


ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY

SEARCHLIGHT

*“Springtime is the
land awakening.
The March winds are
the morning yawn.”*



MARCH



£1



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 there is a Said Eucharist with Address

1st. FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am Family Service.

6.30pm Common Worship Eucharist.

8th: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Illuminat8 (see pages 6, 7 and 8)

6.30pm Sung Evensong

15th: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am Third Sunday Eucharist.

6.30pm Sung Evensong



22nd: MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.00am Family Service with Eucharist

6.30pm Sung Evensong

29th: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Your choice!



‘Give something up for Lent’

‘The ritual of abstinence over Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, has all but disappeared. The British public has given up on giving up’, so the Independent newspaper reported a few years ago. This might be so, but I would argue that the value, whether your ‘religious’ or not, of giving something up for a period of time, is worthwhile.

The tradition of giving something up during Lent goes back many years and was a reminder to Christians of Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness, recorded in Matthew’s Gospel, when he went without food and was tempted by the devil in preparation for his work and ministry. In remembrance of this, Christians would ‘fast’ as a sign of sorrow and penitence for their sins but also as a means of developing self-discipline.

Exercising self discipline is a good thing for us (so we’re told!). In fact, research has shown that self discipline and self denial can develop personal character. During the 1970’s, a test was carried out in the United States amongst young children. The children were told that they could have a marsh mellow now or wait until later in the day when they could have two. The children were followed up later in adult life and the research showed that those who had waited, who had exercised self discipline in the marsh mellow test, were far more successful as adults in terms of their careers, relationships etc than those who in the test couldn’t wait.

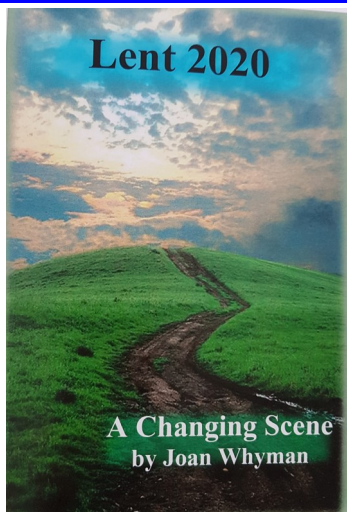
So, there is some evidence it seems to show that self-discipline is good for our personal development and character. The British public might have given up ‘giving up’ for Lent but in our busy lives and stress-ridden society where everything has to be instant, perhaps revisiting Lent and the challenges of abstinence might not be such a bad thing after all.



So, whether you're giving up chocolate (must I, really?), alcohol or whatever, may this Lent be a blessing to all of you. And don't forget . . a disciplined Lent makes for a joyful Easter.

God bless you

Reverend Craig



A CHANGING SCENE is the title of the booklet of Readings, Meditations and Prayers for Lent 2020 by **Joan Whyman**. The title is derived from thoughts about the seasons of our lives being marked by changes, growth in body mind and spirit, maybe in status, location or occupation. it may be true, too, for many that as the years roll by, a decline in mobility, mental acuity or health are part of life's experiences.

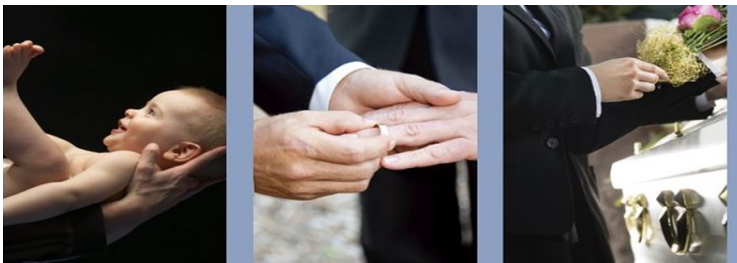
Transitions were as much a part of the life of Jesus as they are for us and never more so than in the weeks leading up to his crucifixion, death and resurrection, weeks we seek to recall through the weeks of Lent.

A Changing Scene is available for £3.00 in the church welcome area. All profits will be shared between St. Andrew's, Shottery and The Still Waters Children's Home, Sri Lanka.

Mothering Sunday

22nd MARCH, 10am





PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

28th January: RUBY PEARL HANCOX (98)

30th January: PATRICIA COCKERILL (Pat) (83)

13th February: SUE MARY BURMAN (83)

18th February: VIRGINIA FEDERIQUE MARIE FORREST (94)

St Andrew's Church Shottery **Annual Parochial Church Meetings** **Sunday 26th April at 11:30 am**

This is St Andrew's annual general meeting where we celebrate, and/or are held to account by you, the congregation, for all our achievements and accounts of 2019 and our plans for 2020. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those on the church electoral roll can vote on the agenda items and raise additional points for discussion. Any additional points/questions should be notified 7 days in advance.

David Millington
Secretary to the PCC

Save the date!

Not to be missed!
Following the success of
last year's fantastic
Good Friday interactive
worship, we shall be
opening the doors
again this year.

All children welcome.
Expect fun, music, food,
crafts and plenty more.

Keep Friday 10th April at 10am
clear in your diaries!



Fellow Travellers

move on!

You may be aware that for sometime Becky has wanted to build a team to develop Fellow Travellers. Well... We are really pleased to report that that team is starting to emerge! Coordinated by Mary C, and together with Becky, a group of eager volunteers has embarked on working together to take a fresh look at what we can offer our children.

May we introduce....

Illumin8

We felt a new name would help create a bit of a 'buzz' and so asked for suggestions from current Fellow Travellers, leaders, helpers and parents. Following a democratic voting process, Illuminat8 was the clear winner!

Reasons why this was the overall favourite include:

- The reference to light reminds children that 'God is Light'
- The number 8 references the 8 Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches which guide the vision for our children's ministry.

Sunday 23rd February saw the launch of our new name with a range of creative activities planned around the theme of light... crafts, stories, games to name but a few. The children created art work to adorn our newly styled notice board in the Parish Centre - please do take a look.

We already have a lovely group of children attending on Sunday mornings and we are keen to reach out further to more young people.

Be sure to keep up to date with our exciting developments, projects and events by following us on Facebook (search St Andrew's Church, Shotton)

Thank you for your continued support and prayers at this very exciting time!

The Illumin8 Team

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



Press Release



Rise, take your mat and walk

Women and Children of all ages are called to "Rise, take your mat and walk to join this day of prayer". Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to "Rise, take your mat and walk" with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an International Inter-church organization which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans.

**The Stratford upon Avon Service will be held at Our Lady of
Peace Church, Church Lane, Shottery at 2pm
FRIDAY 6th MARCH.**

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world—through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas—before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

On Thursday, the 30th of January 2020, members of the Ladies Fellowship met for our annual post-Christmas lunch at the Bell Inn, Shotton. We invited Reverend Canon David Capron to join us for the event and I am pleased to say he was able to accept the invitation.

It is always such an enjoyable event and I was looking forward to attending lunch but due to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to be there. However, everyone I have spoken to said how much they enjoyed it as it is such a great opportunity to get together, relax, and reminisce over the events of the previous year and the Christmas just passed.

Jo Carver. Chairperson

AN OLD IRISH BLESSING

May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours whenever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all your life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.



Lunch Club

12th March

12.30pm



Dear friends,

Connection and contemplation

Walking up the road on our first day back in Kathmandu, we were touched by the number of Nepali people who

stopped to talk to us, welcome us back and ask why had they not seen us for so long? The local taxi driver, the veg seller, the cafe owner and the girls working in the coffee shop all showed interest in our well-being. We felt such a sense of warmth and belonging as our return was acknowledged by our small “road” community. Although from a different culture and speaking another language, each with a different life story, we still felt the connection with this microcosm of humanity – God’s love for us being expressed through this varied collection of people. We felt welcomed and humbled.

We moved back into Kathmandu life without really noticing the transition and suddenly it is November. The monsoon is thankfully over, Dosai and Tihar (Nepal’s two main festivals) have passed and cooler weather is ahead. We had a short break during Dosai visiting Bhaktapur, an ancient town about 30 minutes’ drive from Kathmandu. Bhaktapur is a city full of temples and devout Hindus continue to offer sacrifices of goats and chickens to their deities but we managed to avoid witnessing what we felt were very much like Old Testament practices. What stood out to us and reminded us of Christmas time in the UK was the large family groups dressed in their best clothes enjoying time together, teenagers enjoying the tradition of flying kites and the whole community coming together to celebrate their main religious festival.

Mark 1:35: “It was very early in the morning and still dark. Jesus got up and left the house. He went to a place where he could be alone. There he prayed.”

Our priority since returning in August has been to focus on our own rhythms of life, being mindful of balancing work, prayer and rest. This has

meant continuing to develop our spiritual life, where prayer is always a challenge. It is so easy to find a “good” reason for not having time to be still and to listen to God. We often think of Jesus, who sought solitude away from the demanding crowds in order to spend time with his Father.

Our own quiet space is in the garden of a nearby hotel and when we look at the magnificence of the trees and flowers, we see God’s signature. It has become a tranquil space of solitude for us, away from the demands of our role and the noise and pollution of Kathmandu. We give thanks for quiet spaces and God’s creation which is still evident in a busy city. Pray that we can prioritise solitude and listening to God.

People watching in Bakthapur

From the start, our work goal has been to catch up with UMN mission partners, some who are new and others who have been here a number of years like us. We have enjoyed offering hospitality and have had many conversations with our colleagues from the UMN team in Kathmandu, Okhaldunga and Tansen. Out of these conversations has emerged a theme that led us to reflect on the need for time and space to allow a deepening relationship with God, affecting the way we connect with one another. Our challenge as pastoral carers is to help people to find the necessary space to do this.

The flat below us – our new office and prayer space – has begun to be used by people for personal quiet times and this month we begin a regular “pray as you go” session as an introduction to listening prayer, along with a simple breakfast before work. We also organised recently an English afternoon tea (Nepali style!). It was lovely to be able to offer our new space for people to come together and get to know one another better, and the success of this shows that part of our ministry is to provide a space for people to come together to connect.

It is largely through relationships with one another that we see God working and where we are able to glimpse our Father’s love. Our hope is to find ways to make the downstairs flat a place of welcome, accessible to the UMNers and the larger expat community, and a place where people can connect with God through contemplation and conversations.

Kathmandu can feel a lonely place with people rushing around doing many things and not really connecting to others. Mission partners are not immune to such loneliness...

We give thanks that what was just a seed of an idea six years ago is now a tangible reality. We pray that we will be open to listening to other people's needs and to different ways of using the space. We pray also that the downstairs space can be used to help mission partners thrive emotionally and spiritually.

Part of life here means there is always conflict of some sort; for us, our visa situation causes us to feel conflicted. UMN is beginning to process a work visa for Andrew but Andrea now has to go on a dependant visa and rules around these are now very restricting. Please pray into this.

In other prayer points, please pray that Andrea is given opportunities to share her counselling skills and develop her supervision skills with Nepali counsellors.

Also please feel free to discuss the situation with Paul Read, our funding manager at CMS, on paul.read@churchmissionsociety.org or 01865 787525.

We give thanks for our link churches and individuals and pray that our partnership with you in our ministry continues to develop.

We send our love and prayers,

Andrea and Andrew (Our Support Partners in Nepal)

With Mothering Sunday in mind.....

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone.. 'Mummy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now.

She's hitting the bottle.'

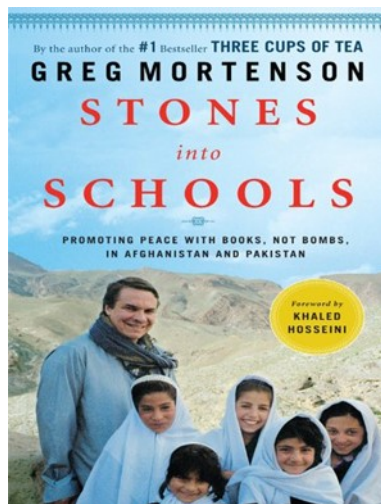
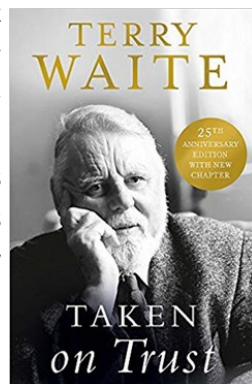
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery in the hall.



BOOK REVIEWS

Taken on Trust by Terry Waite

In 1987 Terry Waite is sent to Beirut by the then Archbishop of Canterbury to negotiate the release of several English Hostages. However he himself is then kidnapped and held as a hostage, spending 1,763 days in captivity almost four years of which were in solitary confinements. These are his personal recollections of how he managed to stay sane. Terry is a big man so it must have been particularly difficult to adjust to restrictions in a small cell. He survived by 'writing' in his imagination and also using fantasy or mental arithmetic. He says to take heart as the spirit can never be chained.



Stones into Schools by Greg Mortenson

In 1993, Greg, a keen mountaineer, attempts to climb K2 in Pakistan. He winds up staggering into a village called Korphe after getting lost. There he found that the children had no school or teacher and he ends up promising the community that he would one day return and build them a school. Thus he discovers his life calling to foster education and literacy in improving Muslim villages of the western

Himalayas, founding the Central Asia Institute.. In this book he extends his vision into Afghanistan. He is particularly keen on establishing schools for girls as in his words " If you educate a boy you only benefit the individual but if you educate a girl you benefit the whole community".

Janet Insoll



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

On Saturday February 1st five members of our choir attended an RSCM event at St Mary's, Tysoe.

It was an afternoon of rehearsal followed by a Eucharist for Candlemas.

We enjoyed learning a variety of pieces some older and some modern. There were singers there from across the diocese and it's always a good experience to sing with people from other church choirs. I realised again how lucky we are to have a permanent choir at St Andrew's – so many of the village churches only have a choir for the major festivals.

We were treated to an excellent tea between the rehearsal and the service. For the Eucharist service the singers all fitted into the chancel – just! Holding all the music plus a lighted candle proved a little challenging but we managed to avoid setting ourselves, or anyone else, on fire. The church was largely candlelit which made for a very special atmosphere for the service.

There were some pieces which we might be able to use at St Andrew's in the future. I hope that it won't be long before we have an opportunity to attend another RSCM event.

Many thanks to the RSCM and St Mary's, Tysoe.

Fiona Macvie.



Gwenda Tucker thanks all her Church

Family for helping in so many ways to make her 80th birthday a happy and memorable occasion.

There was a notice for the Knitted Bible Exhibition (28th June - 5th July) at St. James' Church, Badsey; more enquiries to be made to arrange for a group to go.

We were asked to consider a, preferably local, charity which we could support in a practical way as we had done for Coffee Tots last year. One or two suggestions were made and these would be followed up.

Janet reported that all the subs were now in and Accounts audited.

Audrey introduced **Chris Susnik** who talked about some of the churches she loved to visit, either on her own or as a tour guide.



Bruges - Catholic Church of our Lady - full of old treasures and a favourite subject for artist Sir Winston Churchill. The beautiful statue of the Madonna and Child by Michelangelo had an amazing history having been purchased from him in Sienna and installed in Bruges. In WWII the invading Nazis took it away to Austria where it remained undiscovered until spotted by an American G.I. and returned to Bruges.

Dresden's splendid Frauenkirche was the next choice. This was the centre of the monk Martin Luther's Protestant Reformation. Augustus of Saxony was the first Protestant king although turning Catholic for a time when king of Poland. Chris covered the trauma of WWII, the bombing of Dresden when the Church burned down and the subsequent remarkable rebuilding; and of course the co-operation and reconciliation with Coventry Cathedral; also the part played in this by Leonard Cheshire (a former bomber pilot).

Prague is a city of many churches but it is the small Orthodox Church of Cyril and Methodius which Chris loves to visit. It has a remarkable history of different uses and again the tragic influence of the Nazi invasion in WWII. It is now a Church and Museum.

Chris's final choice was **Ypres - St. Martins Church**; rebuilt twice after WWI and WWII. Also - St. George's Protestant Church built in 1920 as a memorial to the British soldiers who died there.

Chris was thanked for all the inspiring stories of the survival of these places of worship.

Next Meeting - 2 p.m. 10th March - Annual Corporate Communion led by Revd. Craig.

Visitors are welcome to join us for this and for tea afterwards.

Daphne Jones.

A wee bit of indulgence from me this month, for obvious reasons!!

On the bus Paddy got chatting to Murphy who was carrying a bag on his back

'What's in the bag?' asked Paddy

'I'm not going to tell', replied Murphy

'Go on, do.' pleaded Paddy.

'Ah, all right then, it's ducks.' announced Murphy

'If I guess how many ducks you have in the bag, will you give me one of them?' enquired Paddy

'Look', said Murphy, 'If you guess the correct number, I'll give you both of them.'

'Five!' said Paddy triumphantly.



An Irishman goes into a bar in America and orders three whiskeys. The barman asks: "Would it be better for you if I put all three shots in one glass?"

The Irishman replies: "No! I have two other brothers back at home, so every time I come into a pub, I order a shot for them both."

The following week, the Irishman orders just two whiskeys.

The barman asks: "Did something happen one of your brothers?" "Oh no," replies the Irishman. "I just decided to quit drinking!"

Our charity giving on 8th March will be for

The Children's Society

Right now in this country there are children who feel scared, unloved and like they simply don't matter. They're not seen, they're not understood, and they aren't getting the help they need. In fact, we know that a million children and young people in England are living with serious problems in their lives, exacerbated no doubt by the use of social media. Without the right help, this can be overwhelming and a lonely place to be.

This has to change. No child should feel alone. With your help, our services to keep children safe supported more than 13,000 children and young people last year.

Our work to tackle child sexual exploitation

We support children and young people intensively to cope with the trauma of sexual exploitation. Our specialist staff spot the warning signs and make this exploitation stop.

Missing from home services

Our services support children and young people who go missing from home or care, or are at risk of doing so.

Advocacy services

We ensure that children in care or in the child protection system have a say in important decisions that are made about their lives.

Children affected by adult substance misuse

We are leading the way in developing programmes to identify and support children living in families where parents are affected by drugs or alcohol misuse.

Supporting young people experiencing mental health and emotional wellbeing problems

We run services around the country for young people who are desperately in need of mental health support. Our services include therapeutic support, befriending, counselling or advice.

Young carers

No child should be robbed of their childhood, left to cope alone caring for sick family members and unable to plan for their future.

What we do

We fight child poverty and neglect, and help all children have a better chance in life.

We are working to create a country where every child has somewhere to turn, wherever they are. We can only do this by coming together and making sure no child feels alone.



PLEASE DONATE

Please help by supporting The Children's Society.

An Irish priest is driving along a country road when a policeman pulls him over. He immediately smells alcohol on the priest's breath and notices an empty wine bottle in the car.

He says: "Have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the priest.

The officer replies: "Then why do I smell wine?"

The priest looks at the bottle and says: "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Billy stops Paddy in Dublin and asks for the quickest way to Cork.

Paddy says, "Are you on foot or in the car?"

Billy says, "In the car."

Paddy says, "Dats the quickest way."

Reilly is walking through a graveyard when he comes across a headstone with the inscription "Here lies a politician and an honest man."

'Faith now,' exclaims Reilly, 'I wonder how they got the two of them in one grave.'

Happy St. Patrick's Day



EVERY LITTLE HELPS, by Alan Minchin.

It was last year (or was it the previous year?) when St. Andrew's Janet Insoll reviewed, in her "Searchlight" book recommendations, a title written by an American international speaker, author and pastor of Gateway Church in Austin, Texas - John Burke.

The book is entitled "Imagine Heaven" and sub-titled "Near-Death Experiences, God's Promises, and the Exhilarating Future that awaits You". In this book he compares more than one hundred stories of near-death experiences (NDEs) to what Scripture says about our biggest questions concerning Heaven.

The area of NDEs, and similar experiences, has always fascinated me and I have been a member, for a number of decades, of the ecumenical "Churches Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies". I now have a number of books on the subject written by a range of authors, but "Imagine Heaven" is the first I have come across that specifically views the subject through the lens of The Bible.

Probably the seminal book that "started the ball rolling" was written by a medical doctor in the mid 1970s entitled "Life After Life" and since then there have been many publications from those in various life disciplines. The subject has been well debated by people in the fields of medicine, science, and theology and today, forty years on from the first public awareness, there is still no consensus on what NDEs represent. There is no full understanding or explanation of the phenomenon. Opinion is divided.

However, what is clear is that opinions are very often based on pre-existing philosophical acceptances similar to the debates concerning the origins of life and the Universe. Atheists will dismiss NDEs and search for any explanation that does not allow for God whilst non-atheists will see glimpses of the Divine. It is, however, worth noting that there are those who have moved from scepticism to belief after researching and studying near death experiences.

The most convincing cases (in my opinion) of the reality of glimpses into another dimension of life must be those of people who have been blind from birth and therefore have no mental concepts or pictorial images of anything and yet, after NDEs, have related, correctly, sights and images never before understood or viewed by them. Two such cases are recorded in John Burke's book and must present the strongest evidence for the authenticity of their experiences.

But how should Bible-believing Christians view the accumulated recorded experiences of the past forty years or so ? I believe that, for Christians, NDEs should not cause surprise. It is quite obvious that The Bible is written against another dimension of life and being, generally termed "Heaven". The two major recorded biblical examples (amongst many to be found) of where the reality of this dimension can be recognized are firstly the event known as "The Transfiguration" of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and secondly His Resurrection with the period following until His Ascension.

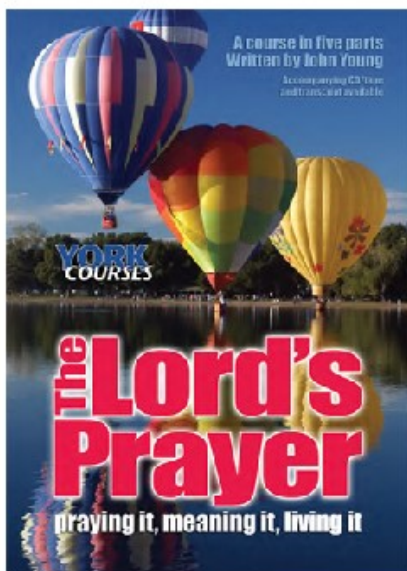
Some Christians are, however, nervous (even hostile) to these experiences, wrongly linking them with the biblical prohibitions of "contacting the dead". In the post-Christian age in which we live these NDEs, I believe, can help to give understanding and reinforcement to the biblical witness and, as we know, every little helps !



· "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill .

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



Stratford Churches Together Lent Course 2020

Join with us this Lent as we explore and discuss the significance of the Lord's Prayer in the journey of faith and discipleship in our daily lives.

An ecumenically led 5 week course for Lent, using the **York Course** resource written by Canon John Young.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus gives us a pattern for living as his disciples. He also raises vital questions for today's world in which 'daily bread' is uncertain for 2 billion people, and a refusal to 'forgive those who trespass against us' escalates violence.

The course booklet, written by Canon John Young, includes questions aimed at provoking wide-ranging group discussion.

Course booklets (£4) will be available from the Holy Trinity Church Shop or available to purchase at the evening sessions.

Venue: Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church

**Wednesdays from the 4th March 2020
for 5 weeks. 7:30pm—9pm**

Tea/Coffee will be available from 7:30pm.





Christianity comes to England 1

By R. David Langman

We can so easily forget the influence of the Roman Empire on our history. Starting with Julius Caesar's campaigns in 55BC the invasion of 43-47AD to the severance in 410 this was replaced by Anglo-Saxons in the sixth century by settlements which retained a continuing influence. There was time to develop religion, civic control and living conditions. The pre-Roman period showed England as a Celtic nation based on rural centres. According to Caesar a writer and a soldier its family structure was open and its governance by Druids. He was dismayed by the human sacrifice procedures and as the occupation progressed the Druids were driven to the extremities.

We had to wait until Constantine in the fourth century before Christianity became possible. Although Christianity was seen in a pacifist form there were many converts in the ranks of the Legions. Indeed the earliest recorded martyr is Saint Alban now named from the city of Verulamium was a soldier convert. Other routes were in mercantile channels.

Once the edict relieving Christians of persecution in 313AD conversions accelerated and records show Bishops from London and York possibly Lincoln attended the Church Council in Arles, Gaul in 314AD.

Churches were slow to follow the only potential one being at Silchester although by the fourth century wealthy townsmen had areas of worship delineated by wall friezes and floor mosaics. Christian burials in abundance followed the Roman practice of being outside town boundaries but lying in an east west alignment.

With the end of the Empire, Christianity's followers remained small until the edict of Milan in 313AD but within 100 years the Saxon, Angles and Jutes invading from Northern Europe led to the destruction of Churches and the retreat of the faithful to Cornwall and Wales.

Concurrently the population of Rome was falling even reaching 60,000 when the Sistine Chapel was being painted in 1512AD.

Aware of the loss of Christianity in England, Abbot Gregory of the Roman Monastery of St. Andrews saw a group of fair headed boys being sold as slaves.

Bede records that the event, now a famous story, of Gregory enquiring who they were, and on being told they were English Angles remarked they had angelic faces. and they should become fellow heirs with the angels in heaven. He wanted to send a mission to England but he had to wait for 20 years by which time as Pope he sent Augustine then Prior of his monastery. It was only on the second attempt that in 597AD that his party landed in East Kent.

King Ethelbert of Kent was a pagan and his wife Bertha a Christian. Ethelbert ruled the most powerful kingdom in England covering land to the Humber. The Vatican party were well received, given accommodation and access to the site of two ancient Canterbury churches which became the cathedral site of the home Cathedral.

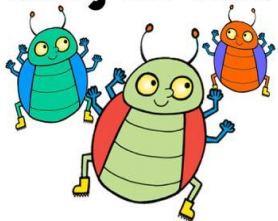
Progress was made and the Pope made Augustine effectively the first Archbishop with powers to appoint 12 Bishops in the south of England.

A senior Bishop was later appointed to invest a further twelve Bishops in the North but would be subservient to Augustine and was established at York.

To be continued.

(This is the ninth in the series of "What a Christian should know".)

Beetle Drive Family Fun Game



SATURDAY 7th MARCH

7pm.

Parish Centre

Drinks and Hot Dogs available.

£5.

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. *Anita Koddick*

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. *F. P. Jones*



Coventry Cathedral Vestments

Vestments are one part of a complex jigsaw of elements that make up the whole experience of worship.

Among the jewels in Coventry Cathedral are the sets of vestments commissioned by Spence and designed by John Piper. He was an experienced and prolific artist exhibiting a wide range of styles, skills and techniques as well as being an acclaimed photographer and theatre designer. Both Spence and Piper had a vision and strong desire that the design of the vestments would underpin the sense of unity throughout the cathedral, make an effective visual statement in the vast chancel space in front of the Sutherland tapestry and that the symbolism would be accessible and understandable to the congregation.

In 1959 Piper was commissioned to address this challenge in terms of colour and design, and not least in how the vestments would hang and flow during worship. Piper's experience of theatrical costume design and his interest in artists such as Matisse gave him a working knowledge of the requirements needed to create designs with applied patterns that would have visual impact while being worn.

Colour was as an important visual element to be considered. Colours are set out for each liturgical season, but Piper, who was passionate about colour, chose particular hues with concentrated pigments and brilliance. His palette is memorable in being painterly with unexpected colour combinations used in clean uncluttered shapes of vestments, based on the fuller garments coming into use with the French Liturgical Movement.

The effect of these colours is of vibrancy and optimism, while giving a clear indication of the liturgical season. The combination of colours in each set are dynamic and individual to Coventry and resulted from discussions between Spence and Piper that the colour should be 'virile' and the decoration 'match the scale of the building'.

Traditional, richly embroidered embellishment, so familiar to us, is replaced by sharp edged geometric motifs applied using distinctive patterned silk interpreted from the painted collages used by Piper in the design process. The technique of appliqué used instead of rich embroidery was a popular technique in the 1960s, much less labour intensive, so less costly. The heavy silk was

specially dyed and woven and donated by Sekers Silks Ltd. My contact with Sekers in seeking more information about the silk used to make the Piper vestments was not fruitful. Surprisingly, they seem to have no records of the commission in their archives.

The sets of vestments were made up by the long-established firm of Louis Grossé in London.



(left to right) Examples of Piper's flame red for Whitsun and green for other occasions. Terry Duffy's Dresden Cope and the Millennium Gold set designed by Victoria Richards.

One of the six sets of vestments is unique and denotes the importance of reconciliation in the ministry of the cathedral. It is the brick red set of vestments known as *Reconciliation red*, peculiar to Coventry Cathedral, which reinforces the cathedral's central mission of peace and reconciliation.

Like other clothing, the exact design of vesture in the church varies over time according to artistic developments. Fashions come and go.

A beautiful example of designs of the early part of the 20th century can be seen in the Provost's Cope gifted to Coventry Cathedral. It is of its era, made of white brocade with green orphreys, beautiful embroidery, the hood bearing the image of the lamb, a decorative use of symbolism clear to all. The cope was given in 1951 to Coventry Cathedral by Captain and Mrs Noel Morgan of South Zeal, Okehampton. It had had originally been made in 1904 by Mrs Hutton for her vicar, the Rev Allen Gunn of Holy Trinity, Winchester.

More recently, in January 1999, the Provost and Canons of the Cathedral commissioned Victoria Richards to design a set of Millennium vestments. She produced 100 metres of hand painted cloth using a complex process in her workshop in Brixton. Watts and Co. London, well respected makers of ecclesiastical vestments, made up the set using Victoria's palette of yellow silk with panels in 'golden sunlit colours, contrasted with black and unusual greys'.

Many churches and cathedrals also seek out artists to design and make vestments that reflect local community connections. A telling example of this, is here, in Coventry Cathedral: the fairly recent commission of the Coventry Dresden Cope. It was dedicated in March 2017 on Ash Wednesday by the Bishop of Coventry and was made 'to be worn on special occasions only and by individuals who significantly represent the message and task of reconciliation in their ministry, thus symbolising the ways in which they carry, wear and bear the story of Coventry and Dresden.' The cope was presented to Coventry Cathedral for use here and in Dresden carrying the message of reconciliation, hope and peace.

In the words of Terry Duffy, the artist: "It pays homage to a centuries old tradition, but by employing new means." It seems very apt to refer to it as I write at this time so close to Armistice Day and illustrates how a vestment can communicate visually such a powerful message.

The photomontage used as imagery on the cope was a collaboration between the artist Terry Duffy and Mark Howard. Alison Carey Williams made the cope. This novel technique used a complex digital method of transferring imagery to silk poplin. It is very much of our time and regarded as a significant combination of art and vestment, as it is the first time a photomontage of real images is used as a visual symbol.

Roderic Dunnett wrote in The Church Times in 2017: "*It brings together images of destruction of both cities in such a way to bring hope and unity, where there was formerly bitter division between two communities that suffered so terribly on opposing sides in World War 2*".

The imagery is bound up in the history and vision of the cathedral; the results of bombing of both cities and rebirth of the Frauenkirche, the sculpture of St Michael and a German soldier helping victims. Underpinning the imagery are the words: *Father forgive: Vater vergib*, words originally inscribed by Provost Howard in the bombed St Michael's Cathedral. If ever you have an opportunity to look at the Dresden cope it is well worth it.

My interest is as an artist, designer, and maker. I am passionate about textiles and the important role they play in the liturgy. The tactile quality of textiles as well as colour, texture, pattern, shape, and movement help to evoke a personal response to a sacred space. The soft, often sumptuous, and light reflective surfaces offer a contrast to the hard and sometimes austere surfaces of stone, brick, metal and wood; adding a human dimension to a vast architectural space.

Vestments have a finite life but with care in wearing, handling and storage their life can be prolonged and continue to contribute to worship for many years. I feel very privileged to be able to help in the care and conservation of the vestments as a Textile Advisor to my own Diocese of Lincoln and also as a member of the FAC at Coventry Cathedral. My aim is to help to look after and prolong the life of all the vestments, so they can continue to play their part in worship in Coventry Cathedral for many years to come.



*Mary Sleigh
November 2019*



*Thank God
for Mums!*

4 years old: My Mummy can do anything!

8 years old: My Mum knows a lot!
A whole lot!

25 years old: Well, she might
know a little bit about it.

12 years old: My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 years old: Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either.

16 years old: Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 years old: That old woman? She's way out of date!

35 years old: Before we decide, let's get Mum's opinion.

55 years old: Wonder what Mum would have thought about it?

65 years old: Wish I could talk it over with Mum

Alan Hunt was my organist at Arrow Church. To my mind he was the most under recognised organist in South Warwickshire, if not throughout the entire county. He came from Cherington and used to cycle to Shipston on Stour every morning to catch the bus for Stratford upon Avon where he attended. KES. After war service as a navigator in the R.A.F he went into teaching and eventually became the Headmaster of Bldford on Avon High School. He had been taught the organ by a clergy widow whose husband had been curate at Tredington and had died soon after their marriage, but she had been taught by no lesser person than Elgar!

When Alan came into church and walked up the side aisle to reach the organ, you could see the headmaster in him! He used to rattle the keys in his pocket and maintain a somewhat magisterial look. But what a sense of humour he had, he was even cracking jokes on his death bed, and they were very good jokes! He was a radical thinker and some of his forward-thinking ideas did not always find favour with the stuffer people. But on the organ, he was King and everybody agreed. Mind you he used to fool around and just occasionally he went too far, but then he could busk himself pit of trouble.

During Sunday services I was never quite sure what might happen next. Alan used to like to play all the verses of a hymn even if it was one like, "The God of Abraham Praise", so I would tell the congregation that we would be omitting certain verses. A loud groan emitted, "OH No", to which I replied, "OH Yes". Alan also had the habit of debating with me during my sermon. He would slip off the organ stool and come around the front to start asking questions. He was a great character. I am told that when he went over to the USA to see his daughter, on one particular Sunday they went to worship at the black Pentecostal Church, there was no musician present to play, but Alan did, because sitting there on the stage was a gleaming white grand piano and he had the time of his life, needless to say, so did the congregation.

But my abiding memory of Alan relates to the voluntary on Easter Day! He always played that most glorious of Arias "The Easter Hymn" from Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana and I used to stand beside him and sing (or attempt to)! I have always felt that with that particular piece of music it is impossible not to believe in the Resurrection!

Alan. You were a joy to work with and may you rest in peace and rise in glory.

David Capron





"This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to "Care for Creation". It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything. During this time, we hope you might engage in prayer, learn more about the remarkable world we have been given and build habits that last beyond the season to protect and honour the earth."

Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop John Sentamu

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This year's #LiveLent challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

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(You might also like to sign up to The CofE email reflections at key moments throughout the year. Check out their website.)

An Irishman, by the name of O'Malley proposed to his girl on St. Patrick's Day. He gave her a ring with a synthetic diamond. The excited young lass showed it to her father, a jeweller. He took one look at it and saw it wasn't real.

The young lass on learning it wasn't real returned to her future husband. She protested vehemently about his cheapness.

'It was in honour of St. Patrick's Day, 'he smiled. 'I gave you a sham rock.'

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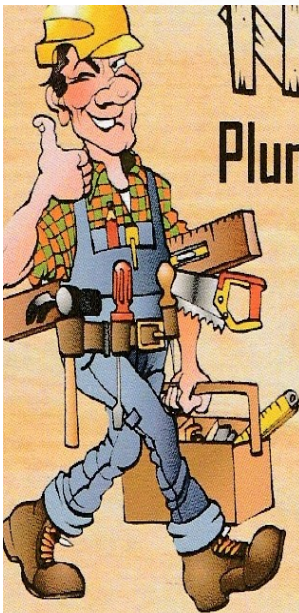
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