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60P



LIFE



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MAGAZINE EDITOR LIFE

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Articles for the August edition are due by Sunday 19th July

I will start this editorial by being the first in this edition to say how much we will miss Rachel and her family. These three years have been a blessing to us all in the Benefice.

The whole of the cover is taken over by pictures of the service at Compton Dundon at the end of May, which started with our benefice Bell Ringers (as shown) ringing a quarter peal in celebration of her time as Curate with us.

It's amazing to discover what wildlife and plant life exist in our churches. Do have a look around them sometime, you will be surprised what's on offer! I give you a small offering on page 11, including some tulips planted along by the wall on the footpath at the rear of the Church, they are always a picture.

My Faith Journey is always an interesting read, and this month is no exception, written by our new Parish Churchwarden, Elaine Howard.

I asked Google to explain what my Faith Journey was.

How do I start my faith journey? Steps to Start Fresh with God
Acknowledge Who God Is. ...

Accept God's Grace and Forgiveness. ...

Adjust Your Priorities to Make Room for God. ...

Talk to God in Prayer. ...

Read Scripture Daily. ...

Connect With a Bible-Believing Church. ...Join a Christian Community.

Serve and Live Out Your Faith.

Have you shared 'Your Faith Journey' with Life readers?

See Pam or myself. Roger.

Rector's Letter

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews chapter 13 verse 8

Dear Friends,

We inhabit an everchanging world and what is certain is that change will continue. A sharp decline in fertility leading to significantly fewer live births with the corollary being an ever-ageing population is just one example of societal change in the UK.

Talking to my own children who are in their 30's, I'm aware of their concerns around when they may be able to retire as the state retirement age continues to rise.

Of course, there are other changes around technology, working practices, lifestyles, social norms and the ways in which we steward the planet. Not all of these are necessarily changes for the worse, some indeed, give us cause for great hope, be that new medicines, new technologies or an increasing passion to save our fragile earth.

As Christians, however we react to earthly change, we can take great comfort in the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the one who never changes. One of the key messages from the book of Hebrews is that God's plan does not change, we don't have a God who changes his mind. His plans and purposes are perfect. Looking at the world through human eyes, those plans may be difficult to see at times but through all the changes, whether good or bad, Jesus remains the same and God's perfect plan for his creation is being worked out.

As I often say, as Christians, we know the end of the story and the end of the story brings completion, comfort and eternal assurance. As I write this, in early June, I literally have no idea what may have changed by the time you read it in early July! I have faith, however that we inhabit a world where Jesus is constant and where God has a plan. Amen.

With my love and prayers, Ana.

My Faith Journey

If someone had said I would return to faith, be on the PCC, and become a church warden, I would have laughed and walked away. The Lord, it appears, had other ideas.

I was born in East London, an only child, to a Welsh mother, and English father.

My mother's belief in God came from growing up in the 1930's Welsh Valleys, where life was hard, and pitfalls frequent. She often watched the inhabitants of the village she grew up in, assembling in respect and solidarity, on either side of the road, singing, "Abide With Me," as fallen miners were taken home for burial.

My father's faith was quiet and steady, yet rarely discussed, so my first experience with God, other than nativity plays and carol services, was attending the local Methodist church, with the Brownies, then Girl Guides, and having ballet lessons, in a church hall.

My childhood was blessed, and I grew up loved by doting parents. When I left school in 1986, I worked for Thomas Cook, where I stayed for 9 years, but soon after I turned 19, my father developed leukaemia, which took his life, 5 years later.

In 1993, after several months of illness, I found myself on a date with Jim, a friend of a colleague. That date determined the rest of my life, and Jim and I were engaged by the time my father

passed in 1994. Watching him deteriorate daily, as my mother prepared to lose him, was heartbreaking, and it made me furious at the God my parents believed in.

I left travel in 1998 to become a medical secretary, and then went to work for Canary Wharf, before Jim became my husband, in 2000.

My mother insisted on a church wedding; it was her one request when I asked her to give me away. Needless to say, she won, and although she isn't here to read this, I'm glad she did. I wasn't at the time; I only went to church for christenings, funerals, and other people's weddings, not my own!

The church in Essex, we married in, had a wonderful rector. Revd Rob Rose was a former firefighter, whose warmth, rambunctiousness, and conviction he was God's servant, has stayed with me for the past 26 years. I remember being quite envious of his unshakeable beliefs.

After our wedding, I drifted even further from faith, and commuting then working long hours at Canary Wharf, gave little opportunity for a healthy work-life balance, but I stayed there until we took the plunge, and leaving London behind us, fulfilled our Somerset dream, and moved to Ashcott, in late 2005.

My 30's and 40's came and went, during which I lost my mother, and other close family members. We also moved to Street, and after caring for the remaining family elders, I started working at the local Leisure Centre.

My 50's arrived with a mid-life faith crisis. I had tried alternate avenues, but something was always lacking, yet when I thought of Rob Rose, I recalled how like Tigger, the cartoon character he

was, showing limitless joy and energy in the Lord's work, and his approach, like a smile, had been addictive.

When I spoke to a cousin, of my spiritual listlessness, she listened and suggested the missing piece just might be God.

I initially dismissed the idea, because if God was there, he knew how I felt, he knew the rules of engagement, and I thought we were happy observing them. He could go after others and leave me be. But I trust my cousin, Katrina, so after deliberating on her words for a few days, I thought, "Okay, why the heck not?"

I prayed and proposed a truce; if God hadn't given up on me, now was the time to show it, because I was willing to listen. I had nothing to lose, so began attending church, and found a warm, friendly welcome. Better still, I soon recognised I wasn't feeling as lost. I felt a growing peace in church, that I felt nowhere else, so I committed to an Alpha Course, and then my Confirmation, in November 2024. I was immensely grateful to have received support from Ana, David, and Rachel, as well as Jim, Katrina and her family, and the lovely Frances, who left us for the beauty of Cornwall. That day signalled a fresh start, a new belief that the Lord knows best, and he made this all happen, to put me where I am now.

When I think of Rob Rose, I now appreciate where his joy came from, and I feel some of that peace and love I was once so envious of. I understand God's grace helped me get back up, when I had the wind knocked out of my sails. All the time, God's love was there, but in my anger, I couldn't grasp it.

I will end with my Mum's favourite saying, because she was, once again, correct. God does indeed move in mysterious ways.
Elaine Howard. (Church Warden Parish Church).

“HOW TO TALK ABOUT JESUS WITHOUT LOOKING LIKE AN IDIOT”

by *Andy Bannister (IVP)*.

I came across this book quite by accident: however, the title intrigued me. Particularly as we are following the course *Mission Shaped Living* zzz in our home groups just now. And frankly - speaking for myself anyway - struggling a bit. Like nervously heading for the deep end at Greenbank Pool when all-too-conscious of my lack of confidence in my swimming ability and fear and panic at what might happen without the security of being able to put my feet securely on the bottom if I suddenly felt out of my depth and out of reach of the side of the pool.

For years, I have felt a failure in my feeble efforts at telling others about my faith and so I've stayed in the safe waters of the shallow end, while at the same time knowing that Jesus has called me to 'go out into the deep and let down our nets' in order to be 'fishers of men'. Indeed, his promise to 'be with us always, even to the end of the world' (Matthew 28:20) is given in the context of the Great Commission' to go out into the world and make disciples of all men.

This MSL course is deeply challenging in exposing the fault lines in my witnessing for Christ, even now as I am into what must be the final furlong of my life here on this earth. What kind of a finish to the race will it be if I'm not fulfilling the plain purpose to which Christ has called me?

So this MSL course has been and is a real challenge to me - and if I'm not mistaken to others also in our group - so I see this book as a life belt from God. It looks like just what I need. Heaven-sent: to be grasped with both hands and applied in my life and daily contacts. Backed up with prayer for those 5 names.

It's very readable, it confronts my fears and it shows how to overcome them. Aren't the promises in the letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3 to *those who overcome*?

I want to be right there with them, with you, hitting the finishing line of the Christian race in obedience to Jesus clear and great commission.

As I enter the closing years of my pilgrimage, I am haunted by the thought that I might give up before I reach the tape. God's word clearly states "*he that continues to the end will be saved*". It is still possible to be lost if we don't cross the Jordan into the promised land. That is clear from Hebrews, my favourite book in the NT.

This is supposed to be a book review: I digress.

Just a few lines off the back cover sum up what the book's about.

"Why is it so difficult to talk to our closest friends about what's so important to us? Our true identity? Our hopes and dreams? Our purpose and faith?"

Andy Bannister struggled with that question himself. As a twenty something, he operated as an undercover Christian at his job, but he knew it didn't make sense.

In the decades since, he has helped countless people find easy, natural ways to discuss fundamental questions of life with the ones they love.

"How to Talk about Jesus without Looking like an Idiot" explores

- *why you don't need to be afraid or uncomfortable*
- *four questions the help people open up*
- *five steps to respond to tough questions*
- *how to effortlessly bring faith into a conversation*

You can get this book online from Amazon or Abe Books. It's around £10,

or you might be lucky and find a used copy cheaper on either of these sites.

God bless you, let's go for this together! We'll regret it for eternity if we don't, but it will be too late.

Bernard Sinclair (Mission Church)

Eco Church Community & Global Engagement

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Eco Church articles in Life over the last few months have introduced four of the five categories in the new Eco Church survey. This final article concerns the Community and Global Engagement category which is about what our church is doing collectively relating to the environment and social justice.

The climate and nature crises are profoundly unjust, with the most devastating impacts affecting the poor and vulnerable who have done the least to cause the crises. We are called to love our neighbour, and so it is our responsibility to them and the places they live, wherever they are, to demonstrate love for people and nature by advocating for a more just world (Micah 6:8). While there is much that we can do as a church body, our impact will be even greater when we work with others to bring about local and global change. *(A Rocha website)*

The introduction to this category explains:

Wherever you are on your journey with social and political engagement, this survey category is an invitation to take the next step, whether that looks like starting a conversation in your church, joining local events engaging in social and environmental justice, or joining a campaign for nature.

The first section in this category, **Awareness Raising**, asks questions about how our Church is responding to the impact of the climate and nature crises and engaging with environmental and social justice issues that: - affect the LOCAL area

- have a NATIONAL impact
- have a GLOBAL impact

The second section, **Taking Action**, asks in what ways we are involved in campaigning on environmental and social justice issues (e.g. local air pollution, water quality issues, plastic pollution). It also asks which other organisations (if any) our church works with on environmental and/or climate justice issues. Another question relates to opportunities our church provides for all to enjoy, nurture and protect nature. * We are also challenged to consider how we steward our church's finances, including purchasing and investment of funds, as they impact on climate and climate justice.

A final section asks how we **Communicate** what we do.

What you can do to help

To help the Eco Church group make a plan please tell us about the issues that concern you, what you are already doing, and how you think the Church could become more involved.

You might also give some thought to how you would answer the key question posed to those applying for a Gold Award: -

If someone visited your church, how would they know you are an Eco Church?

Eco Church Group members are: Walton – Sandra Gristock, Andy Savage; Street – Elaine Howard, Mike Bergner, Susan Ripley; Compton Dundon – vacancy. Susan Ripley

Big Butterfly Count

*There are regular opportunities to engage with nature through annual counts organised by environmental organisations. One such is coming up this month. Sometime between 17th July and 9th August you are invited to spend 15 minutes recording what butterflies you see. Further information including an identification chart is available on the Big Butterfly Count website.

Susan Ripley, Street Parish



The Next Men's Breakfast.

All **men** from the benefice are invited to a Saturday morning breakfast at the Mission church on **July 25th 8.45am -10am**. An opportunity to come and start the day by joining with others for food, chat and company.

Please do let us know that you wish to come so that we can arrange for the catering. There is a suggested donation to cover the cost of breakfast (£3). To sign up or for more information contact Tim Hindle.

SWCD Book Group

The book we discussed in May was Lydia by Paula Gooder. The book reflects on the story of Lydia and the church in Philippi and the impact of the letter to the Philippians. We continue with a strong biblical theme with our current book, this time focusing on someone from the Old Testament. **The Red Tent by Anita Diamant** tells the story of Dinah, Jacob's daughter and Joseph's sister. We will be meeting to discuss this book at **11am on Tuesday 21st July at the Mission Church**. We are a friendly Group and are always pleased to welcome new members. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Susan Ripley, Street Parish



Little Stars is popular as ever!



Each week we have 15 to 20 babies and children with their carers join us at The Mission Church on Friday mornings. We have a variety of people, Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandads, childminders and foster carers and of course they are all made very welcome.

In July we will say goodbye to 2 or 3 of our Little Stars as they will be starting school in September. We will miss them, but know they will have fun at "big school".

Over summer we will take a well- earned break and in September Little Stars will celebrate 10 years of fun together!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us in regular prayer, it is such an important part of our group.

Do invite anyone you may know who is caring for little ones, we love to welcome new families!

Julie Day (Mission Church)



Bishop's Letter

Human flourishing for all

'Tell me about your school days' is a deeply illuminating question to ask. Our experience of school shapes us deeply our whole lives long. Schools mould our character and values. They develop our skills and expectations. They influence our relationships and our life chances.

Rooted in our understanding of the Bible, Christians have been involved in schooling for many centuries. In the nineteenth century, the Church of England's National Society set up thousands of schools all around our country, established principally for the benefit of the poor. It is largely out of this heritage that our Diocese of Bath and Wells continues to have a stake in so many of Somerset's schools today. We have 180 Church Schools, the majority of which are for primary aged children, with nine middle, upper or secondary schools and one specialist provision. Big and small, and found in all kinds of communities, our schools educate around 60% of Somerset's primary school children.

Our schools are Church Schools; they are not faith schools. We are open to everyone, of all faiths and none. Our schools are guided by our Christian ethos, manifested in their engagement with the Bible and worship, in prayer and Christian ethics. More recently, this is expressed most fully in the Church of England's Vision for Education. This understands our schools' mission to be 'deeply Christian, serving the Common Good'. Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. Our vision is of human flourishing for all.

As bishop, I am privileged to spend lots of time in our Church Schools. The most fun I have is being grilled by young people who pose me questions about ethics and doctrine, our Church's life and faith. I'm certainly kept on my toes! What I value most is seeing played out in our young people the four main elements of our Church's vision - wisdom, hope, community and dignity. These commitments are reflected in the stories told in this edition of Manna. I hope you'll enjoy reading them as they illustrate our vision for education in the schools of our diocese.

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

May Benefice Service and Farewell to Rachel

It is always wonderful to come together as a Benefice team of 3 parishes and worship together in one congregation. May 31st was such an opportunity, although along with the outpouring of joy there were mixed emotions as it was Rachel's final service with us before moving on to lead a new Benefice, based in South Petherton.

We were greeted by the bellringing team as we entered St Andrew's Church in Compton Dundon. It is almost a year since our last Benefice service here, celebrating the installation of the new bell ringing gallery, when we were joined by Bishop Michael. And unbelievably three years since Rachel's first service in St Andrew's, again a Benefice service, on a rainy June day when we sheltered under cover in the marquee outside afterwards to share lunch.

Rachel had chosen some uplifting hymns, ably led by our talented music group Andy, Anthea, Steve and Linda. So wonderful to join in with 70 others thanking and praising God together. Thank you to those from across the whole Benefice who contributed to the worship, whether through welcoming, reading, leading prayers, transport and of course everyone who came to share in the joy of the Communion and the love we have all felt for Rachel during her journey with us.

31st May was Trinity Sunday and as Rachel said this is regarded as a challenging subject for preaching. Rachel told us that she had shared an idea with the 'Chapter' of Clergy to shed light on the notion of the Trinity. We wondered what she would draw from the covered plate – it turned out to be a pretzel! What an inspired visual way to explain the 'One in Three' and 'Three in One' with the three equal sections of the pretzel shape.

I have a feeling we will remember this take away from Rachel's final talk.

Towards the end of the service came the thank you and farewell to Rachel.

She was presented with flowers, gifts and a Benefice card full of heartfelt messages from parishioners. Ana shared with us how much Rachel had grown and contributed during her time with us and how much she will be missed. Both personally by Ana and of course by us all since she has touched us in so many ways with her shining personality and pastoral gifts. Rachel responded to thank Ana for all she has done to enable her to be ready to take on her own Benefice, both as a supportive friend and a training colleague.

The celebrations continued in Meadway Hall, where a vast array of generously donated buffet food awaited us. Thank you to those who prepared the tables and helped to clear up afterwards. It was a special time of fellowship and an opportunity to talk to Rachel and her family.

Finally, we look forward to Rachel's licensing on Tuesday June 23rd in South Petherton.

May God bless her and be with her on this next step in her ministry.

Pat King

Churchwarden, St Andrew's, Compton Dundon

Thinking about Heaven, a challenging summer read

I wonder how often you stopped to consider what Heaven might be like? Maybe you grew up with those images of angels sitting on clouds plucking harps behind the pearly gates? Or maybe you haven't really thought about it too much, because you're too busy with the here and now?

But will Heaven really be full of angels offering harp lessons to new arrivals, with not much else going on? The Bible actually gives us many clues about Heaven and Tom Wright, possibly Ana's favourite theologian, has written a challenging and encouraging book on the subject called 'Surprised by Hope' published by SPCK.

The book has been around a few years now, but we've recently pulled it off the shelf to have another look and would highly recommend it as a provocative, encouraging and challenging summer read. Prepare to be surprised. Please don't be put off by the fact that it is written by a theologian, it is very accessible and easy to get your teeth into.

Also, definitely a book to impress your friends with as you lie on the beach!

Kevin & Ana Lawrence

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Walton leavers and Bible distribution

At the end of every school year at Walton Primary School, there is a leavers service for the year 6 students. During the service, on behalf of Holy Trinity Walton, we present each leaver with a bible which comes from a trust fund that was set up as a result of the closure of the former school building in Walton.

It is a privilege and joy to be able to distribute bibles to young people in this way and please do pray for our year 6 students.

This year's leavers service will be on 22nd July. Ana Lawrence

Please remember “The Walton Baking Competition”

As I prepare this article (early June) information about how to enter the “Jammy Biscuit & Cake Baking Competition” is already available on-line on the SWCD Churches website under “News” and then “What’s On” and in paper format in our four churches. As you read this (hopefully early July) it is not too late to register for the competition if you have not already done so – but the registration deadline is 8th July 2026.

The competition day is Saturday 18th July 2026 when entries are to be delivered to Walton Church for judging in the morning. The church will be open to the public at 2:00pm for viewing and prize-giving will be at 3:15pm

Jeff Brewer (Holy Trinity, Walton)

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Celebrate@6 July

As we continue our monthly celebrate@6 services in the Mission Church, on Sunday 19th July we welcome Revd Jon Ball from Taunton who will be speaking about God@work in his particular context of church planting. These services are open to all and there is a special welcome to any from other churches who may just come along and be blessed.

Ana Lawrence

You are invited to
Connections@the Mission

Thursday 16th July 2-30
Mission Church Street

Bring along a favourite Hymn or Bible verse to share with the group

There will be refreshments (Pam and Team)

Are you on our electoral Roll?

Whilst Anglican churches like ours do not have a formal 'membership' system, the nearest we do have is the electoral roll.

The roll is a list of people who wish to be associated with the church family here, recorded parish by parish. If you worship at a parish in the benefice and are over 17, we encourage you to join. Being on the electoral roll gives you the right to attend and vote in our annual meetings but also, as an added benefit, allows you to apply for a free tourist pass to visit Wells Cathedral, where entry for visitors who want to visit outside service times is currently being charged for. The other advantage of you being on our electoral roll is that churches with larger numbers on their roll get more representation in the local Deanery Synod (church Parliament) and therefore more of a say on who is on Diocesan or General (national) Synod.

The roll is periodically completely renewed and therefore, even if you were previously recorded there, unless you renewed your membership, your name may not be there anymore. The easy way to check is to find the roll pinned up in each of our churches and check whether your name is there or ask one of us. If you want to join / rejoin, please pick up an electoral roll application form from any of us or find them in church, complete it and return it either to us or to the church office.

Thank you

Electoral roll officers

Peter Robertson

Sonia Beaty

Kevin Lawrence

Compton Dundon

Walton

Street

Congratulations



To Martin Kennard (Street Parish & Mission Church) on celebrating a significant birthday



To Dave & Steph Hall (Mission Church) & Kevin & Ana Lawrence, on both celebrating significant wedding anniversaries



Thank you
To my Facebook friends for their kind messages when Pam and I celebrated our EMERALD wedding anniversary recently.

A huge congratulations to Sonia Beaty for her incredible run in the ultra-marathon of 70 miles following Adrians wall from Carlisle to Gateshead. Well done Sonia.

We would like to wish a very happy 80th birthday to Jane Doyle from us all. Thank you for all you do and we hope the celebrations go on and on.

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pudding party reminder

There was a short piece on this in the June Life, but just as a reminder, we will be hosting this year's Rectory Pudding Party on Sunday 9th August from 3 – 5pm in the Rectory Garden.

The idea is you bring a dessert (shop bought or home-made) or a drink to share.

We are hoping for some live musical entertainment during the afternoon and if the weather is wet, we will move into the Mission Church. Ana & Kevin Lawrence

Our Churchwarden speaks.

I am not a 'motivational' speaker: but I was brave enough to share a precious memory from my early days as a Christian

No one fell asleep, no one heckled and no one threw tomatoes!

I found the whole experience liberating and uplifting

I was told afterwards, that my words did encourage and inspire others....

Sure - I was shaking in my boots as I walked towards the lectern - but

I started with my favourite arrow prayer:

May the Lord give me the 4 C's That my words are clear calm concise and confident

And my prayer was answered

I am certain that we all have stories and memories to share Stories that will encourage, uplift and support others

With this in mind - can I call on you to be 'brave' and share these with us - your Church family?

This is a safe environment in which to share and I promise you no vegetables of any kind will be thrown!

So please be confident and speak to Ana or David regarding a time to share your memory or story

Thanks, and blessings

Julie Sinclair

Farewell to Rachel

In the last few weeks, we have bade farewell to our curate, Sister Rachel Pengelly. Rachel's final service with us was in St Andrew's Compton Dundon on 31st May where we gathered as a church family in a benefice service. During the service, Rachel preached and presided at the Communion Table. We also made a presentation as a mark of our love and gratitude for Rachel.

The service was followed by a bring and share lunch in the Meadway Hall and many of the church family came and enjoyed food and fellowship.

Saying farewell is never easy, but we send Rachel onwards with our love and prayers as she embarks on her new ministry in South Petherton, the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks.

Ana Lawrence

Doing Life together ideas

As a benefice, we have enjoyed social gatherings such as a walk together (often on bank holidays) or eating together, whether afternoon tea or desserts. I'd love to encourage other social outlets, so if you have a particular passion or something you really enjoy doing and would be up for doing this with others, please let us know. It could be anything from building a wall to bird watching, going to the cinema together or indeed something else.

Ana Lawrence

Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship

I want to draw your attention to the DEF (Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship) which is open to both clergy and lay members who would describe their theology as 'evangelical'. Meetings are around 2/3 times a year and there are also monthly online prayer meetings. If this is something you would like to join, please visit <https://www.bwceec.org/> or have a word with me and I can give you further details.

Ana Lawrence

Everybody's welcome

"... COME, BE MY DISCIPLE" ... SO MATTHEW GOT UP AND FOLLOWED HIM.' Matthew 9:9 NLT

According to the Jews, tax collectors ranked barely above plankton on the food chain; so everybody kept his distance from Matthew the tax collector. Everyone except Jesus. "Come, be My disciple" ... So Matthew got up and followed Him.' Then it gets interesting. '... [Matthew] gave a big dinner for Jesus at his house. Many tax collectors ... were eating there, too' (Luke 5:29 NCV). What a party! Salty language. Loose morals. These guys keep the phone number of their bookie on speed dial. But a friend is a friend. What can Matthew do? Invite them to meet Jesus! Great idea! Then the door opens and an icy breeze blows in. '... the Pharisees began to complain ... "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors ...?"' (Luke 5:30 NCV). Matthew doesn't know whether to get mad or get out. But before he has time to choose Jesus intervenes, "... I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough" (see Matthew 9:13 NLT). And Matthew is just like you, isn't he? Maybe you've never taken taxes, but you've taken liberty with the truth, taken credit for what wasn't yours, taken advantage of others. And to you He says "Follow Me." But what if you have a bad reputation? So did Matthew. Come, you may end up, like him, writing a book. Furthermore, you don't have to be weird to follow Jesus. And you don't have to stop liking your friends to follow Him. Just the opposite: a few introductions would be nice. Think of all Christ had done for you – then share Him with your friends.

From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: ucb@ucb.co.uk

UCB is short for United Christian Broadcasters, who also produce Christian radio and TV programmes available on DAB digital radio, TV and online. Details at ucbmedia.co.uk



