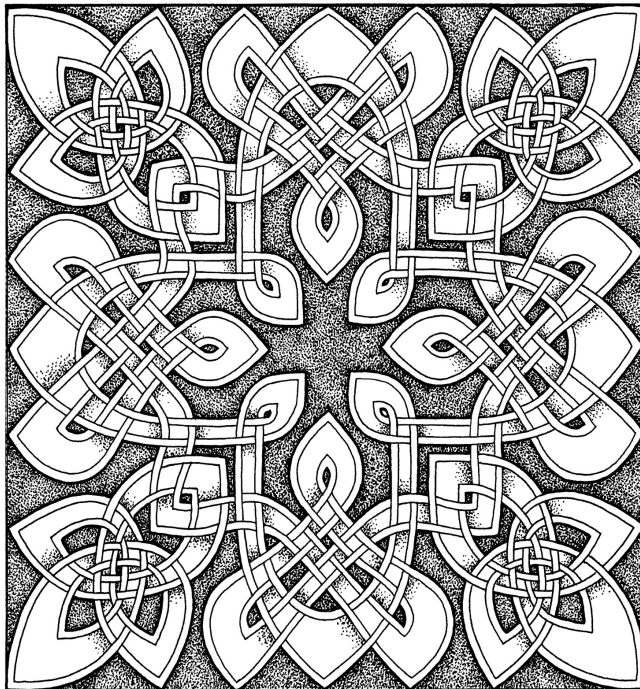


# New Leaves

June 2017



**Parish Magazine  
of St David with  
St Michael and  
All Angels,  
Exeter**

*50p*

<b>Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory (June 2017)</b>
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<b>St. David's <a href="http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk">www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk</a></b>
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Church Bookings	Mary Quest	07792 062 403
Readers & Time of Prayer	Avril Pattinson	860 880

<b>St Michael's <a href="http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk">www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk</a></b>
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# WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the  
magazine for the Parish of St David’s with St.  
Michael and All Angels.

The Parish extends a warm welcome to all visiting clergy during the  
interregnum

**The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate  
articles which reflect Church, Parish or Community interest**

**Please send as Word documents to:  
[newleavesnews@gmail.com](mailto:newleavesnews@gmail.com)**

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name

Enjoy this month’s read.  
We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by  
Sue Holden, Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

# New Leaves

June 2017

## **Giving with joy, or just giving at all at St. David's**

In preparation for this article, I thought first to consult my extensive theological book shelves for help. Whilst standing in my study, I pulled a few volumes at random and leafed through chapter headings... this book with dog-erred pages I've read with joy... this book with pencil notes in the margin I've clearly loved critiquing... this book with nothing more than a barely broken spine really needs to be read properly... but here, help was not forthcoming. And then I realised - I was searching under "Money" rather than "Discipleship".

On Pentecost (Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>), Trinity Sunday (June 11<sup>th</sup>), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity (June 25<sup>th</sup>), sermons will be preached at the 09:30 Parish Eucharist at St. David's Church on Christian Discipleship. Specifically, on the virtue of giving money regularly, giving legacies, and the giving of time and talents. Co-ordinated by Barbara Allin, a small team have produced some gently helpful leaflets on these aspects of giving. These will be given out, and be made available to all. They will be given out, and you will take them.

For that is the nature of giving, someone must be ready to receive for any gift to have value. When we give away something we are holding, our hands are made free to accept something new from someone new, and a new relationship can develop. This is why giving is a virtue of Christian Discipleship – we are set free by giving. Indeed, we set others free by accepting their gifting. It is the ready sharing of what we have and who we are that is the dynamic image of the Triune God within us as a community.

Yes, sufficient money is usually required to meet our physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs. Yet, as Christian Disciples it is the very knowledge of our neediness that promotes our fasting: we abstain to become hungry. If we are not hungry for God, we will not feed on Him. If we do not sate our needs with His goodness, we will do so with the ultimately desolating idols of our own achievements or fantasies or addictions. If we never feel true hunger, we will never know on what, or on whom, we are feeding.

That is why giving is no optional extra for those who can afford not to notice it. Giving is how we all may live well precisely because we notice its effects. Giving teaches us about God's sovereignty and our ultimate dependence. Giving frees us to receive afresh and thereby keeps relationships alive. Giving is a free expression of Christian Discipleship; it is not a demand but the means of participation in God's reordering of the world.

More than all I have read, it is the very practice of giving that has disciplined my life. The books I have given away have enriched my closest relationships. The money I have given away has enriched the lives of others in unknown ways. The time and talents I give to this parish are a fulfilment of my calling. We are all ready to receive and be fulfilled in our vocations as Christian Disciples only to the extent that we give generously and discern our hunger.

Rev. Christopher (Assistant Curate)



## **Your Church; Your Regular Gift of Money**

O God, our Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for giving us all that we have; help us to give more of ourselves back to you as our response of love, that Your Name may be honoured and your kingdom extended, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## **Your Church; Your gift of time and talents**

Give us, O Lord, the perception we need to look within ourselves and discover the beauty and gifts we possess. Give us courage to show others the talents they have. May we take the time to direct our lives in a way that best uses our unique combination of gifts. Help us serve others in the community and in so doing build up your kingdom. Amen.

## **Your Church; Your Vision; Your Gift; Your Legacy**

Make us ever eager, Lord to share the good things that you give us. Grant us such a measure of your Spirit that we may find more joy in giving than getting. Make us ready to give cheerfully without grudging, secretly without praise, and in sincerity without looking for gratitude. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

# St David's Eucharist     June

## June 4<sup>th</sup> :

Reading 1	Acts 2:1-21	Ann Watts
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Karen Facey
Gospel	John 20:19-23	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church: Helen Sail		

## June 11<sup>th</sup> :

Reading 1	Isaiah 40: 12-17,27-end	Sue Wilson
Reading 2	2 Corinthians 13: 11-end	Clive Wilson
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-end	
Time of prayer		Charles Prosser
Junior Church: Helen Sail		

## June 18<sup>th</sup>: (Family Service)

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		
<i>Family service - No Junior Church</i>		

## June 25<sup>th</sup> :

Reading 1	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Avril Pattinson
Reading 2	Romans 6:1b-11	Mary Kirkland
Gospel	Matthew 10:24-39	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

## July 2<sup>nd</sup> :

Reading 1	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Gabrielle Kirby
Reading 2	Romans 6:12-end	Richard Johnson
Gospel	Matthew 10:40-end	
Time of prayer		Charlotte Townsend
Junior Church: Helen Sail		

# Hard Choices at St Michael's

St Michael's District Church Council, on your behalf, is having to make difficult financial choices. For several years our income has been less than expenditure, the deficit covered by a mixture of legacies, investment income and cashing in reserves.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has given us permission to wind up our last small and medium investment bonds. Hopefully this £16k will help ease us through this year and allow us to pay our Common Fund to the Diocese, which ultimately pays for clergy stipends & training.

After that there is nothing left but the historic Valpy-French Bequest, which cushions us with its investment income.

There is no magic wand to solve our financial problems; we need a mix of

Fund-raising (like the Bountiful Table, Cream Teas, the Raffle etc.),

Economies (but our beautiful church needs heat, light, maintenance, insurance, clergy, altar supplies & music)

and better Stewardship (giving of money as well as time & talents).

## Stewardship



In round figures St Michael's costs about £100 per day to function as a beacon of prayer, worship & service for all who admire it from near or from afar. If you feel able to help, please contact the Treasurer or Chapel Wardens.

Fr Christopher in his prayerful Magazine Article on "Giving at St David's" has thoughtful words we can equally apply here at St



Michael's; with open hands and hearts to give joyfully and generously in response to God's gifts received day by day in this household of faith.

**Richard Barnes, Paula Lewis, Chris Heaven.**



*A sower went out to sow his seed*

*Luke 8:5*

# Many Thanks

With the completion of the Visitation Services by the Archdeacon and the first PCC meeting of the year, it is time to say thank you to those who have served our churches in their various roles.

- The members of the PCC
- The members of Deanery Synod
- Our Churchwarden Avril Pattinson

As a Church warden for the last four years it has been a privilege to work with and have the support of Avril. She has given generously of her time and talents to the whole parish in many visible and quiet ways. Without her advice at the start of my term it would have been very difficult to fulfil my role.

Finally welcome to those who have stepped forward to ensure that we have a full compliment on the PCC and Deanery Synod and to Emma as new Churchwarden.

**Dave Allin**

21.05.2017

*Thank  
You*

# Visitation of the Archdeacon 11th May to Admit new Churchwardens

Several of us from St David's were privileged and delighted to join Emma White and her husband, Alan for the Archdeacon's Visitation to All Saints' Church Kenton when Emma and a number of other new Churchwarden from across the diocese were admitted and welcomed to their new roles. Dave Allin was admitted as Churchwarden a few days earlier at Broadclyst, with other representatives from the parish in attendance.

It was a joyful service and the ancient church was full. The evening was made additionally special by the very warm welcome and hospitality we all received from their congregation. I can certainly recommend the Visitation Service to other church members, particularly sides-persons next year as it is a special service focussed on the role of laity in parishes.



The Archdeacon based his sermon on Luke Chapter 5 when Jesus preached his message to the disciples of them being fishers of men when they cast their nets wide until they were filled with fish and they gave up everything to follow Him. He likened the churchwarden

role to that of a fisherman or woman to identify and then help and encourage others to assist in the day to day running of the church in the name of our Lord.

So be prepared people of St David's! Emma was told by the Archdeacon that she must not try and do everything herself but must catch her fishes to help her! As Emma said to us last Sunday during her address before our service she believes that she has received God's message to serve as a Churchwarden and she is looking to us all to be effective in tending the nets of St David's and St Michael's. She in turn promises to serve with all her heart and soul.

Our love and prayers are with her.

**Cathy Knowles 20/05/17**



# ST DAVID'S BIG BASH! FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY**

**24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**11AM - 6PM**

**@ ST DAVID'S  
CHURCH**



**1.45pm Join our Silent Prayer  
Group for a time of prayer**

**2.45 Join our Bible Study Group  
for half an hour of readings &  
discussion**

**Find out about our Parish Lunch  
Club, Junior Church, Soup  
Evening and the writing Group**

## ***Community Worship***

**5pm - 5.45pm**

***A Service to Celebrate Our  
Community for Everyone***

**Buy a ticket for our Grand Draw**  
**£100 first prize** will be drawn at 3.30pm

**Plant stall** - grab a bargain for your garden

**11am Veitch Lamp Post Trail**  
led by Gina Richards (please sign up)

**11.30am Talk by Jeremy tells the  
story of finding the beautiful  
Victorian window**

**12noon Caradoc Doy - The  
Veitch Nurseries of Exeter and  
Chelsea**

**2.00pm See Roman tile  
discovered during our  
transformation project with  
Jenny Durrant**

**2pm Veitch Lamp Post Trail**  
led by Gina Richards (please sign up)

**Sign up for a tour of our organ**

**Throughout the day talk to John  
Wakley about his carpentry work  
in the church**

## **Refreshments**

**11am – 4pm**

**Tea \* Coffee\* Cool Drinks**

**\*Cake \*Ice Creams\***

*For the full programme of St David's Big Bash! events across the Neighbourhood, pick up a  
print copy from Exeter Community Centre or go to [www.stdavidsevenneighbourhood.org.uk](http://www.stdavidsevenneighbourhood.org.uk)*

Queen's Terrace,  
Exeter EX4 4HR

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



*'We Love Where We Live'*



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## June 2017: from St Michael's

Bishop Martin Shaw had us by the ears a few weeks ago when he suggested that he was the leader of the Agnostics Camp. A bishop? Not sure? What was he doing, teaching other people about faith? Faith is not of any use in the face of certainties; we must nearly all be agnostic, for nothing in this life is certain and we need faith to get us from moment to moment. We need to hear the rumour of God, the disturbing whisper that breaks through in the moments of doubt. After all, unlike other religions, no-one is born a Christian. In the Catholic branch of the Church, a distinct action of commitment is required, usually at baptism and its later fulfilment in confirmation. A Jew is born a Jew; a Muslim is born a Muslim. If one joins Islam later in life, one is said to be 'reverting', not converting, as Islam claims that all people are born Muslim, but don't always recognise it. In the church where (and when) I grew up, unless you were 'Saved', and had no doubts about your faith, the Converting Contingent had you in their sights and did not miss a trick in reminding you that Jesus had died for you, and you ought right now to leave your burden at the foot of the Cross and be suitably both penitent and grateful. For many, faith is that overt and demonstrative; for others it is a matter of quiet and careful contemplation of the love of God and an overwhelming sense of being in that love. It is slow-growing and almost ineffable. It is reinforced by all the trappings of worship: the Liturgy, the music, the calendar of festivals and the order of the year. There is always something new to one's perception as a challenge or reminder of moments lost in the past. The Welsh poet R.S. Thomas described it as a bit like being sure that the Beloved lived in a particular house, having once seen the curtains twitch and a face like that of the Beloved's having been seen. One would therefore frequent the area in the hope of seeing that fleeting glimpse again. Faith is like that, for some believers. It is what keeps us involved with the activity of worship, despite sometimes feeling despair and desolation.

Amy Buller, writing in 'Darkness over Germany' described discussions with von Ribbentrop's people about whether or not theology should be on the political agenda. ('Doing God', in the words of the Blair regime.) It was agreed to eliminate the notions, because, to paraphrase, allegiance to something other than the State means that people cannot be relied on for loyalty to the secular state. In all the vehemence and vile verbal attacks that occur before elections, it may be interesting to consider where our own allegiance lies. Apparently, Werner von Braun, on being told that Adolf Hitler believed in God, said '...it's funny how differently it takes people...'.

Following the Revolution in Russia in 1917, a new iconography was called for. Isn't it interesting, though, that the notion of icons remained? The poster advertising the exhibition at the Royal Academy showed the Rider of the Red Horse, commissioned by the state from an icon writer more used to making Christian icons. All the emphasis in the new art was on the move to manufacture and the abolition of religion – but the rumour of God never died, and nowadays the faith is back, strong and public, with churches being restored and worship returning as an activity demonstrating the love of God and the people's love for God.

We are facing a time of change in both our churches: a new priest will, we pray, soon be joining us, helping us all to move forward in our exploration of faith and making sure that the rumour of God stays with us all, to be spread throughout our daily lives, so that those we meet may well see in us the 'Face of Christ', the title of the Parish Quiet Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Stephanie Aplin.**



# June Events at St Michael's

We hope our 2 Peregrine chicks will be ready to fledge in mid-June, watch them online.

June this year has Lectures, Pentecost, Trinity, & Corpus Christi. Especially please put Sat 24<sup>th</sup> June in you Diaries for the St David's Big Bash across St David's Hill, with a Book Sale, Refreshments, Cream Teas, Music, Heritage & Peregrines at St Michael's!

**Thursday 1 June** at 7.45pm, we are delighted to welcome Dr Bruce Coleman, to distil his wide knowledge of Victorian History in a lecture in memory of Canon John Thurmer, entitled "The Oxford Movement in Church & Society." Please support this event.

**Sun 4 June Pentecost/Whitsunday**, 10.45am. Sung Mass. Wood in F. Litany to the Holy Spirit – Herrick/Hurford.

**Sun 4 June 6pm Evensong & Benediction** – Radcliffe Responses, Psalms 67, 133. Walmisley in D minor. God is a Spirit – Sterndale Bennett.

Also Sun 4 June, starting at 6.30pm, at Exeter Cathedral, the local #ThyKingdomCome Prayer Event hosted by Bishop Sarah with music led by the University Chapel Choir & St Andrew's Cullompton's worship group.

**Sun 11 June Trinity Sunday** 10.45am. Missa 'O quam gloriosum' – Victoria. Benedicta sit Sancta Trinitas – Agazzari.

**Thurs 15 June at 7.30pm, Corpus Christi.** Sung Mass with Procession, witnessing to the presence of Jesus. Byrd 4-part Mass & Ave verum corpus.

**Fri 16 June at 12noon**, Parish Lunch Club at @34 Restaurant, Exeter College, Hele Road, Roast Lunch and chat. Please sign up in one of our churches.

**Sat 17 June at 12 noon**, Erika Borley, our Director of Music, and



Stephen Wagstaff will be celebrating their Wedding. All members of the congregation are warmly invited to attend the service and to stay for cupcakes afterwards.

**Sun 18 June Music Sunday** 10.45am. Missa Brevis 'Laetatus Sum' by Dr Nigel Browne, based on themes from Parry's "I was Glad". Motet: 8-part Jubilate Deo (Psalm 100) by Giovanni Gabrieli.

**Sun 18 June at 4.30pm, Afternoon Tea Concert** with Exeter Chorale. Please join us for a generous helping of music on the theme of "Light", served with home-made cakes, tea or coffee. All for £8 (£5 students, children free).

**Sat 24 June** from 11am-5pm at St Michael's, St David's and venues in between, St David's Neighbourhood Partnership hold the **St David's Big Bash** with all sorts of Events, Stalls, Activities and Refreshments. St Michael's will be hosting a Book Sale & other stalls, and showcasing our Heritage, Organ, Music & Peregrines during the day – which concludes with a Service at 5pm in St David's Church to which all are welcome.

**Sun 25 June** Trinity II, 10.45am. See online for new Music List.

Tue 27 Jun is the 153<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the death of John Dinham, tea merchant & philanthropist.

**Wed 28 June 7.30pm St Michael's Lectures.** Dr Lindsay Whetter, who has a University of Exeter PhD on Faith in the Prisons, will take an "inside look" at life and faith in English jails.

**Thurs 29 June 6pm, CBS Mass for Saints Peter & Paul.** All welcome. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the death of former curate, Revd Dr John Hughes.

Please see <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/> and [https://twitter.com/StMikes\\_Exeter](https://twitter.com/StMikes_Exeter) for latest news.

**Richard Barnes.**



## St David's Big Bash Festival @

**St Michael & All Angels Church, Mount Dinham EX4 4EB**

look for tall spire near the Iron Bridge



**St Michael's Church will be open**

**As part of the St David's Community event**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 11am - 4:30pm**



**Join us for**

All day tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake

**Afternoon Tea - sandwiches, scones and clotted cream served 2:30 and 4:30pm**

**Very interesting stalls all day**

☐ Good Book Stall ☐ Bric a Brac ☐ Produce ☐ Lots of Plants ☐  
☐ Plant and Seed Swap ☐ Art, Craft ☐ and more ☐

**Tickets for our Grand Draw, £100 first prize and many more prizes  
- to be drawn at St David's 3:30pm**

### ***Events throughout the day***

- ◆ *Find out about our lecture series*
- ◆ **11:00am** Organ Music
- ◆ **11:45am** History of St Michael's with a Tour of the Church by Richard Parker
- ◆ **12:30pm** Piano Music
- ◆ **2:00pm** Organ Demonstration and Talk by Nigel Browne
- ◆ **2:30pm** A chance to play St Michael's Victorian Pipe Organ
- ◆ **3:00pm** Choral Music by Choir - find out about joining our choir - come and sing!
- ◆ **3:45pm** St Michael's Peregrines, Q & A by Richard Barnes with live coverage of nest

**\* St David's Community Worship 5pm - 5:45pm \***

**A Service at St David's to Celebrate our Community for Everyone**

For full events across our neighbourhood, pick up a print copy Exeter Community Centre or go to

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

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

charity number: 1135766



# Jim Dyer

If you were to name people who are Pillars of St. David's Church, Jim's name would be high on the list. He's been attending services here since he and Wendy were married in 1952. She, of course had been a member for much longer, having been born in the parish and attended St. David's School. For many years she was a server and member of the Mothers' Union.

Jim was too young to fight in the war but when he was 16 he joined The Messenger Service and at 18 joined The Coldstream Guards for his National Service. One of his duties was to guard The Bank of England! The discipline served him very well. He always looked immaculate and was totally reliable.

Tony Woods, another Pillar of The Church, recalls that Jim was called upon to administer the chalice at The Communion Service in 1970, since when he has never missed a service and has always been in church ready to fill in for any of the team at short notice if needed. The one Sunday in the year when he is not free is Remembrance Sunday. Then, he comes to St David's but leaves before the end of the service to be in time for the 2 minute silence in The Rougement Gardens. His association with The Guards is very important to him. He always attends their reunion.

Immediately after National Service, Jim learned his trade as a carpenter and became apprenticed to a coach builder, converting vehicles into ambulances. Eventually he struck out on his own, and being a perfectionist had no problem finding work. St David's benefitted enormously from his skills. He and Paul Bentley, our Curate at the time built the Nave altar platform and Chris Curry, the architect who designed the altar worked well together respecting each others' skills. In the choir vestry is a beautiful table with a lower shelf which fits tidily into the recess formed by the window. The clergy vestry has a similar table appropriate to the space available. And, where the new kitchen is placed were cupboards filled with books, the church library.

The run up to Christmas must have been a happy time for Jim. For many years he collected the tree and fixed it firmly in position and attached the star at the top while Wendy, Mary Quest and Shirley Spray ( more Pillars of the Church) decorated it. They were a captive audience for his witticisms. What a delightful scene. And who became Father Christmas with more witticisms for the children? Why Jim of course.

For many years Jim was in charge of The Book Stall at The Summer Fete. He was the strong arm, the one who was called upon if anything need mending or adjusting. In the years when the magazine was produced by the church he helped to put the pages together and staple the centre.

Joyce Boundy, a retired art teacher decided to donate the proceeds from the sale of her entire oeuvre to St David's. Firstly the paintings were displayed in a large rehouse on the quay and any that weren't sold were brought to St David's for a second viewing. Jim devoted the whole of his Saturday to putting the pictures on the walls. Always he gave his skills and time unstintingly.

In short, he has been generous with his skills, reliable, self effacing and his shoes are always shiny!

What more could one wish for in a POTC.  
THANK YOU JIM FOR EVERYTHING.

**Margaret Grimsey**



# Exeter Riverside Parkrun - Weekly Free 5km Timed Run

Every Saturday morning, while some of us are still slumbering, Exeter hosts a parkrun at 9am. Parkrun is a weekly 5 kilometre event which takes place all over the country, indeed all over the world, and is staffed and run entirely by volunteers. It is free to join and free to run, and if you register (also for free) you receive your time and run-position later that same day by email.



Parkrun first came to my attention when I joined a 'couch to 5k in ten weeks' group in September last year. At the end of ten weeks I could run 5k and thereafter one is encouraged to run 5k two to three times a week; for me, one of those was the Exeter Riverside Parkrun. It slots nicely into a Saturday routine, then home by ten o'clock to enjoy

the rest of the day.

It is good to see other St David's friends in the run too, although they are much younger and much quicker than me! It's also nice to catch up with other Exeter friends that I haven't seen for a while. The age-range of the runners is very wide with children under eleven running with their parents – or being pushed in push-chairs – up to age 79 in the latest run. It is a truly inclusive community.

While I have been injured (some of you may have seen me getting around on crutches recently) I have wanted to be part of that inclusive community but cannot yet join in, so I volunteer at the event. I have been standing at the end of the run, by the finishing funnel, handing out position tokens. The first week I did this there were 376 runners - the largest number ever for the Exeter run - to

receive the tokens, all within a thirty minute time-slot. It felt quite daunting, but those around me were so supportive that the one or two errors I made were gently scooped up and taken away.

It was while handing out the tokens, and giving one to our own Steph Hill, that Steph asked about volunteering, and now she has spent time at the finish as timekeeper, which is a very responsible job. The volunteers are an inclusive crowd too.

There are other parkruns nearby at Killerton (I have run this with a St David's friend and on my own), Parke and Seaton. So there is no need to get bored with doing the same run every week.

Here is the challenge: it's you against the clock. You don't have to be able to run quickly, just at your own pace. That might even be a brisk walk to start with. Can you take those first steps to greater activity?

<http://www.parkrun.com/>

**Helena Walker**

05.05.2017



# Thank you God for a lovely day

At the end of the day  
Just kneel and pray  
Thank you God for a lovely day  
I've tried to be good, as I know that I should  
That's my prayer for the end of the day



Do you keep a diary? I have two plus a drawerful from the last forty years or so. One has a page a day. My husband used to buy me these, then my youngest son and now my sister-in-law. I keep a record of my daily happenings with notes of birthdays and anniversaries, bills to pay etc.

I also have a good news diary, courtesy of "People's Friend" magazine. It has one line a day. When I have written my daily page, I go over my day choosing the best thing that has happened. Some days it's easy with several highlights. Other times it's hard to decide, because nothing special has happened. Then I remember a letter long ago in my mother's magazine. It was written by a mother who was listening to her small daughter's prayers: "Thank you God for a lovely day."

"But it was rather a horrid day," said mum.

"Well", said the child, "I wasn't eaten by a crocodile."

Very true. Life isn't all sunshine, but there is usually a chink of light. In my fairly long existence, it has often been hard to see one. But if you spend a few minutes thinking of something to be thankful for, you will find reasons to be grateful. You might even find yourself saying, "Thank you God for a lovely day."

**Eileen Jarman**

02.05.2017



# Exeter Pride Matins at St Michael's

Thanks to David Beadle and Fr Christopher for leading a service of Matins and Blessing for Exeter Pride on Sat 13 May; members of the Choir led the singing and over 30 people attended, with Brunch & Bubbly afterwards.

Mother Julian of Norwich, the medieval mystic with radical ideas on gender and God's inclusive love, formed the theme. Prayer Book Matins, which seems so traditional, was written & compiled by Thomas Cranmer, a radical in his day and martyred for his beliefs.

The Lessons, from Song of Solomon 5:2-7 and Romans 8:18-23, were read by Lewis Bell, Trustee of Exeter Pride, and Councillor Cynthia Thompson, Lord Mayor of Exeter. Each person present lit a candle as a sign of Prayer and Remembrance of the persecution of LGBTI people.

While the Church hierarchy talk and argue, St Michael's again offered an open and inclusive welcome to those in the LGBTI community of any faith or none to receive God's blessing on their celebration. Sitting in the choir, it was wonderful to look around the church at the sea of rainbow-coloured accessories adorning the congregation and serving team alike.

Fr Christopher wrote & used this Blessing:-

May God, the only Father of kindness, Creator of all, seen & unseen, affirm the goodness of your life, and welcome you home as beloved children made in His own image.

May God the Son Jesus Christ, who subjected himself to the fear & injustice of the world, and who by His glorious passion, death & resurrection witnesses still true compassion & justice to the world, cry with you when you cry, laugh with you when you laugh, and be your loudest & most loyal advocate.

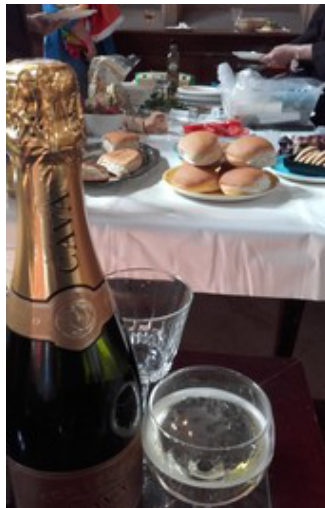
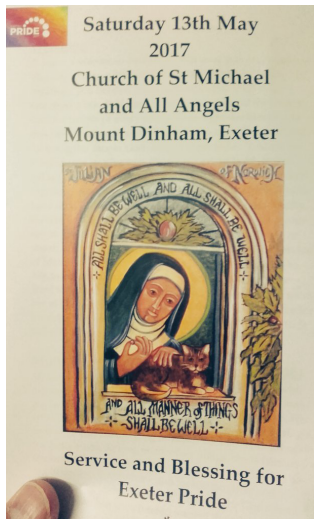
May God the Holy Spirit, who is the very energy & animation of all



people, dwell in the full richness of your relationships, guide your decisions, and give you life in abundance.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you, always. Amen.

**Marianne Connors/Richard Barnes.**



# Pride and Pentecost

In fictional Pychester, my thoughts & smiles this spring have been exercised by processions and asparagus.

In an act of radical inclusionism, the Diocesan Bishop of Pychester & the visiting Bishop of Pyfleet invited all clergy to a joint Prism Mass in the Cathedral refracting the light of Christ into a spectrum of component shades, albeit with alternative altars for whomsoever can & can't accept women's priesthood – but it's a start.

The one cup of suffering & compassion was drunk deeply from by our Saviour as he passed down the High Street with hundreds of Christians on his way to the Cathedral Green, to be re-crucified in Good Friday's ecumenical Walk of Witness.

A month later Pride Matins was sung at St Pythagoras & All Angles, with brunch & bubbly after; then joining in solidarity & love with the diversity of God's rainbow children on the Pychester Pride Parade, thousands on the same High Street, heading for Queens Street and Eden Gardens, festive & unashamed.

Spring sap rising, all newly bursting into life & leaf.

May Queens and their acolytes in all their gay diversities

Adorn our worship and walk with Pride for the Incarnate God,

Exploring the Gospel message of fullness and overflowing love.

This month of Mary, flower bedecked statues hide her confusions.

As Annunciation took hold, how to love faithful Joseph?

Cared for and caring for beloved John in their bitter loss;

Post-Ascension, what do the disciples expect her to be or to say?

Love the godly Way, not in dry doctrine, but liturgy & blessing,

Faithfully carrying our crosses and kisses of love and hurt.

The cross that says we get it wrong, be forgiven, try again.  
The kiss that says I love you still, live abundantly & let love reign.

In the Cathedral, Bishop Rick is blessing the straight & narrow – it's Asparagus Sunday, High-functioning Anglicanism at its best, “Hail Thee Vegetable Day”, “Asparagus, Good Lorde” as Cranmer's Prayer Book Litany so rightly says.

Rogation Sunday and after High Mass at St Pythag's, clergy, choir & congregation bless Mount Pynham, incensing some of the residents, and singing they go down by the riverside to meet up with the Earthy Churchy folk in the Shed of Prayer. It's amazing what some nearly scriptural smoked salmon & prosecco, and rather less biblical sausage rolls & chocolate cake, can do to smooth over one's theological differences. A promising start to shared mission.

Pentecost evening and many are moved by the Spirit to make their pilgrimage to the Cathedral to join the Archbishops' great Wave of Prayer, #ThyKingdomCome, as it ripples gently into Pychester. With their resources and experience from “Sacred Grounds”, Canon Flora Pebbles and her team know how to make a proper job of this sort of alternative worship event, all tea-lights & touchy-feely liturgy.

Electiontide and, whoever wins, a Pilgrimage of Greys will head for Parliament, and we can only pray that justice & compassion will illuminate the margins of their acts, not for the many or the few, but for all.



**Richard Barnes – 21 May 2017.**



# My life at the YMCA by Louise

Louise is 18 and asked to write her story for our newsletter

"I have been living at the YMCA for 8 months now, I was 17 when I moved in. Before I moved into the YMCA I was living with my parents and my 3 younger brothers. It was difficult for me because I would look after my brothers when my parents went out and had little time for myself. I had to do things like washing the dishes and walking the dog. Walking the family dog though wasn't too bad. One time it rained and we got covered in mud, I found it very funny! Things started to get hard at home so one day my parents asked me to move out, they suggested the YMCA.

At the YMCA I have a Link Worker called Ella and I also get support from Lydia. They help me with my problems and try and solve them to the best of their ability. If they don't, I try and solve them myself. When I am in a bad mood they like to try to calm me down and talk to me about why I am in a mood. They then suggest doing colouring or going for a walk.

The staff like to play pool with me. Playing with the staff is fun as I make them laugh when I hit the white ball off the table or when I get their ball into the pockets. They normally win!

I go to cooking group every Tuesday to improve my cooking skills even more than I already had. One of my favourite meals I've made is a roast. I love to do craft and make cards.

I am member of the YMCA job club which is called Connect and I also go to football group. Connect has helped me to get a CV and to find a job. I am in college though so I can't go to Connect as much as I would like. Football group is fun. I enjoy going and I am



© Copyright Portsmouth Football Club

the only girl. I am getting better at football every time I go and sometimes I am better than the boys!

My course at college is Health & Social Care Level 1. I have found my course has been fun and I like it when we go on trips to different places. I am in my second year of college, the first year I did Childcare Level 1. When I finish I want to get a job as a Teaching Assistant. I've done work experience and I've got some more coming up. I also did the Santa Abseil for the YMCA in December. It was so much fun especially because I did it in 36 seconds, the fastest time of anyone. I went down and did not stop until the bottom. I raised over £100.

I have learnt to remove myself from things that happen that get me in a bad mood. I go for walks to calm myself down and once I am calm I walk back to the YMCA and go to my room. Sometimes I have to tidy up the mess I have made when I have been angry.

I will soon be moving on from the YMCA and I am looking for other options of places to live. Where would I be without the YMCA? I would probably be still living with my parents and my brothers that I did not get along with. Thank you YMCA and the staff, you have helped me in so many ways L."





Julia Mercer, Helen Hopwood and Moira Dale with cakes to share

## CARING WITH CAKES

**T**hree friends from St David's Church in Exeter are ensuring a warm welcome to new residents at Exeter's YMCA by baking them homemade cakes to receive on arrival.

Julia Mercer, Helen Hopwood and Moira Dale responded to a request by their curate Christopher Durrant to get involved in the hospitality project to make the YMCA's new young residents feel welcome and cared for.

Moira, who has also started to make handmade welcome cards, says: "I think it's like having tea with your granny as we are old enough! But we have found age not to be an impediment. It's a great way to engage with the young people there." The three also join in with a group called Thirsty, run for the residents by a member of YMCA staff Tim Wells. This gives the trio another opportunity to offer their support and to be alongside the young people.

Julia adds: "I had big doubts about getting involved at the beginning as I had not done anything like it before, but it's been a great

experience. It is lovely to be able to share my faith in a general way with them, without pressure."

Moira adds: "Many of the young people come from dysfunctional families and are wary of adults. This is our chance to act as reliable role models for them. We listen to them and let them dictate what we are going to talk about. If we can share with them something about God and the Bible that's great but it's not our main aim."

The trio, who sometimes take in photos or bible verses with them, to promote discussion, are obviously benefiting themselves from being involved in the project, as they talk animatedly about the young people and the work of the YMCA.

Moira finishes: "Some of them may have never had any homemade food or cakes before and having the handmade cards makes it more personal too. We hope they may keep the cards as they move on in their lives."

For more on the work of YMCA visit [www.ymcaexeter.org.uk](http://www.ymcaexeter.org.uk)

# **Book Review: The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry**

I loved this book. What makes it so unusual is that it doesn't fit in to any particular genre or, alternatively, it fits in to many genres. It's about relationships - love, friendship, jealousies, sexual attractions and dangerous liaisons; it's about beliefs, pagan and religious; it's about rumours and secrets; it's about the sciences, so popular in England of the 1890's, and especially palaeontology, fossilised creatures of long ago.

I remember in the early 70's taking my Primary class of 9 and 10 year olds to Lyme Regis and trawling the beach between Lyme and Charmouth, collecting literally handfuls of ammonites and belemnites to be later displayed with great pride in our classroom. It was then I first read about Mary Anning who discovered the complete fossilised remains of an ichthyosaur, a large marine reptile, at the tender age of 12. I mention this because Cora Seaborne, one of the leading characters in the book, a scientist like Mary Anning, wishes to unlock the secret of the mythical Essex Serpent, which had previously slid through the marshes of the estuary beyond Colchester claiming human lives. Various supposed sightings of this creature have caused havoc and confusion in the Parish of Aldwinter where the vicar, William Ransome is determined to squash such unhealthy rumours. Cora and William meet and find themselves inexorably drawn to each other only to be driven apart because of events.

All Perry's characters are wonderfully drawn. Cora is accompanied by her son, Francis, who shows signs of autism and who is strangely attracted to the vicar's wife, Stella, who herself appears to have early dementia, dressing herself and her room in many shades of blue. Yet it is the gothic atmosphere and creepy happenings that hold your attention throughout. One of those books when you look up and



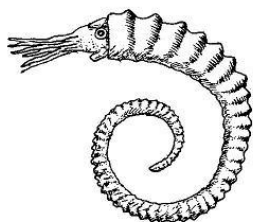
realise it's one in the morning, way past bedtime. If you haven't already read this popular book then get it now. You won't be disappointed.

**Bill Pattinson**

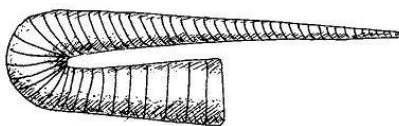
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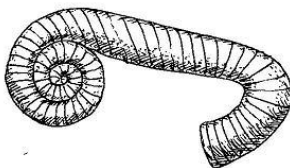
**Spiroceras (Jurassic)**



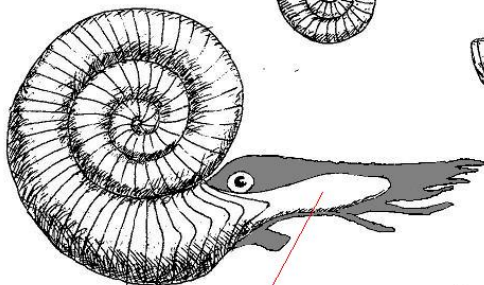
**Hamulina (Cretaceous)**



**Macroscaphites (Cretaceous)**

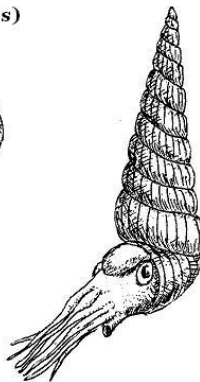


**Kosmoceras (Jurassic)**



Lappet

**Bostrychoceras (Cretaceous)**





# Ward Visiting

Within the NHS “Spiritual Care” has always been an important component in the overall care offered in hospitals through their Chaplaincy departments.

Here at the Department of Pastoral, Religious and Spiritual Care (known as Chaplaincy) in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital we have a great group of voluntary team members who help us in various ways.

“It is such a privilege and honour to spend time with people – I am always surprised by how open and honest people are and how much they appreciate a listening ear”

These are words of one of our current volunteer ward visitors, who see patients by calling bed-to-bed on their assigned ward once per week offering a friendly listening ear. They also help us to discern where there are those who might need further support whether pastoral, religious or spiritual so that we can make sure that this element of care is provided on the patient journey.

We offer training for this vital work and the next course will start on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and run weekly for 8 weeks (2.30-4.30pm) here in the hospital. During the course we explore the place of spirituality in healthcare and practise basic listening skills as well as thinking about the effect of ill-health, loss and bereavement in our own lives and faith journey.

If you think you might be interested in finding out more about the course or joining our team then do call Juliet Horwood 01392 402024 or e-mail

[rde-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net](mailto:rde-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net)

**Ruth James**

04.05.2017



# Trusted Local Handymen

Retired police officers in Devon are pioneers in an ambitious national network of highly vetted handymen launched by 'Trust in Blue Handymen'.

Helping to combat the endemic ongoing problem of cowboy builders and dodgy tradespeople, local retired police officers with a passion for home maintenance and gardening are taking up tools to provide peace of mind to the residents and businesses of Exeter.

Typically police officers retire after 30 years' service and most are still eager to continue playing an active and productive role in their communities.

All Trust in Blue Handymen are subjected to various checks to assess their suitability to the work prior to joining. Handymen are required to provide References to verify their skills, evidence of their Public Liability Insurance cover and are criminal record checked via an Enhanced DBS Check. Once up and running the company checks client feedback after every job to ensure that the highest levels of service are being delivered ongoing.

Managing Director, Nick Orde-Powlett, hopes that the company's rigorous selection process will bring security and peace of mind to people in the area:

"Our vetting process is second to none. All of our handymen are friendly retired police officers with many years working in the community under their belt – they understand peoples' concerns and fears better than anyone else and they genuinely care.

Using this unique pool of talented and trustworthy individuals, the Blue Handymen network is hoping to ensure total trust through a careful selection process and a rigorous ongoing feedback and

improvement programme.

Roy Bishop has used the service: “The service I received was extremely good. The handyman was very punctual, fast working and polite. I would recommend him to anyone.”

You can book a free quote online at [www.trustinblue.com](http://www.trustinblue.com) or by calling Freephone 0800 255 0 255.

## Nick Orde-Powlett



# EXETER CHORALE

DIRECTOR: JOHN DRAISEY  
ORGANIST: DR NIGEL BROWNE

PRESENT



## AFTERNOON TEA CONCERT

“in praise of Light”



*Jesu Christ, mein's Lebens Licht*

*Holy is the True Light*

*Ecco già l'albo' appare*

*Sol Justitiae*

*Puis le jour suivant*

*O Nata Lux*

*O Radiant Dawn*

*Lux Aurumque*

*Hail Gladdening Light*

SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017, 4.30PM  
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS' CHURCH  
MOUNT DINHAM, EXETER EX4 4EB

*Home-made cakes, tea and coffee*

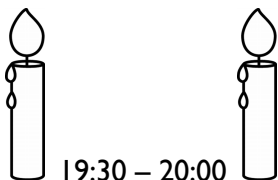
**ALL THIS FOR £8**

Concession £5 for students, children free  
<http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk>



## Silent Prayer Group

A calm service of communal silence, following a short reading, seated in our beautiful Lady Chapel.



Optional tea & coffee, with opportunity to share reflections on the silence experienced.

20:00 – 20:30

Alternate Tuesday & Thursday evenings:

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**15<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**10<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**7<sup>th</sup> September**

*“For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.” Psalm 62.5*

## **Bible Study Group – Summer 2017**

Q) What is it? A) An ongoing opportunity for us to gather as a small comfortable group to read scripture, share our reflections and receive some teaching.

Q) Will it be like a school class? A) No, thankfully! I believe everyone present will have something important share. (Be assured though, the clergy will have prepared a little something to start things off ☺)

Q) What sort of things will come up? A) We're not sure how the conversation will go beforehand, but each evening will have a theme as we work through scripture together.

Q) I'm still not sure... A) Come along! I pray this will be an encouraging and affirming group as we explore some of the richness of **The Second Letter of St. Paul to the Church in Corinth**, otherwise known as **2 Corinthians**.

**We shall meet on THURSDAY evenings, 20:00 - 21:15**

Ann's home - May 11th, 8th June,

22nd June, 20th July,

Iris's home - 27th July, 3rd August,

17th August, 24th August

*(If not sure where Ann or Iris live, please talk with Ann, Iris or me for directions: it's just a short walk from St. David's! )*

**Rev. Christopher**

# Cycle Challenge...

**Dawlish Water Rotary Club are offering the chance to get fit, have a lot of fun and support a fantastic charity.**

The club are holding for the first time the **West Exe Family Cycle Challenge** - with the main beneficiary being Prostate Cancer UK.

The event – to suit all ages and levels of fitness - takes place on **Saturday, June 17 2017** and you can choose between two routes:

- **St. Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren EX7 0NA** to Exeter Quay and back
- or choose to ride and return from various shorter stages.
- **Exeter Quay** (Piazza Terracina near Bar Venezia) to St. Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren, and back
- or choose to ride and return from various shorter stages.

**To enter the Challenge in advance you must register and pay through  
our Fullonsport website  
<https://www.fullonsport.com/event/west-exe-family-cycle-challenge/profile>**

Gift aid is also available (which will help boost the proceeds for charity). Entry fees are: £10 per adult, £5.00 for children under 18 and £25 for a family group, comprising one or two adults and two or more children.

The event is not a race. It is a “challenge” to participants to cycle as far as they decide along National Cycle Routes 2 and 34.

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, with over 40,000 new cases diagnosed every year. Rotary throughout the UK is supporting research. Prostate Cancer UK have invested millions of pounds in research, services and awareness over the last 10 years and are leading the way in providing prostate education to medical professionals

For more information on this: <http://prostatecanceruk.org/prostate>







## **St Michael's Lectures 2017**

**The annual lecture**

**IN MEMORY OF THE REVD CANON  
JOHN ALFRED THURMER**



## **The Oxford Movement in Church and Society**

**at 7.45 pm, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June with**

**Dr Bruce Coleman (Exeter University)**

**Followed by a Q. & A. and refreshments.**

**Retiring collection in aid of the St Michael's Restoration Fund.**

**Please email to arrange wheelchair access.**

**Lectures held at the church—**

**CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, DINHAM ROAD, MOUNT DINHAM**

**EXETER EX4 4EB**

**[dnb201@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:dnb201@exeter.ac.uk)**

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

THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY  
EXETER BRANCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
to be held on  
SATURDAY JUNE 17th 2017  
at  
THE PEARSON ROOM  
EXETER CATHEDRAL  
EXETER

11.00. Prayers & Tour of the Cathedral

12.15/30 Lunch in Refectory/Cafes

2.15 AGM in The Pearson Room

followed by an address by

The Rt Rev Martin Shaw

(retired Bishop of Argyll & The Isles)

"The revival of Anglican Religious Communities &  
The Anglo Catholic use of The Book of Common Prayer"

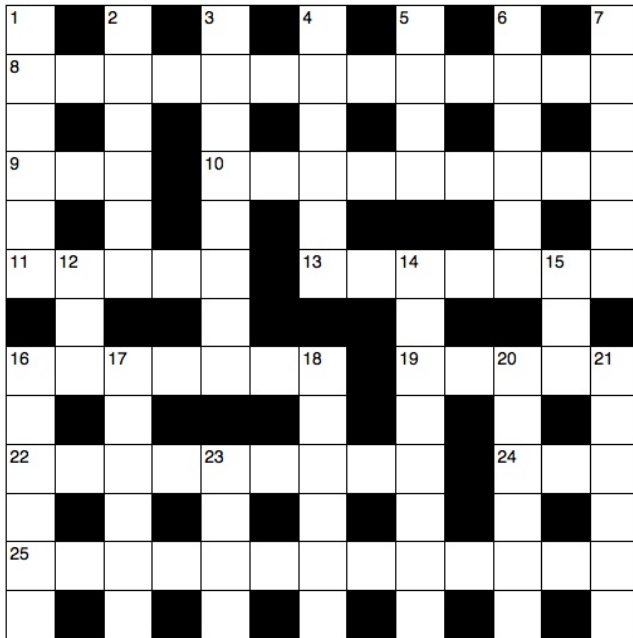
4.00. Evensong (said) in The Lady Chapel

### AGENDA

1. Prayers
  2. Apologies for Absence
  3. Minutes of AGM June 18th 2016
  4. Chairman's Report for the Year
  5. Treasurer's Report for the Year
  6. Election of Branch President, Officers & Committee
  7. Any Other Business
- 

This meeting is an Open Meeting and Exeter Branch welcomes members and non members.

# June crossword



## Across

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain

storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

## **Down**

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)

5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)

6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)

## Sudoku - Medium

7					3			
2			5		4			
		6				2		
1	3		6					
	5	4		7		6	1	
					2		5	
		3				8		
			1		9			7
			4					6

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## Days of Note - June

### 4 Pentecost - a day that changed history

People call it 'Whitsun' because once upon a time it was a day for wearing white and going on church processions. The church, however, calls it 'Pentecost' and it's on June 4<sup>th</sup> this year. It is a crucial date in the Church calendar – in some ways the birthday of Christianity as we know it.

After the crucifixion the followers of Jesus took to meeting in an 'upper room' in Jerusalem, with the doors locked 'for fear of the Jewish authorities'. It was here that the risen Christ appeared to them several times, as well as on a few occasions in other locations when they ventured out. Eventually He told them that He was 'going back to the Father', but that they should stay in the city until they received the spiritual resources to do the job for which He had called them – to take His message to the world. They did as they were told, about 120 men and women, Luke tells us, including the

mother of Jesus.

Then it happened, on the Jewish feast of *Shavuot*, which was 50 days after the Passover. Pentecost was a spiritual experience which transformed their lives. Emboldened, they emerged from the upper room and started preaching on the city streets. They continued to do so even when ordered to stop. What had happened to bring about this transformation? The answer was two words: Holy Spirit. If that sounds very elusive and vague, think of it in its basic meaning in the Greek of the New Testament: Breath – the very source of life itself, the most precious gift of God. At Pentecost the handful of believers were brought to new life because the Holy Spirit of God breathed upon them. The Church was born. Two thousand people were baptised. Wimps became witnesses!

#### **4        Petroc – the founder of Padstow**

If you are going to Cornwall this summer in search of peace and quiet, Petroc is the saint for you. Especially if you find Padstow a bit too crowded for your liking! He would have sympathised.

This 6<sup>th</sup> century abbot is Cornwall's most famous saint. Petroc set sail from South Wales, landed at Haylemouth, and founded a monastery at Lanwethinoc – now called Padstow, after him (Petroc's Stow).

Padstow must have been popular even in those days, because about 30 years later Petroc, in search of some peace and quiet, moved on to build another monastery at Little Petherick (Nanceventon). Here he must have decided to try some 6<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of 'Fresh Expressions', because he engaged with his local community by building a mill and a chapel.

In time, Petroc began feeling crowded again. So he tramped off to the remote wilds of Bodmin Moor, where he lived as a hermit – until some 12 monks turned up to join him. Firmly, Petroc kept them all

housed in a monastery on a hilltop, while he enjoyed his private space in a cell by the river.

But even here Petroc was not alone. One day a terrified stag came rushing through the woods, pursued by the hunt. Petroc flung open the door of his cell, and the panting animal took refuge. When the huntsmen arrived on the scene, they did not dare to argue with the famous holy man, and went their way. The stag's gratitude made him tame, and Petroc would come to be portrayed with a stag as his special emblem.

Petroc was buried in the monastery in Padstow but in c.1000 his shrine and relics, including his staff and bell, were translated to Bodmin. Here they have stayed ever since, except for a short, unplanned trip to Brittany in 1177, when they were stolen and carted off by a naughty Canon of the Church. Henry II intervened, and everything but a rib of Petroc was eventually returned.

## **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.

## **22 St Alban – Britain's first Christian martyr**

Alban was the very first Christian martyr in Britain - or at least the first we know of. A 'martyr' is someone who has died for the faith - the word literally means 'witness'. He was probably killed during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian in the early years of the fourth century, in the late stages of the Roman occupation of Britain. His martyrdom took place in the amphitheatre outside the Roman city of Verulamium, which is now St Albans, in Hertfordshire.

The church historian Bede, writing six hundred years after Alban's death, records that Alban was a Roman citizen (possibly a soldier) who gave shelter to a priest who was being hunted by the Romans. During the priest's stay in his home, Alban was converted to the Christian faith. When the soldiers eventually tracked the priest down, they arrived at Alban's house and insisted on searching it. What they found was Alban dressed in the priest's clothes, while

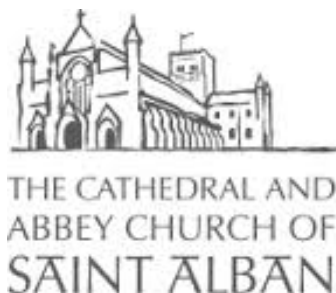


their real prey escaped. They arrested Alban and demanded that he make a sacrifice to the Emperor - a common test of loyalty. He refused. He was then condemned to death and taken into the amphitheatre, which still stands in the fields below St Alban's Abbey, to be put to death. One of his executioners was converted, Bede claims, but the other one took a sword and beheaded him.

He was buried nearby, on a site where a shrine was later erected. In the early fifth century two Continental bishops, Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, were sent to Britain and record that they visited the shrine of Alban at Verulamium. The date of their visit was given as 429.

The martyrdom of Alban is a reminder that Christianity was planted first in these islands during the Roman occupation, though it was all but extinguished in England in the dark centuries that followed, until people like David, Cuthbert and the other Celtic missionaries restored the faith in many parts of the land - especially in the north. The fact that his shrine existed and was venerated right through to the time of Bede also demonstrates that the faith did not die out completely, even in the south of England.

Not a great deal is known about Alban apart from the story of his martyrdom, but what we do know is probably enough to give him a substantial claim to be the patron saint of England ahead of the foreigner George. The magnificent abbey dedicated to him in St Albans is, of course, a permanent reminder of his place in the nation's story.





## St RICHARD of CHICHESTER

St Richard of Chichester, who lived from 1197 to 1253, is patron saint of the English county of Sussex.

In 1244 Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester but King Henry III wanted someone else as bishop and he ordered that no one should feed or house Richard. So Richard lived with a friend who was a parish priest and visited his entire diocese on foot for two years until the king relented.

Richard is widely remembered today for the prayer he is supposed to have said as he was dying. The prayer was adapted for the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell and it is in this form that most people know it today:

Day by day,  
Dear Lord, of thee  
three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly,  
Love thee more dearly,  
Follow thee more nearly,  
Day by Day.

## SOUNDS STRANGE

There are still quite a few people called Richard today but some saints' names sound very strange to our modern ears - how many of these names are saint's names and how many of them are something else all together? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Wenceslas
2. Mesrop
3. Blaise
4. Porphyry
5. Waudru
6. Methodius
7. Attracta
8. Sebbi
9. Fiacre
10. Budoc



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**What do you call a man with a  
map on his head?**

Miles.

**What do you call a  
woman with a  
tortoise on her  
head?**

Shelley.



**What do you call a man  
checking your homework?**

Mark.

**What do you call a Vicar  
on a moped?**

Rev.

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Answer: all of them are saints listed in  
the Penguin Dictionary of Saints -  
honestly.

## Puzzle solutions

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G	R	A	N	D	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
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A		O		V		S		I		I		O
C	O	M	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	E	R	S
H		E		D		O		N		S		E

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3	4	6	7	9	1	2	8	5
1	3	2	6	4	5	9	7	8
9	5	4	3	7	8	6	1	2
8	6	7	9	1	2	4	5	3
4	7	3	2	5	6	8	9	1
6	2	8	1	3	9	5	4	7
5	1	9	4	8	7	3	2	6

### The deadline for inclusion of articles for the July issue of New Leaves is Sunday June 18th 2017

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us. Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the new editorial team at:

**[newleavesnews@gmail.com](mailto:newleavesnews@gmail.com)**

Please send digital files via email 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.