

Parish Consultation Day Sunday November 3rd

Remember, remember the third of November. On that day we are having a consultation on the future of St David's Church building. As many of you already know, there has been movement of stone work at the west end of St David's. Cracks have appeared and stones were in danger of falling. The west end is slowly moving away from the rest of the church. We have erected scaffolding, which we now own, to make that area safe. We can't have the scaffolding supporting the west end for ever. We have to take steps to make the building safe permanently, and we have been advised by structural engineers that the west end will need underpinning. This is an expensive operation, but is essential if the building is to have a future.

We have a decision in front of us. (I say 'we' because it is a decision for the whole church community.) We could try to raise the money for remedial work, underpinning and then repairs of stonework and stained-glass that has already been damaged and restore the church to its original state.

Or we could decide to make more ambitious changes to the inside of St David's. I won't say now what those changes might be, because I don't want to give you my solution. I want you to look at our building

and think about what you feel we need to make the church a thriving community for the future. Can we create a more flexible space that we could share with others who would want to use it? What would the inside of the church look like?

I don't want to dictate a solution to you; but I would like everyone to consider the fact that we are running at a deficit every year. Our incomings do not meet our outgoings. The church may not be viable for very much longer if nothing changes. We have appealed to our congregation to increase their giving and there has been some increase, but it is not enough. We will be eating into reserves and assets very soon, and one day they will run out.

At the moment our enormous church building is used for worship for about five hours a week, plus occasional bookings for concerts and school services. I wonder if the current crisis with our building might be an opportunity to make changes that would attract other users and provide income.

The parish consultation on November 3rd is an opportunity for all of us together, to have ideas, to express our views, to dream about a renewed St David's, with a hopeful future, despite the demands made on us by the maintenance of our building. It is an opportunity to see the building not as a dead weight, or a bottomless pit, draining our resources; but as an exciting resource for doing new things, and serving the local community in new ways.

If you believe that we should go on worshipping in our spacious, resonant and beautiful building then please come and have your say and listen to others. If you feel that we have already spent too much on

bricks and mortar, and we should explore other ways and places for our church, then come and share your views.

The day will be led and co-ordinated by the Revd Andrew Mottram, who is a specialist in the restoration and reordering of churches. There will be a shared lunch, and activities for children will be offered throughout the day.

Please look at the notice board in church for details of how to volunteer on the day.

The programme:

- 9.30am The Parish Communion (Preacher Andrew Mottram)
Junior Church as usual.
- 10.30am Coffee and informal gathering.
- 11.15am First session of input and discussion. (Children's activities provided)
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 1.30pm Second session (Children's activities provided)
- 2.45pm Children rejoin us for a joint discussion
- 3.15pm Wrapping up the day.

Tom



St David's Eucharist October		
October 06 : 19th Sunday after Trinity		
Reading 1	Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4	Helen Hopwood
Reading 2	2 Timothy 1: 1-14	Cyrus Moghtadaei
Gospel	Luke 17: 5-10	
Time of prayer		Nigel Walsh
Junior Church: Susan Mitchell		
October 13 : 20th Sunday after Trinity		
Reading 1	2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15	Paula Lawford
Reading 2	2 Timothy 2: 8-15	Jeremy Lawford
Gospel	Luke 17: 11-19	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
Junior Church: Helen Sail		
October 20 : <i>Family Service - Something different</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
October 27 : Last Sunday after Trinity		
Reading 1	Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-17	Joanna Bennett
Reading 2	2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18	Rachel Hough
Gospel	Luke 18: 9-14	
Time of prayer		Helen Drever
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		
November 03 : 4th Sunday before Advent		
Reading 1	Isaiah 1: 10-18	Karen Facey
Reading 2	2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12	Hilary Francis
Gospel	Luke 19: 1-10	
Time of prayer		Carol Burrows
Junior Church: Susan Mitchell		



Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme at St David's Church

What it's about.

This scheme allows us to claim top up payments on individual donations of loose cash (notes and coins only) made on the plate at services. If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration then please do not put loose cash on the plate, use one of the white envelopes.

The benefit.

The scheme will allow us to claim top up payments on up to a maximum of £5,000 of un-Gift Aided cash donations. That is potentially an extra £1,250.

The small print.

GASDS does not replace the Gift Aid scheme. The scheme is in addition to Gift Aid.

It provides for top-up payments to charities on small cash donations (up to £20) where it is difficult to obtain a Gift Aid declaration, such as at religious services. The payments are not a tax relief and there is no audit trail back to the original donor's tax record.

In order to be eligible to claim GASDS payments we need to continue to make regular Gift Aid claims. We currently claim Gift Aid on some £50,000 of donations annually.

You can still use the white Gift Aid envelopes in the pews. (If you use an envelope please make sure you complete it fully.)

Gift Aided Planned Giving

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and give through the Planned Giving Scheme you should continue to donate using Standing Orders and/or your numbered Gift Aid Envelopes.

In fact if you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration then you should NOT put loose cash on the plate because of the perceived danger of “double counting”. (Any donation treated as GASDS **must not** be Gift Aided.) There is no reason why a spouse or partner cannot put their own money on the plate if they have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration.

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and want to give an extra donation then use the white envelopes in the pews and sign and date it or use the wall boxes as we will not claim top up payments under GASDS on the contents of these.

When?

We plan to claim payments under the GASDS on donations collected on the plate as from the beginning of October.

If you have any queries please contact me via:

stewardship@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

Geoff Crockett
Stewardship Officer

LISTEN.....

To begin at the beginning:

It is spring, moonless night in the small town, starless and bible-black, the cobblestreets silent and the hunched, courtiers'-and-rabbits' wood limping down to the sloeblack, slow, black, crowblack, fishingboat-bobbing sea. The houses are blind as moles (though moles see fine tonight in the snouting, velvet dingles) or blind as Captain Cat there in the muffled middle by the pump and the town clock, the shops in mourning, the Welfare Hall in widows' weeds. And all the people of the lulled and dumbfound town are sleeping now.

Listen. It is night moving in the streets, the processional salt slow musical wind in Coronation Street and Cockle Row, it is the grass growing on Llaregyb Hill, dewfall, starfall, the sleep of birds in Milk Wood.

Time passes. Listen. Time passes.

Come closer now.

Only you can hear the houses sleeping in the streets in the slow deep salt and silent black bandaged night.....

Those words are part of the opening of Dylan Thomas' play "Under Milk Wood" - a wonderfully evocative and humorous view of the small town of Llaregyb, tucked under Milk Wood. Thomas had several stabs at writing the play, and it was only completed about a month before his death in 1953 aged 39. Dylan Thomas called it "Under Milk Wood, a play for voices" and it was designed as a radio play. His language con-

pires up very vividly the people of Llaregyb and many would describe as being a masterstroke of word painting.

Several times throughout the play Thomas uses the word.....

LISTEN..... a word upon which I reflect in this article.

LISTEN.....

There is an old saying that runs - "You have been given two ears but one mouth, Therefore listen twice as much as you speak."

I sometimes wonder how true that saying really is these days.

How much do we really listen?

We live in a world where our ears are bombarded constantly with noise and a seemingly endless stream of words. Everyone wants to pronounce upon and analyse everything that is happening in the here and now.

Talking heads on sport, politics, music, cookery..... the list is endless and I wonder how often some of these pundits take in that saying about having two ears and only one mouth, and to actually listen to the cacophony of sound that is produced daily.

Do we really listen twice as much?

I think not.

We all want our say!!

I sometimes think we don't listen at all.....well, we may superficially and hope we say yes or no and nod in the appropriate places. But do we really listen and hear the real pain and anguish of our world and of individuals? Mouths seem to work overtime, but ears seem to be

deafened or debarred from their true function. Ears are anatomically and scientifically designed to sift out and decode sounds so that we can understand and react to the things we hear.

The ancient Hebrews knew nothing of this scientific knowledge and yet they regarded the ear as vital to their whole being. For them the total person was involved in the hearing process. The organ became the organ of Response and Obedience.

The pious Jew of Our Lord's time, as indeed a Jew of today, would be given an insight into his or her basic faith by the words of the SHEMA - words quoted by Jesus to the Lawyer recorded in the Gospels who, having listened to Him, comes forward and asks "Which commandment is first of all?" Jesus replies: "Hear, O Israel...." Note the word HEAR.... not unlike Dylan Thomas' use of the word LISTEN.

And Jesus continues:

".....the Lord our God is the only Lord; love the Lord your God with all your herat, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."

Twice a day that passage would be recited to remind the person of the faculty of hearing and listening, and that the whole fo life should be geared and in tune with God; switched on, as it were, to Him with a life of response and obedience.

Christ tells the young Lawyer to listen to the Law - to love God and then to love one's neighbour. It sounds very simple, but of course is not always easy to achieve.

LISTEN.... says the First Voice of “Under Milk Wood”.

LISTEN.... says the opening words of The Shema.

LISTEN.... says Jesus to the Lawyer.

LISTEN.....says Jesus to you and to me.

LISTEN..... LISTEN... LISTEN.

But will we? The torrent of words will flow from our televisions and radios....we may or may not listen selectively.... and I guess the human race will carry on in the same old way perhaps even with half an ear.

Christ called upon the lawyer to listen. We are called to listen to the music and poetry of our world, to search for God in the turmoil of our everyday living.

“We have been given two ears and one mouth.....we need to listen twice as much as we speak.....”

Do we?

Perhaps that is food for thought.

LISTEN.....

Fr. David Hastings



Love Local Food

www.lovelocalfood.org.uk

Love Local Food is a social enterprise and not-for-profit business bringing local food to local communities through our mobile shop and education projects.



We are committed to connecting children, families and folk of all ages with where their food comes from and how it is grown. To do this Love Local Food works alone, with schools, and in partnership with a variety of Exeter based community groups, to share food knowledge and skills. Activities offered include, produce swaps, food preparation workshops, rescued food community cafes, educational farm walks, story-trails for kids, fruit and vegetable ice-cream making, community seed and plant swaps, fireside feasts, city café storytelling sessions, wassailing celebrations, bread making for all the whole family...and so much more.

You can see Kevin Cotter from Love Local Food in action on this TEDxExeter video-clip
<http://tedxexeter.com/2012/05/21/kevin-cotter-video/>

Which brings me back to the mobile shop: Once shops on wheels were a regular part of our daily lives. A hoot of the horn and you knew to come out to buy your vegetables or fruit or fish from a familiar friendly face. With the Love Local Food van you can have this personal service again and know that the fresh produce is locally grown and items for your store cupboard locally sourced, along with a few selected fair-trade items from further a field.

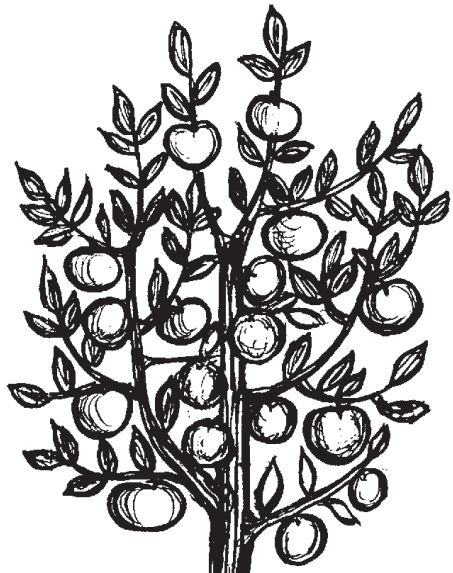
Food miles are reduced and local farmers and ethical businesses are supported.

The Love Local Food mobile shop stops on Thursdays 10:15 - 10:45 in Bystock Terrace with seasonal vegetables and all kinds of groceries or contact us for delivery.

01392 824142

or email

education@lovelocalfood.org.uk



Exeter Central Library

Exeter Central Library run several groups on a variety of topics.

Please use this link for more information

www.devon.gov.uk/index/cultureheritage/libraries/yourlocal-library/exeter_libraries/exeter_central_library/events_at_exeter_central.htm

Here are a few examples of what's on offer.

Woolly Wonders Knitting Group

Date: Every month - Tuesdays

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Description: Knitting is being touted as “The new Yoga”. It can help to relieve stress and take your mind off your aches and pains, as well as keeping your mind active and reducing the risk of memory loss. All this and the added bonus of enjoying the company of other knitters.

Audience: Everyone welcome

Cost: Free

Bookings: Drop in - no need to book

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Exeter Audio Book Group

Date: Once a month meeting

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Description: A new reading group for blind and visually impaired people being launched at Exeter Central Library, The Hoskins Room Castle Street. This is a chance to get together and discuss and recommend books in large print or audio format.

Audience: Blind and Visually Impaired people with or without helpers including guide dogs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just turn up
Organiser: Ask for Liz Cordin 01392 384 209

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IT Drop -in Sessions

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

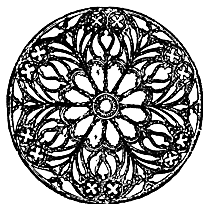
Description: We can help you with: how to set up an email account and how to open and send attachments. How to use a scanner. How to upload photos to your computer. How to find what you want on the web. How to use social housing sites. How to use Ebay. How to book things online. How to use ereaders and ebooks.

Audience: Anyone who would like help sorting out their basic computer needs.

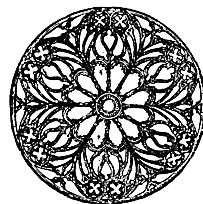
Cost: Free

Bookings: Just drop in

Organiser: Mike Mills & James Knight 01392 384 209



**St. Michael and All Angels,
Mount Dinham
Parish of St. David
Exeter**
ST. MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2013



Wednesday 9th October 7:30pm
**Glory and Longing: The
Search for Signs of God in an
Ambiguous World**

Dr Chris Southgate

Principal, South West Ministry Training Course;
Senior Lecturer, Department of Theology and Religion at
the University of Exeter

Followed by discussion and light refreshments

The term 'glory' is often associated with beauty, particularly brightness or radiance. But the root meaning of the main Hebrew word for the glory of God is weight, not brightness. Chris Southgate will explore an understanding of glory as a sign of the weight of reality, which may mean that glory can be found in beauty, yes, but also in silence, and in suffering. In turn the speaker will ask what it means for believers to be 'transformed from one degree to another', and what that might say about our longing for God.

Originally trained as a scientist, Chris Southgate has written on the problem of evil in nature in *The Groaning of Creation: God, Evolution and the Problem of Evil*. He is also a published poet and his latest collection is *A Gash in the Darkness*.

The lectures are open to all and admission is FREE (there is a voluntary retiring collection). St. Michael's Church is the church with the tall spire by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill.

For further information contact David Beadle at dnb201@ex.ac.uk or
www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Parish Retreat 2013
ABBEY HOUSE
Glastonbury

Fri 22nd – Sun 24th November 2013

Have you ever been on a Retreat? Would you like to join one?
If so, we are holding a Retreat for the Parish from Friday
22nd until Sunday 24th November 2013 at the “Abbey House,
Glastonbury – a wonderful setting for such a weekend.

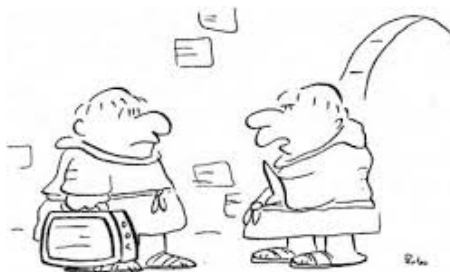
The cost of the weekend will be about £130, plus travel.

If you would be interested in joining Fr. David &
Fr. Andy please sign the list in either Church.

Further details will follow later in the year; however please do
not hesitate to contact Fr. David if you have any questions.

Abbey House Website:

www.abbeyhouse.org



Music at St Michael's

October 2013



Many thanks to Erika and Alex for leading the Choir's little tour of North Devon at the end of August, where we sang Choral Psalms settings "great and small", from S S Wesley's 15-minute "Ascribe unto the Lord" to his father's carefully crafted TTB "Si iniquitates observaveris". The appreciative audiences at Bideford and Muddiford also heard the first live performance of Graham Keitch's "Beati qui custodiunt". Other highlights were Schubert's SSAA Psalm 23 auf Deutsch and Vicki's beautiful treble solo in our performances of Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer/O for the wings of a dove".

Another full month of music ancient and modern starts with:-

Wednesday 2nd October 7:30 pm at St Michael's.

A Red Letter Day as Fr David Hastings celebrates 25 years of ministry as a Priest in the Anglican Church with a special Mass and Party. The music he has chosen includes Mozart's Sparrow Mass and Finzi's Anthem, God is gone up with a triumphant shout.

Sunday 6th October 10.45am Trinity XIX, Mass.

Setting: Mass in F, Motet: Behold, the Tabernacle of God, both by Sir William Harris (1883-1973). According to Wikipedia, "his accessible

Communion Service in F was frequently sung in a great many Anglican parish churches up until the 1970s.”

Sunday 6th 6:00pm Evensong & Benediction.

Responses: John Reading (d. 1692), Psalm: 142, Canticles: Harris in A, Anthem: Adoramus Te, Christe Lassus (1532-1594). Orlande de Lassus is a famous ‘Belgian’ who, having studied in Italy, worked mostly in Munich. O salutaris: Anon, Tantum Ergo: Duruflé (1902-86).

Wednesday 9th October 7.30pm St Michael’s Lecture.

Dr Chris Southgate (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Exeter), “Glory and Longing: The Search for Signs of God in an Ambiguous World”.

Sunday 13th October 10.45am Trinity XX, Mass.

Setting: Missa “Lauda Sion” Palestrina (1525-1594), Motet: Cantique de Jean Racine Fauré (1845-1924).

Tuesday 15th October 6:00pm, CBS Plainsong Mass,

S Teresa of Avila. Mystic and first female Doctor of the RC Church, she died in the night between 5th and 15th October 1582, the transition in Spain from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar.

Sunday 20th October 10.45am Trinity XXI & Harvest Sunday, Mass. Setting: Mass in E Darke (1888-1976), Motet: Domine, lux tui amoris lucet Kendrick ab Occidente (a recently discovered manuscript).

Wednesday 23rd October 7.30pm St Michael’s Recital.

Clive Betts (guitar); Spanish & Latin American music for classical guitar. Free, retiring collection.

Sunday 27th October 10.45am Trinity XXII, Mass.

Setting: Missa Brevis “Laetatus Sum” Dr Nigel Browne, Motet: O for a Closer Walk with God Grayston Ives (b. 1948) Words by William

Cowper (1731-1800).

We prefer not to transfer (move) Feast Days at St Michael's, but the way the calendar falls this year makes it sensible to celebrate both All Saints' and All Souls' Day on Sunday 3rd November.

Sunday 3rd November 10.45am All Saints, Mass.

Setting: Missa L'Hora Passa Viadana (1560-1627), Motet: Give Almes of Thy Goods Tye (1505-1572).

Sunday 3rd November 6:00pm, All Souls, Requiem Mass.

Please join us for a liturgical performance of the beautiful music of the 1893 Requiem by Gabriel Fauré. Its seven movements are Introit et Kyrie (D minor), Offertoire (B minor), Sanctus (E-flat major), Pie Jesu (B-flat major), Agnus Dei et Lux Aeterna (F major), Libera Me (D minor), In Paradisum (D major).

Motet: Justorum Animae William Byrd (1540-1623) from the Gradualia of 1605.

*The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and the torment of death shall not touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die;
but they are in peace.*

Richard Barnes

St Michael's Pipe Organ Project



Music, Education and Heritage on Mount Dinham

Work on the Heritage Lottery Funded pipe organ installation continues to progress fairly well. By mid-September, the phase converter/blower motor combination was nearly working satisfactorily, most of the woodwork and windchests were in place and connected to the blower, and we were thinking about the best time to move out the old organ console and bring in the new one. Then the vast array of pipes, 61 per stop on the manuals, can join the pedal ones, and be tested, tuned and voiced to the fine acoustic of our beautiful building. Meanwhile, around the spire our Peregrines still sing their more piercing song at dawn and dusk. The new stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk website is being built up behind the scenes, and the blog continues to inform with updates most weeks.

Richard Barnes



Favourite recipes

Light Courgette Soup

These last few wonderful, warm, sunny, late summer days have provided me with a glut of courgettes. The bees are having a field day pollinating the plants and exploring the huge yellow and orange flowers. Almost everyday I have enough small courgettes to cook with so here is a low calorie light summer soup that can be eaten chilled or hot. Of course you can make the meal more substantial with a crusty loaf and lashings of butter!

Ingredients for 2 people:

- 100g frozen or fresh peas (I use petite pois for extra sweetness)
- 2 small courgettes (diced)
- 1 shallot (finely diced)
- 1tsp Mariglod Bouillon powder or something similar
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 handful of fresh mint
- 700 ml water

Soften the shallot in the oil over a low heat for a couple of minutes and stir in the diced courgettes. Cook for 2 minutes.

Pour in the water and stock, bring to the boil and add the peas.

Cook for 2 to 3 minutes

Add the chopped mint saving a sprig for the garnish. Cook for a further minute and blend with a stick blender.

Adjust the seasoning with salt and black pepper.

An addition of a dollop of 0% Greek Yoghurt completes this light refreshing soup.

Only 90 calories a serving (without the crusty bread and lashings of butter!)

Remember to check your courgette plants every day . This recipe does not work well with Marrows!!!

Imogen Walsh



Read any good books lately?

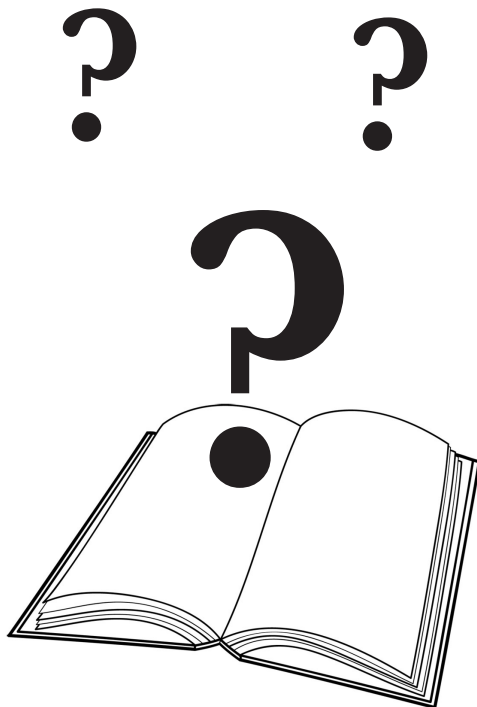
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

It can be on any subject, not necessarily religious although we would especially welcome those.

It's just a way of sharing and enjoying things together and fostering our feelings of community.

Go on -be brave! All you need to do is to include the author, composer or performer and a short piece about it and why you enjoyed it.

Books, CDs DVDs Films.



Book Reviews

It was my turn to choose the book for the September meeting of my local book club! I wanted my friends to enjoy the book I chose but I also wanted to engender a really good discussion on the book club night. Classic or modern? Easy reading or more meaty? Booker Prize or Airport bookshop?

Rummaging through the bookcase I found my answer. “Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress” by Dai Sijie.. Somehow I had overlooked this little book, given to me several birthdays ago and there it was, a tiny, slim, book sandwiched between “Small Island” by Andrea Levy and Ronnie Barker’s autobiography!

Please read this book if you have time. It is a gem and only 184 pages long.

We were able to have discussions in book club that included comparing China under Chairman Mao as represented in the book, to looking at Afghanistan under the Taliban. We talked about what it might be like not to be allowed to read books and to be faced with death if we did (something that was almost impossible to imagine). We talked about storytelling and the power of stories in our own lives and we talked about humour and how it can help in the most appalling situations (the young men in the book had to carry heavy buckets of excrement up the mountain each day, hardly a fun activity!)

This poetic little book is a mixture of fairy tale and brutal realism and has a surprise ending that I will not spoil for you. Try to read it in one or two sessions and I guarantee you will be transported into the remote and unforgiving mountains of Mao’s China with two young men, banished as “reactionary intellectuals” to be “re-educated”. What happens

when they try to “re-educate” the little Chinese seamstress, drives the novel to its stunning, heart-wrenching conclusion.

Imogen Walsh



Immortal Diamond by Richard Rohr

I have been reading the books of Richard Rohr for many years, and it is always a cause of pleasurable anticipation when a new one comes my way. I have been lucky enough to hear him speak at the Greenbelt festival on a couple of occasions. I have CDs of his series of talks “Looking Sideways”, which I listen to regularly on long car journeys, and which always sound fresh and full of new insight (Looking Sideways at God, at Christ, at The Bible, and at Ourselves) These talks look at traditional beliefs from another perspective.

Richard Rohr is a Catholic priest and a Franciscan friar, and he is not popular with the more conservative end of American Roman Catholicism, because he has been resolutely critical of the way that institutional religion can obscure the true gospel. At the same time he is open to the insights of wisdom from other sources (for example Buddhism, Jungian psychology and the 12 Step Programme of Alcoholics Anonymous). If you want to see some truly ignorant and vitriolic attacks on him, they are easy to find on the internet.

In our house RR is known as Dad’s guru and some of his sayings have become legendary among us. Immortal Diamond is a quotation from a poem of Gerard Manley Hopkins. The book is an exploration of the True Self and the False Self. RR identifies the False Self with what Jung

calls the ego, and the True Self with what is traditionally called the soul. This is the immortal diamond of the title. He says that the False Self tends to split from reality, and identifies four key ways in which this happens, 1) we split from our shadow self and pretend to be our idealised self, 2) We split our mind from our body and soul, and live in our minds, 3) we split life from death and try to live our life without any death, 4) we split ourselves from other selves and try to live apart, superior, separate. In essence, the False Self is a lie, which we have come to believe, because it makes us feel better about ourselves.

By contrast the True Self knows the truth, is unafraid to look honestly at itself. And this is the way to real happiness because the True Self knows that it is loved by God, whereas the False Self erects the image of perfection, because it fears that God does not find the reality lovable. If only I can hide my fears and doubts and mistakes, because if they are known no-one will love me, not myself, not even God. On the contrary says Richard Rohr it is only when you stumble and fall, when you reach rock bottom and hold your hand out for help that you realise the extent of God's love. It is failure not success that is the way to inner growth and transformation. As Jesus said "the truth will set you free."

"In finding your True Self, you will have found an absolute reference point that is both utterly within you and utterly beyond you at the very same time."

I would recommend any of Richard Rohr's books. Like all of them, Immortal Diamond is a challenging read, not in the sense of being difficult and theological, but because it challenges you to look deeply at yourself.

Tom

Devon Home Library Service -
bringing books and more to people in their homes

The Devon Home Library Service works in partnership with the WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service). It aims to provide library books, (including audio books on CD, and large print books) to those people in the community who through ill health or disability can no longer visit the library.

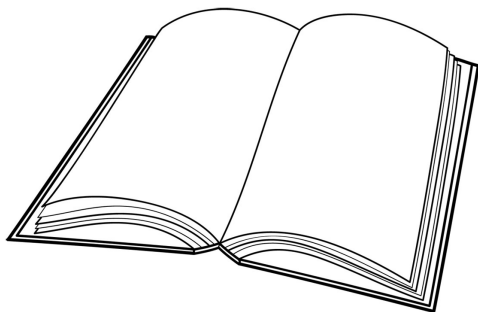
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient time. There is **no charge** for the service and there are **no fines** on books!! Clients may keep the books for as long as needed and may order books they particularly want to read.

Large print books, cassette tapes and audio CDs as well as ordinary print books are available. Some clients prefer non fiction such as biography and travel books, other prefer romantic novels or murder mysteries!

For those people who love reading or just browsing through books, but are confined to their home, this service offers a chance to have access to the library as well as a visit from a friendly face on a regular basis. Often clients and volunteers make lasting friends so there is satisfaction on both sides.

We really want to promote and extend the service to reach as many people as possible!

If you would like to use the service, or know of someone who would, please contact Julia on 01392 757725 or email crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk





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Knightshayes

Hallowe'en half-term fun

26 October to 2 November

Get set for our haunting Hallowe'en trail, certain to silence the boldest of kids. There's also freaky face painting and a range of creepy craft activities.

£2 per child.

Christmas craft fair

16 & 17 November

Whether you're looking to find some early Christmas presents or simply looking for an excuse to treat yourself in the run up to Christmas, there are plenty of goods to choose from at our annual Christmas craft fair.

Free entry to stables and parkland.

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nationaltrust.org.uk/knightshayes

National Trust



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"The personal development of pupils is also outstanding."

"Spiritual development is excellent." "Behaviour is exemplary."

CONCERT

Saturday 16th November

7:30pm

St David's

Following their highly successful concert here last year, ExeVox chamber choir returns in November with their new autumn programme.

They will sing a mixture of timeless sacred and secular masterpieces by composers from Vittoria to Gershwin, via memorable folk songs, the humour of Flanders & Swann and more...

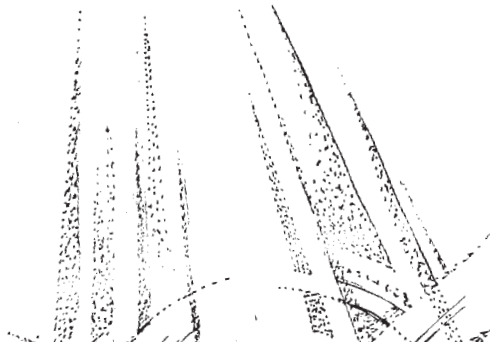
Please try and support this venture as all profits made will go towards the restoration work at the West end of the church.

Tickets £8, students £6 and under 16s free

01647 253104

info@evevox.org

or buy on the door



Greenbelt Festival 2013

Cheltenham Racecourse

www.greenbelt.org.uk

'Where faith, arts and justice meet'

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend the annual Greenbelt Festival celebrated its 40th birthday. For each of those forty years the festival has engaged with culture and the arts to facilitate an open and generous community, where participants can re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment. Greenbelt stands for an inclusive and progressive faith that values tolerance, dialogue and hope. It is also great fun!

I went to Greenbelt this year with my Holy Ground team-mates. We were there to lead a worship session, to enjoy the festival in fellowship and to get inspired. A number of friends from St David's have expressed an interest in hearing more about it and a suggestion has been made that a group of us might go to Greenbelt together in 2014. Do let me know if you are interested.

One of the joys of the festival for me is the opportunity to hear informative and challenging talks from a wide range of speakers. American Episcopalian preacher Barbara Brown Taylor made her way straight to the heart of the Greenbelt family this August with her deft touch and compassionate humility. Fr Christopher Jamison, who you may recognise from TV's 'The Monastery', spoke on what changes Pope Francis

may bring to the Roman Catholic Church worldwide. Lucy Winkett, the Rector of St James's Piccadilly, led a discussion called 'Life Begins when all are Welcomed' and chaired a debate on 'What Women (In the Church) Want'. Greenbelt regular Jim Wallis gave a wonderful call to action on working for the Common Good. Other speakers included the marvellous Clare Balding in conversation with R4 Saturday Live's Rev Richard Coles, Baptist minister and founder of Oasis Steve Chalke, the much loved writer Adrian Plass, and Devon's own Ian Adams.

Global musical offerings ranged from the Grammy winning Malian duo Amadou and Mariam to the USA's The Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. From closer to home came performances from the London Community Gospel Choir, Lemar, Eliza Carthy, Thea Gilmore, Courtney Pine and many, many more.

Worship is always at the heart of Greenbelt. The Sunday Eucharist at the main stage was thousands strong. This year the bread for the host was baked on site in the Christian Aid kitchen by dozens of willing volunteers. I know of no other place where it is possible to experience so many different ways of praising the God who loves us. From Graham Kendrick 'the father of modern worship music' to Taize chanting, from the Goth Eucharist to Jazz Church to my own particular favourites Beer and Hymns, and Transcendence's amazing Les Mis Mass (standing room only).

There is so much to do on site and still places just to be. If you want to know how to help make the world a fairer place visit the G-Source, if you are hungry and don't want to cook, eat from one of the dozens of food stalls, if you fancy levity there is plenty of comedy on offer, Milton

Jones was hilarious, and if you seek stillness there is the peace of the Chapel and many a quiet corner for solitude.

In short Greenbelt offers a comprehensive programme for all ages from tots to grandparents. For accommodation most people camp, but if you need a little more luxury than a tent and sleeping bag you can bring your caravan or motor home on site or even stay in a near by B&B.

My best bit of Greenbelt 2013 was staying up past midnight in the Jesus Arms (beer tent) putting the world to rights with a Franciscan Friar and a Benedictine novice, and what are the chances of that happening anywhere else!

Helen Drever

helendrever@hotmail.co.uk

www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/worship/holy-ground.ashx

COMING SOON.....

Mark's Gospel *LIVE*

The 15,000 words of the Gospel of St. Mark will be performed solo by
the Reverend Joseph Morris from USA

SATURDAY 30th. NOVEMBER

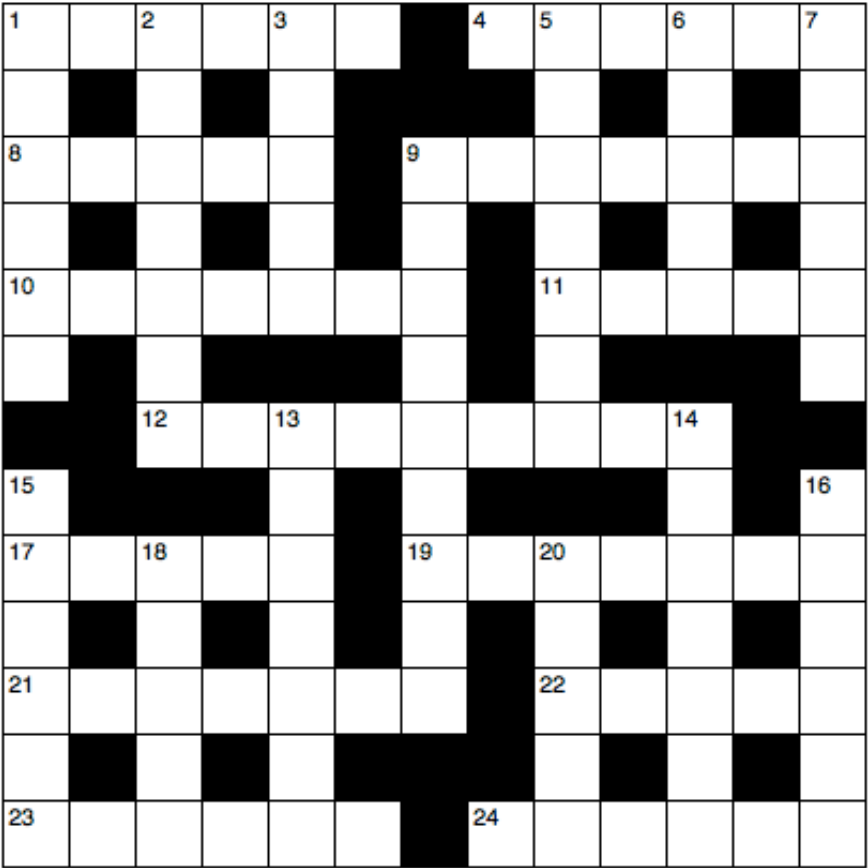
7.30 p.m.

St. David's Church

Admission free - free will offering.

All welcome. More details in November issue of "New Leaves".
Meanwhile make a note of the date in your diary.

October crossword



Across:

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)

- 11 Banishment(Jeremiah29:1)(5)
- 12 ‘And now I will show you the most — way’(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 ‘Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not —— the same spirit and follow the same course?’ (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.)(7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: ‘the land of — ’ (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 ‘As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth’ (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul’s birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down:

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham’s wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 ‘So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others’ (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife’s beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 ‘For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world’ (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 ‘The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands’ (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 ‘If your hand — you to sin,cut it off’(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul’s eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)

Solutions on the following pages - No need to wait a month to see if you’re right!

St. David's Parent and Toddler group

If you're walking past the Parish Room on a Thursday morning around midday you may well hear several voices singing out the Okey Cokey and wonder what's going on. In fact this song has become the informal signature tune of the Toddler Group thanks to the enthusiasm of the children and their parents/carers.

The weekly session is 10:00am to midday, all year (except August and Christmas).

We charge £1 per child plus 50p for a sibling and this funds the cost of our art and craft resources, snacks, milk and Christmas party. We usually have ten to twelve children in the age range from new born up to four. There is a rota of helpers; Barbara, Freya, Julia and myself, who are all CRB checked.

As soon as they come in the children get stuck in to playing with the many toys which have been donated to us over the years. By far the most popular is the sandpit, but the children also love the mini-slide, the ride-on toys, painting on the easel and shopping for plastic fruit in the tent. There is usually a simple activity on the table such as play-dough, puzzles, drawing or glueing. We have even managed cooking on occasions.

The adults have a tea or coffee and then at about 11:00am it's snack time and the children sit down to fruit, milk and rice cakes. The fact we offer a healthy snack is an important issue for many parents.

When it's tidy up time, we wind down the play and get the children involved in clearing up. They love to join in putting the toys away in the cupboards and getting the musical instruments out ready for our nursery rhyme singing and the grand finale of the Okey Cokey.

Our thanks go to the Church for letting us use the Parish Room for the last seven years, thereby supporting what is a very necessary resource for parents of young children. Over the years we have had several parents who have made lasting friendships through the group and given each other a lot of practical and moral support in child-rearing. This can be a really good way of combatting the sense of isolation that some parents of toddlers may experience, especially, for example when people are new to the area, if they don't have family living nearby or their partners have come to work/study at the university for short periods of time. Toddler groups are also a great way of introducing young children to some of the activities that they will encounter in pre-school.

Toddlers is great fun for children and a nice break for adults. The St. David's group is (so we are told by current parents) one of the friendliest in Exeter. If you know anyone with pre-school children or grandchildren, then please do recommend us.

They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

Contact:

toddlers@stdavidschurhexeter.or
or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

Sam Wellbelove



Dates of Note

2 Guardian Angels

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18:10)

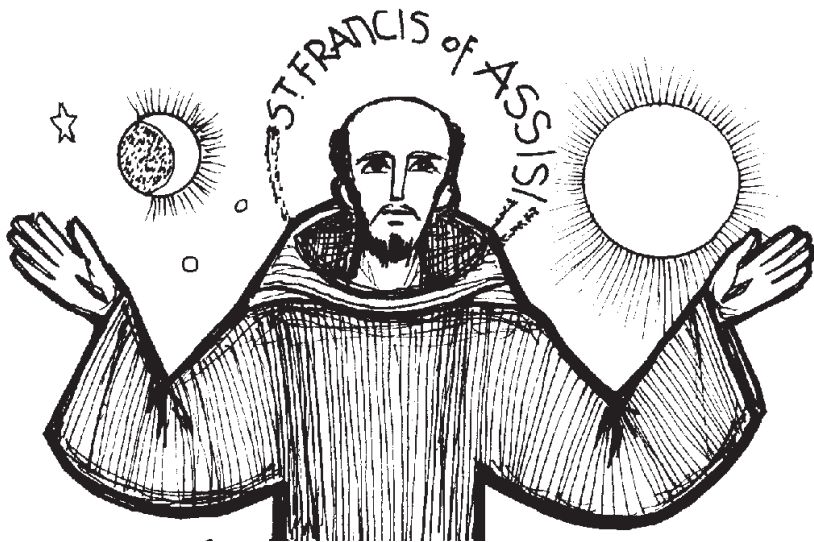
The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham, has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2 October.



4 St. Francis of Assisi (1181 - 1226)

St Francis is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his *Canticle of the Sun*. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

13 Edward the Confessor (1003 – 66)

If you approve of giving money to help cathedrals survive, then Edward the Confessor is the saint for you. This early King of England was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey. And never mind entrance charges - at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second, Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made king of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.

As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the original Westminster Abbey - a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

During the Middle Ages, Edward was a very popular saint: along with Edmund of East Anglia he was widely considered to be England's patron saint for a time.

31 All Hallows Eve

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

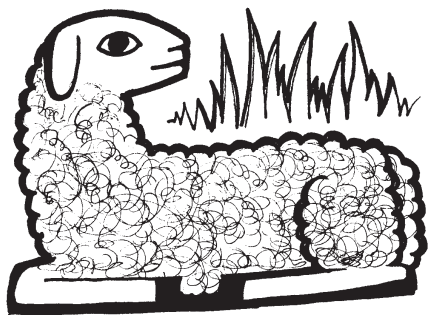
In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



St IGNATIUS

feast day October 17th

Born in Syria, Ignatius converted to Christianity at an early age and eventually became bishop of Antioch. A tradition arose that he was one of the children whom Jesus had taken in his arms and blessed. Ignatius called himself 'God Bearer'.

Ignatius is responsible for the first known use of the Greek word 'katholikos' meaning universal and whole to describe the church, he wrote: "Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.

In the year 107, the Roman Emperor Trajan visited Antioch and forced the Christians living there to choose between death and denying Christ. Ignatius would not deny his Lord and so was condemned to be put to death in Rome.

Ignatius bravely met the lions in the Circus Maximus in Rome; dying and living as a witness to his belief.

LIONS in the BIBLE

Not just in the arena in Rome, there are quite a few lions mentioned in the Bible...

1. An angel shut the lions' mouths so that they couldn't eat him (Daniel, chapter 6)
2. Who will lead the lion, wolf, lamb, goat and calf? (Isaiah, chapter 11)
3. He killed the lions or bears that threatened his father's flocks (1 Samuel, chapter 17)
4. Who is like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat? (1 Peter, chapter 5)
5. He killed a lion on a day when it had snowed (2 Samuel, chapter 23)
6. The first creature was like a lion, what were the 2nd, 3rd and 4th creatures like? (Revelation, chapter 4)



1. Daniel 2. A little child 3. David
4. the devil 5. Benaiah, son of Jehoiada 6. A calf, a face like a man and a flying eagle.

Barbara's Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.

We need you!

NEXT DATE:

SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER

Jane Woodman



Crossword solutions

October answers

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.

DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

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The deadline for inclusion of articles for the November issue of the parish magazine is Sunday October 13th 2013

Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Ashley and Johanne via St David's Church or our email: thedairy@btclick.com

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us.

Please send digital files via email if at all possible - thanks!



Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine - his hard work is much appreciated.