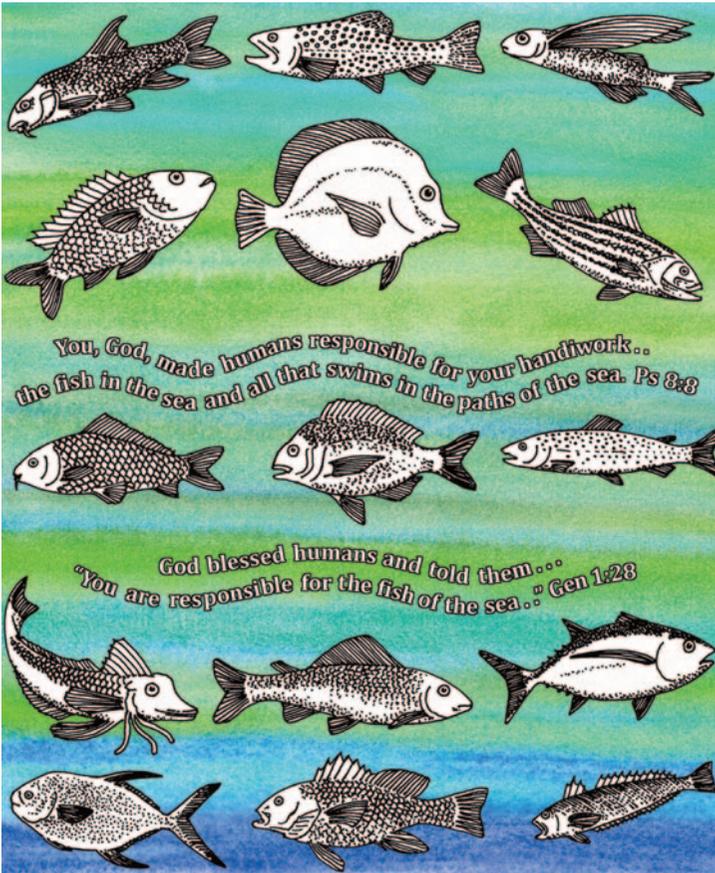


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SAINTS ALIVE



ALL SAINTS

The Parish Magazine
of All Saints' Parish Church,
Cheadle Hulme

Our Regular Weekly Services

At the moment these are, until further notice: Sunday at 10.00am Parish Communion. At 6.30pm Choral Evensong on the 2nd Sunday of each month and Said Evensong on the 4th Sunday. On Wednesdays the church is open for private prayer at 12.00 noon, followed by Holy Communion at 12.30pm, after which everyone is welcome to stay for a chat and to share a bring-your-own-lunch. Arrangements for baptisms, banns and weddings, confession and spiritual counselling is by arrangement with the Clergy. We understand that for many this is still a difficult period. If you would like prayers or simply a conversation please contact me: Rev Sarah on 0161 485 3455, or email: @allsaintscheadlehulme.org.uk. Alternatively, call one of our wonderful Churchwardens, John Ackerley 0161 486 1419 and Janet Ashman on 0161 485 7969.



Mary Magdalene
Antonio Frederic Augustus Sandys
(British 1829 - 1904)
Painted 1859, Delaware Art Museum

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church:
June 26 Bethany Mia Dickinson

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

We give thanks for the lives of the following:
June 15 Peter Stewart Spencer
June 15 John Alured Elwin

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

This month at All Saints we have been celebrating 60 years of our Friday Club which meets every other week at 2.00pm on a Friday. As part of our celebrations, we had a thanksgiving service and then a coffee morning raising money for St Ann's Hospice. Sixty years of meeting, encouraging each other in the Christian faith and raising money for those in need, is something to be commended to the faithfulness of the ladies who make up Friday Club. Their faithfulness is a testament to the faithfulness of God. The passages that were read at the thanksgiving service were from the book of Romans chapter 12 verses 9 – 13. This passage talks about how to treat each other, how to encourage one another and to extend hospitality to strangers – something our Friday Club does very well, if you ever visit them, you will be hard pushed to leave before a cup of tea and a biscuit have been thrust into your hands.

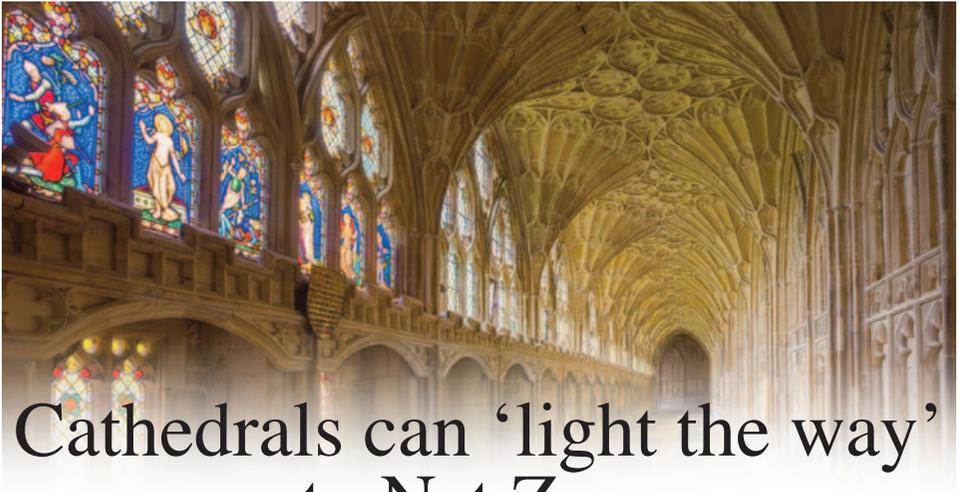
To care for others as God cares for us, to welcome those who we do not yet know, as God welcomes us. To 'rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer' as verse 12 tells us. To remember that our hope is in God, the one who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. To remember that suffering, though hard and difficult, will end. To remember that to pray, to be in constant communication with God, no matter what your circumstances are. To do these is to remain faithful to God in the same way that God remains faithful to us. The Friday Club started off as a group of young ladies that wanted to meet regularly to encourage each other and support each other and 60 years later, the age has increased but the encouragement is still palpable. A place to meet together, to learn about new things, to build friendships, we celebrate the last 60 years and look to the future in the hope that in 60 years' time we will still be celebrating.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

Prayers and blessings
Revd Sarah Hancock



**COPY DEADLINE FOR AUGUST - JULY 12TH
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Cathedrals can ‘light the way’ to Net Zero



England’s ancient cathedrals could be in the ‘vanguard’ of technological development needed for the green revolution. In fact, cathedrals could show the way in making changes for achieving Net Zero carbon across the whole Church by 2030, with a route map due for a vote at General Synod this month.

So says the Church of England’s lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs, Graham Usher, who is Bishop of Norwich. He points out that cathedrals have an impressive track record within the heritage sector.

Many have already installed green adaptations such as solar panels, or replaced light fittings, or increased draft exclusion. Others have re-designed precincts to give greater access to green space and a chance for biodiversity to thrive. Over two thirds of cathedrals are already part of the A Rocha ‘Eco Church’ programme.

However, with cathedrals still responsible for around two per cent of the total Church of England carbon emissions, they need to identify more opportunities to meet the ambitious target set by General Synod in 2020. The Church of England’s Route Map to Net Zero Carbon will be discussed at General Synod this month.

Phocus of Sinope - the Brave Gardener

Many of us are gardeners, but not many of us are buried in our gardens.

Phocus was a fourth century Christian gardener who ran a little guest house in Sinope, on the Black Sea (now part of modern Turkey). He used the produce from his garden to welcome and feed any visitors who came by, as well as giving anything left over to the poor.

In a time of persecution, the governor of the district sent soldiers to kill him because of his Christianity. But when the soldiers arrived at Phocus's guest house, they did not recognise him. Phocus politely fed them and invited them to stay the night, during which he crept out into his garden to dig his own grave and prepare for death.

In the morning, Phocus divulged his true identity, rather to the dismay of the soldiers, who did not want to kill this kindly man.

But Phocus assured them that he considered martyrdom the highest honour, and humbly bent his head to their swords. And so, the soldiers killed him and buried him in the grave he had prepared. The news of Phocus's martyrdom spread far and wide, drawing many pilgrims to his garden. His calm courage and faith in God were widely admired and in time Phocus became the patron of sailors in the Black Sea, and then the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

Phocus's life echoes that of many Christians today, who go calmly about their daily mundane jobs in lands of persecution, and who do not avoid the call to Christian martyrdom, however it may come to them.



The Summer Garden

*Summer comes and waves her hand, the garden blooms at her command,
Plants abounding everywhere, as fragrant perfumes fill the air.
Roses, geraniums, lilies too, agapanthus with globes of blue,
Sumptuous colours in such array, their beauty takes our breath away.
To sit beneath the shady trees, to listen to the humming bees,
As Summer wears her rainbow dress, we thank God for such loveliness.*

Sea Sunday



Over many years the 2nd Sunday of July has been kept as Sea Sunday, with a special focus on prayer for all seafarers. The Mission to Seafarers supports the work of sailors facing difficult waters, piracy, and separation from loved ones for long periods at sea. However, we can also experience storms in our own lives.

In Acts 27 we read how Paul was being taken as a prisoner to Rome, when he was caught in a storm off Crete. After 14 days they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Paul had warned the crew that it wasn't a safe time of year to sail: "I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives." But his words were ignored, and the ship sailed into a violent storm.

By the third day they 'finally gave up all hope of being saved'. How do we face up to storms in our lives? Do we worry and panic? God doesn't necessarily prevent storms from taking place, but we can trust His purpose through them.

Paul urged the sailors to "keep courage, because not one of you will be lost, only the ship will be destroyed". His confidence rested on an angelic promise: "Do not be afraid,

Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." Only the sovereign God, who created the wind and waves, can promise to save people from a storm. What does this mean for us in our circumstances today?

'Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. Grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.' (Amazing Grace: John Newton).





Christian Basics No 7: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Pt 2)

Somebody once defined a football match as ‘22 people on the field desperately in need of rest, watched by 50 thousand people in the stands, desperately in need of exercise!’ It reminds us that church is not a spectator sport! The Holy Spirit equips us to serve God in the Church and daily life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are variously described as spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1) or grace gifts (1 Cor. 1:7), the latter word being used in modern Greek for a birthday present! They are love gifts from God that we cannot earn or deserve, that are open to everybody. Note what Paul says, “*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*” (1 Cor. 12:7):

‘to each one’: the gifts are available to every Christian. Everyone will have a different **‘gift-mix’**, with their own particular contribution to offer.

‘the manifestation of the Spirit’: the gifts of the Spirit enable an invisible God to be real and visible.

As we exercise the gifts that God has given to us, in our speech or service, people will be able to say, **‘God is at work here!’**

‘for the common good’: the aim of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom of God. They are not intended to meet our own needs or reputation, but simply to serve and encourage others.

With the gifts given by God, we are able to fulfil His purposes in His world. Paul urges us to **‘eagerly desire’** the gifts that God has for us (1 Cor. 12:31). How true is this for me? Any present that we are given needs unwrapping before we can enjoy it. Are we doing this with our spiritual gifts?

Reflected Faith Series: the grandeur of God

Do you understand the mysteries of God? Who is He? What is He up to? If Jesus's disciples who were with Him daily for years had trouble understanding Him, what expectation is there that you and I will? We get glimpses of Him – through new life, through nature, in creativity, music and dance and so on – but none of us truly sees every part of Him. St Paul himself wrote that “now we see through a glass darkly”.

So how do we try to express the grandeur of God? In the Old Testament, Isaiah 6:1, the prophet wrote, ‘In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of His robe filled the temple.’

I love that picture, it makes me think of brides on their wedding day who have a full skirt and train, and the help they need from their bridesmaids just to get in and out of the wedding car let alone anything else they need to do.

Architects and builders over the centuries have used the church building to illustrate aspects of God and to share their faith.

If you are able, visit a large church building or cathedral and spend some time there when there is no service taking place. As you go into the building, quickly stop and just look around you. ‘Feel’ the space surrounding and above you. The distance between you and the ceiling or roof.

Stop for a while in the area where the congregation sit – the nave – taken from the Latin word *navis* meaning ‘ship’. This is because when they were built, largely in the Middle Ages, the people thought a nave looked like the bottom part of a ship turned upside-down. This reminded them also of the story of God saving His creation at the time of the flood by using the Ark. What does this space say to you about the mysteries of God?



A sermon in sand



If you are fortunate enough to get to the seaside this summer, then you might like to wriggle your toes in the warm sand, and consider the following:

It has been said that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in the world.

More recently, as the estimated number of stars has increased, then even the grains of sand in all the world's deserts have been added to the comparison!

The Sun, vast though it is, is a fairly ordinary star, 93 million miles away. It is not easy to grasp that sort of a distance, but here's a measuring stick: if you were to fly in a fast passenger jet at 600 miles per hour, then it would take you about 17 hours to fly from London to Sydney; about 17 days to reach the Moon, and about 17 years to reach the Sun!

As for how long it would take to fly on to the next nearest star to us, Proxima Centauri, it would take about 4.2 light years, as the distance is more than 24 trillion miles!

And that is just to the next nearest star after the Sun.

How many stars are there in the Universe? Astronomers recently estimated that there are about 70,000 million, million, million

stars. So, as you sit there you might care to pick up a couple of grains of sand. Let the first grain represent our Sun, the second grain the next nearest star to us. Then look at the whole beach and after that consider all the beaches on Earth, with every grain of sand on them representing a star, then it gives some meaning to the phrase "God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."



Church Mission Society refreshes its vision

Church Mission Society has unveiled its recently “refreshed vision and purpose” for this generation, which is to make disciples of Jesus ‘at the edges of society’: the ‘edges of Church’ and the ‘edges of people’s comfort zones’. It will thus prioritise mission “at the margins and cultural fringes.”

Alastair Bateman, CEO of Church Mission Society, said mission is “no longer a Western enterprise, but a global effort.” He went on: “We are committed to moving further afield in true collaboration with our global family of network partners.” This includes CMS-Africa and Asia-CMS.”

This ‘at the edges’ vision is exemplified by CMS mission partners such as Alison Giblett and Ann-Marie Wilson. Alison has lived in Ukraine since 2004, leading a team that helps people recovering from addiction. Since the invasion of Russian troops, she has chosen to remain in Ukraine to support the local community and is “praying day and night for the war to end”. She says “What right do I have to serve people in good times if I’m not willing to stand with them in the hard times?” In 2005 Ann-Marie left her job in London to set up 28 Too Many, a charity campaigning to put an end to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

CMS also tells the story of Jay Lilley, a self-proclaimed “working-class boy from East London” who came to faith through meeting CMS-trained pioneer Dave Harrigan at a local boxing club Dave had set up in Essex. Jay said, “I realised these were my kind of people...I just didn’t know my kind of people went to church.” Jay is now studying on CMS’s Pioneer Mission Leadership Training course for a youthwork qualification. CMS supports hundreds of people serving in mission worldwide, from Africa to South East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

C of E has good skills, says new bishop

The next Bishop of Bath and Wells, Dr Michael Beasley, has said that the CofE learned valuable lessons during the pandemic. “There’s been a huge amount that we’ve seen in our response to an emergency. It shows we have a flexibility and a resilience and an ability to respond to situations that we might not have known we have, but now we do.” He said that such resilience will be needed, to cope in these “challenging times”, with the world still emerging from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the cost-of-living crisis, “which is only to become increasingly urgent.” He said: “Addressing these issues is going to demand everyone’s faith and experiences, their creativity and skill.”



National ‘Don’t Step on a Bee Day’

Bees need your help. And we need their help. Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.



The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many

beekeepers on our doorstep. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast?

You can also help bees by planting some wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here:

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/

Eritrean Christians mark 20 years of church closures

Christians in Eritrea have just marked 20 years of state persecution. The East African dictatorship shut down most of its churches in May 2002, outlawing every religion except Sunni Islam, Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholicism and the Lutheran Church.

Today, the persecution continues. “Eritrea is like a giant prison,” says Release partner Dr Berhane Asmelash. “The country is filled with jails. It is like North Korea.”

The government has closed many Evangelical and Pentecostal churches. Even registered churches come under tight control. Christians who continue to worship in banned congregations are regarded as enemies of the state.

The number of Christian prisoners in Eritrea are an estimated 220. Many are detained indefinitely, held for more than a decade, often without charge. Some have been kept in shipping containers, exposed to desert heat by day and cold by night. Some are beaten and tortured to try to force them to renounce their faith. The prison authorities ban praying aloud, singing, preaching or reading religious books.

One Christian, recalling her time of imprisonment, said: “One evening we were taken into the bush, and I knew we were going to be beaten. They were going to inflict as much pain on us as they could. The guards took it in turns to beat us. I will never forget hearing the screams of my sister. I never saw her again.”

What's Your Next Step?



Does this month spell the end of school, college, or even a job, for you?

Then congratulations are in order: you have completed a significant step!

Now it is time to consider your next step.

The dictionary defines 'step' as a physical movement that advances you in a desired direction. You take a 'step' forward in order to get somewhere specific, not just to stop

yourself falling flat on your face. Each 'step', however small, can take you towards a specific goal.

The Bible reflects this. It is filled with the metaphors of stepping, walking, running and goals, pilgrimages, journeys, all to describe the years of our lives.

When we were babies, we clung to our parents' hands as we learned how to take our first steps. They stayed right by us, to keep us from falling, and to steer us in the right direction. As adults, the Bible tells us that a successful journey through all of life is based on how near we walk to God - and let him guide us in the steps we should take.



Choosing your next step in life this year is important. The good news is that you need not do it on your own. The Bible makes clear that in God, you have a divine 'life coach'. He knows you perfectly - and he has a plan for your life. Most of all this involves a personal relationship with him.



We've all seen toddlers staggering towards danger, ignoring their parents' cries of warning. We've all seen adults making a mess of their lives. They are ignoring their personal divine Shepherd, Guide, Teacher and Helper. A baby learns to walk safely by listening to its parents. We learn what God's will is for us through daily reading of his word, in the Bible, and in obeying what we read. For when God guides us, he does not hand down a divine map of our lives. His guidance is more like that of a torch - light for our daily path. God's final 'step' for you is that you should

know, enjoy and glorify him forever. Throughout our lives, we are to be taking small daily steps towards the Eternal City and he will see that we reach our final goal.

Meanwhile, the Lord wants you to succeed in the earthly goals that he has for you!

Ask God to be your guide and helper as you take your next step.

The Difference

So often
I can't wear the right clothes,
Speak the right words,
Fit the right mould,
Be the shape people want me to be,
Expect me to be,
Demand that I am,
To conform.

But you Lord
Accept me,
Release me,
Make it possible to be me,
Perfectly free
In your service,
Open for you
To transform.
Daphne Kitching



Evening Sun

After a day of cloud and rain
The evening sun comes out again.
Forget the gloomy day that's gone,
And listen to the robin's song!
In the sunshine's golden glow
See the garden's floral show!

And nature, freshened, can rejoice
In sparkling colour, scent, and voice.
If your day is damp and grey
Know the cloud will go away –
The pouring rain will soon be done
And then will come the evening sun!

Nigel Beeton



You wait for us

You wait for us until we are open to You.
We wait for Your word to make us
receptive.
Attune us to Your voice, to Your silence.
Speak and bring Your son to us – Jesus,
the word of Your peace.

Your word is near, O Lord our God,
Your grace is near.
Come to us then, with mildness and
power.

Do not let us be deaf to You, but make us
receptive and open
To Jesus Christ Your Son, who will come
to look for us and save us
Today and every day, for ever and ever.

By Huub Oosterhuis, (b 1933), is a Jesuit priest in Holland whose ministry has mainly been to the student community of Amsterdam. He has played a major role in the renewal of the Dutch liturgy.

*Image above: The Throne of God, 1970
by Sister Gertrude Morgan.*



Friday Club 60th Anniversary

"Such a group could be of great value to the Parish"

an extract of the Vicar's letter by Rev John Byrom in the Parish Magazine, Nov 1961.



A founding member of the Friday Club, Ann Hewitt, reflects on the group's first sixty years...*

To appreciate how Friday Club came into being, you have to look at Cheadle Hulme in the 1950s.

Cheadle Hulme was at that time a rural community with many farms throughout the district. During the 1950s changes were great – farms were sold, animals disappeared

and houses sprang up all over the area. This brought many new people to the area – many young couples with children, others newly married. Three housing estates grew within the parish. On the estates husbands went off to work, as did the wives in some families, but many had young children and stayed at home. Life for them could be quite lonely.

The new residents found that the existing three ladies groups, the Ladies Fellowship, the Working Party and the Mothers Union did not meet their needs. In June 1961 the following notice appeared in the Parish Magazine:

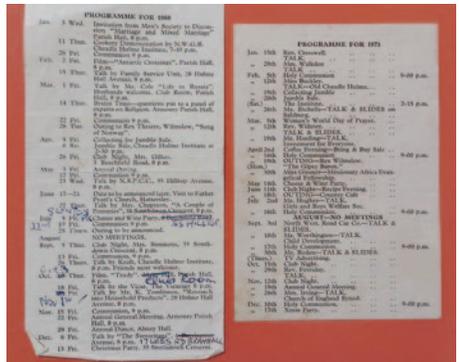
“An attempt will be made to start a Young Wives Group in the autumn. Further announcements will be made in due course.”

Following discussions at a meeting that November the membership was widened to include the unmarried and the new group was to be known as the “All Saints Young Women’s Society”. At its first meeting the Society shed this highly cumbersome name in favour of the Friday Club and adopted three aims with unanimous agreement. They were:

- To promote and foster friendship between members*
- To deepen their understanding of the faith*
- And its application to the problems of contemporary society.*

These remain our aims today.

By February 1962 the programme of meetings was established – at 8.00pm on the first and third Friday evenings and a communion service for members on a Thursday morning once a month. (Continued on page 13)



For many years our Vicar started the year with a talk in January and the Curate, if we had one, spoke to us in September. We had serious talks by ministers of other churches, missionary representatives, speakers from charities, lawyers, estate agents. We enjoyed wide ranging demonstration from health and cookery experts. Jewellery making and making corn dollies with the famous Ray Rush, a farmer from Siddington who came dressed as a country yokel, complete with a mouse in his bag of corn!

We had 'do-it-yourself' evenings to help us with home maintenance. We played charades, 'What's my Line' and 'Give us a Clue'. We enjoyed holiday film shows, speakers spoke on the natural world, music, history and art.

There have been regular features such as recipe evenings (in the days when we all baked!). Cheese and wine nights, beetle drives and meals out. We've been lost on treasure hunts, put on fashion shows, held jumble sales and a huge silent auction to raise money for the new church vestry. Flower festivals, a historical pageant, trips to the theatre, musicals and the youth performance at Hulme Hall College have all played a part in our activities.



In 1982 an event took place which put Friday Club 'on the map'. We were asked to perform at the Harvest Tea and became fairies for the night as we presented 'Nobody loves a fairy when she's 40'. For the next ten years we performed as bathing belles, St Trinian's schoolgirls, Hawaiian dancers, elves in an enchanted garden, recalled D Day, went on our

'Summer Holiday' and my personal choice the Roaring 20s.

Today, some of the activities we enjoyed before can no longer continue because of the members' age and safety and because of transport difficulties and cost. We continue to enjoy speakers on a wide variety of topics as well as the occasional 'do it-yourself' meetings – the latest being a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We have occasional trips and outings twice a year for lunch.

We have moved our meetings from Friday evenings to Friday afternoons. Many members did not wish to venture out at night, especially in the winter. The Covid pandemic closed us for the best part of two years. We lost some of our long serving members during this time, but since re-opening we've welcomed several new ones.

So, Friday Club continues. Our members do their best to support each other through good and difficult times and everyone supports the church activities.

**Parts of this piece have been taken from Ann's talk at the 50th Anniversary service in 2012.*



Whatever you do, at least begin

A much-loved A.A. Milne poem starts out something like this:

*“There once was a sailor my grandfather knew
Who had so many things that he wanted to do
That whenever he thought it was time to begin
He couldn’t because of the state he was in.”*

Know the feeling? Got something to do? Don’t wait until you’re not tired. Everybody is usually tired. And don’t wait until you have more time. People seldom have enough time. Said the Lord to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;” God has things to be done which no one else but you can. So - begin!

William Tyndale’s burning ambition was to translate the Bible into English so that even the ploughboy could read the Scriptures. Betrayed and imprisoned for the work he had begun as a boy, in 1535 he wrote in Latin to the prison governor of Vilvorde Castle for a few essentials to help him with his study. “I beg your lordship, and that by the Lord Jesus, that if I am to remain here through the winter you will request the commissary to have the kindness to send me, from the goods of mine which he has, a warmer cap; for I suffer greatly from cold in the head. I ask to be allowed to have a lamp in the evening; it is indeed wearisome sitting alone in the dark. But most of all I beg and beseech your clemency, that he will kindly permit me to have the Hebrew Bible, Hebrew grammar, and Hebrew dictionary, that I may pass the time in study.” How many of us today, imprisoned in such circumstances, would ask for a Hebrew dictionary?!

Early in October 1536, Tyndale was led out of the castle towards the southern gate of the town. The sun had barely risen above the horizon when he was brought before the authorities and a final appeal was made that he should recant. Tyndale stood immovable. A silence fell over the crowd as they watched the lean form and thin face of the prisoner; his lips moved with a final impassioned prayer: “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.” With that, they chained him to a cross on a pyre and burnt him alive. He began and was still working on what is acknowledged to be the greatest Bible translation of all time whose words have passed irrevocably into our spirits and our own rich language and heritage. It is his story.

The Bible was the only book Jesus ever quoted, and then never as a basis for discussion but to decide the point at issue.

Leon Morris

Anger is a wind which blows out the lamp of the mind.

Anonymous

God in fragments: how worship can unlock memory

The language of traditional Bible readings and prayers, music and visual images can affirm identity and unlock memory in people living with dementia. Memories infused with gratitude are the wonderful consolation of old age. As we grow older we find the prayer of reminiscence becoming increasingly important. We savour events that have shaped us for good and mourn the opportunities we missed. In our memories we meet ourselves: who we were and who we have become. But what happens when our memory has holes in it?

Memory is the matrix of our identity; so when our memory disintegrates the self is lost and sometimes so is our sense of God. We no longer know who others are, who we are or who God is. Coping with friends and relatives who are living with dementia can be exhausting and distressing. People we have known for years suddenly no longer know who they are or who we are.

Helping those living with dementia to pray with their memories and their fragmented sense of God is not easy. How do we pray with those whose minds are jumbled and whose memories play tricks on them? In the words of Psalm 88, how do we accompany them when they are lost in ‘the dark land of forgetfulness’?

Crafting accessible worship for such people is an art-form. For those in the early stages of dementia where a person is midway between remembering and forgetting, but where language still has currency, using traditional prayers and older versions of the Bible is vital because it affirms their identity.

As language fades, using all the senses in worship generates a richer experience and strengthens a person’s faith. Music often has a key part to play in unlocking the gates of memory. Even when ordinary conversation is minimal, traditional hymns and songs that were sung in childhood, perhaps during school assemblies, can trigger memories and the words come flooding back releasing waves of reassurance. Music creates connections. Visual images can be equally important: photographs of friends and family, icons, pictures of Jesus or the saints, flowers, candles, can all help. But so can praying with a simple holding cross in the palm of the hand. The texture and shape of the cross communicates where words alone fail.

Being alongside people with dementia has taught me how precious God’s gift of life is and the vital importance of attending to our inner self lest our hearts go rusty. If we are to live well here and now then we need to keep our inner life true lest we die from the outside in.

Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter and Chair of the Church of England Liturgical Commission





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Jesus loves me this I know

A version of an old favourite for those of us who have white hair, or no hair at all.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in him.

Yes, Jesus loves me... Yes, Jesus loves me...
Yes, Jesus loves me - The Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

Though I am no longer young,
I have much which he's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile.

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart he puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand his love.



STATE REGISTERED PODIATRIST

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ALL SAINTS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. We learn new skills and practise old ones. Tea/coffee, biscuits and good company are always on offer. **Please join us when meetings begin again.**

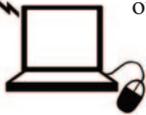
All are welcome. For further details please contact Frances Pickett on 0161 439 8890.



All Saints' Website and Facebook



Keep up to date with news and events on the All Saints' website. Find out about our charity work, community groups and listen to recent sermons.



Please contact Sarah Ball on: comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk with any stories and updates.

Find All Saints' on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsCH/> and "Like" us to get notifications about our news and events.



Church Open

Saturday Coffee Mornings have been postponed for the immediate future.



MEN'S SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the first Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room (unless otherwise stated). After the talk there is a short question and answer session followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Due to the implementation of measures to combat the Coronavirus pandemic all meetings have been cancelled. Further details will be posted when available.

Although this group is attended by men, if you are interested in hearing any of the speakers you will be most welcome to come along.

Chairman: Bradley Torbitt (0161 486 9387)

Secretary: Mike Parry (0161 485 7886)



Showers of blessing

According to British folklore, if it rains on 15th July, then we can expect 40 days of showery and stormy weather. This myth arose after the buried remains of St Swithun was removed from its original site in a church garden and taken into a Saxon cathedral. Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester. During his decade in office, he was known for his devotion and passion to build new churches and to restore old ones. Before he died on 2nd July 863 AD, he didn't want any veneration of his tomb and requested that his body be simply interred in the church grounds. He wanted people to pass by his grave and for it to be touched by the weather.

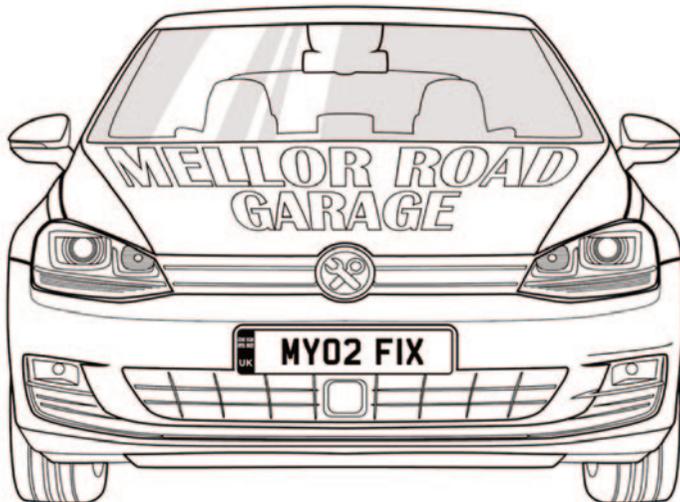
So far so good. But – a century later, it was decided to move Swithun inside, into the refurbished basilica. From that day it rained every day for nearly six weeks – as if this was his displeasure at being moved!

The Bible mentions rain (and water) many times. These include the great flood and Noah's Ark (Genesis 7); Ezra's open-air public assembly in Jerusalem in the pouring rain (Ezra 10:9) and the parable by Jesus about two houses in a rainstorm (Matthew 7:24-27).

Over the centuries, hymn writers have also used water and rain to describe our need for God. They've used such phrases as I need You, like refreshing summer rain and Father, like rain from the skies send Your word into our lives. Some hymns include rain as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit to come and refresh, restore and revitalise us; to cleanse us of our sins or to wash away our sorrows. Here are two verses and the chorus from an old hymn written by Daniel W. Whittle (1840-1901) that reminds us that when overwhelmed with gloom and despair, God can and will pour new hope into our lives:

*There shall be showers of blessing, this is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Saviour above.
There shall be showers of blessing, O that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing, now as on Jesus we call!*

*Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need;
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.*



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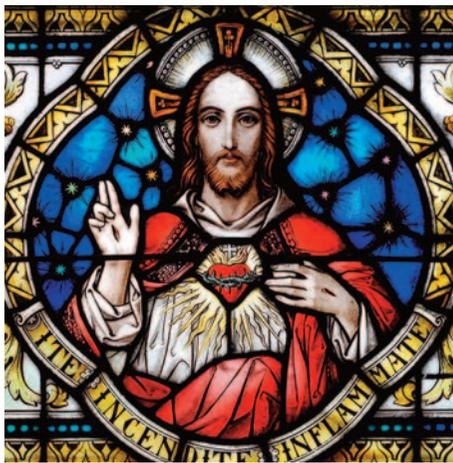
Telephone: 07871 435747

Cathedrals have a mission to show the ‘heart of Jesus’

The Archbishop of York has encouraged cathedrals to continue to ask the ‘hard missional questions’ about how to transmit the gospel in the world of today.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell said cathedrals had a mission to show the ‘heart of Jesus’ in world of “so much hurt and so much confusion and so much uncertainty.”

He said: “Our primary vocation is to be the place that serves and teaches... to show the heart of Jesus to others both from our teaching and preaching and evangelising and through the service that we offer,” he said.



The Archbishop urged cathedrals to see themselves as a ‘work in progress’ when it comes to transmitting the Christian faith. Drawing a parallel with the stonemasons yard tour of York Minster, which allows visitors to see stonemasons at work, he said: “What that tells me very, very clearly is this building is a work in progress – it also tells me something else, hugely important, which is that in order for York Minster to be itself, it has to constantly change.”

Dear Creator God

We thank you for Your wonderful creation. Your Word tells us that in the beginning You worked and then You rested when Your work was done. You didn’t rest because You were tired, but because You saw that Your completed work was good. So, the seventh day became a time of celebration and blessing.

Help us, in these days of non-stop, sometimes intrusive means of communication, to follow Your pattern – to work and then to rest; to be restored and blessed by You. Help us to keep one day, Jesus’ Resurrection Day, special for You. In Jesus’ name. Amen. *Daphne Kitching*





It was bad enough your mobile ringing halfway through his sermon, without the ringtone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!



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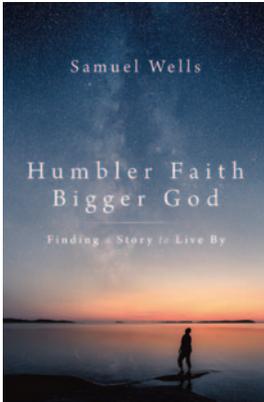
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Good Reads



Humbler Faith, Bigger God – finding a story to live by

By Samuel Wells, Canterbury Press, Norwich, £14.99

Samuel Wells explores the key tenets of Christian belief by engaging with the most widely used arguments against religious faith – that it's a crutch for the deluded, a fairy tale for the simple minded, the cause of so many wars, a drug for the poor, powerless against suffering, one path among many, and so on.

Each chapter sets out traditional expressions of Christian beliefs, engages with the arguments against them and then seeks to express those truths afresh as stories that can inform and shape our lives. A study guide for groups is also included.

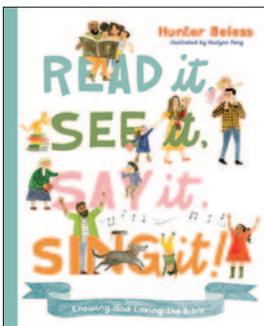
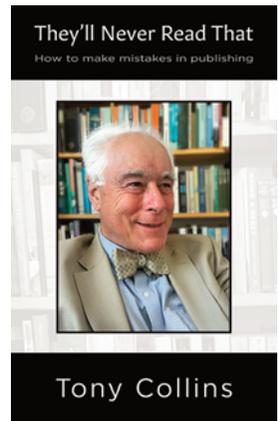
They'll Never Read That:

How to make mistakes in publishing

By Tony Collins, Malcolm Down, £9.99

Tony Collins is one of the most highly respected names in the field of religious publishing. Now looking back on his career, he presents a very entertaining account of “some of the more catastrophic errors I have made during my working life”.

Tony says: “I decided to write it partly to get my apologies in first, and partly to tell stories of some of the fascinating people and more noteworthy ideas I have met in the course of over forty-something years in the books business. The errors are real, but so is the fun.”



Read It, See It, Say It, Sing It – knowing and loving the Bible

By Hunter Beless, 10ofThose, £9.83

In Hunter Beless's delightful, rhyming picture book for children, four families grow in their knowledge and love for the Bible. Young readers will discover that when we read, see, say, and sing the Bible, God speaks to us, and our lives are changed forever.

A parent 'connection', explaining the Scripture memorization method is included in the back of the book.



Christian Stewardship

The Parish practises the principles of Christian Stewardship in its giving for the work of God. If you are interested to learn more about it please contact the Recorder, Kate Hughes (485 1010), the Vicar or the Churchwardens. The giving of time and talents is encouraged, If you wish to help in some capacity in the Church services or organisations, in improving or maintaining the Church fabric or grounds, or in visiting and helping the sick or housebound, please speak to the Clergy or the Churchwardens.



All Saints Cheadle Hulme

PARISH DIRECTORY

Clergy: *The Rev'd Sarah Hancock, All Saints Vicarage, 27 Church Road SK8 7JL (485 3455)
The Rev'd Janet Owens (Retired) (312 4683)

Readers: Mrs Pat Yates (485 4546)
Mr Michael Aiers (439 7692)

Church Wardens: *Mrs Janet Ashman (485 7969)
*Mr John Ackerley (486 1419)

Deputy Wardens: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)
*Ms Sarah Ball (07966 146746)

Organist: Miss Trevlyn Thomas (485 8026)

Sacristan: *Mrs Janet Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Vice Chairman and Treasurer: *Mr Jeremy Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Secretary: *Mrs Linda Ackerley (486 1419)

Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary: *Mrs Kate Hughes (485 1010)

Mainly Music Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer: *Mrs Clare Russell (486 9304)

Church Room Bookings: Mr Neville Ashman (485 7969)

Parish Rooms Bookings: Michelle Statham, Parish Rooms Supervisor (07871 435747)

Email: parishrooms@allsaintsheadlehulme.org.uk

Electoral Roll Officer: Dr David Jones (01625 850997)

Parish Magazine Editor: Mr Rhys Davenport (485 6772) Email: seed.design@mail.com

Website and Social Media: *Ms Sarah Ball Email: comms@allsaintsheadlehulme.org.uk

Parish Magazine Secretary and Treasurer:

Mrs Chris Spencer (485 8282)

Deanery Synod Representatives: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

*Miss Irene Walton (439 6096)

P.C.C. Members are marked* Other members

Mesdames: L. Bacon, M. Epps, C. Jones, L. Karuku, F. Pickett, S. Stone