

SHOTTERY *SEARCHLIGHT*



80p

WORSHIP IN MAY



Each Sunday morning the 1662 Eucharist is celebrated at 8.00am

Each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm there is a Said Eucharist

Every Thursday at 10am: Said Eucharist with Address

5th: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00am Family Service.

6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Eucharist.

12th: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers

6.30pm Sung Evensong.

19th: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00am Third Sunday Service

6.30pm Sung Evensong

26th: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers

6.30pm Sung Evensong.



30th: ASCENSION DAY (Thursday)

7.30pm Parish Eucharist.



MESSAGE OF THE MONTH FROM SARAH CUSHING.

Yes, He *is* Risen! Yes, He *is* Alive! With our hearts on fire let us go forward in joy and start spreading the news - because on the 30 May, we celebrate a very brief but special moment in our Liturgical Calendar – Ascension Day. It comes to us on the 40th day after

Easter, and it only lasts up to Pentecost, so we need to fully enter into its meaning and all that it has to say to us.

Ascension can at times become slightly hidden or lost in all the wonderment of Easter. Only quite small references are made to it in scripture. Nonetheless this is a principal feast in our calendar. Perhaps at this time it will continue to be for all of us a further time of important inner reflection, especially around the thoughts of salvation, grace and mercy. It is also a great time of celebration because in this moment of history, our Lord Jesus Christ fully becomes our intercessor - enabling and encouraging us to draw ever nearer to God, through Him.

This is the moment we celebrate the fact that our Saviour Jesus Christ returns to his Father in Heaven, where he will be seated at God's right hand and become exalted. Here we arrive at the final moment in Jesus' snapshot album of life. God's will is fully recognised, Jesus reigns supreme above all – this is the wonderful part when we know that God would send his Holy Spirit upon the disciples and thereafter upon many of his people. More importantly for us today, we begin to fully realise that Jesus has withdrawn from his earthly life so that his universal presence can be with us all throughout the entire world. What a special fact to hold in our hearts day to day.

Through the immensely poignant message that Easter brought of sadness

and pain of the crucifixion, and sure hope through His resurrection, we now have chance to celebrate with great joy at His ascending as we prayerfully speak together the following words of the Creed, week on week - *“He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty”*.

May I very gently suggest that perhaps this is also a period to be *‘simply’* thankful - thankful that our Lord Jesus Christ loves us, that He has given so much for us. Yet, all He asks of us is that we come to him with open hearts and minds fully to faith, that we love one another, and that we remain steadfastly with him through the difficult times and that in times of great joy we are ‘sent out’ to tell all who we meet of His name and His good news.

As we begin to appreciate through His creation new buds bursting forth on trees and hedgerows, let us rejoice together (as with the disciples before us), that Our Lord Jesus Christ, our rock and our Redeemer is with our Heavenly Father, that He is now and always will be our ever present advocate. Let us be reminded of the words of the hymn *“Alleluia Sing to Jesus”*

Hallelujah, not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Hallelujah, He is near us, faith believes, not questions how.

Though the clouds from sight received Him when the forty days were o’er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise, “I am with you evermore”

Hallelujah, Bread of Heaven, Thou on earth our food, our stay.

Hallelujah, here the hungry come to Thee from day to day.

Advocate and Intercessor, Earth’s Redeemer pleads for me.

On the throne of the Almighty Now and to eternity.



Wardens' Watch with Bob Macvie

Over the last couple of months it has become apparent to me how much some folks have done and still do for St. Andrew's Church that passes under the radar! They do their 'jobs' so efficiently and seamlessly, often when nobody else is about, that it's not until they are unavailable or even worse retire, that most people realise the importance of what they've been doing. Let me give you a few examples. For more years than I care to remember John Faulkner has meticulously looked after our gardens at St. Andrew's. And what an amazing job he has done! How many of us have admired the colourful flower beds that seem to change season by season, with never a weed to be seen, with the lawns always looking immaculate! It's little wonder that St. Andrew's has succeeded in winning the Best Kept Churchyard in the deanery for so many years and all down to John's love and attention. Sadly, due to age and infirmity, John has now had to relinquish his role. For all your years of hard work and dedication John, we thank you profusely!

Someone like John Faulkner can never be replaced but, thankfully, David Whyman has taken over grass-cutting duties and David Challis will be overseeing the flower beds. It's never easy stepping into the shoes of such a legend as John but I have every confidence these two gentlemen will do a splendid job and our grounds will continue to look as attractive as ever. No pressure guys! As many will know, for David Challis St. Andrew's is a second home! If a bulb needs replacing, batteries recharging, windows cleaning or a dripping tap mended David is your man and the job will be done with the minimum of fuss and usually without anyone knowing! Thanks a million, David!

Another unsung hero to me is Bob Wright of choir fame. But it's not for his singing that I'm lauding his praises! Did you know that since time began (or very nearly) Bob has faithfully been opening and locking the church practically every morning and every evening, day after day after day whatever the

weather or however he's been feeling. Unfortunately, Bob is not well at the moment so unable to do his usual 'duties' and how he is missed! We send him our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

Not long ago Nic Caree, who has cleaned the church and Parish Centre so thoroughly and efficiently with his able assistant Pat Wade, stood down. As we sit in church Sunday by Sunday how many of us ever pay any thoughts as to why St. Andrew's always looks in tip top condition, so clean and tidy? It's because of folks like them! Thankfully Pat is carrying on the good work but she does need help. We are trying to establish a rota at present for people to come and assist with cleaning when they can, even if it's only once a month or so. Is that something you could do? Please think about it and be willing to offer your services.

We are so fortunate at St. Andrew's to have such dedicated and committed people doing their 'jobs' week by week usually out of sight of others. Our sacristan Alan Minchin is another fine example. Alan is the person responsible for changing the altar hangings, looking after the vestments worn by priests and servers, for cleaning the silver and for getting everything ready whenever there's a Eucharist. During church seasons like Christmas and Easter Alan and his team of helpers are particularly busy. Most Saturday afternoon's Alan and Jenny or Andrew Mills can be found preparing the altar ready for a Sunday morning. Thanks too are due to Kay Sillitoe for washing and ironing the vestments unknown to many!

I'd also like to pay tribute to Hilary Mattocks who, in her quiet, unassuming way does this, that and the other to help our church. For instance, on a Monday morning she can often be found in the choir vestry counting out the money collected on a Sunday along with several others in the team. Apart from that she's often in the kitchen, cooking and preparing food for social occasions etc. She also plays a huge part with our outside giving, as she's the person who orders all the literature and envelopes for the various charities we support and then has the job of sending cheques to them. Not glamorous tasks by any means but still vital and time consuming!

Can you imagine St. Andrew's without Derek Bowdery's assorted jams and chutneys? Goodness knows how much money he has raised for church over the years but it must be a fair amount! As well as St. Andrew's Church benefitting from his culinary expertise so too does the RNLI charity and our local primary school. For many years the task of drawing up the sides-person's rota has fallen on Derek's shoulders not to mention the job of giving umpteen people lifts to and from church every Sunday. Thank you Derek for everything you do in your quiet manner.

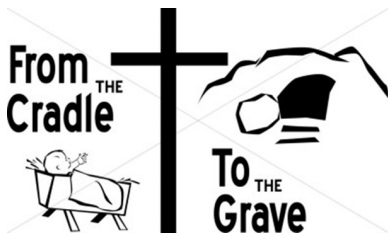
I could go on mentioning names as there are many others who are deserving of our thanks but I only have limited space! So please forgive me for just highlighting a few and rest assured that David and I, as churchwardens, really do appreciate every one of you who contributes your time and efforts to making St. Andrew's the special place it is.

Think not what your church can do for you but what you can do for your church

God Bless,

Bob Macvie





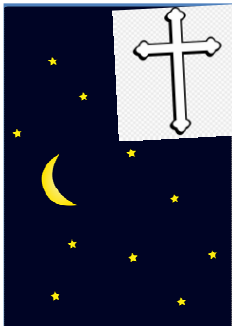
Baptism

21st April Isla May Ballinger Nash

Funerals

3rd April Jean Hobbins (87)

16th April Sue Di Kai (83)



MINI EVENING PILGRIMAGES

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH visit on 28th MAY is at Westwood Heath Road and not as previously advertised.

Andy's Boots

a few of our favourite walks



A booklet of a dozen or so circular walks will be available from early May. Walks are between 2.75 and 5 miles long and found within a 9 mile radius of Shottery. Each walk has diagrams of the route and detailed directions, to be used with an OS map.

Cost £5, all proceeds to St Andrew's Church funds. Available at church, parish office or from me, 01789 296631.

Naomi Whittaker



OUR MAY (12th) CHARITY WILL BE CHRISTIAN AID

Our belief that poverty can be ended is based on our understanding of scripture and the work of a creative, loving God.

Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.

For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- • to expose poverty throughout the world
- • to help in practical ways to end it
- • to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.
- •

We're part of a global movement for change

- • Together, we have great influence and impact. We want people to pray with us, to act, to give and to get involved with us in a variety of ways.
- • We work to educate and mobilise people from all kinds of backgrounds to build a movement that can change the course of history and bring social justice to all.
- • We campaign to ensure a more equal division of power in the world, promoting the rights and voices of women and girls – and anyone discriminated against because of who they are.
- • We push our political leaders to tackle climate change and tax dodging – which hit the poorest the hardest – and for our society to welcome those who have been forced to flee their homes overseas.
- •

We are a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide.

We stand together with our global neighbours. Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Please give generously and let us show our support for Christian Aid in May 2019.



It certainly seemed that the spring had sprung by the time we met up for our monthly meeting in April. There were apologies from Jeanette Payne who was unwell. We opened as usual with prayers led by Audrey Edwards.

Audrey reported that Mothering Sunday cards had been distributed at the service and reminded members of the Children's Easter Celebration to be held on Good Friday. Other reminders were for the Deanery Lunch at Wellesbourne on 6th August and the Members' Day here on 12th October; there was a booking form and details available for the M.U. AGM at Portsmouth.

We were asked for suggestions for our Summer Outing - this was left to the Committee with the idea of "trains" in mind.

Audrey was pleased to welcome fellow member Janet Insoll who gave an illustrated talk about her retreat to the Isle of Iona when she joined a party of 20 people from Wellesbourne. The journey was over two days - first by car to Oban, then ferry to the Isle of Mull and then by passenger ferry to Iona, where only residents' cars are allowed.

Iona is set in magnificent scenery and is small enough to be walked around. Its population is reliant nowadays mostly on tourism. Everything has to be imported from the mainland and although there is a Post Office, etc., and a school, the medical centre is on Mull and the secondary school at Tobermory.

Iona's religious significance dates back to the Dark Ages when monks sailed from Ireland (in coracles) to set up a monastery. There are many Celtic crosses to be seen and the ruins of the Nunnery. The Abbey which was in a poor state has been restored and is served by a changing community.

The visitors stayed in the Bishop's House, a long low building with a central Chapel. Janet said they were made very welcome and comfortable. Services were led by the visitors, Compline being the main one. There was a Pilgrims' Walk arranged and also a trip to the island of Staffa.

Audrey thanked Janet for her talk which we all enjoyed and there were plenty of queries to follow. Also thanks to Nic Carree for setting up the illustrations.

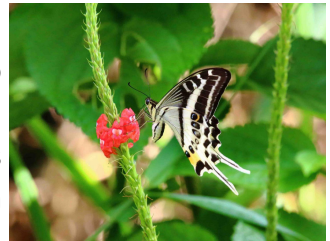
Next Meeting - 14th May - Trade Craft and Fairtrade talk by Mary Boddington with her companion who travels to buy the items for sale.

2 p.m. then - see you there - visitors welcome.

GARETH JOHNSON gives us a brief insight into his trip to Fiji.

Imagine discovering a butterfly that no-one else knew about.

Humans have explored our home planet for so long it may seem as if there is nothing more to find, or that a 21st century naturalist's job is merely to count each species as it disappears in this troubling time for Earth's environments.



Yet, scientists have made a discovery in Fiji as recently as 2017 when the Natewa Swallowtail butterfly was first recorded on the Natewa peninsula of Vanua Levu, one of the country's largest islands. The breadth and diversity of nature is what has inspired me from a very young age and now I have, as clichéd as it may sound, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly involve myself in ecological research. I will be travelling to Fiji in July 2019 for two weeks to work alongside scientists in exploring and recording the habitats of Vanua Levu's Natewa peninsula. The hopes of this project are to create a legally protected national park, in which the unique wildlife and indigenous people's lands of Natewa will be safe from exploitation by Fiji's growing industries and economy.

I will be going with a group from my school but the project itself is run by Operation Wallacea, an international environmental research organisation which aims to conserve Earth's fragile and vulnerable ecosystems for the sake of both the wildlife and the local economy of indigenous peoples who rely on the health of the land. Over the course of my trip, I will spend one week collecting data on the biodiversity and ecology of the Natewa forests, and the other in the well-preserved reefs of Natewa Bay. It's the largest bay in the South Pacific yet diving, especially commercial, has been restricted in this area and no papers have been published about it so far.

This venture offers an invaluable experience. It supports my ambitions to study biology at university and perhaps to help combat the many threats our planet faces, both current and in the future. I would like to express

gratitude to everyone who has supported me thus far, both in my plant sales at church and also for the very generous donations I have received. It has been exciting to see others in our community take an interest in my trip and I am thankful to those who are kind enough to support me.

Website for more information: www.opwall.com



Gareth Johnson



Welcome to Coventry Cathedral • a place to find and to share hope

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL are looking for volunteers. As the iconic symbol of Coventry, the Cathedral is committed to welcome all.

They are especially looking for people who:

- Love people.
- Love conversations—asking questions are just as important as answering them.
- Are eager to learn and share (history and religious knowledge not essential)

If you would like to find out more about volunteering, or talk to one of the team, get in touch or pop in for a chat. Check out further information on:



www.coventrycathedral.org. "Get Involved"

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Ladies Fellowship met on the evening of Thursday, the 28th of March 2019. This was one of our meetings when we share Holy Communion together so the Revd. Canon David Capron very kindly officiated and was assisted by Alan Minchin. Many thanks indeed to both of them. We always look forward to sharing the Eucharist together as a fellowship. Afterwards we had a light supper which included some lovely cakes and savoury buns made by Dianne Jones.

Jo Carver. Chairperson

Coffee Morning Saturday 22nd June 10am-12noon

Shottery Parish Centre
Church Lane

This event is instead of the Annual House to House Collection. Please support if you can.

Coffee, Cakes, Crafts, Raffle

Proceeds in aid of

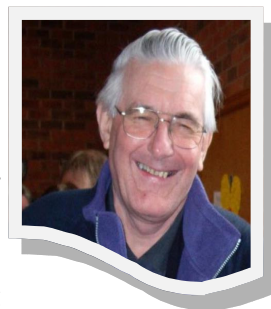


ALAN MINCHIN SHARE HIS

INWARD THOUGHTS.

I am sure that I am not alone in feeling inwardly upset, even "pain", when accidentally damaging something that is dear to a loved one.

Recently, while completing the washing-up after breakfast, I managed to inadvertently damage a favourite mug belonging to my wife Jenny.



A winsomely decorated mug, it bore the motif "fat cat" with an illustration of a rather over-sized and contented looking cat. I'm not sure why it was of sentimental value but the upset caused by my clumsiness proved it was so. And the sorrow I felt on recognizing Jenny's upset was very discomforting.

A little later, and in a miserable state of mind, I was reading my Bible reading notes where I was reminded of the story, recorded by the apostle John in his Gospel, of a situation which must have caused "inward grief" to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

John records a situation where Our Lord had given a particularly difficult teaching to the growing band of disciples and, in v6 of chapter 6, John starkly records the response - "from this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him." In the N.I.V. translation of the next verse Jesus asks of other disciples - "you do not want to leave, too, do you?" giving the impression of resignation and inward anguish.

But, at a later time in Our Lord's ministry I suspect He felt (even though He had said it would happen) a great, inward wretchedness when Peter, one of His closest disciples, angrily claimed that he did not know Jesus.

But Peter's distress was also great when he realized what he had done. Luke records that Peter ".....went outside and wept bitterly". (Luke 22:62).

Heart-ache and inward hurt are parts of life experiences that help shape us into the characters that we are and there is a degree of comfort in knowing that even Our Lord Jesus Christ experienced such things.

For we mere mortals the act of being forgiven is an act that brings healing and comfort. Peter was restored by Jesus and so it is, and will be for us. This is why repentance, and the act of forgiving, are important parts of the Christian message.

And my own misfortune with the mug ? I am pleased to say that later the same day, when visiting a large home and garden centre, Jenny came across a rather handsome, and large, mug bearing the inscription "marvellous moggies" complete with an artist's amusing impression of contented cat life.

I purchased at once. Purr.....fect !



WELLESBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY

Present

"A WONDERFUL WORLD"

(A celebration of Life and Nature)

Conducted by our own Margaret Cox

In her final concert as conductor.

FRIDAY 10th MAY, 7.30pm

Tickets £7. (to incl. light refreshments and glass of wine)

They say that prayer changes things, but does it REALLY change anything?

Oh yes! It really does!

Does prayer change your present situation or sudden circumstances?

No, not always, but it does change the way you look at those events.

Does prayer change your financial future?

No, not always, but it does change who you look to for meeting your daily needs.

Does prayer change shattered hearts or broken bodies?

No, not always, but it will change your source of strength and comfort.

Does prayer change your wants and desires?

No, not always, but it will change your wants into what God desires!

Does prayer change how you view the world?

No, not always, but it will change whose eyes you see the world through.

Does prayer change your regrets from the past?

No, not always, but it will change your hopes for the future!

Does prayer change the people around you?

No, not always, but it will change you - the problem isn't always in others.

Does prayer change your life in ways you can't explain?

Oh, yes, always! And it will change you from the inside out!

So does prayer REALLY change ANYTHING?

Yes! It REALLY does change EVERYTHING!



EASTER FLOWERS

Once again we have stunning floral arrangements. As dawn came through the roof lights at the Dawn Eucharist this morning we were able to wonder at such talent. We are so grateful to Bev and Nic, particularly, who are masterminds behind this magnificence.

Blooming Lovely – Flower Arranging Classes – meets every Wednesday (30+members) at St Andrews and it is mainly these people who undertake our festival arrangements.

I might add that 6 of those involved (Viv, Heather, Rosie, Cathy, Angie and of course Bev) are not members of our church! They just love and enjoy sharing their talents and ensuring that along with others (Hilary C., Fran, Ginnie, Sheila and Nic) our church is beautifully adorned.

I have put some photos on our website but as a taster I shall share a couple here.

Clodagh



Welcome to Coventry Cathedral • a place to find and to share hope

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL ... and CITY OF CULTURE 2021.

"MAKING SPACE FOR HOPE 2021"

This project is the catalyst for transforming the facilities for pilgrims, visitors, congregations and audiences, and their experience of the Cathedral in 2021 and beyond. It contributes to a sustainable future and to the revitalisation of Coventry City Centre as a prime destination with the Cathedral at its heart.

"Making Space of Hope 2021" is a major capital project to future-proof the Coventry Cathedral estate in readiness for the UK City of Culture 2021. The Cathedral has entered an historic and exciting period of renewal. For the first time in almost 60 years, it is embarking on a major campaign to refurbish and regenerate the estate.

The capital development programme is valued at £3.5m. The Cathedral has already secured £2.2m of public sector funding and are looking to raise the remaining £1.3m. The phased capital works will be complete by 31st March 2021. The proposal includes future-proofing the estate by constructing a new pavilion to create additional flexible education space to support new activities and events; improving the accessibility of core facilities to meet modern legislative and design standards; improved catering facilities through the creation of a new café area to increase visitor dwell time, events and exhibition space to provide new experiences for audiences; installation of state of the art sound and lighting systems giving better quality performances; and improving safety and access. Every improvement will support the ongoing life of the Cathedral as a community and as a place of welcome to all who live in or visit the City.

This is an exciting time for our Cathedral and I will keep you posted re developments. *Clodagh Mallison, Cathedral Liaison Officer.*

An atheist was walking through the woods.

'What majestic trees!

'What powerful rivers!

'What beautiful animals!

He said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer.

He tripped and fell to the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him... At that instant the Atheist cried out, 'Oh my God!'

Time Stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky.

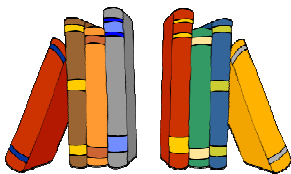
'You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?'

The atheist looked directly into the light, 'It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?'

'Very well,' said the voice.

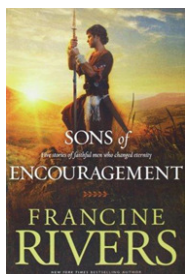
The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke:

For what I am about to receive, may the Lord make me truly thankful.



Gospel Reset **Salvation made relevant** **by Ken Ham**

I picked this up from the church bookcase because it stated that we need to effectively share our Message with the younger generation in a way that makes sense. It claimed to give practical ways to share Christ with other people or proclaim God's Word in today's world. I was disappointed as most of it was about how in today's American state schools secularisation is promoted, with evolution taught and God being regarded as one of many deities and the bible as full of myths. The author is obviously a fundamentalist, who believes that all the bible, including Genesis, is literally true. Nor does he give any practical ways of presenting it except for stressing it's literal truth.



Sons of Encouragement **by Francine Rivers.**

This book looks at 5 minor biblical characters in an imagined story form, Aaron - the priest, Caleb - the warrior, Jonathon the prince, Amos the prophet and Silas - the scribe. I was particularly drawn to the figure of Amos and his struggles. It is very readable and realistic as possible back stories and explores parts of the bible less familiar to most of us.

Janet Insoll.

SPRING FAYRE

**Join us at The Shakespeare Hospice,
Church Lane, Stratford CV37 9UL**

On Saturday 4th May, 12 noon—4pm.

**LIVE MUSIC / BAR / FAMILY FUN / TOMBO-
LA / BBQ / TOY AND GIFT STALLS.**



EASTER 2019

GOOD FRIDAY. Well, it is not often that I take “pen to paper” to add my tuppence worth (I usually inveigle others) but today I have been absorbing yet more wonderful worship events at St. Andrew’s. This morning about 22 children (and their families) enjoyed an interactive service following the Cross from Good Friday



to Easter Day. Children followed “Jesus” waving their palms and shouting “Hosanna” with everyone taking part and becoming involved in the atmosphere. We then followed through to the Centre where there were delicious cakes waiting, together with shortbread cruciforms which the children were invited to decorate (and take home—they could enjoy the cakes and juice whilst there). Back into the church to see Jesus on the Cross with the children helping to hammer in the nails (very popular this

was). The children ended up making Easter gardens which again they were invited to take home. Some children did not want to go home as they were having such a good time. Families too were well looked after with coffee/tea and hot cross buns liberally served. Our thanks to Revd. Mary, Crameri, Sylvaine Gravestock and family, and Hilary Capron for masterminding this inspiring event.



In the afternoon we were treated to our annual “**Before the Cross**” worship comprising, readings, meditations and wonderful music. Revds. David Capron, Mary Crameri and Joan Whyman led the service with inspirational insights into the final events of Holy Week and Good Friday. The musical accompaniment by our very talented choir, led by Larry and Rosemary Robson, enhanced the proceedings with their awesome musical interpretations of the journey to the Cross. Gareth Johnson opened the event by singing “*Let not your heart be troubled*” by Eric Thiman and later on Lily Robson sang “*Pie Jesu*” by Faure. What a treat for us all.



I say it again and again, we are truly blessed with our collective talents which make our worship and the smooth running of our church so special, particularly during our Interregnum.

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EASTER DAY

Up before dawn to join in welcoming the Risen Christ at the 5.30am Eucharist. As we fumble our way to find a seat we waited in silence and expectation for the service to start. The Easter Candle was lit and then from this one light all candles within the church were lit. Once we had light we could see all the wonderful floral arrangements thanks to our dedicated and talented Flower arrangers led by Bev and Nic. They were awesome—we are so fortunate. The Exultet was then sung by Revd. David Capron, who also took the service.

The service moved on to the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and ended with the sharing of the Easter Eucharist before all processing outside with candles re-lit to welcome the Risen Christ on a gloriously sunny Spring morning

Clodagh.

(there are photos of these events on Facebook and on our website—Photo Gallery)

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you. *Billy Graham*



St. Andrew's had its annual meeting after the 10am service on Sunday 14th April. In the absence of a Vicar (our new Vicar arrives in June), David Whyman chaired the meeting.

At this meeting, the two Churchwardens were elected for the forthcoming year - we are delighted that David Whyman and Bob Macvie agreed to re-stand, and there being no other nominations, they were both elected. Several people on PCC had come to the end of their three year term of office, but having agreed to re-stand, were duly re-elected. Fran Kibblewhite was also nominated for PCC and duly elected.

David Millington Secretary to the PCC

50 Christian Ideas you really ought to know.

....well alright-not in one article! However it follows the title of an interesting series published by Quercus covering subjects as diverse as World History and Philosophy. I am no theologian but if any reader would care to put their thoughts on a Christian idea that they found helpful I am sure our Editor would welcome a St. Andrew's series.

Let me kick off with my thoughts about Saint Paul. It is very likely that without Paul's influence Christianity would have become merely a sub-set of Judaism. In his book "The Apostle Paul- the Revelation of a Mystery" Norman Gidney writes in the first person starting with Paul in his cell awaiting execution with Luke visiting. Nero has signed the death warrant with no chance of appeal from the death by decapitation. Luke tends Paul's wounds with a balm and leaves Paul to face the morrow. Paul then reviews his life from boyhood.

As Saul of Tarsus his family were wealthy "tent makers" but made products from basic materials including sails. His family were sufficiently relaxed to allow him a local education well beyond child's school and we know he studied in the school of Gamaliel a leading scholar in the Sanhedrin. Today we would consider this a post graduate status. Saul was thus recognised as a Pharisee doctor of Jewish law enjoying much personal freedom. We know he was present at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7 58: 8:1) and the way Stephen met his death clearly made an effect. However soon after as he left for Damascus his background and contact with the High Priest confirmed his conviction that unless the Jews who disregarded the Law were stopped the identity of the Jews would be lost. As he left Jerusalem he was robed as a senior Pharisee in front of a Temple Guard with the mission to drive out Christian Jews in Damascus.

Within sight of Damascus he was struck down experienced a vision of Jesus and blinded, and led into the care of the local synagogue. A visit from Ananias from the Christian community healed his blindness and gave him refuge and soon he was reconciled to accepting Jesus as his Lord and Master.

Slowly he realised that if the nascent religion was to mean anything at all its message had to go to the Gentiles. The God he had followed required male circumcision and this was always a big handicap to adult male Gentile converts to Judaism. This was not applicable to female converts thus introducing a lack of gender parity.

To settle his academic leanings he went into the desert for three years. He emerged and his new obedience to the crucified Jesus convinced him that the narrow gate of circumcision had been removed allowing all men to come to God by grace through faith alone.

In AD37 he returns to Jerusalem is interviewed by Barnabus and meets with James. He takes the name Paul to signify his changed beliefs. The original Apostles were in the main artisans of which seven were fishermen and none had Paul's academic background and knowledge. This would be decisive. The two Apostles were by no means convinced initially although by 47AD (Acts 14) reconciliation occurred. Paul needed to only to retail his new convincement that Jesus by his death created immediate reconciliation by faith for all men whether Gentile, Jew or slave and are free. This was to be his mission. His first preaching in a synagogue led to a demand for his arrest and he was forced to return to Tarsus for ten years in fear of his life (9Acts 9:30).

Barnabus travels to Tarsus in 46AD (Acts 11:25) to see Paul before beginning the missionary work in Antioch. Acts 11 to 14 details their preaching and persecution in various centres. Bearing in mind the difficulties encountered in travelling and overcoming geographical disadvantages their mission is huge.

By 57AD Paul is beaten by a mob in the Temple in Jerusalem, put under military protection and taken to Rome and as a Roman citizen put under house arrest and given freedom to preach in Rome for two years. In 62AD there follows three years of undocumented travelling. In returning to Rome he is arrested and as a prominent Christian leader, the Christians being blamed for the Great Fire of Rome, he is tried and executed in 67AD.

From the early beginning as a sect of Judaism its Christian leaders really needed a greater academic and theological drive and Paul provided just that impetus. His logic in removing the need for male Gentile circumcision meant that the nascent Christianity was able to divert from essential Jewish theology to become a separate entity in its own rights. Paul at this critical time was able to provide the necessary mission led persuasion. In his work with so many centres mainly in the area now modern Turkey Paul was able to write a series of letters and guidance which laid down the essential litany and rules for a worldwide Church and which form part of the New Testament.

Thus the debt owed to Paul becomes imperative and the nucleus of Christianity as a world force owes much to his definition.

R. David Langman.



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to Suzie, Sylvaine and Lily who came to my aid when I tripped in the car park on Mothering Sunday. Their assistance was much appreciated. I would also like to thank those of the congregation who showed their concern.

The wounds are healing well.

Fran Kibblewhite.

Update from Dan and Phillipa Munday

April 22nd 2019

Dear Friends,

Spring is here, Easter weekend was amazing and Jesus is alive! Since our last newsletter, we have celebrated the birth of a beautiful granddaughter, said a very sad farewell to Dan's brother Peter, who died suddenly in March, helped look after Phillipa's father who was seriously ill in hospital for about 5 weeks but thankfully is now on the road to recovery, and celebrated both of our 60th birthdays. A mixed and fairly full couple of months. Now, it seems, it is time to get moving again. Tomorrow, April 24th, Dan flies to Nepal, followed by Phillipa on May 3rd. We are grateful for another opportunity to serve in this way and looking forward to catching up again with so many friends and colleagues who faithfully witness to God's wonderful love, especially through developing both Palliative Care services and quality Education.

On Sunday 28th April, Dan and his colleagues will meet in Kathmandu to launch the translation into Nepali of the Palliative Care Toolkit; when completed this will really help with ongoing training for rural workers. He'll then leave Nepal and go to Duta Wacan Christian University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for a conference where he's been asked to speak (4th - 5th May); he will also spend some time working with professionals there on developing community palliative care in their local context. It's really exciting to have this opportunity, which has come about through links at Edinburgh University.

Back in Nepal, and together again, we plan to spend a few days in Pokhara catching up with folk there – we give thanks that plans for the new palliative care unit are well under way. Phillipa will hopefully be able to follow up on work done in December with pupils at the Pokhara Study Centre. We are looking forward to sharing in the joint UMN/INF conference from May 10th to 14th also in Pokhara; this will be a great chance to meet, pray, listen to God's word and relax with people from both of these long-standing mission communities. We then plan to travel to Lamjung District, to complete Dan's post-earthquake project; Phillipa will be looking for opportunities to discover more about special educational needs in the area, to support her MA studies.

Finally, we will be in KTM for about three weeks. Phillipa will do some work at KISC - they still don't have anyone to carry out the diagnostic assessment work she had been doing and she has been asked to help with induction for some new members of staff. She will also be meeting with members of the teacher training team, EQUIP, to continue exploring future work with them. Dan will be able to carry on with the Toolkit translation project and also work on some ongoing writing commitments.

We'll be back in Warwick on June 12th, after a brief stop en-route to explore Istanbul. We hope to see lots of friends and family here in the UK over the summer. Do get in touch, especially if you are passing Warwick!

Thank you so much for your prayers,
Dan and Phillipa

danandphillipamunday@gmail.com

Praise :
New palliative care centre in Pokhara moving ahead.
Launch of translation project.
Good health to be able to travel.

Pray for :
Travelling safety
Tool kit translation work to get going well.
Pall. Care conference in Indonesia.
Mission families and their children studying at KISC and PSC.
Being able to meet the right people in Lamjung
New KISC teachers needed for August.

FUN FOR FUNDS QUIZ. NO. 12.



Thank you to all those who participated in or assisted with Quiz, no. 12 which, after deduction of prizes, raised £23 for Church funds.

Four entrants had 40 correct answers, namely: Mary Bowditch; Margaret Champion; Robin Essex and Jane Rowley—the name underlined having been awarded the £10 prize by lot. The runner up prize of £5 was won by Judith Fogg, the only person to achieve 39.

Now I have to confess that this Quiz was not substantially one of my compilations. It was sent to me in an envelope marked “A Quiz for the Quizmaster” by a person who wishes to remain anonymous, there being inside a sealed envelope containing the answers. Despite the idea that I was getting some of my own medicine, I thought that this was a lovely gesture and I enjoyed the experience of being at the other end of my type of Quiz.

How did I do? The link words Picture.....Pitch gave me some grief but I eventually came up with that turned out to be the correct answer. Of the cryptic/phonetics, I had two (logical I thought) wrong answers! Such is all part of the fun and I am very grateful to the person concerned for allowing me to tweak and promote the “challenge” Quiz since it saved me so much effort when demands on my time are needed in other directions.

The new format Quiz which I mentioned at the time of Quiz no.; 11 is still on the drawing-board but I will make every endeavour to promote it in the late Autumn.,

Trevor Cox

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