

New Leaves

February 2022



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

50p

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory (December 2021)

Vicar	Nigel Guthrie	01392 660226
Associate Priest	Belinda Speed-Andrews	bspeedandrews@gmail.com
Assistant Curate	Ash Leighton Plom	aescleal@gmail.com / 078553
Reader	Bill Pattinson	860 880
	Howard Friend	07733739453
	Charlotte Townsend	01392 660285
Churchwarden		
Churchwarden	Glynis Harflett	01392 214787
PCC Secretary	Helena Walker	pccsecretary@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
Parish Treasurer	Johnathan Johns	07831486987
		electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer	Sue Wilson	
Safeguarding Rep	Mary Kirkland	07872 626 168

St. David's www.stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

Treasurer	Barbara Allin	270 162
Asst. Treasurer	Geoff Crockett	468 073
Director of Music	Nigel Walsh	273 237
News Sheet	Helena Walker	notices@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
Administrator	Deborah Leighton Plom	admin@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
Servers	Shaun Smith	01626 367075
Church Bookings	Mary Quest	07792 062 403
	Deborah Leighton Plom	admin@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
Readers & Time of Prayer	Avril Pattinson	860 880

St Michael's www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk
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Chapel Warden	Stephanie Aplin	stephaniecaplin@yahoo.co.uk
Chapel Warden		
Treasurer	Paula Lewis	lewispf9@gmail.com
Church Bookings	Deborah Leighton Plom	admin@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk
Director of Music	Natasha Goldsworth	
Secretary	Vivien Finnigan	
Organist	Matthew Clark	
Notices	Oliver Nicholson	opn@umn.edu

Magazine

Advertising	Glynis Harflett	214 787 bissom@icloud.com
Designer	Clive Wilson	437571 newleaves_mag@btinternet.com
Editorial Team	Bill Pattinson Clive Wilson	newleavesnews@gmail.com



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 Clive Wilson supported by
Stephanie Aplin

New Leaves



February
2022

From the Vicarage

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Princess Elizabeth was visiting Kenya when she heard of the death of her father, King George the sixth. Little did she know on the 6th of February 1952 that she was beginning the longest reign of any British monarch in history. But even before then she had made clear her commitment to service when she said in her 21st birthday radio address 'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.' She has certainly been faithful to her commitment to service.

And Queen Elizabeth has also been open in affirming the value of her personal Christian faith. In the Golden Jubilee year of 2002 she said 'I know how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try and do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.'

Whatever our views about the monarchy as an institution and about its future, I hope we can all share with a spirit of gratitude for the example of one who, even in old age and bereavement, continues to set an inspiring example of life and service to others. The long life and dedication of our Queen reminds us that effective leadership requires good character and must always be guided by values of respect and honesty.

Future Parish Plans

We continue to keep various aspects of our church life and worship under review. It is very encouraging to see lower levels of serious illness among the vaccinated. I believe that we have been right not to abandon our Covid-safe

practices too soon. But hopefully this month we will be able to offer refreshments again after our services and look towards some happy events later in the year.

You may like to know for your diary is that the PCC agreed to set aside Saturday, 25th June for a Parish Fête and Saturday, 24th September for another Green Event at St David's.

Our January PCC meeting also agreed to pay off the remaining parish share from last year and to resume a full payment of the share from the beginning of this year. You may remember that during 2020 our almost complete lack of rental income meant that we had to reduce the payment of share to maintain a workable financial balance. Thank you to all those of you who, by your faithful financial support, have enabled us to weather the storm.

The vision group meeting with Belinda has expressed a desire to see Saint David's church open more during the week. As the days get longer we are hoping to do this gradually, as CCTV cameras are back in operation.

Belinda is also exploring the possibility of funding for a new role within the parish which might include both management and Chaplaincy. The idea would be for a person who would develop our existing relationships with other institutions in the parish and grow new ones. We hope that this might be the next stage of the fulfilment of the vision behind the repair and re-ordering of the church.

In other good news it is very encouraging to report that our churches are being used more and more by outside groups once again. Although our local schools had to cancel their pre-Christmas gatherings in church, we have still hosted some wonderful concerts and there are more booked in for the coming season. Saint Michael's church continues to host the Devon Mental Health Recovery groups for African drumming and guitars and a new singing group is also being launched this term.

A consultation is also planned for Saint Michael's Church in the coming month to gain views on the way forward for St Michaels either within the existing parish structure, or separately. Archdeacon Andrew Beane suggested four possible ways forward, although he did say that these are not

the only possibilities. This was the summary of the conversation so far which I shared with the PCC.

The proposal is for St David's to have a larger role in the City Centre ministry working alongside Central Parish but also, Unlimited, St Matts and Exeter Network Church.

There was a recognition of the less than wholly positive relationship between St David's and St Michael's that has been a drain on the energy of both churches over many years.

There was also a recognition that, for St David's, not realistically being able to appoint a woman incumbent is a major problem in view of the way the ordained ministry in the Church of England has changed. But there was also a recognition that keeping a male priesthood at St Michael's was important for a good proportion of the congregation. Both positions need to be respected.

The Archdeacon concluded with four possible options.

PCC will affirm women's ministry at both churches and St Michael's will welcome women priests;

Look to move toward becoming a Churches Conservation Trust Church

Explore setting up an interim ministry and St Michael's becoming a stand-alone parish.

Move towards St Michael's working with Heavitree Mission Community as a FiF parish.

None of these options are without problems but, as with many situations in Exeter Diocese, this may be an opportunity for change which will enable greater flourishing for our churches and their work. Please keep this process in your prayers.

And finally, in this section, I warmly welcome the article which Glynis has written for this addition about the role of churchwarden. Please read and pray through this. We will be holding a parish meeting on Sunday 6th March after our parish communion at St David's to consider this further. All our future plans depend on people being willing to come forward for these roles in lay leadership.

Lent Groups

This year Easter is quite late, not arriving until 17th April, so Ash Wednesday is not until 2nd March. We plan to hold Ash Wednesday Services at both churches at 7.30pm. But we have been thinking about our keeping of Lent and hope to offer three Lent groups; one on Tuesday afternoons in person looking at faith and environmental matters and an evening group online focusing on mental health. Oliver Nicholson is also developing plans to complete his study of The Venerable Bede which was previously cut short due to Covid. We also plan a series of short addresses at our Thursday morning communion service. Do look out for further details of these later in the month.

With every blessing

Nigel



Being Churchwarden

It is now nearly four years since I became church warden which does not seem quite possible but it is true. This role has brought frustration, boredom, stress, learning but overall, joy, as I serve this parish to the best of my ability. As we approach this Annual Parochial Church Meeting (28 April 2022 at St David's), St Michael's searches for a replacement Chapel Warden to continue the work they do there, and we offer grateful thanks to Stephanie Aplin who has undertaken this role for several years.

Here at St David's, we too must start looking for people who could fulfil this vital role, as I will step down after doing five years , in 2023. I may well be the last person to do this long in post as the standing committee agreed that in future two or even one year would be more appropriate for the world we live in, and I am sure that will be how we move on.

A church this size must have wardens in place to not only continue, but to grow and thrive as we hope to establish a positive place in the City Centre, evidencing our faith and mission. I would love to see a team of four (or even better six) people who together manage the role of Church Wardens. That



would reduce the time and effort for all and make it a role of thanksgiving and joy as we all offered the particular gifts we have.

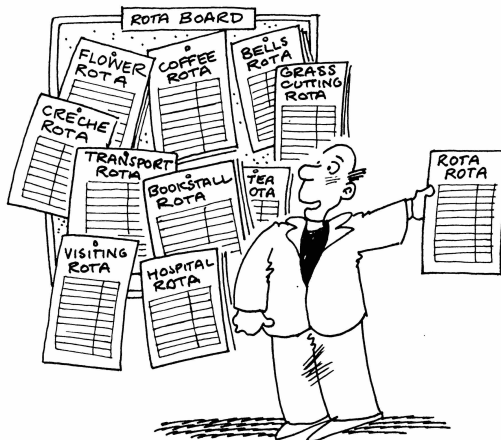
That is something I have learnt as I look back at the people I know who have taken on this role. Each offered such particular ways of being, true to themselves and the needs of the congregation, church and community. If you were to ask them most would say their tenure brought a sense of satisfaction and pride, even if it is on reflection! So whoever you are, that is what you would bring to us. No one person is the same in what they would offer. Come and chat with any of us to gain more insight into this valuable service to our church.

So please think about who you are, what gifts you hold (self depreciation not allowed) and pray as to whether you too could join the team which keeps the Church of St David's (and St Michael's), and the Parish going in this uncertain age.

With thanks

Glynis Harflett

Church Warden



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota,
rota... do I see a hand...?"

February 2022 Some thoughts: from St Michael and all Angels, Mount Dinham

This morning we sang hymn 451 from *The New English Hymnal*:

‘Songs of praise the angels sang,

Heaven with alleluyas rang.

When creation was begun,

When God spake and it was done.’

This runs parallel with the first story of Creation in Genesis, suggesting that all was completed in six days and the seventh was the day of rest. The second iteration of the Creation does not suggest distinct units of days, but rather a continuum of events. The theologian Norman Pittenger used this idea to posit a ‘process’ of Creation and this makes sense to me; our universe is not static. God did not cause us to be and then ‘walk away’ from his work. The images sent back from the Hubble telescope revealed the star ‘nursery’ where new planets arise (see the third stanza of hymn 333, ‘All my hope on God is founded...’). Whilst there are relatively reliable events (the lunar cycle, the tides, the growth of plants) there are sometimes minor (minor in the grand scheme of things) changes in the process, or progress, of existence. We are aware, because of publicity and global communication, of climate change; in the past, changes caused by volcanic eruptions and the resulting ash-clouds were thought to be acts of God and could not be globally reported. The Ten Plagues in Egypt can be seen to have natural causes, but if your culture tells you that God is in complete control, then each can be seen as an example of God at work. The flooded river brings frogs; crushed and dying frogs bring gnats and flies; flies bring disease and death and so on. The analogy is not complete, but seeing the plagues as natural disasters does not diminish God; it shows that as these did not completely overwhelm the earth, there is mercy to be found and that the natural world can be seen working with God.

Eschatological writings were designed to strike the fear of God into the hearer or reader, no two ways about it. In literature, especially Biblical writings, the description of the Apocalypse, the great and final battle

between good and evil, was an attempt to describe the end of time, the world and the human race. This could be done by prophecy, warning the people of God about the future should their evil ways continue. 'We're doomed!' in a phrase from the television series, probably now totally un-woke, 'Dads' Army'. Imagine that you have no visuals to help create the scene, but only the verbal descriptions from the Book of Revelation (chapter 6 in particular):



'Then I saw the Lamb break open the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice that sounded like thunder, "Come!" I looked, and there was a white horse...'

Each of the riders of the horses revealed as the Lamb breaks subsequent seals becomes the embodiment of a horror: Power, War, Famine and Death. These words find graphic reality in Albrecht Dürer's engraving of 'The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse' where the riders sit astride horses plunging down on struggling humanity crushed under great hooves. Each rider bears the symbols of his purpose with a menacing facial expression and with grim

delight in achieving his purpose. Only Death is scrawny; the others clearly have strength to use in conquering the human race. The image is terrifying. Some of the thinking in the field of eschatology suggests an immediate destruction of everything; for those embroiled in war or famine (of 'Biblical proportions', as the famine in Ethiopia was described by the journalist reporting it, as if the Bible were responsible for such things) this would indeed be the case. Tsunamis and volcanoes also cause immediate ends. I would however like to suggest that for most of the time, rather like Creation, the end of things is an on-going process. Sometimes it can gather momentum, creating its own path, at other times it is an adjunct of another event, for example, Covid-related poverty and depression. We have gone on assuming that there will be no changes and have been brought up short when our expectations have been thwarted.

How we deal with this will depend on our faith in a loving God who will not test us beyond our endurance. Precious metals show their quality after testing in fire; we have to embrace the life we live.

Perhaps the end of things is as slow a process as the beginning; we try to make God's time fit our fleeting order of seconds, minutes, hours.. We are impatient, wanting results 'NOW!' instead of living with the divine time.

'Heaven and earth must pass away...Songs of praise shall crown that day... God will make new heavens and earth...Songs of praise shall hail their birth.

And will man alone be dumb...Till that glorious kingdom come? No, the Church delights to raise... Psalms and hymns and songs of praise....'



Stephanie Aplin



From St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham

For some time we have noticed changes at St Michael's. Some long-loved faces have moved on and there have been new ones to welcome. We hope that they find a spiritual home here.

We shall sorely miss our beloved John Darch, a member of this congregation for nearly all his life. God grant him rest. Our prayers are for Monica and Caroline and other members of the family.

Our newspaper collections were started by the Darches and raised thousands of pounds over the years. Unless we can find someone who can continue the delivery of paper to the recycling facility, our collections will have to cease.

Much of the work of keeping St Michael's going goes on in the background. Oliver Nicholson is faithful in preparing the services and doing the laundry; George Hexter has numerous strings to his bow. Tony Pugh collects the printing from Graham Lerwill at the college and organises the pew sheets. Mentioning names can be difficult; I hope those who are not named will not be offended. There are others who have long and faithfully served this church and congregation. Please keep all of them in your prayers

We all enjoyed the 'Quality Street' delights provided for us by Bill Warner at Christmas. Thank you, Bill.

Bountiful Table, named by Chris Durrant, and furnished by Elizabeth Hughes, Stephanie Aplin and others who have produce to share, has been an innovative way of keeping funds going. Thank you to all who have supported it so far.

Chris and Stephanie Aplin are planning to move to Axminster in the near future; contract-signing is likely in the next couple of weeks. We intend to come to St Michael's for Mass as the journey is not major; we will share details when we are sure of the move.



Stephanie Aplin

Readers and Leaders in Prayer for February 2022 at St David's

Sunday 6th February (4th Sunday before Lent/Accession of Queen Elizabeth II 70 years ago in 1952)

1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11
Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader:
Jeremy Lawford
Leader in Prayer: Geoff Crockett

Sunday 13th February (3rd Sunday before Lent)

1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26
Preacher: Howard Friend Bible Reader: Emma White
Prayer Leader: Helen Friend

Sunday 20th February (2nd Sunday before Lent)

1st Reading: Genesis 2:4b-9,15-end
2nd Reading: Revelation 4
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:22-25
Preacher: Deborah Leighton-Plom Bible Reader: Philip Walker
Prayer Leader: Robert Mitchell

Sunday 27th February (Sunday next before Lent)

1st Reading: Exodus 34:29-end
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-43a
Preacher: Bill Pattinson Bible Reader: Karen Facey
Prayer Leader: Ian Cartwright

Sunday 6th March (1st Sunday of Lent)

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
2nd Reading: Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13
Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader: Sarah Rimmington
Leader in Prayer: Nigel Walsh

Services & Events for St. Michael's – February 2022

Our thanks to all who have joined us in worship at St. Michael's during the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany up to Candlemas. Also, many thanks to our visiting clergy (Fr. David Gunn-Johnson, Fr. Dominic Cyrus and Fr. Robin Eastoe). The continued success of the Bountiful Table on the first Sunday of the month is due to the organisation of both Stephanie Aplin and Elizabeth Hughes and to those that support them in cooking and providing goods as well as those who buy them! Thanks, also, to Adrian Hewitt for the organisation of the newspaper collections. Please continue to support both ventures. A seasonal thank you to those who organised and sold tickets for the Christmas Draw.

Below are our regular patterns of worship in Church and on-line:-

Sundays 11am Sung Mass & Sermon, in Church only.

First Sunday in the month – 6pm Evensong & Benediction (check regular notices for variations)

Wednesdays Matins at 9.30am and Low Mass at 10.00am, the latter is also broadcast to (and viewable later)

Plainsong Vespers led by Dr. Richard Parker on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm is public worship, also broadcast to

Friends of St. Michael's Facebook Group website is

St. David's Facebook page will "stream" their 9.30am Sunday Eucharist and Morning Prayers on Thursday and Friday.

The weekly Parish Notices and pew sheets will keep you informed. Our thanks to Oliver Nicholson for typing these and sending them out by e-mail each week.

Choir rehearsal – this takes place immediately after Vespers on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Tasha Goldsworth – Musical Director or speak to a choir member.

Services and events for February are:

Wednesday 2nd February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemass)

9.30am Matins 10.00am Mass (also the monthly Requiem)

Friday 4th February

2.00pm Funeral of John Darch – for most of his life a loyal servant of Christ at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Mount Dinham



Sunday 6th February – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany [also Accession Day, 1952]

11.00am Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in F – *Harris* Motet: If ye love me – *Tallis*

After Mass - Bountiful Table

6pm Evensong and Benediction

Responses: *Byrd* Canticles: *Dyson* in F Motet: Like as the hart - *Howells*

Wednesday 9th February – Teilo of Llandaff, Bishop

9.30am Matins 10.00am Mass

Sunday 13th February – Septuagesima

11.00am Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in C & F – *Stanford* Motet: O Nata Lux – *Tallis*

Wednesday 16th February

9.30am Matins 10.00am Mass 11.00am Memorial service for Michael Hickmott

Sunday 20th February – Sexagesima

11.00am Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in F – *Wood* Motet: Ubi Caritas – *Derufle*

Wednesday 23rd February – St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna
No services this morning, sorry.

Sunday 27th February – Quinquagesima Also remember George Herbert
(Priest & poet)
11.00am Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in F – *Sumsion* Motet: Since by man came death – *Handel*

Tuesday 1st March – St. David's Day & Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 2nd March - Ash Wednesday
9.30am Matins only

7.30pm Sung Mass (with Imposition of Ashes [health regulations permitting])
Setting: Mass in C – *Ireland* Motet: Lord let me know mine end - *Greene*

Sunday 6th March – The First Sunday in Lent

11am Sung Mass

Setting: Mass in Dorian Mode – *Tallis* Motet:– O Lord, increase our faith -
Loosemore

After Mass – Bountiful Table

6pm Evensong and Benediction

Responses: Smith Canticles: Sumsion in G Motet: Wash Me Thoroughly –
Wesley

The St. Michael's Lecture in December by our friend Oliver Nicholson about the date of Christmas was most enlightening. Oliver is working on a programme of forthcoming lectures. To join the lectures mailing list please send an "e-pistle" to: During Lent Oliver will be restarting the Lent Reading Group instead and will return to the Venerable Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English Speaking People*. This work was completed in 725 AD and is the fullest account that we have of the earliest English Christians and is interesting both from the historical and the spiritual point of view. Probably three or four sessions in March – dates to be announced. Books provided. All welcome. Further information available from Oliver.

Other news is from Pascale Walker, who lives in south Devon. Pascale was a choral scholar with the St. Michael's Choir whilst studying at the University of Exeter and after that up until the autumn. Pascale has written to tell us that since December she has been a full-time member of Buckfast Abbey choir, singing Mass and Vespers every Sunday as well as feast days and, also, concerts. The choir sing a great variety of pieces from Palestrina to Mozart, and some modern works, including one by local composer Jack Oades, of Exeter! The choir are in the process of recording a CD of Gregorian chant, of which much is sung at the Abbey. This is on the Buckfast Abbey label "Ad Fontes." Pascal misses the choir and folk at St. Michael's and sends her best wishes to us all. Is it not a wonderful thing to encourage people and help them in their musical journey?

Of various groups that use St. Michael's one is the Devon Recovery Learning Community and for the Spring Term, 2022, they are again running some of their courses. These may be of interest to our readers. DRLC are a Recovery College provided by Devon Partnership NHS Trust to support mental health and wellbeing. The students are people with experience of mental health difficulties, their families and friends, and the professionals who support them. All are welcome to attend the courses but need to register, but do not need to be referred.

The DRLC offer a wide range of free, open access opportunities to learn about mental health and recovery. They provide a unique curriculum of courses delivered on-line, in person or through a blended approach to learning, designed to increase your knowledge and equip people with the tools to live a meaningful, productive and fulfilling life.

This term, courses at St. Michael's include the following:

Mondays: Ukulele – Learning to play music for your recovery 12noon – 2pm
Ukulele – Taking your recovery further 3pm – 5pm

Thursdays: Yes, You Can Sing! Singing course for all 10am – 12noon
Introduction to African Djembe Drums 1pm – 3pm
Taking recovery further with African Djembe Drumming –
Intermediate 3pm – 5pm

My thanks to those who have helped contribute to this article with their ideas and scripts – Oliver Nicholson, Deborah Leighton Plom, Kim Nettleton-Croley and Pascale Walker.



Anthony Pugh – 23. 1. 2022

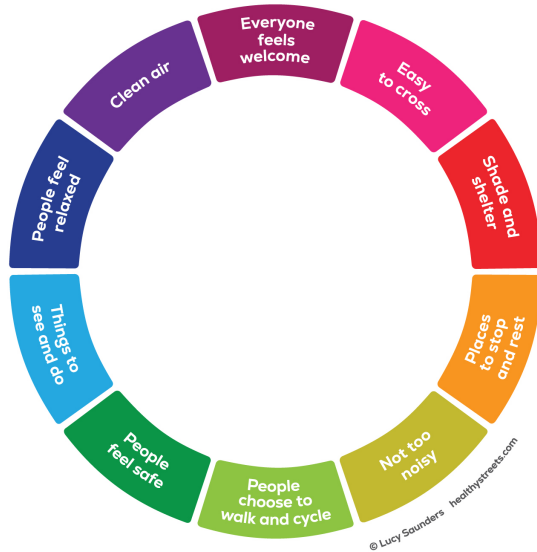


Green Matters – Healthy Streets

Last Friday afternoon there were spectacular views of the sunset as I sat on the train to London. However, as London approached, the murky and polluted urban atmosphere became more apparent as an orange haze. Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London had issued a warning about the air quality and warned Londoners to reduce physical exertion especially outdoors as the forecast pollution levels were at the highest (level 10 - Adults and children with lung problems, adults with heart problems, and older people, should **avoid** strenuous physical activity). The immediate cause of the very high levels was the stagnant air in a high pressure system affecting most of western Europe which meant that the pollutants were not dispersed by winds as usual and so built up in the London basin. The Mayor had earlier said car use had returned to close to pre-pandemic levels, and that the effect on residents could be disastrous. “If we do not double down on our efforts to deliver a greener, more sustainable future, we will replace one public health crisis with another – caused by filthy air and gridlocked roads.”

In June 2020 New Leaves there was an article about “Build Back Better” the UN framework for recovering from natural disasters and crises, since adopted by many governments and local authorities in planning post-pandemic policies. In Exeter we are now seeing some of these being agreed such as the changes to the road system in the city centre affecting Queen Street and the Iron Bridge, and the Magdalen, Wonford and Dryden Road changes. Although originally introduced during the pandemic to help social distancing and encourage walking and cycling, the changes are part of a larger strategy (published before the pandemic) to improve the city transport and environment and move towards carbon neutral in 2030. Not everyone is in favour of the changes as it does make it more awkward for local residents and, for example, people attending St Michael’s to drive their cars. Although the public responses were split 50/50 the majority of local organisations favoured them. Queen Street will have larger pavements to accommodate the crowds from Central station and the college students, and two cycle lanes for safer cycling. Magdalen, Wonford and Dryden Roads are now much quieter and the reduced traffic largely keeping to 20mph. Overall car use in the city has probably not changed much yet as drivers find alternative routes but, as we transition to a lower carbon economy, we will see more schemes which restrict private car use and we rethink our priorities.

An email from Sustrans, the charity for easier walking and cycling, drew my attention to the launch of the Healthy Streets Design Check - a new tool that will help urban designers, transport planners and highway teams to create healthier streets for everyone. Every decision is an opportunity to deliver better places for people to live in and thereby improve their health.



If you walk past the RAMM on Queen's Street you may have noticed an instrument box. This is one of the automatic urban and rural network stations that measures air pollution. Looking at the annual mean nitrogen oxides measured here we see that there has been an appreciable change in the last two years probably partly due to the pandemic reduced traffic and the road changes. Similar trends are found nationally at roadside sites. Let's welcome the better air quality and a healthier city even if we personally have some inconvenience when trying to drive.

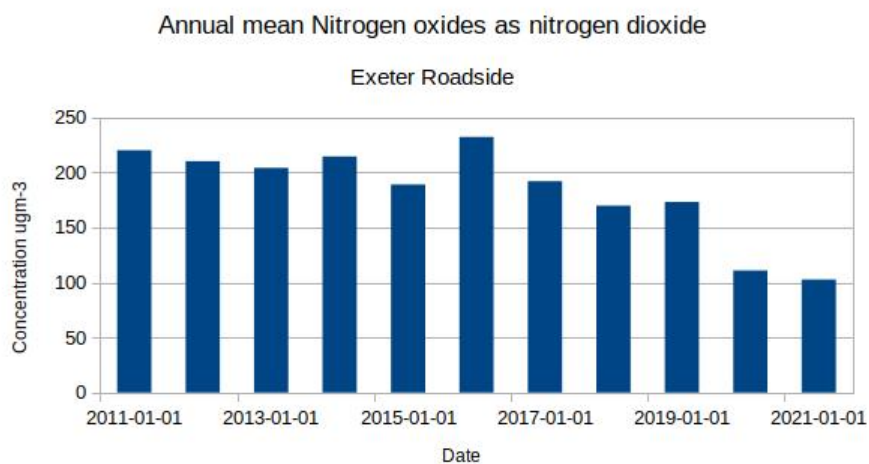


Clive Wilson

21 January 2022



The air quality monitoring instruments' box outside the RAMM

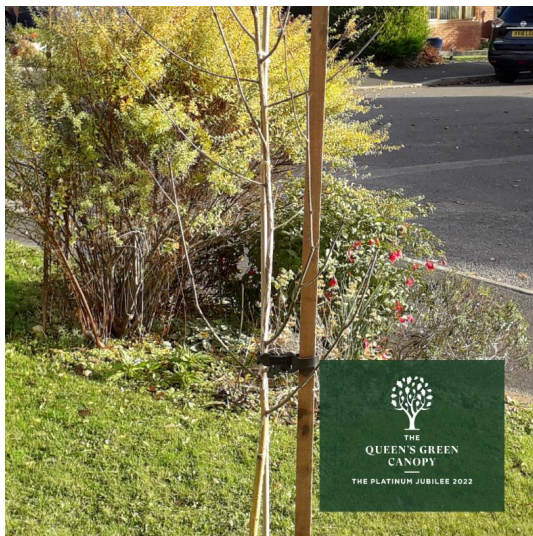


The Queen's Green Canopy Project

The re-greening of our planet is now high on the agenda and as we all know, the planting of trees is forming a major part of that with much work being done including by our own Green Team in the churchyard. Over the time we have lived in our house, we have seen many trees, particularly in front gardens, disappear particularly under new driveways and of course that eliminates wildlife corridors and places for birds to roost and all the habitats for the various creatures that trees support. Just look along your own road and see how many you can see. So as long-time supporters of the Woodland Trust and DWT, we have been thinking about planting one in our front garden, so on hearing about the Queen's Green Canopy project, part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we decided this was the ideal time and a lovely way to celebrate a truly momentous occasion.

We purchased a birch, planted, photographed and registered it on the website associated with the project which holds details of the type and location of the trees. A few days later our submission was accepted and we received a virtual plaque:

,
The website has lots of information about how individuals, communities and schools can get involved so do please read all about it at:





The Leprosy Mission

Sunday 30th January is widely observed as World Leprosy Day. So an article in February rather misses the boat! However when the previous edition of the Magazine was published at the beginning of December, I don't suppose many of us were giving thought to the last Sunday in January.

I was introduced to the Leprosy Mission (originally the Mission to Lepers) by a speaker who came to Bideford Grammar School while I was a pupil there in the 1960's, and I have been a supporter ever since. I see it as a quintessentially Christian charity, especially as when it was founded in Victorian times, sufferers from leprosy could be offered only care, not cure. It also appeals to me as a truly international and ecumenical charity. In recent years, considerable efforts have been made to develop real partnership between countries where leprosy is still endemic and those where it has long ceased to be so.

It was once hoped that leprosy would be eliminated from the World in the year 2000. And for a disease that has been curable for many years, and is only mildly infectious, this was a realistic objective. That this was not achieved may be put down to ignorance and fear. Ignorance in the rich World where few appreciate that the disease has not been eliminated. Fear in the poor World where the effects of neglecting the disease are well known, but the fact that it can be cured before disfigurement and disability set in is much less widely known.

I once read in a Bible commentary that in the present day we fail to appreciate the significance of Jesus reaching out to touch a leprosy sufferer. I know that the word translated as "leprosy" in the Bible is not restricted to what is now termed "Hansen's disease". But I think that most of us naturally shrink from any visible skin disease, and certainly don't rush forward to shake hands with sufferers! The truth of this was brought home to me on the only occasion when I have seen a victim of untreated leprosy. This was

while I was on holiday staying with my sister in West Africa, where she and her family were based for a few years.

Although a World free from leprosy was not achieved in 2000, there has been steady, if slow progress towards that goal in the years that I have been supporting the Leprosy Mission. An island in Hong Kong once housed a leprosy colony which has long since closed. The branches of the Mission in Singapore and South Korea once both raised money and provided care for sufferers. Now they provide support to elderly former sufferers, and raise funds for use elsewhere. Increasingly too, care of sufferers from leprosy is integrated with general health services, and advocates for those who have been disabled by neglected leprosy speak out for those who have been disabled in other ways.

Each year the Mission publishes the “Ask” Prayer Diary which gives topics for prayer each day, and is very informative about the international scope of the work. The Mission also publishes a fund raising gift catalogue at regular intervals, and this includes craft work made in care homes run by the Mission.

www.leprosymission.org.uk
www.tlmtrading.com



DAVID CANNON St David's

cannon380@btinternet.com



What Is Your Mission?

Not a book on evangelism by some celebrity preacher – as far as I know. Rather the start of a brief exchange between a Cyberman and a Human in an episode from the Autumn 2021 series of Doctor Who.

In the world of Doctor Who, Daleks are the best known adversary, rather like Nazis, ready to ex-ter-min-ate! anyone not like them in their desire for racial purity. Cybermen seem to me more like Roman soldiers, disciplined, efficient, marching in step, ready to assimilate those they conquer if they are willing to be upgraded, by having their emotions and individuality removed.

Bel, realising she is pregnant, is searching for her partner. She encounters a Cyberman who demands, “What is your mission?”

She replies, “Love is my mission.”

The Cyberman processes this and responds, “Love is not a mission, love is an emotion. What is your mission?”

But Bel persists, “Love is my mission.” And with the Cyberman confused, she makes her escape.

I hope I have remember this minor sub-plot correctly.

As the Bride of Christ, the Mission of the Church, of all our churches, is Love; love of God and love of neighbour, with a seasoning of faith and hope.

I was blessed to grow up in a loving family and in a favourable time. Those of a certain age will remember The Beatles singing ‘All you need is Love’ and the 1970 romantic film ‘Love Story’ with its strap-line ‘Love means never having to say you’re sorry.’

Blinkered views of life from an over-optimistic decade. The Prayer Book’s offer of Confession, Repentance and Forgiveness for us miserable sinners seems more realistic for imperfect humanity with our imperfect love.

At the start of the Swinging 60s, C S Lewis wrote about “The Four Loves”, 4 different classical Greek terms for love. These were Affection, Friendship, Romantic love and generous Charity, especially the Christian love described by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 and shown in the sacrificial love of Jesus.

Being a scholar, C S Lewis categorised and ranked these different loves. Perhaps it is more helpful these days to see them as aspects of love which ebb and flow with time and circumstance.

I think we can see them all and more on different dates in February.

At Candlemas, 2nd Feb or Sun 30th Jan if transferred, the bonds of family love are strengthened for Mary, Joseph and Jesus with their first visit to the Temple to do their religious duty. Simeon and Anna, probably old friends, express their love of God through their devotion to prayer in the Temple but also recognise the significance of Jesus.

A decade or so later, debating with the teachers there, the precocious child Jesus would test that family love. 'Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?'

Sunday 6th February will be the 70th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth. Her Majesty's dedication, service and integrity demonstrate her love of God, Commonwealth and people. Love at the heart of duty.

Valentine's Day on the 14th is now more popular with the public than with the Church. St Valentine, a 3rd century priest in Rome, secretly married Christian couples. When this was discovered he was martyred for breaking Roman law. His story is an example of the sacrificial Christian love of priests and all who selflessly allow the love of others to flourish.

The Apostle of the month is St Matthias, if you celebrate him on the 24th. He doesn't really fit my theme, except that he was chosen as the Judas Replacement Apostle. Judas Iscariot was the one whose love of ideology over people meant he could not bring himself to say sorry and seek forgiveness – in this life, at least.

February 27th brings us to George Herbert, poet and priest, 1633. He gave up a promising academic career at Cambridge to minister to a small rural community just outside Salisbury. His gentle but intense poems speak of a God who is hospitable, offering friendship and generous love.

Look up his Christ-centred poem "Love" which starts :- Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin...

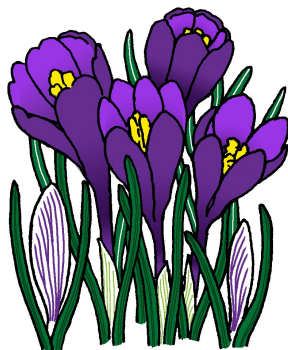
Or the deftly woven "The Call" which ends :- Such a Love as none can part,

Such a Heart as joys in love.



Richard Barnes –

23/01/22



George Herbert

Love

*LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.*

*'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'*

*'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat*

Letter from Edinburgh

This February edition of New Leaves should be published before the 40 days of Christmastide finish at Candlemas. Christmas is not all over till the old man has sung Nunc Dimittis.

So here is a little look back over the season in Edinburgh – new house, new church, new Covid variant.

We have about a score of Nativity scenes gathered over many years, of varied size and completeness. Some shepherds and Magi traverse bookcases, and even the printer. A few sets stay out till Candlemas.

Taking our lead from the carol “People look East” – make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table – we like to decorate up to the nines, inside at least, with lights, trees, tinsel & baubles. Twelfth Night is the start of a diminuendo, as de-decorating takes several days.

So it was with mixed feelings I read a tweet from a certain archdeacon. Wishing his followers a peaceful, restful & joy-filled Christmas, he added the aphorism -

“Remembering the first Christmas was pretty simple, it's ok if yours is too.”

My wife said, "Pretty simple! He's obviously never given birth."

My thoughts ranged farther, like Joseph's.

Long journey late in pregnancy, problems with accommodation, Mary's labour pains, giving birth to the Incarnate Son of God (for us and for our salvation), uninvited visitors from near and far, Angel choir singing Glory to God (fine) and Peace on Earth (simples), scary dreams about how dusty prophecies must be fulfilled...

And now their quiet trip to the Temple at Jerusalem, to do their duty as a poor but devout family, is waylaid by a couple of weird oldies warning about the future for Jesus and for Mary.

So I know what the Archdeacon meant, but I don't think the first Christmas was pretty or simple.

Most of the wonderful Christmas narrative comes from St Luke, as will most of the Gospel Readings for Year C in 2022. But don't be misled into thinking

Luke's is the 'cuddly' Gospel, all angels, women and sheep...

At Church, St Peter's, Luton Place, the liturgical fare cannot rival the uniqueness of St Michael's. Fortunately I can worship across a variety of styles; I know not everyone can, nor should they be made to do so.

The rise of omicron was on everyone's mind, so in mid-December our Choir recorded a good selection of Carols, just in case. A wise move as our cautious Committee cancelled singing over Christmas. But at least the Rector could edit a Service of 7 Lessons & Carols for us to share on YouTube.

So 'Omnes de Saba venient' were stopped in their tracks by the Omicron variant!

'All they from Saba shall come offering gold and incense announcing the praise of the Lord.'

We had a simple Eucharist in church on Christmas morning, with Organ but sadly no singing.

Boxing Day's service was on Zoom. St Stephen was acknowledged with the singing of Good King Wenceslas, but otherwise prayers and sermon were altered to mark the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

He used his overflowing faith and personality with humility to challenge and overcome injustice, and to try to reconcile enemies.

Most clergy seem to have a Tutu encounter story. Our Rector, Nick, was a teenager on a Youth Pilgrimage at St Alban's Cathedral when he heard Tutu preach. It was clearly an important moment in his journey towards ordination and in shaping his ministry.

Thankfully we are back in Church and singing, albeit a Choir Quartet for the moment as the Stalls are too small to space the full Choir.

We also visited the Botanic Gardens for an after-dark walk through a dozen or so light and sound installations. Beautiful effects, though the corner where one could hear both 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'The Coventry Carol' at the same time was rather disconcerting.

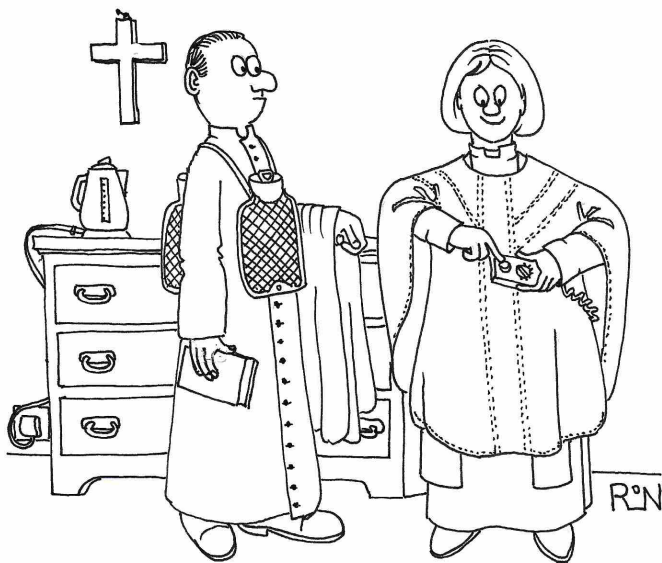
It was with deep sadness I learned of the death of John Darch. He was such a lovely man and his quiet, faithful service to the life of St Michael's in so many

capacities for over seventy years is incalculable.

As a window in the North Aisle at St Michael's Church says, Well done thou good and faithful servant.



Richard Barnes – 23/01/22



*Helen's electric chasuble was
the envy of everyone*

The Penn Club/The Royal Foundation of St Katharine

Back in January 2021, I wrote a piece mourning the demise of the Penn Club which had been a special and safe place for me in London and which was due to close at the end of March.

At the last moment, the Club was thrown a lifeline by The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, something I'd never heard of but which has an amazing history starting in 1147 as its website describes:

“St Katharine’s was founded by Queen Matilda, the wife of King Stephen, as a hospital for the poor outside the walls of the Tower of London. It remind there for 678 years until the construction of St. Katharine Docks in 1825.

In 1948, after 123 years in Regent’s Park, Queen Mary moved the Foundation back to East London to the site of St James Ratcliffe Church which had been bombed in the Second World War. In 2011, the Foundation opened its doors to the general public. Today, it provides an extraordinary urban oasis for groups and individuals to stay, meet, reflect or retreat.”

It is in fact a full-blown retreat and conference centre in the heart of the East End, on Butcher Row, near Limehouse Station (DLR).

An offer was made to Penn Club members to transfer to the RFSK, with discounts on bed and breakfast rates, a number of day visits per year and discounts on meeting space hire. Most importantly for Penn Club members, the shared table would be adopted by St Katharine’s and some of the precious items from its Quaker history have also been saved.

It also offers rather nice-looking accommodation, maybe rather smarter than the Penn Club had and which I am looking forward to trying! I’ll leave the brochure for their programme of retreats and events for 2022 in church.

For more on the history and what the Foundation now offers, do have a look at the website: <https://www.rfsk.org.uk/>



Hilary Todd 21.1.2022

Happy New Year

“What will the New Year bring for me? Spring Spring Spring. Summer green and Autumn gold, Winter with its frost and cold.” These were lines from the first hymn that we sang when we returned to school after the Christmas break. This led to discussions, with the children, of the fact that, no matter what is going on in the world, Spring and other seasons, never cease to happen. Most of us have high hopes that a new year will be different. Yes, details will differ but every year is basically the same. Sadly, people die, but babies arrive. Friends, however close, move out of our lives, except for Christmas cards. For a brief moment we remember them. If we are open and friendly we meet new friends. We will know sadness and happiness too. I have left the most important until last. God is our permanence and He doesn't change, like the seasons, but is always there to listen and to rejoice or comfort as needed. May 2022 fulfil your hopes and dreams. Happy New Year.



Eileen Jarman

1/1/2022



The Exe and canal by the Turf Locks in January

Annual Revision of the Parish Electoral Roll

Revision of the parish electoral roll will begin on Thursday 31st March 2022 and end on Wednesday 13 April 2022.

In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting on Thursday 28th April 2022 at St David's, and to take part in its proceedings, your name must be on the electoral roll. Similarly if you wish to stand for any office (other than Churchwarden) your name must be on the roll.

If you would like to have your name entered on the roll, please contact Sue Wilson at St David's or Paula Lewis at St Michael's, who will be happy to give you an application form and/or more details.

AS THIS IS A REVISION ANYONE WHOSE NAME IS ON THE CURRENT ELECTORAL ROLL NEED NOT APPLY – BUT PLEASE INFORM PAULA OR SUE OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Sue Wilson

Electoral Roll Officer

Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels

electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurchexeter.co.uk

MUSIC SESSION

Traditional hymns
Fresh sounds

Everyone welcome

4pm Sunday 13th February

St David's Church Exeter, opposite College
Queen's Terrace, EX4 4HR

Thrive
@St David's

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

TEACHING SERIES

Guest speaker:
Justin Slade



SUNDAYS 4PM, ST DAVID'S CHURCH, QUEEN'S TERRACE, EXETER. 20 FEB - 10 APR | SPRING 2022



Upcoming Midweek and Sunday Services

Tuesdays at 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392 Passcode: 196651

Tuesdays at 6pm Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer)

at St Michael's Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

Wednesdays at 9.30am Mattins (Morning Prayer) and Mass

at St Michael's Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

(Near Iron Bridge)

Thursdays at 10.30am Holy Communion

at St David's Church, Exeter EX4 4HR

(Near Exeter College)

Thursdays at 6pm Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer)

at St Michael's Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

St David's Church Exeter

stdavidschurcheater.org.uk/index.html

facebook.com/stdavidschurcheater

Twitter @StDavids_Exeter

St Michael's Mount Dinham

stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter

Twitter @StMikes_Exeter

Fridays at 9.30am Morning Prayer

at St David's Church, Exeter EX4 4HR

AND live streamed at facebook.com/stdavidschurcheater

Sundays

9.30am Communion

at St David's Church, Exeter EX4 4HR

AND live streamed at facebook.com/stdavidschurcheater

11am Mass

at St Michael's Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

4pm Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dUlnY3NRQTlGcXFKZ2ZleR0UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

6pm Evening Prayer

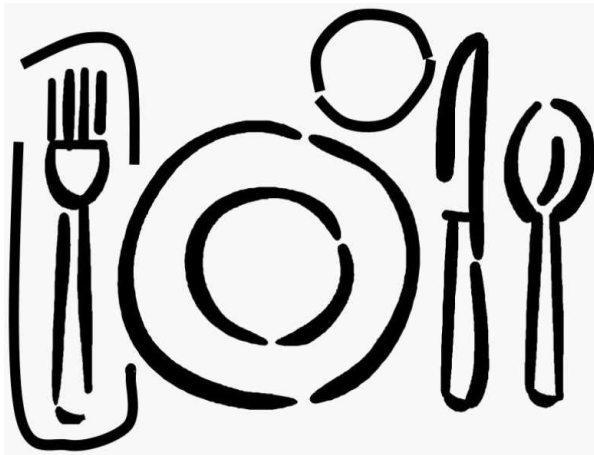
at St David's Church, Exeter EX4 4HR

Parish Lunch Club Dates- Spring 2022

We hope to restart our monthly Parish Lunch at @34 Restaurant, Exeter College on Thursday February 17th at 12 noon

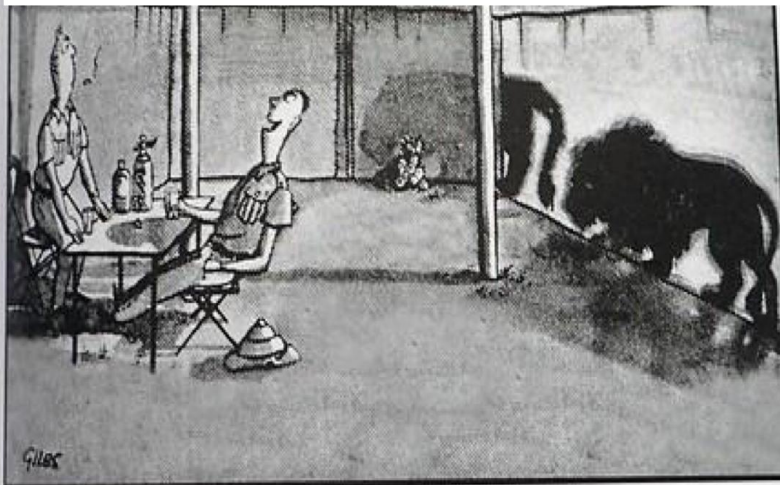
Do join us for a tasty and reasonably priced meal with friends from St David's and St Michael's.

Details and booking sheets can be found at the back of both churches. Please sign-up by 13th February. Any queries including the College's Covid safety measures please contact Sue Wilson on 01392 437571.





Like the Arts?



'Lions in Libya? Who ever heard of lions in Libya!'

Wednesday 9th February 2pm

at the Phoenix

Talk : *'Giles -His Life, Times & Cartoons'*

www.theartsocietyexeter.org.uk

Membership enquiries trevorwrixon@gmail.com or phone 01392 468171

Annual membership £44 per person

Try out a talk one month for £7 and see how you like us



Monthly talks - usually second Wednesday of the month - trips and study days too

Exeter Forum programme – January to April 2022

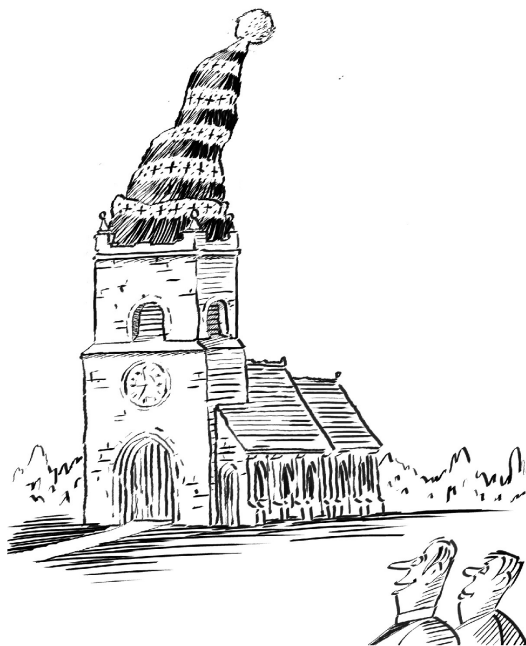
The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks from Wednesday 5 January to Wednesday 13 April is listed here. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings from 10:00am, with talks starting at 10:45am.

Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members.

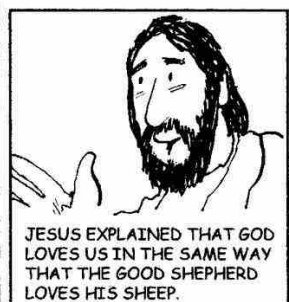
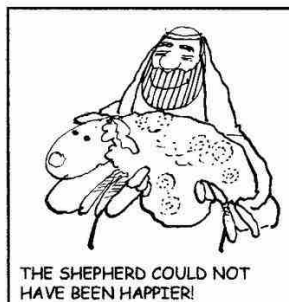
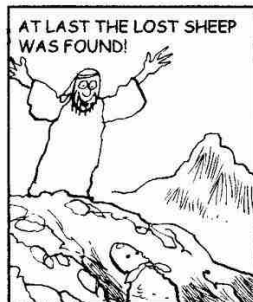
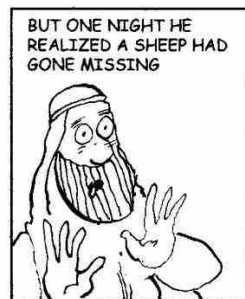
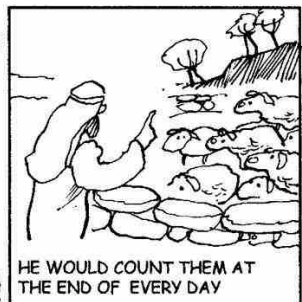
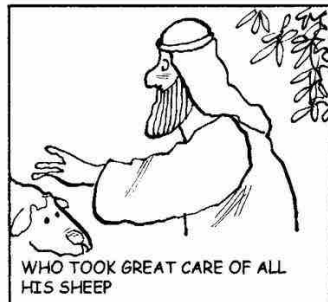
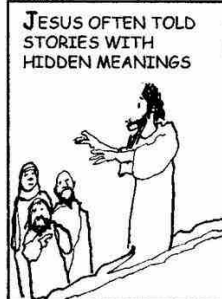
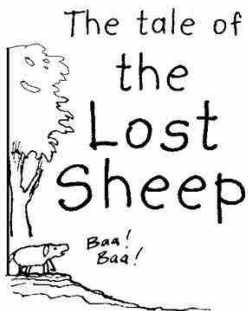
If there is any need to change the programme or replace in-person talks with Zoom presentations, this will be announced on the Exeter Forum website, www.exeterforum.org.

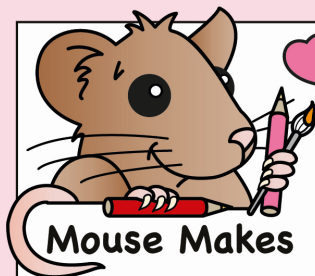
Date	Speaker	Title
Wednesday 5 January	Mark Norman	Beyond the Hound of the Baskervilles This talk explores the folklore surrounding the phenomenon of sightings of phantom Black Dogs in the UK, their long history and folklore, and how they inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'.
Wednesday 12 January	Leigh Edwards	The Human Microbiome The Human microbiome is the ecological community of microorganisms that literally share our body space. Leigh will show the importance of this community for our survival and wellbeing and how we need a broad spectrum of Probiotic Bacteria in and on our bodies to promote good health and support our immune system.
Wednesday 19 January	John Allan	The Building of Exeter Cathedral Consultant Archaeologist John Allan will show how Exeter Cathedral developed and evolved from Norman to Tudor times.
Wednesday 26 January	Hugh de Souza	The work of Exmouth National Coastwatch Institution-- NCI Exmouth works with HM Coastguard and the RNLI, keeping watch over the estuary and the beach 365 days a year. This talk will look at some of the hazards around Exmouth and the estuary and how people who get into difficulties can be helped.
Wednesday 2 February	Devon & Exeter Medical Heritage Trust (Professor David Radstone)	An Exeter Surgeon and his mummified mistress. The Devon & Exeter Medical Heritage Trust is a Charity which looks after a collection of historical medical items. This talk will look at the unusual story of an Exeter Surgeon and will be illustrated with examples of medical items from the time.
Wednesday 9 February	Lucy Mottram	The challenge of waste and recycling in Devon Lucy will look at what happens to Devon's waste, and the challenges of disposal and recycling.
Wednesday 16 February	Brian Banks	The mystery of bog bodies and what we can learn from them Brian will look at where bog bodies are found, how they are preserved and what they can tell us about life in the past.
Wednesday 23 February	Amyas Crump	Odette - a love of the Blackdown Hills Local historian and author Amyas will talk about how Odette, a young mother of three from Devon became a WW2 SOE Agent in France being subsequently awarded George Cross.
Wednesday 2 March	David Jenner	Orchids of the UK – a photographic celebration David Jenner will make a welcome return to the Exeter Forum with another of his wildlife talks illustrated by his own photography. David has photographed nearly all of the UK wild orchids. His talk will particularly focus on the common and rarer species found in Devon.

Wednesday 9 March	Kevin Cox	Where have all the birds gone? Kevin Cox, Chair of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds will look at issues facing our bird life and ways of restoring species and diversity.
Wednesday 16 March	Dr Todd Gray	Devon & African enslavement at the time of emancipation: an impartial analysis of the evidence Devon historian and author Todd Gray will look at the evidence for Devon's connections with slavery and the effects on the County of Slave ownership.
Wednesday 23 March	Mike Richards	Humour in the Police Force Mike's light-hearted talk will draw on his experience in the Police Force and the events over the years that made him chuckle or otherwise had a lasting effect on him.
Wednesday 30 March	Stephen Powles	Otters – coming to a river near you Stephen will follow up his wildlife photography talk with this celebration of the life of the Otter in Devon. His talk includes rare videos of Otters on a tributary of the Exe and insights into the life of these wonderful but elusive animals.
Wednesday 6 April	Keith Walton	Exeter's Historic Churches and their Roles in Medieval Times
Wednesday 13 April	Martin Young and Jonathan Smith	Chernobyl and its effect on the local environment Martin and Jonathan will look at the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986 and particularly its on-going effects on the local environment.



"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."





See what great love the Father
has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows
_____ and is _____
...You have great _____ and _____

Psalms 86:1



How did
God show
He **loved** us?
Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your
God with all your

_____ with all your

_____ and with all your

Matthew 22:37

DBSE NSSE
PCOMPASSIONATEA
RUTMERCIFULLOVE
YONIGRACIOUSYTINK
OUFJUSTJRUDEBRDLDF
DDAEMEJAJEALOUSUH
TKINDVHBATNFATPRD
YLVSEOUPRGISHOE
DIYPRPNaurstfus
NUKEEDTSYHFUS
GODSFAITHFULI
HLUNEIBOL
NLTNNEN
DTG

_____ is love.
Whoever lives
in love lives in
_____, and _____
lives in them.

1 John 4:16



Love is ..
Read
1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your

_____ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

Love is:

PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone
who would listen, whatever they were. The
Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad
people, and even eats with
them..



So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100
sheep..



Imagine having
that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...



How would you
notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99
in the field and look for
the lost one?



When he finds it, he tells his
friends to celebrate because he
has found his lost sheep!



In the same way
there is more
celebration in
heaven when
one
bad
person
repents..



than the 99
who don't
need to
repent.



Or what if a woman who has
10 small coins loses 1?



What's special about a small coin?

Won't she light a lamp, sweep
her house, and search until
she finds it?



That's what I'd do.

When she finds it she tells her
friends to celebrate because she
found the coin she had lost.



It was
special to her.

In the same way, God's
angels rejoice when a
bad person repents.



Smilelines

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

Fire of love

Here's to love, the only fire for which there is no insurance.

Love

Love may not make the world spin around, but it certainly makes a lot of people dizzy.

Life

In the midst of married life, we are in debt.

More church bulletin bloopers

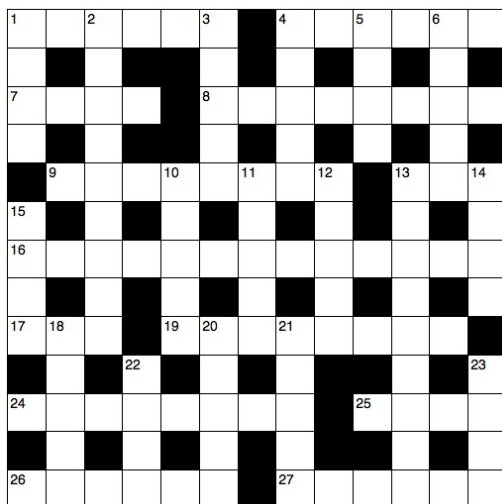
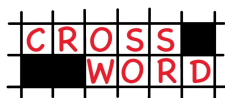
The youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is invited to join in this lay ministry programme. It requires only a minimal amount of training and time: six weekly classes of about 200 hours, each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

Advert for a church jumble sale: 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

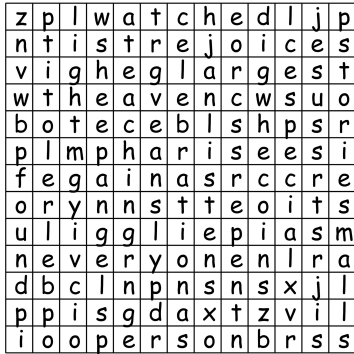
- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)

- 4 Belief (5)
 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Sudoku - Medium

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

Word search



stories

lost

Pharisees

coins

Jesus

special

friends

angels

teaching

teachers

small

sheep

watched

sweep

woman

person

listen

light

repent

heaven

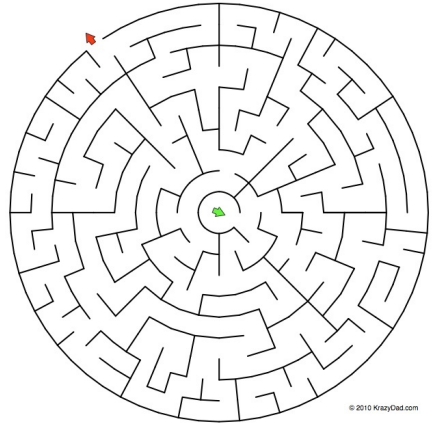
everyone

celebration

found

rejoice

Maze



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Days of Note - February

1st Feb: Brigid of Ireland, showing compassion and love

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her

bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

10th Feb: Scholastica, the persuasive sister

Scholastica (d.c. 543) should be the patron saint of any woman who can bend her brother to do her will - no matter how 'powerful' that brother might seem to other people.

For Scholastica's brother was no less than the great monk Benedict, who founded the famous Benedictine order and lived at Monte Cassino. In no way over-awed, Scholastica simply became the first ever Benedictine nun, with a nunnery five miles down the road – at Plombariola.

Now Scholastica greatly enjoyed her annual meetings with her brother at a house nearby, but the time passed too quickly. One year she begged him to stay longer, to discuss "the joys of heaven", but he refused. So Scholastica took swift action: she prayed up such a mighty thunderstorm that her brother was forced to spend the rest of the night talking to her. Or maybe – she talked, and he listened? No one knows for sure.

In any case, Scholastica died happy three days later, and was buried in the tomb Benedict had prepared for himself. She became the patron of Benedictine nunneries.

14th Feb: Cyril and Methodius, helping the Slavs

Cyril and Methodius are saints for anyone with good secular qualifications, who now suspects that God may be calling them to use those skills in His service.

Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born into a wealthy family in Thessalonica, in 826 and 815 respectively. Their upbringing destined them for lives of respect and influence.

Methodius, the elder brother, was appointed governor in a Slav province of the Roman Empire, although within a few years he became a monk on Mount Olympus in Asia Minor. Meanwhile his younger brother, Cyril, went into academia in Constantinople, becoming a lecturer in philosophy and librarian.

But then, in 863, the ruler of Moravia, Rostislav, asked the emperor to send him some Christian teachers who could conduct services and teach his people in the Slavonic tongue. Emperor Michael III chose Cyril and Methodius.

It was a daunting task, for the Slavonic language had not yet been written down. But nonetheless, the brothers methodically set about their great work.

Cyril used his academic ability to create an alphabet for the Moravians, which eventually became the Cyrillic alphabet. The brothers then used this written language to teach Christianity in Slavonic, and to provide a way for the Moravians to worship in their own language. The brothers translated much of the liturgy and the gospels to this form.

During their time in Moravia, the brothers faced opposition from missionaries of the German Church, who believed that the official languages of the church should only be Hebrew, Greek or Latin. But the Pope pronounced that both brothers were orthodox, and made them both bishops, with Methodius ending up as Archbishop of Rastislav and Svatoopluk.

Cyril and Methodius have been held in high honour, as men who pioneered the use of the vernacular language in church services. Cyril would have been astonished if he had known the eventual consequences of his hard work. For not only did the Slavonic language spread quickly, with him becoming known as the Father of Slavonic Literature, but Slavonic went on to become the language of the Liturgy in the 9th century Russian Church.

15th Feb: Thomas Bray, founder of SPCK

Thomas Bray was once called a 'Great Small Man', with good reason. This diminutive 18th century English clergyman (1658 – 1730) not only helped to establish the Church of England in Maryland, but he was also founder of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) in 1698 and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (USPG) in 1701.

Those are long names for societies whose aim was to get Christian books and resources into the hands of those who desperately needed them. For the early 18th century was not an easy time for poor clergymen: books were expensive, and many of them had few, or none to guide them in their ministry. And so, Thomas Bray, who had been educated at Oxford, joined with some other clergy friends to help them.

After a trip to assess the needs of the young Episcopal Church in Maryland (he was sent by the Bishop of London), Bray became rector of St Botolph's, Aldgate in London in 1708. From here he served his parish, and through SPCK eventually established 80 parish libraries in England and a further 39 in the Colonies. SPCK and USPGB worked by asking learned authors to donate copies of their books. They also appealed to merchants to the foreign plantations for financial help in establishing the libraries.

Thomas Bray's life has affected hundreds of thousands of people over three centuries. Not only was his work in America the first major coordinated effort to establish libraries in the New World, but SPCK is still one of our leading UK Christian publishing houses today.

As if that was not enough, Bray also worked to help poor debtors emigrate to better lives, and homeless children to get care in England. He helped feed prisoners at Newgate prison in London and joined in the political fight against slavery. He also supported outreaches to Africans and Native Americans in their home countries. When he died on 15th February 1730, thousands mourned him. A great small man indeed!

18th Feb: Fra Angelico, patron of artists

If you enjoy drawing or painting, Fra Angelico is the patron saint for you. This devout Dominican priest of the Early Renaissance (1387-1455) used his superlative talent to the glory of God to such an extent that even six centuries later we are inspired and blessed by his art.

For while you may not be familiar with his name, you'll know his work: Fra Angelico's *The Annunciation* or *Adoration of the Magi* has adorned many classical Christmas cards. He is reckoned to be one of the greatest Italian painters of the 15th century.

Fra Angelico was born at Vicchio near Florence, and as a young friar worked at illuminating manuscripts such as the *Dominican Diurnal*. Ordained priest at Fiesole in 1418, he continued painting, spending the 1430s decorating the interior of the friary of San Marco, Florence with his masterpieces. Work at the Vatican followed, especially his paintings of Stephen and Laurence in the chapel of the artistic pope Nicholas V.

Fra Angelico's work is sublime, revealing a marvellous command of colour, light and perspective. It radiates spiritual serenity, and a dedication to God that is matched by few others. He has been described by experts as having "a rare and perfect talent", and that "it is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said, and whose pictures were painted with such facility and piety."

From 1449 to 1452 Fra Angelico was prior of Fiesole. Then he moved to Rome, where three years later he died. He was beatified in 1960 and declared patron of artists in 1984. Pope John Paul II described his paintings as 'miracles'.

23rd Feb: Polycarp, faithful servant who would not deny his Lord

Polycarp (c. 69 – c. 155) was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics. Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called 'atheists'. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his

interrogation.

All the pagans' threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: "For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?... I am a Christian: if *you* wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it."

The crowd were outraged and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.

In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.



Puzzle solutions

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

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

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the March issue of New Leaves is Sunday 20th February

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.