- end; 1 Thessalo- nians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8, 19-28	Tea Time Church Isaiah 61:1-4, 8- end; 1 Thessalo- nians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8, 19-28
24th December Christmas Eve		All-Age Family Communion 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-end and Luke 1:26-38	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4 and John 1:1-14
25th December Christmas Day		All-Age Family Communion Isaiah 9:2-7, Ti- tus 2:11-14 and Luke 2:1-14	
31st December First Sunday of Christmas		Family Commu- nion Isaiah 61:10- 62:3, Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 2:15-21	Tea-time Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: DECEMBER

Friday 1st, 9.30am	Toddler Group
Friday 1st, 3pm	Friday Group
Saturday 2nd, 9.30am	Big Build Steering Group
Sunday 3rd	<i>Advent Sunday</i>
Tuesday 5th, 7.30pm	Altogether Worship Planning
Wednesday 6th, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Friday 8th, 9.30am	Toddler Group
Saturday 9th, 10am-12noon	Orchard Project Tree Planting
Saturday 9th, 5.30pm	Young Adult's Zoom
Monday 11th, 4pm	Barnabas Group
Monday 11th, 7.30pm	Premises Vision Group
Tuesday 12th, 6.15pm	Carol Singing with the Guides
Tuesday 12th, 8pm	Standing Committee Meeting
Wednesday 13th, 10.30am	Men's Coffee Morning
Wednesday 13th, 12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch Group
Wednesday 13th, 12.30pm	Women's Bible Study Group
Friday 15th, 9.30am	Toddler Group
Friday 15th, 3pm	Friday Group
Saturday 16th, 8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
Sunday 17th, 5.30pm	Youth Group
Monday 18th, 2pm	Hearing Clinic
Monday 18th, 3pm	Hard of Hearing Group
Wednesday 20th, 2.30pm	Dray Court Service
Wednesday 20th, 7.45pm	Sharing & Learning Group
Sunday 24th	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
Monday 25th	<i>Christmas Day</i>
Tuesday 26th	<i>Boxing Day</i>

MORE WHOS WHO

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The Arts Society	Sian Davis	07836 550355
Guildford County School	Steve Smith	504089
Mothers' Union	Diana Reiblein	828587
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Onslow Infant School	Katherine Donlon	532726
OV Garden Club	Anne Bradbeer	563421
OV Residents	Rebecca Brown	207898
OV Tennis Club	Paul Mortlock	07904 196652
1st OV Guides	Lucy Wallis	302122
2nd OV Brownies	Lucy Wallis	302122
3rd OV Brownies	Sam Mitchell	07841 480247
4th OV Brownies	Sarah Bennett	07956 962686
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Community Policing	Safer Neighbourhood Team	101



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