

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory 2014

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St. David's www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

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John Hughes

1978 - 2014



In Memoriam

text of the address preached by Fr. John Henton at the Requim Mass
Wednesday 6th August 2014

Father of all.....we pray to you for those whom we love....but see no longer....grant them your peace....let light perpetual shine upon them....and in your loving wisdom and almighty power...work in them the good purpose of your perfect will....through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I still remember well the first funeral that John took after he was made deacon. I went with him, of course, I always did. He had been to see the family before the service, and it was as we travelled back to Exeter that we spoke about death.....and I am glad to say that over the course of the next four years that we spent together we often spoke about such things.

On that short journey we spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven...how it is both...of now...as we live....and how it is also...of what is to come. I remember what we both absolutely agreed about , and we didn't always agree about everything, but what we were utterly at one about .was the un-interruptedness of life and death....how we...as people.... create a false division between the two....but how....for God....life and death are seamless and indivisible and continuous...and how one is a part of the other. As you can imagine that conversation, and its great hope, has been often in my thoughts since I heard of his death.

What I also clearly remember about the conversation was the way in which John, almost without it being obvious, opened up for me... streams of thought...ways of seeing things....that had not been available to me before.he was very good at it....in a very unthreatening/unobtrusive...easy kind of way....and over the years it was a part of him that I came to value more and more.

The very first time that I met John, when he came to look at the parish, with a view to serving a curacy here...one of the questions that the college had suggested that he ask of me was...and I forget the exact wording, but something along the lines, how would I feel....how would I be able to deal with...a level of intellect that was very different to my own. It was a fair question....and I was glad that someone had had the sense to suggest that it should be there....it was the first time that I had been asked it....although in my view ... it was certainly the case...that most curates over the years would certainly have been entitled to ask such a thing. I certainly had no illusions on that score. But the truth is that over those years that we spent together I had no difficulty at all. Yes....there was a quality about his mind...about his curiosity....an ability to see beyond the immediate....and around corners that I was

not able to see....and a command of language that enabled him to make his thoughts so accessible ...that was very rare.....but he managed to do it all in such a way that it was utterly acceptable.

I also knew, as we all do here, that in the life of a priest the intellect is never enough on its own....and it was only as the years went on ...that I became aware....of the natural instinctiveness of his pastoral care....the depth of his compassion...and his ability to relate to such a wide variety of people with a great and enviable ease.....that combination of a really good mind with such an instinctive care for people...it does not often happen. And he did it all with enormous grace.

He did not go to church as a child and when I asked how it all began... he told the story, as I'm sure he has told many of you, on his way home from school he used to pass the church....Kenton Church where he is now buried....and one day the doors were open....and he was curious....he was always curious.....and he went in.....and as he described it to me....there were some ladies there, doing the cleaning and arranging the flowers...all of us here can imagine the scene very easily...and it was his welcome by those parishioners...to a small child who knew nothing of the church....that changed the course of his life.....he went back to the church the following Sunday with Janet....and so it began.

If anything is a vindication of what we are often tempted to think of as the pointlessness of messing around in churches...the flower rotas and the cleaning rotas and all the rest of it...it is easy to see it as a kind of necessary evil...something that draws us away from what is really important....here...in this story we see where such things can lead. John was a passionate supporter of the parish system, he had no patience with those who questioned its usefulness and its validity....as a champion of the gospel.That early experience taught him, as it should teach

us, that these small, seemingly unimportant moments in the life and community of a church can produce great treasures often not known for years to come. The truth is that he loved the church, belonging was very important to him, and there was a great feeling... certainly for me.... that he was doing what he had been created for.... he was in the right place.... he was where God wanted him to be and he had found what he had been made for. How many people spend their lives searching for that...

Of course he was human and of course he was not perfect. Hywel and Janet would be the first to agree. He was not good at being wrong.... perhaps because... to be fair..... it was an unusual experience for him. Like most people particularly gifted he expected to be right.... but it was a strength of will that was not difficult to accept, because his sense of fun and friendship always rescued him and enabled him to gain a new perspective.

I will also never forget his last-minuteness.... being a great forward planner myself.... I found it especially hard to reconcile myself to the quality of a talk or an event or a service that was constructed at a hectic pace... often in the last hours or it sometimes seemed to me – minutes – before it all took place. It was the way that he worked best and the results spoke for themselves.

And.... he found it difficult to say no.

Alongside all this and eating into it was, above all a great joy of life.... he loved parties and festivals... and light and noise.... as well as solemnity/silence and dignity.... it was all reflected in that smile. What better can be said of anybody.... that they loved the life that God had given them..... and he certainly did.... and that joy and fun infected others and inspired faith....

We meet tonight on the Feast of the Transfiguration. That moment when Jesus is transfigured into a dazzling image of holiness. He talks to Moses and Elijah on a mountain top. Suddenly a cloud overshadows the group, and a voice from the cloud announces “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him”and Moses and Elijah are gone.

“Listen to him”. John knew the importance of listening to God. He knew how hard it is to hear God amidst all the other voices that call out to us....the voices that call us towards a worldly security and a material happiness that can never...truthfully...ever exist. He knew how important it is not to be the people we think we need to be or that other people might want us to be, but rather, the person we were created to be.

The truth is that it doesn't have to be on the mountain top that God speaks to us. It can be through joy.....and it can often be through a moment of terrible and incomprehensible suffering....as we remember tonight. It can be in silence or in the midst of a great noise....but what is certain....is that God is in it all....if we will open our eyes to see him.

When I heard that John had died...like all of you it was the most enormous shock...but underneath it...quite quickly....a knowledge.... that we come and we go and it is not of our choosing...but above all that...what I felt...as the parent of an only child myself...it was the unimaginable pain for you ...Hywel and Janet. That stayed in my mind.....and our prayers are with you tonight...and will continue to be.... with you in the months to come. You who guided him...and gave him the platform...from which to go out and do it all. We just treated him ‘as normal’.....you told me....well...you got it right.

The irony of transfiguration is that often it is precisely what we most want to avoid that brings about the transfiguration that we so badly need to make us whole. The death of a good son, a good friend, a good

colleague...a good teacher....and a great priest....is ...such a time. It is cruelly and awfully how life is....but in the midst of it....God continues to go about his work of transfiguring and transforming the world....

Almighty God and Heavenly Father.....deal graciously we pray thee.... with those who mourn....that casting every care on thee.....they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



“The Parish gave great tribute to its previous curate John Hughes 2005-2009 at a moving and inspirational requiem mass on Wednesday 6th August at St. Michael’s and all Angels. Many thanks to all involved.”

Canon John Thurmer, our Honorary Assistant Priest, wrote the following tribute as an introduction to the Requiem Mass for John Hughes on Wednesday 6th August 2014

John Mark David Hughes was a Devonian, from Kenton where he is buried. But he rejoiced in his Welsh ancestry and in the dedication of the parish church to St David, his own third name. This requiem at St Michael's recalls not only his own memorable ministry here, but those rather eccentric weekday evening masses of the 1990's, to one of which he came as a schoolboy and reckoned it a turning point in his life. At his death he was Fellow, Dean and Chaplain of Jesus College Cambridge where Thomas Cranmer was a Fellow when he was called in 1533 to be Archbishop of Canterbury with momentous results. John's chaplaincy at Jesus embraced the whole college, Fellows, undergraduates, college servants and their families, and he had heavy teaching commitments in the Faculty of Divinity. His doctoral thesis on the theology of work was the basis of his book with the teasing title "The End of Work". He combined with unforgettable grace the work of the scholar and the loving kindness of the pastor. To each every one according to need he was son, friend, father and teacher.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy Saints where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing but life everlasting.



September 2014

from

St Michael and All Angels

As I prepare this piece, it seems as if we are saying 'Good bye' to the beautiful days of summer that we have enjoyed. The tail-end of Hurricane Bertha has lashed our country, and the clouds are racing across the sky. Autumn does not seem so far away tonight. There are leaves blowing along and branches are being shaken vigorously by the wind. However, for some the wild weather has brought floods and anxiety. We recognise that even though we have reached greater knowledge about the elements, we are no closer to managing storms that come across the ocean, except perhaps to prepare with greater insight and more carefully for the onslaught. As a complete contrast, if there is a clear patch later tonight we should be amazed by the sight of the moon, at its closest to Earth for about twenty years. It should be spectacularly bright and the Perseid meteor shower is due to appear over the next few nights, giving us reasons to look at the late-night sky.

The wonders of the Universe are there to delight us and to remind us of the unimaginable vastness of Creation.

This morning we heard that we will be saying 'Farewell' to Father Andy, Sarah and Joab as they leave us for their first Parish (but not until October, so we can plan a proper send-off!) We wish them all a very blessed move and a rich ministry. The people of Milton Abbot are indeed fortunate to be gaining



such a family.

Here at St Michael's, we said 'Farewell' to Erika Borley, who gave so brilliantly of her musical talent to direct the Choir. Erika is training to be a teacher of Mathematics, based in Bristol. We shall miss her, though she has promised to make some visits.

Participating in 'The Long Goodbye', a project to remember the Great War, organised by the Exegesis group at the University, released many memories of grandparents, now long gone. Writing postcards to or from those involved in terrible events using ink and a dipping pen gave a closeness to the need to set things down, to record events. The next few years will be times of anniversaries as well: 2015, seventy years since the end of World War II, 2018, the end of the Great War. The question, looking at all the areas of conflict today, is 'What has been learnt?' The last remaining soldier of World War I, Harry Patch, died nearly 10 years ago, and so there is no longer any living memory, but only that which has been handed on. Very soon there will be no veterans of the 1939-45 conflict, either.

The words of parting with friends and loved ones, the goodbyes, farewells, adieus and so on are not, to my mind, as bleak as they seem. In their origins, they all hold the notion of promise, of meeting in the future. 'Good bye' is derived from 'God bid with you', not just a promise but a prayer as well, like the French 'adieu' and Spanish 'adios', suggesting that we cannot make the journey into the future alone, but must needs have God with us. A recent radio 4 programme on sea-going mentioned a message in a bottle sent off by some sailors who were facing death by drowning in a hopeless scenario; the men knew what their fate would be, but wished 'Farewell to those whom we love' should the message ever be recovered, which it obviously was.

Even the comedian Dave Allen wished his viewers goodbye with the words ‘May your God go with you.’

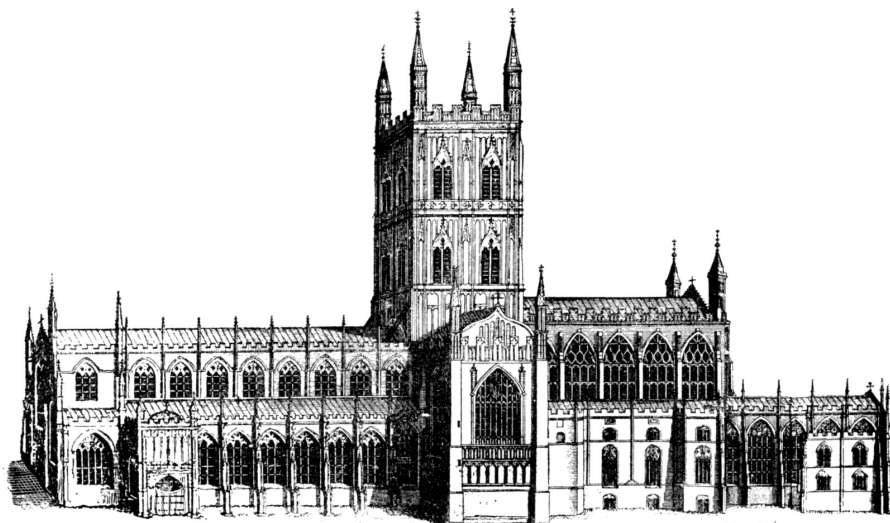
Our greatest sorrow has been to say good bye to our beloved former curate and friend, John Hughes. There are tributes elsewhere in this magazine; we can never say enough to indicate the depth of the loss felt by the religious and academic worlds. The Requiem Mass came more than a month after the news of his death reached us. It still felt very raw to be hearing the words of Faure’s Requiem, the sermon from John Henton and the words of the Mass itself in connection with John, who still had so much to give. At the end of the Mass, we had a party, very much in the spirit of John’s great joy of life, which he communicated to so many people. The last piece of the Requiem, ‘In Paradisum’, asks that the angels should lead the soul into Paradise, to be received by the martyrs who will be guides to the holy city, Jerusalem, where with ‘Lazarus, once poor, you may have eternal rest.’ John Hughes and John Henton agreed that death is not the end, but a different kind of existence in the continuum of being. Jesus talks of His departure from the disciples, promising that he will go to prepare a place for them. A farewell, then, is only a temporary separation, according to the promises of Our Lord.

Stephanie Aplin



Ely, Ely, ...

*A personal reflection on the Funeral Eucharist for
Revd Dr John Hughes by Richard Barnes*



I travelled to Ely, first stop on our honeymoon many years ago and where I have sung with visiting choirs on several occasions, with a heavy heart on Thursday 10th July for the Requiem Eucharist for Fr John Hughes. And God opened his heavens also to weep in Ely for this Funeral.

Ely Cathedral nave was filled with many hundreds touched by the full but all-too-short life of Fr John Hughes. The feelings of restrained sadness and the quiet conversations with friends before the service were helped by the sensitive organ music.

The booklet told us that with characteristic thoroughness most of the service had been planned and written down by John himself well in

advance; John loved feasts, both sacred and secular, indeed, the best in life was all holy to John, so the Eucharistic Feast, foretaste of the heavenly Banquet, was the right form for his Funeral. God had started his work in him and brought it further than most of us in just half a lifetime; John was very Christlike. We were there to pray for John and that God would complete that life in heaven.

The 30 students of Jesus College Chapel Choir processed in silently, followed by 100 clergy representing every facet of humanity, united by black stoles. A bell sounded and the organ and choir began the heart-breakingly beautiful Introit from the Duruflé Requiem. The Altar party and John's family preceded his coffin, simply adorned with a cross of white flowers, arriving under Ely's octagonal lantern with the emotional *Christe eleison*.

The Bishop of Ely, Rt Rev Stephen Conway, welcomed all "much too soon" with barely contained emotion and conducted the beautiful service with quiet dignity.

The First Lesson, Isaiah 25:6-9, read by a colleague, Prof Janet Soskice, was least familiar but wonderfully appropriate, so I quote it in full.

"And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.

And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we

will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

1 Corinthians 15:20-58, the promise of resurrection, was read by John’s cousin, Stephen Gilbert MP, and the Gospel promise that nothing is lost, John 6:37-40, by the unnamed Deacon.

The hymns, well sung by the large congregation, were a pilgrimage of faith:

I heard the voice of Jesus say – Kingsfold,

All people that on earth do dwell – Old 100th,

Guide me O thou great Redeemer – Cwm Rhondda

with a different emotional intensity and closer attention to the words than normal,

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain – Noel Nouvelet,

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation – Lobe den Herren.

The Sermon, by Rev Dr Jeremy Morris, Dean of King’s College Cambridge, avoided any platitudes and was sprinkled with words like disbelief, anger, senseless and too soon, which will have been in many minds. In an image both Biblical and Dr Whovian, he said that John’s death has torn a hole in the fabric of reality, across many groups; Cambridge colleges, Church of England, wide networks of friends, students and colleagues, and above all for his parents. (This will take time, prayer and work to mend, and will leave scars.)

The loss to theology, where John’s distinctive and creative ideas were already being noticed and admired by many, was immense. (There are too few young catholic theologians with his intellect, rigour and application to major issues in our society, along with such a broad, inclusive view.) But that is the least of our losses, for John was above all a priest and pastor, a teacher and spiritual guide, a friend and helper, full of hospitality, and a beloved son.

There were a few smiles; were John's first words to quote from Thomas Aquinas? His great love of people and parties, of feasts and good wine, as in Isaiah. His humour and wit, always with kindness. Adjectives abounded, friendly, fun, genuine, generous, holy, humble, intelligent, inclusive, open, passionate, thoughtful, wise, broad in his interests and so well read.

Beyond John's deep personal faith in Jesus Christ, he knew that religion, and Christianity in particular, was social, sociable and about society, focused on the sacramental meal which unites all the communion of saints, living and departed. And John was always giving himself to communities in college, church, friends, society.

Our Prayers, led by Rev Jeremy Caddick, Dean of Emmanuel College, were equally apt and sensitive, remembering the injured survivors of the road accident and all casualties, as well as John's many circles of influence.

At the Offertory, according to John's wishes, the collection was taken to support the church, religious education and the poor. Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, were beautifully chanted by the Choir from the Missa Pro Defunctis.

During Communion, the College Choir, who were close to John's heart and whose singing was confident, beautiful and sensitive throughout, sang Bainton's great anthem from Revelation 21 "And I saw a new heaven ... And I John saw the holy city" and Croft's setting of the Burial Sentences from the Book of Common Prayer.

John's coffin was sprinkled with holy water, censed and prayed over – Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul – and carried to the west doors of the Cathedral during the Duruflé *In Paradisum*, feelings rising

especially for John's parents. There the plainsong, *Salve Regina Mater misericordiae*, was sung; then all stood in silence.

I was reminded that another gift that John was blessed with was a beautiful voice for singing the Liturgy, which he had used as a Curate with us at St Michael's, intoning the Gospel, and singing the Exsultet for the Easter Vigil.

Meeting friends in the packed Lady Chapel over a cup of tea, we remembered St Michael's choir tours to Norfolk, including Walsingham, and West Wales, including St David's, with John as our chaplain equally at home at the kitchen sink, the communal meal and the communion altar.

To the implied question, how God could be so foolish as to take from us decades too early "the brightest and best ...", "the one whom we thought would ..." to echo the Road to Emmaus, there is no rational answer, except to know that John, like Job, would have asked it, but continued serving the same God and his people whom he loved.

*Sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam.
Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus.*

But may the holy standard-bearer Michael bring them into the holy light.

Sacrifices and prayers we offer to Thee, O Lord, with praise.



St David's Eucharist September

Sunday 7th September : Trinity 12

Reading 1	Ezekiel 33: 7-11	Cathy Knowles
Reading 2	Romans 13: 8-14	Philip Walker
Gospel	Matthew 18: 15-20	
Time of prayer		Carol Burrows

Junior Church

Sunday 14th September : Holy Cross Day

Reading 1	Numbers 21: 4-9	Geoff Crockett
Reading 2	Philippians 2: 6-11	Richard Johnson
Gospel	John 3: 13-17	
Time of prayer		Catherine Matlock

Junior Church

Sunday 21st September : *Something Different* Harvest Festival

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

No Junior Church

Sunday 28th September : Trinity 15

Reading 1	Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32	Ann Watts
Reading 2	Philippians 2: 1-13	Keith Postlethwaite
Gospel	Matthew 21: 23-32	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh

Junior Church

Sunday 5th October : St Francis of Assisi

Reading 1	Micah 6: 6-8	Julia Spruntulis
Reading 2	Galatians 6: 14-18	Jenny Baker
Gospel	Luke 12: 22-34	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson

Junior Church

Walking the Way of St James - Again!



Some of you may remember reading (in New Leaves November 2013) about our pilgrim walk in Northern Spain to Santiago de Compostella in May 2012. This is an update on our second Camino walk, completed in May this year. This time we walked from Santiago de Compostella, westwards to Finisterre, where the boat carrying the remains of St James reportedly landed.

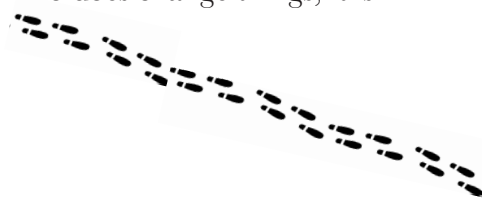
Only one tenth the number of pilgrims undertake to walk on from Santiago to 'the end of the earth', so there are fewer places to stay and distances walked each day are therefore longer. We walked 60 miles in four days and our longest distance in a day was 21 miles. No amount of training quite prepares you for the necessity to get up the next day and do it all again! We knew it would be tough and it was. The wonderful scenery was a inspiration, especially our first sight of the Atlantic Ocean from 500' above the village of Cee. The decent to sea level was a steep rocky slope of boulders and loose stones: very hard on the toes indeed.

As each day wore on, I found myself less willing to talk with my companions and I became focussed inwards. As a distraction from tired limbs and aching feet, I let my mind drift over episodes in my life; things I could have done differently; people I no longer see. It became a kind of conversation with God and was a calming and cathartic thing to do. On the Camino In 2012, I was taken by surprise and almost over-

whelmed by grief over the loss of my youngest son who died in 1997. I had thought I had finished mourning long before and struggled to cope with my feelings. I can only say that I was healed, calmed and given a peace that has stayed with me since.

This year a very different, but equally miraculous thing happened. On day two, Paul developed a very raw, huge blister on the sole of his foot. He limped through day three and it was so bad by day four that he decided he would not manage to walk the additional 6 miles beyond our final hotel to the lighthouse at Finisterre. As our guide always walked at the rear of the group, I walked on ahead that day, wondering if Paul would be able to walk far at all and praying that he would. Several hours later, I arrived at the lighthouse and to my amazement Paul was there ahead of me! He didn't know himself what had happened, but from limping painfully along, he suddenly found he could walk really fast and other members of the group confirmed that he had overtaken them. It was a joyous and tearful 'reunion' for us and we both felt that there was no explanation except a miracle. He even walked back to the hotel, another 6 miles and thereafter his foot healed perfectly in just a few days.

All seventeen of us finished the walk. At Finisterre lighthouse, in days gone by, pilgrims would burn their travel-stained clothes after many weeks on the Camino. Some perigrinos still do this, symbolically setting fire to a t-shirt or a sock. Walking the Camino does change things; it is more than the physical journey.



We all returned to Santiago de Compostella by coach in time for Ascension Day and, as in 2012, attended the Pilgrim Mass in the cathedral. In total, Paul and I were away 15 days, but the most memorable was the day we got to the lighthouse.



Beryl James

Heritage & Music at St Michael's, Mount Dinham September 2014



The HLF Project at St Michael's is nearing completion. Thanks to all who have supported and helped throughout the past 2 years; the products are worth all the effort.

The pipe organ is complete, sounding wonderful and awesome. Thanks to Tim Trenchard for a huge amount of engineering and musical work. Alex reports on the successful Young Organists' Competition elsewhere.

Our Peregrine family was observed far and wide from hatching to fledging on the live internet stream of our nest box camera; the pictures will return in March 2015.

The long-awaited new website at www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk is launched, looks beautiful and provides details of forthcoming events as well as a cornucopia of information about people, wildlife, community, worship, music, lectures, heritage and fun at St Michael's. Thanks to Kim and the guys at Yello Studio in Gandy Street. Enjoy it, along with our new Twitter account @StMikes_Exeter (see the article by Marianne and Sophie).

Tragically the summer was also a time of shock and sadness at the sudden death of Fr John Hughes, the Parish's curate from 2005-9. A Memorial Requiem Mass at St Michael's on Wednesday 6 August was attended by over 150 people; the Choir, augmented by returning friends,

sang Fauré, and Fr John Henton preached.

The Music List for September is on the Website and will be previewed on Twitter, so I shall only mention the highlights of the month ahead, with a reminder that Tuesday and Thursday Vespers, and first Sunday (7th Sep) Evensong & Benediction, all at 6pm, resume this month.

At the start of the new academic year it will be good to welcome back our students and others, and we offer a warm invitation to any to explore this unique corner of Exeter with its fine music, Anglo-catholic worship and friendly fellowship.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th Sept, St Michael's will be open all day, 9am-6pm, for **Heritage Open Days** weekend, but please avoid the middle 12noon-3pm on Saturday as there is a wedding.

Wednesday 17th Sept at 7.30pm, the St Michael's Recitals 2nd Season starts with our Organist, Dr Nigel Browne, demonstrating the many facets of our new pipe organ. "Everything you wanted to know about the new organ but were afraid to ask." Entrance fee on the door, £5 (£3 concessions), to cover costs of heating etc.

Likewise the **St Michael's Lectures** resume on **Wednesday 24th Sept at 7.30pm** with Revd Dr Susan Durbar, Theology Coordinator at Christian Aid. The monthly St Michael's Lectures explore contemporary issues connected with faith, Christianity and society. These are still free with a retiring collection to cover costs.

Our Michaelmas Celebration has two special events, as well as **Sunday Morning Sung Mass at 10.45am** with the ever popular Wood in F and "O Thou the Central Orb".

Friday evening, 26th September at 7.30pm

Hymns & Pimms – a fun Fund-raising variation on Songs of Praise.

Relax with Drinks & nibbles, sponsor & vote for your favourite Hymns, then sing them lustily accompanied by our new Pipe Organ.

Monday 29th Sep at 7.30pm

Sung Mass for Michaelmas followed by a **Bring & Share Party.**

Setting: Missa "O quam gloriosum" by Victoria (1548-1611), Motet: And I saw another angel, by Stanford (1852-1924).



Young Organists' Competition

On 14th July at St Michael's, the Music & Heritage Festival reached its climax with the long-awaited Young Organists' Competition.

This event, which saw nine organists from Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, aged from 11-19, compete for glory, music vouchers and slots in the St Michael's recital series, was well attended, with 87 people present. The contestants, divided into two categories, gave a series of inspiring and varied mini-recitals lasting around 2 hours in total, featuring composers as diverse as Bach, Elgar, Langlais, Clerambault and Guilmant.

Judging the competition were local organists Jonathan Watts, Andrew Daldorff and Simon Honeyball. Following the last contestant's performance, while the audience and candidates retired to the back of the church to enjoy the excellent refreshments provided by members of St Michael's choir, the judges engaged in intense discussion, eventually

emerging to declare the winners to be Ralf Ayling-Millar (of the Advanced category) and Eleanor Little (of the Open category). Jonathan Watts gave a thoughtful analysis of many of the performances, praising the candidates' efforts and expressing delight at several of the pieces which had been previously unknown to the judges, particularly Patrick Moore's 'Withycombe' prelude (played by Katherine Whitcher).

The new organ, too, gave an admirable performance, with candidates exploiting its abilities to full effect, whether thundering out Mathias' Fanfare with full brass (Laurie Kirkcaldy) or making sensitive use of quiet, charming flute stops for gentler, lyrical pieces such as Langlais' Arabesque (Jack Oades). The instrument only occasionally reminded us of its very recent transplantation, its decision to cypher a minute before the end of the last-but-one performance necessitating the insertion of a towel in the offending pipe before the final candidate could proceed.

The evening was a great success, and many of those present suggested that the competition should become a biennial event. The two winners, Eleanor and Ralf, will give recitals in the St Michael's series in the year to come, and Ralf will in addition play a recital in Exeter Cathedral.

The event was financially supported by Exeter School, Exeter Festival Chorus and the Budleigh Festival.

Richard Barnes

Vive la musique!

A belated report of St Michael's choral exchange earlier this year.

On Friday 4th April, St Michael's was visited by the Chorale universitaire de Louvain, from the town of Louvain-la-neuve in the French-speaking area of Belgium. This is a choir that I sang with back when I was on my year abroad in 2009-2010, and it was wonderful to be reunited with them again. As I said during my post-concert thank yous, these students love nothing more than to sing, and their enthusiasm for music is infectious.



After a beautiful first half featuring St Michael's favourites such as Tallis, Byrd and Palestrina, as well as the more modern composers Miskinis and Akepsimas, the Belgians joined with our own choir to sing some of Part II of Handel's Messiah. This was conducted by Louvain-la-neuve's Charlotte Messiaen, with organ accompaniment from Alex West and solos from Erika Borley and Richard Barnes. We

then rounded off the evening with a truly authentic British experience: curry! Indian restaurants are not common in Belgium and it was the first time that many of our visitors had sampled this much loved cuisine. The meal was followed by rather loud renditions of Goodnight Sweetheart, Jerusalem and the Belgian national anthem, for which we can only apologise to the impossibly tolerant staff of The Ghandi!

A small group of us made a return visit to Belgium a month later, where we joined the choir in two fantastic repeat performances of Handel's great work (highlights from all 3 sections this time). We were really touched by the warmth and generosity of the Belgians, with several of them giving up their May Bank Holiday to show us the sites around Brussels. The concerts were also a tremendous experience, the first held in Louvain-la-neuve's Aula Magna auditorium, which was almost full with an audience of 1500 people! The chorale is the University's only choir, so the concert had been advertised via official channels to the entire student body, and the singers' family and friends were eager to buy tickets to see the culmination of many weeks of hard work. The second concert took place in the centre of Brussels, with the head of the Catholic Church in Belgium in attendance, along with around 1000 other people. It all seemed a far cry from the choral scene in the UK, where high-standard amateur performers often sadly find themselves singing to almost empty rooms.

The experience set me thinking about just how lucky we are here in the South West. Whatever one's musical tastes or ability it is possible to find an ensemble to suit, and in Exeter we are certainly spoilt for choice with the range of choirs and orchestras available to join. The beautiful tones of Evensong pour out of the Cathedral every afternoon; St Michael's,

St David's and other churches add their voice on Sundays and festivals, and concerts and recitals take place in the city most weeks (if you know where to look). With such a wealth of music on offer, it is perhaps easy to forget just how wonderful it all is, especially when we all lead such busy lives. But I believe taking the time to stop and listen is really worth it, both for the support it offers to the musicians, who put so much time and energy into what is for them a great passion, and for the magic of experiencing a live performance.

So as the children go back to school this September, I suggest one piece of homework for the grownups too: to find one concert to go along to this month (if nothing else, support the first concert of the St Michael's recital series!). I really hope you enjoy it; you never know, it might become a habit!

Marianne Connors



SUMMER FETE

Draw 2014

A VERY BIG THANK
YOU to all our kind
donors who so
generously provided
prizes.
A VERY BIG THANK
YOU to everyone who
bought tickets

We made £813, which is a very significant contribution to the
total raised by the fete of just under £2,000

Donor

Toddler Group,
St David's Church

The Dales Nursing Home
Inspirations, Queen Street
St David's Osteopathic Clinic
Tao Skin Care Clinic,
Queen St.

Prize

£100

Famous Grouse Whisky
Cross Stitch Embroidery Kit
Memory Foam pillow
Full Body Spray Tan

Won by

Allan Hartley

Sarah Gibbs
Sue Holden
Antonia Maks
Ryder Potter

Team Works, Iron bridge	Cut and Finish	Laurence Sail
The Ghandi Restaurant, Clock Tower	£20 Voucher	Nigel Walsh
Bendene Hotel, Richmond Road	i-pad Case	Ben Grimsey
Whistles Wines, Queen Street	Elderflower cider	Eileen Jarman
Mitchell's Funeral Directors	6 Hour Limousine Ride	Becky Hayman
Reed Hall	2 Course Lunch for 2 people	Iris Sutton
Mulberry Tree Cafe, St Davids Hill	Coffee & Cake for 2	Phillip Dale
Dinosaur Café, Clock Tower	£14.40 Vouchers	Sally Reeve
Gill Carvill	Foot Health Treatment	Luke Dale
Great Western Hotel	Sunday roast for 2 people	Justin
Austins, Newton Abbott	£20.00 Voucher	Carol Burrows
Herbies Restaurant, North St.	£15 Voucher	Mary Williams
W.B.W. solicitors	Champagne	Gavin Lindell
WPC Marina	Floral arrangement	Tim Chittle
Ben Bradshaw MP	House of Commons Wine	Rosemary Wilcox
Devon Coffee, Queen Street	Coffee Vouchers	Maggs Bedford
AGA, North Street	Aga dish	Sarah Black
Old Timers, Little Castle Street	£20 Voucher	Dave Allen
Hair Hub, Richmond Road	£28 Voucher	Oliver Cushing
Park View Hotel, Howell Road	wine	Henry Belcher
Ron Coleman	Dow's port	Andrea Besanova
Pam Coates	Sherry	Helena Walker
Wakeleys	Wine	Mary Quest
Bendene Hotel, Richmond Road	Cookery Book	Mike Redman
Robinsons	Wine	Claude Harborde
Michael Grey	Painting	Angela Balkwill
Geoff Crockett	Red/white wine	Mary Quest

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.



Solid, Liquid, Consciousness

by

Max Tegmark

I wonder how many readers of *New Leaves* were at the St Michael's lecture given by the Revd Anthony Freeman in 2001, just after some religious fanatics in New York had razed a skyscraper (and its twin) to the ground. Undistracted by the magnitude of that unauthorised demolition, Anthony (the author of "God in Us – A Case for Christian Humanism") explained in a thoughtful lecture on consciousness the difference between dualism and



I hope I am right in thinking that dualism is the traditional idea that we each have a physical body and a non-physical soul. But the problem is that the word “physical” means different things to different people. So, in this review, may I define a system to be physical, if it can be understood scientifically; and may I recall that in science the emphasis is on repeatable observations, logical consistency, space-time concepts, and quantification – rather than on religious beliefs.

Hence, if we say that the soul is non-physical, we mean that it can never be understood scientifically, even if we knew everything that

humans could possibly know. Of course, the dualist stance could easily be wrong, because the soul could easily be physical, though its physics might be not yet known to us. Those researchers who like to explore the possibility that the soul is physical are called physicalists, and they should not be confused with physicists.

Though not a book, “Solid, Liquid, Consciousness” by the distinguished physicist (and physicalist) Max Tegmark is an article which appeared in New Scientist on 12 April 2014 (pages 29-31). I can highly recommend this article to anyone wanting to venture beyond the set of pioneering lectures on consciousness given by Anthony Freeman at St Michael’s.

Charles Argall

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.

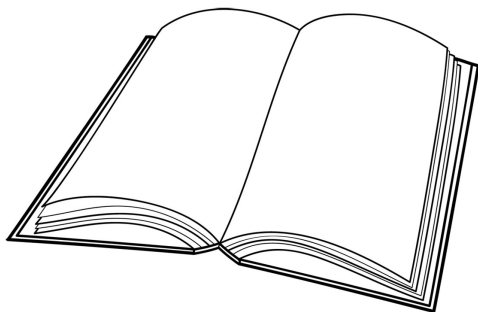
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient 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



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

.....

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

.....

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 2014



Wednesday 24th September 7.30 pm

**The Reverend
Dr Susan Durber**
Professor Emma Loosley

Followed by discussion and light refreshments

Susan Durber is Theology Coordinator at Christian Aid and outgoing Principle of Westminster College. She is author of many theological and popular books, including *Preaching Like a Woman, As Man and Woman Made: Theological Reflections on Marriage* and a number of prayer handbooks.

Everyone is warmly welcomed to the St Michael's Lectures and admission is FREE (with a voluntary retiring collection). They are followed by discussion and light refreshments. 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

CANCELLATIONS

First.....

sadly because of the lack of numbers wanting to attend the **Parish Retreat at Glastonbury** at the beginning of September, the planned weekend has been cancelled.

And Secondly.....

In the light of the current situation in Israel and Gaza I decided that without the prospect of a seemingly lasting peace being achieved, it would be unwise to contemplate the planned visit to the Holy Land in April 2015. With this in mind the Pilgrimage has been cancelled in the fond hope that one day this visit can be re-arranged.

In the Meantime....

Please **pray** for a solution and peaceful settlement in Israel and for the people of the Gaza Strip that further bloodshed and loss of life will cease.

Fr. David



Southernhay Child Contact Centre Exeter

“... suddenly the boys came running to me .. both shouting ‘Daddy! Daddy! Big hugs for each one’”

“It was like a rugby scrum only for once I was crying. They had not forgotten me.”

We all know the statistics. There were nearly 1000 divorces in Devon in 2012. Most people will know someone who has had experience of the break-up of a marriage or partnership. With these break-ups often come problems for parents and children who no longer see each other. The trauma of separation can make healing almost impossible.

In Exeter, we're lucky because the city has the Southernhay Child Contact Centre. This is a safe and friendly place where an absent parent can see his or her children on neutral territory, and children can spend time with their brothers and sisters if they don't all live together anymore.

Southernhay Child Contact Centre is accredited by NACCC (National Association of Child Contact Centres). About 14 families currently use the Centre on Saturdays. Volunteer staff support the service. They don't supervise the contact sessions or spend time with the children but they do ensure that the Centre is a safe and welcoming place for everyone. The number of people who can use the Centre depends on the number of volunteers available to attend the sessions.

The Child Contact Centre exists to give an absent parent an opportunity to spend time with his or her child or children. There's no charge to use the Centre. Families can refer themselves, or the court or social services might order the access solution. There are lots of toys and books for children of all ages, and these often help a parent to reconnect with their child after what sometimes can be a long absence. And a child knows finally they've not been abandoned, that they are loved.

It is so important that children keep in touch with their absent parent. Frequently there has been a long (to a child a very long) break since seeing a parent. It is so rewarding and moving when the child rushes to their parent, and has not forgotten him/her.

And then the healing process can begin, a child becoming much more confident in themselves, lessening the trauma of separation, knowing they have not been abandoned.

If you would like to find out more and are prepared to offer a helping hand on either a Saturday morning or afternoon once a month do please contact the centre for further information, please email southernhaycontact@gmail.com or call 07775 158 808. 'An enhanced DBS check will be requested in the event of an individual being offered a voluntary position.'

All enquiries welcome.

Held at: **Southernhay Church, Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1QD**

The Soup Kitchen at St. David's

As many of you will know, Thursday evening is the time we receive a number of homeless folk at St. David's and provide soup and refreshments to sustain them through the cold nights.

They need warm clothing and shoes, so if you have fleeces, sweaters, coats, jeans, or trousers you would like to pass on, they will be gratefully received.

We also like to have paperbacks they can take to read, so if you are parting with books please think of leaving them with us.

Thank you.

Contact Mary on:- 07872 626 168 if you need to leave donated goods





every Wednesday
Exeter Community Centre
17 St Davids Hill
Exeter

Affordable Community Acupuncture
£15 - £30 per treatment session
pay what you feel you can afford

We are a friendly team of qualified acupuncturists
offering treatment for pain and many other
conditions to help improve your quality of life

contact us to find out more about how acupuncture could help you

www.peoplesacupunctureproject.com
07834 160906 or 07910 453794

St. Sidwell's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

York Road, Exeter, EX4 6PG

Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Hood

Tel: 01392 255551 Website: www.st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk



For children aged 3 to 11 years

Come and visit our successful school
which includes a purpose built Nursery/Foundation Stage
Breakfast and After School Clubs available

We have a long-standing tradition of high quality education
within a caring, Christian ethos.

"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"An outstanding feature of the school is the care, guidance and support it gives pupils."

"The personal development of pupils is also outstanding."

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

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.

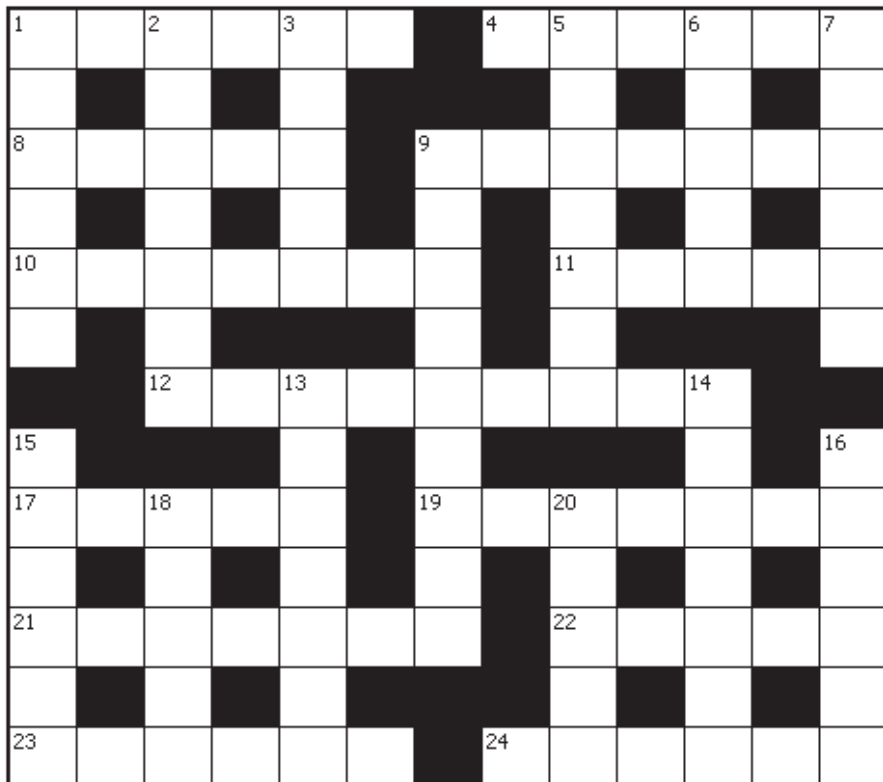
Contact:

toddlers@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

Sam Wellbelove

September crossword



Across:

- 8 "Through [Christ] we have gained ----- by faith into this grace"
(Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing "because there was plenty of water"
(John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)

- 21 “Your will be done -- -----as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 “Out of the ----- I cry to you, O Lord” (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Down:

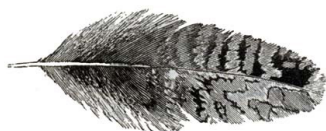
- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, ----- Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack
(2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea
(Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 “Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net -----” (John 21:11)
(6)
- 16 His response to Jesus’ decision to return to Judea was “Let us also
go, that we may die with him!” (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 “There will be weeping and gnashing of -----” (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

Solutions later in the magazine



HILDEGARD of BINGEN

Hildegard was born in Germany in 1098 and at a very early age she dedicated her life to God by becoming a nun. She lived to be 80, a great age for that time and is best known today for her songs and poems. It seems quite amazing that an elderly nun who lived nearly a thousand years ago could write words that are on a CD that you can buy today – not quite Top of the Pops but in all the bigger record shops!



Hildegard wrote that she wanted to be ‘a feather on the breath of God’, to move as He wanted rather than as she wanted. When

we say the Lord’s Prayer we say ‘Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done’ we follow Hildegard in asking to be shown what to do, which way to go. Not like a feather blown about by the wind, but one blown on the breath of God.

BIRD WORDS

Can you find all these words about birds and feathers? The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

B L A C K B I R D C
P K R A L Y K S A O
E T E R N A L N O C
A K R E H T A E F K
C R P A R R O T R A
O N A L Y W R E N T
C W B V U E V O D O
K L L R E M D A B O
N O R E H N E J A Y
R O B I N L L I U Q

* blackbird * canary * cockatoo *
* dove * feather * heron * jay *
* owl * parrot * peacock * plume *
* quill * raven * robin * skylark *
* tern * wren *

Days of Note

1st September

Drithelm - vision of the after-life

Drithelm is the saint for you if you have ever wondered what lies beyond death, or have had a near-death experience. He was married and living in Cunningham (now Ayrshire, then Northumbria) in the 7th century when he fell ill and apparently died. When he revived a few hours later he caused panic among the mourners, and was himself deeply shaken by the whole experience.

Drithelm went to pray in the village church until daylight, and during those long hours reviewed the priorities of his life in the light of what he had seen while 'dead'. A celestial guide had shown him souls in hell, in purgatory, in paradise and heaven... suddenly the reality of God and of coming judgement and of what Christ had done in redeeming mankind became real to him, and his life on earth could never be the same again.

Next day he divided his wealth into three: giving one third to his wife, one third to his sons, and the remainder to the poor. He became a monk and went to live at Melrose, where he spent his time in prayer and contemplation of Jesus.

Drithelm's Vision of the after-life is remarkable in that it was the first example of this kind of literature from England. It was SO early: sev-

enth century Anglo-Saxon England! Drithelm has even been seen as a remote precursor of Dante.

On a lighter note, Drithelm can also be a saint for you if you didn't get abroad this summer, but ventured to swim instead off one of our beaches: he used to stand in the cold waters of the Tweed for hours, reciting Psalms.

8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In both eastern and western churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour. Thomas Aquinas believed she was due hyperdulia, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or latria, due to God alone.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or Magnificat appears in Luke 1:46-55.

The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the

Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching.

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called Theotokos, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2 February), the Annunciation (25 March), the Assumption (15 August) and her Nativity (8 September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her. During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed. The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church.

Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico).

14 Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them.

The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are ‘sealed’ or ‘marked’ on their foreheads as a sign that they are his.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: “Draw an I.” That is you standing before the Lord, saying, ‘here I am’. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: “Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service.”

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus’ wonderful promise: “And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32)

²⁵**S**t Ceolfrith (d 716) - baking and Bibles

Ceolfrith is a good patron saint for anyone who has studied hard for their profession, is strong in the face of tragedy, and who can also offer some homely care to others in need.

This well-loved abbot of Wearmouth and Jarrow came from a noble Northumbrian family, and was ordained at Ripon when he was just 27. He travelled to Canterbury and Icanho (in East Anglia) where he studied ecclesiastical and monastic practices. But back at Ripon the monks soon came to appreciate him for another good reason: Ceolfrith was an

outstanding cook. They asked him to be the monastery's baker, and he agreed.

In time Ceolfrith was moved on to Wearmouth, and then in 682, when the monastery at nearby Jarrow was founded, Ceolfrith became abbot. It was here that disaster struck, when a plague killed all of the monks who could sing or read. Only Ceolfrith and the boy Bede were left alive. It would have been so easy to flee that empty house of death, but instead, Ceolfrith and the young Bede faithfully stayed on, because they believed God had called them to be there. Soon Jarrow prospered once more, and by 689 Ceolfrith was made abbot of both Wearmouth and Jarrow.

Ceolfrith seems to have been a kindly and energetic leader. During his rule 600 monks joined the monastery, the library was doubled, and the endowments increased. But Ceolfrith's biggest legacy to history came when he commissioned from his own scriptoria three Pandects (complete Bibles in single volumes) in uncial script. One still survives today, as the Codex Amiatinus, an enormous volume in the Bibiloteca Laurenziana in Florence. It is the oldest surviving complete Latin Bible in one volume.

A kindly baking abbot who also happened to leave us the earliest complete Latin Bible – not a bad combination of skills!

Crossword solutions

September answers

ACROSS: 1 Access, 4 Blinds, 8 Rhyme, 9 Loyalty, 10 Antwerp, 11 Aenon, 12 Loftiness, 17 Satan, 19 Obadiah, 21 On earth, 22 Storm, 23 Exhale, 24 Depths

DOWN: 1 Adrian, 2 Crystal, 3 Siege, 5 Lay bare, 6 Nylon, 7 Saying, 9 Lapidot, 13 Funeral, 14 Spit out, 15 Ashore, 16 Thomas, 18 Teeth, 20 Aisle

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Pilgrimage to **ASSISI**

Led by *Bishop Martin Shaw*
2nd - 8th October 2014

DAY ONE – THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Bristol - Assisi

We fly from Bristol on a scheduled direct flight to Rome. On arrival in Rome, we transfer by coach to Assisi where we check into our guesthouse, the Casa S Brigida, situated just outside the town walls, for a 6-night stay. Dinner will be in the guesthouse on each evening of our stay.

DAY TWO – FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Assisi

This morning, we walk through the streets of Assisi as Saints Francis and Clare would have known it. Visit the Cathedral of San Ruffino, the church of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Chiesa Nuova (New Church), built on the site of Francis' house. Afterwards we visit St Clare's Basilica, which now houses the Crucifix that called to Francis and the tomb of St Clare. This afternoon we travel the short distance into the valley below Assisi and visit the Porziuncola and the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. We are welcome to stay for the Solemn Commemoration of the death of St Francis (Transitus di San Francesco) in the Basilica. Afterwards return to our guesthouse.

DAY THREE – SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER

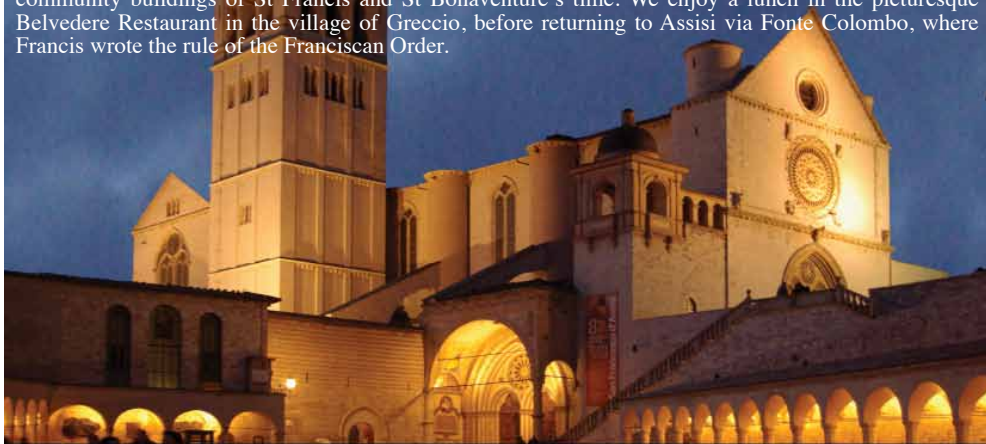
The Feast of St Francis

This morning will be free to attend services to celebrate the Feast of the Saint. There will be many festivities in Assisi to mark the Feast Day. This afternoon there will be the opportunity to attend Vespers in the Lower Basilica.

DAY FOUR – SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Greccio and the Rieti Valley

After breakfast we leave Assisi by coach and head south into the province of Rieti and the area called 'Holy Valley' because of the particular attention that St Francis paid to this particular region. We stop mid-morning at the sanctuary of Greccio, where Francis brought home the mystery of the Incarnation by portraying a live nativity scene in 1223 and we see the grotto where this occurred and the early community buildings of St Francis and St Bonaventure's time. We enjoy a lunch in the picturesque Belvedere Restaurant in the village of Greccio, before returning to Assisi via Fonte Colombo, where Francis wrote the rule of the Franciscan Order.



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Women's Group

Dear All

Here's the last in the current programme of the Women's Group.

Thursday 9th October
Colour me Beautiful

Cost £9.00

We do hope as many as possible will come.

Look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes

Mary Kirkland

07872 626 168



Where to find St David's Church online

Website

www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

Twitter



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Facebook



St David's Church Exeter

***If you have any photos or information you would like to share
email it to socialmedia@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk***

Barbara`s Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.
We need you!

NEXT DATE:

SUNDAY 21st September

Many thanks.
Sarah Black





The deadline for inclusion of articles for the October issue of the parish magazine is Sunday September 14th 2014

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

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

Please send digital files (Word docs are best) via email if at all possible.

Please make the subject header fit the content of the email preferably with 'New Leaves' included in the title - thanks!



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