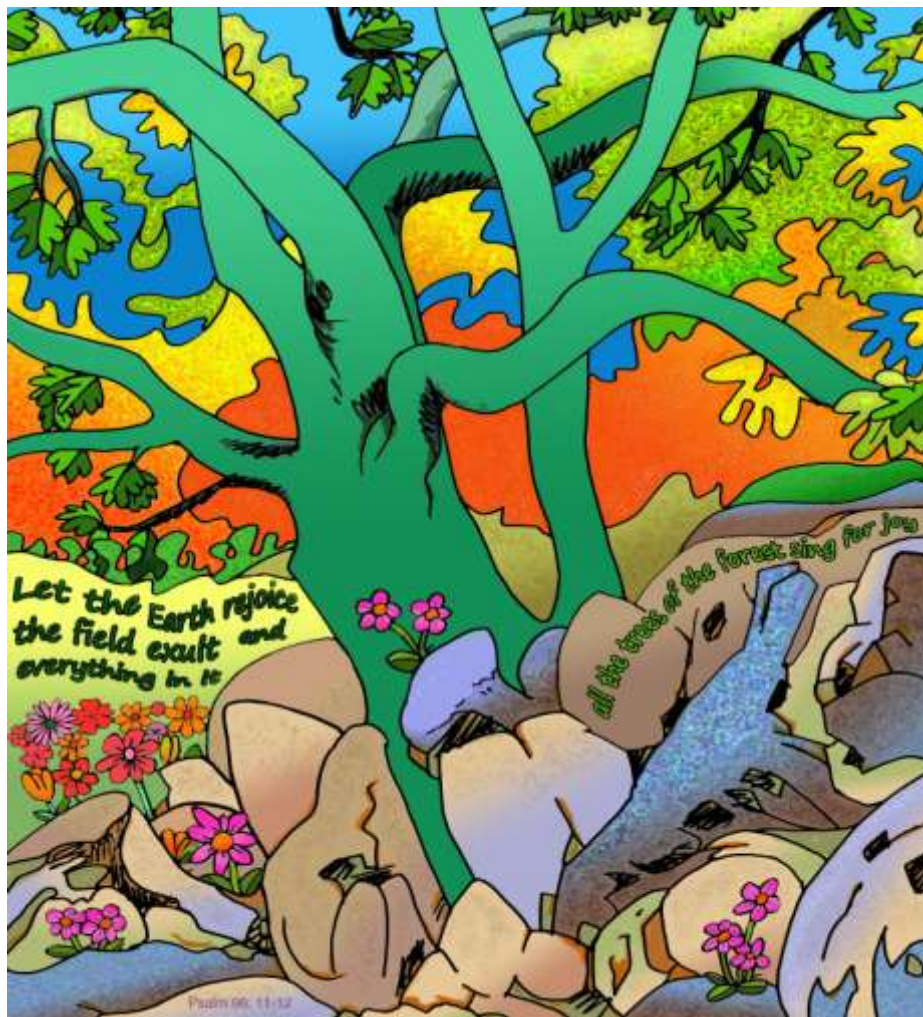


Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

www.fromsidechurches.org.uk

www.salemchurch.org.uk



May 2025

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Rector: Rev Malcolm Strange, 70 High Street, Winterbourne

Phone: 01454 775529

Email: m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Associate Priest Rev Joanne Hodge Phone: 07758 648264

Email: j.hodge@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Associate Priest Rev Julia Chard Phone: 07811 524533

Churchwardens Chris Greef 01454 774479

Derek Andow 01454 775024

BENEFICE AND PARISH OFFICE

95 High Street, Winterbourne, BRISTOL, BS36 1RD

Administrator Nessa Jarman Phone: 01454 776518

Email: office@fromesidechurches.org.uk

Opening hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1pm

WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION/FUNERALS

Enquires should be made to the Benefice Office - 01454 776518

PASTORAL VISITING

If you need a pastoral visit or know someone who does, please contact Jo on 01454 775529 or Pearl on 01454 314184

St Michael's Community Centre Bookings Contact the Benefice Office

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

Factory Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1QL

Minister Rev Leigh Maydew, 31 Quedgeley, Yate, Bristol, BS37.4JJ

Phone: 07388 083488

Email: leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk

To whom enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms, or Funerals should be made.

Senior Steward Margaret Johnston Phone: 01454 773626

Email: 123margaretjohnston@gmail.com

Hall Bookings Jayne Glass Phone: 07935 377790

Email: jaglass103@gmail.com

A message from Revd Ben Thompson

By the time you will be reading this, I imagine Easter will have begun to feel like a distant memory. At the time of writing, it is Easter Sunday afternoon, and I am surrounded by excitable children who have been given cake at church, completed an Easter egg hunt at home, have more chocolate than they know what to do with, and are playing with their Easter **presents (we don't buy them chocolate, because they will already have a lot, and it helps us resist the urge buy Easter eggs for ourselves).**



In the course of writing the paragraph proceeding this, their mum has asked them "are you going to say thank you for your lovely treats?" Low and behold, solemn and performative "Thank you"s have been said. Although their awareness of the world is increasing, they don't really understand why they are saying thank you, except that it's **part of the rules they are expected to follow; they don't understand what the generosity of others to bring them has cost, both in financial and energy terms.**

I don't say this to criticise them: it's part of growing up and learning, and in many ways their ignorance is also a consequence of their innocence, enjoying a stage of life in which things are more likely to be received without the expectation of having to pay someone back.



As I lift my eyes from my screen to the window, and see the cloudless blue sky, golden sunlight, and both flowers and leaves in bud whilst the blossom creates **explosions of colour, I realise I'm no better than they are really.** I spend the early months of the year waiting for the summer to arrive as if it's my unalienable right, with no consciousness of the mass

of molecular activity, chemical reactions, or even the orbit of the earth required to bring about the beauty of summer nature (which I hope we will all be fully enjoying by the time you read this!).

We have begun to work on our gratitude (and not taking things for granted) in our family by each sharing one thing we are thankful for from the day (children AND adults). Perhaps this summer, you might like to try the same or, if you feel too self-conscious for this, you could do what one of my old bands used to do when out on tour, and say or sing these famous harvest words which are also found in the musical Godspell, before eating:



All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above; then thank the Lord, then thank the Lord, for all his Love.



At our Mothering Sunday service, Rev Julia Chard commissioned Sue Reynolds as our new Leader of Mothers' Union in Winterbourne. This is after the sad death of Margaret Barrie, the previous leader. Sue is looking forward to making our current numbers grow as we work, supporting family-based charities at home and abroad.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

1st Sunday 4pm St Michael's Community Centre
ST MICHAEL'S PRAISE

2nd Sunday 10.30 St Michael's Church
PARISH COMMUNION



3rd Sunday 10.30 St Michael's Community Centre
CELTIC WORSHIP

4th Sunday 10.30 St Michael's Church
PARISH COMMUNION



Also in St Michael's Church

2nd Sunday at 4pm - Pause for Thought or Healing Service

1st & 3rd Sunday at 8am - Holy Communion

See page 17 for details of special events
www.fromsidechurches.org.uk

Recorded services are available on 2nd & 4th Sundays
on the Benefice website
www.fromsidechurches.org.uk
where details of all services in the Benefice can be found.

SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

4th May	Rev Leigh Maydew
11th May	Rev Hilary Cooke (Holy Communion)
18th May	Easter Offering service
25th May	Miss Naomi Sharp



Further details on the website www.salemchurch.org.uk

Spring is here, the days are getting longer, the trees are bursting into leaf and your thoughts turn to enjoying the outside world and warmer weather. Set **aside time each week to actively appreciate God's** creation by going for a walk (or looking out of the window if you are not able), remembering that we are wholly dependent on it for our survival. Each time pray for one thing in creation that you care about, for example the birds in the garden, how your favourite food is produced, the carbon cost of your car. Thank God for your enjoyment of it, lament if it is being damaged by human action or causing harm, and **intercede for wisdom and Christ's renewal.**



Then, before you set out, think about the environmental cost of what you are about to do. It would be better to use public transport if possible and if you are planning a holiday could you go by train or ferry rather than flying? A return flight to Greece adds about 10% to the average **person's annual carbon footprint** and travelling by train or ferry is much more

relaxing, part of your holiday even. If you are driving **don't leave the engine** running before setting off and switch off if you are stationary for more than **about a minute.** **Don't drive too fast** – around 60mph is the most efficient speed for most cars and driving faster greatly increases fuel consumption.

When you are away from home try to take as much care to save energy, recycle and prevent food waste as you would do at home. Avoid extravagant luxury and support suppliers using local food producers, especially if they are trying to reduce their



carbon footprint in other ways too. You could help by picking up odd bits of litter you see and disposing of them responsibly.

And finally, when you get back home think about how else you could support the environment. Join a local environmental group and find out what you could do to help them. Winterbourne and Frome Valley Environmental Group and Frampton Cotterell Nature are two groups active in this area and they both offer opportunities to help or find out more about our local patch. And continue to pray for our world and its parlous state, that humankind may be inspired to halt species extinction and slow down climate change.



Chris Greef

 St Michael's
Community
Centre

**Sunday 4th May
at 4pm**

Praise

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service with
activities
for all
ages
followed by
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex20:8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's work!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.

Our friend David Carter reflects on the life of Pope Francis

Pope Francis. A great Christian Leader.

One of the very great Christian leaders, (I would, I think, even say that he has been the greatest Christian leader of my time), Pope Francis, died this Easter Monday, early in the morning.



I am not unaware of the other great leaders of my time, from my childhood, William Sangster and Billy Graham, from later on Martin Luther King and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, but none has quite fulfilled the demands of Christian leadership as fully, and for all of us, as has Pope Francis.

He has fulfilled all the commands that Jesus gave to Peter, leader of the disciples. He has not just travelled and highlighted all the demands of Christian discipleship in our sad and divided world, but he has provided for the building up of his church through the synodality process in which there is consultation with **ordinary ministers and people as well as with the bishops.** He **'has strengthened the brethren', not just the other Catholic bishops but also the leaders of other churches**, as shown by his pilgrimage with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland to war-torn and neglected South Sudan.

His encyclicals, letters to the whole Church, have highlighted priorities for common life and action. The 'Joy of the Gospel' reminded us that our priority is to bring hope and joy to all, who, like us sometimes, may come near to despair. **His 'Laudato Si', Praise be (taken from St Francis' famous hymn thanking God for creation), reminded us of our duty to safeguard the environment and see that it can continue to provide for our needs in a non-exploitative way. 'Fratelli tutti', Italian for 'we are all brothers and sisters', was about how we should always treat each other well even amidst disagreements. We should listen and try to understand.**

One of my great delights has been turning to the Vatican website to read about where Francis has travelled to and who he has met and greeted, either at home

in Rome, or abroad. He has met leaders of other churches and religions. His close friends included a Jewish rabbi and a Pentecostal minister, whom he got to know in Argentina before becoming Pope. Pastor Traettino is now a minister in Italy and he invited the **Pope in 2014 to address a rally, saying, 'Pope Francis,** many of us are convinced that the Holy Spirit was behind your election as Bishop of Rome. Francis also drew up a list of agreements on human values with a Grand Imam-the closest thing Sunni Islam has to a leader.



One of the great things about Francis was that he did not limit his dealings to those who were very close to his views as a Roman Catholic but also to others **who, until recently, would have been very opposed to him and his Church.** It's a continuation of what Jesus did - talking to Samaritan woman and a Roman centurion.

Until recently in Italy and Argentina, Pentecostals and Roman Catholics were at daggers drawn as it were. But Francis recognised what the Pentecostals have to offer in enthusiasm and dedication to spreading the faith.

He was the first South American pope and the first from the Jesuit order. Who **will be Pope next? Let's hope it's a man of his ilk. Let's pray for the cardinals** as they meet to decide.

As a Methodist, I see Francis as having acted in ways analogous to those of the two great early Methodist leaders, John Wesley, in England and Francis Asbury in newly independent USA. They, of course, had to rely on horseback. Francis has been able to use modern transport and communications to reach others and also let them come to him in Rome. For me, he was as true as successor to the itinerant superintendency and encouragement **of the Church as were Wesley and Asbury.** He has combined the 'Petrine' ministry with travelling in a way that was not open to most of his remoter predecessors, but the links make it clear he has been a leader and encourager in Christian faith and practice for all of us.



With love to you all in Fromeside,
David.

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Games



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Quizzes

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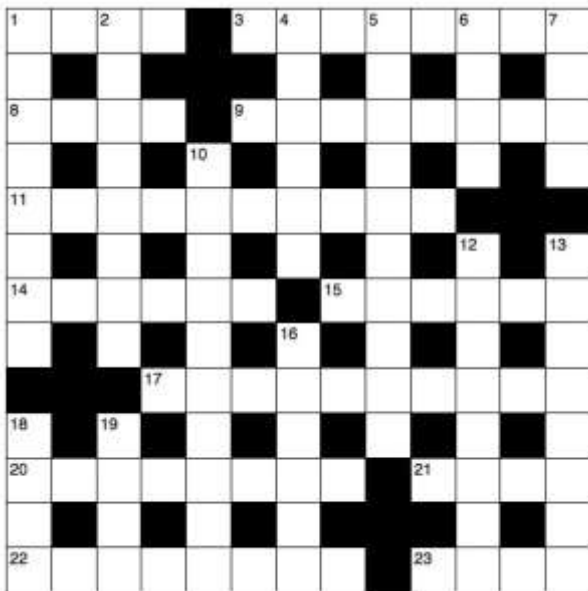
Come and join us, we'd love to see you.

Further information from Edna Snaith 07789 662694

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 **'My God, my God, why have you — me?'** (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 **'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like —'** (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 **'[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"'** (Mark 14:34) (4)



Down

Answers on page 25

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 **'I am God, and there is none — me'** (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 **'And how can they preach unless they are — ?'** (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 **'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land'** (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 **'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions'** (Psalm 51:1) (4)

SALEM PAGE FOR MAY

Following the experiences of Holy Week and Easter, we now come to the “ordinary” liturgical season, but the work of the church continues. We seek to reach the community and show love to our neighbours

There will be Cream Teas
on Saturday May 24th at 4 p.m.
with proceeds for Christian Aid.
Tickets will available soon



ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN WITH US IN OUR REGULAR EVENTS
You will receive a warm welcome



Coffee morning
will be on Wednesday May 7th from 10 a.m
*This is an opportunity to meet with friends for conversation
and enjoy coffee or tea*

Film afternoon
is on Tuesday May 13th at 2 p.m
*This month it will be a light-hearted musical which we hope
**you will all enjoy. Enjoy the musical and “sing-along” to
favourite Abba songs***



Bacon Butty morning
will be on Saturday May 17th from 10 a.m.
*Please come and join us for a bacon butty
and /or toasted teacake with tea or coffee*



Women's Fellowship
will meet on Tuesday May 27th at 2.30p.m.
*All ladies are welcome to join us
for an afternoon of fellowship*

Special events in & around St Michael's



Sunday 4th May
at 4pm
ST MICHAEL'S PRAISE
in St Michael's Community Centre
with activities for children
see page 7

Saturday 10th May
at 7pm
SUMMER CONCERT
in St Michael's Church
see page 13



Sunday 11th May
at 4pm
HEALING SERVICE
in St Michael's Church

Saturday 17th May
from 3-30-5.15
MESSY CHURCH
in St Saviour's Church Hall



Sunday 18th May
at 10.30
CELTIC WORSHIP
in St Michael's Community Centre

Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard



It's a yearly paradox. You brought some flowers to the churchyard to lay on the grave of a loved one. All around you were graves and headstones, reminders of the inevitable end of life's earthly journey. But it was Easter Day, and from within the church you could hear the singing: 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' Perhaps then you noticed a few other things. You were standing among the fresh flowers and the grass that was suddenly green and growing again. For a moment you paused and reflected on the reverse of an old saying. In the midst of death - we are in life!



That essentially is what Easter is about - an annual reminder that death is not the end of the story. Cookham, in Berkshire, was once the home of the great 20th century painter, Stanley Spencer. Perhaps his most famous painting is '**Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard**', which depicts local residents - many of them recognisable village characters - rising up out of their graves to be greeted by the risen Jesus, standing in the church porch. It's a glorious, vivid, shocking reminder of a great assertion. The graveyard is not a terminus, but a junction.

The resurrection of Jesus (and hence our resurrections, too) is the defining claim of Christianity. Christians don't follow the teaching of a prophet who died many centuries ago, or of a holy man whose life is an example to follow, excellent as that may be. They put their trust in a Saviour whom they believe is alive and with them now, and they also believe that through Him they too will move through the junction of death to the journey that lies beyond - a journey he talked about to His followers.



The annual paradox lies in the inescapable fact of death, indelibly represented by those graves and headstones, and in the equally inescapable fact that - in apparent defiance of all logic - human beings down the ages have clung to the belief that death is not the end.

Every culture has its story of the life beyond - the Elysian fields, Valhalla, Nirvana, Abraham's bosom. But only with the coming of Jesus, and the witnessed events of that first Easter morning, has our instinctive belief been given wings. The paradox is the heart of everything. Death is a fact, but life is greater than death. 'Because I live', said Jesus, 'you will also live'.

Reflecting faith – Window Glass

Have you ever wondered why we have so much coloured glass of all shapes and sizes in church buildings?

Stained glass in churches is similar to wall paintings in that it adds colour as well as traditionally serving the purpose of teaching non-literate people the great events and characters of their religion.

But glass is so much more than that.

The techniques used to create these windows have been refined over the centuries, and their intricate beauty has inspired countless artists and designers.

The way the light shines through the glass creates a unique atmosphere that is often described as ethereal or heavenly. In this way, the use of stained-glass windows helps to create a sacred space that is set apart from the secular world.



The light shining through the glass is shown on the brickwork or stonework surrounding the glass and depending on the original colours, the intensity of the **light, the angle of the sun's rays as well as the height** and angle away from the watcher: these can range from vibrantly strong to softly muted.

Hundreds of years ago people saw the changes in light in this way as being very significant. It was thought that the light passing through was transformed or transmuted and because of this it had a healing and revivifying effect on people who placed themselves within its light.

This month

Visit a church on a sunny day and just enjoy the play of light being put on for you.
What does it say about God's love for you?



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All events can be booked online at Ticketsource or via the Barn website www.winterbournebarn.org.uk. If you want to book in person at the Barn please ring 0117 403 1536 to arrange a time (office is open part-time).

A Day in the Life of a Medieval Knight and Peasant - Tuesday 6th May
Living History group The Company of Chivalry present this entertaining and informative talk about what life was like in the mid-1300s, when the Barn was built. The evening will focus on the routine daily lives of a medieval peasant and a knight, and will involve lots of props, including a suit of armour.

Madame Butterfly - Friday 9th May, 7pm

Tessitura presents this emotional show with beautiful music by Puccini, in the atmospheric Barn, proving that opera is for everybody, and not an elite art form! Free parking at the Barn.

Wine Tasting - Saturday 10th May, 7pm

An enjoyable, informative, and sociable evening trying out wines from Argentina and Chile.

Medieval Fayre - Sunday 8th June from 11-4

June was the time in the Medieval calendar to celebrate Midsummer, and what a celebration it was! Permission to host a June fayre in Winterbourne was granted by King Richard II in 1393 to Blanche, the great-granddaughter of Sir Thomas de Bradeston who commissioned The Barn to be built in 1342, so we are delighted to still be upholding that tradition over 600 years later.

Join us as we recreate some of the festivities with combat displays & have a go archery from the Warwick Warriors, wandering jesters, games and live medieval musicians. Plus, a mini living history village from Company of Chivalry so that you can really get a feel for medieval life by walking amongst it!

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE

For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust

see www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk

and [facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn](https://www.facebook.com/winterbournemedievalbarn)

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MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
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Dr Ruth M Bancewicz,, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Humility

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum’s Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I **could crouch down to ‘meet’ *Homo floriensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*.** Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, “Why us?” There’s evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – **they just weren’t** ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.



In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His

representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring **my own species' survival** - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

**For resources on this question, try the Faraday Institute, BioLogos, and Christians in Science.*

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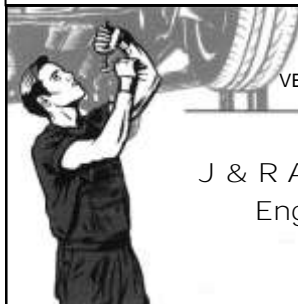
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