

New Leaves

October 2022



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

50p

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WELCOME



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

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

Please send as Word documents to: newleavesnews@gmail.com

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

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

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

From the Vicarage – October 2022

Quite a September!

Both in the parish and in the nation September has been a very full month indeed. At St David's the month started with a lovely concert by ISCA voices, former girl choristers at Exeter Cathedral directed by Stephen Tanner on Saturday 3rd. They gave a most enjoyable performance of an interesting and varied programme and helped to raise some much-needed funds for St David's Church. Thank you to members of the Social Committee and other helpers for putting on a splendid Cream Tea to complement the wonderful music.

On Tuesday 6th Boris Johnson and Liz Truss travelled to Balmoral to visit the Queen. Then late on Thursday 8th we heard the momentous news that Her Majesty had died completing the longest reign of any monarch in our history. The next ten days were filled with tributes to an exceptional servant of the British people and a faithful servant of God who fulfilled her lifetime vows until the last hours of her 96 years. We held a Requiem Mass for Her Late Majesty at Michael's on Sunday 11th at 11am and a Parish Service of Commemoration at St David's on Sunday 18th at 6pm. My address at the latter service is published elsewhere in this edition.

In the meantime we had the tricky decision about how to handle the Heritage weekend at St Michael's Church on 10-11th. It was clear from National advice that most events should go ahead as planned with suitable adaptations if needed. And I'm glad that we went ahead as we welcomed a good number of visitors came to church and enjoyed the stalls and refreshments as well as performances from the choir and musicians and a tour of church. Once again, thank you to everyone involved in making the weekend a success and a very useful fundraiser for St Michael's Church.

The Bank Holiday for the Queen's Funeral was a sombre day, but it

was good to be able to follow the magnificent and moving ceremonies at Westminster and Windsor. There was wonderful singing from the choirs and many of us felt great admiration for the young soldiers carrying the Queen's coffin, not least when they got to the large flight of steps in front of St George's Chapel, Windsor! I felt grateful at the end of the day that everything had gone so smoothly and peacefully.

Then on Saturday 24th September we had our second 'Green Event' at St David's Church designed to highlight how we can live more sustainably. We had three excellent talks, the first from Emma White about Passivhaus with special reference to St Sidwell's Point Leisure Centre. The level of thermal efficiency achieved by Passivhaus buildings is quite extraordinary and worth finding out about as the heating of our housing stock is a major source of carbon emissions in this country. Our churchwarden, Glynis Harflett was inspired to arrange a womens' swimming group to the new pool to encourage its use by congregation members. There were fascinating talks about the Oceans and about cycling in Exeter and the need for improved infrastructure if more people are to feel safe cycling around our increasingly congested city. Our delicious vegetarian lunch was put on by the Social Committee. Thank you to them and to our Green Team for an excellent event which attracted people from a good cross section of environmentally focussed organisations in Exeter.



The weekend was finished off with an evening Harvest service with Jonathan Draper preaching and a supper in church coordinated by the Social

Committee. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a happy and sociable event.

Parish Consultation

As I write this the Bishop of Exeter is currently reviewing the progress of our parish consultation about the pattern of ministry in this parish. He has told me that he will consult members of his senior staff team at their meeting this month and will write to the parish shortly after that to suggest a way forward. Please continue in your prayers for this process.

Parish Administrator

Deborah Leighton Plom has started her ordination training this month at St Mellitus, Plymouth and is stepping down as our Parish Administrator. Deborah has done a fantastic job over the past two years and we greatly appreciate her skill and expertise, especially in the field of Safeguarding. She has set up a booking system for both churches, working with Mary Quest at St David's Church. And in Safeguarding Deborah has established use of the Dashboard which monitors our progress and compliance in Safeguarding which is a constant job for the PCC. Deborah also become primary account holder for our websites and social media accounts.

We have now revised the paperwork relating to this post and we hope to move quickly towards the appointment of a new administrator. Meanwhile I would like to express our warm thanks to Deborah and assure her of our prayers as she embarks on her course.

Dates for October

Harvest will be celebrated at St Michael's Church on Sunday 2 October at 11am Mass and 6pm Choral Evensong and Benediction.

Men's Breakfast will meet at Boston Tea Party at 9am on Saturday 8 October. Please let Nigel know if you would like to be added to the mailing list for a reminder.

And later that day, 8 October, from 11am to 4pm, there will be a **Mental Health Awareness Day** at St Michael's Church. This has grown

out of the Devon Recovery Learning Community courses that run at the church several times each week. Do look out for further details of this day which should be of interest to us all as we seek to look after our mental health and the wellbeing of those around us.

A New Headteacher for St David's Primary School

As you may know the Primary School next to St Michael's Church is St David's Church of England Primary School. Currently Deborah Leighton Plom and I serve as the church governors. A new Headteacher has started this term, Mrs Alison Bourne, and we will be holding a **welcome and commissioning service for her at St Michael's Church on Thursday 13 October at 9.15am**. This is the time and place where the pupils meet every week for their collective worship (assembly) led by Ash or myself.

It would be wonderful if we could express our welcome to Alison by coming along to this service. The service will last about half an hour but I would ask you to be in place as soon after 9am as possible please, so that we can be there before the pupils arrive. Please join us if you can for what I hope will be a very uplifting occasion.

Heating Costs

At our recent PCC meeting the rising costs of heating our churches was highlighted and it was acknowledged that we would have to cut back on the heating over the coming winter to keep the bills down. We hope that the winter will be mild and that October won't be too difficult. But please consider wrapping up warmly if the weather does get colder. We will aim to have some blankets available at both churches for those who would like an extra layer!

With every good wish and blessing,

Nigel



An address at a Service of Commemoration for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth

**by Nigel Guthrie given at St David's Church, Exeter,
6pm on Sunday 18 September 2022**

One of the distinctive features of the Christian faith is that it is focused on a person; the person of Jesus Christ. Our faith is not primarily based on an idea, although it encompasses many wonderful ideas; and it is not based on belief in a distant, inaccessible God, although the creator of all things is acknowledged as the source of life; neither it is not based on literal obedience to a book or set of writings, although the Bible is seen as a source of truth and life. For the Christian, God is mediated and known through a human life; a life which speaks of forgiveness, of care for the outsider, of the love for God and neighbour; a life which ended in sacrifice and which was restored in resurrection.

The life of Jesus Christ and his teachings were a great inspiration to Queen Elizabeth II who spoke genuinely and with personal conviction of her own faith and the strength and guidance it brought her. Jesus said 'the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mark 10: 45). Jesus' example of service was undoubtedly part of what inspired the Queen to give her own life so unstintingly to the service of her people. The promise she made when she was just 21 years old to serve for her whole life whether it be long or short was moving and genuine. That she was able to continue in her service right up to the last days of her life was a wonderful fulfilment of her vow and something we can give thanks for today.

But I'm sure that the spirit of service shown by Her Late Majesty was also inspired by her parents. Their decision to stay in London during the horrors of the Blitz made a profound impression on the people of

this country. Their courage was brought home to me this year when I learnt how much damage had been caused by the bombing both at St James Palace and at Buckingham Palace. Her Late Majesty's parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth faced real personal danger as they showed solidarity with the people of London and other cities that were attacked, like Exeter. Their example is a powerful and timely reminder that leaders must lead by what they do and not behave in ways which mock the sacrifices made by the people they seek to lead.

Our nation has a human figurehead, a constitutional monarch who is head of state. That person has no significant political power and is there when governments and political leaders change bringing a sense of continuity as we've seen so recently. But embodying a nation is a costly calling and, as we have been very aware in the past week the intense level of scrutiny afforded to every word and action is a considerable and lifelong burden in itself. Many people all around the world, including many who are not in principle royalists, have appreciated the lifelong dedication shown by the late Queen.

People have spoken to me over the past week or so expressing their personal sadness at the death of our late Queen. Perhaps to our surprise many have found that her death has brought back feelings related to their own losses. And even though they may not have met her they have found her to be a constant and reassuring presence; the mother, and latterly grandmother of our nation.

As has been pointed out with wry humour it is a very British response to form an enormous queue! But people have felt that queuing to pay their respects at Westminster Hall is something concrete they can do to show their respect and thanks and perhaps to feel a small part of history. We may have found the saturation cover of the events of the period of mourning a bit much, but it will soon be over. The State funeral will take place tomorrow and, even after the longest reign in history, the news will move on and the pressing concerns of the war in Ukraine and cost of living crisis will once again fill the headlines. But I believe that these ten days of mourning have been a valuable period for individuals and for our nation: a time for reflection on what

matters now and for the future.

I believe that another reason why people have felt genuine admiration for the late Queen is that she really did focus on her duties and did her best, sometimes against the odds, to avoid a cult of personality. I was so pleased to hear that alongside the heads of state and indeed family and friends a good number of people have been invited to the State funeral tomorrow who have been honoured for their down to earth contributions to their local communities and charities. This is what her Late Majesty spent much of her time and energy supporting through visits, patronages and honours.

Her personal qualities of dedication and hard work were shown in relentless public duties which have provide truly wonderful and memorable moments for people around the world; perhaps some of you remember her visits to Exeter for the Maundy service at the Cathedral, and to the University within this parish? And her lively humour, never taking herself too seriously, is spoken of by those who knew her well and came out publicly in recent years in appearances with James Bond and Paddington Bear.

And there are many accounts of her genuine sensitivity and kindness. Her long relationship with the village of Aberfan after the tragedy there in 1966 was an example of that. But I was reminded recently of a favourite story about the Queen from a book I read a couple of years ago 'War Doctor' by David Nott (Pan Macmillan 2019). It's a worthwhile but tough read as he describes his medical work among some truly horrific situations of conflict.

When David returned from Aleppo in Syria he was invited have a meal with the Queen. His own mother had died recently and he was feeling traumatised by the horrors he had witnessed in Aleppo.

He wrote "all I wanted to do was burst into tears..... I hoped she wouldn't ask me another question about Aleppo, I knew if she did, I would completely lose control. She looked at me quizzically and touched my hand. She then had a quiet word with one of the

couriers, who pointed to a silver box in front of her. I watched as she opened the box, which was full of biscuits. 'These are the dogs', she said breaking one of the biscuits in two and giving me half. We fed the biscuits to the corgis under the table, and for the rest of the lunch she took the lead and chatted about her dogs. All the while we were stroking and petting them and my anxiety and distress drained away. 'There' the Queen said. 'That's so much better than talking isn't it.'"

Today we give thanks for the human qualities of a real person generously shared. Like many people I was shocked when I heard that members of the Royal Family were travelling to Balmoral and it became clear that all was not well with the Queen. Then we had hardly taken that in when news of her death was announced. But I soon felt

an overwhelming sense of gratitude; firstly that Her Late Majesty was able to serve to the very end of her life as she had vowed; secondly that she understood so well her constitutional position, its proper limitations and the role she had to play in our democracy; and thirdly her personal qualities of constancy, dedication, grace, humility and kindness.

It is good to gather together, even if we can't all get to the queue in London. to show our respect for the service which our late Queen offered this country for more than 70 years. It is good to pray for those who take on new responsibilities in public life and work out how best they can serve in those roles, and it's good to reflect on how we can use our personal gifts and energies to serve the people of Exeter to the best of our abilities. Because it is only through the dedication of individuals and through our working together that we can bring in a better, more just and kinder world for ourselves and those who will come after.

Harvest Festival, St David's Exeter,

25/09/22

I haven't preached at a harvest festival since I did at Shobrooke, near Crediton, 8 or 9 years ago. There it seemed entirely natural to speak of farming and the land and where our food comes from and how dependent we are on each other for the things that sustain our lives. I could even joke with them that while my son-in-law, who is the son of a sheep farmer in North Yorkshire has, like so many others, left the land to work in IT, his brother is taking over the farm, his sister is the local vet, and his brother-in-law runs the local abattoir. Somehow, at this Harvest Festival, this train of thought feels more difficult to follow.

The war in Ukraine has brought to the foreground of our thinking not only the horrible stupidity of war and the brutal, indiscriminate suffering it brings, but also how dependent we really are on others to produce the food that we – the world, the global human community – needs to sustain life. The grain piled up at Ukrainian docks, the grain being harvested into uncertainty as we speak, and the grain ever so slowly being let out, is the cause of even more hunger in our world. While this may result in higher prices for bread for us, for many in the world it will mean starvation. Along with energy, food is weaponised and, as always, it is the poorest who suffer.

But Harvest Festival has also, in many places, especially those a bit more remote from the countryside, become a time to think about issues to do with creation and the challenges we face around sustainability, climate change, and a fairer distribution of the world's resources. And while for us that might centre on questions about how to make our houses better insulated, and whether we should change the diesel for an electric car, for many in the world it is a question of survival, of harvests failed, of desertification, of flood and fire, of migrating to survive. The climate challenges we face globally are not just about a few hot days in the summer and the odd severe storm in the winter, but about the survival of the human race in the face of what we have done to the climate of the earth, to the very ecosystem that sustains us and gives us life.

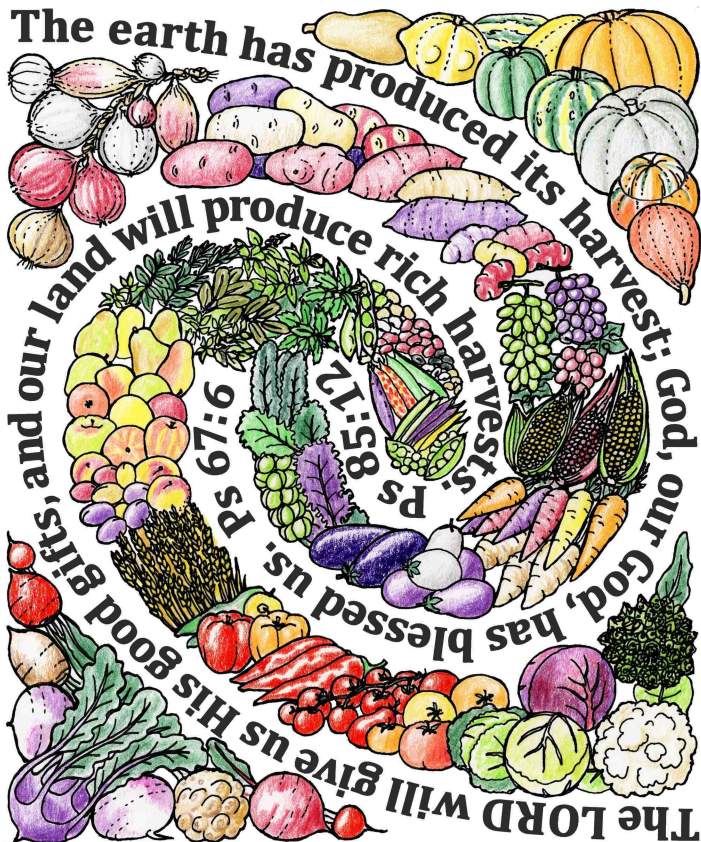
For me, harvest festival should focus our minds. Yes, on being grateful for all the good things we have and for the many hands that provide it. But it should also focus our minds on those great biblical principles, as St Paul reminds us, of sharing our abundance, of caring for those with too

little, of challenging those who would grind the face of the poor into their poverty, of calling for justice between and within peoples and nations, of looking to beat the weapons of war into the tools of survival.

Our gratitude to God for the things we enjoy, and to the people who work so hard to produce them here and around the world, should be heartfelt and joyful. We are blessed, and bless God for it all. God has, as St Paul puts it, provided us 'with every blessing in abundance' so that we may share abundantly. The context of our abundance, for the blessings we have received, becomes more challenging by the day, and my harvest prayer this year, is that we might rise to meet it.



Jonathan Draper



Services & Events for St. Michael's - October 2022

Our thanks to all who have joined us in worship at St. Michael's during the September and special thanks to our visiting clergy, Fr. Dominic Cyrus and visiting organists.

Thanks to Barry Mather for the organisation of the newspaper collections. Please continue to support this venture as it brings in an extra source of income.

At time of writing no further lectures are planned.

I am still looking for a for two or three people willing to read the first lesson on Sunday mornings in order to bring our reading team up to strength again – if you feel confident to try this, please see me or Fr. Nigel after service. It's not as daunting as you might think! Don't forget you are reading among friends and helping with our service to Almighty God, albeit in a small but nevertheless important way.

Thanks to all who made the Heritage Days so special, especially Paula and Elizabeth and their team for the excellent refreshments, organisation of the sale of goods and things in general. Dr. Richard Parker has a good number of people turn up for his talk and tour of Mount Dinham and the Church. The musical entertainment arranged by Tasha, Matt and Peter and their team was most enjoyable. The weekend was an occasion which promoted much good-will.

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

Sundays: 11am Sung Mass & Sermon

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

Wednesdays: "Tea and Toast" at 9.00am followed by Matins at 10.00am and Low Mass at 10.30am (during school terms – see weekly notices for other detail on this).

Plainsong Vespers led by Dr. Richard Parker on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm is public worship, also broadcast to <https://facebook.com/groups/2227703237>

Friends of St. Michael's Facebook Group - details on the Church website <https://www.stmichaelsmountdinhham.org.uk>

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 October as follows -

Sunday 2nd October – The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity - Harvest

11am – Sung Mass

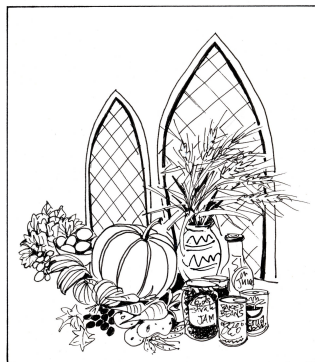
Setting: Mass in C – *Ireland*

Motet: Thou Visitest the Earth – *Greene*

6pm Evensong and Benediction

Responses: *Byrd* Canticles: *Noble in B Minor*

Motet: Locus Iste – *Bruckner*



Tuesday 4th October – St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday 5th October

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

Sunday 9th October – The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am – Sung Mass

Wednesday 12th October

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

Thursday 13th October – St. Edward the Confessor

Sunday 16th October – The Eighteenth Sunday

after Trinity

11.00am – Sung Mass

Tuesday 18th October – St. Luke - Evangelist

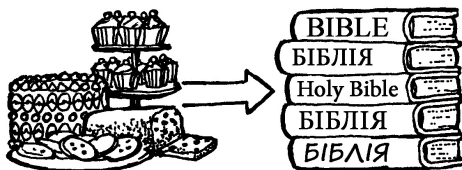
Wednesday 19th October

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

**Sunday 23rd October – The
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
also Bible Sunday**

11.00am Sung Mass



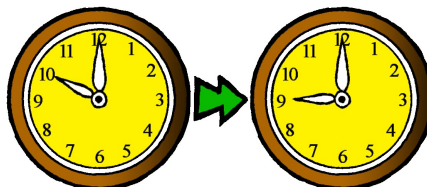
Wednesday 26th October

10.00am Matins

10.30am Low Mass

**Friday 28th October – St. Simon
and St. Jude – Apostles**

**Night of 29th/30th October –
Return to Greenwich Mean
Time (CLOCKS GO BACK ONE
HOUR)**



**Sunday 30th October – The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity – Also All Saint
Day (Trs.)**

11.00am Sung Mass

The DRC Courses continue during for the Autumn/Christmas Term:

Tuesday Noon - 2pm Ukulele for Your Recovery

3pm – 5pm Taking Your Recovery Further

Thursday 10am – Noon Yes, You Can Sing!

1pm – 3pm Introduction to Rhythms for Recovery with Djembe
Drumming

3.30pm – 5.30pm Taking Recovery Further with African Djembe

Drumming

Booklets about the DRC Courses are to be found in St. Michael's Church or you can find out more by looking on the website: www.devonric.co.uk or simply telephone EXETER (01392) 677067 (between 10am and 2pm Monday to Thursday).



Anthony Pugh – 23rd September, 2022



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

Sunday 2nd October (16th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4;2:1-4

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel Reading. Luke:17:5-10

Preacher: Bible Reader: Robin

Thomas

Leader in Prayer: Bill Pattinson

Sunday 9th October (17th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Preacher: Bill Pattinson Bible Reader: Stephanie Hills

Leader in Prayer: Nigel Walsh

Sunday 16th October (18th Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Gospel Reading Luke 18:1-8

Preacher: Ash Leighton-Plom Bible Reader: Roslyn Mitchell

Prayer Leader: Ian Cartwright

Sunday 23rd October (19th and Last Sunday after Trinity)

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 35:12-17

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14

Preacher: David James Bible Reader: Jenny Baker

Prayer Leader: Richard Johnson

Sunday 30th October (Sunday of All Saints)

1st Reading: Daniel 7:1-3,15-18

2nd Reading Ephesians 1:11-end

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:20-31

Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader: Paula Lawford
Prayer Leader: Geoff Crockett

Sunday 6th November (3rd Sunday before Advent)

1st Reading: Job 19:23-27a

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-end

Gospel Reading: Luke 20:27-38

Preacher: Howard Friend Bible Reader: Gina Redman

Prayer Leader: Alistair Mackintosh



Exeter Canal in Autumn

Dilys' article below was published in our September issue. Unfortunately some words were omitted. They appear in italics in the piece below:

A Liberation Theology Mass

At the beginning of August I attended a Liberation Theology Mass in Machynlleth, Wales, celebrated by an Anglican priest, Roger Redding, at a festival organised by El Sueño Existe (The Dream Exists). The Mass followed the usual Anglican communion service, so in this respect it was familiar. But it was celebrated in the traditions of Liberation Theology with a focus on the importance of the poorest and most marginalized people in society.

Liberation Theology is a religious movement that arose in the Roman Catholic church in Latin America in the 1960s, arising in moral reaction to the poverty and *social injustice* there. It emphasizes a Christian duty to aid the poor and oppressed through involvement in civic and political affairs to change the 'sinful' existing social and economic institutions that cause social inequalities. It has been very important throughout Latin America, where the theologians saw the Roman Catholic church as fundamentally different from the church in Europe.

I first encountered 'Liberation Theology' at a conference in 1969, where I met Dom Helder Camara (socialist Archbishop of Recife, Brazil) and was dramatically influenced by his address. Liberation theologians believe that God speaks particularly through the poor and that the Bible can be understood only when seen from the perspective of the poor. The term became known two years after this, in 1971, when the book '*A Theology of Liberation*' by the *Peruvian* priest, *Gustavo Gutiérrez*, was published.

The Rev. Roger Redding, who celebrated this mass, ministers to Gypsies and Travellers. He spoke passionately about how the Bible is the book for the poor, and told us that it had been completely banned in much of Latin America during the 1970s and 1980s. It was seen as subversive by the CIA backed right wing governments.

This Liberation Mass was in honour of the martyred Archbishop of El Salvador, Monseñor Óscar Romero, who was assassinated in 1980 whilst saying mass. As priest and then archbishop, he spoke out in defence of the poor in El Salvador during a period of terrible violence. He was beatified in

2015 by Pope Francis, who declared that his "ministry was distinguished by his particular attention to the most poor and marginalized". He is often referred to as San Romero, and is honoured not only by Catholics but also by the Church of England. He is also one of the ten 20th-century martyrs depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey.

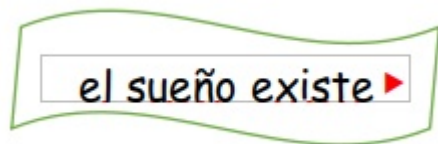
It struck me during this Mass how easy it has been in the last few years for many of us to completely forget the atrocities that are taking place in Latin America and the still turbulent situation there. We receive so little news from elsewhere unless it is a one - off catastrophe.

This multicultural festival honoured thousands of victims of state repression and was focused around the theme of Peace and Climate Justice, mixing music, poetry and dance with talks and discussions. The Mass was a celebration of life, culture and living and working together.

Dilys Thorp



August 2022



Jermima's Brazil Report

Hi Everyone at St David's

How are you doing? Missing you a lot.

Here's the link to my first Brazil update:

<https://youtu.be/eZu7KD7b04w>

It's worth watching I promise!

Four weeks in Brazil!

Hello! So, it's been just under four weeks since I arrived here in Brazil, and it's been such an experience! There have been many challenges along the way, but people here have done so much to make me feel welcome and at home here that it's been much more smooth sailing than it could have been.

Here in Custódia Pernambuco, there is a thriving evangelical church community: there are multiple "Betel" (Bethel) churches around the city, and all are connected. You could practically go to church every day of the week and there will be something going on! The churches have various outreach projects too and work a lot with poorer, more rural communities around the city. One of these projects is CDI, the compassion project where I work every day. The project serves local children in the afternoons providing them with a hot meal, various activities, and lessons. So far I have been helping as a sort of classroom assistant, mostly spending the time answering questions such as "how do you say my name in English?" and "do you have red Coca-Cola in England" etc. The kids have all been very friendly which has been so encouraging, especially with the younger kids where actually it doesn't matter that my Portuguese isn't always good because they aren't always verbal anyway.

I have also really enjoyed getting to know the young people in the church who were super welcoming to me. This last weekend I went away with them to a youth conference which was really fun but challenging too! The church culture here is so different and is very loud and expressive: the preachers like to shout a lot which I don't especially love but I'm adjusting to it! Sometimes it feels a bit like they worship another God because the way the people worship is so different to what I'm used to. So, I suppose I've been quite

challenged by the way that culture affects the way I perceive what church should look like and am trying to have an open mind to the Brazilian style. (Because also there are lots of things they do here that I think are really cool!)

Through this whole process, God has been so good to me in bringing me here safely and putting so many lovely people in my path, and I am overall feeling very blessed by those supporting me both here and back in England.

As I approach my second month In Brazil, it would be great if you could be praying for:

(And yes I am bringing back the Ps!)

Portuguese: This has definitely been the biggest challenge since I arrived here, the North Eastern Brazilian accent really is something else and people don't really naturally think to speak slowly! Pray that I might be more easily able to communicate with people and understand.

Project: Please be praying for the CDI project where I work! Though it is run by the Christians, lots of the children do not go to church. Pray for more opportunities to share God's love with the kids and that I might be emboldened to take risks in facilitating this rather than just sticking to what is easy.

Politics: It's been a little bit hard to adjust to the different cultural values here in Brazil, particularly regarding expectations about men and women and of course the aforementioned differences between the Brazilian and English church. Pray that I might be able to process these differences and have wisdom as to when to challenge them and when to accept them.

That's all for now! Stay awesome and see you soon!



Jermima xx

Greenbelt- Not Quite What You Think It Is

Over the August bank holiday weekend, Clive and I and three other members of the congregation spent the best part of four days at Greenbelt, a Christian festival held in the grounds of Boughton House, a stately home near Kettering. You may be like me and the words 'Christian festival' make you tense up. Visions come into my head of enforced Christian jollity and heavy evangelism. I have nothing against more evangelical festivals, like Spring Harvest, of which there are quite a few. They are not me but for many they are a wonderful experience. Greenbelt is also a wonderful experience, but of a particular sort.

I've Jeanie Honey to thank for ending up at Greenbelt, some six years ago. The Honeys have been for many years and Jeanie kept telling me I would like it and how there was something for everyone there. In the end I gave in and took the plunge with our daughter Ellen. Clive was still resistant at this point. We travelled up to Northamptonshire on the train, with a so-called two man tent, and caught the shuttle bus, which is laid on from Kettering station to the site. I can truly say that first night was the coldest I've ever been. It was like sleeping in front of an open fridge. I was up at 6 the next morning buying hot coffee and bacon sandwiches from the all-night café and throws from one of the many stalls.

From that point on everything got better! Greenbelt is indeed a Christian festival but I also always describe it to people as a social justice festival. It covers a wide range of Christian experience and expression but so much more. You can be quiet and spend the weekend going to Taize style worship, attending Roman Catholic mass, Quaker worship or the quiet communion alternative to the main Sunday morning gathering. You can join the gathering for Celtic prayer in the Prayer Tipi or just find somewhere to be quiet on your own. Or you can be challenged at talks by the likes of Brian McLaren, Nadia Bolz Webber and John Bell. Radio 4 listeners will meet many familiar names, and not just from Thought for the Day. This year, for example, there were two sessions by Shappi Khorsandi, the comedian. Simon Armitage, the Poet Laureate, read from his poetry, as did Rowan Williams and others.

Rowan Williams and Caroline Lucas MP talked about The Future of Democracy; Frances Crook, formally CEO of the Howard League for Penal Reform and Nazur Afzal, the former Chief Crown Prosecutor for NW England

addressed some of the issues troubling our society and there were many, many more; Charlotte and I rested on a seat on the last morning, only to find that we were within earshot of a fascinating talk proposing a one democratic state solution to the Palestinian situation. So much of Greenbelt is driven by a concern for social justice, which in turn has its roots in our Christian faith.

Non-Christians feature highly though. One of the highlights this year was Brian Eno, producer of acts from Roxy Music and Coldplay to David Bowie and Grace Jones, and self styled 'evangelical atheist'. He was drawn to Greenbelt by the opportunity to talk about faith and how art taps into the same 'human need for surrender'. The highlight of his week turns out to be singing in a Gospel choir. Another crowd drawer was the conversation between Richard Dawkins and Giles Fraser.

Greenbelt has its fair share of music. Clive's favourite place is a stage called the Canopy, where you can while away the afternoon listening to music and comedy, within easy reach of the festival's wine bar, the Blue Nun. There are also two pubs, the Jesus Arms and the Hope and Anchor, which is non-alcoholic. There is a main stage where bigger names perform. This year's Saturday night headliner was Kae Tempest. Wildwood Kin, who I first saw on Spotlight were also performing. You can join various choirs and sing yourself. One of our group joined the Scratch Choir, only to find herself on stage on the last day supporting a wonderful comedy-rap-jazz duo called Harry and Chris. As a newcomer to Greenbelt that was one of the highlights of her festival.

One of the joys of Greenbelt is meeting people you know, either by chance or arrangement. As well as the Honeys, people we met included Rosie, whom people will remember from the St David's choir, who is now a curate in Tavistock, and a friend of Charlotte's from way back. Ellen has continued to go every year with a group of her friends and one of my favourite moments is joining with them to share communion at the big open-air Eucharist on the Sunday morning. This year's service was a powerful consideration of the climate crisis and what we can do as Christians to combat it. Among other things, we sang the version of All Things Bright and Beautiful which you can read elsewhere in New Leaves. It was a very moving experience altogether and there were many tears. The theme of this year's festival was the environment and at the heart of it was Luke Jerram's Gaia installation, like the Moon that we saw earlier this year suspended in the

cathedral. This time it was the Earth suspended in what the programme describes as 'the great cathedral of nature', a reminder that this is our only home and that 'climate justice demands that we make changes to the way we live in favour of the planet, its people and its future'.



There is so much else to enjoy at Greenbelt: drama, art, activities for children and young people, LGBTQ+ related sessions, running, yoga, discos, opportunities for single Christians to connect and so on. When you first open the programme it is truly mind boggling. Plus there are all the usual features of festivals: fabulous food and other stalls, the fun of camping together, fascinating conversations with complete strangers. Clive will tell you, that the reason I describe Greenbelt 2022 as my best one ever is that we didn't camp. The five of us decided that this year we had had enough of camping and instead chose an Airbnb and a hotel, and it's important to know that you can do that, and lots of people do.

So, in case you're wondering, in 2017, Clive overcame his resistance and came with me, and he hasn't looked back. I think one of the great things about Greenbelt is that it is what you make it. There is so much on offer that you will find things you know you'll like, as well as things that are a revelation to you. I always say that you could go through the whole weekend without hearing a mention of God, if you choose, though of course He is there, running through the whole festival. Greenbelt gives you an opportunity to step away from your everyday life and reconnect with what really matters. To quote the programme again 'the festival offers you a wonderful opportunity to listen to your life. To listen to those around you, to the world and its needs, to God and to the nature that surrounds you.' I am a fan and I recommend it to you.



Sue Wilson

All Things Bright and Beautiful - a version from Greenbelt 2022

One of the highlights of the Greenbelt festival, which several members of the congregation regularly attend, is the Sunday morning open air Eucharist. This year the festival's theme was the environment, and this version of a well-known hymn was a very moving part of the Eucharist.

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

*The purple headed mountains,
The rivers running by,
Are filled with deadly toxins,
Cascading from the sky.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
We humans trashed them all.*

*Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
Is tainted with the plastic,
We've thrown into our bins.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
God who made the universe,
Looks out on us appalled.*

*The typhoons in the winter,
The burning summer sun,
The changes to the climate,
Have only just begun.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
We humans trashed them all.*

*The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at the gate,
All humans high and lowly
Will suffer the same fate.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
God who made the universe,
Looks out on us appalled.*

*God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
The choices we are making
To turn the world to hell.*

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
We humans trashed them all.*



Sue Wilson



Thomas Dambo: Trolls (Matt and Helen), 2022 at Kew Gardens
Recycle art activist Thomas Dambo conjures up gentle giants from scrap wood, old pallets, twigs and debris.

Dambo has created two giant trolls eating together from galvanised steel bins, strewn with an assortment of vegetables.
The trolls show us the benefits of plant-based, sustainable foods and eating together for our mental and nutritional health.

Green Matters

Progress towards Eco Church



Churches complete an online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their

life and work. The answers a church provides will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more your church does, the more points you get!

If your score doesn't gain you an Eco Church Award straight away don't worry – the idea is to complete further actions in order to gain the points necessary for an Award. For example, you can switch to a green energy company or start using Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies to gain Eco Church Award points.

The survey takes you through five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

It takes into account whether or not your church has buildings or land, and you can save your survey responses at any point and return to update them as your church completes additional actions.

St David's has been working towards an Eco Church award. The progress up to September 2022 is summarised here. We are at different levels for the categories, with buildings and lifestyle still at bronze. The overall award is at the lowest of the categories so we are at bronze level. We hope to improve these in the next few months with more effort on our carbon footprint and personal lifestyle actions.

Clive Wilson
25 Sept 2022

Worship & Teaching -St David's activities

Celebrates Special Sundays focused on caring for God's earth eg Rogation Sunday

Prays regularly for environmental issues

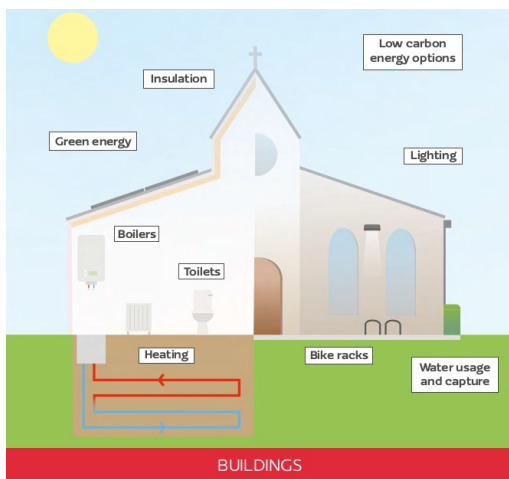
Preaching on caring for God's earth

Church communications regularly address environmental concerns

Ministry team fully supports work towards Eco Church

Worship and Teaching 🏆

Gold



St David's buildings

Church boiler rated A

Vicarge double glazed and roof insulated

Mostly LED lighting

Water saving toilets

Environmentally friendly cleaning products

Recycling

Cycle racks

Buildings 🏆

Bronze

St David's churchyard

Encourages wildlife

Birdboxes

Wild flower areas

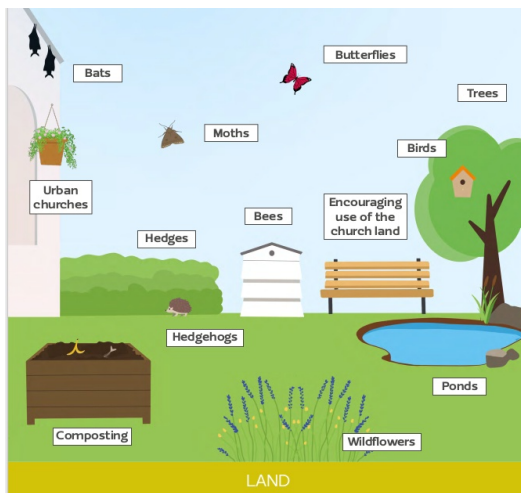
Fruit trees

Wildlife friendly mowing

Avoids use of hazardous chemicals

Wildlife survey

Composting



Land 

Silver



St David's activities

Green Event annually

Regular articles on "Green Matters" in Parish Magazine

- local & International

Exeter Churches' Green Network

Engages with our MP and local councillors

Car-use survey & car lift sharing

Toilet twinning

Fairtrade Church. Fairtrade stall monthly

Litter-picking

Church members belong to RSPB/ Wildlife trusts/Woodland Trusts

Vegan and organic food

Reduced food waste - composting

Community and Global Engagement 

Silver



Championing sustainability

St David's activities

Green Team to champion environmental sustainability

Cycling, walking and public transport to church

encouraged to reduce car use

Encouraging reduced personal energy consumption

Reduce, re-use, recycle

Knit & Natter

Clothes swaps

Promotes Fairtrade personal consumption

Ethical investment

Tips on personal lifestyle in magazine, newsletter etc

Lifestyle 



Bronze



The short service at the start of the Green Event

Being a big sister

When I was a child in the 1920s and thirties, there was a lot of unemployment and poverty, with little help from the authorities. Larger families of up to ten or twelve children were not unknown.

Children looked after each other, with big sisters (and brothers) in charge, being responsible for even babies. I was the eldest and only girl, with four younger brothers when I was ten. We were lucky that father did not drink like many who were sometimes quite brutal. Mother was a good manager, cooking plain but good meals, knitting jumpers, socks etc. We were taught to speak properly, have respect for each other and good manners. My brothers



were often in my care and it was hard work, especially my second brother, Peter. We would be sent out for the day, with sandwiches and drinks to one of several local parks. Peter would always get into trouble. Once we went to the Arboretum with a brook running through it, partly paved for paddling. Naturally, he fell in. I stripped off his jersey and shorts, hung them on a bush, then I commandeered his elder brother's blazer. We carried on playing 'til I realised everyone had gone home. We rushed to the gates to find them locked. Panic. Then my mother approached with the park-keeper. It was only because he'd been at school with Mom that he left his tea. Naturally, it was my fault. In another park, he pushed a friend on a swing and forgot to move back and it hit him in the face. A nearby woman grabbed him and disappeared. After a few minutes I decided to take another brother home. As we turned the corner of our street, I saw an ambulance outside our home and knew that I would be blamed. The woman had taken Peter to the hospital where his front teeth had been extracted.

On Saturdays we would go to the children's film show, but we never saw the end of any film because something would upset Peter and he would hide under a seat, screaming so that we would be smartly evicted. I didn't see the

end of Pinnochio until years later, on TV.

Of course, I grew up. I learned a lot about boys and young men. I determined never to have children. I became their counsellor as they began to discover girls (although I could never understand any female falling in love with them.) I was the one they came to for advice on all sorts of matters: what to say to girls on dates, how to behave, especially presents for Valentines day or birthdays. When our parents died they came to me as a substitute mother. We all became good friends and they were very good at getting rid of unwanted boyfriends. When my husband died they were a good support – doing odd jobs etc. Three of them have now died with just my youngest brother and me, to remember our younger days. From being pests they were always there. Nothing replaces your siblings, no matter how far away. So, try to keep in touch.



Eileen Jarman

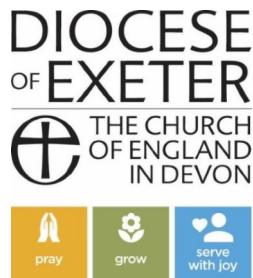
Sept 2022



Churchwarden Training Opportunities

Good afternoon Churchwardens,

We do hope that you have had a good few summer months and have enjoyed some time off. Thank you all so much for your hard work in ensuring that you were sworn in by your Archdeacons and we look forward to working alongside you in the coming weeks and months.



As we enter into the new term, we are offering some excellent training opportunities for existing and new churchwardens and are opening this up to all our archdeaconries in the Exeter Diocese.

We are offering 5 dates to include sessions (*which may vary at different venues*) on HR and ecclesiastical law, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Finance, GDPR, the work of the DAC, and Climate change and how this is affecting our buildings. We are looking forward to welcoming various members of our EDBF team, including Alison Stock, our Exeter Diocesan Registrar and a representative from Ecclesiastical Insurance, along with our Director of Finance, Neil Williams, the chair of the DAC, and a member of our Net Zero team.

Please see the table below which outlines the different dates and times on offer. In trying to put on a range of churchwarden training dates across the diocese, we have put on a selection of sessions offering different timings. Our shorter sessions, although not as in depth, will cover the fundamental updates necessary for all churchwardens. There will be something for everyone. For those who have been churchwardens and attended one of these session before, you might find the shorter version sufficient bearing in mind that we haven't provided you with training for the last 3 years. For those who are new to post, then the full day might be more appropriate as it will be more in depth.

Please find here a link to our online form, where we would ask that you fill in

your name, contact details and associated parish and would request that you indicate which session you would like to attend. <https://forms.office.com/r/9H9aSUiRV>

We look forward to receiving your bookings and will be in touch to confirm your place with more details to follow.

On behalf of Exeter, Barnstaple, Totnes and Plymouth Archdeaconries

Beth Collier

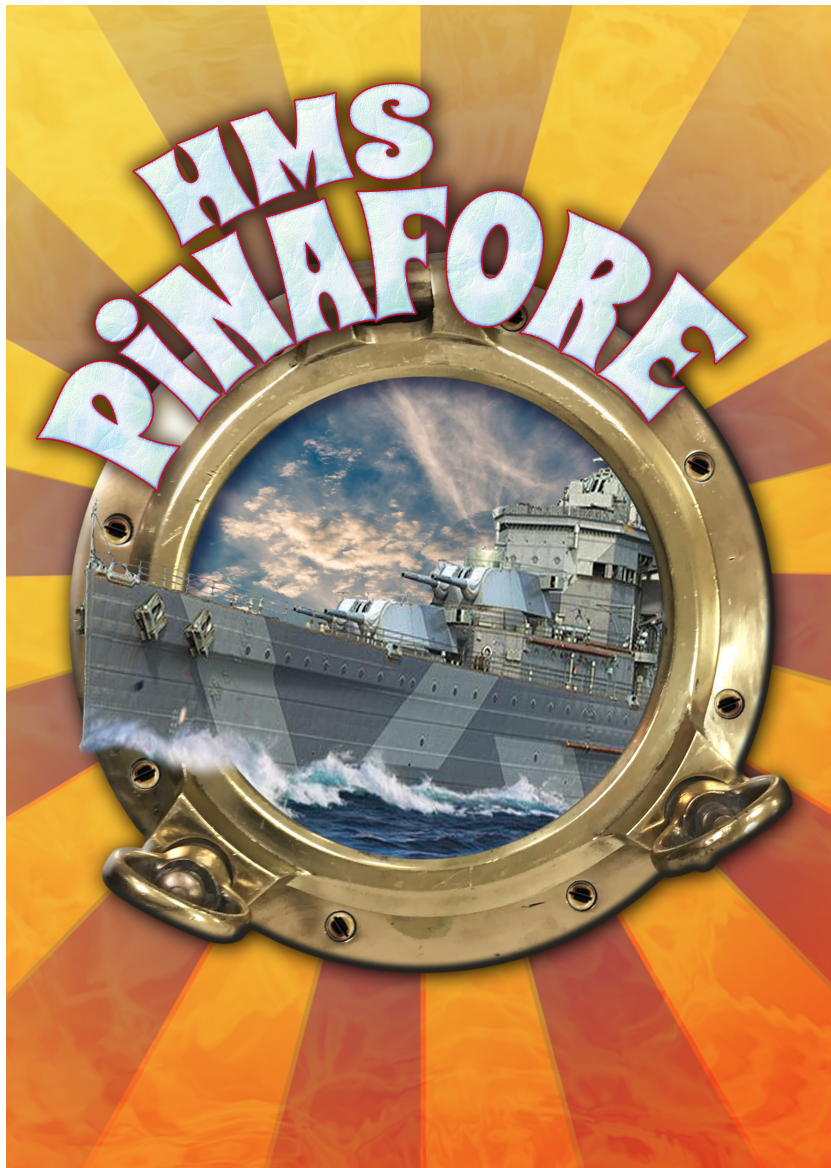


"Never mind, let's just be happy that Baz came to church in the first place."

St David's Players - HMS Pinafore

Tue 11 Oct 2022 - Sat 15 Oct 2022

Barnfield Theatre, Exeter



“HMS Pinafore” is the first St David’s player’s production, since the award winning “Grand Duke” (NODA South West - Best Gilbert & Sullivan) in 2019.

Gilbert and Sullivan’s HMS Pinafore is a story of young love, taking place on a warship docked at Plymouth. The captain’s daughter and a humble seaman are drawn close together, but will society and social class force them apart?

In a story told with memorable music and witty dialogue, this story promises to bring humour, sadness, and toe-tapping tunes.

Gilbert and Sullivan’s fourth collaboration and first ‘big hit’, HMS Pinafore (or The Lass That Loved a Sailor) is jam-packed with infectiously catchy tunes, wonderful libretto, and a fantastically funny plot.

This production of HMS Pinafore by St David’s Players will be set in the Swinging Sixties, so expect an explosion of colour, fun, and creativity as we arrive onto the Barnfield Theatre stage.

Amelia Hall (Director) and Luke Stevenson (Musical Director).

Barnfield Theatre Box Office – Telephone 01392 726363

Tue 11 Oct 2022 - Sat 15 Oct 2022

02:30 PM | 07:30 PM

£18.00 - £19.00

Children U16 £10

Musical Theatre, Theatre

150 minutes

If you need any further information, please contact us at stdavidsplayers@gmail.com.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 2 verses 1 to 10

Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were
guests at a family wedding in Cana. The bride-
groom was responsible for the food and drink.

The wedding feasts
went on for days

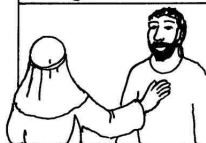


Then the wine ran out...



What a disaster!
The bridegroom and his family would be
shamed for life, and perhaps even sued!

Mary noticed...



Jesus, they've run
out of wine!

So why are you telling
me?



But Mary wasn't put off.

She told the servants



Do whatever he tells you.

Fill those six jars to the top
with water



The water was for the special
washing of hands before meals

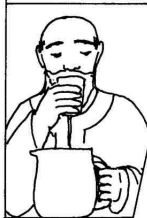
and each jar held
about 100 litres



Now take some out and
serve it to the toast-
master



He tried it...



...then he called
to the bridegroom..



Most people serve the best wine
first, then the rest later, but...



...this is the best wine
I've ever tasted!



Impressive!



The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY
ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO
MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S
PROPERTY.

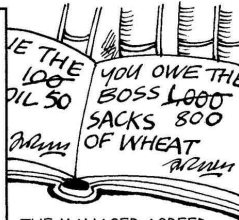


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD
THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN
WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO
ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO
GET THE SACK!!

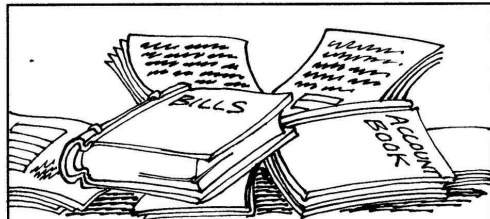
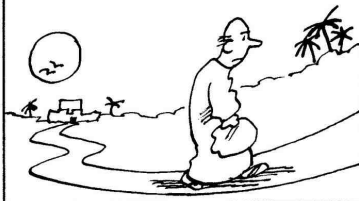


THE MANAGER AGREED
TO LET THE RICH MAN'S
TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR
BOOKS!

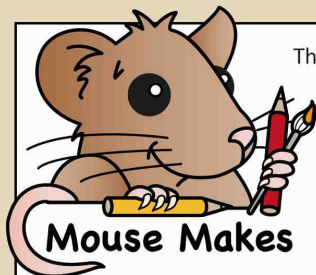


SO THEY ALTERED THEIR
DEBTS - AND STAYED
FRIENDS WITH THE
MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER
HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS
FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING
DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO
THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A
HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!



Mouse Makes

The New Testament has **four gospels, twenty one epistles** and the book of **Revelation**.

The **epistles** are a collection of **letters** that were written by the apostles to the early Christians, they contain teaching, instruction, advice and encouragement.

The Apostle **Paul** is thought to have written **thirteen** of the *epistles*...



Look in your Bible to see who wrote the other eight and who they were written to.

How many people does Paul send greetings to at the end of his letter to the Romans?
.....

The word **epistle** comes from the Greek word **epistolé** which means *letter or message*

Which is the shortest epistle?
.....

How many chapters does it have?
.....

Which are the longest epistles?
.....

How many chapters do they have?
.....

DID YOU KNOW...?
At the time of the New Testament letters were written on scrolls

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

EPISTLE • LETTER • ROMANS • CORINTHIANS • GALATIANS • EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • THESSALONIANS • TIMOTHY • TITUS • PHILEMON
HEBREWS • JAMES • PETER • JOHN • JUDE • PAUL • SCROLL • WRITE

Smilelines

Miscellaneous observations on life:

A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

It is easy to do any amount of work – provided it isn't the work you are supposed to be doing.

Anyone who thinks talk is cheap never argued with a traffic warden.

Anything that is good and useful is usually made of chocolate.

One reason why a dog is such a lovable creature is that his tail wags instead of his tongue.

Henry Ford's secret

When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them: "To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?"

"The formula," said Ford, "is the same formula I have always used in making cars – just stick to one model."

What?!

I get most of my exercise these days from shaking my head in disbelief.

Did you mean what you just said?

The following are genuine notes left for milkmen.

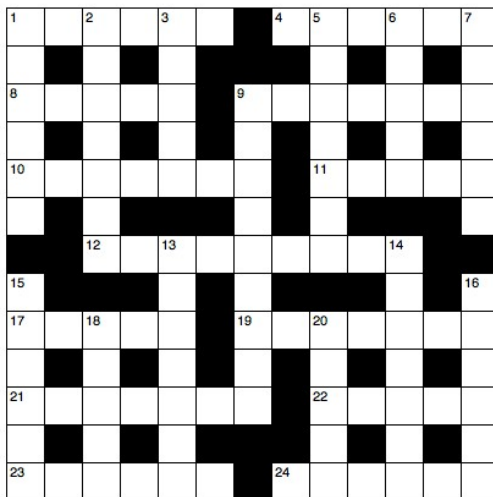
~ Dear Milkman: I've just had a baby, please leave another one.

~ Cancel one pint after the day after today.

~ Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.

~ Please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops of the milk.

~ Please cancel the milk. I have nothing coming into the house except two sons on the dole.



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment(Jeremiah29:1)(5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way'(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.)(7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

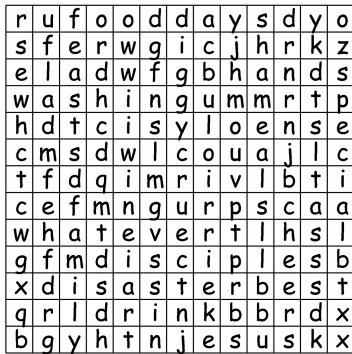
Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark 9:43) (6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track (Job 41:30) (5)
- 20 Religious doctrine (5)

Sudoku - Medium

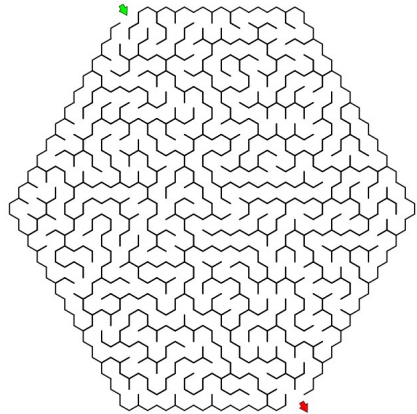
		3		9	8			
5		2						6
						5		
9				3			2	
	7		9		6		1	
	6			7				4
		5						
7						1		3
			3	2		9		

Word search



wedding	disciples	bridegroom
Mary	days	washing
wine	disciples	feasts
special	whatever	family
disaster	hands	shame
best	cheers	food
family	drink	Jesus
jars	meals	servants

Maze



Days of Note - October

1st October **Anthony Ashley-Cooper, the Poor Man's Earl**

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and



frightening, his early schooldays a “horror” of “cruelty and starvation”. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer. After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve their conditions. He wrote: ‘By God’s blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of ‘the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.’

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years, with Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of nine should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, and 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'.

One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a 'fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'

2nd October Guardian Angels, keeping an eye on us

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe in guardian angels. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18:10)

The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12:15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were then seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2nd October.

4th October St Francis and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his hometown, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that He came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

10th October

Thomas Traherne, lover of nature

Thomas Traherne (1636 - 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve Creation. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as "one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with", and being of "cheerful and sprightly Temper", ready to do "all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability". Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

12th October

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God’s work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

‘Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient I believe I shall.’

And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker ‘minister’, and her good works in London

began.

But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth's life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life's work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education.

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818 Elizabeth had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a 'Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London', which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a 'hands-on' sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She then inspected prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a 'minister of Christ'.

18th October

Thank you, Dr Luke!

By David Winter

‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions (‘your son, this brother of yours’), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling’s alleged reformation, the ‘prodigal’ himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father’s mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son’s return.

There are more women in Luke’s Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more ‘sinners’ and tax-collectors, more ‘outsiders’ who are shown to be ‘inside’ the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

Puzzle solutions

L	A	W	Y	E	R		B	A	L	S	A	M
O		E		M			T		A		E	
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5	9	2	7	1	3	4	8	6
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9	5	8	4	3	1	6	2	7
2	7	4	9	8	6	3	1	5
3	6	1	2	7	5	8	9	4
8	3	5	1	6	9	7	4	2
7	2	9	8	5	4	1	6	3
4	1	6	3	2	7	9	5	8

**The deadline for inclusion of articles
for the November issue of New Leaves
is**

Sunday 23rd October

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.