



ECHO

ECHO



MAY 2024 EDITION



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE

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May 1st - Happy Fête du Muguet

While May 1st is mainly associated with La Fête du Travail (Labour Day) around the World, here in France, as well as in Switzerland, Belgium and Andorra, it is also the day when some 60 million sprigs of Muguet - Lily Of The Valley will be given to loved ones in a market which in France alone is worth up to €100 million.

The tradition of presenting Lilies of the Valley is generally credited to King Charles IX, son of Catherine de Medici. At that time, the festival of St Valentine was not associated with lovers. Instead, on the 1st of May, nobles presented their ladies with crowns woven from flowers. In 1561, Charles ordered that in future ladies of the court would be presented with sprigs of muguet to wear.

On 1st May 1895, this tradition was given a huge boost when the famous French singer Felix Mayol was presented with a bouquet of muguet by his girlfriend Jenny Cook which he then wore on stage that night for the first performance of his Concert Parisien.

Subsequently, Christian Dior adopted the muguet as the symbol of his fashion house.

Tradition says you should present your beloved with 3 sprigs of muguet containing 13 flowers in total (which is why they are usually sold in bunches of 3).

85% of the 60 million sprigs which will be given this year are grown around Nantes, with most of the remainder coming from the Bordeaux region.



On the 1st May and only on that one day, anyone can sell muguet on the streets of France without paying tax, subject to certain conditions.



King Charles IX is credited with starting the tradition of presenting one's partner with Lilies of the Valley on 1st May 1561



BEFORE I HAND YOU MY WALLET I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Deuteronomy and Joshua

What's The Big Idea ? - The books of Deuteronomy and Joshua

Over the next 2 years, Canon Paul Hardingham, Vicar of St Peter's, Bolton and a regular contributor to ECHO, is writing a series of monthly articles about the books of the Bible, this month looking at Leviticus and Numbers.

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The 'shema' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.' (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says to Joshua: 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1:9).



...er... the good news is the youth-group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window...



Ministering Jointly with The Ordinary Office

Introducing our occasional
partner - The Ordinary Office

You may have noticed that we sometimes share our worship with another online Church called The Ordinary Office. We thought we should introduce our readers to them.



The Ordinary Office was founded by Dave Lucas, a Geordie lad from Jarrow, NE England. Dave is 64 years old and is registered blind. Born and raised a Roman Catholic, Dave trained for the priesthood, but a scant few weeks before

he was due to be ordained, Dave reported some abuse that he had witnessed within his religious community, and he was expelled for having spoken out (this was in the 1980's remember).

After becoming blind at 27, Dave helped found the the group Disability and Jesus which campaigned for disabled people in Churches. Dave travelled around Europe in this role, even getting to meet Pope Francis who gave his guide dog, Abbott, a blessing and a rosary, as well as feeding him dog biscuits (from a packet which he borrowed from Dave but sent back to him later via the Archbishop of Canterbury!)

In 2020, Dave founded the Ordinary Office, which tweets prayers in symbol and text form 3 times each day on Twitter (where he is followed by over 23,000 people) and also broadcasts online worship on YouTube each weekend.

The Ordinary Office is ecumenical and reaches out to Christians of all denominations who feel excluded from worshipping in churches because of disability or because they have been the victims of abuse in their former place of worship.

Like ECO, Ordinary Office is supported by a team of laity and clergy, and we occasionally exchange contributions and share recordings with them.

At present Dave is recuperating from pneumonia and we are therefore welcoming Ordinary Office worshippers to our services until he resumes broadcasting.

Get well soon, Dave !

Roman Catholic Cardinal ruled to have “Unfairly dismissed” a nun from her convent.



The French Civil Tribunal of Lorient in Brittany has ruled that former Archbishop of Quebec, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, improperly expelled a Dominican nun from her convent in 2021.

In 2020, Mother Marie-Ferréol was expelled from her religious community, Les Dominicaines du Saint-Esprit, of which she had been a member for 34 years.

In 2024, the Judicial Tribunal of Lorient ruled that Mother Marie had suffered an injustice in being exposed to a canonical procedure described as ‘shocking’ and ‘brutal’.

Mother Marie was notified that she was to be temporarily excluded from her community for a period of 3 years while she was away was attending a community meeting. She was informed of her exclusion after lunch, and told that she was forbidden to say goodbye or communicate with any member of her religious community. Nor was she permitted to inform any of her former sisters of her new place of residence.

She was also instructed to speak to members of her family, one of whom had threatened to approach the Gendarmerie with concerns that she had been kidnapped.

In 2021, when she requested to speak to the two Apostolic Visitors appointed to her case, Abbé Charles Nault and Abbess Maylis Desjobert, to bring before them legal and canonical advice, this was refused, and instead she was notified of her permanent dismissal for having committed ‘a serious fault’ and ‘failing to take proper advantage of her time in retreat’.

The Tribunal stated that:

“It is clear that the Dominicaines du Saint-Esprit were not concerned with proper respect for the procedure and the rights of the defence with regard to it,” underlines the court. Adding: “Even if in her capacity as a consecrated sister she was bound by a duty of obedience and submission, she was nevertheless entitled to receive prior advice from a qualified person on her fundamental rights.”

But what had Mother Marie been found guilty of ?

It was in order to discover this that she sought the support of the French legal system.

According to a Church spokesperson, Mother Marie had systematically criticised the manner in which her community was being run and had tried to create conflict between her sisters and also against her superiors.

The Tribunal rejected this based on the papers supplied to them.

They ruled that the community had failed to comply with its own constitution and not to grant Mother Marie her rights provided by it.

The Tribunal ruled that, irrespective of canon law, this constituted a breach of contractual liability towards Mother Marie.

Mother Marie had sought compensation of almost €1 million. The Tribunal awarded her €182,400 for actual losses, €7,000 for physical and mental suffering and another €3,000 for harm done to her good name, plus another €10,000 in legal costs.

Cardinal Ouellet was held personally liable for 60% of the compensation, the community 20% and the two Apostolic Visitors 20% to be shared between them.

One French legal commentator has noted that this judgement marks a moment when French citizens and residents are now entitled to have their legal rights fully protected when dealing with the Church.

Another has suggested that while the Tribunal has formally recognised Catholic Canon Law, it has also indicated that it expects the Church to fully comply with its own procedures.

This case has also triggered a diplomatic incident between the Vatican and the French Government. Shortly after the judgement was given, on 10 April 2024, the Vatican’s Press Secretary had delivered a verbal message to the French ambassador to the Vatican that the judgement raised important questions concerning the right of Cardinal Ouellet to benefit from diplomatic immunity, and also that it was considered to be an attack on the fundamental rights to religious freedom for Roman Catholics.

It should be noted that the Vatican announced on 30 January 2023 that Cardinal Ouellet had been formally retired with immediate effect owing to his advanced age. At the time, Ouellet was subject to charges of sexual abuse against a female trainee between 2008 and 2010 while he was serving as the Archbishop of Quebec.

Cardinal Ouellet had denied these charges and was preferring charges for defamation against his accuser, but a second woman had come forward with similar accusations.

Lot House Group - MAY 2024

lot.group@ourchurch.fr

Janet Varty

We met twice this month.

In Lauzert, a small group gathered for a Celtic midday prayer service at Margaret and John's home. Warm weather meant we enjoyed the sun in the garden and could identify with the prayer "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us."

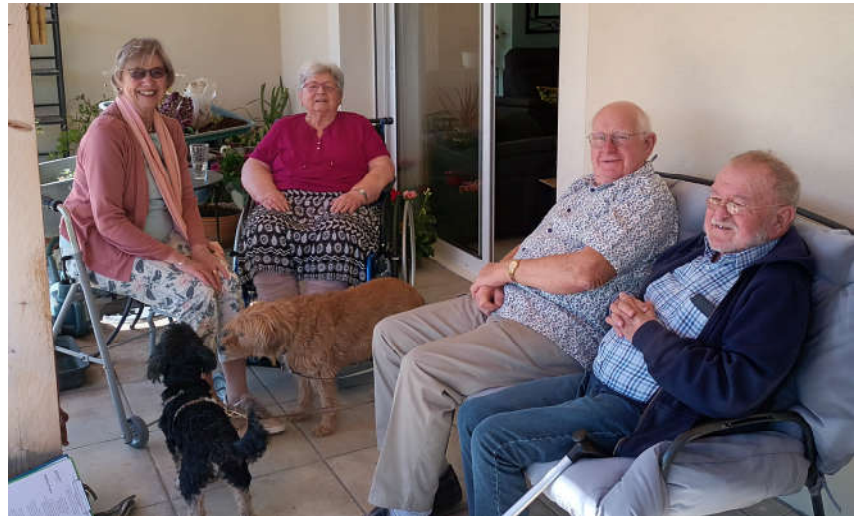
We were also able to prepare contributions for the upcoming on-line service which was broadcast on 28th April.

If you know anyone in the Lot valley who would appreciate a service at their home do contact us.

In Puy-l'Eveque on 25th April we were delighted to welcome an American guest from the Virgin Islands and 3 English guests who have their boat moored at Moissac.

Our service from Iona included music from Taize and prayers for peace in the World followed by lovely chat around the table.

Do come and join us if you live locally. Our next meeting will be on 30th May



CHURCH OF ENGLAND ANNOUNCES COMPENSATION OF UP TO £660,000 FOR VICTIMS OF CHURCH ABUSE.

The Anglican Bishop of Winchester, Rt Revd Philip Mountstephen, has announced that under the forthcoming Redress Scheme for victims of abuse in churches, payments may be made of up to £660,000 per person depending on various 'aggravating' factors.

Under legislation currently being drafted by the Church's General Synod, 'abuse' will include physical, mental and spiritual abuse (including bullying).

In some cases, parishes will be asked to contribute financially to the compensation where the abuse occurred within their parish. A complication has arisen, however, that church insurers have indicated they will not provide cover in these cases, meaning that churches would be obliged to meet their financial obligations from within their own resources.



"Ready when you are, George..."

WOULD YOU CARE TO ORDER - FROM THE AUCTION OF THE CENTURY..... OF ROYAL BANQUET MENUS



On 31st May, the famous Lyon chef Christophe Maguin is putting up for auction his collection of more than 4,000 menus from imperial, presidential and royal banquets.

The menus span almost 150 years of cuisine amongst the rulers of the World.

The oldest menu dates back to 1868, for a meal hosted by Emperor Napoleon III, and comes right up to date to the meal served by President Emmanuel Macron to King Charles III and Queen Camilla in 20 September 2023 at the Chateau de Versailles.

Chef Maguin explained that his collection had started entirely by accident 39 years ago when a fellow-chef offered to sell him some menus.



"I borrowed money from my father to buy them", he commented.

Over the years Chef Maguin built up his collection by searching on eBay and by approaching second-hand book dealers.

As his reputation as a collector grew, people began to approach him to sell to him directly. Many of the people who sell the menus are waiters, who pick them up off tables when clearing up after the guests have left.

He has now decided to sell his collection (which is expected to fetch more than €110,000) because his two sons have no interest in continuing with this. He is afraid that they might simply be thrown away when he dies.

The auction is being conducted in Paris by Lyon auctioneers Maison Millon. It took two members of the auction house 2 months to catalogue and prepare the lots.



Prices will range from as little as €15 all the way up to €1,500 depending on the historical significance and the names of those present.



It is a collection of 4 menus from Napoleon III which are expected to fetch the highest price.

Other lots will also attract attention.

A collection of 24 menus from State Banquets hosted by Queen Elizabeth II (who was reputed to be very partial to *foie gras*) is expected to attract some interest, as may a collection of 34 menus from meals hosted by President Charles De Gaulle between 1964 and 1967, mainly at Versailles.

There is likely to be interest in a menu with associated literature from the Great Exhibition in Paris on 9 May 1889, which includes a musical programme initiated by the then-President Carnot. The lot includes a photograph of the Eiffel Tower, which had been opened on 31 March 1889. The menu comes from the day that

President Carnot was assassinated.



Other menus relate to Presidents John F Kennedy and Bill Clinton as well as Tsar Nicholas II.

The menus reflect the personal tastes of the hosts and their guests.

Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Francois Mitterrand were very partial to caviar, but their successors do not include it in their choices.

Chef Maguin says that menus have changed over time. He cited an example of when in 2014 Queen Elizabeth was the guest of honour, a menu from 1914 was reproduced, but with the original 20 dishes reduced to only 5. Over time, he observed, meals have become simpler and lighter, with less use of cream in sauces.

Also, meals used to be served on one large plate with each person serving themselves, whereas now individual plates are served to each guest.

Chef Maguin is retaining from his collection 20 menus signed by Presidents.

ITALIAN TV ADVERTISEMENT FEATURING NUNS TAKEN OFF-AIR FOR “BLASPHEMY”

The Italian Institute of Advertising Self-Discipline, Italy’s advertising standards authority, has ordered TV stations to cease broadcasting an advertisement featuring Nuns eating potato crisps after complaints that it was ‘blasphemous’.

The advert by Amica Potato Chips has provoked a storm of protest from Italian Catholics claiming that it ‘debased and vilified’ Jesus Christ.

In the 30-second advertisement, a group of young nuns are seen filing through a cloister into a chapel while another nun prepares for Mass but fills a ciborium with crisps instead of communion wafers.

A priest distributes a crisp instead of a Host to a nun during Communion and the shocked nuns look to the nun in the sacristy who is shovelling crisps into her mouth from a bag.

The Italian Association of Radio and Television Listeners formally complained about the advert on the grounds that it “offends the sensibility of millions of practising Catholics”.

Giovanni Baggio, the president of the association, called for “the immediate suspension” of the advert because it was blasphemous and showed a “lack of respect”.

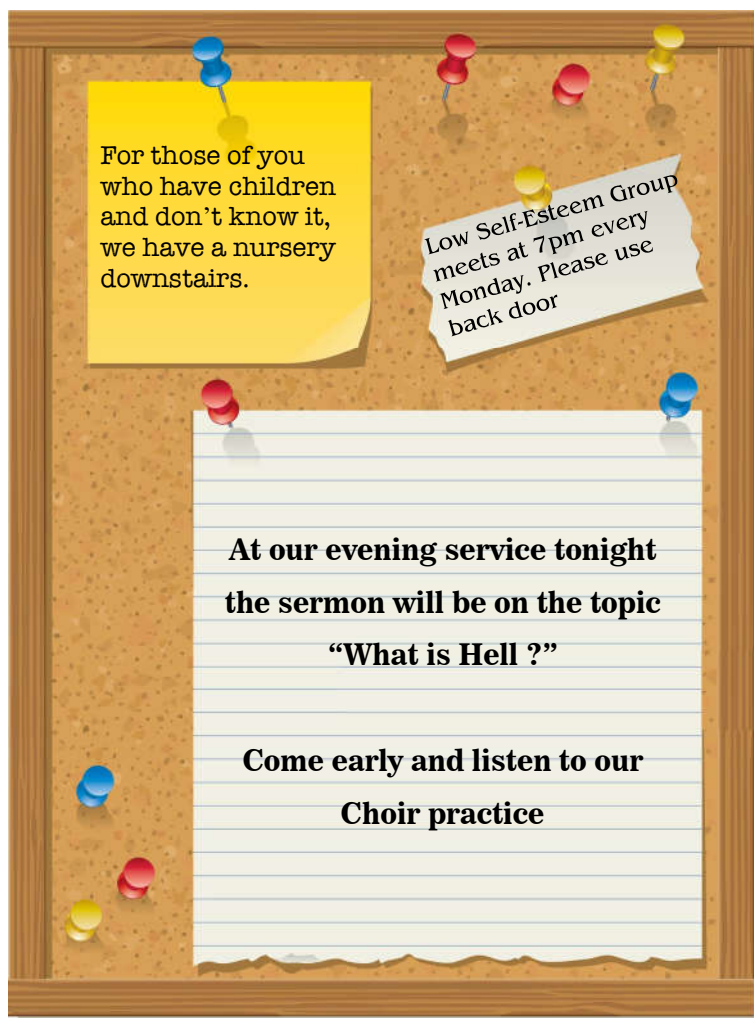
Avvenire, a newspaper owned by the Italian Bishops’ Conference, also called for the advert to be banned because Christ is “reduced to a crisp, debased and vilified as he was 2,000 years ago”.

Amica Chips was “spitting” on Christ “just as the Roman soldiers did to him before his crucifixion”, the newspaper said in an editorial.

Signor Baggio said “Let us work together for a civilization that needs to grow in respect for cultural and religious identities.”



MORE FROM THE CHURCH NOTICEBOARD



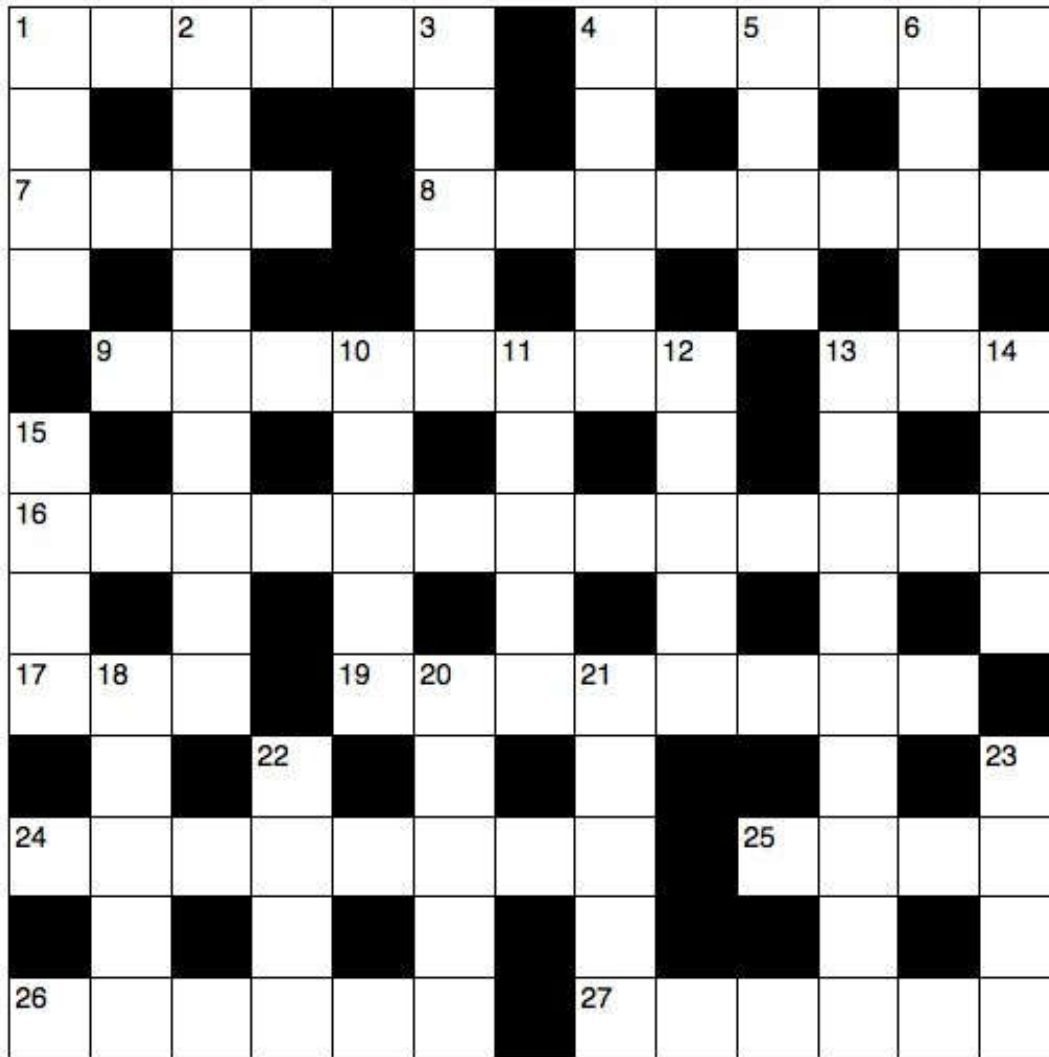
Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



The ECHO Church and Bible Crossword

Can you solve this crossword ? Answers are at the bottom if you get stuck
with thanks to our crossword compiler John Capon



Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

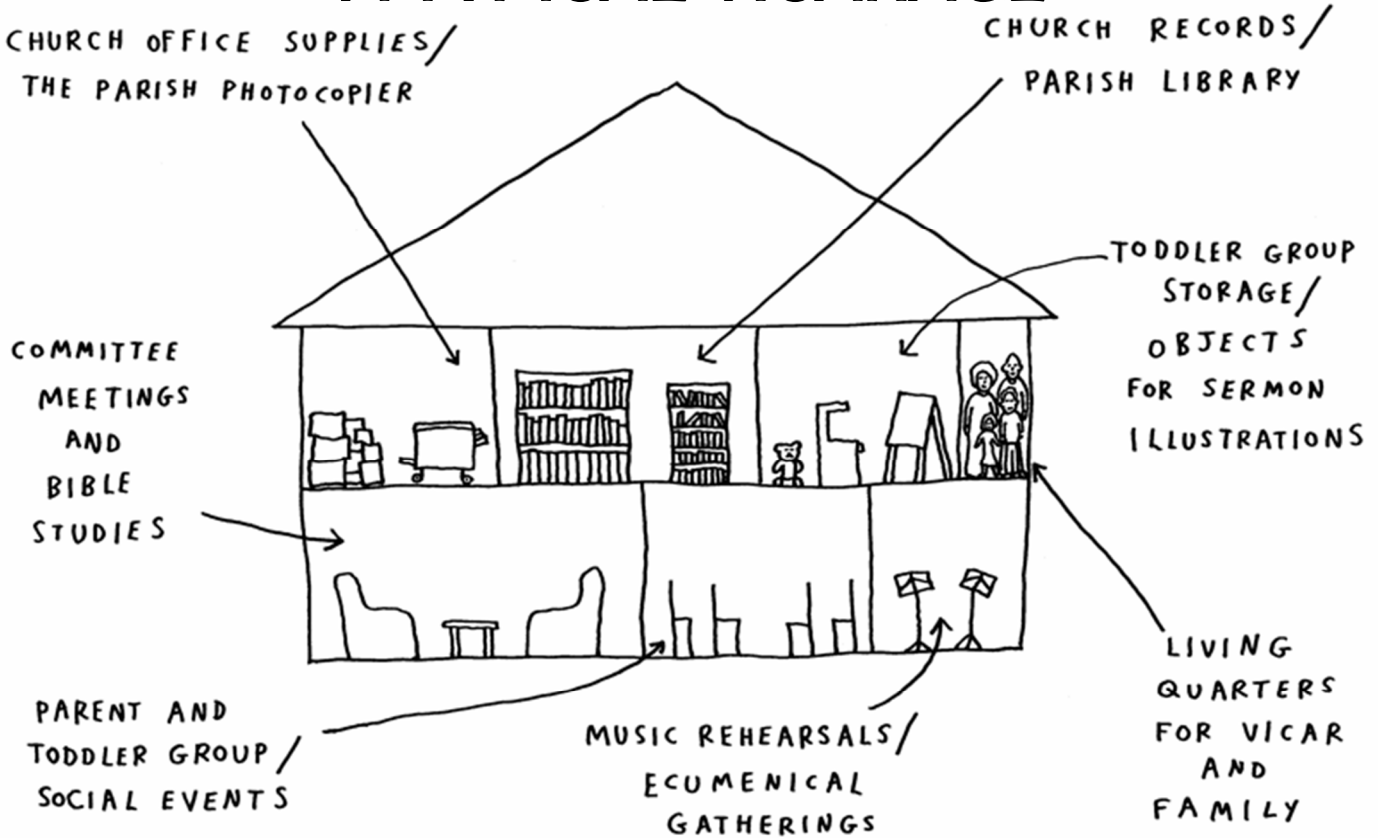
- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 9:13) (2,3)
 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Debtor, 4, Shaken, 7, Ache, 8, Leavened, 9, Overcome, 13, Etc, 16, Troublemaking, 17, Par, 19, Ignatus, 24, Treasure, 25, Mene, 26, Astray, 27, Dinner.
DOWN: 1, Dear, 2, Behaviour, 3, Relic, 4, Swarm, 5, Aged, 6, Elect, 10, Rabbi, 11, Ocean, 12, Exalt, 13, Epicurean, 14, Cage, 15, Step, 18, Acres, 20, Gaudy, 21, An end, 22, Fair, 23, Fear.

ECO WORSHIP CALENDAR MAY 2024

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
						1		2 19:00		3		4	
								Online Service of Prayer for Healing					
5 10:30		6 20:00		7 19:00		8		9 19:00		10		11	
Online Morning Prayer for Easter 6		Zoom Compline		Online Service of Compline				Online Service of Prayer for Healing for Ascension Day					
12 10:30		13 20:00		14 19:00		15		16 19:00		17		18	
Online Communion for Easter 7		Zoom Compline		Online Service of Compline				Online Service of Prayer for Healing					
19 10:30		20 20:00		21 19:00		22		23 19:00		24		25	
Online Morning Prayer for Pentecost		Zoom Compline		Online Service of Compline				Online Service of Prayer for Healing					
26 10:30		27 20:00		28 19:00		29		30		31			
Online Communion for Trinity Sunday		Zoom Compline		Online Service of Compline				Online Service of Prayer for Healing also Meeting of Lot House Group					

WELCOME TO... DAVE WALKER'S GUIDE TO A TYPICAL VICARAGE



CartoonChurch.com

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