

'KEEP IN TOUCH', Autumn 2019

Copy by, but preferably before, 10th July, please

Earlier than usual, to allow the Editor family summer holiday time!

All contributions welcome. Maximum preferred length: 500 words!

(If longer, the editor reserves the right to edit!!)

The editor wishes to say a big thank you to all who kindly contribute.

'Keep In Touch'



*Ordinary Time Banner Tile
St James' Church, Birstall*

KEEPING YOU 'IN TOUCH' IS

Name

Address

Tel. No.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM

SUMMER 2019

CHURCH & VILLAGE

BIRSTALL & WANLIP

THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

Rector	Revd Vince Jupp, 251 Birstall Road LE4 4DJ <i>email: vincejupp@btinternet.com</i>	2674517 07840 855030
Hon Asst. Priests	Revd Sheila Skidmore, 15 School Lane Revd Kerry Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road Revd Robin Martin, 22 Sycamore Road Revd Michael Webb, 31 Bramley Road	2673318 3194736 2677942 2671651 07813144645
Churchwardens	Mr Tony Bloxam, 17 Sandgate Avenue Mr John Borrajo, 8 Hallam Avenue Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road Mrs Debbie Shephard, 41 Roman Road	2675381 2209289 2677600 2672630
Licensed Readers	Mr Peter Chester, 12 Oakfield Avenue Mrs Lesley Walton, 16 The Crossways Mrs Tricia Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field	2120236 2674995 3194736
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs Doreen Wilson, 13 Poplar Avenue Mrs Gill Pope, 26 Blenheim Road	2674680 2675086
Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Annette Marshall <i>annette.marshall8@gmail.com</i>	
Sunday School	Mrs Rose Parrott <i>rose.parrott@btinternet.com</i>	07811662235
Church Office	Mrs Sheryl Jupp, Church Office, Church Hill <i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i>	2671797
Treasurer	Mrs Nicki Wills, Church Office, Church Hill <i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i>	2671797
Tower Captain	Mr Clive Mobbs, 30 Wanlip Avenue <i>Practice night—Thursday at 7.30pm</i>	2677156
Wanlip Church Hall Bookings	Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road	2677600
Nearer Group	Peter and Gill Chester <i>pete.chester@ntlworld.com</i>	2120236
Editor of Keep in Touch	Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road <i>rahorton@outlook.com</i>	2677942
Editorial Team	Revd Vince Jupp, Mrs Lesley Walton <i>lp.walton@ntlworld.com</i>	

Grandma Daisy.

With a cup in her hand she sits in her chair,
as we peep through the window to see if she's there.

With a smile on her face she comes to the door,
bids us 'come in.' The welcome is there, just as before.

'I'll just put the kettle on, duck', she declares,
then out come the chocolaty biscuits she shares.

She eagerly chats, she has so much to tell,
from Peggy and Dick to old mother Hill.

In her garden the roses are lovely to view.
She's up by six thirty, weeding hoeing, her feet bathed in dew.
Don't stay too long out there, Grandma, we warn.
Think of your back. Don't worry. We'll do the lawn.

She's done all the things that grandmothers do,
like knitting, talking and listening too.

But our Gran was special right from the start.
So she will forever have a place in our heart.

Barbara Luxton

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Afternoon Teas

at Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop, bi-monthly 2.30-4pm
1st June, 3rd August, 5th October, 7th December 2019.

If you, or someone close to you is experiencing some loss of memory, or are feeling isolated or lonely, then come and join us. 'Down Memory Lane' is very informal. It begins at 2.30 - no worries if you are a bit early or late. You will be welcomed by one of our helpers who will invite you to sit down at one of the tables and, when we think everyone has arrived, we have entertainment which always involves music and singing together. After about 15 minutes tea and home-made cakes are served. After tea, some more entertainment and after more time to chat, it's time to go home at 4 pm. So, if you think you would like to join us, we would love to see you!

To find out more, contact Janet 0116 267 1471.

REGULAR EVENTS AND GROUPS

Weekly

- Thursday 7.30-9.00pm **Bell ringing practice (St James)**
Contact Clive Mobbs 0116 2677156
- Saturday 10-12 noon **St James Church open** + Tea and coffee

Monthly

- 2nd Monday 7.30pm **Monday Group (Village Hall)**
Contact Jane Scott 0116 2673761
- 4th Monday 10.15am **Mothers' Union (St James)**
Contact Helen Tarry 0116 2677493
- 3rd Tuesday 10am -12.30 **Old Nick's Coffee Shop**
Wanlip Church and Community Centre

Bi-monthly

- 1st Sunday 7.45pm **Men's Group (Royal British Legion)**
Contact: The Rector, vincejupp@btinternet.com
- Group agrees dates! **St James' Striders** approx. 8 miles
Contact Gill Pope 0116 2675086

St James' Wanderers temporarily not wandering

Contact Lesley Walton for further information

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

St James, Birstall Sundays

- 8 am Holy Communion (*said*)
 10 am All Together (*1st Sunday*)
 10 am Parish Communion (*other Suns*)
 10 am Sunday School

Weekdays

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,**
Friday 9 am Morning Prayer
Thurs. 9.30 am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip Sundays, 6 pm

- 1st Sunday**
 Holy Communion
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays**
 Prayer Book Evensong
- 5th Sunday**
 Alternative Service of the Word

'ORDINARY TIME'

What's that all about, then?

There's another flurry of creativity within St James' Church at the moment! Banner-making for 'Ordinary Time'. But what, you might ask, is 'ordinary time'? Well, it's the 33 or 34 weeks in the church's year, when no one particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated. But it's neither unimportant or uninteresting. For a start, the liturgical colour is **Green**, a sign of life. And that has to be good!

Some of you may remember that, in Prayer Book days, we named the three Sundays before Lent as Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima. They are now called 'Sundays before Lent', and fall in Ordinary Time. Sundays after Trinity (the second part of Ordinary Time) are still called Sundays after Trinity, and so the words from John Meade Falkner's poem *After Trinity* remain relevant. (And, yes, we've 'lost' Whitsun too! It's now Pentecost.)

*We have done with dogma and divinity,
 Easter and Whitsun past,
 The long, long Sundays after Trinity
 Are with us at last;
 The passionless Sundays after Trinity,
 Neither feast-day nor fast.*

With a bit of luck, though, those 'passionless' Sundays in Ordinary Time may well include some Saints Days, which, lifting our eyes to heaven, also lift those Sundays from out of the ordinary! Lifting our hearts too. As, we hope, will the pictures on our new banners. All power to the makers' fingers! We look forward to witnessing their creativity. (There's a foretaste on this magazine's cover page.)

Then, after the All Saints and All Souls (**White/Gold**), we move through the four Sundays before Advent, which is 'Kingdom Time.' Their liturgical colour is **Red**, which is definitely not *passionless*!

Canon Anne

The views and opinions of the authors who have submitted articles to 'Keep in Touch' belong to them alone and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the wider church.

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

Finding the real you!



As we review the year, we might ask where were the highs, the lows, the challenges, and ... where was the joy? The latter: stationed all around the church of St James from Easter through to Pentecost. Stations of joy, stations of creativity, stations of individual artistic expressions, all culminating in a corporate expression of God's love for us all. I hope you have visited, looked and pondered, and have let the images inform your prayers.

Prayer - both individual and corporate - is a cornerstone of our Christian life. This way of life comes through loud and clear in the art presented by our members as 'stations of joy'. They are stations of celebration, of vision and love, and they're all a joy to behold. We might be busy doing lots of things to meet demands, but can we also let God breathe into our activity that we might see His hand in it?

One way of connecting with Christ, deepening our relationship with Him and enthusing all to love and serve others, is through observing. Really observing: stopping, noticing, being present with others and objects without letting the noise of the outside world or even the noise within, encroach. In ancient China an artist used to spend weeks, months and even years looking at the view they might paint before they ever began to act. In their observing for so long, they reduced the distance between the image they had of themselves and the image they beheld of the object. If the object was a tree or a landscape, they became one with the tree or the landscape before they committed it to paper, canvas or wood. In doing so they meditated on themselves, on the images they created of themselves and the images/interpretations of that which they beheld, and so were able to close the gap in order to capture the piece well.

The joy of our stations might then be not just in their creation but also in their ability to close the gap between Christ and all of us as we ponder upon them.

PEARLY GATE PERSISTENCE?

Peter is very busy in Heaven, so he leaves a sign by the pearly gates: 'For Service Ring Bell.'

Away he goes but barely gets started when BING! The bell rings. He rushes back to the gates, but no one's there. Peter goes back to work when suddenly BING! The bell rings again. He rushes back to the gates, but no one's there.

A little annoyed, Peter goes back to work. Suddenly, BING! The bell rings again.

Peter goes back; again, no one's there.

'Okay, that's it' Peter says. 'I'm going to hide and watch to see what's going on.' So Peter hides, and a moment later, a little old man walks up and rings the bell.

Peter jumps out and yells, 'Aha! Are you the guy who keeps ringing the bell?' 'Yes, that's me' the little old man says.

'Well, why do you keep ringing the bell and going away?' Peter asks. 'I can't help it — they keep resuscitating me!' he replies.

from Grove Jokes and Quotes

FROM THE REGISTERS

March - May 2019

Baptism		
3/3	Daisy Stretton	St James
Confirmation		
20/4	Elaine Stevenson	The Cathedral
Marriage		
17/5	Richard Grew and Vera Brewin	St James
Funerals		
1/4	Daphne Darlison	Wanlip
15/4	Nancy Craig	L'boro Crem.
2/5	Clifford Dolby	Gilroes Crem.
23/5	Harry Castleman	St James
31/5	Marion Tegg	St James

A SERMON WITHOUT WORDS

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire.

Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

from Grove Jokes and Quotes

I hope as you looked at the images, you were able to see more than a picture or a string of words, but, reflected in them, yourselves and your relationship with Christ.

Summer, with its holidays and walks and relaxation opportunities, provides us with time and space to observe our lives, to observe our very selves. I wonder, what are the images you have of yourself, your persona, your masks, your labels, your ideals, and how might you remove them in order to close the gap and deepen your relationship with Christ? What might you see when you ponder afresh in the summer sun?

Easter leaves us once again with hope and joyful promises of new life. Is this new life just about heavenly promises of the future or is it about the freedom and joy to be found in being absolutely, authentically ourselves each day? When we look at art, we see the creator, not just their brush strokes, but their minds, freely and vulnerably laid out on canvas. Each has, in the moment of creation, opened a window into their souls for others to see; the masks removed, the barriers knocked down, and gaps reduced.

We don't all have to be artists to achieve this, we just need to observe and realise that we create all sorts of images that separate us from God and others, and, in observing this, we can discover our true selves in Christ and so be truly free, to be. Make time to observe this Summer. Take time to notice, to look within and be abundantly you. Observe Christ's teaching, and love like an ancient Chinese artist, patiently and carefully, without getting lost in your images of yourselves. And, in so doing, reduce the gap, because in Christ is found true joy.

What is this life if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

W.H.Davies

This Summer I pray that you can make time for prayer, to stand and stare, and to find the real you in the process.

Blessings, *Vince*

OUR 'STATION OF JOY'

JESUS APPEARS AT THE LAKESIDE

News from the Young People in Church

Since Christmas we have continued to think about Jesus' time with us on earth. We added the events of Holy Week to our time line and produced our own personal booklet reflecting on these events.

During February half term week we spent a day at Leicester Cathedral. On arrival we had a guided tour led by Andy Heafford and after lunch in the café we attended the midday service. This was very special because reserved seats had been placed for us round the main altar. The Eucharist was celebrated by Canon Paul Rattigan and he explained to us the meanings of the different names used for this service. We are now looking forward to welcoming Gemma Starkings, news and story writer for **Shaped**, the diocesan monthly magazine, coming to worship with us at St James' soon, and seeing an account of our visit in the magazine.



Whilst we were at the Cathedral we took the opportunity to look at the window portraying the Bible passage that we were working on for our Station of Joy at St James' Church.

*Jesus on the Seashore
Leicester Cathedral window*

Undeterred the drivers would leave their cars in the middle of the road while they nipped to buy a beer or just chat with a friend, oblivious to any inconvenience they might be causing. It was just the custom.

We once observed two men coming from the local bar. Sublimely drunk, both climbed into their van via the passenger door after a failed attempt the other side. And drove away without lights.

The post office was a marvel. Very hi-tech for the era, with fax machines and computers. The post master was very low tech. He was a squat, moustachioed man with a face like a very depressed cocker spaniel, a cigarette expertly balanced at the corner of his mouth, whose first language was grunt speak. We used the post office every year for stamps and post cards, and the tenth or eleventh year he smiled at me. Entente cordial is alive and well!

One night, after we had travelled along the coast road to another village to a recommended restaurant, we returned to our room and discovered a bright green frog sitting on the bed. Should I kiss it two or three times?



At the time there had been a violent thunderstorm, and we found our room under a foot of water and the suitcase floating around. Happy memories.

We have met so many interesting people, had many funny escapades, seen such breath-taking sunsets, and learnt new things on our travels.



Charlotte Stephenson

At this point I must introduce you to Jacques, who owned a restaurant and bar on one of the beaches. For a few francs – no Euro yet – you could hire a sunbed and parasol and live in blissful idleness all day, knowing that lunch and drinks were only a few faltering footsteps away.

The first time we tried Jacques' place it was left to me to do the speaking. I had carefully rehearsed my French, aided by a French dictionary. I felt confident. 'Good morning, Monsieur, I would like to hire two sunbeds and a parasol for the day, please'. Stunned silence, a dead pan face from Jacques, and the reply 'I am sorry, Madame, we don't hire sailors, only sunbeds.' A faux pas. I had mispronounced the French word for sunbed by one vowel and changed the meaning entirely. We became friends, and each year when we visited, Jacques would always ask 'How many sailors would Madame Stephenson require today?'

Jacques was a character, an ageing hippie nearing 80. Our friendship progressed from shaking hands to kissing three times on the cheek. He had a repartee with the clientele. And we would see a few old familiar faces each year on the beach, wave and nod to each other in recognition, thankful that we had survived another year but noticing how we were ageing! One year we went, expecting to see Jacques as usual, but sadly he had died, and his business had been passed on to his two nieces. They were making changes, being young, and attracting a more youthful clientele. It wasn't for us anymore, but I hope that the girls were successful.

Back in the village there were several restaurants serving excellent food. I learnt to order my meat 'medium'. 'Rare' in France does not mean the same as in England. I discovered this when I ordered lamb 'rare', and when I went to eat it, I am sure it bleated. There was a small café on a narrow street with a steep gradient. They served good coffee, and on balmy evenings, we would often sit at one of the three outdoor tables for a coffee and pastis. We bought some bluetack to stick under our saucers to prevent them from sliding off the table. From our vantage point we would sit and watch battered old Citroens trying to park in gaps obviously too small.

To prepare for making our Station of Joy: *Jesus appears at the Lakeside*, we read the bible passage which tells the story (*John 20: 24-29*). We talked about how surprised and happy the disciples must have felt. Imagining the scene, we each drew and painted different figures: Jesus, the disciples, their boat and overflowing net, and some of the 153 fish they caught that day. We put all our pictures and items together to form our station. It is now on the wall of St James' Church, alongside all the *Stations of Joy* which have been created by other members of the church. Now we will look at some of their *Stations of Joy* to learn about Ascension and Pentecost.



During the Easter holidays some of us went to Wanlip Church. After a short service, John Ward showed us some of the interesting aspects of this old church. Chris modelled the special Wanlip cope, and we looked at the slave's tomb in the churchyard. Father Michael then explained the significance of the colours of his stoles and how they relate to different times in the church year. Our next task is to design a panel to go into the St James' Banner for Ordinary Time. Finally thanks to everyone who supported our cake sale at the March *All Together Service* to raise money for church funds. We are planning another cake sale for the June *All Together Service*.

Janet Waters

ALL ABOARD

WITH CAPT. BLOXAM AND HIS ALL AGE CREW



St James' Young People became fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, casting their nets, but finding no fish. Until they met a stranger on the shore, who told them to try again. They were cold, miserable, had lost their best friend (Jesus) and had gone back to their occupations. So what did this stranger know, that they didn't? Tony Bloxam led the May *Altogether Service*, creating a make-shift boat out of the altar rails. The nets were empty, but wait, there were plenty of fish around the Church, a net full in their boat, and some surprise Fish Fingers too. The Young People narrated the story from St. John's Gospel, telling us that the stranger is Jesus who made his disciples 'fishers of men' and followers, like us. Yes, Jesus appeared to them, after they thought He had died....but He lives! Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!



*Sunday School
Parent Photographer:*
Tammy Kinch

*Photos reproduced with
parental permission*

Rose Parrott

FRENCH CONNECTION

HAPPY MEMORIES

I was having a sort out over the Easter bank holiday, full of good intentions to throw out 'stuff' that one day might be useful, but hadn't been during the last forty years, so I meant to be ruthless. I came across a folder containing paperwork, maps, booking confirmations etc. relating to our holidays in France, and, of course, I became engrossed in all the information which brought back so many memories.

It is over 25 years since we last visited France, once a favourite holiday destination. Each year we would take the ferry from Dover (later Le Shuttle), and dawdle our way down to the South, taking in the culture, cuisine, history and art of the different regions on the way down.

I came to love the French, especially when they were being rude. They did it so stylishly! I like the way they seemed to ignore traffic regulations, looking upon them as merely suggestions. When weather conditions deteriorated, it was a signal to shrug the shoulders, light a gauloise and step on the gas. I admired the way that a small apricot tart from the patisserie would take six minutes to be lovingly wrapped, put in a pretty box, tied with ribbon and handed over as if it was glass.

We always spent the last week of our holidays at the same location – a chance to unwind and relax in a small hill village in Provence, six miles from the coast by road, two as the crow flies. We always stayed at the same hotel, which offered stupendous views over the countryside to the sea. The same staff were always there to greet us, with much ceremony, though never on 'kissing terms' in the French way of things.

We discovered that the further south we travelled, the less English was spoken, especially in the more remote places, but we got by – just – with school French.

SHARE A PRAYER - OR FOUR

Some prayers are special for us. We write them down and we use them regularly, sometimes over many years. They might have been shared with us by Christian friends, or we may have found them ourselves. Whichever, it is also good to 'pass these blessings on' to others. The following four 'special' prayers are being passed on to you today by **Cynthia Coltman**, whose prayer is that you too will be blessed in using them. The first two prayers were given to Cynthia by Lesley Walton, who also suggested bible verses: Proverbs 3:5 and Jeremiah 29:11-13.

A Prayer of St Augustine

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Jesus Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, shield your joyous ones. And all for your love's sake.

A Prayer of St Anselm

We bring before you, O Lord, the troubles and perils of people and nations, the sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the despondency of the weary, the failing powers of the aged.
O Lord, draw near to each; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Two prayers that members of St James' Church were encouraged to use, a long time ago.

Risen Lord Jesus, you send out your disciples two by two to preach the gospel. Bless our desire to bring your message to our parish. Hasten the coming of your Kingdom in this place.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of the Church, enable your people to be the Church, a redeemed people, a holy people, a united people, a missionary people, and in all things a people gladly obedient to the truth that is found in Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Cynthia Coltman,

WHAT NEXT?

God, Me and Art

Were you impressed by the Stations of Joy? Did they make you think? *May be I could do something like that.* Or the very opposite? *I could never do that.*

Well, I acted as secretary to the group who produced the Stations, and I could never have done what they did. My art is awful. I painted a picture of a horse when I was at school and everybody thought it was a camel! So what can I and others like me do?

I joined *God, Me and Art* thinking: Why am I doing this? But I soon discovered that I could do something. I write short drama sketches and dialogues. Others write poetry or do tapestry or collage or something else. We see art in the widest sense of the word.

Nobody has yet composed any music. And there must be other things that we haven't covered.

We meet every two months and have a theme which is interpreted in a whole variety of ways.

The next themes and meeting dates are:

12th June: Earth, Air, Fire and Water

14th August: Better Not!

9th October: Conflict

5th December: Coming Lord

Meetings start at 2.00 pm in the Church Office.

We each present our contribution. It is not a competition!

We never criticise what is presented. We try and see what God is saying to each of us through what is in front of us.

If it sounds terrifying, it's not. Do join us. We'd love to see you.

Kerry Emmett.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

Since I wrote my last article for 'Keep in Touch', for the Spring 2019 edition, we have lost a founding member of Churches Together in Birstall and Wanlip, and a very, very dear friend, Bert Tegg.

Bert was ill for a few months before passing away in the early hours of the 26th January. He is very sorely missed. His loving generosity, depth of knowledge and experience have, over the years, served our churches and spiritual life extremely well. He reached out not only to fellow Christians in our three churches but to everyone he encountered in his daily life.

To add to our sadness at the loss of Bert, his lovely wife Marion then passed away on the 1st May. Marion's impact on our Christian life was just as great as Bert's, and we are all reeling from losing these two wonderful people so suddenly and so close together. There will be more about Bert and Marion in 'Keep in Touch' later on.

It has been a time of change in many ways for CTiBW. Pete and Eileen Molesdale moved away from the village at the beginning of the year. Pete's tireless support and organizational talents are badly missed although he will be helping to organize a service for Christian Aid later in the year. More news on that as soon as I have it.

Our three churches continue to work closely together and we were able to enjoy our Frugal Lunches again this year to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We raised £266.31 for Christian Aid. I have to say 'frugal' doesn't quite describe the delicious bowls of soup we were served!

Whilst each church ran its own Lent Course this year, the other churches were made very welcome and encouraged to join in, as and when they could. Then Lent, obviously, led us up to Holy Week and the glorious celebration of the resurrection - Easter.

TALKING WITH GOD

If you were brought up to 'say' your prayers, you talking TO God, you may have learned to use 'begging-letter' or 'bread and butter' prayers: 'God bless Mummy, God bless Daddy' followed by sisters and brothers, aunts, uncles and cousins; the family pets, and lastly, 'God bless me'.



Going to church, traditionally we have 'intercessions'. We pray for the church, here and worldwide; our nation, trouble-spots around the world and governments; our community of Birstall and Wanlip, friends, neighbours and family. (And did you know that, every Sunday, we pray for people, businesses and activities in Birstall?) Our intercessions also include the sick in body, mind and spirit, the dying, and those who have recently died, and their families. As well as those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time. So, even in church, we can still be stuck in our childhood understanding of 'begging letter' prayers.

At one ecumenical Lent course, shared by Roman Catholics, Methodists and Anglicans, there was a session on prayer. While Anglicans and Catholics were saying how hard it was to find the right words, an exasperated 90 year old Methodist said *'Oh, you Anglicans, you make such a meal of it. Why don't you just talk to God – what you're feeling, what you've been doing, and just see what comes to mind. If you LISTEN, God will put God's answer in your mind.'*

So we try just to talk to God and BE with God. No need to speak! God knows how we feel, what we will say, even before we speak.

Just sit for a few minutes of the day, and feel the presence of God, loving you. You don't even need to come to church. But it does help!

Noreen Talbot

Firstly because Maundy Thursday falls within the solemn season of Lent, which is a time of prayer and penance, a season during which the Church doesn't have feasts of celebration. Also Maundy Thursday is a time when we also remember Christ's washing of the disciples feet, his agony in Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal and the disciples' desertion. Added to these, the Church also remembers the institution of the priesthood, traditionally at the Maundy Thursday Mass in the Cathedral, when bishops, priests and deacons renew their ordination vows. So it was felt that there should be a celebration of the institution of Holy Communion at a time when it can be celebrated on its own. The Thursday after Trinity Sunday was the first date after Easter that this could be done.

The difference between the two titles is one of interpretation of the doctrine of the 'Real Presence'. The Anglican Church teaches that the Sacrament of Holy Communion contains the Real Presence of Christ. If you come from the Catholic end of the Anglican spectrum, you will interpret this to mean that, in some way, Christ is physically present within the bread and wine. If you come from the Evangelical or Protestant end, then you will interpret it to mean that there is a spiritual presence within these symbols.

The way I understand it is that Christ is in some way incarnate or embodied within the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Just as we cannot scientifically prove or disprove God's incarnation in Jesus, which has to be a matter of faith, we cannot scientifically prove or disprove Christ's incarnation in the Sacrament. It too is a matter of faith. Which is why the Church defines it as a Mystery.

Post Communion Prayer

All praise to you, our God and Father, for you have fed us with the bread of heaven and quenched our thirst from the true vine: hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ, we may grow together in unity, and feast with him in his kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Michael Webb

Holy Week and Easter is a very special time of year for all our churches and we each celebrate in similar but slightly different ways. Divided by some of our customs and practices, we are united in our faith and belief.

Once again we were all encouraged to join with each other as we could, and a cohort of Anglicans joined the Catholics at St. Theresa's Church for their Passover Supper. And what a wonderful and moving evening it was.



The Good Friday Walk of Witness is also a wonderful event for CTiBW. It was well supported again this year with about 60 people on the Walk, and meeting up with others at St. Theresa's Church for Hot Cross Buns and fellowship.

But Easter doesn't end with Easter Day. After the forty days of Eastertide we celebrate **Christ's Ascension**, which this year falls on 30th May.

On June 9th, we shall celebrate the **Glory of Pentecost**. The Rector has encouraged Anglican worshippers to wear flame coloured clothes at their church services!



But between those special days we are encouraged to participate in the global wave of prayer which is *Thy Kingdom Come 2019*. Between Ascension Day and Pentecost we shall meet every evening in St James' Church at 6 pm for an hour of prayer, reflection and discussion. We will be using resources from *Thy Kingdom Come*, but also focussing on some of the *Stations of Joy* as we reflect and pray together.

I hope to see you there.

Debbie Shephard

PENTECOST

THE DAY WHEN THE SPIRIT CAME

Think about it! And not just on 9th June!

Imagine ... in these times ...

When the day of Pentecost came
those who attended worship that day
had all come to church and shut the outer doors.

Suddenly there was an almighty racket
and a draught blew its way through the building
where the worshippers were sitting in their pews.
And what seemed like individual flames
came to rest on each of the assembled people
filling them with the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in tongues was the least of their worries,
for the Spirit filled them with such a powerful message
that they were compelled to leave their seats and go out into the
highways and byways.

Now there were many people living nearby
who had never before shown any interest in the life of the church
nor had they ever been invited inside,
other than for occasional baptisms, weddings, funerals and jumble
sales.

But at the sound of the commotion
no-one batted an eyelid
and the world outside carried on pretty much as before.

Other, that is, than those who had been filled with the Spirit,
for they had been guilty of dreams and visions
and knew that the world would never be the same again.



CORPUS CHRISTI

Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion

Church of England Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries
of your body and blood
that we may know within ourselves
and show forth in our lives
the fruits of your redemption;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

I wonder what you will be celebrating on **June 20th**, *Corpus Christi*
or the *Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion*? You may be
asking: what's the difference? Or 'why celebrate it on the Thursday
after Trinity Sunday?' Surely we celebrate it on Maundy Thursday?

Let's start with the second question.

In the 13th century St. Juliana of Liège, a Norbertine Canoness,
received visions of Christ in which she was told to plead for a
celebration of *Corpus Christi*, the Body of Christ. Juliana convinced the
Archdeacon of Liège, Jacques Pantaléon of Troyes, who was elected
Pope in 1264. As Pope Urban IV, he issued a papal bull instituting the
Solemnity of *Corpus Christi* on the Thursday after Pentecost for the
whole Latin Church. By declaring *Corpus Christi* a solemnity, it makes
it a feast of the highest order, one that all members of the Church
should attend. Thomas Aquinas helped Urban IV write the bull.
Corpus Christi became a universal feast in 1317 when Pope John XXII
promulgated a collection of laws by Clement V known as the
Clementines which included Urban IV's bull.

You might wonder: why the need for two feasts?

FOOD FIT FOR SAINTS

During May, June and July we are certainly spoilt for choice when looking for a recipe suitable for celebrating festivals; indeed there are nearly as many Saints days as there will be hot dinners. I must admit that there are saints being celebrated that I've never heard of! There are, however, two saints days that stand out - **June 9th is the Feast Day of St Columba** and **July 25th is the Feast Day of St James the Apostle**. Both of these illustrious saints have foods associated with their feast days. St Columba's Day is associated with bannocks and St James' day is associated with Coquilles Saint-Jacques (Scallops, or Cockles, in their shells). Having a sea food allergy we'll forget the Scallops and concentrate on the Bannocks. This is the point, knowing my own limitations, at which I must hand over to the expert and let Julie explain the recipe for **BANNOCKS**.

This is another recipe taken from James and Tom Morton's *Shetland: Cooking on the Edge of the World*.

INGREDIENTS

550 g self raising flour	1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
Half tsp salt	25g caster sugar
50g butter	280ml butter milk
150ml natural yogurt	150ml whole milk

Preheat oven 180°C, Gas 4. Line baking tray with baking parchment, sprinkle with flour. Into a large bowl place flour, bicarbonate, salt and sugar: mix together. Rub in the butter, to make a bread crumb mixture. Add all the liquid, mix. You want the final mix to be lumpy and able to hold a little bit of shape, but you'll still need flour to handle it. Heavily flour a work surface and scrape all the mixture out on top. Add more flour, pat down your 'splodge' with your hands, to roughly 3/4" thick. Cut out the bannocks (any shape you like); place on a prepared tray and bake for 12-15 minutes, or until light golden all over. Leave to at least cool before scoffing, although a warm bannock served with melting butter is a sure way to make friends. Good served with jam or cheese and a good malt whisky. I made half the quantity which kept in a tin for a few days. Enjoy!

John and Julie Ward

Celebrate it!

U p the street we came, pilgrims from far and wide,
N ot understanding each other, each with our own language.
D ay of Pentecost, harvest to celebrate,
E ach with our own worship to offer to God.
R ushing wind, flames of fire,
S tartled people on the street.
T hen words of God all could hear
A ll spoken in languages each could understand.
N ow I know, now I believe.
D ay of Pentecost, God's great gift. Let's all celebrate **TOGETHER**.

Pray about it!

Gracious God, equip me with
Power,
Energy,
Newness,
Trust,
Eagerness,
Confidence,
Opportunity,
Strength, and
Truth

That I may serve you in your world today. **Amen**



Resources shared, with permission, from the 'Roots on the Web' website

Collect for Whitsunday, from the Book of Common Prayer
God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**.

'STRANGELY WARMED'

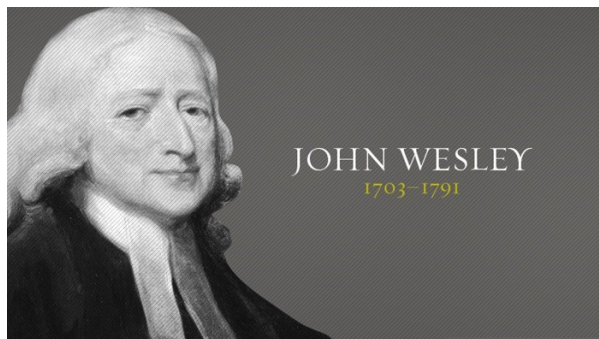
METHODISM AND ME

Spirituality is currently in vogue. Hospitals are recognising it as an important part of wellness. Of course spirituality means different things to different people and in many and various circumstances. During my studies towards my certificate in Children's Mission and Ministry course I did a project on what Methodist Spirituality would and could look like. As a Methodist I am reminded of this in the 'Our Calling' document that states that as Methodist members we are called to 'worship', 'learning and caring', 'service' and 'evangelism,' all of which I think are key parts of a healthy spirituality.

We celebrate Aldersgate Day (or John and Charles Wesley Day) on May 24th each year. That is when we celebrate the moment in 1738 when John Wesley described feeling his heart strangely warmed when he knew he trusted Christ for his salvation.

He wrote in his journal:

In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death.



John and Charles Wesley were very spiritual people and placed a great importance on Bible reading and prayer. Their mother Susanna Wesley was known to spend an hour a day studying the Bible and had an apron which she placed over her head when she wished to be left alone to pray. John Wesley also saw praying and studying the Bible together as important, and Methodists would meet together in class meetings to pray and to study the Bible, as well as being held accountable for their spiritual journey.

I too see this as an important part of Methodist Spirituality today. The emphasis on teaching from the Bible is still there and I still see it as an important discipline to attend a home group where we can grow together.

Studying the Bible and prayer is of course incredibly important today. That takes many forms. I am amazed by the breadth of prayer activity that I see taking place across the church, from silent Julian prayer meetings to exuberant 24/7 prayer gatherings that attract a lot of people. I have found it immensely helpful to attend retreats and quiet days and also to attend larger events that promote in-depth Bible studies as part of their programmes, in order to remind me the importance of these disciplines. The early Methodists were called Methodists for being methodical about their faith. This is something I try to emulate though know I often fail at doing so!

The Wesley brothers were known for being great evangelists. And being able to share our faith is an important part of spirituality today. Often that is through individual contact with others or through showing God's love in practical ways to people. However, an important part of that spirituality is to have a passion for our faith and a desire for others to know the love of God that we have found revealed in Christ.

James Blackhall

*Methodist Lay Worker: Messy Church, Schools' and Community Worker;
Trinity Methodist Circuit Liaison Worker: Bishop St. Methodist Church, Leicester*