

## Like a satnav, God never gives up on us

**T**here comes a point in a traffic jam when you have to decide to stick it out or try and find an alternative route.

In recent jams where I have been stationary for some time, I have made the decision to turn around and find a different route. Sometimes I know where I am going, but other times I have ended up quite lost. Life can be like that.

Sometimes the way we want to go, or even the way we thought we should be going closes up to us, and we have to decide what to do next. If I have remembered to put it in the car it is in these situations that I break out the satnav.

Someone once described the relationship we have with God as similar to the one we have with a satnav.

We plug in the destination and listen to the instructions which guide us on our way.

When we hit traffic (if you've got a clever one!) it can tell you how bad it is, and advise whether to stay put.

God is like this, he has our backs. He plans out the best route possible, and when unexpected things cause 'traffic', God's purposes remain, and if He has to change the route to get us there, He does just that.

When we go off plan, we will hear the words "turn around when possible" in a cool calm voice (unlike some human navigators!) and if ignored a new route will be found for us. God shows us immense patience when we think we know better than Him, when we change our minds, or simply decide to follow our own way. Like God, a satnav never gives up, He always adapts, corrects and patiently guides us to our destination.

I know this isn't an infallible analogy and I have heard all sorts of stories about people being guided into the sea and cul-de-sacs by rogue devices – but our God is not like that, He is kind, compassionate, loving and above all is 100 per cent reliable.

He is always there for us in the traffic of life, despite the occasional wrong turn on our parts, and he will always get us to where it is we need to be.

*Lizzie Longhurst*

## A glimpse of the future glory of Jesus

**A**t a time when the ministry of Jesus was at its height, He took three of his closest disciples, Peter, James and John, high up a mountain.

Suddenly Jesus changed: his face began to shine like the sun and his garments became white and dazzling. His disciples were amazed to see Elijah and Moses to talking with Him and a bright cloud overshadowed them all. Jesus had been transfigured.

Although Peter wanted to build three tabernacles at the holy place to mark God's dwelling with mankind, it did not depend on the building of a shrine, but on the presence of Jesus.

And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke from the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it was all over. An explanation of the appearance of Moses and Elijah was that they represented the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. And they were handing over the Law and the Prophets to find ➤

Pauline with her bumper crop of rice in Burkina Faso.  
Photo courtesy of Christian Aid

**'Shout for joy to  
God, all the earth!  
Sing the glory of  
his name'**

(Psalm 66)

## The Poverty and Hope Appeal 2017

The Bishop of Rochester launched the Poverty and Hope Appeal in May. He wrote: "The Bible challenges us to think beyond our own needs and to look to the needs of others. The Poverty and Hope Appeal is one way we are responding as a Diocese."

This year we are concentrating on supporting, in prayer and financially, projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burkino Faso, northern Argentina, Delhi and, as always, Commonwork Trust here in the Diocese. This last offers justice and global citizen education to school children and also helps vulnerable young people fulfil their potential. If you are involved with a school do get in touch with Commonwork and see all that they can offer. More than 95 per cent of the money we raise goes to the projects, and of that about

80 per cent of the money raised goes overseas. The projects are generally overseen by one of our partner organisations – Christian Aid, USPG and CMS. They ensure the money is well spent, and report to the Poverty and Hope Committee, led by Bishop James, regularly.

The feedback is often very encouraging. For example, a project we supported over the last two years in Burkino Faso, helping villagers to feed themselves, has had such an impact that the local authority has offered to take on responsibility for it, allowing us to move on to support a similar project in a new area.

It is not only lack of food that causes poverty. Often a lack of rights (due to gender, colour, caste or lack of education) plays a role. We support the Delhi Brotherhood Society women's helpline which responds to distress calls. The helpline seeks to stop violence against women by offering an anonymous listening service and

► **Poverty and Hope** then follows up calls with support activities, including community councils, rights education, livelihood support and legal and financial assistance.

In the DRC, our project teaches people how to engage with local authorities so that their rights are recognised and met. Perhaps surprisingly, many local politicians have responded positively to this.

The project in Argentina is, arguably, the most ambitious but also the toughest. The work in a remote forest region seeks to gain recognition of indigenous groups' land ownership entitlement and associated with that to prevent deforestation on a massive scale by international logging companies. Feelings often run high and offering Christian leadership and mediation is not easy.

More information about all the projects, together with material for a Sunday school session, is available on the website ([www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/poverty-amp-hope/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/poverty-amp-hope/)) or contact [povertyandhopeappeal@googlemail.com](mailto:povertyandhopeappeal@googlemail.com).

*Debbie Cooper, Poverty and Hope Appeal coordinator*

### **Coffee morning and Cake Sale**

A Coffee Morning and Cake Sale will be held on Saturday 30 September at the Parish Church in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and the Church.

### ► **The Transfiguration, from page 1**

their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the

## **Are you an accounts expert? We need you**

The Parish Church needs a new independent examiner to review its church accounts and to occasionally provide support should there be an accounting query. Our treasurer asks that you all give some thought as to whether you or someone you know might be qualified and would give some of their time to help us with this task.

The person fulfilling the role may not be a member of the PCC or its sub-committees, an employee of the PCC or a recipient of benefit from the PCC (other than a fee received as examiner), a close relative, business partner or employee of a member of the PCC or its Sub-committees.

They may however be a member of the Church with their name on the Church Electoral Roll. As we use Accruals Accounting it is recommended by the Diocese that the person is an accountant or has the financial ability to understand the complexities of the accounts.

The following link to the relevant section of the Diocese Website gives some detailed information on the role and requirements [www.rochester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1425908581.pdf](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1425908581.pdf)

If you are interested or would like to discuss the role, please speak to the ►

disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16-19 which is invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took longer for the West to observe the Transfiguration, starting to appear in the 11th and 12th centuries, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century. It was made a universal feast in the Western Church on 6 August by Pope Callixtus III to commemorate the lifting of the Siege of Belgrade (1456).

## Edenbridge Parish News

► Treasurer Kim Flather or Assistant Treasurer Jane Cain.

### Cycle to raise funds for Kent churches

The annual Ride and Stride event will take place on Saturday 9 September when cyclists and walkers will be visiting churches in the area to raise funds for the Friends of Kent Churches.

If you would like to take part contact Andrea Shipwright at the vicarage (862258) to obtain a sponsorship form. Participants are sponsored to visit as many Churches as they choose on the day.

Half of the sponsorship money goes to Friends of Kent Churches and half to Edenbridge Parish Church, which will be open on the day to welcome the cyclists and visitors. If you can offer an hour or so to welcome them also contact Andrea.

### Burrswood Quiet Day

Led by David Flagg, 'Healing Death's Wounds' will be held at Burrswood on Tuesday 8 August from 10am to 4pm. See the poster in the porch for more details. It's an opportunity to think and pray about issues connected with the dead.

### Holiday help for BRIDGES

Have you a few hours spare to help at BRIDGES this summer? Mary Perrett would love to hear from anyone who could offer three hours to help cover holiday absences, or to replace regular volunteers who have retired. If you enjoy baking she would be delighted to welcome you to the team of home cooks!

### Raffle tickets on sale at BRIDGES

The Summer Raffle tickets are on sale at the BRIDGES Centre in Edenbridge High

Street. Please do all you can to help this fundraising effort: contact Sue Oldfield or Val Bantin for details. Alternatively call Bridges 01732 868186 or look up the web site at [www.bridgescentre.org](http://www.bridgescentre.org)

### All Saints Isle of Man trip

The All Saints, New Cross, annual trip to The Isle of Man comes up in mid-August and donations of cash and clothing will be most welcome. Wilma and Iain will be able to take donations large or small for this worthwhile cause.

### New Sunday Club leader still needed

Hilary Morgan continues to search for someone to take over as co-ordinator of The Sunday Club at Edenbridge Parish Church.

"This very important part of our Church life needs someone who is younger and fitter than I am now," she says.

"You do not need to have any qualifications: just a love of God and preparedness to share it with the young.

"If there is anyone out there who feels that they can do this, please contact me at 01732 864684."

### Diary dates

#### Tuesday 8 August

Burrswood Quiet Day

#### Sunday 6 August

The Transfiguration, Morning Service at the Parish Church, 9.30am

Festal Evensong, 6.30pm

#### Saturday 9 September

Ride and Stride

#### Saturday 30 September

Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

**Edenbridge Parish News** is published monthly by the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Street, Edenbridge, Kent. Contact: Fr Stephen Mitchell. Tel: 01732 862258. Email: [ssppvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:ssppvicarage@hotmail.com) Web site: [www.edenbridgeparishchurch.com](http://www.edenbridgeparishchurch.com) [www.facebook.com/ssppedenbridge](http://www.facebook.com/ssppedenbridge) Editor: John Nutting. Email: [johnnutting47@gmail.com](mailto:johnnutting47@gmail.com)