

## Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory 2015

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“	Dave Allin	~
Reader	Bill Pattinson	860 880
PCC Secretary	Mary Kirkland	980 660
Parish Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
Electoral Roll Officer	Jeremy Lawford	214 025
Thika Link	Kate Bray	877 162

### St. David's [www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

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### St Michael's [www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk)

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# from the Vicar

**Dear Friends,**

## **NEW CURATE**

The parish of St David's with St Michael's has a long tradition of training curates. The latest in this distinguished company is Christopher Durrant, who will be joining us as a newly ordained deacon after his ordination on September 13th. That evening at 6pm we will welcome Chris and his wife Jenny at a celebratory mass at St Michael's.

I am really hoping that members of both churches will come to St Michael's that evening. If you have never worshipped at St Michael's before this is an opportunity to enjoy something very different and very beautiful. Chris and Jenny will be joining us at church during August, to sit in the pews and get to know people. Remember that he is to be curate of the whole parish. There are differences between St David's and St Michael's, but we are also united in our trust in God.

## **POPE FRANCIS**

How wonderful to have a church leader with such great possibilities to influence the world for good, who has decided to speak out on the subject of environmental degradation. Following his namesake St Francis of Assisi, the Pope calls on Catholics, all Christians and all people of good will to remember our intimate connection with the earth, our sister and our mother. Here is part of Pope Francis' encyclical letter:

*"This sister, (the Earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at*

*will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”*

I pray that his words might be part of a new awareness that we need to protect and sustain the natural world. Much depends on the global climate conference in Paris this autumn. It is time to put aside national, ideological and religious interests and work together for the common good.



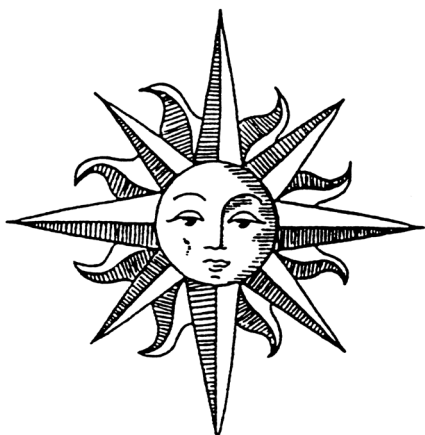
## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Many of us will be taking holidays in July and August. My family are having a fortnight together in Cornwall. We hope to walk on the coastal path, read some good books, enjoy meals together and relax in each other's company. There may be a few games of Scrabble, and I shall be trying to beat my son Ben, who usually comes out on top these days. In a society where many have no work, or insecure work, and some have too much work, it is good to know that other aspects of life also have value. Holidays give us time to enjoy life, to look around us at the beauty of the natural world, to regain our peace and perspective, which can be destroyed or obscured by the pressure of work demands. Holidays give us internal space, where we can locate the indwelling presence of God once again. On your holidays give yourself time to pause and remember the one who values each of us equally and infinitely.

So I wish you all a happy holiday season, when your minds and bodies can be renewed in health and happiness.

With my prayers,

**Tom**



# Happy Summer time everyone...

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”

I’ve been reflecting on this famous though underrated quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead in regard to recent events, including the General Election.

One of the weaknesses in our embryonic democracy is that we seek to elect people to represent us but often let them get on with it until we are called to express our choices at the next round of voting. Most of us do not seem to engage with politicians for much of the time and effectively do not take our own responsibilities seriously in campaigning for a more just, participatory and sustainable society. That is why the forthcoming Climate Lobby of Parliament (17th June) is so important – keeping key issues of concern before the decision makers lest they become complacent with the power we have just given them!

Historically, positive change has happened when small groups of people (campaigners, scientists, citizens, minorities, workers, etc.) have drawn attention to unfair or oppressive practice – from the evils of slavery to dangerous working conditions, from the consequences of smoking to the walls of Apartheid, from the systematic destruction of rain forests to the emancipation of women – and then campaigned to those responsible to enshrine positive change in law.

Governments eventually have to introduce legislation to implement creative transition and human progress but the seeds for their growth are to be found in people's movements large and small across the planet. The environmental movement, micro-finance schemes, empowerment of excluded groups, complimentary health work, reforestation, community agriculture are but a few examples of where people have led, only for governments to follow later...

It is the passion and drive of local people which brings about change and we must remember this when confronted by political dinosaurs and multi-national giants. We might recall the old African proverb, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together...'

The other recent event has been the season of Whitsun or Pentecost which marks the rebirth of a reform movement in the face of death and defeat. The liberating work encouraged by Jesus from Nazareth is revitalised with new verve and energy, and its focus is initially on a small group of committed followers in the Way. Pentecost coincides with the Jewish days of Shavuot which see a recommitment to the Mosaic tradition expressed in what we call 'The Ten Commandments'.

But the Whitsun message is that this radical remake of human rights, in which respect and love are paramount, is applicable not only to the Children of Israel to the whole world. The dangers of getting our priorities incorrect applies to all languages, all people and all places. This new order is beyond the old boundaries of place and time, beyond death and beyond belief.

In applying these insights to the ecological pressures of our time, we are always called to live together and to live differently, to cast off possessions, to share goods in common and to recreate communities of hope. It is in action that we demonstrate purposeful change in the expectation

that eventually politicians will have no choice but to develop policies away from short term greed and towards the benefit of all with an alternative outlook for the Earth...

All best wishes - Martyn

**Martyn Goss**

**Environment Officer for the Diocese of Exeter**



<b>St David's Eucharist     July</b>		
<b>Sunday 5th July : 5th Sunday after Trinity Baptism</b>		
Reading 1	Ezekiel 2: 1-5	Mary Kirkland
Reading 2	2 Corinthians 12: 6-10 (NB shortened)	Ann Watts
Gospel	Mark 6: 1-13	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
<i>Junior Church</i>		
<b>Sunday 12th July : 6th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	Amos 7: 7-11, 12-15 (NB shortened)	Jeremy Lawford
Reading 2	Ephesians 1: 3-10 (NB shortened)	Paula Lawford
Gospel	Mark 6: 14-29	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson
<i>Junior Church</i>		
<b>Sunday 19th July : 7th Sunday after Trinity ~ Family Service</b>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel		
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
<b>Sunday 26th July : 8th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	2 Kings 4: 42-44	Sue Wilson
Reading 2	Ephesians 3: 14-21	Clive Wilson
Gospel	John 6: 1-15 (NB shortened)	
Time of prayer		
<i>Junior Church</i>		

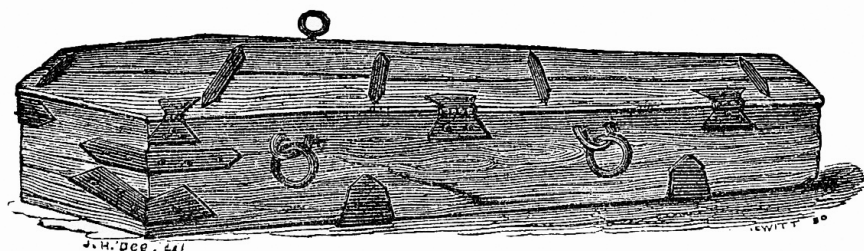


<b>St David's Eucharist      August</b>		
<b>Sunday 2nd August : 9th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15	Helen Hopwood
Reading 2	Ephesians 4: 1-6, 11-16 (NB shortened)	Catherine Matlock
Gospel	John 6: 24-35	
Time of prayer		Glynis Harflett
<i>Junior Church tbc</i>		
<b>Sunday 9th August : 10th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	1 Kings 19: 4-8	Gabrielle Kirby
Reading 2	Ephesians 4: 25 - 5: 2	Richard Johnson
Gospel	John 6: 35, 41-51	
Time of prayer		David James
<i>Junior Church tbc</i>		
<b>Sunday 16th August : Family Service 11th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	Proverbs 9: 1-6	
Reading 2	Ephesians 5: 15-20	
Gospel	John 6: 51-58	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
<b>Sunday 23rd August : 12th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18	Emma White
Reading 2	Ephesians 6: 10-20	Pam Smith
Gospel	John 6: 56-69	
Time of prayer		Nigel Walsh
<i>Junior Church tbc</i>		
<b>Sunday 30th August : 13th Sunday after Trinity</b>		
Reading 1	Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9	Catherine Knowles
Reading 2	James 1: 17-27	Geoff Crockett
Gospel	Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23	
Time of prayer		Avril Pattinson

# Thoughts for July from St Michael and all Angels

This piece should really come with a sensitivity warning, like a health warning, because it deals with death and mourning.

If I may be so bold, dare I ask if you have planned your funeral yet? Mine is on a bit of paper and one task I have for the very near future is to get it into a format that my family will be able to follow when it is needed.



A recent survey found that few people turn to God in their last days. Having one's spiritual needs cared for or even recognised, is less important than having a pain-free death, according to the findings from Dying Matters, a coalition of 16,000 hospices, charities, care homes and others who work with those facing death. Looking at the material published in May this year, there is very little about the role of religious faith in preparing the funeral rituals. There is encouragement to ensure that those who are left will know the deceased's wishes and will arrange the funeral, or, as is more frequently described nowadays, a celebration of

the life of N., as required. Gone are the rigid social funeral formalities associated with loss; I can remember, in the days when men wore hats, the hatband had to be changed to black, a black tie was worn and a black armband on the sleeve for some length of time, determined by the closeness of the relationship. Our local corner shop, when King George VI died, festooned the windows in black and purple crepe paper. The Victorians were even more formal, graduating the colours of women's clothing from black through varying shades of purple and grey until the specified period of mourning was over. Veils were worn to hide the distressing signs of grief. Given the frequency of death in those times, some people were rarely out of mourning. The formal symbols are still there in the world of sport: armbands are worn, players and spectators observe a minute's silence and the printed programme may be bordered in black. In the rush to abandon the 'old-fashioned' ways, society has left itself with having to make up new rituals.

The nation's grief, displayed by placing or throwing bunches of flowers, often still wrapped in cellophane or plastic, came into its sentimental own with the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Banks of flowers rotted in the sun and there was weeping and wailing of a kind not seen before. The dignity and quiet of members of the Royal family were derided as 'lack of feeling'. People go to places where they can leave tributes, often stuffed toys along with the flowers and candles. Roadside memorials to friends and family members who have died in road accidents became a sociological study a few years back. Many of these also became distractions to other road users, so some have been cleared away.

The pattern of mourning is clearly specified within the Jewish religion, with Orthodox families staying home for the week immediately following the death: burial must take place within twenty four hours, all mirrors and pictures are covered, soft shoes or slippers are worn in the

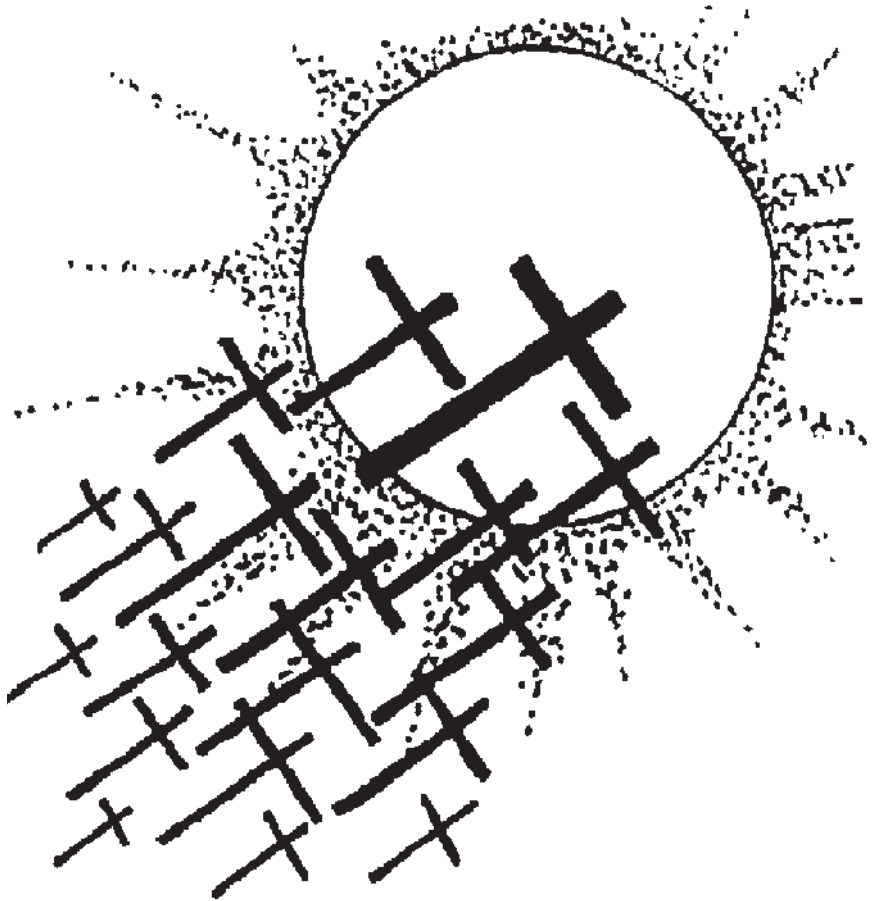
house, visitors bring food to the mourners. Sitting 'shiva' does not allow you to carry on your usual everyday activities. You are brought face-to-face with the fact of death. Over the next month, life can slowly return to a more normal pattern, though grief does not have a time-scale to follow. Moments of deep grief can occur at any time and can take one completely by surprise. A year after the death, the 'yahrzeit' ceremony of remembrance occurs. The formality allows the death to be recalled with sensitivity and reality.

In an article entitled 'We're mortal, so we need to talk about dying', following the publication of the report *Dying without Dignity* from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, Joan Bakewell makes telling comments about the need to be prepared to talk about our last moments, overcoming the taboos and inhibitions which have made death the non-subject. We'll talk about anything else, and the unpredictability and certainness of death is remote from most people's experience because we have made death an illness, to be dealt with in the hospital, nursing home or hospice, rather than it being a part of life, though the shock often leads to anger and disbelief, both recognised as stages of mourning. It has been left to the professionals who have to work with the shadow of people like Harold Shipman and Nurse Chua who subverted their vocation so viciously, in the background. However, the growth of the hospice movement has allowed us to think in terms of palliative care and to begin the conversations about our mortality.

Robert Peston, economist and commentator, has recently embarked on a late-night discussion programme with Eddie Mair; the *Radio Times* published a question-and-answer article. Peston was married to Siân, who died a short while after a diagnosis of cancer. She left a novel, partly completed, which Peston finished, with an introduction about her

and his explanation for completing her writing. Now, some years after the event, he has spoken openly and sensitively about his grief, saying that after she died, he was contacted by many people who thanked him for sharing his feelings. He said in answer to one of Mair's questions, 'We're very bad at talking about death, but people suffer terrible tragedies all the time and they shouldn't feel isolated.'

Many people take avoiding action when they know about the death of an acquaintance; 'I don't know what to say' or 'I don't want to upset him/her', even going to the lengths of crossing the street, so I'm told, to avoid having to engage in an uncomfortable conversation.



It is partly to engage with the taboo and people's lack of experience around death and dying (we baby-boomers are living longer) that The Church of England has initiated a national conversation about Death and Dying. It's called 'Grave Talk' and offers opportunities to discuss the big questions and some of the more apparently trivial ones over tea and cake. There are 52 questions, obviously not all to be discussed at once! You can find the website at [www.gravetalk.org](http://www.gravetalk.org). Perhaps this is an area of outreach we could introduce in our parish. Grave Talk is not just for the elderly, or those who are caring for a dying relative; we need to overcome the reluctance to face this stage of life. Maybe it is different for those who are Christians. We have the assurance that the grave no longer has the victory, and although we will physically die, we are not dead to God, who has shared that with us so that we will live again. And that is another area for some close analysis: is judgement immediate or at the Apocalypse? What about Purgatory? Heaven and Hell? Once these were the subjects for sermons during Advent; they are not crowd-pullers, that is certain, but perhaps they will return once we are able to be more robust in our thinking about the end of life.

**Stephanie Aplin**

# **Social**events connected with St. Michael's

## **Saturday, July 11th Pilgrimage to Glastonbury**

Depart from St. Mike's at 9:30am

Home by 6:30pm

Full details on website

[www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk)

## **Saturday, September 26th Michaelmas Supper Dance**

Mill on the Exe

7:30pm

Further details about ticket price etc to follow.

## **Saturday, October 24th Horse Race Night**

City Gate..... further details to follow

## **Sunday, November 29th St. Michael's Christmas Lunch**

The Digger's Rest,  
Woodbury Salterton  
1pm onwards

Tickets and cost to be announced





# Wreath-Laying at General Mercer's Grave

On Thursday 18th June, 200 years to the day since the Battle of Waterloo, a wreath laying ceremony took place at the graveside of General Mercer in our churchyard at St. David's. Tom held a short service of remembrance for Alexander Cavalie Mercer who, then a 2nd. Captain, was arguably the most famous officer who fought at Waterloo on 18th June 1815.



The sun shone on a warm morning as people gathered around the newly renovated grave of the General. Among those attending were twelve soldiers of the 7 Parachute Regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery G Battery (7 Para RHA) known as Mercer's troops, who had travelled from Colchester where their Regiment is based. Here their Captain solemnly lays a wreath at Mercer's grave. About 20 civilians also were present paying their respects and remembering with pride one of the most famous battles in British history. General Mercer died in 1868, aged 85, and shares his grave with his sister, Theodosia McNeill, who died in 1881, aged 97. Mercer established a home in Exeter at Cowley Cottage, Cowley Hill, while his sister lived nearby in the Parish of Elmgrove.

After the ceremony, it was a privilege and a pleasure to provide coffee and biscuits,

for those who wished, at the West End of the Church. Please see the leaflet at the back of the church which will give you more details about General Mercer.

Bill Pattinson  
18.06.2015

\* Refreshments \* Hot & Cold Food \* Hot Dogs \* Ice creams

Bouncy Castle \* Games \* Books \* Good as New \* Tombola

# St David's Church Summer Fete



## Saturday 4th July

11.30am-2.30pm

Fun family event

*Children's fancy dress competition*

All welcome \*Free entry\*

***Come rain or shine***

Find us opposite Exeter College

Joining us this year

Crafters Hospiscare Devon Wildlife Trust  
Blood Bikers Traidcraft and more.....

City of Exeter Railway Band \* Grand Draw


Hele Road Exeter EX4 4HR [www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)  
[events@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:events@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

# Summertime at St Michael's, Mount Dinham



Our 2 young peregrine falcons fledged around the middle of June – any further donations to defray the cost of streaming the video from the nest box to the website over the past 4 months would be most welcome. Thank you.

This summer is a time of transition for the choir at St Michael's. We thank Alex West for his inspirational lead and conducting, and his keen ear for tuning, over the past year as Director of Music. We wish him and Sophie well and hope to see them here again before too long. Thanks also for running the 2015 Recital series which culminated in the brilliant day with VOCES8 at St Michael's last month.

Our Choir Tour to Germany will be a celebration with Alex of our Choral tradition from 16th to 21st century, as well as the time to hand-over to Erika Borley as our “new” Director of Music. We also thank Sabrina for organising the Tour and host families in her home town of Wolfenbuettel. 

Three of our Choral Scholars also finish their tenure. We wish Rebecca and Vicki all the best as they graduate in Maths and move away to jobs – thank you for your commitment to St Mike's and its music over 3 and 4 years, come back and visit, and keep singing. Marianne also stands down as a Scholar, but continues in the choir, as our @StMikes\_ Exeter tweeter, and in her other roles – again, thank you. We're glad that Saffron will be returning as a Scholar in September.

As well as auditioning for 2 new Choral Scholars from the University in September, Erika is also looking to appoint 2 or 3 Junior Scholars, 16-18 year olds who might want experience before applying for University or College Choral Scholarships, or who just love singing church music – if you know of anyone who may be interested, see <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk/music/scholarships/> and contact Erika. Sung Masses continue with reduced resources over the Summer, and a reminder that Tuesday & Thursday Plainsong Vespers will have a break for August. Check the website/twitter for updates.

So, here's a summary of our Music List and other events for July & August, and a few saints to remember.



### **Thursday 2 July at 6pm**

CBS Mass for the Eve of St Thomas the Apostle, with Hymns and Plainsong. Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed.

### **Sat 4 July**

in Barnstaple at St Peter & St Mary Magdalene Church, for the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary Anniversary Service, **12noon Mass** with Handel's Zadok the Priest and Vaughan Williams' Old 100th. 3pm Guild Office & Benediction.

### **Sun 5 July, 10.45am**

Trinity V, Mass, Anglican Folk Mass, Shaw. Almighty and everlasting God, Gibbons. First Sunday Evensong on 5th July will be at 5pm in St Martin's Church in Cathedral Close to celebrate the 950th Anniversary of a church on that site. Bishop Robert Atwell is the guest preacher. Tallis Responses, Weelkes Short Service, Locus iste a Deo factus est, by Bruckner. All welcome.

## **Sat 11 July**

Glastonbury Pilgrimage, St Benedict of Nursia – contact Chris Heaven for details.

## **Sun 12 July, 10.45am**

Trinity VI, Sea Sunday, Mass, Byrd 5-part Mass. Jesu, the very thought of Thee, Victoria.

## **Tues 14 July**

John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866. Keble College, Oxford, was founded in his memory and William Gibbs funded its polychromatic brick Chapel.

## **Wed 15 July**

Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862. Associated with weather lore.

## **Wed 15 July at 7.30pm**

St Michael's Lecture, details to be announced.

## **Sun 19 July, 10.45am**

Trinity VII, Mass, Missa L'Hora Passa, Viadana. Tu es Petrus, Palestrina.

**Sun 19 July.** Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop, and his sister Macrina, Teachers of the Faith, c.394 and c.379.

## **Sun 26 July, 10.45am**

Trinity VIII, Mass, (Most of the Choir will be singing in Wolfenbuettel, Germany.)

## **Sun 2 August, 10.45am**

Trinity IX, Mass, Missa O Quam Gloriosum, Victoria. Ave Verum Corpus Byrd.

## **Sun 2 Aug, 6pm**

Choral Evensong & Benediction. Byrd Responses, Morley Fauxbourdon Canticles, Te Lucis Ante Terminum by Tallis.

## **Fri 7 Aug.**

John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866, best know for enriching our worship with many ancient and medieval hymns translated from Greek and Latin.

## **Sun 9 August, 10.45am**

Trinity X, Mass. Mass in F Darke. Verily, Verily, Tallis.

## **Sun 16 August, 10.45am**

Feast of the Assumption of BVM (transferred), . Mass for Four Voices Byrd. Ave Maria Arcadelt.

## **Sun 23 August, 10.45am**

Trinity XII, Mass, . Mass in the Dorian Mode and If Ye Love Me, both by Tallis.

## **Mon 24 Aug**

Bartholomew the Apostle, worth a mention for the street and cemetery named after him across the valley from St Michael's.

## **Thurs 27 and Fri 28 Aug.**

Monica, 387, and her son Augustine of Hippo, 420, a great thinker and teacher of the faith.

## **Sun 30 August, 10.45am**

Trinity XIII, Mass, . Mass in F Sumsion. Locus Iste Bruckner.

## **Tues 1 September, at 6pm**


CBS Mass for St Giles of Provence, Hermit, 710.

**Richard Barnes**



# Inbetweeners Activities

**KAYAKING**  
On the River Exe



**E12**

If you feel young at heart and have a sense of adventure, come and join the Inbetweeners for a fun filled evening on the river with Exeter KavakHub.

All equipment will be provided, just wear comfortable clothes and bring some spare if you plan on getting wet! Instruction and guidance will be provided by qualified instructors.

**Wednesday 15th July 2015 at 6.30pm**  
Meet at the Quay (free parking)

Numbers are limited so get your tick as quick from Emma White or Sue Holden

An Inbetweeners Summer Event

## Swimming Party

Everyone of all ages very welcome!  
(children under 8 must bring an adult with them)



**Friday 20th August 2015**  
From 4pm to 8pm  
Cornwall House Pool  
LOCKHEAD OFFICE of WALK RD  
TUNNINGTON TUNNERS ROAD  
and GLENNY CHURCH, CORNISH CHURCH  
Ground - currently closed

Parking on site is limited so consider parking close by and walking or cycling!

Cost: 10 per person  
(over 16s with 16 or more made free)

There are also 2 free eggs and 100ml of juice

Changing rooms, toilets and hot showers are available post 4pm.

Don't forget your swimwear and towel!

**"I Might Be A Little OLD, ON THE OUTSIDE, AND I'm A Big Kid ON THE INSIDE. And That's ALL That Matters To Me."**

Come and join the Inbetweeners for an evening of fun, food, swimming and games. The pool has been exclusively hired with the temperature at a lovely 25 degrees (unless the weather can put you off!)

**Cornwall House Pool @ Exeter University.**

*These are just two of our forthcoming events!*

To find out more about booking sessions and/or buying tickets and

for more information about our activities visit

<http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk/whatson/groups11/>

Come along and bring some friends!

to join the email list -

[events@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:events@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)



# Arthur's Memories

## - Part 3

*Shortly before he died in 1972, Arthur Bartlett, who had lived in St David's Parish most of his life, was asked to record his memories:*

"The new Vicar - he came as a Low Church man, full of energy. How could you expect a man of his calibre and spirits and enthusiasm to be contented with that barn of a church? Of course you could not. Looking back, I realize it.

There was opposition of course - my father was against it for one. He would be, because he was very conservative and averse to change, but I do not think it was extensive. If it had been, I am sure I should have known. I do not remember, either, criticism of the generosity of Bowerman West and his mother. There may have been some, as there always is. A little jealousy, there always is. I often marvel what magnetism "Valpy" must have used in that and other quarters. Such enthusiasm. More than once after Catechism a few of us (including his daughters) would go with him and be allowed to go a little way up the lower ladders, a great concession. The great day of completion arrived and as one of his boys I had a seat halfway up the left aisle at its consecration. A great event, never to be forgotten. Almost immediately after, as a LSW Railway Junior Clerk I moved to London for ten years, but came back again because of father's health, so in that period I rely on what I was told when home at intervals.

The organist and many of the choir transferred to the new church, for a time the bottom of St Michael's seemed to fall out, but did not, thanks



to men like Mr Treneer, organist, who always maintained its high musical tradition, and to worshippers like Mr and Mrs Eveleigh, the Sayers and Bill Cornwell amongst many others, and not many knew how high was the quality of their service and of others whose names I have forgotten. Gradually they were more Anglo Catholic, and the wardens Mr Seymour and Walter Daw were real props for years. It would not be fair to comment more on mere hearsay. The Misses French probably could.

I was of St David's and the modest work I did was there helping my brother Harry at the Hoopern Street. I mean "helper" for he was the keystone. I think perhaps I should not go beyond that period. Except as I sat at that Consecration I little thought it was to fall to my lot to organise the service for its 50th anniversary and to see Ivon Gregory in the pulpit. What a fine sequel. It would be ungenerous if I omitted the verger who followed the boys - Ogre Dennis, Mr Curry. A Men's Guild was formed and a house bought for the purpose in Dinham Road. It was the hub of activity with the men, many debates on subjects usually introduced by the Vicar, and he did not always win his point. This Guild was looked after by Mr Curry. He eventually was made verger - whether originally at St Michael's and transferred to St David's I don't remember, but vaguely I think he was. We had a high regard for him, (everybody) no fuss. It was a loss when he retired to Exmouth.

There are many relevant events that I may have missed, but I had a home, very religious, the youngest of a long family, but such a happy childhood."

(concluded)

Richard Bowerman West and his mother Sarah lived at Streatham Hall - now known as Reed Hall. Between them they donated about 50% of the total cost of the new church. Sadly, they did not live to wor-

ship there for long - Richard died in August 1900, and his mother just over two years later.

Howard Treneer was a teacher at St David's School, aged 28 in 1911. He went on to become Headmaster of Exeter Cathedral School from 1944 to 1959.

Arthur's brother Harry presumably taught Sunday School at the Hoopern Street Voluntary School, which had opened in 1884 as an annex to St David's School in Dinham Road.

Ivon Gregory was Curate of St David's from 1913 to 1917, and then Vicar of Hartland until his death in 1953. He officiated at the marriage of Arthur and Agnes Bartlett in 1914.

John Curry, whose occupation was given in the 1901 census as "church verger" and ten years later as "sexton" lived at 9 Little Silver. For a time the Bartlett family lived next door, at no 8.

The "Misses French" were Valpy French's two daughters, Dorothy and Hilda, who died in the 1980s.

Many readers will remember with affection (as I do!) Walter George Daw, OBE, Mayor of Exeter in 1963.

**Jeremy Lawford**

# Exeter Pride parade

Isn't it strange how a casual remark by a friend can sometimes have quite an effect?

Last year I had sent my "best wishes" to friends who were taking part in the Exeter Pride parade and one of them characteristically challenged me to "do something" next time instead of just talking about it!

So it was that I found myself this year with a group of the same friends actually in the parade.

We had decided to "robe" to show that, in our view, the Church in general and our parish in particular is a place where all are to be welcomed and accepted irrespective of the labels placed on them by society.

That day several people approached me and shared with me their fears and hurt about being made to feel "unworthy" to attend a church.

Many were genuinely surprised that we were from a "real" church as someone put it.

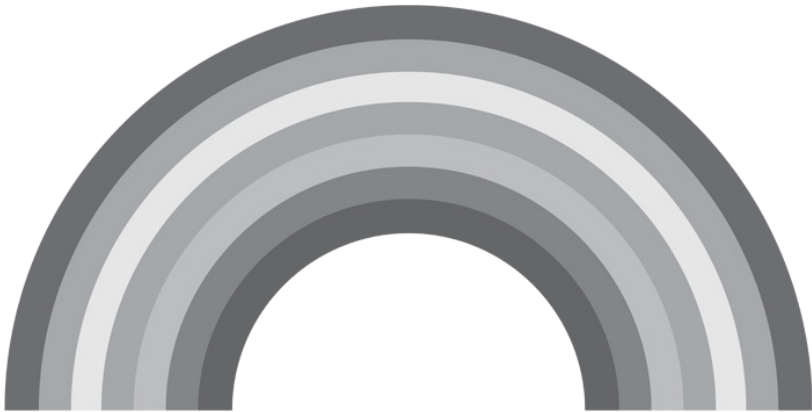
A couple of people have since taken us at our word and have made it to St. Michael's to visit us, for which I thank God.



As our able preacher reminded us at St. Michael's, a few week ago, the authentic mark of a Christian is that costly, selfless love that Jesus displayed and it must weave its way into our dealings with all, finding practical expression in our campaigning for acceptance even if we ourselves are not directly affected by a particular injustice.

So, a start has been made.....watch this space!

**Chris Heaven, St. Michael's**





Church of St. Michael and All Angels  
Mount Dinham  
Parish of St. David, Exeter



## **St Michael's Lectures**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm

# **Common Witness and Ministry in 2015: The Old has Gone; The New has Come?**

Ash Leighton Plom

**Ash Leighton Plom** is Ecumenical Officer to the Archdeacon of Exeter. He works as an advocate for bringing churches together in tackling social ills on behalf of such charities as Street Pastors, Christian Aid, and Parish Nursing.

**In the second of a double-bill of lectures**, Ash speaks of changing landscapes and changing seasons, describing some of the seed changes in church culture in recent years and the challenges and opportunities these present for churches working together in common witness and ministry.

**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.**

**They are held in St. Michael's Church (Mount Dinham, Dinham Road, Exeter, EX4 4EB)** which has a tall spire and is located by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill. **For further information, or to discuss disabled access, contact**

**David Beadle at [dnb201@ex.ac.uk](mailto:dnb201@ex.ac.uk) or visit**

**[www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk)**

# St Thomas Methodist Church



## Adult Literacy and Numeracy Club

### Volunteer tutors needed!

The Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALaN) Club gives clients referred voluntarily from JobCentrePlus and other agencies an opportunity to improve their reading, writing and numeracy skills, before they are ready for accredited courses.

Training, resources, and 'safeguarding' guidance supplied. Volunteers commit to 12-weeks. Thursdays, 2-4pm, Mint Methodist Church Centre, Fore Street, Exeter.

Terms: 7 May-25 Jul, 10 Sep-26 Nov 2015, 14 Jan-31 Mar 2016.

Please contact Esther:

[alanclubstthomas@gmail.com](mailto:alanclubstthomas@gmail.com)

07929 909 350

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.

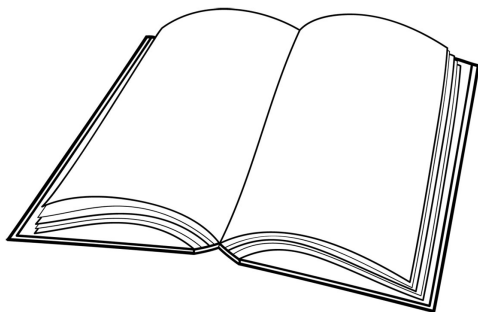
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient 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](mailto:crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk)



# Exeter 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](http://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: 14:00 - 16:00 (from 5th November 2014)

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



For 1-2-1 IT tuition we offer a waiting list.

# 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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  
Church

Queens  
Terrace,  
Exeter



£ 1 for  
your first  
child and  
then 50p

**\*Free play\***  
**\*Craft activities\***  
**\*Healthy snacks\***  
**\*Singing together\***

for your little ones

A drink and a chat - Support for you

# Toddler Group

*Join us in the Parish Rooms on*

*Thursday mornings*

*10.00 until 12.00*

*(every week - except August)*

*You are very welcome to drop in and  
meet us  
or*

*you can contact us:*

*Julia on 07729068567*

**Toddlers@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk**

# Read any good books lately?

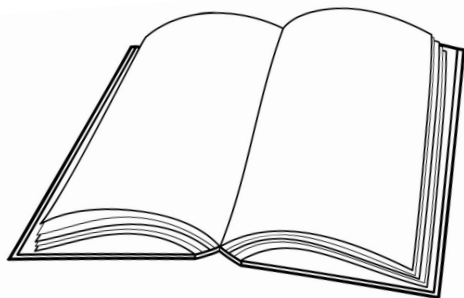
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

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.

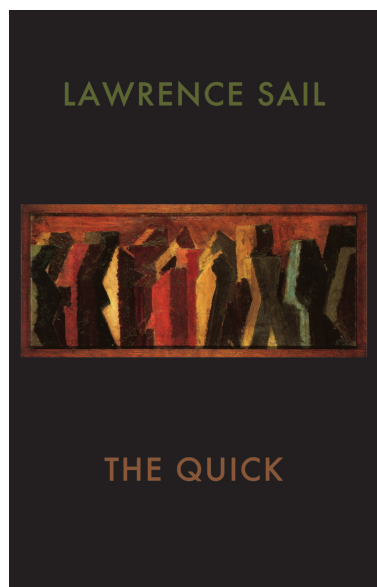
Books, CDs DVDs Films.



# Lawrence Sail      The Quick

Bloodaxe Books      pbk £9.95      ISBN 978 1 78037 255 6

Lawrence Sail's new collection encompasses a striking variety of subjects. He reflects on the natural world, both in micro- and macrocosm, looking for instance at flowers, birds, the sea, the earth seen from space; he explores the intricacies and balances of love and family relationships; he finds new resonances in the paintings of David Bomberg, Howard Hodgkin and Paul Klee, and affinities in his translations of Mallarmé, Rilke and Trakl. His imaginative scope extends into a sequence of prose poems responding powerfully to Gabriel Fauré's nine *Préludes* for piano. Throughout the collection, close attention to the physical world is paired with the responses such careful consideration invokes, and often embodies a duality – instances of love carry the shadow of grief; a beached boat evokes the horizon; a book is both an object and an emblem of lost authority; the fragment of a Roman carving suggests wholeness restored. Above all, there is in Sail's writing a celebration of the world, its preciousness magnified by the ways in which he takes the measure of what appears in the title poem as 'all that lasts, / all that is gone', the juxtaposition of the transient and the enduring.



There is a shimmering quality to Sail's sensibility which moves easily between sharply focused observations of the particulars of object and place, the play of light on the locally loved and known, and a constant alertness to larger climates and movements...close and subtle looking and a rich, playful use of language are the tools by which discoveries are made.'

PETER SCUPHAM, *PN Review*

'The poems can be demanding in their intricacy, inviting and rewarding re-reading. They are highly reflective, thought made sensual via routes only poetry can take. They show the material world in itself, and as a door to perception.'

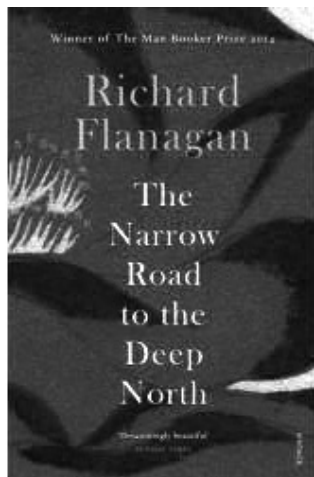
POETRY BOOK SOCIETY  
BULLETIN, Winter 2010

PUBLICATION DATE 25 JUNE 2015



# The Narrow Road to the Deep North

by Richard Flanagan



I usually avoid reading Booker nominated books and even more Booker prize winners. I'm glad I didn't avoid this one. Winner of the 2014 prize award "The Narrow Road to the Deep North" is a powerful, chilling, beautiful, inspiring read based round the building

of the Line, that is the Burmese Death Railway line, the narrow road built by POWs during the 2nd WW.

"In this world  
we walk on the roof of Hell  
gazing at flowers."

The paradox of these lines highlights the contrasts of which this book is full. How can the same man show such inhumanity to others and later such compassion and kindness? How can love be so fulfilling and yet so cruel?

It questions the nature of love and death, not in a sentimental manner, but more through the questioning of thoughts and feelings. It contains moments which simply take your breath away as you see them clear as a picture in your own living room. Its violence at times is so shocking that you know it's based on truth as the human imagination would be too

limited. Indeed Richard Flanagan's own grandfather was on the line.

Its beauty for me reflects my deeply held belief that there is present in all an innate sense of justice, truth and love which is the Kingdom of God. Read it now!

**Bill Pattinson**

**Where to find St David's Church online**

**Website**

[www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

**Twitter**



@StDavids\_Exeter

**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](mailto:socialmedia@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)*

# For Those in Peril on the Sea....

*Dear God, be good to me  
the sea is so large  
and my boat is so small.*  
[Breton Fisherman's Prayer]

Years ago whilst still a Reader and before my ordination I worked as a Children's Adviser for the Diocese of Salisbury. One of the highlights of the year was a summer gathering of children from the Sunday Schools and Junior Churches throughout the vast diocese which covered most of Wiltshire and Dorset. Children from all over the diocese brought banners and crosses to process into the cathedral and also contributed to a display of art and craft work in the nave. Each year approximately 2000 children, together with their teachers, came together for this joyous occasion and each year a particular project became the main focus of the worship and work leading to the festival.

One year the theme chosen was the Mission to Seafarers and I well remember leading the worship in the very nautical service with boats, nets and flags scattered around the cathedral. Our organist for the day played music associated with the sea before the service and we heard excerpts from the Pirates of Penzance and other sea based music.

Now the reason for me looking back to the past and writing this preamble is to focus on "For those in peril on the sea....." as in July we celebrate SEA SUNDAY. Each year in this month the Mission to Seafarers asks churches up and down the country to remember and reflect upon the life and work of the men and women who sail the high seas often in pretty dangerous conditions.

This year Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. July is to be observed as Sea Sunday and the Mission itself has its foundation in 1835 as a man named John Ashley spent time observing the great many vessels that plied their way up and down the Bristol Channel. He felt called to set up some organization to help the seamen and in 1839 he set about raising funds to purchase a boat which would be big enough to have a chapel on it for use by the seafarers. He achieved his aim and later a further boat named "John Ashley" was set up in the River Thames. The Mission now works in 260 ports around the world under their emblem and flag known as "The Flying Angel".

To us who live in Devon the sea plays an important part in the economy of the South West. From time to time fishing and seafaring come under the

microscope both locally and nationally. We have in the past, and indeed in the present, heard and read about over fishing, fishing quotas and of the effect of EU laws on our fishing industry. One hears about the dangers to marine life and the environment of the sea. Sadly we also learn that often the sea is treated as a sort of dustbin with rubbish being tipped into the oceans, or of sewage being pumped into the waters making them a tipping ground rather than a place of rich resources.

Sea Sunday gives us, if only briefly, the chance to think about seafarers whose work at sea is often in very poor conditions sometimes living in fear of employers who give them scant support and expect them to live and work in cramped conditions.

The Mission to Seafarers provides help and support to an invisible work force of approximately 1.5 million men and women upon whom we rely to bring us 90% of the goods we use and consume on a daily basis.

Seafarers are incredibly important to us, for without them we would not have things like bicycles, cars, laptops, mobile phones, video games and a great variety of fruit and vegetables. The seafarers who bring us these cargoes often leave their families for up to a year at a time to live on uncomfortable ships facing all winds and weathers.

As a ship docks at a port invariable there will be a Seafarers Centre provided by the Mission where the sailors can be offered practical help, a phone call to the family or to be given help in facing sometimes serious issues concerned with justice and fairness. All of this, and much more, is an essential part of the ethos of the Mission working in 260 ports in 71 countries. In these ports the Flying Angel flies proudly as a sign that help is available from Chaplains and volunteers in the Centre which becomes a safe haven for those who work in peril on the sea.

Nowadays we are often bombarded with statistics but a few from the Mission give an indication of their vital work.

- In 2014 807,000 visits were made to the Flying Angel Centres around the world.
- 280,000 transport runs were made from ship to shore last year.
- 3,000 cases involving justice, legal aid and welfare for seafarers were managed.
- 68.000 visits were made by Chaplains and volunteers to ships in port.

It is likely that when the figures are published at the end of this year there will be a marked increase in the work undertaken and all demonstrate what

important piece of Christian Mission the Flying Angels undertake worldwide to bring care, support, love and friendship to those in peril on the seas and who do their business on the oceans of our world.

Please remember the work of the Mission to Seafarers on Sea Sunday and maybe you could use the words of the Mission Prayer.....

*Lord God, creator of land and sea, bless those who work at sea.*

*Be with them in fair weather and foul, in danger or distress.*

*Strengthen when weary, life them up when down and comfort them when far from their loved ones.*

*In this life bring them safely to shore, and in the life to come, welcome them into your kingdom.*

*For Jesus Christ's sake.*

*AMEN.*

Fr. David Hastings



# Barbara's Edible Stall



Please keep bringing and buying.  
We need you!

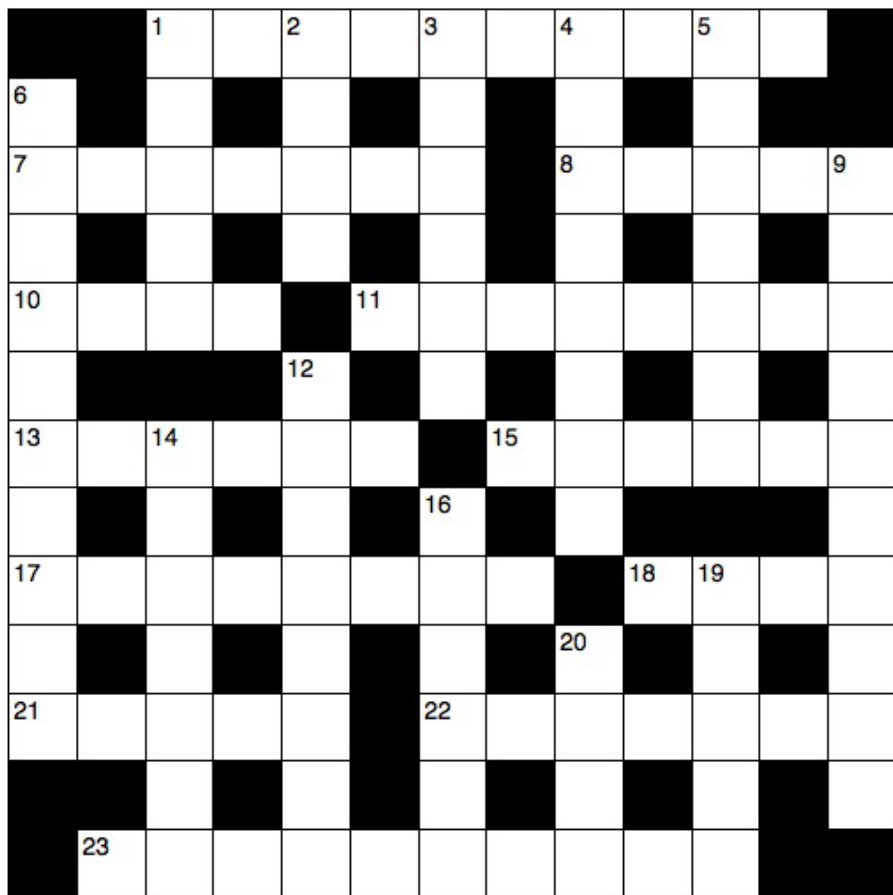
NEXT DATE:

**SUNDAY 19th July**

Many thanks.



# July crossword



## Across:

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)

- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

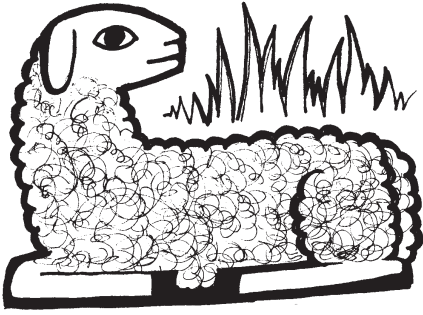
### **Down:**

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

### ***Solutions later in the magazine***







## TAKING & GIVING

If you look at a map of Israel you will see that there are two small inland seas. And if you look closely you will see that these two seas are linked by the

River Jordan. The river starts in the northern hills and goes through the Sea of Galilee, then through the Jordan valley, and ends up in the Dead Sea. But even though the water is all from the same river, the two seas are completely different.

All around the Sea of Galilee are towns and villages, trees and farms. The Dead Sea has no trees or farms, it is dead. What makes the

difference?

The Sea of Galilee is alive because it has an outlet. It passes the water on as quickly as it flows in. The Dead Sea is dead because it passes no water on.

In St Luke's Gospel we read what Jesus said about giving – 'Give to others, and God will give to you' (chapter 6, verses 27-28). Unlike the two seas we can choose how we want to be: to give and take and be alive.

Or just to take - and become sad and lifeless.



# Mulberry Tree Coffee Shop

“It is with sadness that Judith and Terry Sanford will be leaving the Mulberry Tree Coffee Shop on St David’s Hill at the end of July and the business will close on Thursday 23rd pending a new tenant.

Judith and Terry would like to thank all their valued customers and friends for much appreciated support over the past 3 years and hope that they may see you at a new venture in the future.”



# Days of Note

**1 July**

**Theobald (1017 – 1066)**

- choosing God, not money

If you are thinking of turning your back on wealth and privilege, in order to do something you feel God is calling you to do, Theobald may be the saint for you. He was born into an aristocratic family at Provins in France. But he became a hermit with a fellow ex-soldier in the Pettingen Forest in Luxembourg. They later moved to Salanigo in Italy. Theobald's holy life attracted so many followers that he was canonised by Pope Alexander II in 1073.

**2 July**

**John Francis Regis (1597 – 1640)**

- patron saint for relief workers

Do you ever admire relief workers? Those hardy folk regularly appear on our TV screens, actively seeking out the disease-ridden, starving, destitute people of the world, instead of avoiding them, as most of us try and do.

John Francis Regis could be a patron saint of relief workers. It all began back in the early 1600s when he was ordained a Jesuit priest in Toulouse, a town raging with plague. Instead of fleeing for his life, John Regis decided to stay and minister to the plague victims.

Somehow he survived, and was then sent by his bishop to do mission work in Pamiers and Montpellier. For years John taught and preached Christ's love, and also put it into action: he collected food for the hungry, clothing for the poor, visited prisoners, and even set up some homes for desperate ex-prostitutes.

In mid-September of 1640 John had a premonition of his approaching death. He took a three day retreat in order to calmly prepare himself for it – and then he went back to work. Over Christmas, while helping the poor, he caught a chill. By 31 December he was dying of pneumonia, but at peace: he had been granted a vision of heaven, and could not wait to get there. His was a life well lived – he was “a good and faithful servant”.

## **3 July**

# **St Thomas the Apostle**

### **- confused and doubting**

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: “I am going to my father”, and “No one comes unto the Father but by me.”

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3 July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

# 19 July **Macrina the Younger**

**c. 327 -79** – a sister in a million

Do you have a sister? Is she ‘good news’ in your life? Macrina the Younger should be the patron saint of all ‘sisters’ whose generosity helps their siblings to succeed.

Macrina the Younger was the eldest of 10 children. Their father was Basil the Elder, a leader in the church in 4th century Cappadocia. When Macrina’s fiancé died when she was 12, she decided not to marry at all, but instead to stay home and help educate her nine brothers and sisters. Because of her self-sacrifice, they all learned to read the Bible and to have a deep faith in God.

Macrina’s life was not in vain: because of her example, two of her brothers, Gregory and Basil, entered the priesthood. They went on to become famous: Gregory of Nyssa became a much loved bishop and Basil the Great became a great theologian. Along with another priest, Gregory of Nazianzus, they became known as The Cappadocian Fathers, and played a major role in protecting the 4th century church from heresy. Yet they would never have even learned to read without Macrina.

When in 379 Macrina fell ill, her brother Gregory rushed to her side. He found her lying on two planks on the floor of a small hut. Her poverty was absolute and her preparations for death complete. She prayed: “Thou hast freed us from the fear of death. Thou hast made the end of this life the beginning of true life...May my soul be received into the hands...” she died at the time of Vespers and was buried amid widespread grief and lamentation.

# 27 July      The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus – proving a nap is good for you!

Do you tend to avoid conflict? When you feel stressed, do you crave sleep? Then the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus would be good patron saints for you. But - you may find it hard to copy their successful method of avoiding trouble!

Legend has it that The Seven Sleepers were third century Christians who lived in Ephesus during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Decius. When things got very bad, the Seven Sleepers decided to ‘go to ground’. Literally. They found a cave on the outskirts of the city and walled themselves in. The story goes that then God simply put them to sleep.

200 years later they woke up, and peeped out of the cave again. Things had changed: Ephesus had converted to Christianity. Unfortunately the Seven Sleepers did not get much time to enjoy the new freedoms, because within a short time they all died – of extreme old age.

The story was popularised in the 6th century by Gregory of Tours and Jacob of Sarugh, who venerated the Seven Sleepers as saints. But it was challenged by Baronius and many scholars since. It is sometimes called a Christianised pagan or Jewish legend akin to Rip Van Winkle.

A possible moral for anyone today is that when you find yourself in a storm of conflict, you don’t have to fight all the battles yourself. You can indeed seek refuge in God. He may not put you to sleep for 200 years, but he will be a safe hiding place for your soul.

# Crossword solutions

## July answers

**ACROSS:** 1 Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

**DOWN:** 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

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*originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)*







**The deadline for inclusion of articles for the September issue of the parish magazine is Sunday 9th August 2015**

**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](mailto: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.