

SHOTTERY *SEARCHLIGHT*



Our gardens at this time of the year



September
2019

80p

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER



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

1st. ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am Family Service

6.30pm 1662 Holy Communion.

8th: TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers.

6.30pm Sung Evensong.

15th: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am`third Sunday Service

6.30pm Sung Evensong.

7.30pm Stay Café.

22nd: FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers

6.30pm Evensong.

29th: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (St. Michael and All Angels)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm *NO SERVICE THIS EVENING*





From Reverend Craig

Do nothing to change your life!

Have you had a holiday this summer? Do you have a holiday planned for later in the year? I guess that most people have probably taken their holiday by now. Su and I enjoyed just over a week in Stockholm during July – it was lovely, made better by the fact that we didn't need our waterproofs once! Holiday are great times and important occasions; a chance to recharge the batteries and take some rest and relaxation. Someone asked me the other day what I like to do on holiday to which I replied, 'loads of nothing!' which to me is about right!

This reminds me of a small but wonderful little book written a few years ago by the Bishop of Reading entitled 'Do nothing to change your life', a book I highly recommended. It is only a small book but it's about the joy of discovering what happens when you stop. Let's be honest, we don't stop very often do we? We've lost the art of stillness, silence and simply being in the moment – we've become 'human doings' rather than human beings.

One of the chapters in the book is entitled 'Plumbing the depths of a single moment'. It invites and encourages us to enjoy the 'moment' rather than dwelling in the past or worrying and fretting about the future. The moment - the here and now - is a gift from God that we would all do well to rediscover.

We are so easily preoccupied and stressed out with stuff we've got to do, the deadlines we have to meet, the people we need to see etc. that we

can miss the present moment for what it is. The more I talk with people the more I see this longing just simply to be and find this sense of stillness within. At the beginning of Advent we will be having a Quiet Day at church where we will provide the opportunity for you to come and have some quiet and stillness in God's presence as part of our preparations for Christmas. There is of course the opportunity to visit the Charlecote Quiet Garden for one of their Quiet days this Autumn. Do talk with Joan Wyman for more details about these.

Whatever you are doing this coming month take some time to stop, to be still and allow God to meet with you in the moment. Enjoy the moment for the gift it is and do nothing to change your lives!



St Andrew's Lunch Club

Do you enjoy good food with good company?

Come and join us on the second Thursday of each month in the Church hall at 12.30pm.

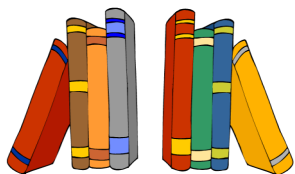
Enjoy a delicious two course meal followed by tea/coffee and mint; all for the princely sum of £7.

Bring a friend (or two).

Contact Margaret in the Parish office to reserve a place.

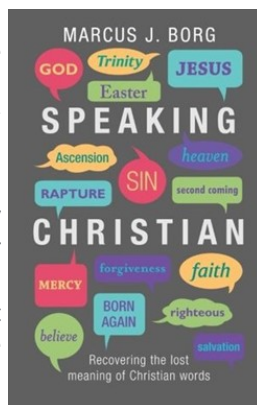
Tel: 01789 293381

Now is a good time to obey 1 Timothy 2:1-2, which says to pray for those in leadership, so we can live in peace.

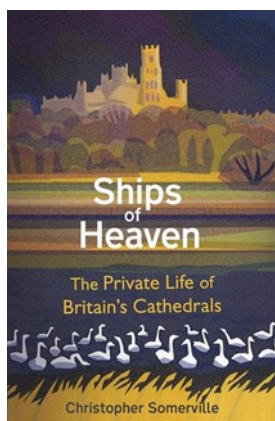


Speaking Christian Recovering the lost meaning of Christian words by Marcus Borg

Written by a top theologian this is still read-able. Language changes over time, read Shakespeare if you doubt me. Similarly with words from the Bible which have evolved to have a different meaning to when the Bible was penned. Marcus looks back at how they were meant to be understood at the time before theologians redefined them. Words like salvation, righteousness and mercy. The alternative understandings help to clarify and make more relevant the teaching of Jesus today. Rather than a heaven and hell perspective it involves compassion, justice and peace as in non-violence. Again I heard about this book from the belief and doubt group from the Methodist Church.



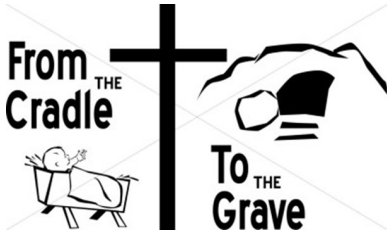
Ships of Heaven **The Private Life of Britain's Cathedrals** by Christopher Somerville



This is not so much a book to read as one to dip into or give as a present, written by a travel writer as he explores Britain visiting some of his memorable cathedrals. The title is because at the age of six or seven he visited Wells Cathedral and in his imagination he sees it as a ship towering over him. Those he visits include many well-known ones such as Wells, Salisbury, Lincoln, Canterbury and my favourite Durham. But he also visits some lesser known ones such as Armagh, Inverness and Kirkwall in Orkney. As well as describing some of their features and stories he talks to some of the people behind keeping their daily upkeep like stonemasons, glaziers and embroiderers. Noteworthy are Wells charging

knights clock, the swans in the Bishop's Palace at Wells who ring a bell when wanting feeding, Lincoln's imp and other humorous stone carvings, Salisbury's pool font, Ely's octagonal tower and lantern roof among others. I saw this book on Waterstone's top books to read list and requested it from one of my daughters as a birthday present and don't regret it.

Janet Insoll.



Funerals

9th July Michael Howard Anderson (88)

26th July Mary Radbourne (82)

31st July Mavis Kathleen Storey (96)

5th August Derek Frederick Gilbert (Flash) (76)

13th August Susan Eileen Burrows (81)



THE NEW VICAR

Some folk have cosmetic surgery, an altered nose or a new ticker,
but St. Andrews are celebrating – 'cos we have a new Vicar

The Church was decorated, with flowers arranged in glass or wicker and everything made beautiful to welcome our new Vicar.

We've had a proper induction, where nothing could have gone slicker
as the Bishop, with due ceremony, presented our new Vicar.

Then we had a sunny tea party, everyone chatting with not a bicker
and a lovely Sunday Service, happily led by our new Vicar

I wanted to write an epic poem, but I ran out of 'Vicar' rhymes
So here's a sincere Welcome to Craig and Sue – I think we'll all have some wonderful times.

Gwen Zanzottera

Our July meeting was led by Audrey Edwards and started with members and friends joining in a short time of prayer. After a few notices about events in August, she said that knitted garments for Coventry Coffee Tots (up to the age of 5) were already on display and more would be welcome.

She introduced our good friends Jackie Daniels and the Rev. Joan Whyman (who had come in place of Jill Warren) to talk about their journey to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne with a group from St. Andrews.



Jackie began by showing pictures of their long journey via Lessingham and Durham, where they stayed overnight, and then on to Lindisfarne. They stayed at Marygate House with its lovely garden (transferred from the Chelsea Flower Show in 2004). Jackie said the peace of the place (hardly any cars) is wonderful and Joan agreed thoroughly with this having been a frequent visitor to the island over the years.

St. Cuthbert came across from Iona to found Lindisfarne; he later died there and is buried in Durham Cathedral. Joan explained more about the influence of St. Cuthbert and she had arranged a very good guided tour round Durham Cathedral which explained a lot of the history of St. Cuthbert and Lindisfarne.

It is clear that the Holy Island made a deep impression on everyone on the journey there and this talk was really very interesting and appreciated.

August 6th - Deanery Lunch at Wellesbourne - For several years now we have been able to enjoy this excellent lunch organised by Veronica Quinn and her helpers at St. Peter's Church.

There were about 50 members and friends present and proceedings were led by the Rev. Greg Bartlem with a talk by President Jane Hill reminding us of this anniversary of founder Mary Sumner. Our thanks to Bob MacVie driving us there in the mini-bus.

August 13th - Branch Outing on the steam railway from Broadway to Winchcombe.

Next meeting - 10th September - Coventry Haven - Women's Aid

October 12th - Member's Day at St. Andrew's - 10.30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Daphne Jones



JOHN INSOLL recently celebrated his 80th birthday and very generously suggested people might like to make a donation to the charity Embrace. He is very delighted to find that £325 was raised. Thank you to all who supported.

Embrace the Middle East is a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths and none to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice.

Together with local Christian communities we're bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.



A Miracle?

Father O'Malley was driving down to Cork when he got stopped for speeding in Cashel. The police officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'





Farewell' to a good friend
of St Andrews

Norman Warren 1934-2019

St Mark's Church, Leamington Spa, was packed to capacity on Friday 12th July for the Thanksgiving and Celebration Service for the life of this wonderful man of God and of music.

A former Archdeacon of Rochester Cathedral, on retiring to Stratford Upon Avon (if you can call it retiring), Norman took on responsibility in local churches, in particular Snitterfield. But he always took a great interest in our choir and music at St Andrew's, providing us with copies of his compositions to sing and play. Some of these were unpublished works, invariably rough copies that needed inputting on computer, checking and printing. We value these highly.

His musical output over the years was vast and his name is always popping up on hymn arrangements and anthems.

We will miss his contribution, his occasional organ playing, and attendance with his wife Yvonne from time to time, at special services.

Norman will live on at St Andrews as we continue to sing and play his music.

Rosemary and Larry Robson.

Mini Pilgrimage 25th June 2019

We were met by Rev Stephen Fletcher (Stephen had been a curate at Shotton.)

St. Gregory's Church Tredington is a lovely Church and the gentleman who spoke to us was very interesting.

The first church in Tredington may have been made of wood; if so a stone Anglo Saxon building in 961 replaced it. The building was long and narrow with high windows (the tops of which still remain).

There are lots of interesting features. The font had old staples on the steps which were said to be a guard against witches! There is also a very old lectern which has been in the church since before the reformation (16th century). The 17th century pulpit was installed in the church just before Oliver Cromwell became protector.

The choir pews (sadly no longer there) came from St James Church which was situated on Guild Street and was knocked down to make way for a block of flats!

In making the church more user friendly they found some vaults, which they looked at in case they were full of water, but found all very dry.

We then went on to **St Peter's Church Stretton-on-Fosse**. Again a very interesting gentleman who told us all about the church and village.

In 1840 the church built of stone and rubble masonry was beyond repair so it was decided to build a new one on the site of the old one. This was completed in 1841 and dedicated on the 14th July 1842 by the Lord Bishop of Worcester.

The most interesting point here is that the single manual organ with 5 stops was obtained from St Peter's Church Bishopton— another church which was knocked down. (but you can still walk around the church yard)

We then went on to the Plough at Stretton a real old village pub just run by a husband and wife team

All in all a very interesting evening.

Carole Taylor

'Do not be anxious' by Joan Whyman.

One Sunday in August we were asked the question by Craig, 'What is the focus of your life?' he went on to speak about the world in which we live where, it seems, the focus very much lies on the shopping mall, the acquiring and amassing of possessions and upon hobbies and having fun. He reminded us of Matthew 6:25-34 when Jesus begins with the words, "Do not worry about your life..." During my recent retreat I was invited to meditate on this very passage, and confessed that the world in which we live is fraught with such strife and danger that I do worry; I worry for our children and grandchildren. What sort of world are they inheriting? Indeed, will there be anything left to inherit? In response I wrote the following words:

'Helpless!
Overwhelmed!
Perplexed!
And angry!
Discarded plastic polluting the oceans,
Tornadoes, floods, wild fires and drought;
Cancer and Ebola rampaging at will,
Drugs, drink and homelessness stalking our streets;
Knife crime, guns and terrorist threats,
Carbon poisoning, refugees, famine and war,
Politicians, world leaders hungry for power;
Child prostitution, slavery and fear,
Motorways and runways engulfing our land;
And I sit in my ivory tower
Watching unheeding
The destruction and ruin
Of the world you created.
"Do not be anxious about tomorrow," you say,
"for tomorrow will take care of itself."
But will it?
Not so, Lord, unless we work together.'

As I have continued to reflect, I am sure that Jesus was not encouraging his followers to live out life carelessly with no thought for tomorrow, but rather, to focus our thoughts, our ways, our desires on that which is the very heart of life, namely, love; love of God, love for his world, love for all created beings.

Stratford Inter Faith Forum

Tuesday 10th September
"Christian Science"

All welcome at the Friends Meeting House (Quakers), Maidenhead Road - refreshments 7pm for 7.30 start.

The **Aim** of Stratford Inter Faith Forum is to foster respect and compassion through dialogue and cooperation.

Their **Vision** is to bring together people of all faiths, in recognition of the value of diversity in our society. We will appreciate similarities, respect differences and learn about one another. In this way we will develop strong and positive links and relationships between people of all generations from different faiths and cultures, for the long term benefit of the community.

Membership is open to any person of any faith who accepts the Aim and Vision of SAIF as expressed above. Members agree not to try to convert others to their own faith, but expect that their own faith will often be deepened by insights from others. They accept that there are many areas where members have very different views.



Pat Morris recently attended a Cursillo Diocesan Ultreya meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford. Membership of the revitalised and updated Coventry Diocesan Cursillo is encouraged by both our Bishops. The evening was enjoyed by all who attended with modern songs and talks. It was great that our National President was able to come.

Please have a word with Pat if you would like to know more about Cursillo.



THE WAY.

Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life".

Lost your way? We did frequently when trying to navigate our way around Bath and Wells last summer. Did we also lose our way during the interregnum? I don't mean as a Church or as a community for we had valued Clergy and wardens to help steer us, but as individuals? Did we lose sight of Jesus? Did we go off-piste? I think I did, it is so easy to get side tracked by the cares of the world, so easy to be diverted. Now we have a new guide in Craig, but he is our guide post to Jesus who is the way, the only way.

When lost we use Google maps, when spiritually lost we need to turn to scripture. When lost we ask directions, when spiritually lost we turn to prayer. God is still there even when we lose sight of him and when we ask, when we seek, he will steer us, he will guide us, he will bring our feet and our hearts back to that spiritual path, back to the true and only way. The way of the cross, the way of eternity, the journey that is uniquely ours as Christians.

So having been lost, we are now found, the Lord never lost sight of us, it is us who needed to re-open our spiritual eyes and our hearts to be led back into The Way.

Jan Walker

Anything Breakable?

Theresa, living in London, decides to post the old family Holy Bible to her brother in Dublin. The postal worker enquires as to whether there is anything breakable in the parcel. 'Only the Ten Commandments,' Theresa replies with a smile.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Fellowship met on Thursday, the 27th of June 2019 and our speaker was the Reverend Canon David Capron. We always enjoy having David with us. We were told about David's ministry in Newton Ayeccliffe. Most of the members at



the meeting remember David leaving as vicar of Shottery, and of going to his induction into his new parish in the north of England. Life there was very different to life in rural Warwickshire, and there were many new challenges to be met and some changes required. David found the people plain speaking, hard-working, and many of them on limited incomes but making the best of things. They needed no excuse to spend an evening in the pub.! There was very good working relationship between the churches.

There were many committed Christians and there was a good Christian feeling in the whole town. Of course there are many Saints in this area of the country.

David said he had had a marvellous Archdeacon; they got on like a house on fire, he built a relationship with some local people of influence who assisted him in achieving changes and developing new things. But of course, everything did not go smoothly all of the time, some people did not relish change. David was a school governor and involved in the scout movement and the British Legion. This stood him in good stead with the community. He was able to successfully meet many of the challenges in this new role including setting up team ministry. Newton Ayeccliffe had a history of one of David's great interests—steam railways. On the 27th of September 1895 the first public railway journey came to this town.

David was at Newton Ayeccliffe for four years. He told us he would not have missed his time there for anything. He returned to Warwickshire as Rector of Alcester.

It was so interesting to hear about a different culture and way of life compared to where we worship here in Shottery. Our evening finished with the sharing of a tasty light supper together.

Jo Carver. Chairperson

An Obituary printed in the London Times.....

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouth-wash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

THEY WHO ENDURE.....



Recently published statistics, from a poll carried out for the current British Social Attitudes Report, makes for challenging reading.

For the first time ever the figures show that the number of Christians in our country has dropped to below 40% of the population. From nearly 66% in 1983, 50% in 2008, and now those who claim to be Christians are at 38%. The poll was of 3,879 people.

The statistics also revealed that, during this same period, Muslims had increased from 1% to 6% and those claiming no religion was now at 52% - up from 31% in 1983.

Thus, currently, the dominant religious/philosophical influence in our land sadly seems to be that of atheism.

In reply, the Church of England has stated that about 5,000 new congregations, mission communities and outreach initiatives over the past fifteen years had attracted a majority of people (60%) who had not been churchgoers before.

But, obviously, Christianity is in decline and begs the questions "why?" And "should we be actually surprised?"

Two factors which seem to have contributed to the situation are, firstly, the onslaughts of the "New Atheists" of over a decade ago, with high profile people in the fore complete with the unbalanced media publicity given at the time which resulted in "the case for the defence" rarely, if ever, given media coverage and secondly the terrible sexual abuses that have come to light in church life coupled with the way Church authorities have been seen to have dealt with the situation.

The question "should we be actually surprised?" may puzzle some people but not, I suggest, those who seriously study The Bible as God's Word written. As some Christian commentators have been pointing out, much of the modern Church has been witnessing to only a "50% gospel" concentrating overmuch on God's love and grace at the expense of God's righteous anger and judgment to come. As has been pointed out, 50% of Our Lord Jesus Christ's teachings, as recorded in the Gospels, concern judgment but this is not reflected in the teachings of today's Church.

As one writer asked in a Christian periodical last year - when did YOU last hear a sermon in church concerning God's anger over sin, the forthcoming judgment of

humanity, the crucial need for repentance, the reality of evil and Satan, and the devastating reality of an eternity without God - hell? As veteran evangelist R.T. Kendall has asked - "Whatever happened to the full Gospel"?

One other reason why those who walk in step with The Bible need not be surprised, or dismayed, is because Our Lord Jesus Christ has prepared us, his disciples, to expect this very situation - and more.

In our Lord's "Olivet discourse", as recorded by Matthew (chapter 24), we find our Lord's warnings (and thus hopefully our preparedness) of the time when authentic Christians will be hated by all nations because of His name, when wickedness will increase, the love of many will grow cold and numerous souls will be deceived and led astray by false prophets.

Who might we then consider these "false prophets" to be? Obviously, to day, they are to be seen as the British Humanist Society (BHA) and the National Secular Society (NSS) whose *raison d'être* is the destruction of the Christian Faith and removal of God from the "public square" as they ardently promote the godless message of atheism and its debilitating and destructive philosophy.

Sadly, we have to realize, because of recent history, The Church - as an institution - has now lost much of the moral "high ground" leaving the ordinary "foot soldiers" of Christ's army to ask - what can we do about this situation wherein our society's culture is becoming more apathetic, even hostile, towards the Lord Jesus Christ and His people?

Prayer. We must, as the wheat is sifted from the chaff, continually pray for ourselves. Pray that *our* love does not grow cold because *we no longer have the approval of much of today's society*. Pray that we may be steadfast in our faith - regular in church attendance and sacraments, strong in Bible reading and persistent in prayer.

And pray for perseverance. For Our Lord Jesus Christ taught that it is they who endure to the end who will be saved - Matthew 24:13.

Alan Minchin.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Going to church on Sunday doesn't make you a Christian anymore than walking into a garage makes you a car.



Augustine of Hippo

With the success of the Nicene Council in 325AD and its creed, Emperor Constantine established Rome as the centre of Christianity and began the construction of the first St. Peter's Basilica in 319-335AD.

The Church was served favourably by Bishops many who have rested in obscurity. There was a need for the philosophy and theology in Christendom to meet the needs of its congregations. Augustine was born in modern day Algeria of a pagan father Patricus and a Christian mother Monica. He had a good education. At the age of 17 he had a lover in Carthage with whom he had a son Adeodatus (372-388AD). Concurrently he was a teacher but in 383 he sails for Rome coming in contact with Bishop Ambrose in Milan and by 384 is a Professor in Rhetoric in Milan. In 391 he is ordained priest in Hippo founding a monastery, retaining his appointment as a Bishop until his death in 430(1).

For ten years after about 383 Augustine was a believer in Manichaeism. Mani the founder led a dualistic religion formed from Christianity which held that the supreme God created a spiritual world within the material world led by a lesser God. Augustine was led to Christianity agreeing with Genesis and that the world was good and created by a loving and all powerful Deity, created out of nothing and standing outside the restraints of time. His career as a teacher, professor and Bishop involved distinct views influencing the development of Christian philosophy. His important works were "The City of God", De doctrina Christiana and his Confessions.

He believed that the grace of God was indispensable to human freedom and he originated the concept of "original sin". In a period of full of war episodes as the Western Roman Empire began to disintegrate he made seminal contributions to the just war theory. The Church was acting as a spiritual City of God and followed the concept of the Trinity as instigated by the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople.

His confrontation with Pelagianism, which insisted that humans do not need the help of God's grace to lead good moral lives, was against his conviction that the effects of Adam's sin were transmitted by human procreation. This tended to follow St. Paul's doctrine of universal sin and the need for redemption. This view is contested even today by modern theologians although Augustine's view prevailed in the Second Council of Orange in 529AD. Pelagius was condemned as a heretic. Later Saint Anselm of Canterbury in the 11th Century defined original sin as "the privation of the righteousness that everyman ought to possess". This controversy continues today.

Augustine felt that the sin of pride starts with assuming that we choose God and that God chooses us because of something worthy within us. This opens up a dialogue on whether God chooses some people for damnation! The Pelagius doctrine of free will is probably more acceptable today contrasting with that of predestination.

In departing from Manichaeism he concluded that there was “no sooner” than the time of creation and time was created along with matter, with God standing outside of time. God is thus timeless and exists eternally now. Such a view is shared by many scientists today. His belief leads to revelation being a higher form of knowledge than science. This might be contested today!

Augustine’s major philosophical influence was Plato and Aristotle with God the architect manipulating rather than creating and in Christianity the formulation of creation follows this thinking.

All in all Augustine’s legacy was to lead to medieval thinking at a time when the laity controversy continues today.

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All in all Augustine’s legacy was to lead to medieval thinking at a time when the laity of the Church was mainly illiterate and there was in consequence a need for careful vocal exposition of the Christian message.

Reference 1 A detailed biography: Augustine of Hippo by Peter Brown SBN 71-092322.

David Langman

This is the fourth in the series “What Christians ought to know”. If you feel you have such a topic please contact the Editor.

Our September (collection on 8th) charity will be for



Stratford Samaritans have been supporting our local community since 1990. Our branch not only covers Stratford but other larger towns in the area like Warwick, Leamington, Alcester, Redditch and Shipston and the many dozens of smaller towns, villages and hamlets in between.

As well as listening inside our Branch we do a lot of talking outside! We have a dedicated team of volunteers who are happy to give talks to schools, clubs, groups in the workplace and other charities, however large or small.

Every single day, around 16 people decide to end their own life across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We know our service can help people before it's too late. But we're a charity, and it's [your kind donations](#) that keep our helpline open.

Our vision, mission and values

Samaritans Vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

"Speaking to Samaritans gave me the reassurance I needed that everything would be ok." Charlie

"They are there when all your friends are asleep and you are alone in the world, full of thoughts." Claire

We work to achieve this vision by making it our mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicide feelings and suicidal behaviour.

Working in Prisons

People inside prison are six times more likely to kill themselves than people outside. That's why we've been working with prison services for over 20 years, and now have a special Listener scheme in 145 prisons.

Every six seconds, we respond to a call for help. No judgement. No pressure.

We're here for anyone who needs someone.

Myth: People who talk about suicide aren't serious and won't go through with it.

Fact: People who kill themselves have often told someone that they do not feel life is worth living or that they have no future. Some may have actually said they want to die.

It's possible that someone might talk about suicide as a way of getting attention, in the sense of calling out for help.

It's important to always take someone seriously if they talk about feeling suicidal. Helping them get the support they need could save their life.

The majority of people who feel suicidal do not actually want to die - they do not want to live the life they have.

Fact: 1 in 5 people have thought about suicide at some time in their life. And not all people who die by suicide have mental health problems at the time they die. Once someone starts talking they've got a better chance of discovering options that aren't suicide.

What you can do

Talk to them about their feelings.

Encourage them to contact us. They can call on 116 123, email jo@samaritans.org, visit one of our branches in person or send us a letter

You can contact us on their behalf. If you call us or email, we can reach out to them. We won't tell them you asked us to do that unless you want us to.

If you think they are in immediate danger, you can call an ambulance on 999. We can call an ambulance on your behalf.

In 2017, Samaritans volunteers visited over 600 schools and youth groups, talking to 40,000 young people. Our volunteers use a range of pre-prepared talks, lessons and workshops which are aimed at different age groups from primary upwards. These can be adapted to meet the needs of the school, college or youth group. The visit could be an information-giving talk to a large group, or interactive activities and can be delivered to smaller groups.

***"I learned to always speak to someone. Don't hold your feelings in."* Student**





Some thoughts from Lee Abbey August 2019

Because Christ came to serve and not to be served, we, as a volunteer community, are trying to grow to be more Christ-like in all our dealings with each other, and towards our guests. We work hard but we find that we ourselves are blessed through serving others, and God strengthens us to do just that – to serve in many different ways. We are blessed through seeing our guests transformed by the love of Jesus which we try to show, and by His very presence here in this place. We are blessed by living in a Community of Christian people and we aim to become more Christ like through our actions, our thoughts and through the ways in which we choose to spend our time.

We've also been very blessed in our growing together by taking part in our summer show. There are many very talented people sharing their lives here at Lee Abbey and using their gifts to bless others. The summer show is a production called "Papa Dear" based on "Mama Mia" and the Abba songs, adapted to tell the story of The Prodigal Son. The rehearsals have been a time of fun and getting to know each other, working together in different ways to our usual daily tasks. Fun and laughter play a large part in our lives together and I guess that is part of having an outlook that chooses to see the good in situations and in others.

At the end of the show this week we were all, community and guests, dancing, singing and clapping together, full of the truth in this story, that offering forgiveness can heal and reconcile, that asking for forgiveness and admitting that one needs it also brings peace and healing and that laughing together can bond us as the body of Christ, just as the power of worshipping God and praying together can.

It would be easy to live in this beautiful place
And let the troubles and disasters of this world drift away.
To cut oneself off
And just feel the joy of being
God's welcome to those who come
Seeking restoration and peace.
The wonders of the natural world
Surround us here.
The house-martens shouting to one another

As they feed their new families
Nesting under the roof.
Their little white tummies
Darting about.
And at dusk, the bats
Dodging and dipping
As they gather their evening meal.

The vibrancy of life
As the gulls wheel and turn,
The glorious variety of birds visiting the table
And the robin who has no fear, coming close.

A vibrancy outside and inside the house.
The passion of the musicians
And worshippers, our voices raised in praise
All glory be to God on high”

Come and worship
Come and find rest for your soul
Come and pray
Meet with the living Christ
Come and find peace and joy.

There’s fun and laughter
As children and families
Play games together
Meet and greet new friends
Share stories, share their lives
Give to each other
In the listening and the telling
And the healing comes
Like a gentle ripple
On a stormy sea
For tired minds and bodies –
That peace, that passes all understanding.

And with it all
It's easy to feel Jesus
Here, present in this place
With us now
With you now
Seek Him.

Denise Andreo.

*I can do ALL THINGS
through Christ
who STRENGTHENS me.*
—Philippians 4:13



Some Clever and Amusing Thoughts on Being a Christian

- Under same management for over 2,000 years.
- Soul food served here.
- Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk.
- You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
- Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!
- Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church.
- We should be more concerned with the Rock Of Ages, instead of the age of rock.
- Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case!
- Come early for a good seat in the back.
- Life has many choices, Eternity has two. What's yours?
- The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.
- Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.





TO **LILY ROBSON** who will be going to **KINGS COLLEGE LONDON** to read **MUSIC**.



TO **GARETH JOHNSON** who will be going to **OXFORD** to read **BIOLOGY**.

TO **ELIOT REANEY** who will be going to **YORK UNIVERSITY** to read **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**.



ARE YOU LIVING WITH DEMENTIA OR LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE WHO IS?



Warwickshire Reminiscence Action Project (WRAP) is a local charity that supports those living with dementia and those that look after them in various ways.

DEMENTIA CAFES

Bishopton Community Centre - Fridays 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Wellesbourne Village Hall - Wednesdays 2.00 - 4.00 pm

FREE CARER'S SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Runs for a six week period on a Thursday morning at Briar Croft in Stratford covering topics such as 'what is dementia?' and 'looking after yourself', with visiting professional speakers including a Mental Health Nurse, Social Worker, Solicitor, Care Provider and Dementia Navigator. Most importantly you get to share issues, problems and even laughs with others in a similar situation.



DAY CARE

Thursday mornings at Briar Croft in
Stratford Upon Avon

The Bishop's House, 23 Davenport Road, Coventry CV5 6PW

THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY

The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth

telephone: (024) 7667 2244

bishop@bishop-coventry.org

1st July 2019

Mr David Whyman
13 Swanfold
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 9XH

Mr Robert Macvie
61 Oakleigh Road
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 0DN

Dear David and Robert,

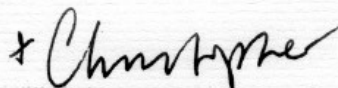
It was a real joy to be with you last Wednesday for the great celebrations to mark Craig's arrival. I thought it was a wonderful occasion with so many people from his former parish to send him on his way and so many from his new parish to welcome him.

I am very grateful to you both, to other members of the PCC and to lots of others, I am sure, for all the preparations for the service. It was very clear that a great deal of work went into the occasion to ensure that it went so well on the day. The hospitality of St Andrew Shottery lived up to its high reputation – the spread afterwards was superb! I would be grateful if you were able to pass on my thanks to all concerned.

Thank you again for everything you have been doing in the parish during the interregnum. I really look forward to seeing this new phase of the life of St Andrew's unfold.

With my kindest regards

As ever, yours,





During my recent wet and windy holiday in the West Country, looking up old friends, there was one special person who wants to send her greetings and prayers to you at St. Andrew's - our very own Denise Andrea.

I will always remember the words of the young man at the Reception as I ran in out of the storm. "Welcome! Are you Denise's friend? She just popped off somewhere....she'll be back soon. She's wonderful. We treasure her".

Denise only had time for a quick tour of her new home at Lee Abbey, near Lynton in North Devon: she has a busy schedule working in the Community. Sometimes, she is on the rota at the Reception, and at other times she is leading worship and activities for the guests, or helping to welcome visitors of different age groups. She attends the Chapel daily and loves the vibrant services.

She is full of joy and happiness in her new environment: although free time is at a premium, she is enjoying the stunning countryside and walking regularly along the coastal paths, the meadows and woods. This is strengthening her back tremendously.

She misses her family, in particular her little grandson, but Lucie reports that they are planning regular visits. She misses St. Andrew's too, and would love to hear from you...but please remember that the WiFi signal sometimes does not work well. She gave me a bundle of 2020 brochures to bring home: I put them in the porch - the address is on the rear.

As I set off into the storm and windy Porlock Hill en route for home, I carried a little of Denise's joy, sunshine smile and spirituality with me....bless. Benedictus.

Chris Susnik



FEEDBACK FROM GARETH JOHNSON'S EXPEDITION TO FIIJI.

Now safely back from my expedition to Fiji, here are a few of my favourite moments and pictures from the trip. I'd like to say thank you to all those at St Andrews who have supported my endeavours through fundraising and your interest in this expedition.



The views from the small commercial plane we took between Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, Fiji's main islands, were amazing. This is a vast reef system off-shore of Viti Levu.

We had the opportunity to learn about Fijian village life on our first full day, in Vusaratu, our host village. Here I am attempting to weave a traditional grass mat, made from dried pandanus leaves grown and processed in the village. It was an honour and fun to learn and interact with the local culture, all while being welcomed with cheery Fijian hospitality.



The protestant village of Vusaratu allowed us a glimpse into their spiritual practices, including the integration of traditional Fijian wedding practices and Christian ones, and Grace spoken in Fijian before meals.





A view of Natewa's rainforest and its bay, taken on the hike from Vusaratu, our host village for the first two nights, to the forest camp.

Perhaps my most professional-looking photo – the amazing Orange Fruit Dove, endemic to the northern islands of Fiji. I was also fortunate to see the Natewa Silktail – a recently classified bird species, endemic only to the Natewa peninsula where my expedition took place!



Getting out of the sea in my scuba gear. The reefs were stunning, with plenty of healthy coral in the protected Natewa Bay, and lots of colourful fishes, turtles, sharks (though I didn't see any sadly) and all that you can imagine. I was even lucky enough to go impromptu whale-watching when a Minke whale showed up in the bay one morning.

In this picture I am holding the Natewa Swallowtail butterfly – another Natewa-endemic species, about which little is known. The survey work we took part in over the two weeks is being used in current scientific research into the ecological importance of Natewa's rainforest and the bay's coral reefs in order to help protect them from economic exploitation, and for the benefit of local communities



Warwickshire Lymphoma Support Group

Affected by lymphoma?

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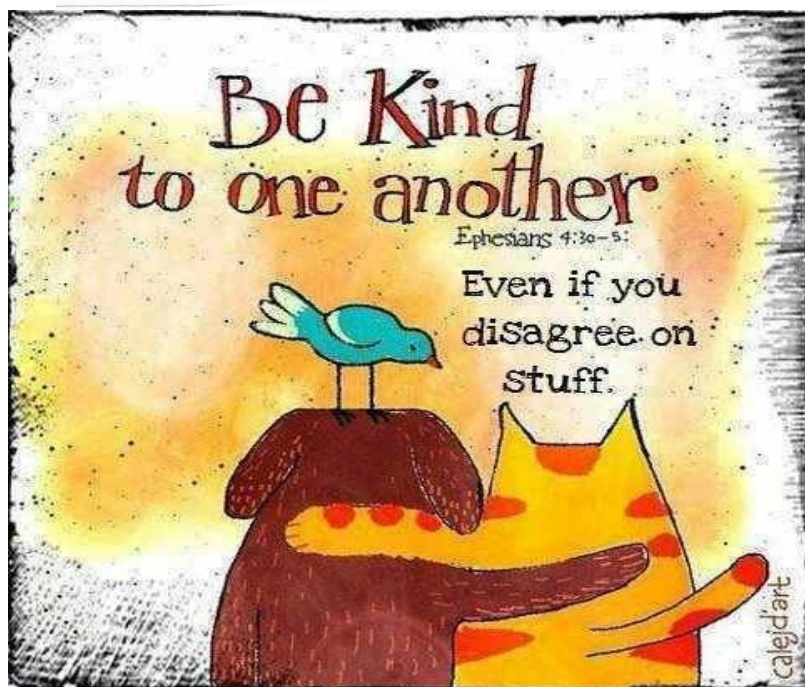
www.lymphoma-action.org.uk/supportgroups

Lymphoma Action is the UK's only charity dedicated to lymphoma, providing trusted information and support for over 30 years

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From 10.30am till 12.30pm.

Our cafes provide a safe and supportive environment for people with dementia and their carers.

If you have any questions please get in touch -

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Preacher: Revd. Joan Whyman
Readers: Sarah Cushing and Jan Walker

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