

NEW LEAVES

November 2015

Messy Church

I heard a lovely story the other day about Neil Collings, who was my predecessor at Exeter Cathedral. When he was installed as Dean at Bury St Edmunds, he began his sermon by saying that he wouldn't keep the congregation for long. "I can do high church and I can do low church," he said, "but I don't really do long church."

"Amen to that," I would say. I have always thought that if you can't say something in ten minutes you won't be able to say it in an hour. On the other side of the argument, I was told by the bishop who ordained me that "sermonettes make Christianettes." What do my readers think? What is the ideal length of a sermon? And what would you like to hear in it?

Anyway, leaving high church, low church, long and short church for the moment, what on earth is Messy Church? It's one of the fastest growing, most fun and most popular developments in the Church of England for years. At St David's we have recently started our own Messy Church. It happens once a month at 4pm on a Saturday afternoon. Messy Church is in three parts and very simple. We have craft activities followed by a story and singing and then we all have a really splendid tea. Both the craft, (think glue, paint, glitter, icing sugar etc) and the tea (cake crumbs, fruit squash, sandwich fillings) can be very messy. I made the mistake of wearing a pair of light coloured trousers to Messy Church. They now

have a patch of blue paint that won't wash out.

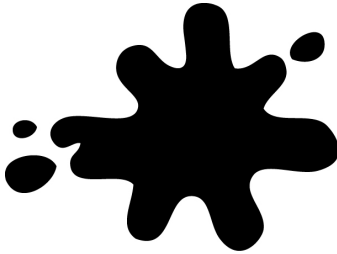
But Messy refers to something else as well. Sometimes regular church can be off-putting to people who have never been before, or remember church from years ago when it was much more formal, or feel that their lives fall short in some way. The image of church is that it's for good, tidy people who have got everything sorted. You might call this "squeaky clean church". In this context we hope that Messy Church might offer a less threatening prospect. To be honest, everyone's life can be a bit messy, many of us don't know quite what we believe, or have trouble coping with what life throws at us, or have difficult or broken relationships.

Children have the great gift of feeling good about mess. Maybe that is why Jesus told us that we should approach life like children. They ask lots of questions, they have a strong idea of fairness, and they don't mind mess. So if you fancy a bit of mess, or have children who enjoy mess, bring them along to Messy Church.

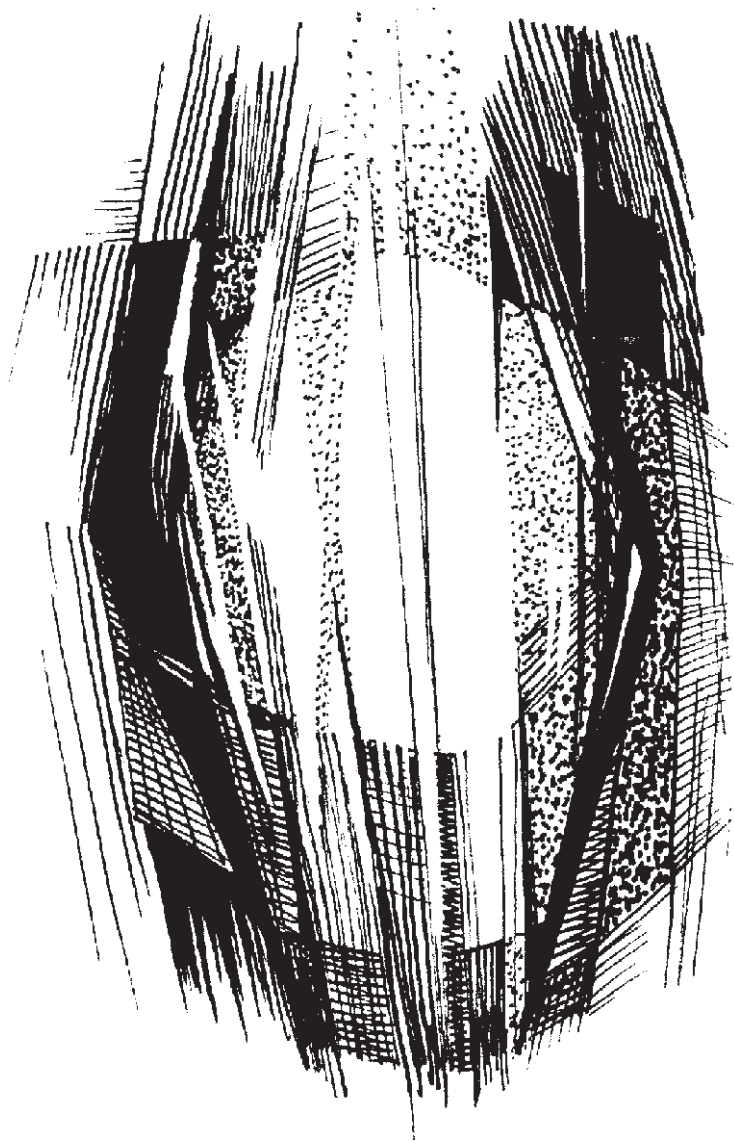
It's a little-known truth of the Christian faith that you don't come to God by getting it right; you come to God by getting it wrong. When you know you can't manage in your own strength, your ego has been bruised once too often, when your life is in a mess, then you might acknowledge your need of God. This is a hard message to hear, in a world which values success and independence so highly. It's probably why Jesus found so much more responsiveness from the people who weren't rated by their society. The sick and poor, those with mental illness, those who were overlooked or despised by polite religious people. He wasn't bothered by mess either.

I will finish this month by recommending another book. Some time last year I wrote about “How to be a Bad Christian”, by Dave Tomlinson. Well there’s now a follow-up called “The Bad Christian’s Manifesto”. The book is easy to read, and doesn’t use theological language, but it is full of profound wisdom and moving stories about real people. Many of them felt in a mess, and would not have described themselves as good Christians, but they found care and acceptance from their local church, and their lives were transformed.

Tom



November from St Michael's



A popular song with a jaunty rhythm urged us all to imitate a smiling round yellow face with ‘don’t worry, be happy’. I may have imagined it, but I think there was a subtext suggesting that this state of euphoria could be achieved with the inhalation of certain substances. There is a plethora of self-help texts available by which we can overcome our fears and worries, eat less, earn more, get the perfect job/ body/mind /relationship, if only we follow the writer’s self-proclaimed expertise. Recently the practice of ‘Mindfulness’ has been acclaimed. Buddhists have followed this path for generations; it is the way to enlightenment, but the populist adoption of mindfulness seems not to acknowledge the origins of the philosophy, and anyway, who wants to suggest that following a religion could be a credible lifestyle?

Mindfulness has now been overtaken by Gratitude. It is said we’ll feel better if we are grateful. We should start by recording in a diary things for which we can be thankful, according to Janice Kaplan, an American TV producer, novelist and magazine editor, whose book ‘The Gratitude Diaries’ has recently been published here. To my mind, gratitude implies both a receiver and a giver, someone who has been given something and someone who gave a gift. On reading about this phenomenon, the details of which are too complex for a short piece here, I did wonder how it was possible to have reached that stage of realising the need for gratitude without even a glimmer of recognition of God or even an external element which may be identified as supreme. There seems a certain self-centredness in the world in which individual success is all-important. Gratitude is greater than ‘resentment, indignation and pique’, Kaplan explained and in exercising gratitude, her life changed. Her research, funded by the Templeton Foundation, found a shocking

gap: 94% of people surveyed said grateful people lead more fulfilled lives, but less than half admitted to expressing gratitude regularly. (From an article by Anna Tyzack, published the The Daily Telegraph Weekend section, 19th September 2015.)

I found all this talk of ‘new’ gratitude surprising but of course there must be people who have never read, much less heard of, the General Thanksgiving which is in the Book of Common Prayer. Here we can thank God for our very existence, for the hope of glory, for all the blessings which come our way and for the great gift of Jesus Christ. Many of the Psalms tell of gratitude for God’s deliverance, and Paul’s Letter to the Philippians starts with a thanksgiving for their faith and ends with a reminder to ‘rejoice in the Lord.’ There are instances throughout the Bible of encouragement to gratitude and rejoicing, though given some of the history of the Christian church and the interpretation of faith, we could be forgiven for thinking it miserable and condemnatory. A good few years ago now, the theologian J.B. Phillips published a book called ‘Your God is Too Small’ in which he expounded the idea that in castigating the Christian faith, many people had very limited and juvenile ideas of God on which they had based their critiques. The great hymn ‘Now thank we all our God’ puts gratitude right at the heart of faith. Gerard Manley Hopkins, priest and poet, sings out in gratitude ‘Glory be to God for dappled things-...’ in Pied Beauty, and seasonally, for our celebration of Harvest,

*‘Summer ends now; now barbarous in beauty, the stooks arise
Around; up above, what wind-walks! What lovely behaviour
Of silk-sack clouds! Has wilder, wilful-wavier
Meal-drift moulded ever and melted across skies?’*

he writes, in ‘Hurrahing in Harvest’. How could one not rejoice and be glad in the world that God has made! Even in its most fearsome moments, there is awesome grandeur that must allow us to re-evaluate our thinking about the created universe. I watched part of the Super-moon eclipse (yes, it was quite cold at 3 a.m.) which was amazing, even with a certain amount of light pollution. Science and faith can belong together and support one another; Alistair McGrath suggests in his book ‘Why God Won’t Go Away: Engaging with the New Atheism’ that science analyses and religion synthesises, both of which are useful activities in dealing with faith.

Here at St Michael’s we have been glad to welcome Fr Roger Shambrook at the Mass. His sermons are apt and directly related to the Lessons of the day. We are also delighted to have Fr Christopher and hope to see more of him soon. We are saddened that Fr David Hastings will be leaving us at the end of December; he has kept us thinking closely about the meaning of faith and we have been grateful for his direction.

We have been introduced to the Parish Giving Scheme, which has a great deal to recommend it as a way of ensuring our regular giving can achieve even more. There are small folders of information at the back of the church. Do please take one and read it carefully and prayerfully; join in if you can.

From all of us at St Michael’s: rejoice in the Lord and give thanks always!

Stephanie Aplin

Free Will

On the wall in my study at home, I have an engagement calendar which shows not only several national holidays and Holy Days (including Corpus Christi), but also phases of the moon such as “new” and “full”. The fact that such lunar information is available for future months reminds me that the position of the moon is “predeterminate” by which I mean “fixed in advance by physical laws”. For the moon these laws are the classical Laws of Motion elucidated by Isaac Newton (1642-1727).

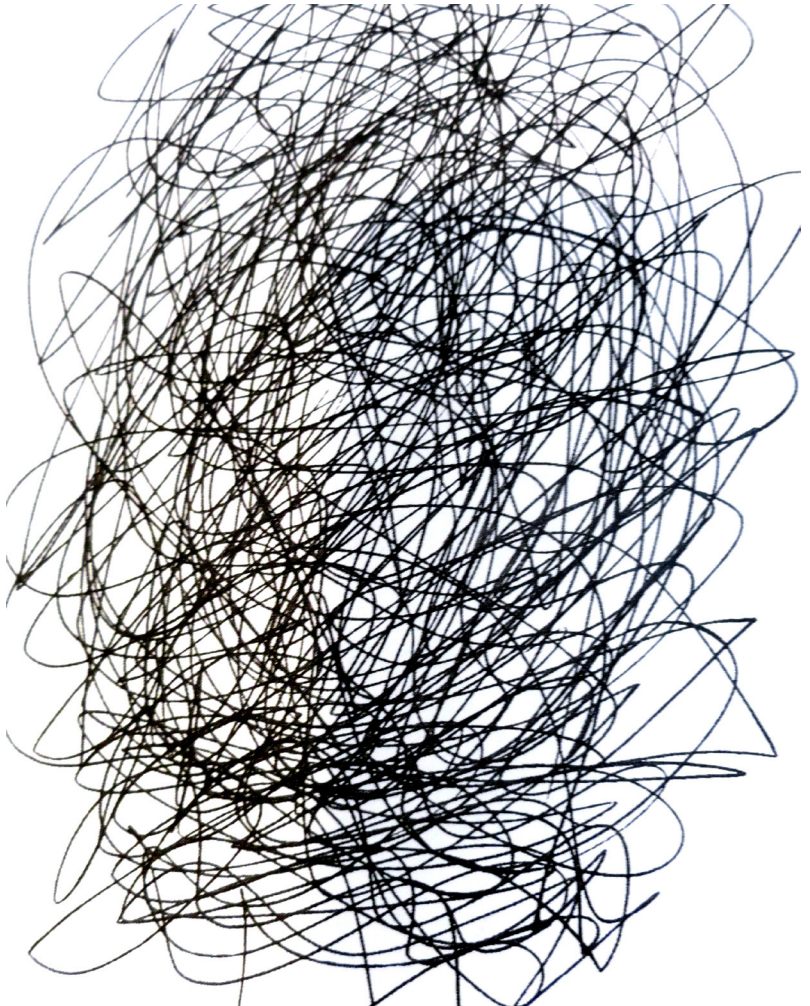
But are all events predeterminate? Apparently not: although we already know the position of the moon at midday tomorrow, the same is not true for us: we seem to have a remarkable freedom that allows us (or our brain cells) to circumvent the causal laws that dictate the position of the moon. So how might this freedom be achieved?

A clue might come from microphysics, for example the physics of the electron, a real negatively-charged stable point particle having a mass of about $0.000\sim\sim\sim 0009$ kilograms, there being thirty zeros after the decimal point! For even when an electron moves freely (meaning that no forces act on it), it zigzags at random about the straight line that would be its Newtonian path. Hence, unlike the moon, an electron has a random position and no predeterminate path.

But even if our brains free us from predeterminism by exploiting the randomness of point particle motion, it is not clear how they avoid making random decisions causing random disasters: for example, who would

want a brain that would randomly decide to ignore a red traffic light? Nonetheless a definition seems to emerge where free will is something that allows a living brain to make decisions that are neither random nor predeterminate.

Charles Argall



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.....

Some thoughts for November.

At this time of the year my and I guess your thoughts focus very much on the word “Remembrance”. November is often a very grey and sombre month and one is reminded of Thomas Hood’s words in his poem which he simply called ‘November’.....

No sun – no moon!

No morn – no noon!

No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day

No sky – no earthly view –

No distance looking blue.....

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No comfortable feel in any member –

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,

November!

November begins with the Festival of All Saints on 1st. followed rapidly by the Feast of All Souls and its solemn Requiem on the 2nd. and then within a matter of days we are confronted once more with Remembrance Sunday.

For me, and I guess for countless numbers of people, Remembrance

Sunday is a time of special poignancy and we wear poppies as a respect for those who have died over the years.

My grandfather, my late mother's father, was shot down with his comrades of the 2nd. Wiltshire Regiment at point blank range in their dug-out at St. Quentin in Northern France in the dying days of the 1914 – 18 conflict. He was the father my mother never knew and a grandfather who is, for me, just a name and of whom I have just one photograph.

Some years ago I was in France on holiday and went to visit the wonderfully impressive War Memorial which is by the side of the road at Pozieres not far from St. Quentin. That memorial commemorates the officers and men of the Fifth and Fourth Armies who fought on the battlefields of the Somme between March and August 1918 and of those of their dead who have no known grave.

The Pozieres Memorial is a beautifully tranquil place carefully and lovingly maintained by the French for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and one cannot help but be moved by what it represents. I was able to find my grandfather's name on one of the walls of the Cemetery, sadly he has no grave. His is one of the 14,655 men from the UK and 300 from South Africa that are commemorated in that peaceful plot.

Whilst on another visit to the Somme region I also visited Vimy Ridge which stands on a high ridge overlooking the plains below and which is dominated by a stunning piece of architecture carved out of a single piece of stone and which can be seen for miles and which is part of a collection of other carvings. This monument commemorates the at-

tack on Vimy Ridge on 9th, August 1917 undertaken by the Canadian Corps. Many of the original dugouts and tunnels have been preserved in a park where Canadian soldiers are buried or else lost their lives there and a total of 60,000 died in that assault and throughout France a total of 11,285 Canadian soldiers were killed the majority of whom have no marked grave.

Isolated on this ridge overlooking the plains of Northern France the monument rises from the ground and engages with both the landscape and the sky. It speaks of the very nature of war and of the ongoing human struggle to contain the forces of disorder which are sadly part of our very humanity. To wander through the preserved enemy trenches, which were all ridiculously close to each other together with the 14 craters which remain, one has a sense of the sadness and futility of war and how now 11,285 Canadian maples and bushes have been planted to commemorate the men who died and went missing.

Once again on Remembrance Sunday we shall have the opportunity to reflect and to remember all those who gave their lives in the service of their countries in two world wars and many conflicts since. I will once again remember a grandfather whom I never met in person and who is now only a single name amongst thousands on the wall of a war memorial in Northern France.

We shall hear those words, as we do each November.....

*“.....at the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.....”*

.....and we shall add our own “We will remember them.” and I guess that we shall all reflect on whether war is ever really justified, for war leads to the loss of life through death and it can also lead to the nightmare of the loss of life in life. War brings us all face to face with the meaning of our very existence of pain, of hope and above all our need for love. Sometimes we wrestle with God about the rightness and wrongness of war and its consequences.

November is a month of remembrance.

We cannot ignore it; we cannot turn away as we remember the terrible cost of war.

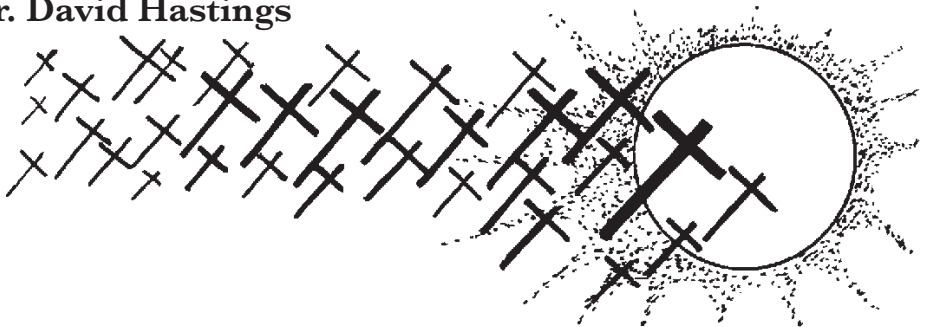
We remember because our lives and those who gave their lives are inextricably linked.

In our world we who profess the faith of Christ and bear the title Christian must surely long for and pray for peace, for freedom and for justice.

The single clenched fist, lifted and ready
Or the open asking hands, held out and waiting
Choose
For we meet by one or the other.

We will remember them.

Fr. David Hastings



The Angel Tree - 2015

It is estimated that each year well over 160,000 children in England and Wales have a Mum or Dad, sometimes both, in prison. The impact on children of this separation can be devastating.

The children are the innocent victims of crime and recent statistics show that more children are affected by the imprisonment of a parent than by divorce in a family.



Research tells us that children with a parent in prison will experience a range of feelings which may include, fear, betrayal, sadness and grief. It is important for the well being of these children that they are able to keep in touch with the absent parent. This is not easy.

Since 1984 The Angel Tree Programme has sent gifts on behalf of prisoners to children who would not otherwise receive a present at Christmas or may not have even heard from their Mum or Dad. This has a huge positive impact on the whole family and goes a long long way to nurture and repair relationships.

The Angel Tree is not just about the gift. It is about helping families keep in touch and demonstrates the unconditional love of God. It is

about remembering the children.

Each gift has a hand written gift label written by Dad on it.

Last year our collection from St David's enabled over 100 children to receive a gift. The gifts are on average of a value of £15 each

The prisoners are often surprised that people who don't know them should show such kindness. This act of generosity shows the prisoners that people on the 'outside' genuinely want the best for them and their families. This is such a contrast to the negative life styles that so many of them have experienced.

Helping prisoners maintain contact with their families can make them up to six times less likely to re-offend.

The prisoners here in Exeter are very grateful and when they hear our bells ringing they now know that this a tangible sign of God's love reaching through the prison wall and into their cell. They know it is our church that remembers them.

Your contributions will help to bring some joy of Christmas into the lives of families for whom this time is so difficult and stressful.

St David's will be collecting for The Angel Tree on Sunday November 22nd at the 9.30 service.

If you are unable to be at that service but would like to donate to The Angel Tree contact Margaret Grimsey - 01392 421973.

Cash or cheques made payable to Prison Fellowship -Angel Tree

THANK YOU VERY MUCH



St David's Eucharist November		
November 01 : All Saints' Day		
Reading 1	Wisdom 3: 1-9	Karen Facey
Reading 2	Revelation 21: 1-6a	Cyrus Moghtadaai
Gospel	John 11: 32-44	
Time of prayer		Helena Walker
Junior Church:		
November 08 : Remembrance Sunday		
Reading 1	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10	Gina Redman
Reading 2	Hebrews 9: 24-28	Jan Earle
Gospel	Mark 1: 14-20	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson
Junior Church:		
November 15 : 2nd Sunday before Advent - <i>Family Service</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
November 22 : Christ the King		
Reading 1	Daniel 7: 9-19, 13-14	Hilary Todd
Reading 2	Revelation 1: 4b-8	Philip Walker
Gospel	John 18: 33-37	
Time of prayer		Sarah Black
Junior Church:		
November 29 : Advent Sunday		
Reading 1	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	Julia Spruntulis
Reading 2	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end	Ann Watts
Gospel	Luke 21: 25-36	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
Junior Church:		



St Davids Womens' Group

Hello everyone

Its been some time since we have had a St Davids Womens' Group event. We are sorry but everyone in the planning group have had 'a lot on' personally and the months seemed to speed by. Anyhow, we are pleased to tell you about the following dates to put in your diaries.

Tuesday December 1st A Reflection for Advent

6.30-7.30 in The Lady Chapel.

This is an opportunity to appreciate peace and quiet and an opportunity to share time together before the rush and hurly burly of Christmas. There will be readings, silence and music.

Tuesday January 19th 2016 Our New Years Dinner

6 for 6.30 at The Pasha Turkish Restaurant in South Street.

We need to pre order the food and menus will be available for you soon so you can choose what you would like to eat. It is a family run restaurant with freshly cooked food and a good choice including vegetarian and gluten free.

Please pass these dates on to others you know who may enjoy these evenings.

Please let us know of anyone who is not on email so we can make sure we keep in touch by phone or direct contact.

Thank You

very best wishes to you all

Ann Watts Mary Kirkland Mollie Curry

Helena Walker Emma White Hilary Francis

Music & Events at St Michael's – November 2015

The God of Physics and Faithfulness has silenced the perennial prophets of doom for a while, and the eclipse of the Harvest Blood Super-moon at the end of September was just glorious to behold, like a red balloon floating over Mt Dinham. It even brought out the autumnal poet in me, but I promise it won't happen too often!

Ploughed fields like brown cord trousers.

Harvest moon will turn red, like the blood

Shed for us, with us, as us, on the other side of the Year.

Morning breath wets the beard like Asperges,

Then rises like the sweet-smelling Incense,

Awakening the Matins chime of your faithful, fallen, Autumn people.

This season of Remembrance of Easter vigilance,

Resurrection of All Souls' faithfulness,

Requiem embrace of your welcoming outstretched arms,

Reliquary of loves sacrificed on the Altars of Duty.

Brick-coloured leaves lay and nourish the foundations,

Of my empirical faith in the Space-time physics of the Father,

The compassion, company, compulsion of the Begotten,

The decaying ripples of the Spirit's disturbing, distributing breath.

Sunday 1st November is **All Saints' Day, 10.45am**, Sung Mass with the briefest Missa Brevissima by Casciolini, and white-robed Motet, O

Quam Gloriosum, by Victoria.

Sunday 1st November at 6pm Evensong and Benediction for All Saints' Day with more heavenly music. Responses: Radcliffe. Psalm: 148, 150. Office Hymn: 245. Canticles: Dyson in F. Anthem: And I Saw a New Heaven, by Bainton. O salutaris & Tantum Ergo: Liszt.

Please note. **Monday 2nd November, our All Souls' Day Requiem Mass at 7.30pm.** This year we sing a full liturgical setting of the Missa Pro Defunctis a 4, written around 1583 by Tomas Luis da Victoria. This beautiful a cappella setting of the Requiem texts alternates Plainsong Cantor with 4-part polyphonic Choir. The Motet is Justorum Animae, by William Byrd, and the service will conclude with the Russian Kontakion for the Departed.

8th November is Remembrance Sunday with special music and sermon at our 10.45am Mass, and an Act of Remembrance. The Mass Setting is the Service in F by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), who was at Gloucester Cathedral, Chorister and Organist, for 60 years. From 1917 to 1919 Sumsion served in the Queen's Westminster Rifles and spent time in the trenches in Flanders. The Anthem "Greater Love hath no man than this" by John Ireland (1879-1962) actually pre-dates the Great War by 2 years.

Sunday 15th November, Trinity XXIV and 2 before Advent. 10.45am with the beautiful Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd and Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Fauré.

Tuesday 17th November at 6pm. CBS Mass for the Feast of St Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln (1200). All welcome.

Sunday 22nd November is Stir-up Sunday and Christ the King. 10.45am with the majestic Mass in C & F by Stanford and Above All

Praise and All Majesty by Mendelssohn.

Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm, St Michael's Lecture.

"Are we now a Religiously Illiterate Society?" asks RE Advisor Graham Langtree.

29th November is Advent Sunday when we start our 10.45am service with The Litany sung in procession; this is Cranmer's first piece of English Liturgy published in 1544. The Setting is Kenneth Leighton's austere Mass in D from 1965, and the Motet is Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, composed by Edgar Bairstow in 1906.

Monday 30th November – St Andrew, Patron of Scotland.

Note that our beautiful candlelit Advent Procession at St Michael's is on **Sunday 6th December at 6pm**. Prayers, Readings, Hymns and Carols illuminate the 7 "Great O" Antiphons of the Advent Hymn "O come, O come Emmanuel". The service culminates in a choral setting of the Magnificat, and is followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Finally a reminder that, during term-time, a small group is meeting informally in Church to pray & sing **Matins at 8.30am Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays** for half-an-hour or so. All are most welcome to join: to sing or to listen. Please contact Michael Lester for more information. **Vespers** is also sung at **6pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays**.

Thus St Michael's is flourishing in many ways, but, as Fr Tom has made clear in his St Francis Sermon and Stewardship Leaflet, to keep our church afloat financially we need to consider where it comes in our priorities.

Richard Barnes



At a time of immense environmental and ecological challenge, it is essential that the world's faith traditions engage more fully in what we may call planetary awareness and action.

Devon Earth and Faith Network
Invites you to a free day of exploration and inspiration

Earth Matters, Faith Matters

Sunday 1st November 2015

11.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.

The Old Deanery, Exeter

Main speaker - Satish Kumar.

Other contributors include Richard Dealler (Pilgrimage), Hamzah Saied (Islam and Creation) and Sandhya Dave (Stories of Sustainability).

Aims:

- To develop a network of locally based faith champions for climate justice and earth care
- To share good practices and break the isolation of doing this work seemingly alone
- To inspire participants for the future and enthuse deeper understanding and engagement in issues around their faith and climate justice

Places limited. Please book with Joanie Harris; details will follow. Tel: 01392-294940 / joanie@exeter.anglican.org

**Devon Faith and Belief Forum - www.devonfaiths.org.uk
Devon Churches Green Action - www.dcgga.org.uk**

Hell's Kitchen

Take a friendly text (kindly meant)
Stir into it a good helping of Misunderstanding.
Add two nasty emails
Then leave behind a wall of silence
To rise for two days.
Add a fresh email (using same ingredients)
And share, to taste.
When mixture has doubled in size
Place in burning resentment
Until a hard carapace has formed.
Decorate with sour lemons.
Serve with vinegar whilst letting off
Explosions of anger.
The Devil rejoices while
Angels turn aside to weep.

Lizzy Hewitt

14.10.15

Exeter Central Library

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

Please use this link for more information

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

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

Woolly Wonders Knitting Group

Date: Every month - Tuesdays

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

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

Audience: Everyone welcome

Cost: Free

Bookings: Drop in - no need to book

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Exeter Audio Book Group

Date: Once a month meeting

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

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

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

Cost: Free

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

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IT Drop -in Sessions

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

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

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

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just drop in

Organiser: Mike Mills & James Knight 01392 384 209



DDE at the Global Centre Events – Autumn 2015

September

Saturday 5th 10:00am – 16:00pm

Exeter Green Fair

Sustainability fair on Cathedral Green

Thursday 24th 1:00pm – 2:00pm (Provisional)

World at Lunch Special – Population, Health and Environment: Integrated approach in Madagascar

Talk by Vik Mohan, Exeter GP and Medical Officer for Blue Ventures

October

Saturday 3rd 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Devon Globe Trotters – Thai Classical Dancing

A talk and demonstration by Pawinee Bonseem

Contact DDE to reserve a place; email dde@globalcentred Devon.org.uk or phone 01392 438811

Monday 5th 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Global Book Club

***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate* by Naomi Klein**

Saturday 18th

Great West Run

Harry West-Taylor and friends raising money for DDE

Thursday 22nd 1:00pm – 2:00pm

World at Lunch Special – Why do we need the UN?

Talk by Susan Matthews

November

Thursday 12th 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gown Meets Town – Magic: from the Inquisition to Harry Potter, starting with Sellem Bin al-Sheikh Mansur

A panel debate by scholars with different perspectives from the Universities of Exeter, Bristol led by Dr Catherine Rider, will focus on Sellem, a Muslim slave in 17th-century Malta.

Contact DDE to reserve a place; email dde@globalcentred Devon.org.uk or phone 01392 438811

Saturday 14th 9:00am – 16:00pm

Conference – Legacies of British Slave-ownership

Project led by Lucy MacKeith in collaboration with University College London

Presentation of research into the links between Devon and the slave trade

Monday 30th 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Global Book Club

***City of Lies* by Ramita Navai**



Read any good books lately?

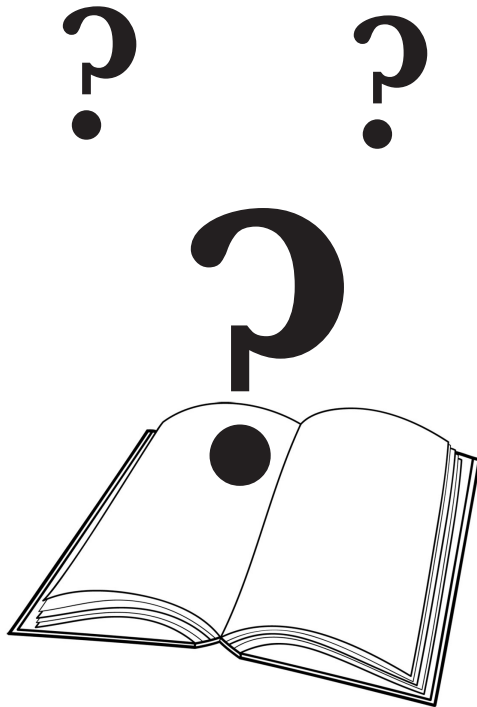
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

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.



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.

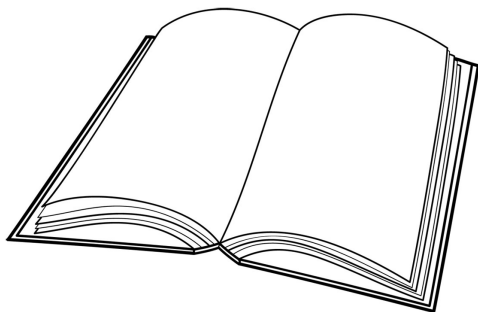
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient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



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:- 07872626168 if you need to leave donated goods





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

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Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Hood

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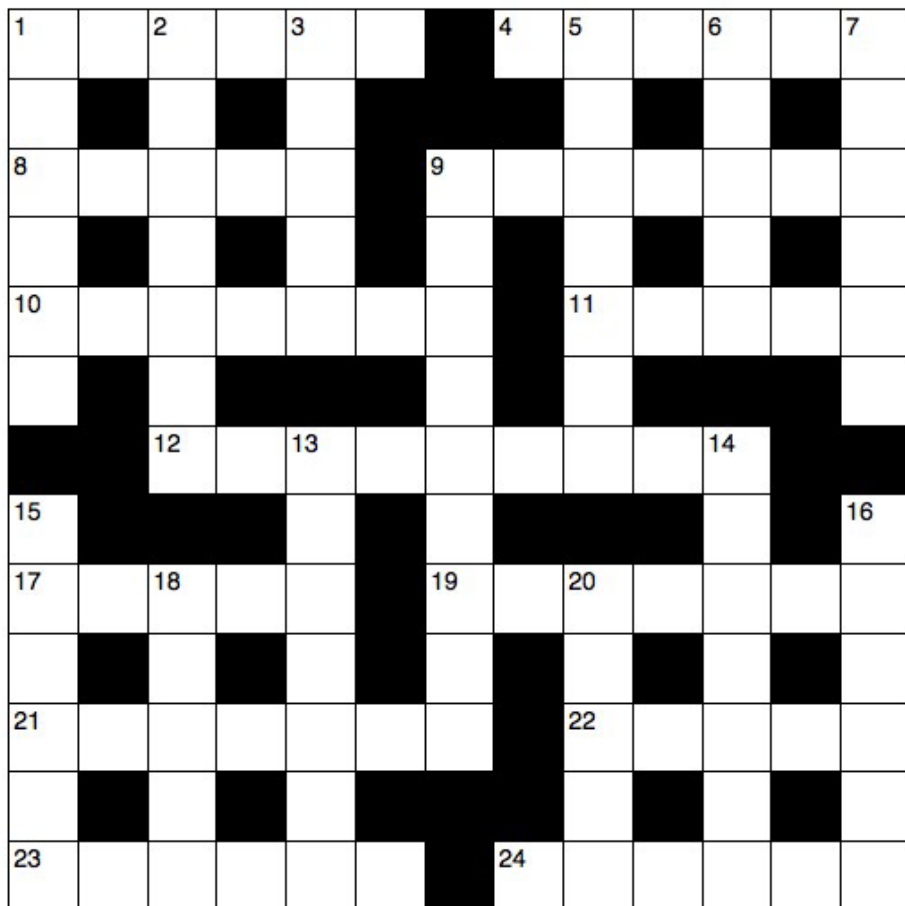
"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"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."

November crossword



Across:

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)

- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down:

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Answers later in the magazine

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

St. David's Parent and Toddler group

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

Contact:

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

Sam Wellbelove



Dates of Note

1 All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;

The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

*(Maurice Frost (ed.), *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

Of course, very many of the early ‘saints’ were also martyrs, and so...

1 The first martyrs – the ‘seed’ of the Christian Church

The first martyrs of Rome are recorded in the old Roman Martyrology, which states that:

‘At Rome, the birthday is celebrated of very many martyrs, who under the Emperor Nero were falsely charged with the burning of the city and by him were ordered to be slain by various kinds of cruel death; some were covered with the skin of wild beasts, and cast to the dogs to be torn asunder; others were crucified, and then when daylight failed used as torches to illuminate the night. All these were disciples of the apostles and the first fruits of the martyrs whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the apostles’ death.’

2 All Souls' Day – a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

17 Gregory of Tours (539 – 94) - charity and compassion in dangerous times

Danger of torture, assassination, lootings, floods, famines and epidemics... life in France in the 6th century was as turbulent and violent as many of the world's hot spots are today. In the midst of all this Gregory was born into a senatorial family who lived in the Auvergne. He grew up seeing how the Church responded to all this social chaos at first hand: his family numbered several bishops, as well as saints (the two are not necessarily the same thing!). In due course Gregory decided to devote his life also to the Church, and was ordained deacon in 563 and elected bishop of Tours in 573.

Gregory should be the patron saint of anyone who climbs to a powerful and privileged position – and then uses it in order to do great good. As a bishop of Merovingian Gaul he became an expounder and defender of the Christian faith and of public morality. He practised charity and compassion on a large scale. He repaired churches, including the great Tours cathedral, destroyed by fire, and built new ones. He restored the tombs of martyrs and saints. He visited monasteries and nunneries, and founded schools.

In addition to all this, Gregory was a prodigious author of books. His ten volume History of the Franks is his most famous work, but he wrote on saints as well. He had an advantage on other medieval historians such as Bede in that he had first-hand experience of the court-life of his time. Courts were treacherous places, and Gregory had to deal with four civil rulers of Tours during his 21 years as bishop. He must have earned their respect: he was sent on diplomatic missions to other Frankish kings.

Gregory made the most of every opportunity he had to bring Christian standards of living into those dark days in France. He was greatly loved, and long remembered.

25 Catherine of Alexandria – patron saint of young girls and nurses

Catherine is thought to have been a noble girl who lived in the 4th century. She was persecuted for her Christianity, and despised marriage with the Emperor because she was a ‘bride of Christ’. According to the legend, Catherine was no push-over intellectually, either: she disputed successfully with 50 philosophers who were called in to convince her of the errors of Christianity.

Catherine protested against the persecution of Christians by Maxentius, and then she herself was tortured: broken on a wheel (later called Catherine wheel), but the machine then broke down itself, injuring bystanders. Catherine was then beheaded.

This legend strongly appealed to the Middle Age imagination. Catherine became the patron of young girls, students, philosophers, nurses and craftsmen such as wheelwrights, spinners and millers.

In England 62 churches were dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name. ‘Lives’, poems, miracle plays, stained-glass windows, panels and paintings have all been done in Catherine’s honour.

30 Andrew (d. c.60) – patron saint of Scotland

The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matt 4:18,19)

Without more ado, they obeyed. “At once they left their nets and followed him.” The story is touching for the simple but total faith which they had in Jesus.

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew’s name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people. It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his ‘fishing for men’ seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred.

Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus.

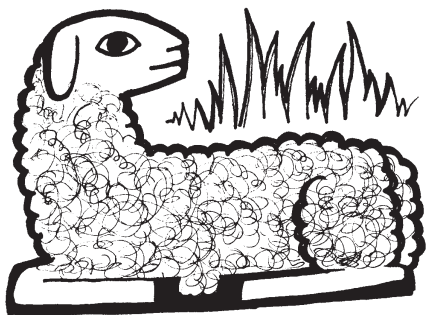
Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

In the West, Andrew's feast-day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland?

Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelisation and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461 – where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peters - until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.



POPPIES

Poppies flower in the summer, don't they? So why poppies in November? You will see them everywhere in the next week or so, and everyone from the smallest Rainbow or Beaver to the Queen will be wearing a poppy on Remembrance Sunday.

We wear poppies because, among all the mud and chaos of the battlefields of the Great War, men were amazed to see the humble field flower of home spring up where the earth was disturbed – a blood red splash of colour in a sea of khaki.

When the British Legion started an appeal to help those whose bodies or minds had been smashed by war, the poppy seemed an ideal symbol. And even now, when World War I and II seem so far away, our troops are fighting, being wounded and dying; reminding us that the poppy is also a symbol of sacrifice.

PRINT A POPPY

How? Well the answer lies in your own hands. You will need a white paper plate, red and black finger or poster paint and two margarine lids or saucers to put the paint on. Put some newspaper on the table and start. Squeeze some red paint onto one lid or saucer and put black paint on the other one. Put your thumb into the red paint and use it to make 5 overlapping petals in a circle on the edge of your plate. Put your index finger into the black paint and use it to stamp a centre for your poppy.

Continue printing poppies all round the edge of your plate to make a wreath. Leave it to dry and then you can write 'Lest We Forget' or 'Remembrance' in the middle of the plate. You could hang the plate in your front window to share with others.



Barbara's Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.

We need you!

NEXT DATE:

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Jane Woodman



Crossword solutions

November answers

ACROSS: 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma. 12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop. 18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.

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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 December issue of the parish
magazine is Sunday November 15th 2015**

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

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

**Please send digital files via email if at all possible and please
make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!**



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