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that appears in the original Greek of the New Testament: *zoe*. I may be in danger of you saying, 'oh no, not again', but I am going to take that risk, especially as we have a new grand-daughter, Zoe Joy Spencer (her middle name is my mother's, her great-grandmother's). So here are some more thoughts on *zoe*, the word, not the little girl.

Zoe is one of three words in the New Testament that are translated by the English word: *life*; but as you look at the text carefully you soon realise that the Biblical writers used this word in a particular way. Whenever they wanted to write about ordinary, everyday life they used another word; but when eternal life was in focus it was *zoe*. For example, the most famous verse in the Bible: **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (*zoe*).** (John 3:16). When Jesus said these words he was telling us that the gift of eternal life is given to human beings through our trust and faith in him. The question is, of course, how did we ever lose it?

The answer to this to be found right at the start of the Bible. People argue whether the story of Adam and Eve is literally true, but even if you believe it is a parable, it has a lot to teach us about the human condition. God placed the two of them in the Garden of Eden, which was full of fruit trees. We had a holiday this year in Spain, south of Barcelona. The endless orchards of all kinds of fruit trees are just like the description in Genesis Chapter 2, except I am sure the original trees were not in such tidy rows.

God planted two special trees in the centre of the Garden: the *Tree of Life* and the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. It was this latter tree that God told the pair not to eat from; but because it appealed to all their wishes, wants and desires to have lives that were not dependent on him, they went ahead. In doing this, they lost access to the *Tree of Life* and the eternal, uncreated *zoe* life of God.

Jesus came to earth to make a way back to the *Tree of Life*; strangely, it was his death that made this possible. If you imagine him hanging on the cross, you will see a tree with fruit hanging on it. In church, we regularly eat bread and drink wine together as way of expressing our desire to receive from the *Tree of Life*, even though we know we are no more deserving than Adam and Eve.

So, in the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' it's good to thank God for the fruit from our trees. This autumn, as we enjoy the fruit that our trees have produced, let's not forget that there is a very special fruit available to every human being that leads, not just to abundant *zoe* life (John 10:10) here on earth, but life in heaven eternally.

Z261-37

The Grapevine

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, ASHDON

Welcome to our services today

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

3rd September 2017

Collect for the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: *Romans 12.9-21*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel: *Matthew 16.21-28*

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Post Communion

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The family and friends of those who have died recently:

Joyce Merlane

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In September please pray for Society of Friends, Saffron Walden & Walden School

Those who are unwell: Dennis Sheldrick, Jenny Gallant & Irene Stapleton

Those who are receiving a wedding blessing at Swards

End on 9th September: Debopan Sen & Fiona Lawrence

Those whose wedding banns are being called at Saffron

Walden: Melchizedek Riondino & Clare Fisher, Simon Goddard & Carla Cox, Adam Penney & Michelle Madden

TEAM

DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION 8th September in London. Please pray where you are. Further info from www.dovetailshaloministries.com Janet Damary

MEN'S WALK Saturday 9th September: an exploration of Rowney Wood, Wimbish. We meet at the west door of St Mary's church at 10:00am then drive to the White Hart pub at Howlett End, Wimbish. We return for lunch around 1:00pm. Please contact *Anthony Armon-Jones* on 516733 (email: toofromanthony@gmail.com) to confirm numbers for lunch.

FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE is on **Saturday 9th Sept.** Please do support this event, FoEC have pledged £25,000 towards the building work at St Mary's SW. More details on display at the back of St Mary's. **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WIMBISH** will be open and manned all day. There will be refreshments and a warm welcome. We always open for this special event but often see few, if any, riders and striders. Perhaps we can make it better this year! *Fran Johnson*

HERITAGE OPEN DAY 10th September 2-5pm As part of the national event, various parts of the church and artefacts not normally accessible to the public will be on display in St Mary's, Saffron Walden, including access to the bell tower and the Audley Tomb, displays of church records and textiles and recounting of the story of a crucial Civil War meeting in the church. Refreshments available. *Clifford Want*
Also marking the annual event is Abbey Lane Chapel which will be open to visitors on **Saturday 9th September**, 9am - 4pm and **Sunday 10th September**, 1pm-4pm. There will be a history exhibition along with an opportunity to see the fine interior of the chapel. *Stephen Rapkin*

At **H2H** the young people of Aftershock will be sharing their experiences from this summer's Soul Survivor. Why not come along and hear how God has worked in these young people's lives. We start at **6:30** with tea, coffee and cakes - everyone is welcome! They would really appreciate your support. *Matt Williamson*

CLERGY TEAM

Rector: Revd Canon David Tomlinson 01799 500947

Email: rector.saffronwalden@ntlworld.com

Revd Paula Griffiths 01799 599141

Revd Tim Hardingham 01799 542874

Revd Richard Spencer 01799 584171

Revd Canon Jenny Tomlinson 01799 500757

Revd. Angela Want 01799 540051

Parish Office 01799 506024

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NEW CURATES

Rachel Prior 01799 500047

John Saxon 01799 541619

ASHDON

13 All hail the power of Jesus' name

270 Jesus is Lord

484 The King of love my Shepherd is

327 Majesty, worship his majesty

362 O for a thousand tongues to sing

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." ([Matthew 16:25](#))

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." ([Mark 8:35](#))

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it." ([Luke 9:24](#))

"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life." ([John 12:24-25](#))

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ([Galatians 2:19-20](#))

Dates for the Autumn Term

Our **Harvest Festival** will be 9:30am on Sunday 24th September. Festival. This will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch (12 noon) in the Parish Rooms. Everyone is very welcome.

On Sunday 29th October the two churches in Ashdon will meet together for a **joint morning service**. We hope this will be the first on many, this one will be at 10:30am at Ashdon Baptist Church. There will be no 9:30am service that day at All Saints'.

Our **Patronal Festival** will be at 9:30am on Sunday 5th November.

The following Sunday is **Remembrance Sunday**, and we will have the usual ceremony at the War Memorial. In the evening on 12th November at 4pm, we will be supporting St. Clare Hospice with a **Light up a Life** service. This is a time for everyone to come together to remember loved ones who have died.

Preview of Richard's Ashdon Magazine Article, Autumn 2017

In the magazine two years ago, I wrote about a word

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