

New Leaves June 2016

Salvation



Last month I suggested in the magazine that Christians need to be careful what we say, because many (maybe most) other people don't speak our language. We use lots of words that are familiar to us, but we don't ask what they mean to other people. We assume that every one else knows what they mean, but maybe we are not a hundred percent sure ourselves.

Salvation is a very good example. It goes along with "being saved" by Jesus "our Saviour". These are words that take on different meanings according to our world view. Many Christian people and many people who do not call themselves Christian assume that "salvation" exists

within the context of a “heaven and hell” belief system. This system suggests that all of us have “sinned” (I wrote about sin last time) and deserve to be punished, as if in a human judicial system. God’s punishment is to send offenders to hell, where they will be punished in miserable ways for ever. However if we believe in Jesus we can be “saved from our sins”, and be granted a place in heaven.

Most people in our society no longer believe in hell as an actual place, but generations of Christians worried about whether they had really been saved.

This understanding is widespread not only among the many who affirm it, but also among many who have misgivings about it or reject it. The heaven/hell framework affects the way significant Christian words are interpreted, although words like “salvation” may have started out with quite a different meaning. In the Bible salvation is rarely about an afterlife. Rather it is about transformation this side of death. Change in individuals and societies, change in physical, spiritual or social circumstances.

The people of Israel were rescued from slavery in Egypt by God their Saviour, long before the Bible made any mention of an afterlife. The story tells of their entry into a new way of life together, the covenant with God and the search for a homeland. In the long struggle against slavery in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the story of the ancient Israelites became an inspiration. The slaves in the American south were not just anticipating heaven, they were hoping for salvation in this life, and eventually it happened.

The gospels contain many stories of Jesus healing people from a variety of physical conditions and mental illness. Others are saved from a self-destructive way of life, greed, violence or prostitution. This is salvation as healing the wounds of life. Indeed the English word salvation comes from the same origin as “salve” a healing ointment. When the Good Samaritan rescues the wounded traveller lying by the side of the road, he stops, pours soothing oil into the wounds and binds them up.

So salvation comes in many forms, and we can all think of ways in which we have been rescued, given a new start or healed by the generosity and skill of other people or by coming into a healing relationship with God. It’s not about a reward for believing the right things, but an outpouring of generous love by a healing God.

I’m sure many of you have trouble reconciling a God of love with the eternal reward/punishment scenario of the heaven/hell system. There is another way of understanding the word “salvation”, and not only does it better reflect the God of love, it’s actually more Biblical.

Tom Honey

St David's Eucharist June		
June 05 : 2nd Sunday after Trinity		
Reading 1	1 Kings 17: 17-end	Geoff Crockett
Reading 2	Galatians 1: 11-end	Stephanie Hills
Gospel	Luke 7: 11-17	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson
Junior Church:		
June 12 : St Barnabas the Apostle		
Reading 1	Job 9: 11-16	Clive Wilson
Reading 2	Acts 11: 19-end	Gina Redman
Gospel	John 15: 12-17	
Time of prayer		Jeanie Honey
<i>No Junior Church:</i>		
June 19 : 4th Sunday after Trinity <i>Family Service</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
Junior Church:		
June 26 : 5th Sunday after Trinity		
Reading 1	1 Kings 19: 15,16, 19-21	Lawrence Sail
Reading 2	Galatians 5: 1, 13-25	Jan Earle
Gospel	Luke 9: 51-end	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church:		
July 3 : Thomas the Apostle		
Reading 1	Habakkuk 2: 1-4	Jenny Baker
Reading 2	Ephesians 2: 19-end	Alan Baker
Gospel	John 20: 24-29	
Time of prayer		Ian Cartwright

June from St Michael's

With all the concern over junior doctors and the Health Service, it was interesting to hear, in a recent St Michael's Lecture, Bishop Sarah address the relationship between the Church and health. Clearly there is more to be concerned about than pay and hours worked.

Professionalism and practical application of knowledge and experience matter, as well as the 'bed-side manner', are all aspects of practising medicine so that those who are unwell can be given the opportunity to become well. This is a thorny problem; we live in a society that has dissociated itself from sickness: we inoculate our children, we take medication to relieve symptoms, we can elect to have surgery to improve conditions that distress us, we can even be voyeurs of other people's dilemmas via television programmes, should we wish. Even dying, that natural end to our lives, has become an illness, tended to in hospital wards. Hospital dramas are the stuff of entertainment, though there's little 'real' medicine going on. These suggest that cures are, in the main, quick and complete. Eventually I gave up on 'Casualty' and 'Holby City' because the focus seemed to be more on the fragile relationships between the staff rather than the work of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. It can't be easy to deal with a serious issue in just under an hour, so of necessity story-lines, whilst raising questions, must seem a bit superficial and threads cannot be spun out over too many episodes. Progress in medical science has given us previously un-dreamt of chances to live good lives. It's too vast a field from which to give

adequate examples, but perhaps one area should attract our attention: the provision of prosthetic limbs and other mobility aids, such as will be used in the Invictus Games, showing a transformation of lives from probable disaster to positive courage and success. Not so long ago, the Paralympics was seen to be gross; disfigured and disabled athletes had to fight hard to have their achievements recognised – even amongst themselves – and celebrate their successes.

‘Wellness’ refers to all aspects of life, physical, psychological, mental and spiritual; it was Julian of Norwich who reassured us that ‘all shall be well’ in the sense of wholeness or being fulfilled, or enjoying that wellness which is part of the promise of God. From some people that sense emanates and transfers itself to others who feel comfortable in and comforted by the presence of such a calm and peaceful spirit.

At Evening Prayer, we confess our faults and admit that ‘there is no health in us’. We ask God to have mercy and restore us to a right relationship with him, and that seems to me to be what health is. People are sometimes disappointed that prayers for the sick don’t ‘work’ if there is not a complete cure; my understanding of the purpose of such prayers is to hold the person and the family before God so that a difficult and distressing time can be infused with strength, courage, understanding, peace of mind and love. Sometimes a miracle may happen. I believe that some of the achievements of modern medicine are miracles in that they can transform lives. Some time ago I read of the mother of a child born profoundly deaf who claimed that the invention of cochlear implants was just such a miracle. For religious people, these developments can be like signposts on the route directing us towards God. What we mean by miracles is an extraordinarily lengthy discussion; that lives are changed beyond common expectation and a new horizon is presented could be a very short description.

Recently we celebrated Rogation Sunday, one of the few congregations, according to The Venerable David Gunn-Johnson, to do so. This was another, a sideways, look at health, the health of the world. The intention of the celebration is to remind us of our partnership with God in Creation, taking the responsibility of caring for ('having dominion over', as the King James Version puts it) the world in which we live. I mentioned last time that our spiritual calendar gives structure to the year; here was a clear reminder, because Rogation looks at the preparation and planting leading to the harvest. Nowadays, we include the harvest of the seas and of industry, all complex areas of human endeavour in which witness should bring about well-being and wealth, and not just of a monetary kind.

Our spiritual health can be restored by the touch of Christ (See Hymn 115 in The New English Hymnal) and in recognising that need we are like the disciples who were bewildered by the departure of their Lord from their sight. Surprised by His appearances after the Resurrection, perhaps they were beginning to expect Him to stay. There had to be a clear moment of separation, and so they were left in Jerusalem, not knowing what to expect but awaiting the Comforter, the Paraclete, the One who would be alongside them in all their lives. One could say that at that moment their lives were in disarray, incomplete, without health. The fullness, the completeness, the wellness, could only happen when the Holy Spirit would be sent to teach them 'everything'. We can see, then, that true health is more than recovering from indisposition. It offers a very different outlook on daily events and activity; it shows a sense of the eternal, with God, the Health of the nations, at its core. We should no longer be 'gazing up into Heaven', expecting something to arrive, but be getting on with growing a healthy life in God through faith and prayer, making 'spiritual truths into visible truths'.

Thus through the long weeks from Pentecost to Advent we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ and at the same time be witnesses in the world to the great and magnificent way in which God moves.

Stephanie Aplin

Music & Events at St Michael's – June 2016

By the time this is published, we hope our 2 Peregrine chicks will be well on the way to fledging mid-June, watch them online.

Although May had all the spring Festivals of Rogation, Ascension, Pride, Pentecost, Trinity & Corpus Christi, June still has plenty to interest, despite being what the Church now calls Ordinary Time, so we hope to see you at St Michael's.





At **6pm each Tuesday and Thursday**, there is Plainsong Vespers & Meditation, though on Thurs 9 June there will be a CBS Mass for St Columba of Iona.

We hope you celebrated Corpus Christi with us on **Thurs 26 May at 7.30pm**. Sung Mass with Procession, witnessing to the presence of God's Love in the world.

Likewise **Friday 27 May at 7.30pm**, when we were privileged to welcome Professor Nicholas Orme, to distil his extensive knowledge of Church History in a lecture in memory of Canon John Thurmer, entitled "A Brief History of England's Cathedrals."

Sun 29 May Trinity I, 10.45am. Mass for 3 voices, by William Byrd.
Motet: Si iniquitates observaveris, by Samuel Wesley.

Sun 5 June Trinity II, 10.45am. Missa l'Hora Passa, by Viadana. Motet: Litany to the Holy Spirit, by Hurford; Sweet Spirit, comfort me, by Herrick.

June 5th is the Feast Day of St Boniface, a true European, born c.675 in Crediton (possibly), studied in Exeter, worked as missionary and bishop in what is now northern Germany, martyred in 754 at Dokkum in the Netherlands, and buried in Fulda. In Aug 2012 St Michael's Choir visited and sang in the splendid baroque cathedral which now covers his shrine.

Sun 5 June 6pm Evensong & Benediction – Sumsion Responses, Brewer in D Canticles.

Thurs 9 June 6pm, CBS Mass for St Columba of Iona. All welcome.

Thurs 9 June at 7.30pm in Exeter Cathedral. If you missed Bp Sarah Mullally's St Michael's Lecture "Should the Church be involved in the Health of our Communities?", you can hear her address the same subject.

Sat 11 June, kicking off at 7pm, UPLOAD at Exeter Cathedral, for young people 14-25 who don't do church - live bands, skate park, big screen gaming, sumo wrestling, giant inflatables and prayer!

Sun 12 June Trinity III, Music Sunday 10.45am. Introit: Cantate Domino, Pitoni. Setting: Missa Sancti Nicolai, Mass in G major by F J Haydn. Motet: 8-part Jubilate Deo (Psalm 100) by Giovanni Gabrieli.

Thurs 16th – St Richard of Chichester, 1253, famous for the Prayer - "Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, For all the benefits Thou hast given me, For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, May I know Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly, Follow Thee more nearly" - better known in the 1970s as the song "Day by day" from the Stephen Schwartz musical Godspell.

Sun 19 June Trinity IV, 10.45am. Missa Aeterna Christi Munera. Motet: Sicut Cervus, both by Palestrina.

Sun 19 June at 4pm, Afternoon Tea and Concert with The Exeter Chorale. Please join us for a generous helping of mainly Victorian vocal and organ music, served with home-made cakes, tea or coffee. All for £8 (£5 for Mount Dinham residents and students, children free). The programme will feature a Te Deum composed by HRH Prince Albert,

Ave Maria by Mendelssohn, The Lost Chord, and much more!

Wed 22 June 7.30pm St Michael's Lectures are delighted to welcome back Dr Karen O'Donnell, former research student here, now Research Fellow at Durham University, working in Digital Theology and ministry training, to talk on the topic "Help for Heroes: PTSD, Warrior Recovery and the Church."

Sun 26 June Trinity V, 10.45am. Mass in C&F. Motet: Beati Quorum Via, both by CVStanford.

Mon 27 June 7.30pm at St Michael's, a Concert by the Fisher Consort, a group of recent Cambridge graduates starting out on their musical careers. Please support.

Mon 27 June is also the 152nd anniversary of the death of John Dinham, tea merchant, philanthropist and developer of Mt Dinham.

Wed 29 June is the 2nd anniversary of the death of Revd Dr John Hughes.

Sunday 3 July at 6pm, we will have our normal 1st Sunday Evensong & Benediction.

Please see <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/> and https://twitter.com/StMikes_Exeter for latest news.

Richard Barnes

YMCA EXETER

YMCA

Devon's Big Cream Tea!

Date Thursday 30th June, 2016
Time 2pm - 4pm
Place Mulberry Tree Cafe, Exeter Community Centre
R.S.V.P 01392 410530 or
hilary.bush@ymcaexeter.org.uk

YMCA Exeter support over 1000 young people each year in their time of need. Join us at our Devon Big Cream Tea and help us create positive opportunities for young people across Devon to reach their full potential.

There will be a suggested donation of £3.
www.ymcaexeter.org.uk
01392 410530

YMCA Exeter Housing Charity Number: 803226
YMCA Exeter Community Projects Charity Number: 250197



‘Devon’s Big Cream Tea’

Thursday 30th June 2 – 4pm

Mulberry Tree Café and Gardens

Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David’s Hill, Exeter

You are invited to join us at our ‘Devon’s Big Cream Tea’ supporting our work with over 1000 young people every year, equipping them with the tools they need to achieve economic independence, to thrive and to contribute positively to society.

In the beautiful sunny gardens behind the Community Centre we and our supporters, The Mulberry Tree Café, are hosting the launch for ‘Devon’s Big Cream Tea’. For a suggested donation of £3.00 we will be serving delicious home-made scones with jam and local cream and a fresh cup of tea or coffee.

We will be encouraging supporters to then host a ‘Devon’s Big Cream Tea’ of their own. We will supply a fundraising pack full of recipes, ideas and colourful decorations and together we will build on our support to those who need it most:

- £18 pays for a professional one-to-one support session
- £25 buys a brand new interview outfit
- £50 enables a young person to attend a healthy eating cooking course

Please RSVP by 23rd June to Hilary Bush on 01392 410530 or email hilary.bush@ymcaexeter.org.uk and we look forward to sharing ‘Devon’s Big Cream Tea’ with you.

Best Wishes

Hilary Bush

YMCA Fundraising and Community Relations Officer

ST MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2016

7.30pm Weds 24th Feb

**Christ and Mental Illness:
Confronting Saneism in
Society with a Crown of
Thorns**

Br Michael Jerome

7.30pm Weds 20th Jul

**Eastern Orthodoxy, the 'Great
and Holy Council,' and the
Challenge of Religious
Plurality**

Dr Brandon Gallagher

7.30pm Weds 16th Mar

**What could the Aftermath of
the Anglican Primates'
Gathering mean for the
Future of the Anglican
Communion?**

The Reverend Dr
Barry Norris

7.30pm Weds 28th Sept

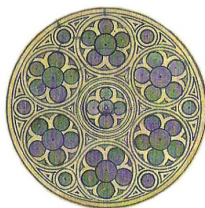
**Ethnicity, Race and Religion
in early Christian and Jewish
Texts and Modern Biblical
Scholarship: Critical
Reflections on the
Christian West**

Professor David Horrell

7.30pm Weds 27th Apr

**Should the Church be
involved in the Health
of our Communities?**

The Right Reverend Dame
Sarah Mullally



7.30pm Weds 26th Oct

**Deliverance Ministry
(Exorcism) in the
Church of England**

(The Revd Fr) John Underhill

JOHN THURMER MEMORIAL LECTURE

7.30pm Friday 27th May

**A Short History of England's
Cathedrals**

Professor Nicholas Orme

7.30pm Weds 30th Nov

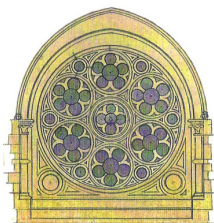
Theology and Vegetarianism

Dr Matthew Barton

7.30pm Weds 22nd Jun

**Help for Heroes:
PTSD, Warrior
Recovery, and the
Church**

Dr Karen O'Donnell



**A warm welcome to our
free public lectures.
Followed by discussion and
light refreshments. Please
contact us to arrange
wheelchair access.**

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Directed by Dr Nigel Browne

P R E S E N T S

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With a generous helping of mainly
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Including:

Sir Arthur Sullivan: The Lost Chord

Albert Ketèlbey: In a Monastery Garden

HRH Prince Albert the Prince Consort: Te Deum

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy: Ave Maria

César Franck: Prelude, Fugue and Variation, Op.18

Plus works by Mozart, Balbi, Croce, F. Lassus, F. Hummel, W.Vinnicombe

Mr. John Draisey - Organ

Miss Estella Browne - Horn

Sunday 19th June at 4pm

St. Michael's Church, Dinham Road

Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

Home-made cakes, tea and coffee

All this for £8

Concession £5 for Mount Dinham residents and students. Children free.

<http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk>

Parish Socials 2016

Sign up sheets will be available in church - *all are welcome!*

Sunday 12th June after 9.30 service Strawberry picking, short walk and picnic	Feniton
Friday 1st July - evening Kayaking	Exeter Quay
Saturday 5th August - evening Beach Games and BBQ	Budleigh Beach
26th - 29th August Greenbelt	https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/boxoffice/



Hello everyone

Our new date for **CALL MY BLUFF** is :

Wednesday June 15th

St Thomas's Church Hall

6.30

Cheese and Wine and conviviality !

£9

Tickets on sale next week in church

Friends are most welcome

From your planners:

Mary

Ann

Helena

Mollie

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who enjoys our events, but does not have the internet, or send us their e mail address.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you

Mary Ann Helena Emma Mollie

#ThyKingdomCome –

Exeter Cathedral's Pentecost Beacon Event.

“In response to the Archbishops’ Call to pray for the evangelisation of our nation, over 200 people from the parishes of the Diocese of Exeter joined in prayer at Exeter Cathedral on Pentecost evening. In worship enriched by music from the University of Exeter’s Chapel choir we were invited to journey around the Cathedral, praying reflectively and interactively using a variety of specially created prayer spaces.”

Moved by the Spirit, at the last moment I decided to make the short pilgrimage up to the Cathedral to represent St Mike’s and become part of our Archbishops’ great Wave of Prayer as it rippled into Exeter. With their resources and experience from “Holy Ground”, Canon Anna and the team at the Cathedral know how to make a good job of this sort of interactive alternative worship event. Spotting the big screen I found a seat near the front, but font size, projection and synchronisation were all good.

In contrast to Beacon Events elsewhere, there was no big name Speaker, just a sensitive welcome and blessing from Bishop Robert, no over-amplified music group, just the University Chapel Choir singing traditional and Taize with occasional obbligato woodwind; beautiful setting of Veni Sancte Spiritus.

The 4-minute multi-media meditation on “Breath” was very effective and can be found on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRLbyCBk5p0> Fine for those from a liturgical background,

but may have worried our more word-based brethren, or overwhelmed someone on the autistic spectrum. The imagery of the Intercessions, fire, floodtide, lifegiver, was vivid but sensitive given recent natural and man-made disasters.

Then came half-an-hour to use the experimental prayer spaces created around our vast and beautiful Cathedral. All rather “Beaker Folk” with plenty of tea-lights, fairy-lights, post-it notes, fish to cut out and net, salt, bricks and pebbles. Outside the Dean was incensing those who trod the labyrinth. In support of the non-neurotypical, I placed my pebble in a different part of the brick outlined Church from all the others. Many of the side chapels used were not readily wheelchair accessible.

UPLOAD, the youth Church event which the Cathedral is hosting in June for 14-25 year olds was also advertising. An earnest young girl suggested I might take a card to pray for 5 people; I probably pray for a hundred, living and departed, every day. A serious youth worker may have understood that making Jesus loud, ‘cool’ and challenging, may not be the kind of Gospel that attracts every young person.

We gathered again for a message from the ABC encouraging us to use the Lord’s Prayer more deeply as a spur to evangelism. I confess I sometimes find Justin Welby a difficult person to like. His Christian journey which he pushes; messy, unbelieving childhood, sudden conversion, blessed abundant adult life, is the opposite to mine; a blessed Christian upbringing, evolving commitment, messy adulthood, sometimes feeling short-changed by God, but persevering.

We moved gently into the responses for Compline, checked which ver-

sion it was and prayed the Lord's Prayer together a little more carefully than usual, agreed with our neighbours that it had been a wonderful evening of renewal, and went out hoping that the loving Spirit of the living God might break, melt, mould and fill us, and more of His peace and purpose might settle on the people of Exeter.

Richard Barnes

The Prayer Book Society

As Secretary of the Exeter Branch of The Prayer Book Society, I was approached by a member of St Michael's who indicated that St Michael's might contemplate becoming a corporate member of the Society and consequently I was asked to do a write up regarding the Society for "New Leaves" and the reasons for joining.

The main reason for becoming a Corporate Member of the PBS is that your church wants to lend it's moral and financial support to the work of the PBS and to be identified with it.

a) The PBS seeks to spread knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer, and to promote it for worship and doctrine.

b) To encourage the use of the BCP for the training of clergy and ordinands at Theological Colleges and other similar institutions also at schools and colleges and for the training of candidates for Confirmation.

c) Spreading knowledge of the BCP and the doctrine contained therein.

d) Ensuring that the Society's views are effectively represented in synods and councils and among the clergy and laity at large.

As a Corporate Member, your church will receive the following benefits:-

a) You will be sent 3 copies of the Society's regular publications, the PBS Journal and Faith & Worship, for distribution within your church.

b) You will receive invitations to national and local events which may be of interest to members of your church.

c) Your church will have the right to nominate a representative with full voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The suggested annual Subscription is £50.00 but the Society does not

have a fixed minimum subscription. It values your support and welcomes membership paying a lesser subscription as they feel able.

The suggested annual Subscription for an individual or household is £28.00. but again, is flexible.

I hope this information will prove fruitful.

Esme Heath

Mount Dinham Almshouses

More than 150 years after they were built, the future of 44 historic alms houses in the centre of Exeter is secured as a multi-million pound restoration project reaches the halfway point.

Now in the care of Cornerstone, Exeter's largest independent social housing provider, 20 of the almshouses at Mount Dinham have been fully and extensively refurbished with work already well underway on the next block of four houses.

Built in 1862 by Exeter philanthropist John Dinham, the cottages were intended to provide decent housing for the elderly people of the city. In recent years it became apparent that millions of pounds would need to be spent overcoming damp, dry rot, poor insulation, old wiring and other issues.

Cornerstone signed a 125-year lease with the Mount Dinham Cottage Trust in 2012, following consultation with residents and in-depth discussions with the Charity Commission and the Almshouses Association.

The refurbishment scheme, costing £5million, has received grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Cornerstone, which provides 1300 affordable homes for rent and shared ownership across Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge is using its own labour force on the Mount Dinham project, working alongside specialist stonemasons.

Work to date has included removing dry rot and old staircases, fitting new roof tiles, replastering and taking out old dormer windows.

All of the refurbished homes feature brand new bathrooms and kitchens as well as ground floor extensions to provide more living space.

Rick Williams, chief executive of Cornerstone, said: “This major project is vital to ensuring the future of these historic and much-loved Exeter homes. As the custodians of the Mount Dinham cottages Cornerstone is determined to make sure they will continue to provide decent housing for the older people of the city for generations to come.

”Having now reached the half-way mark at Mount Dinham, and as Cornerstone itself marks its 90th year serving the people of Exeter and its surrounding communities, it’s a fitting moment to reflect on the success of the scheme so far.”

Cornerstone has been providing affordable homes for the people of Exeter and surrounding districts since it was originally founded as the Exeter Workmen’s Dwelling Company in 1926. Today it is a not-for-profit, charitable housing association.

Eileen Bedford has lived at Mount Dinham for more than 10 years and her home was one of four renovated in the first phase of the project. Mrs Bedford was temporarily moved to another cottage whilst her own was refurbished. She said: “The architect has been brilliant and what they have achieved is absolutely marvellous. Since I’ve had my new kitchen I’ve been doing so much more like cooking for the soup evenings

at our local church. I feel so lucky to live in such a wonderful space. It's a real oasis of calm and so close to the city centre."

Fellow resident Barbara Carver said: "I'm over the moon with the transformation of my house. I'd lived there for 13 years and it had got to the point where it really needed some work. I had to move out for a year and two months while they did all of the building work. They've put in a very superior kitchen, new doors and skirting and decorated throughout. It's absolutely marvellous.

"There's a real sense of community here and I know that my neighbours on both sides are thrilled with what's been done here."

Linda Kingdon, chair of the Mount Dinham Cottage Trust, said: "We are incredibly impressed with the way that Cornerstone have gone about the task of bringing these homes up to 21st century standards. When we signed the lease with them in 2012 we were confident that they would rise to the challenge and I have to say they haven't let us down in any way.

"I'm sure John Dinham would be proud of what has been achieved and pleased that his legacy to the city of Exeter will live on for many years to come, thanks to the care, skill and dedication of the people at Cornerstone."

This article appeared in the Express and Echo online:

<http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/Multi-million-revamp-Exeter-s-historic-alms-houses/story-29282173-detail/story.html>

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

Read any good books lately?

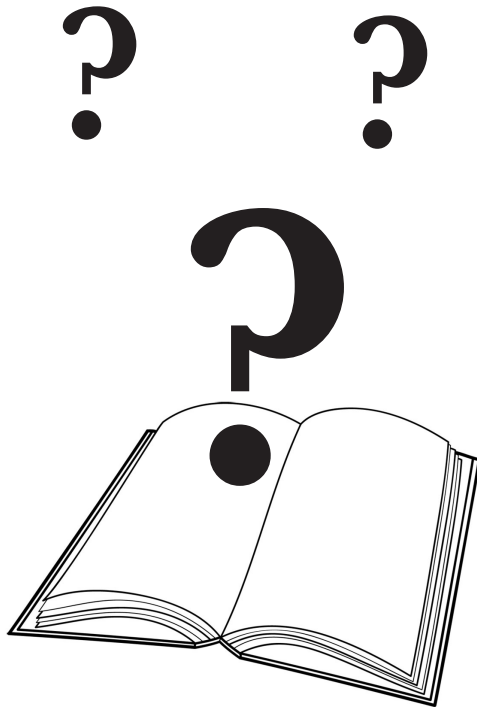
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

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.



The Wind

I saw you toss the kites on high
And blow the birds about the sky;
And all around I heard you pass,
Like ladies' skirts across the grass--
 O wind, a-blowing all day long,
 O wind, that sings so loud a song!

I saw the different things you did,
But always you yourself you hid.
I felt you push, I heard you call,
I could not see yourself at all--
 O wind, a-blowing all day long,
 O wind, that sings so loud a song!

O you that are so strong and cold,
O blower, are you young or old?
Are you a beast of field and tree,
Or just a stronger child than me?
 O wind, a-blowing all day long,
 O wind, that sings so loud a song!

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

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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Exeter

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Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Hood

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



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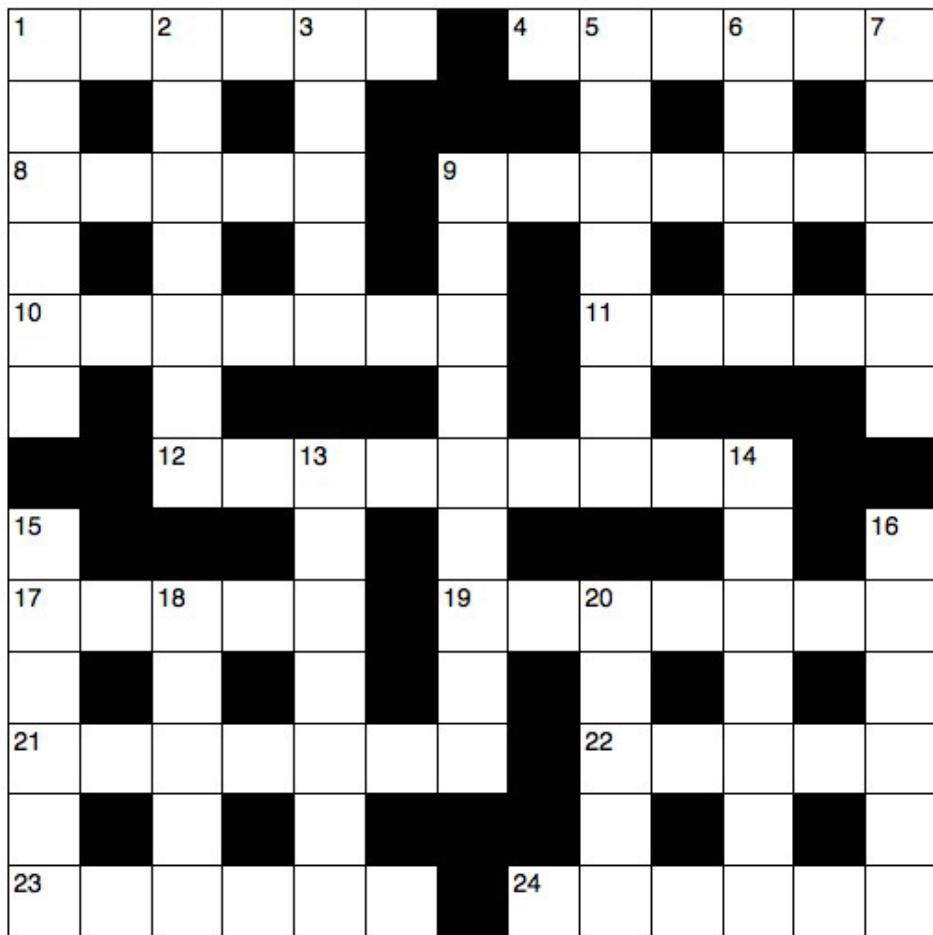
"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"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."

June crossword



Across:

1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)

4 Place of learning (6)

8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)

9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)

- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down:

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

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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 Justin Martyr (c. 100 – 165) - first ever Christian philosopher

Justin Martyr is regarded as the first ever Christian philosopher. He was born at Nablus, Samaria, of parents of Greek origin, and was well educated in rhetoric, poetry and history before he turned to philosophy. He studied at Ephesus and Alexandria and tried the schools of the Stoics, the Pythagoreans, and the Platonists. Then in c 130 Justin became a Christian, and never looked back. His long search for truth was satisfied by the Bible, and above all by Christ, the Word of God.

This apologist and martyr is known as the most important early ‘apologist’. He went on to offer a reasoned defence for Christianity, explaining that it was the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Justin’s aim was evangelism: he thought that pagans would turn to Christianity if they were made aware of Christian doctrine and practice.

Justin’s martyrdom took place in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, along with six other believers. At his trial, whose authentic record survives, he clearly confessed his Christian beliefs, refused to sacrifice to the gods, and accepted suffering and death. As he had previously said to the emperor: “You can kill us, but not hurt us.”

3 The Martyrs of Uganda

The Ugandan Church had dozens of martyrs within just ten years of Christianity arriving there. At first, it had gone so well: the first Anglican missionaries arriving in Uganda in 1877 were welcomed by the Kabaka (king) of Buganda, Mutesa. Mutesa also welcomed the Roman Catholics and Muslim Arabs, and, being a natural diplomat, retained his power by cleverly playing off the three groups against each other.

His son, Mwanga II, who became king about 1883, was very different. Mwanga II wanted to retain absolute power, and deeply resented the missionaries and new converts, whom he felt were giving their allegiance to Christianity, instead.

And so it was that on 31 January 1885 he ordered the execution of Yusufu (Joseph) Rugarama, Makko (Mark) Kakumba, and Nuwa (Noah) Serwanga. That October, even the Anglican Bishop, James Hannington, was murdered.

When Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe, a senior advisor to the king and a Catholic convert, condemned Mwanga for ordering Hannington's death, Mwanga had him arrested. Mukasa became the first Catholic martyr on 15th November 1885, when he was beheaded at Nakivubo.

Between December of 1885 and May of 1886 many more converts were murdered. The crisis came in May, when Mwanga ordered all the converts to choose between Christianity and complete obedience to his orders. (Mwanga had been furious and humiliated when the Christian pages in his own court refused his homosexual advances; it was unheard

of to deny the king anything.)

Courageously, the young Christians chose their faith. And so it was that 26 pages were wrapped in straw and burned to death at Namugongo on 3rd June, 1886. In the following months, many other Christians throughout the country died by spear or fire for their faith. They included two Christians who were in the king's court, Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe and Charles Lwanga. Both had rescued royal pages from Mwanga's sexual advances.

The last Christian to die in this persecution was Jean-Marie Muzeeyi, beheaded at Mengo on 27th January 1887. The final list of 45 known Protestant and Catholic martyrs includes only those who could be formally accounted for.

The end result of the Namugongo martyrdoms was directly opposite to Mwanga's intentions. The sight of these young Ugandan Christians, who could die singing hymns and praying for their enemies, inspired many bystanders. They wanted to know about such a faith as this. Within a few years Christianity had taken firm root in Uganda.

11 Barnabas – Paul’s first missionary companion

Are you going to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the early church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, ‘Son of Encouragement’.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to ‘set aside’ Barnabas and Paul, and send them out on the church’s first ever ‘missionary journey’. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

15 Evelyn Underhill – mystical writer of the 20th century

For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin. She died 75 years ago this month (10th June 1941) after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of the first woman theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went,

until in 1921 she became an Anglican - with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counseling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of “abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the ‘still desert’ of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation”. Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, *Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man’s Spiritual Consciousness*, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist.

22 Alban – helping a stranger in need

Alban should be the patron saint of anyone who impulsively offers to help a stranger in need... and finds their own life turned upside down as a result.

The story goes that Alban was a Roman citizen quietly living in England in the third century. Then, miles away in Rome, the emperor, Diocletian ordered a persecution of the Christians. Nothing to do with Alban... except that suddenly he found a desperate priest on his doorstep, being hunted down by local soldiers. Alban decided to give the priest shelter, and within days was converted to Christianity himself, and then baptised.

As if this was not brave enough, when the soldiers arrived, Alban decided to take the priest's place. He dressed up in the priest's clothes to enable the priest to escape. Not surprisingly, the soldiers then arrested Alban himself. Now a Christian, Alban refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and so was condemned to death.

But the story doesn't end there, for Alban went to his execution with such holiness and serenity that one of the executioners was converted, and the other executioner's eyes fell out (or so the story goes). Alban was buried nearby, and the shrine built to his memory was soon known for its healing powers. Alban's cult extended all over England, and nine ancient English churches were dedicated to him.

24 John the Baptist – preparing the way for the Messiah

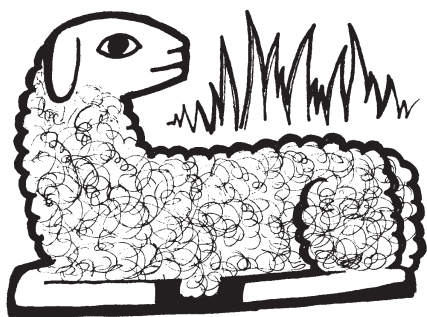
John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman.

He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and his Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request.

When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.



THE SAINT & THE MONSTER

St Columba, whose feast day is 9th June, was born in Ireland and came to Scotland to be a 'pilgrim for Christ'. He founded a monastery on the island of Iona in 563.

The monastery at Iona became a centre of learning and many missionaries were trained there.

Columba carried the message of God's love through-out Scotland and monks from his monastery carried the message into England.

St Columba wrote a number of hymns and is said to have transcribed, or written out by hand, some 300 books in his lifetime.

And what has he got to do with a monster? Well, it wasn't the Loch Ness monster but a monster that

was living in the River Ness. St Columba is said to have driven away this monster who was attacking a swimmer, with the sign of the cross and the words "Thou shalt go no further, nor touch the man; go back with all speed."

MONSTER MUNCHIES

75 g (3 oz) margarine

3 normal size Mars Bars

(thinly sliced)

3 large tea cups Rice Crispies

100 g (4 oz) chocolate cake

covering (melted)

Grease and line a swiss roll tin. In a heavy based saucepan, gently melt the margarine. Add the Mars Bar pieces and stir until no lumps are left.

Take the pan off the heat and stir in the Rice Crispies – adding more if the mixture will take it. Spread the mixture in the tin and press it down evenly with the back of a spoon.

Cover with the melted chocolate and leave to set. Cut into 24 bars when cold – or cut into less bars if you are feeding a very greedy monster!

Crossword solutions

June answers

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

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**The deadline for inclusion of articles for
the July issue of New Leaves is
Sunday June 19th 2016**

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.

