New Leaves

November 2019



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

50p

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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 Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

November 2019 From the Vicarage

Singing the Faith

'Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Ephesians 5

At a recent Deanery Synod Canon James Mustard, Precentor at Exeter Cathedral, gave a presentation about the use of the psalms in worship. He spoke of the power and richness of the psalms and of the universal themes found in them. Unfortunately the psalms are not used as much in mainstream Anglican worship as they used to be, although if we say Morning and Evening Prayer we will recite a portion of the psalms each day.

But it got me thinking about the central place of music in our worship. It's interesting that in those well known verses from St Paul he refers to 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' which suggests that even in the very early church there was quite a diversity of music. There certainly is a diversity of music used in our two churches - and we don't even venture much into the vast swathes of 'worship songs' that are now the staple diet of many churches.

Music is beautiful in itself and almost all of us enjoy music of some sort. But music in worship has several specific roles.

Firstly, it is a way of teaching and learning the faith. The hymns of the great writers put the beliefs and expressions of faith into memorable form and

the great melodies become indelibly linked with them. I was very moved when in my Derby parish I visited one of our oldest choir members in hospital. He had experienced a good deal of ill health and was facing a dangerous operation. He confided in me that it was the words he had sung as a young chorister that had stayed with him and sustained his faith in difficult times. I remember praying with him and then finding out a few days later that he had not had to have the operation after all. Truly an answer to prayer!

Secondly music can give us space to reflect in our worship. Anglican worship can tend to be wordy but music, as well as silence, can bring space in which we can reflect on God's word and God's presence with us and on his call in our lives. A piece of music played, or an anthem sung is a performance, but the point of the performance is to give time for reflection and prayer so that our public worship can breathe.

Thirdly music gives us a way of being joined together. John Chrysostom the golden-tongued Bishop of Constantinople around the year 400AD said this about the singing in his church:

'The psalm which occurred just now in the office blended all voices together, and caused one single fully harmonious chant to arise; young and old, rich and poor, women and men, slaves and free, all sang one single melody... all the inequalities of social life are banished. Together we make up a single choir in perfect equality of rights and of expression whereby earth imitates heaven. Such is the noble character of the Church.' (Homily 5)

Perhaps that is a little idealistic. But when we join in a hymn or setting of the Gloria together the music holds us together and gives unified expression to our faith, whatever our vocal abilities, or lack of them!

Yesterday (at the time of writing) St David's Church was used for most of the day for musical activities; firstly an afternoon of choirs visiting for 'Oxjam' a one day musical event in Exeter in aid of Oxfam and then in the evening we hosted the 75th anniversary concert of Exeter Railway Band.

I know that people really love coming into both of our churches to perform and enjoy music. Not all of the performances are of religious music (although quite a few are). But it is all life enhancing and often the choir and music groups who come provide mutual support and therapy to those who are finding life hard.

Indeed, the African drumming and guitar workshops at St Michael's are part of the Devon Recovery Learning Community which is part of our local NHS provision for recovery form mental health problems and management of symptoms. If you would like to learn more about their superb work why not go along to the St Michael's Lecture on Wednesday November 20th at 7.30pm when Dr Glenn Roberts will be speaking about 'The Rediscovery of Recovery: open to all?'. He has been a consultant psychiatrist in Devon for nearly 30 years and was a past lead on Recovery for the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

So music plays many roles within our churches, both in worship and outside it. Bells call people to worship and mark times of prayer and devotion. Our choirs and music group help to lead worship. And our churches provide wonderful acoustic spaces for memorable performances by community groups and places where healing is enabled. What a great gift for us to celebrate and share!

With every good wish and blessing

Nigel Guthrie



November 2019 from St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham

What is truth? Not 'what is the truth?' as if it were a definable object, but an essence, a nebulous quantity. Pontius Pilate asked the question that has been on my mind for some time. It cropped up again as the current Chief Rabbi explained *Rosh Hashanah* on a 'Thought for the Day' slot, a truth that defined time, a year in Jewish chronolgy to mark the people's relationship with G-d.

The Soviet newspaper was called 'Pravda', 'Truth',; I don't think it was in any way meant to be ironic. Instead, this was the truth as seeen by the Soviet leaders and journalists. Telling the truth is what we expect of those in high office, and of people we deal with. We hope that we ourselves are not lying, that we tell the truth and are not unreliable or flaky with facts. According to a recent survey, ideas that were anathema just thirty or so years ago are now almost fully accepted in our society: divorce, homosexuality, gay marriage, abortion... We still draw the line at financial fraud, paedophilia, human trafficking and cruelty to animals. So are these new truths? Are we more enlightened nowadays, or less bothered by what was seen to be immoral a while back?

A phrase that has become part of the vernacular is 'Fake News.' Now this concept is not new; it just has a name. Ian Hislop reviewed the rise of FN, charting its rise in the States since the 19th century, with an item in the New York's *Sun*



newspaper about life on the Moon revealed by a giant telescope, supported by drawings showing 'real' beings as there were no photographs as evidence, to the explosion of social media platforms in our own time. The American historian he interviewed explained the popularity of such things: 'Lies sell'. Hislop said: 'If you can make people believe your version of what's happening on the moon, you can make them believe your version of what's happening on the Earth. Even if it isn't true.'

When I lived in South Africa, the country was visited by photo-journalists from the UK, who came to take pictures of starving bare-footed Black

children, searching waste-bins for scraps of food. Many children in South Africa went bare-foot for a good part of the time; I did myself. Thanks to judicial editing of the photographs, bits of the pictures that showed the journalists themselves putting sweeties on boxes inside the bins could be trimmed off, the equivalent of modern editing or photo-shopping. The truth was traduced by pictorial lies, cynically produced to discredit the regime. I'm not defending apartheid here, (pronounced 'apart-height', by the way, not 'apart-hate' as is so often propounded), but the event made me suspicious of all but the very best genuine journalism. After all, history is written by the victors. It takes a long time for the other side to surface for inspection.

Richard Dawkins has written a book, 'Outgrowing God: A Beginner's Guide'; he reaffirms his previously stated beliefs, that science holds the answers to everything. God doesn't exist, science is wonderful and everyone who holds a religious belief is an idiot. Not only that, but there are unprincipled, credulous adults who enforce those stupid beliefs on impressionable children. Unfortunately there are some errors which undermine his theories, according to the review in 'Private Eye' 1506.

Never mind, there is counter-review, a rebuttal, if you will, in the very next issue, 1507, on the Letters page, which suggests the comments must have been written by 'a cleric who is increasingly unaware that his kind are fading from the world...' and has grossly misinterpreted St Dawkins's ideas.

Who or what to believe?

The New Testament Lesson for Trinity 18 is prophetic:

'For the time is coming (writes St Paul to Timothy) when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.'

So often now we hear of groups in society who find much of daily life 'unacceptable', who are offended by some of the simplest things and demand immediate action and change. The removal of a statue of Ghandi, the 'Rhodes must fall' campaign: such attuitudes as these deny our history and make it almost impossible to understand how we have become the people we are.

'This is the truth which cameth from above' we sing – and believe at

Advent, in preparation for the joyful and sacrificial gift of Christ.

What is truth?



Truth - again

Here is a postscript to the earlier piece. I paraphrase what John Henry Newman, recently accorded sainthood by Pope Francis, wrote about truth: All truth, religious or scientific, has but one source: the mind of God. Narrow and closed minds cannot join or understand others which include the breadth of this kind of truth.

Thanks

We are fortunate in having some talented linguists with us here at St Michael's. Our excellent notes about the church in English have been translated into Italian, French and German and have already been used by visitors. Thank you to Marco and Vivian.



Deserts, Birds and Trees

A wonderfully reflective opportunity presented itself on our Parish Quiet Day held on Saturday 12 October at Mill House Retreats, Rockwell Manor Farm, Tiverton. "Deserts, Birds and Trees" was the intriguing title given to the day, which was led by the



Reverend Nigel Guthrie. Nigel gave three short addresses accompanied by Bible readings and further references to read and contemplate in your own quiet space.

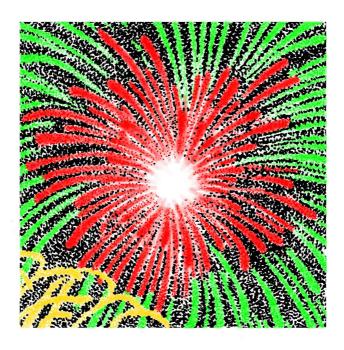
After hearing of Christ's temptations in the desert, Nigel asked us to consider our own desert places where we might find peace and time to think about God as well as places where we might be tempted. There are many references to birds in the Bible. Indeed lecterns, the reading stands from where the lessons are read, are often in the shape of eagles with wings outstretched to hold the Word of God. The Bible is also rich in the imagery of trees and being rooted in God, the everlasting river of life. In our period of quiet we were asked to think about the question "What is the river that helps me to be fruitful?" We had discussed Psalm 1 and especially verse 3:

"They are like trees, planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season". Nigel's questions were suggestions for consideration and permission was given to be just quiet, even doze, or read or walk in the garden. It was the quiet that was important, not always an easy commodity in our busy, hectic world.

If you haven't attended a Quiet Day before, I thoroughly recommend it. Mill House Retreats, with its many rooms and nestled corners, is an excellent venue. Lunch was provided and we were able to talk and share fellowship.

Our thanks go to Howard and Helen Friend for organising the day, especially when last minute arrangements had to be made and, of course, to Nigel. Look out for our next Quiet Day and sign up to go. You won't regret it. A time to rest with God.





St David's Eucharist November

Sunday 3rd November All Saints Day

Reading 1	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Gabrielle Kirby
Reading 2	Ephesians 1:11-end	Gina Redman
Gospel	Luke 6:20-31	
Time of prayer	\neg	Ian Cartwright

Sunday 10th November Remembrance Sunday

Sullday Totil Novelliber Kelliellibrance Sullday				
Reading 1	Job 19:23-27a	Sarah Black		
Reading 2	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5;13-ei	Philip Walker		
Gospel	Luke 20:27-38			
Time of prayer		David James		

Sunday 17th November 2 before Advent

Confirmation Service with +Jackie		

Sunday 24th November Christ the King Sunday next before Advent

Reading 1	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Clive Wilson
Reading 2	Colossians 1:11-20	Sue Wilson
Gospel	Luke 23:33-43	
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett

Sunday 1st December Advent Sunday

Reading 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Helen Friend
Reading 2	Romans 13:11-end	Emma White
Gospel	Matthew 24:36-44	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson



Reverend Hannah Alderson, Lazenby Chaplain

The Reverend Hannah Alderson was licensed as Lazenby Chaplain by the Bishop of Crediton, the Right Reverend Jackie Searle, in the Mary Harris

Memorial Chapel, Exeter University on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 17.30h. As many of you will remember Hannah and her husband Paul worshipped at St David's for some years as Hannah discerned her path towards ordained ministry. Very occasionally she has led our worship at St David's both at our Sunday morning Eucharist and our Thursday morning Holy Communion. It is good to have such a positive link with the University and perhaps we shall see Hannah preside and lead worship for us in the future.



The Lazenby Chaplain is the Anglican Chaplain for Streatham Campus and, since 1st June 2019, also St Luke's Campus in Exeter. They are an Official of the University, appointed jointly by representatives of the University and the Diocese of Exeter, and funded by The Lazenby Trust which was set up from the estate of the late Katherine Maud Lazenby of Tiverton (hence the name). Hannah has also been involved as Vocational Development Officer for the Diocese, when she also held the post of Chaplain on the St Luke's College campus.

The Chapel was full to hear Hannah firmly make her Declaration of Assent and take her oath of allegiance. There is a multi faith chaplaincy at the University and the co-ordinator of this group welcomed Hannah to the team. Hannah is supported by an Anglican Chaplaincy team, which the Bishop also welcomed and commissioned. New choral scholars were also commissioned and received their surplices before filling the Chapel with a strong rendering by the whole Chapel choir of C. Hubert H Parry's setting to the 122nd Psalm "I was Glad".

As a Parish we wish Hannah God's Blessings on her ministry at the University. In her sermon the Bishop emphasised the importance of the role when many students are searching and deciding their paths. Mental health issues among students have also been recognised as pertinent to a happy and successful time of study. May the Lord give Hannah the courage, wisdom, strength and love to do his will.





"It's a devil to start on these damp November Sunday mornings – luckily we have a sidesman who works for the AA"

Journey Of a Lifetime – John O' Groats to Land's End (JOGLE) by bike – part 2, Carlisle to the Rossendale Valley

On the second Saturday of my ride I left Gretna Green and Scotland. I crossed the border to England without noticing and was soon heading for Carlisle. Here I passed the site of the old Roman fort of Luguvalium before visiting the magnificent Norman castle for sightseeing and a coffee. The castle was captured by the Jacobites in 1745 before the Duke of Cumberland recaptured it prior to defeating Prince Charlie at Culloden, which I had passed a week earlier on my trip.

On a beautiful sunny afternoon I rode between the Fells of the Lake district to the west and the Pennines to the East, passing the radio transmitter mast at Skelton (the tallest structure in Britain at 365m) and arrived at Penrith. This is a lovely old market town and regional centre. St Andrews church is a lovely large Georgian building with galleries and an aim "To be an open, worshipping, caring ,witnessing and serving community, in which all find a place, explore life and discover a living faith in Jesus Christ". The churchyard has some 10th century tombstones called the "Giant's grave"

and a Nordic cross (the "Giant's thumb"). There are many independent shops such as the Hedgehog bookshop, a shop to reduce packaging ("Another Weigh"), with a bike decorated with knitting and a display by Queen Street nursery on fun ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.



I stayed at the Wayfarers' hostel, a specialised hostel for cyclists, as both the coast-to-coast(C2C) and JOGLE routes pass through. The basement is secure for bikes and contains a dryroom and a fully equipped workshop for running repairs. I met a young army officer who was also following the



Sustrans route but was attempting to complete in fewer days than me, so was doubling up the suggested stages which was proving more challenging and tiring. He had some problems with saddle sores which I was mercifully free from! For dinner I had the obvious choice of Cumberland sausages and mash.

On Sunday I wished the army officer good luck as he attempted to reach Walley whilst I headed for Yealand in Lancashire. It was again bright and sunny which was just as well as I soon realised I'd mistaken a turning and the sun was on my right rather than left and that I was again heading north! Turning around I passed the ruins of Brougham castle crossing the river Eden by the bridge that was badly damaged by the floods of December 2015. This area is prone to floods due to the surrounding hills rapidly draining into the flat valleys; floods are increasingly likely in a warmer and moister climate.

I decided to avoid Appleby and take an alternative route suggested by the guide book to miss out some hills and was very glad I did when I reached Maulds Meaburn. The village Institute was raising funds by serving Sunday breakfast and lunches. I became a minor "celebrity" when they found out what I was doing and insisted on a photo for the Institute Facebook page. Before leaving I stopped at the bus shelter (no buses nowadays though) with a display by local children about our fragile world and threats to animals and life from climate change and increasing use of products based

on palm oil. Local jams and relishes from hedgerow fruit were on sale for the World Wildlfe Fund. Fortified by tea and a double fried egg bap I headed off towards Shap and then along the Lune valley to Kendal. Although there was a lot of climbing it was more than rewarded by the glorious views. Skirting Kendal I headed south to Arnside and Siverdale AONB and soon caught a glimpse of Morecambe Bay and eventually reached my destination of Yealand Old School hostel. This is run by the Quakers and is next to the meeting house. After meeting the caretaker Alison and having a long chat putting the world to rights I settled in to the easy access room with ensuite shower as I was the only guest. The meeting house was tranquil and peaceful with a poem entitled Draw Breath

Breath in the quiet purpose of this place; Through outward stillness, seek a calm within. Here we can find forgiveness and forgive; Here feel the healing miracle begin.

There was also an account by George Fox of his visit to Yealand in 1652 and a meeting of Friends which was not so calm as he was threatened by a priest with a pistol and a group with muskets. Fortunately the incident was averted and he came to no harm.

The next day I climbed the short walk to Summerhouse Hill and Warton Crag for views across the sands of Morecambe Bay before heading south, passing near Carnforth railway station (of Brief Encounter fame). This stage was guite hard going as it crossed the Forest of Bowland, which is more high moor than forest. I met several cyclists who were out for the day including a lovely elderly cyclist dressed rather like someone out an Alan Bennet play with long blue socks and a cyclist cap. We met up again after the descent to Slaidburn as I ate my lunch, and he'd obviously cycled about 3 times as far as me going the other way around Bowland and his road bike was guite something. He had a fantastic Lancashire accent and reported to his daughter by mobile phone text so that she didn't worry where he was. I thought how much better we were able to stay connected and I'd benefitted from the GPS, maps and route apps on my phone to know exactly where I was and how to amend my plans when necessary. GPS is a spin-off from military technology as is the internet (a private US network of computers originally) with the World Wide Web originating at CERN the



Forest of Bowland looking towards Pen-y-ghent

particle physics collaboration facility in Geneva. I recalled that as a bumptious postgraduate at Manchester university I had asked during a lecture by a visiting professor Martin Veltman from CERN to justify the spending at CERN. He replied that we should find out as much as we could about our world and how it worked and anyway who knew what benefits to the greater good may arise later. The interconnectedness we now take for granted is one of those, although as with all technology it has down sides such as "Fake news" and misinformation and bullying by social media. Incidentally Veltman and his student t'Hofft won the Noble Prize in 1999 for their fundamental theoretical work on understanding the unification of 2 of the 4 fundamental forces of nature.

Arriving at Walley I looked at the Abbey and its gardens, which is used by the church as a retreat for the Diocese of Blackburn. Nearby was an excellent tea shop and I was enjoying the rest when I noticed a car reversing over the pavement and colliding with my bike. Fortunately the bike was locked to the lampost in such a way as to allow it to rotate. Shouting to the driver to stop and banging his car with my hand only

infuriated him. He was outraged that I'd touched his car and refused to get out and look at the possible damage to the bike (or his car!) His wife who worked at the cafe came out and was very apologetic but he just told her to get in and drove off. I had just came out in time and there was no great damage to the bike apart from a few more scratches. The near miss brought home to me how reliant I was on the bike. I finished the day with a ride by the Leeds and Liverpool canal around Accrington and into Rossendale to our friends at Haslingden where I was to stay the night. They live in Moorland rise which was the final climb after a tiring and eventful day.





Leeds and Liverpool canal near Accrington

CREE & Christmas Boxes for Moldova

Christmas is coming but very few families in Moldova are expecting any presents and certainly not more food than is good for them.

Their problem is that they were born the wrong side of a border, born in Eastern Europe and not the West. Situated between Romania and Ukraine, Moldova has been described as the poorest country in Europe. It relies to a large extent on agriculture and the fields are worked mainly by hand. School holidays are long so the children can help with this.

The life style has had huge effects on all ages. Father may work in Russia and rarely see his family. Mother meantime struggles on the family farm. The children work and help as and when they can. Both parents may need to work and grandparents are left to look after the children. Living conditions are very basic indeed.

The children are childish and adult at the same time. They like to play with toys, blow bubbles, and dress up, but they can be in charge of a baby when they are only six. The weather in winter is very cold indeed and this affects everyone especially the elderly. It can be so cold they are actually terrified of death.

CREE

Christian Response to Eastern Europe is trying to do whatever it can to help those who live in such grinding poverty. This is happening in schools, orphanages, summer camps, soup kitchens and hospitals. Articulated lorries from this country deliver clothing, bedding, school supplies, used computers, as well as medical equipment and of course the.....

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

At St Davids we have tried for a good few years to share some of our Christmas joy and good fortune by filling shoe boxes with small presents for families in Moldova. Receiving a present from someone you have never met makes Christmas very special, even more so if it includes a card or letter or

even a photo. These boxes will not only give great pleasure to the recipients ,who would probably otherwise receive nothing and who will immediately want to share their pencils and crayons and toys, but also to their parents and grandparents who are so delighted to see the children receive what they themselves cannot provide.

It is possible that we can name some of the boxes individually, or label others just boy, girl, baby, man, woman and age group etc. Group boxes with larger items are also a good idea . Advice will be available in church for the next few Sundays. Boxes need to be returned to Church by Sunday December 1st . They will then be taken to Exmouth and loaded with others on the lorry for Moldova . Please take part if you can. It is great fun too!







A Wrinkle in Time – Book & Film

My bibliophile daughter has introduced me to the prolific American, Episcopalian author Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007), specifically some of her 'young adult', i.e. teenage, fiction.

L'Engle almost gave up on a writing career after strings of rejections, but in 1962 her most well-known book "A Wrinkle in Time" was published. Unique is an overused word, but...

I suppose it's a bit like a cross between C S Lewis's Science Fiction trilogy and his Narmia book "The Magician's Nephew".

Awkward teenager Meg Murry's father has disappeared – his astrophysics research got a bit too practical. She, her precocious young brother, Charles Wallace, and school friend Calvin must go on an interplanetary rescue mission, guided by three weird women who are much more than they seem and can jump across the vastness of space using wrinkles in the space-time continuum where worlds touch.

L'Engle writes sparsely, giving ideas as much space as description, so one can canter through the story, or keep pausing to paint one's own images and think more deeply.

Forces of darkness & light are fighting to dominate the Universe. Written during the Cold War, the central terror is perhaps her metaphor for Totalitarianism, but could equally be Artificial Intelligence or our Big Tech corporations gone bad.

In 2018 the story got the Disney treatment; reviews were poor, but it's a decent family film. The contemporary update, changes & omissions will jar with those who love the book, and the visual effects tend to dominate the ideas. As in many fantasy films some of the more spiritual ideas are dumbed down in favour of action. Courage & adventure are noble qualities, but, as in the book, ultimately it is faithfulness, self-sacrifice & love which save the Daddy and get them all home.

Over about 30 years L'Engle wrote a dozen follow-on books which develop her interest in the interplay of science, ethics & religion.

Calvin O'Keefe & Meg marry, and work in interesting locations at the forefront of marine biology research.

Here's just a taste of 4 books, spanning the teenage years of their daughter, Polly. Actually Polyhymnia, named after the muse of sacred music by her godfather, one Canon Tallis, a cross between Father Brown and James Bond.

"The Arm of the Starfish", set in Lisbon and the O'Keefe's Lab off the coast

of Portugal, is a scientific espionage thriller. Canon Tallis and summer student Adam try to keep young Poly safe from a ruthless group out to steal & exploit the results of her father's cutting-edge research. It's a book about whom to trust, making choices, singing, swimming & dolphins, where small decisions spiral to a dramatic ending.

"Dragons in the Waters" is an Agatha Christie style murder mystery set mainly on a freighter en route to Venezuela, with an heirloom portrait of Simon Bolivar, a dozen eccentric passengers and a tense crew. Dr O'Keefe, with Polly & her brother Charles, is to study the lakeside environment & culture of an indigenous tribe threatened by oil exploration. Canon Tallis is called in to investigate.

"A House like a Lotus" sees 16 year old Polly in Athens, headed for Cyprus to work at a writers & artists conference. She is picked up by wealthy but aimless student Zach, keen to show her the sights, but her mind is processing the previous few months. Hating the peer pressure & casual dating of school, she has spent her spare time with a family friend, Max, a middle-aged artist and her 'friend' Ursula at their isolated mansion on the South Carolina coast.

Polly learns about art, ethnography, Shakespeare, tropical disease, love,



esbians & loss (so perhaps not one for the younger reader) and how complex & confusing adults can be.

"An Acceptable Time" is a time-slip story, comparing the primitive superstition and blood sacrifice of tribes living in New England some 3000 years ago with the exploitation and warfare of the 20th century – we might add the shallow culture and deep crises of the 21st century. We have more knowledge, but do we have any more wisdom?

We are back where 'A Wrinkle in Time' started some 30 years ago. Polly is there being home-educated by her scientist grandparents – Gran still has her lab in the house but her Bunsen burner heats casseroles these days. They are friends with a liberal retired Bishop with more than a passing interest in those ancient tribes - 'I am entirely orthodox, but that doesn't mean I have to have a closed mind', and his medic sister - while many people say they are 'spiritual but not religious', I think Dr Louise would describe herself as 'religious but not spiritual'; an honesty I like. Are some strands of Christianity are almost 'pagan' in their interpretation of the Cross as the blood sacrifice demanded by an angry God? Zach turns up again with a weak heart, both medically & emotionally. By the end of their adventure Polly & the Bishop have worked hard to give Zach a change of heart and new hope – something most of us need from time to time.

There's much more online, with a 'madeleinelengle' website & twitter account curated by one of her granddaughters. Mid-November her home church in New York is hosting a conference on her thought & work. In her time L'Engle was considered too religious for American state schools, but too liberal for the majority of churches there! Her concerns seem prophetic, as environmental damage and the newer Right take hold in the USA and elsewhere.





November Events mainly at St Michael's

Regular times:- Sunday Sung Mass 11am. Choir Practice 7-8.30pm Tuesdays – new singers always welcome. Vespers is sung Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6pm. Matins & Low Mass take place Wednesdays at 9.30/10am.

First a few thank yous – to Fr Nigel for organising the trip to Tyntesfield to sing Evensong in the Gibbs' family Chapel; to all who contributed to our Harvest Thanksgiving & Bountiful Table; to Fr Dominic Cyrus for his joyful celebration of Mass and passionate preaching, and to our Parish Curate & Readers and Fr David Gunn-Johnson for visiting us too; to those who have joined our choir & congregation recently; and to Prof James Clark for a fascinating St Michael's Lecture on the Dissolution of the Monasteries, with several contemporary resonances.

November features the All Souls' Day Requiem (in place of 1st Sunday Evensong), Remembrance Sunday, Concerts, & another Lecture. Do come & support what you can.

So, diaries ready and here we go :-

Sun 3rd **Nov, 11am All Saints' Sunday.** Hymns 197: 226: 396. Missa 'O quam gloriosum', *Victoria*. Justorum animae, *Stanford*. 12Noon Bountiful Table of Bakes, Preserves & Produce.

6pm All Souls' Day (transferred). **Requiem Mass. Missa pro defunctis by Casciolini,** and reading of names of the Departed.

Thu 7th Nov, 12 noon @34 Restaurant, Exeter College. Parish Lunch – sign up in Church.

Sat 9th **Dec, 7.30pm. Exevox** Chamber Choir Concert. Brahms Requiem. Tickets £12 on advance – see https://www.exevox.org.uk/ or £14 on the door.

Sun 10th Nov, 10.55am. REMEMBRANCE. Act of Remembrance & Sung Mass, Hymns::489: 334: 417: 488. Missa l'Hora Passa, *Viadana.* For the fallen, *Keitch.*

Sun 17th Nov, 11am. Last after Trinity. Sung Mass. Hymns: 232: 490: 452.

Mass in F, Charles Wood. Blessed are the pure in heart, Walford Davies.

Wed 20thNov at 7.30 pm: St Michael's Lecture. Dr. Glenn Roberts MD, FRCPsych: The rediscovery of Recovery - open to all? Dr. Roberts has been a consultant psychiatrist in Devon for nearly 30 years, specialising in Rehabilitation and Social Psychiatry. All welcome.

Sat 23rd Nov, 9.30am at the Farmers Union, Men's Breakfast, details in church.

Sun 24th Nov, 11am. CHRIST the KING. Sung Mass. Hymns: 443: 345: 433 (om*). Missa Aeterna Christi Munera, *Palestrina*. Lift up your heads O ye gates, *Mathias*.

Sun 24th Nov at 4.30pm. Exeter Chorale Concert featuring Choral Gems" by Mozart & Haydn. Admission £10 including Tea-time Refreshments.

Sat 30th Nov, 7.30pm at St David's Church. Exeter Bach Society perform J S Bach's B minor Mass. Tickets £15 in advance from https://www.exeterbachsociety.org/concerts or £18 on the door.

Sun 1st **Dec, 11am. ADVENT SUNDAY.** Sung Mass. Litany in Procession, 11, 15. Missa Brevis, *Lotti*. Matin Responsory, *Palestrina*. 12Noon Bountiful Table of Bakes, Preserves & Produce.

N.B. No Evensong on Sun 1st Dec.

Instead we have our beautiful candlelit **Advent Procession at 6pm on Sun 8th Dec.**

Wishing you a peaceful Remembrancetide from all at St Michael's Mount Dinham.





Pyromaniac's Confession

I am not a pyromaniac, but I did set fire to three of our houses. Our first house was a terraced house. My husband liked to decorate through the night so one evening he set to work at about 11pm. Next morning I left him asleep and got up to light the coal fire. For the benefit of those who have never lit one, this is the theory. Put newspaper in the grate, cover with small pieces of wood and light the newspaper with a match. Alas, it didn't work! So I opened a bottle of paraffin and dowsed the above materials. Flames engulfed the bottle so I dropped it. It rolled across the woollen rug and rested against the newly painted wooden skirting board, which began to burn while smoke covered the new wallpaper. My screams brought my husband rushing downstairs and eventually putting out the flames. We hadn't been married long, so I was forgiven.

At our second house it was a little different. Alan was on night duty and I forgot to put the fire guard around the coal fire. During the night a glowing piece of coal fell on to our toddler's new shoes and charred one. I was very upset, as they cost thirty shillings, which was a large slice of our weekly income of less than ten pounds. My husband found me in tears, but said the shoes could be replaced. During the night he had been drawn into a game of cards. This was something he rarely did, but he had won thirty shillings. A miracle! (Neither of us gambled as it is a stupid activity, so please don't try it).

My third home had a drying rack above the cooker. One day I was by the sink when my husband tapped the outside window, which I duly opened. Suddenly he yelled, "Fire!" and dashed indoors to throw something in the



sink. A gust of wind from opening the window had blown a garment onto the gas flame beneath. Another lucky escape!

I have not yet set fire to Montpelier Court. The moral is, "If you are going to set fire to things, marry a fireman." Luckily I did! Not guilty! My brother's motor bike once burst into flames outside our front door, but that was not my fault.





Smilelines

Health

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. – Mark Twain

Tempted?

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. – Winston Churchill

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished!

Church council

Regardless of how many items there are on the church council agenda, a meeting will take the same amount of time.

Drumming for Recovery at St Michael's

If you walk past S. Michael's on a Friday evening, more often than not you will hear the muffled sound of drumming. You will doubtless recall the trope that a successful church is a church with a drum-kit. But S. Michael's drums are different, they are djembe drums from Africa and they are helping people to live well.

Perhaps I should explain. The Devon Recovery Learning Community, a part of the local NHS Trust that promotes mental health, lays on courses all over the county to help people in their recovery. Some of these are overtly therapeutic - Anger Management, Understanding your Medication, Introduction to Mindfulness. But others take a more oblique approach - Walking on Exmoor, Recovery through Bell-Ringing, Rowing Gigs on the Dart Estuary. They get people with agoraphobia out of the house, they build confidence, they create a community. And that is where the Djembe Drumming and the Guitar Classes at S. Michael's fit in.

If you want to know the thought behind these classes and behind the therapeutic method known as Recovery, you should come to the S. Michaels Lecture at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday November 20th. Dr. Glenn Robert, MD, FRCPsych, has been a consultant psychiatrist in Devon for more than a quarter of a century, and is one of the pioneers of the Recovery movement.

In mental health, Recovery has taken on a broader meaning. It is more about cultivating a healthier relationship with our experience and what is happening in our lives. It treats people as individuals with hope, opportunity and choice. Two anthologies describing experiences of Recovery called *Riding the Storms* and *Beyond the Storms* are available free from Recovery Devon at https://recoverydevon.co.uk/

Dr. Roberts is an expert and engaging speaker. Come and find out more. Admission, as ever, is free, though donations are gratefully accepted.



Church of S. Michael & All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter, EX4 4EB

The S. Michael's Lectures Autumn 2019



Wednesday November 20th at 7.30 pm: Dr. Glenn Roberts MD, FRCPsych:

The rediscovery of Recovery: open to all?

Dr. Roberts has been a consultant psychiatrist in Devon over the last nearly 30 years, is a past academic secretary of the Faculty of Rehabilitation and Social Psychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and past lead on Recovery for the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Wednesday December 18th at 7.30 pm:

The Revd. Dr. Alastair Logan "In Search of Ancient Gnostics"

Dr. Logan taught for many years in the Theology Department at Exeter University, and is the author of The Gnostics: Identifying an Early Christian Cult (2006)

ADMISSION FREE Charity Number 1135776 RETIRING COLLECTION
Further information from <mountdinhamlectures@gmail.com>



Christmas Sadness

"Thank you for doing my screen", the young American woman said as she passed my bench and then Harry's, before turning away to speak to Jack Palmer and going back into the office. Jack was now foreman, Allen Pile having retired. She had flown in from America to see our work.

It was summer time, but during early January Harry and I had gone down to Southpool in the South Hams, taken down the afore mentioned Reformation Period screen from the South Hams church, to bring it back to be scrubbed clean of all paint and varnish. Our work was nearing completion so any time soon we would be going back to fix it.

And so to South Hams we went. We had a week away with long working days as usual. We did not get off to a good start. The vicar who was to arrange our digs failed to do so. Cutting a long story short we ended up in an empty house in the middle of a field . There was no electricity. We had two candles a box of matches and a cold tap! Meals were in an afternoon tea house with a pasty and a pint on our way home at night. The fellow who sorted out our Royale Savoy lodgings was the Estate Manager for the MacDonalds.Mrs MacDonald was "The American woman" at the workshop!!

During the week the Estate Manager picked us up and took us to the house to see the MacDonalds' Gardens. The gardens themselves told us a story. It appears that when young MacDonald reached 21 his parents gave him the choice of a village party for everyone or a trip to America. He chose America and on his return brought with him a wife, heiress to Pratts Petroleum Company

They bought a big rambling house on the river, had it renovated, travelled the world collecting valuable souvenirs from wherever they went. There was a garden for each country they had visited. Mrs MacDonald could only stay for six months at a time in this country due to Tax restrictions so MacDonald himself was on his own for some of the year. By now they owned quite a bit of land, had a farm manager and up to date machinery, some of it from America bearing the MacDonald name . The day after we

had been to view the gardens Mrs MacDonald flew in from America. Dick Read was able to meet her and see the house and gardens when he came to pick us up to take us home.

All this, which took place around the late 1940s has both a happy and a sad side to it. The beautiful screen which had been reinstalled in the church now bears an additional inscription on its door panel cut by Jack Palmer. At Christmas time MacDonald would sail on the Queen Mary arriving in New York on Christmas Eve. Mrs MacDonald was always there to meet him. There was a year when this was very sadly different . She came to collect his body .

The inscription on the screen is a memorial to her husband telling of his death on the Queen Mary in the early hours of Christmas Eve .





The First Cut or Isabella's Revenge

Estuary Players

Matthews Hall Tues 26 November to Friday 29 November

Estuary Players' next venture is a specially written musical show about the Exeter Ship Canal. The opposite of the unpromising subject some might think, the canal has a long, sometimes chequered but mainly proud history which somehow encapsulates the rivalry between Topsham and Exeter and between the City of Exeter and the Earls of Devon.

We open with Isabella de Fortibus decision to build her weir, which led to 250 years of conflict as the Earls ignored the City's attempts to do away with it, until Henry VIII beheaded an Earl, and, to coin a phrase, the floodgates opened. Or rather they didn't, as the river by then was silted up. The innovative and enterprising solution was to build the canal – the first in Britain to have locks – a decision which established Exeter as the rival port to Topsham, and enabled the Corporation to wield its economic power over its smaller neighbour.

We follow the three subsequent extensions, the failure of the Canal Age to connect with Devon, and the coming of steam. We end with a nostalgic trip out into the English Channel to dump the last 300 tons of raw sewage...effectively the end of the Canal as a commercial concern. We've protected all the facts, but we've surrounded them with anachronistic jokes and songs, somewhat in the manner of Upstart Crow or Horrible Histories, and an evening of simultaneous education and entertainment is promised.

Tickets from www.topshamestuaryplayers.org.uk or from the Matthews Hall Café and the Topsham Bookshop.

Rehearsals are now progressing well. It features some of the larger than life characters from the history of the River Exe. Countess Isabella herself of course, married at 13, widowed at 23 with 6 children, all of whom predeceased her. John Trew, the Welsh engineer who built the canal for the

City Council, incorporating real locks for the first time ever in the British Isles. James Green, who not only extended the canal to turf, but built the Turf Hotel, and the Basin, and then built, as a house for himself, what is now the Imperial, and Cowley Bridge. William Bayley, another canal engineer absconded with his payment before even working on his extension. All of these, and more appear in our less-than-serious but full of facts show - don't miss it!

Alan Caig

Writer and Director October 2019

See Bill Pattinson for more information



Double Locks, Exeter Ship Canal

MATTHEWS HALL



TOPSHAM, DEVON

THE MANAGEMENT MOST RESPECTFULLY INFORM THE NOBILITY, GENTRY AND INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF TOPSHAM, THAT IT HAS ENGAGED....

** FOR 4 NIGHTS ONLY! **



whose success hitherto in these premises has been unprecedented, to perform their celebrated and edifying theatrical entertainment:

THE FIRST CUT

ISABELLA'S REVENGE

~~~~~~ Written and Directed by Alan Caig esq. ~~~~~~

The Entire History of the Exeter Ship Canal will be Performed by the Assembled Company WITH A MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE FINEST COUNTRY AIRS AND MELODIES PERFORMED BY AN ENSEMBLE OF TOPSHAM VIRTUOSI.

**RECOIL** at the Intrigues of Countess Isabella!

SHUDDER at the Violent Altercation between the Earl and the Mayor!

**QUAKE** at the Beheading of Henry Courtenay!

**ADMIRE** the Extraordinary Career of John Trew, Canal Builder! **GASP** as the Canal and its associated shipping is formed by

human hand before your very eyes!

# Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th NOVEMBER 2019

Admission Tickets may be purchased for the sum of TEN POUNDS from the Matthews Hall Cafe, the Topsham Bookshop, by your telephone apparatus on 01392 661570, or by using the very latest technological innovation - the website: www.topshamestuaryplayers.org.uk.

\* A FREE DRINK IS INCLUDED AT THE INTERVAL ON TUESDAY NIGHT! \*

"THIS GRAND PRODUCTION IS GRACIOUSLY SPONSORED BY THE GLOBE OF TOPSHAM...

SEE BILL PATTINSON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

#### **OBERAMMERGAU 2020**

## ONCE EVERY TEN YEAR CHANCE TO BE AT THE WORLD FAMOUS PASSION PLAY!

The Pilgrimage to Munich and Oberammergau will be led by Bishop Martin and Mrs Elspeth Shaw Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May 2020

The performance of the Passion Play is on THURSDAY 21st MAY, starting at 2.30pm, with an interval at 5.00pm, finishing at 10.30pm.

The play was first performed in 1634. In 1633, the residents of the village of Oberammergau vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague, ravaging the region, they would produce a play 'for all time', every 10 years, depicting the life and death of Jesus. The town was spared! In 2010, there were 102 performances. Prior to our seeing the play, we shall be able to enjoy the picturesque village itself.

In the days before the play, we shall make a pilgrimage to ALTÖTTING, one of Germany's best known shrines. The HERRENCHIEMSEE PALACE of Ludwig II is on the beautiful island of LAKE CHIEMSEE, which we will visit by boat, with a guided tour of the Palace and what was the Augustinian Monastery.

The HOHENSCHWANGAU AND NEUSCHWANGSTEIN CASTLES, which from photographs seem almost impossible, are much sought after attractions. We shall learn about King Ludwig II [1845-1886], who created them, his relationship to the Composer Richard Wagner and his huge generosity to those who lived on his land. Was he good or mad - or both? A particular picture of Europe jus before the 20th century.

#### Price £1,229

Enquiries and Booking Forms: Bishop Martin and Mrs Elspeth Shaw. amartinshaw@gmail.com Tel: 01392 663511.

Or

Directly to Pax Travel: Pax Travel Ltd, 2nd Floor, 102 Blundell Street, London N7 9BL. Tel: 0207 485 3003.

### **OUR NEIGHBOURS**

For many years now we have been doing an annual collection for Refugee Support Devon in St David's Hill.

Our contributions usually go to the Emergency Fund so it's interesting to see where and how this money is spent in the organisation.

The Emergency Fund is used to offer support to Asylum Seekers and destitute refugees in times of hardship.

Recent examples are:

Giving an asylum seeker food vouchers and £10 per week for a couple of weeks as he had lost his paperwork and was sofa surfing with friends.

Giving money for transport of an asylum seeker to Cardiff for a Home Office interview.

paying for bus fare for someone to come in to the drop in centre in Exeter as they needed advice

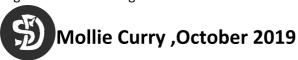
paying for an asylum seeker's medical prescription

paying for an estranged asylum seeker's bus fare to visit his children in London

paying for a refugee's single bus ticket to go to his first job interview in a big hotel in rural Devon

The Emergency Fund provides a life line to those who are destitute and who often do not have permission to work and have no access to other financial assistance. Last year Refugee Support Devon gave just under £3,100 to individuals and their families. We also gave out 58 Foodbank vouchers and the allotment run by RSD provided fresh produce to those in need.

Thank you for your continued generous giving to this wonderful organisation - our neighbours.



#### YMCA - THE ANGEL TREE

This year there will be no Angel Tree at Exeter Prison due to retirement

and one volunteer's illness. We have contributed generously for 15 years so our November collection, this year, will be for the YMCA who work closely with ex-prisoners.

Their involvement starts with 'Through the Gate' where young homeless men are met and taken to The Hub in the city centre, where they can chat and get advice on what to do next. This is run in conjunction with the Probation Service. If they stay in Exeter there are a number of ways in which the YMCA can support and help them to integrate into life on 'the outside.'

On Thursdays there is a class for personal and interaction skills; building good relationships. The men can work towards gaining a certificate.

Fridays are for therapeutic activities; mainly working on the allotment but in bad weather, cooking. Lunch is provided.

There is peer mentoring. Men who know how difficult it can be to adjust after prison, work one to one with newcomers, and help them on their personal journey. When it is appropriate the YMCA help young men find meaningful employment.

About 100 men a year start life 'outside' at The Hub and at any one time 15 are being mentored. We know that the re-offending rate for men who have no support on leaving prison is very high.

What a worthwhile organisation the YMCA is! I think we can be as generous to them as we have been to The Angel Tree.

The photo shows from left to right, Lawrence, Sam Thomas (Project Manager) and Tyler, all on our YMCA allotment at St David's Hill.



Margaret Grimsey October 2019



## Parish Lunch Club Dates- Autumn 2019

#### **November 7th**

#### **December 19th Christmas Lunch**

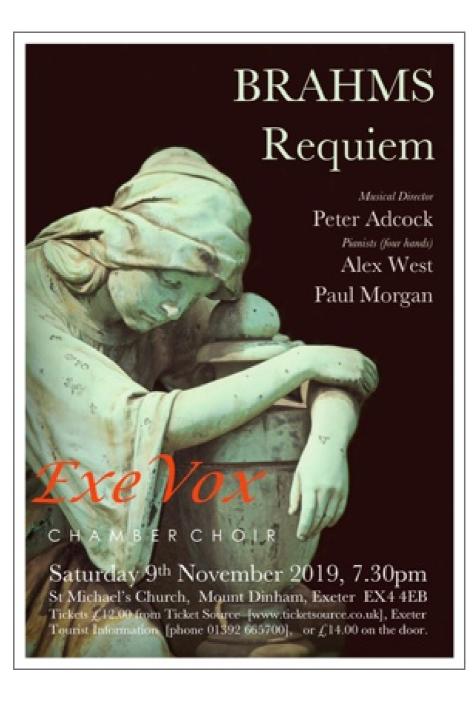
All on a Thursday at 12 noon @34 Restaurant, Exeter College

Do join us for a tasty and reasonably priced meal with friends from St David's and St Michael's.



Details and booking sheets can be found at the back of both churches. Please contact Sue Wilson on 01392 437571 if you have any questions.





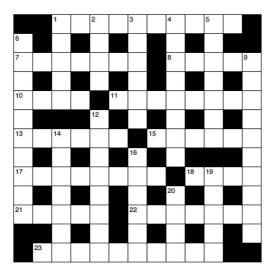


and ensemble players
directed by Simon Dunbavand

# Haydn & Mozart choral gems

Sunday 24 November 2019, 4:30pm
St Michael's, Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB
Friday 29 November 2019, 7:30pm
St Peter's Church, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6LT
Admission £10 including refreshments

# November crossword



#### Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his with her tears. Then she wiped them with her ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an -, the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

#### Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this the whole of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their
- to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

# November Sudoku -Medium

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

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# **Days of Note - November**

#### 5<sup>th</sup> November: The Kea to toothache?

Kea was an early Christian and a monk from a good family who left Glastonbury to work in Devon and Cornwall, where Landkey (Devon) and Kea (Cornwall) bear his name. He founded several Christian centres in the area before going on to Brittany to become the saint known there as 'Saint-Quay'. It seems that Kea may also have tried a bit of early dentistry, as down the centuries since he has been invoked over the problems of toothaches.

#### 6th November: William Temple - Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and

the World Council of Churches. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book Christianity and Social Order (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

# 10<sup>th</sup> November: Leo the Great - Pope who rescued doctrine of the Incarnation

How do you think of Jesus? As the Lord of lords in glory? Or as a human baby soon to be born in Bethlehem? November brings the glorious climax of the church year with the Sunday of Christ the King on 24<sup>th</sup> November — only to begin a new 'year' a week later, with Advent. So, the ways in which the Church speaks of Jesus this month could not be more dramatically different.

How can Jesus be both God and Man? Trying to get your head around the Incarnation is not easy, and so this is a good month to remember Leo the Great (d 461). In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, he 'rescued' the doctrine of the Incarnation at a time when the Church was really struggling with the onslaught of various attacks.

Leo, a deacon of Tuscan descent, became Pope at a time when Rome was reeling under repeated assault by the barbarians. As well as trying to patch up the material and spiritual damage they had done, Leo faced an even more deadly attack: the Church was being torn apart on the inside.

There were various heresies raging, each trying to claim that their view of the person of Christ was the only right one.

Between the barbarians on the outside and the distortions of Manichaeism, Priscillianism, and Pelagianism on the inside, Leo was not in for an easy time. The most important contribution that he made was at a famous church council.

It was the Council of Chalcedon, in 451 – often regarded as a critical moment in Christian history. Leo presented a dogmatic letter (or Tome) to the Council. He wrote with remarkable clarity of thought and understanding. Jesus Christ, said Leo, is one Person, the Divine Word. In Jesus the two natures, the divine and the human, are permanently united without confusion or mixture.

When the Council read this document, it was exclaimed: 'Peter has spoken by Leo.' Leo's understanding was seen to encompass all the Bible teaching on the subject of who Jesus was. It became thenceforth part of the official teaching of the Christian Church.

# 25<sup>th</sup> November: Catherine of Alexandria – patron saint of young girls and nurses

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

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

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

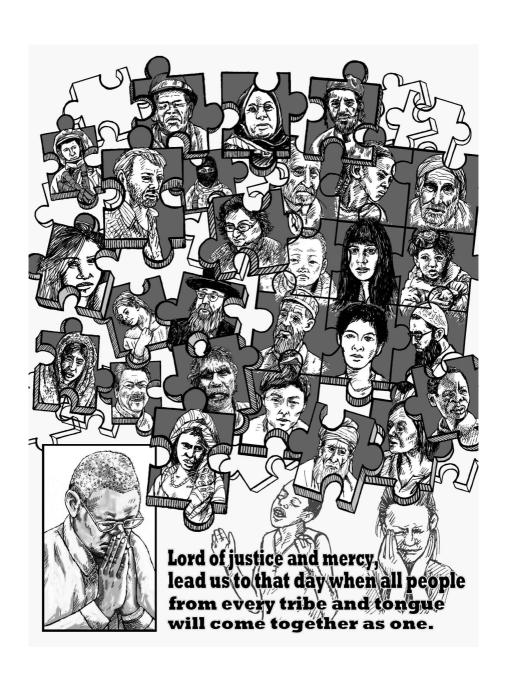
**30**<sup>th</sup> **November:** Andrew - first disciple of Jesus Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on 30<sup>th</sup> November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8<sup>th</sup> century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews. That he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltyre' of Scotland.

The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered.

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation!

The results of their response were in this case life-changing - for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.



## Word search

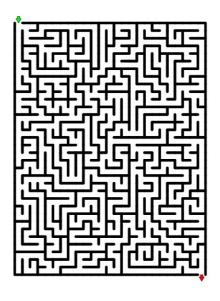


praying house fish bread opened gifts visitor ashamed

snake stone given better neighbour egg find knocking

scorpion need seeking parents bed asking good friend

### Maze





It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:5-13

# A short story from the Bible

To teach about praying, and God's good gifts, Jesus told this story-"If you have a visitor arrive in the middle of the night.

Oh no! I have no bread to feed him! Iam so ashamed! What can I do?.. I know!





bread for a visitor.

Don't bother me We're all in bed.

What's the matter?





Jesus concluded...

So keep on asking and it will be given, seeking and you will find, knocking and it will be opened... And parents, if your hungry child asks for bread











If you, who aren't perfect parents, give good gifts to your children, then don't you think that gifts from your perfect Father God, will be even better?

## **Puzzle solutions**

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

# The deadline for inclusion of articles for the December/January issue of New Leaves is Sunday 24th November

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

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