

New Leaves

May 2018



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

50p

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

Please send as Word documents to: 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

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Letter for May 2018

So finally the long wet winter is over and, at the time of writing, the peregrines nesting on St Michael's tower are looking after three eggs. We hope for some fledglings in due course. It has been a relief to have some bright sunshine and to enjoy the garden.

But this day when I have sat down to write my May letter has just been recognized as the hottest April day since 1949 – although Devon wasn't anything like the 29.1 centigrade recorded in St James' Park in London! This following on the heels of 'The Beast from the East' reminds us that even in our mild and pleasant climate we are not immune from the greater variability in weather that is having devastating effects elsewhere.

Christian Aid Week runs from 13 – 19 May this year and at St David's Church we will be hosting a Big Breakfast, as part of the national Christian Aid Week appeal. Do come and join in the breakfast if you can on Saturday 19th May from 9-11am. And if you would be willing to donate food for this event or if you could help on the day please contact Pennie, who is coordinating the event, at penniehartopp@googlemail.com.

It is worth visiting the Christian Aid website if you haven't done so recently to learn about their work in 37 countries around the world. I was particularly struck by Vilia's story. Vilia lost her mother and her home in the devastating earthquake of 2010 in Haiti. But she then benefitted from one of the 700 homes built by Christian Aid to withstand natural disasters. So when Hurricane Matthew hit the country in 2016 more than 50 people sheltered in Vilia's home for several days. Despite the strength of the storm her home was barely damaged and out of the 700 homes built by Christian Aid just

one needed repair.

Christian Aid has always tried to alleviate poverty in its many forms and now helping people to achieve resilience in the face of a changing climate is a major task. It is wonderful to learn about such effective work being done with money raised in our country.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday 10 May and Holy Communion will be celebrated for this important Christian Feast Day at 10.30am at St David's and 7.30pm at St Michael's where there will be a Sung Mass. Because **Pentecost** falls on the third Sunday of the month the service at St David's will be Family Communion instead of the usual Family Service, but it will still be suitable for all ages!

Sometimes good things must come to an end. The leaders of the St David's Toddler group decided that, in view of the low numbers attending, it would be right to close the group at the end of April. I would like to thank all those who have led the group over the years and especially those who have been involved recently including Julia, Freya, Barbara, Sam and Elspeth. With the works in the nave hopefully being completed this summer we should look forward to finding new ways of opening up St David's so that we may continue to serve our community in varied ways.

With every good wish and blessing

Nigel



May: from St Michael and All Angels

A friend of my late mother's always complained of being a martyr to her corns. This clearly is not the use of the word 'martyr' that Fr Christopher had in mind in recent Easter-tide sermon. Words change in translation, in time and in meaning as we use them. Many are dismayed by changes in the English language, dismiss 'Americanisms' and other foreign intrusions. The *Alliance Française* worked tirelessly to resist changes to the French language, only to have 'le weekend' admitted, alongside 'le parking' and 'le shopping' and other carbuncles on the face of communication. We also had the joy of 'Franglais' in the 70s, in which I delighted. It still appears in 'Private Eye' as a dialogue between Mme May and M Macron. I grew up in culture where a relatively new language was developing, only having been recognised as 'official' in 1910. Before this, Afrikaans was regarded as a very poor dialect of Dutch, spoken by some uneducated backwoodsmen, and certainly not recognised when I tried to speak it, with Dutch inflections, in Amsterdam in 1970. It included elements of Portuguese, Hindi and English, and for a time, fascinated me. Some of the words made their way into South African English, for example, threepence was a 'tickey' deriving from the Portuguese for 'three', as did 'piccanin', a Black African child, from 'pequeña', 'small'. In my opinion, all linguistic changes are witnesses to the history of a culture.

My 'Dictionary of Christian Theology' explains the doctrine of martyrdom as changing from those who witnessed the life of Christ to those who died for their faith during persecution, these martyrs taking precedence over other saints. Tertullian's statement was not 'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church', but more accurately: 'The more you cut us down, the more we grow; the seed is the blood of Christians.' (Apologia 50). I then went to the entry on 'Witness', to discover that this is the presence of the Holy Spirit which infuses the written word, so that we can know it is directed to all of us; the words are 'brought home' to us, in the same way as the disciples on the way to Emmaus talked with joy about their hearts burning within them as they heard the words from the Son of God, explaining all they needed to know. John Calvin, the great Protestant Reformer, put it like this: 'For as God alone can properly bear witness to his own words, so these words will not obtain full credit in the hearts of men until they are sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit... (which) must penetrate our

hearts in order to convince us that they faithfully delivered the message with which they were divinely entrusted.'

A witness in our own time was Canon Michael Rees, who died recently on March 25th, the leader of the Church Army. His preaching and pastoral gifts were much admired and it was noted that his approach to worship remained formal, without recourse to the 'happy clappy' style to attract worshippers. He never compromised his evangelical convictions, living as a witness to the love of God active in a life lived to His glory.

We should be asking to what it is that we are witnesses. Are we observers? Or active in our faith? Is it a watered-down faith that only refers to the contemporary world, and therefore accepts ideas that will not intrude upon the shaky sensitivity bred by superficial understanding of the elements of Christianity? Or do we have to be much more robust in our thinking, including ideas of sin (it's too judgemental), images of Adam and Eve (too heterosexual), crucifixion (the glory of pain – really?) and the victory of Christ over evil (the Risen Christ with the flag of Victory)? We should embrace our tradition, says Theo Hobson in an article in 'The Spectator' (April 14th). 'Neither faith nor creativity is compatible with running scared. The church should be a refuge but it can't be a safe space,' he writes, as he contemplates 'Holy snowflakes', a young generation for whom the strong depths of the faith may well be too challenging. We look to Pentecost and Ascension, both powerful stories of the redeeming love of God in action, flames and clouds as witnesses to and for our faith.



Stephanie Aplin.



Lessons from a pioneering hermit

A goodly group of us gathered at the back of St Michael's Church on Wednesday evenings during Lent to study 'The life of Antony' by Athanasius. We were lead by Oliver Nicholson whose extensive knowledge of the early church brought the book to life for us and set it in context.

Antony of Egypt lived from approximately 251 to 353, perhaps even as late as 356 – a long time anyway! His family was prosperous and he was brought up in the Christian faith. In church one day he heard the gospel read "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." So in his early twenties he sold off his family lands and moved to the edge of human habitation.

He lived a very simple life of faith supported by gardening and mat making. Many people came to seek his wisdom and he inspired many to follow Jesus. Although his was not a life of formal learning he nevertheless played a significant role in arguing against the Arians who doubted the divinity of Christ, and in encouraging Christians facing persecution. His spiritual life included some vivid encounters with demons who 'pushed the passions' in an attempt to lead people astray. At the age of about 60 he retired to the 'inner mountain' a place of even greater solitude.

The greatest lesson I took from Antony was that of his complete reliance on God. In the desert you have to rely on God; there are no city comforts to hand! His practice of work and fasting helped him to submit to the will of God. The world of Antony seems very foreign to us, yet our challenge, to rely on God, is just the same as his.

I especially appreciated some sections of his 'sermon', like this passage in which he is discussing what we should possess.

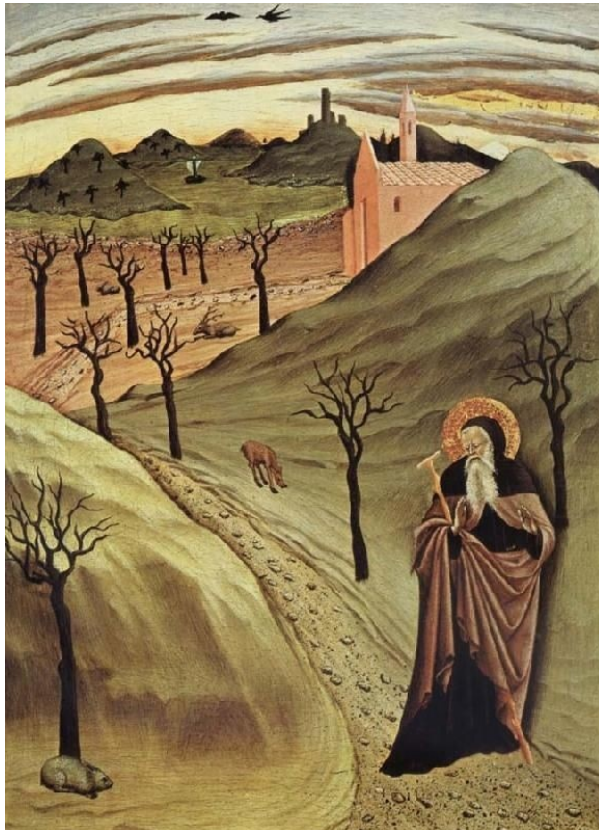
"Let none among us have even the yearning to possess. For what benefit is there in possessing these things that we do not to take with us? Why not rather own those things that we are able to take

away with us – such things as prudence, justice, temperance, courage, understanding, love, concern for the poor, faith in Christ, freedom from anger, hospitality? If we possess these, we shall discover them running before, preparing hospitality for us there in the land of the meek.”

Thank you to Oliver for introducing us to a true Christian classic, which gave us much food for Lenten thought.

There are several copies of the book around if you didn't come but would like to have a read!

Nigel Guthrie – April 2018



St David's Eucharist May

Sunday 6th May

Reading 1	Isaiah 55:1-11	Karen Facey
Reading 2	Acts 10:44-end	Clive Wilson
Gospel	John 15:9-17	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church: Helen		

Sunday 13th . May

Reading 1	Ezekiel 36:24-28	Helena Walker
Reading 2	Acts 1:5-17,21-end	Debbie McNeile
Gospel	John 17:6-19	
Time of prayer		Charlotte Townsend
Junior Church: Sarah		

Sunday 20th. May (Pentecost)

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

Family Eucharist service - No Junior Church

Sunday 27th May

Reading 1	Isaiah 6:1-8	Hilary Francis
Reading 2	Romans 8:12-17	Philip Dale
Gospel	John 3:1-17	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson
Junior Church: Sarah		

Sunday 3rd June

Reading 1	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Jean Thomas
Reading 2	2 Cor. 4:5-12	Robin Thomas
Gospel	Mark 2: 23-3:6	
Time of prayer		David James
Junior Church: Ruth		

Eulogy given by his son, John, at the funeral of Jim Dyer on 26 March 2018

Jim has died

I have said that so many times over the last two weeks, that it got me thinking about the Eulogy, and it occurred to me:-

You don't need me to tell you how well loved and respected he was

You don't need me to tell you how popular he was, look around at just how many people are here today to pay their respects;

Thank you, and a big thank you to the ladies of the church for putting on a spread at the back.

The fact that he touched so many lives makes me proud that he's my dad.

He first came to St David's after he left the army in 1948, he was a member of the congregation for 70 years; He got married to mum here in 1952 and together they supported and were supported by St David's Church, for the rest of their lives.

I can still see them now, there's mum walking up the aisle to put the coffee machine on, and there's dad up a stepladder fixing something, In fact he helped build this platform on which I'm standing; Well I'll tell you something, the pearly gates are no longer squeaking that's for sure.

In his later years, after mum died, he joined lots of different groups, the U3A and Cruise, where he met lots of different friends; He was very fond of Margaret and together they had more adventures.

He loved to come down to my house and we'd go out and have a game of pool and a pint. And then we'd sit and watch our favourites, Laurel and Hardy, which we watched since I was a child.

We went on many holidays, around the UK to see our family and to Europe and it was in 2012 on the Isle of Man, that I began to notice small changes, Dad wasn't as sure of himself in unfamiliar surroundings, more reliant on

me. He wasn't quite as interested in things any more. It was after this that we were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

He managed to live independently for a few years with support from his friends and neighbours, when he needed more help we employed a professional carer, a lady with whom I had worked for 40 years, he enjoyed his time with her, shopping, cooking and talking through his photographs. Thank you Vanessa for everything you did.

That was before this dreadful disease robbed him of his memory, his dignity, his character and ultimately his life.

But we must remember him the way he was, his smile that lit the room, his awful jokes, and his sense of humour that he kept until the very end

But Now:-

Ring out the bells, strike up the band.

It is time to say goodbye to a truly gentle gentleman.



John Dyer



Pat Coward

Christopher wrote:

This tender poem was written and read by Pat Coward's adult grandchildren on the occasion of her Thanksgiving service held at St. David's Church on April 6th 2018.

+May Pat rest in peace, and rise in glory.

*"Our Nana taught us plenty,
She made us who we are,
She watched us grow into adults,
And we're not too bad so far.
We remember how she'd take us,
To the National Trust each year,
We'd hunt around for Easter eggs,
And maybe spot some deer.
For many years at Christmas,
As a treat we would go and see,
Pantos filled with fun and laughter,
Followed by tuna bake for tea.
She babysat when we were young,
There was always a game we'd play,
We'd beg and beg for New Market,
And play it for most of the day.
OR maybe she would take us,*

*To the countryside to grab,
Some blackberries to cook with,
Except the few we'd nab.
When we were all much younger,
It was all aboard the barge,
To spend some time with Rosie and Jim,
The boat felt too large.
We'd visit them when house sitting,
In many different places,
We'd help them with their puzzles,
And fill in all the spaces.
The girls got into Guiding,
And the boys were all Scouts too,
She taught us how to treat people,
And to respect the old and new.
We may not all agree,
On what to call her name,
But the one thing we agree on,
Is we love her all the same.
It won't be the same without her,
And that's what we're trying to say,
We're grateful for the time we had,
We'll miss her every day."*



May Events at St Michael's

Thanks to all who journeyed with us through Holy Week & Easter, especially to Fr Christopher for such purposeful Liturgy & Sermons, to Fr Nigel for Spy Wednesday's Stations of the Cross (one of my highlights with our Liszt *Via Crucis*) and to Amy Down for organising & conducting our dedicated choir in 7 varied & beautiful choral services that week.

April's music was more restrained, but May offers a whole host of Feasts, Processions & special events – please support what you can. Regular weekday services continue with Tuesday & Thursday Vespers at 6pm, and Wednesday Matins & Low Mass at 9.30/10am.

Ascension Day, Thursday 10th May, begins a time of evangelistic prayer “#ThyKingdom_Come” called for by our Archbishops. In Devon this culminates in a Diocesan event at Exeter Cathedral starting at 6.30pm on Pentecost Sunday, 20th May.

Thurs 3 May, St David's Church at 7.30pm, Exeter College Choral Society Concert (postponed from March owing to snow).

Fri 4 May, as well as Star Wars Day, there is a Parish Lunch at noon at Exeter College's @34 Restaurant.

Sun 6 May, Rogation Sunday. 11am Sung Mass & Procession. Lotti. If ye love me, Tallis.

Sun 6 May, 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction. Responses: Sumsion. Psalm 45. Office Hymn: 126. Canticles: Sumsion in G. Anthem: Thou visitest the Earth, Greene. Tantum Ergo: Fauré.

Wed 9 May, 7.30pm. Ahead of Exeter Pride, we are screening Florence Browne's documentary about LGBT people in the Church of England, "Just as I am", with an introductory talk. All welcome.

Thurs 10 May, we celebrate the **Ascension** of our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven. **Plainsong Matins** is sung at 7.30am from the West Gallery, followed by breakfast.

Thurs 10 May at 7.30pm, Sung Mass for Ascension Day. Stanford in C&F. Ascendens Christus, by Jacob Handl. Please support.

Sat 12 May – Exeter Pride. We welcome all who wish to show solidarity with Exeter's LGBT+ communities to join us at St Michael's for Sung Matins

at 9.30am, followed by brunch. Join the Christian group in the Pride Parade from the St Sidwell's Centre at 12noon.

Sat 12 May, 7-10pm at Exeter Cathedral. UPLOAD! A free Event for 13-18 year olds.

Sun 13 May, Easter 7. 11am Sung Mass. Darke in E. O God the King of Glory, Purcell. This is also the start of Christian Aid Week.

Pentecost/Whitsunday, 20 May, 11am Sung Mass. The lovely Wood in F. Come Holy Ghost, Attwood.

Sun 20 May, 6.30pm in Exeter Cathedral, "Thy Kingdom Come", a diocesan service of prayer & thanksgiving.

Wed 23 May, 7.30pm. St Michael's Lectures welcome Nicola Field, founding member of Lesbians & Gays Support the Miners, as featured in the 2014 film "Pride".

Thurs 24 May 12noon, Parish Lunch at Exeter College's @34 Restaurant – sign up in church.

Sat 26 May, 9am Men's Breakfast jointly with St David's. Check in church or online for details.

Sun 27 May, Trinity Sunday. 11am. Sung Mass. Missa Brevis, Lotti. Hymn to the Trinity, Tchaikovsky.

Thurs 31 May at 7.30pm, Corpus Christi Procession & Sung Mass. Casciolini in A minor. Ave verum corpus, Elgar.

Sun 3 June, Trinity I, 11am Sung Mass, and **6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction.**

As our Archbishops ask all Christians to pray for witness and mission in our society, St Michael's offers welcome to all – a traditional Church for today!

And finally, our nest box camera is online on the website's Peregrine page, <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/peregrine-falcons/> Donations welcome. We hope that the 3 eggs laid during Holy Week will hatch during the first few days of May.



Richard Barnes – 24/4/2018

The Bowerman West Window

The south transept window in St David's commemorates Richard Bowerman West, who died on 8 August 1900 at the age of 35. He was the only son of Richard Thornton West, a merchant who had inherited a considerable fortune from an uncle and had moved from Streatham in Surrey to Exeter soon after marrying Sarah Bowerman from Uffculme in 1863. Thornton West built a fine Italianate mansion in the parish of St David, which he named Streatham Hall, and engaged Robert Veitch to lay out the extensive garden and grounds. He died in 1878, and in due course his son and his widow contributed generously to the building of the new St David's Church, the total of their donations amounting to rather more than half of the total cost.

Bowerman West died of acute pneumonia, and the newspapers of the day suggest that he had been genuinely admired and respected by the people of the city. He had contributed handsomely to any number of local charities and had served as JP and High Sheriff of the County. For his funeral the route from Streatham Hall to St David's was lined by "a vast and sympathetic concourse of citizens", who watched in solemn silence as the glass hearse and eight carriages passed by.

Sarah, his mother, died in 1902, and Streatham Hall served as a military hospital during the First World War. In 1922 the estate was bought by Alderman William Henry Reed and presented to the University. The house was renamed Reed Hall in his honour and the grounds became the nucleus of the University's Streatham campus.

The window is by Charles Eamer Kempe. Freed of the restraints on his artistic imagination imposed by Caröe



for the windows in the nave, he was able to give full expression to his subject, and the result is rich in colour and detail. The three scenes show episodes from immediately after the Resurrection. In the two left hand lights, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, and the scroll above her head bears her cry of recognition “Rabboni” (John 20:16). Jesus holds the banner which symbolizes his victory over death. In the background is countryside, a river and the walled city of Jerusalem.

The central lights show the women who brought spices to the tomb, and the angels in dazzling clothes whom they found there. The Latin text reads “He is not here but has risen” (Luke 24:5). And to the right Jesus, now with shepherd’s staff in hand, appears to Peter beside the Sea of Galilee. Above the kneeling apostle is the text “Lord you know that I love you” and above Jesus his reply “Feed my sheep” (John 21:17).

In the small lights above, the angels proclaim “Alleluia. The Lord has risen as he said. Alleluia.”

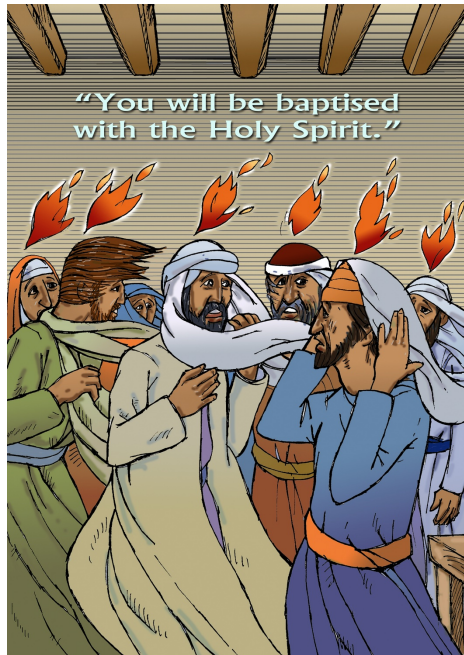
On the wall below, the copper repoussé panel recording the gift of the window is an early work by Eric Gill.



Jeremy Lawford

13 April 2018





Orationibus III – London Omnibus

Church Crawl

Several years ago we were often in London at weekends, specifically Camberwell. Necessity taught us that London is not as distant from Exeter as we imagined; even day trips are doable with Paddington just 2 ½ hours by train.

Transport for London's Oyster Card or contactless payment allows one to board and alight at will. So if one has time & energy an almost infinite number of Church crawls is possible.

The 36 Bus route runs directly from Paddington to Camberwell Green and beyond. If one can travel upstairs, especially in the front seats, the sights are manifold. And this piece is about a few of the sacred sites on the way.

But first, take a short walk from Paddington Station towards the Edgware Road past St Mary's Hospital where Sir Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin.

South of Praed Street in Star Street is the site of St Michael & All Angels Church. Our namesake at the opposite end of Brunel's GWR was built in 1861, also by Major Rohde Hawkins and funded by William Gibbs. Bomb-damaged in WWII, it was demolished in 1969. There's a hint of a brick arch in a garden, and the adjacent school with a depiction of St Michael survives. In the parallel St Michael's St there's now the Mickey Star Children's Centre – I like to think our Victorian benefactors would approve this legacy.



St Michael, Star Street.

South of Sussex Gardens, in an area of well-to-do apartment buildings sits St John's Hyde Park, where Brutus Green, one of many young ordinands St Mike's has provided over the years, served his curacy, including learning to conduct services on horseback.

Time to board the bus, admire Marble Arch and head down Park Lane,

glimpsing the New England-like Grosvenor Chapel at the far end of Aldford Street. Passing the Dorchester Hotel, Hyde Park Corner with Wellington's triumphal arch, we skirt Buckingham Palace Gardens, and the redeveloped Victoria area.

The campanile of Westminster Cathedral suggests a stop. Free entry, unlike the Abbey. I recall singing Saturday evening Mass there with an itinerant RSCM Choir in the 1990s.

Along Vauxhall Bridge Road, spot the Padre Pio Bookshop, the Queen Mother Sports Centre, the brick tower of Gothic Revival St James the Less by G E Street, and just across the river the modern ziggurat HQ of MI6, the second oldest profession.

The enduring link between church and education is seen as we pass several schools, St Ann's Catholic, Archbishop Tenison's, St Mark's Kennington. That sporting temple, the Kennington Oval, is on our left.

The classical portico of socially aware St Mark's Church fronts onto Stane Street, the Roman Road from London Bridge.

Down Camberwell New Road, the blocks of flats on John Ruskin Street would hardly meet with his approval. Spot and perhaps visit St John the Divine, another G E Street Church up leafy Foxley Road, and keep awake or you'll miss the unobtrusive Greek Orthodox Cathedral for south London.

A little beyond Camberwell Green is the spire of St Giles' Church, an early Victorian beauty by George Gilbert Scott, where I went on many-a-Sunday. The worship is modern-catholic with a white male and a black female priest, servers, robed all-age choir, organ designed by SSWesley himself, and a little incense. The majority of the large congregation is of West African heritage and utterly Anglican – Sunday best, a lengthy Peace, Mothers' Union, Walsingham trips, and a long-established Jazz Club in the church crypt.



Campanile, Westminster Cathedral

Any lessons for our similarly glorious Victorian Gothic Church?



Richard Barnes – 22/4/2018



St Giles' Church, Camberwell



There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee *before* the service



They had been promised a *Celebrity* Guest Preacher

BOOK REVIEW

I'm very grateful to a friend for recommending and then lending me two books by Jane Gardam. Her writing was completely new to me and I can't think how I have missed out on her beautifully crafted, eccentric, quirky and absorbing books till now. This 90 year old lady is still writing and her books have something of the world of Evelyn Waugh in them – the reader is taken on a roller-coaster ride of laughter and tears, outrageous happenings and extraordinary characters.



The first book I read was *Bilgewater* which she wrote in 1977. It's the story of Marigold Daisy Green, nicknamed *Bilgewater* (a corruption of Bill's daughter) by the boys at the school where her father is a housemaster and where she grows up. Her mother is dead, her father affectionate but absent-minded and her only real friend is Paula the school matron. The book traces her development from the ugly duckling she sees herself to be to student. The embarrassments she feels, the adventures she finds herself involved in, the crushes on and dislikes of her father's pupils make this a deeply involving sometimes hilarious book with a hugely satisfying ending.

More recently Jane Gardam has written a trilogy called *Old Filth*, the *Man in the Wooden Hat* and *Last Friends*. *Old Filth* is not as you might imagine a book about wallowing in mud but is the story of lawyer Sir Edward Feathers who was known as *Old Filth* (Failed in London, Tried Hongkong). The first book tells the story from Sir Edward's perspective, the second that of his wife Elizabeth, known as Betty and the final volume of his rival in work and in love, Sir Terence Veneering. They are full of black humour, tenderness, a deep understanding of the now forgotten Empire and finally an acceptance of old age. They are books to read and read again. I'm so grateful to have found her and plan to read many more of her books. Do try them if you haven't already.



Paula Lawford

04.04.2018

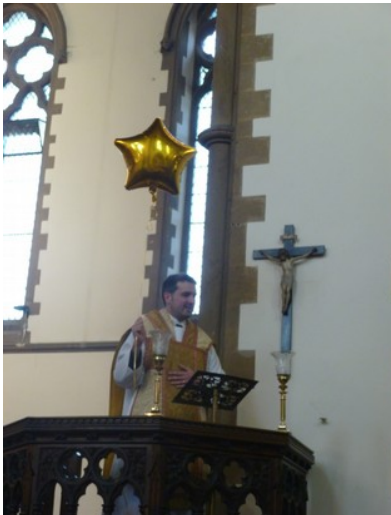
Feast Days at St Pythagoras

The fictional Church of St Pythagoras & All Angles in the fair city of Pychester in a Diocese far, far away celebrates the Feast Days of the Liturgical Calendar with a smile; this May we have a heavenly host of them.

But first, as we celebrated the Annunciation (transferred) on Mon 9 April instead of 25 March, pedants may ask if Christmas will be delayed a fortnight as a result; conceivably, but in God's timey-wimey wisdom, hopefully not.

While others wash their face in the morning dew or sing 'The Internationale' from the Tower of Magdalen College, we keep May Day as the Feast of Philip & James AA, motoring saints and recovering Apostles.

It's interesting, yes it is, how many churches dedicated to these saints are evangelical, and shorten their name to Pip'n'Jim or P&J. Likewise churches dedicated to Saints Giles & Thomas, usually shortened to G&T, seem to be Anglo-catholic.



Ascension

May 2nd is Athanasius, 4th century Bishop of Alexandria, who wrote the '*Life of St Antony*' the influential Desert Father, and argued against Arian heretics.

"There was an old Saint, Athanasius,
Who couldn't abide Credal haziness.
Against Arian fault
He said 'Quicunque vult'
With Theology that's still amazin' us."

May the 4th be with you; Star Wars Day ends with Jedi Knight Prayer.

May 6th this year is Rogation Sunday, when we process around Mount Dinham incensing and blessing the residents. Then

we walk down to Little St Pythag's on the River Pyke Allotments, one of the Bishop's '50 Sheds of Pray' Church Plants, for Lunch with the folk who do Earthy Churchy.

Fast on its heels is Ascension Day on Thursday 10th, when we celebrate the

Sacred Feet of Jesus going up into Heaven, as so beautifully depicted in paintings & stained glass. Seriously though, when feeling down-trodden, one could helpfully meditate on the dusty, washed, kissed, anointed, bruised, pierced, risen feet of Jesus in the Gospels.

May 12th sees Pychester Pride with Matins at St Pythagoras. Hymns include 'There's a wildness in God's mercy' and 'No more a closet walk with God'.

May 12th evening it's 'ShedLoad!', the high volume Youth Event for teenagers and their spiky haired youth workers at Pychester Cathedral.

May 14th is Matthias, the replacement Apostle and Patron Saint of Raffles.

May 20th is Pentecost, or Whitsunday to you & me. Pychester Cathedral hosts the Diocese's #ThyKingdom_Come Beaker event – plenty of pebbles & tea-lights plus a Prayer Tree to which to attach intercessory leaves and thankful fruit.

May 25th is the Vulnerable Bede, Monk & Scholar. And also Geek Pride & Galactic Towel Day, apparently.

May 26th is Augustine, the first ABC, not the Hippo. And also John Calvin, extreme exponent of the Reformation, though would he really want to have a special day in the CofE's Calendar?

Finally May 31st should be the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, when the Magnificat was composed. But this year it is trumped by Corpus Christi, which involves another procession scattering flowers and trying to stop the canopy and banners from taking off in the wind.

All this processing makes me think this piece could have been called 'Feet Days at St Pythag's', singing 'And did those feet in ancient time' (probably not, but it's a lovely idea) & 'One more step along the world I go'.



**Richard Barnes –
22/4/2018**



Corpus Christi canopy

The Parthenon

When I was eleven I won a scholarship to the local High School. There, my history teacher, Miss Lupton, introduced us to Ancient History. Immediately I fell in love with Ancient Greece and longed to visit the Parthenon- an ambition unlikely to be fulfilled. The war came and at the end of it I was busy teaching. A family put thoughts of Athens to the back of my mind until my eldest son, Roger, went on a school trip to Greece and Rome and I confided in him my obsession when I was a girl. He promised that he would take me one day - he was sixteen. Years passed, but on my eightieth birthday in January I was given a card with a promise to take me to see the Parthenon in May. Roger had remembered.

He took me, as promised, and my view of the Acropolis against a blue sky was dreamlike. When we walked to the steps at the foot of the hill, I thought that I couldn't climb it and suggested that he just took a photograph of me on the steps. He did, but then coaxed me to within touching the Parthenon. I haven't the words to describe the whole experience, but I realised that wishes can come true. Sometimes we have to work hard to make our dreams true and sometimes it just happens. Have faith!



Eileen Jarman

19.03.2018



Hospiscare Swimathon

The third Hospiscare Swimathon was on Saturday 10th March at the Devon and Cornwall Police Headquarters pool at Middlemoor. Once



again two teams from St. David's and St Michael's took part and thanks to the generosity of our two congregations and friends of the swimmers they have raised £900 to which Gift Aid will be added. The total raised by the whole event won't be known for some while as it takes time for everyone to collect and send in their sponsorship but it will be at least £5000 plus. This total will go towards helping Hospiscare, a local charity, continue to support and care for local patients with life limiting illnesses and their families.

Our teams were made up of female members of the congregations and they assure me they all enjoyed themselves. It is a light hearted event where teams keep one swimmer swimming at a time in one lane for fifty minutes. At the end they are rewarded with homemade cake and a certificate recording the number of lengths swum by the team. The Exeter City Swimming Club team swam 190 lengths but they were taking it very seriously. Our two teams swam commendably but not quite so competitively! If we repeat the event next year perhaps a team of brave men might be persuaded to take part too?

A big thank you to all the generous people who supported our teams. It is much appreciated.

The Exeter Friends of Hospiscare annual Plant Sale is on Saturday 19th May in Baring Crescent, off Magdalen Road, and is from 10am till midday. All are very welcome.



Paula Lawford

04.04.2018

Major Rohde Hawkins

The Designer & Architect of St Michael's Church, Mount Dinham.

Major Rohde Hawkins (born 4 February 1821, Nutfield, Surrey; died 19 October 1884, Holmwood, Surrey) was a British architect of the Victorian period. He is best known for the schools and churches that he designed and built.

Note: Both his given names "Major" and "Rohde" frequently cause confusion; he was not an army major, and Rohde (not Rhode) was his mother's maiden name: she was of a German family.



Family life

Hawkins was the third son of numismatist and keeper of antiquities at the British Museum, Edward Hawkins (1780–1867) and Eliza Rohde, who had married on 29 September 1806 (Michaelmas).

Hawkins was educated at Charterhouse School from 1831 to 1837; the school was then still part of the London Charterhouse in Finsbury.

He was engaged by John Greenwood, a Yorkshire mill owner at Swarcliffe, to rebuild Swarcliffe Hall in 1848. Hawkins became close enough to the Greenwood family to marry John Greenwood's granddaughter, Mary Littledale Greenwood of Holmwood, Surrey, on 4 August 1853. Mary was the younger sister of John Greenwood (MP). A friend of the Greenwoods wrote effusively: "Mr Hawkins married our great friend John Greenwood's sister. He is one of the 1st Architects of the day. He is the Government architect for all these schools &c."

Hawkins and his wife Mary lived at Redlands Farm, Holmwood, which he also designed. They are both buried at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Holmwood, where there is a memorial window to him. When the Parish was split in the 1870s, Hawkins designed the new Church of St John the Evangelist in Early English style.



St John the Evangelist, Holmwood

He was gazetted as Captain in the Queen's (Westminster) Rifle Volunteer Corps on 25 February 1860.

Career

Hawkins studied under the wealthy London architect Thomas Cubitt, designer of Queen Victoria's Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

He then worked for the architect Edward Blore, designer of Buckingham Palace. He also explored his father's interest in antiquities, spending time studying in Asia Minor.

Hawkins is known today mainly for schools such as the Châteauesque Royal Victoria Patriotic Building in Wandsworth and Gothic style churches. The Builder described him as "both a skilful artist and a thorough English gentleman". From 1854 to his death he was employed as architect to the Privy Council's Education Department, alongside his private work.

Some of Hawkins' significant Buildings

Swarcliffe Hall, Yorkshire (1848)

Hunt's Hall (Guy's Hospital, London) (1853)

Bodle Street Green, East Sussex (1853)

St Paul's Church, Burdett Row, Bow, London (1858) (destroyed World War II)

Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, Wandsworth, London (1859)

St Michael's Church, Star Street, Paddington, London (1860–1861) – damaged by bombing in World War II, repaired, but demolished in 1969; this church was funded by William Gibbs 'to minister to the Poor of Paddington'.

St Michael and All Angels Church, Mount Dinham, Exeter (1865–1868)

St Antony's Chapel, Cowley, Devon (1867–1868) – also funded by William Gibbs, now deconsecrated.

Fairwarp, East Sussex (1867–1871)

St John the Evangelist's Church, Holmwood, Surrey (1874–1875)

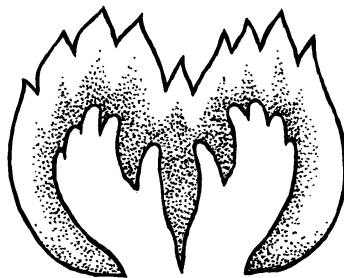


Richard Barnes

– from Wikipedia with minor corrections – 22/04/2018



Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, Wandsworth





PARISH FETE

2018



Saturday 7th July 11.30 - 2.30 at St
David's Church

The City of Exeter Railway Band

Grand Draw

Stalls and Games

Refreshments

CAN YOU HELP?

Are you able to

Bake or make something for the cake and
produce stall

Grow some plants for the plant stall

Set aside some books, or nearly new
items for the stalls

Buy as many draw tickets as you can

Donate some bottles

Run a stall, help set up or clear up

CONTACT: Sam Wellbelove or sign up at
the back of Church on Sunday

Free on a Thursday lunchtime?

Why not join us for our monthly St. David's and St. Michael's Parish Lunch?

We meet at 12 noon at @34 Restaurant, Exeter College's training restaurant for a tasty and reasonably priced two or three course meal, with good company and in pleasant surroundings.

There is always a choice, including vegetarian, and menus can be seen at

www.exe-coll.ac.uk/College/Restaurant

Sign up lists and menus can be found at the back of both churches for two weeks prior to our lunch, and College ask that we preorder as there are usually quite a few of us!

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday May 24th and Thursday June 21st.

If you have any queries, please speak to Sue Wilson on 01392 437571.

Hope to see you there!





Exeter Pride at St Michael's Church, 2018

Dinham Road, Mount Dinham, Exeter, EX4 4EB

In association with Exeter Pride and the St Michael's Lectures

Contact David Beadle for information and accessibility requirements: dnbeadle@gmail.com

Film Screening: *Just as I am*

7.30-8.30 pm, Weds 9th May

In this new documentary, **Florence Browne** interviewed four LGBT+ people in the Church of England about their experiences of ordination and/or priesthood. Before the film, Dr David Beadle, who is one of the documentary's interviewees, will review the church's attitudes towards queer people. Retiring collection and light refreshments.



Pride Service and Blessing

9.30-10.30 am, Sat 12th May

With contributions from the **Reverend Simon Robinson** speaking on the theme “**Becoming who we are Called to Become**”, the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Exeter, Exeter Pride Trustees, the choir of St Michael's, Reverend Hannah Alderson and the Reverend Christopher Durrant. Choral Matins. Followed by a celebratory breakfast and bubbles. We will then walk up to St Sidwell's together, to join the Pride parade for 12 noon.

An Evening with Nicola Field, Founder member of LGSM

7.30-9.00 pm, Weds 23rd May

As featured in the 2014 blockbuster, *Pride*. An unmissable opportunity to see a screening of a 1980s documentary about the movement, and to hear Nicola's thoughts on the lessons of LGSM for the 21st century. Retiring collection and light refreshments.



Volunteer Drivers Wanted!

Age UK Exeter is looking for volunteer drivers to join their team. Such drivers are crucial in ensuring local older people with memory difficulties can access the charity's day services in St Thomas and Mount Pleasant and provide a vital life-line for both the older person and their families.

If you could spare a couple of hours a week, have a 4 door car and clean driving license and enjoy helping people, the charity would love to hear from you. They offer full support and training and a mileage allowance of 45p per mile which helps cover your car's overall running costs and not just the cost of fuel.

If you think you can help please contact Cassie Leicester, Age UK Exeter's Volunteer Co-ordinator, for a no obligation chat on 01392 202092 or at c.leicester@ageukexeter.org.uk



children's hospice
SOUTH WEST



Would you like a free talk to
hear about the work we do at

Children's Hospice South West

If you are part of a group and would like to hear more about the vital work we do, we can provide free speakers at a time suitable for you and can tailor the talk to suit your group.

**For more information or to book a talk please email
reception.lbh@chsw.org.uk or call 01271 325 270**



Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West
www.chsw.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1003314



CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DEVON

GOOD NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF EXETER | MAY 2018



Inside:

UPLOAD EVENT
RETURNS TO EXETER
CATHEDRAL



FINDING GOD
IN SILENCE AND
PRAYER

THY KINGDOM COME PRAYER FOCUS

Churches across Devon are preparing to pray as part of Thy Kingdom Come, an initiative backed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Churches around our diocese are gearing up for this year's 'Thy Kingdom Come' when they will join in with the amazing wave of prayer across the UK and around the world – praying that people will come to know Jesus. It's happening between Ascension and Pentecost from 10 May to 20 May.

Last year a wide variety of prayer activities, events and gatherings spanned every mission community with events in churches, GP surgeries, cafes, parks and schools, culminating in a fantastic beacon event in the Cathedral on the day of Pentecost.

This year's theme for the diocese is 'The River of Life' taken from the prophet Ezekiel's vision of the outpouring of God's Spirit for healing and renewal.

Diocesan Mission Enabler Barry



Dugmore explained: "For Christians, Jesus is the source of our living hope – a hope that can be shared through loving, serving, praying and inviting others to explore the Christian faith.

"At Pentecost we can celebrate that the promise of the Spirit has become a reality – the life-giving Holy Spirit poured into the lives of all believers to know God personally and personally go for God, and with God, as witnesses of his saving love made known in Jesus."

As part of the River of Life theme it is suggested that prayer trees are used as part of an event or prayer


space; and leaf and fruit templates are available on which people can write their prayers.

On Pentecost Sunday, Exeter Cathedral will again be hosting a beacon celebration and prayer event at 6.30pm at which individuals, parishes and groups are invited to bring their leaf and fruit prayers in a basket or in something that symbolises your community and the on-going work and prayer for God's kingdom across Devon.

Details and resources are available on the diocesan website www.exeter.anglican.org

EXETER.ANGLICAN.ORG

 @CofEDevon

 Diocese of Exeter

 cofedevon

GET INVOLVED IN CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Last year people in Devon raised over £230,000 for the work of Christian Aid, with £140,000 of that being given in Christian Aid Week. This month Christian Aid week runs from 13-19 May and, as well as collections, people are invited to host a Big Brekkie or run other events to raise money to help people affected by natural disasters.

Regional co-ordinator Jill Stone explained: "In countries like Haiti, repeated natural disasters have resulted in thousands of people being forced to flee their homes. People like Vilía, who was left bereaved and homeless by the devastating earthquake in 2010. Life became a daily struggle for Vilía and her family."

Eight years after the earthquake, 38,000 people are still displaced. Christian Aid's partner, KORAL, helps local people prepare for disasters. In the aftermath of the earthquake, they helped by building Vilía and her family a new home that was safe, stable and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters.

Ahead of Hurricane Matthew in 2016, KORAL were able to warn local communities, helping evacuate



around 5,000 families and saving many lives. Vilía's new home sheltered 54 people over several days. In the immediate aftermath KORAL also distributed urgently-needed shelter kits, hygiene kits, food seeds and cash transfers. You can find details, resources and donate online at www.caweeek.org

BELLRINGERS UNITE TO MARK CENTENARY

An ap-'peal' has gone out to church bell ringers around Britain to join in a major event later this year to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.

The organisers of Battle's Over, a national and international event marking the armistice, hope more than 1,000 churches and cathedrals will participate by ringing their bells simultaneously at 7.05pm on 11 November.

Pageantmaster Bruno Peek said: "We want this to be the most widespread ringing of church bells since the First World War. It would be a fitting and moving tribute to the 1,400 or so bell ringers that we understand lost their lives during that war."

For details and to register your event, go to: www.brunopeek.co.uk

UPLOAD THE FUN AT THE CATHEDRAL

Bands, inflatables, a pamper zone, gaming areas and lots more is on offer for young people at this month's Upload event in the Cathedral.

Two years ago 1,500 young people attended the first ever Upload and it is being repeated by popular demand.

Co-ordinator of the event James Grier said: "The aim was to get young people thinking about faith in the midst of a fun-packed night. We are aiming to have a night which blows away their preconceptions."

The free event, with the theme 'Sharing your Story' takes place on Saturday 12 May from 7-10pm and is



aimed at secondary school students between 13 and 18 years old. If you'd like to know more or to volunteer or receive a promotional pack, please contact James Grier on 07825 610288 or visit the Upload website: www.uploadexeter.com

A computer research scientist has developed a new app to help busy Christians take five minutes out to meditate and pray

FINDING GOD IN SILENCE AND PRAYER



Meeting God in silence and prayer has led one computer scientist to use his skills to create an app to encourage others to spend five minutes in meditation each day.

Neill, who works in computers as a research scientist, came up with the idea after he was diagnosed with ME four years ago following a period of feeling overwhelmingly tired.

A specialist suggested he try mindfulness techniques and have proper rest times, suggesting he spend at least 10 minutes every day meditating.

Neill became a Christian when he was 18 after a friend shared what faith meant to him.

Neill said: "I was ready to believe but I needed something to break through."

God answered his prayer and so began a journey of discovery for Neill as he asked others about their Christian beliefs.

He adds: "Slowly I came to trust in Jesus and committed

my whole life to following Him."

"I came to have a genuine belief in God and then, as I'd already begun meditating as part of my health recovery, I could see the benefits of it and wanted to do it in a Christian context. When I meditate I can feel

the tangible presence of God and that's what I want to offer to others, so I developed the app."

"I hope people use the app as a chance to grab a bit of stillness in their day, even if it's only 10 minutes at lunchtime. I really hope that it's a little oasis of calm and that this period of stillness can help them focus on God."

"Slowly I came to trust in Jesus and committed my whole life to following Him."

The app contains reflections and meditations based on biblical meditation and contemplative prayer.

Neil worships at St George and St Paul's Church in Tiverton.

To get the app search for Reflect – Christian Mindfulness on the Google Play store.



The Rt Rev Nick McKinnel
Bishop of Plymouth

Taste the wine

Would you like to come and speak at a wine tasting evening?" The invitation it turned out was not for me to explain the finer points of viniculture or hold forth on the subtle bouquet of a Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon. This was a church guest evening to encourage friends and neighbours to think about the Christian faith in a conducive setting.

We did in fact learn quite a lot about wine, each glass being accompanied by a short talk followed by a lot of sniffing, sipping and slurping amid "hints of mango" and "aromatics of blackberry". Then – and before we'd consumed too much – it was my turn to say a few words.

My predictable starting point was the wine-tasting in Cana, the wedding where the wine ran out. Quite why that happened we don't know, but I like to think of the bride's face as she turned to her new husband: "I only gave you one thing to do – to sort out the wine!"

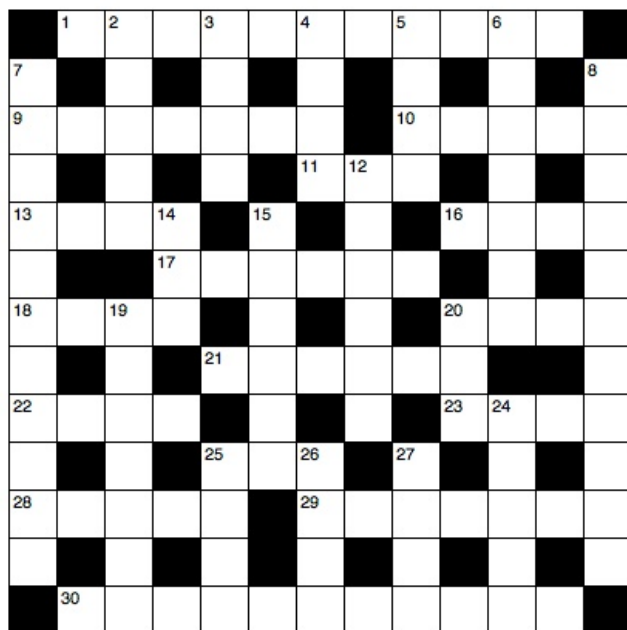
Jesus saves the day (and probably the marriage!). At his command the waiters fill some stone water jars with water, and when the master of ceremonies tastes it, he declares that they have kept the best wine until last. He makes it the most famous wedding ever. Millions will be watching this month's royal wedding – but at

every church wedding in history the congregation have been reminded that "Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee."

In recounting the story in his gospel, John calls this a sign, and a sign points to something. Here Jesus is not just helping out a mate in trouble. He is revealing himself as the one who provides the very best wine, the perfect bridegroom who offers us a relationship with God as intimate and demanding as marriage itself. In his hands the water of religion becomes the wine of relationship. My encouragement was to taste it.



May crossword



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27)(5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger(Isaiah 28:7)(4)
- 16 'Anyone,then,who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke(Acts13:50)(6)
- 18 Burden(Luke11:46)(4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)

- 21 Sign(Luke23:38)(6)
- 22 'After that,Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has(anag.)(3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem,Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk,so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him,'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10)(6)
- 14 Container cover(Numbers19:15)(3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death,even death on— —!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11)(7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38)(3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma,Vishnu or Shiva(5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who—you'(Luke6:30)(4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

May Sudoku - Medium

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

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Days of Note -May

1st May: **May Day – unbridled merriment**

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to ‘all sorts’! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in ‘Olde England’ the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: ‘for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?’

Henry VIII went ‘maying’ on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower

We are here today, and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

10th May:

Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with

Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

20th May Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with his other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of his Holy Spirit.

21st May

Helena, Protector of the Holy Places

Helena should be the patron saint of all mothers who help their sons achieve great things.

Helena was born at Drepanum in Bithynia about 250. Although only a stable-maid or innkeeper's daughter, she caught the eye and affections of a Roman general, Constantius Chlorus, while he was stationed in Asia Minor on a military campaign. She bore him a son, Constantine, in about 272.

But Constantius was ambitious, and when he became co-emperor (Caesar) in the West in 292, he abandoned Helena in order to marry the stepdaughter of his patron. Helena and her son were sent to live in the court of Diocletian at Nicomedia, where Constantine grew up as a member of the inner circle. Helena never remarried, and lived

close to her son, who was devoted to her.

Then, in 306, Constantius died, and Constantine became Augustus of the Roman Empire. He brought his beloved mother to live at the imperial court.

When Constantine became the first Christian emperor of Rome, Helena also became a Christian. She was devout, dressing modestly, and giving generously to churches, the poor, and to prisoners. But soon Constantine had other plans for her: they agreed that she would help him locate the relics of Judeo-Christian tradition in Palestine. To aid her, Constantine gave her the title Augusta Imperatrix, and unlimited access to the imperial treasury.

And so, from 326-28, even though she was very old, Helena explored the Holy Land on behalf of her son, the Emperor. She went to Bethlehem and founded the Church of the Nativity. She went to the Mount of Olives and founded the Church of Eleona. She went to Calvary, and tore down a temple built to Venus over the tomb of Jesus. Constantine then ordered the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Helena also seems to have also founded the chapel at St Catherine's Monastery.

Helena died in 330 in the Holy Land, with Constantine at her side. He brought her body back to Constantinople and buried her in the imperial vault in the Church of the Apostles.

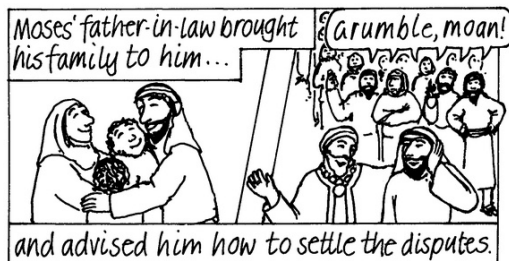
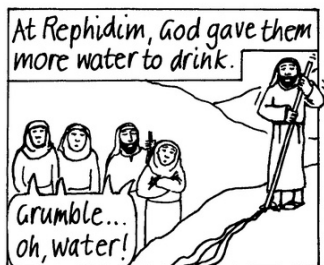
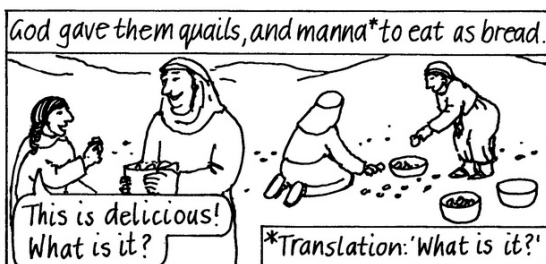
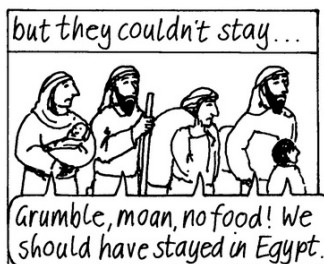
We owe to this special mother and son the preservation and honouring of the most famous sites of Christianity.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15: 22 to 19: 2

God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days...



Word search

w	n	v	m	q	s	t	a	f	f	m	l
a	h	i	o	e	g	y	p	t	z	a	v
t	l	i	s	a	a	r	o	n	m	m	f
e	m	o	n	t	h	s	a	m	o	a	n
r	m	d	g	g	r	q	s	i	u	l	s
l	o	h	r	g	e	u	i	k	n	e	i
g	d	e	u	l	p	a	s	t	t	k	n
f	x	l	m	a	h	i	h	u	a	i	a
o	c	p	b	n	i	l	p	f	i	t	i
o	d	e	l	d	d	s	l	x	n	e	j
d	u	d	e	l	i	c	i	o	u	s	e
b	r	e	a	d	m	a	n	n	a	f	v

- bread

manna

water

delicious

Moses

Sinai

God

disputes
- whinge

staff

Egypt

mountain

food

Aaron

moan

Rephidim
- land

oasis

grumble

quails

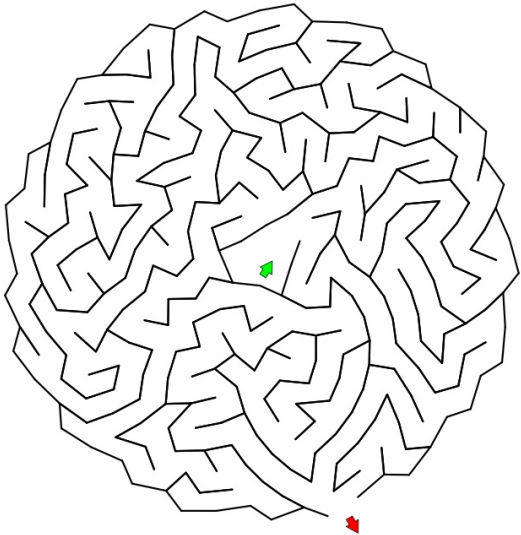
Elim

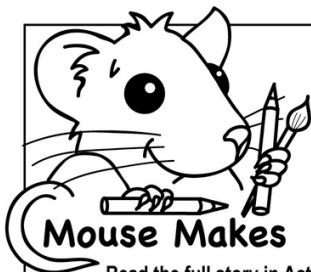
months

Amalekites

helped

Maze



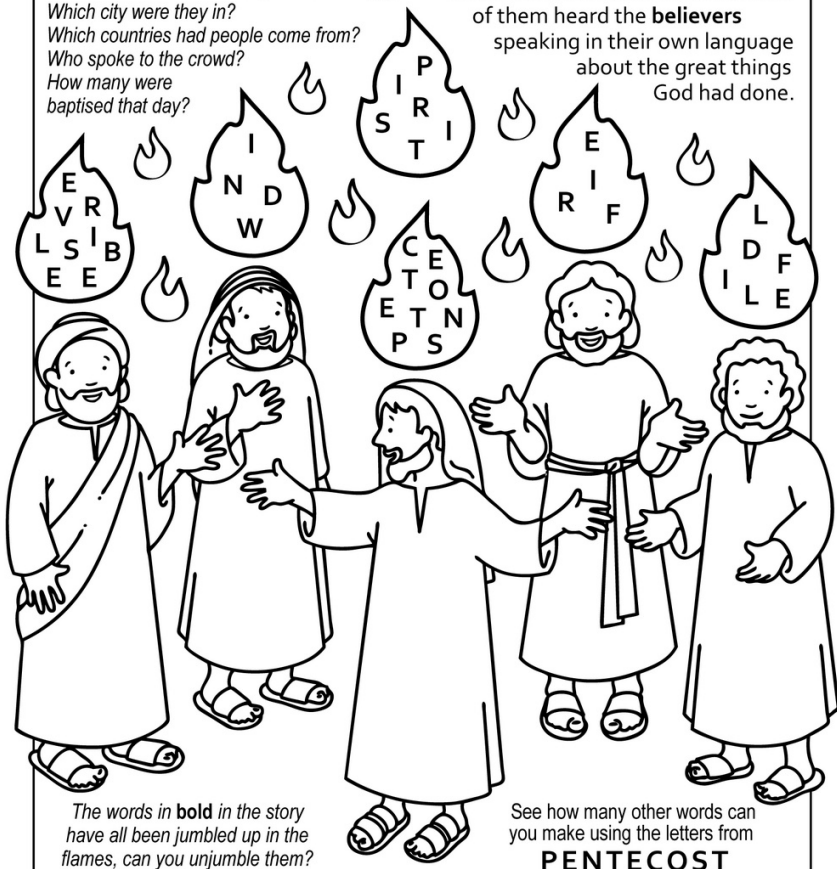


It was the festival of **Pentecost** and the Apostles and other believers were all together in one place, when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like flames of **fire** which spread out and touched each person. They were all **filled** with the Holy **Spirit** and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

Read the full story in Acts 2

Which city were they in?
Which countries had people come from?
Who spoke to the crowd?
How many were
baptised that day?

A crowd gathered outside, they were excited and confused because each of them heard the **believers** speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.



The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the flames, can you unjumble them?

See how many other words can you make using the letters from

PENTECOST

Puzzle solutions

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

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

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the June issue of New Leaves is Sunday 20th May

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

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.