

PARISH NEWS

St Cuthberts, Wells and St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole

July 2014

St Mary
Magdalene,
Wookey Hole

(By courtesy of Chris Lee)



Au Revoir

by **Alistair Glanville**

By the time you read this we will have said Goodbye to Elizabeth at her final service as she finishes her contract with us. During her time with us she has been a breath of fresh air, with new ideas and a different way of looking at things. Her particular skills are in visiting our older parishioners and encouraging young people both in the schools and in the preparation she has done for marriage and baptism. When I go round on my visits I am always told how much people enjoy her visits and how interested she is in the people she visits. A great skill for a parish priest.

The sight of her riding her bicycle at great speed around the parish without a helmet sometimes has filled me with dread but she has been a very public representative of St Cuthbert's. Sharing services with her has never been boring and her dancing skills which were on show at the last All Age service were amazing!

We will all miss Elizabeth but I doubt if we will ever forget her either and I wish her well in whatever God calls her to do.

There will be new challenges for us all in the next few months and I hope that we will all rise to them and that our church will continue to prosper.

Alistair G

Sunday 6th July

We are all invited to
Join with the congregation of

St Thomas's Wells at 10am

to celebrate their Patronal Festival

*There will NOT be a 10am service at
St Cuthbert's that morning, although*

*there will be the usual 8am Communion there,
and 11am Holy Communion at Wookey Hole.*

St Cuthbert's Gift Day

10am – 12 noon on Saturday 19th July

The two Wardens of St Cuthbert's will be seated outside the church (weather permitting!) on Saturday 19th July to receive donations towards the upkeep and maintenance of our historic parish church.

There will be music of different styles inside and out to keep them company!

A resource for the whole parish of Wells and a wonderful mediaeval building, largest parish church in Somerset, we welcome donations great or small. These help to maintain the centuries old fabric of our church to keep it in good condition for the benefit of everyone – resident and tourist alike.

This year we are featuring the work that needs to be done to the diamond shaped blue sun dial clock on the South East corner which is showing signs of wear. Money will go to repair and repaint that along with many less prominent things that need constant ongoing maintenance and repair.

Vera and Graham (and Alastair) will be delighted to receive any donations – and, as always, they can be Gift Aided to claim tax back from the Government!

St Cuthbert's Ladies Group

So, will we have a pleasant summer day for our outing on Tuesday 15th July to Buckfast Abbey and Dartmouth? We certainly hope so as it is so much more enjoyable when dry. 8.45am prompt departure from the Bus Station.

Plans are currently being made for our August meeting on Tuesday 20th which will be our main fund-raiser for the year. Details will be in next month's magazine. Thanks to members who sent me best wishes following my hip replacement, and for the flowers on behalf of the group; all very much appreciated.

Bid

Bishop's Message – July 2014

As I write this, the church is coming to the end of the Easter season. The readings that have been part of our worship during these weeks have reminded us of the extraordinary impact that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had on individuals and communities. The feast of Pentecost that follows is God's prompt that we now have to live lives that do the same. As one author puts it, 'Jesus has to go as from the grave he had to rise. In order to be everywhere, he must depart to live, not in one place, but in every human heart.'

I was reflecting on this as I watched the vigil from Lichfield Cathedral in thanksgiving for Stephen Sutton, the young man diagnosed with cancer at such a young age, and yet in his short life, he had made a huge impact on so many people.

A week or so later, Maya Angelou, the African American author, poet and civil rights activist also died. She was one of the most renowned and influential voices of our time and her poem, 'When I say I'm a Christian', is worth our attention in this season of Pentecost as we seek to live more Christlike lives:

'When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not shouting, "I'm clean living", I'm whispering, "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."

'When I say I'm a Christian', I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.'

'When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.'

'When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.'

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not bragging of success, I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.'

'When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow.'

+Peter Taunton

HYMN: The story behind 'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly playing through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

(continued)

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects his people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago he led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, he led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have his very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

Bishops

"People get nervous when they think they have to call me 'my Lord', said an Irish bishop. "Especially the poor nuns. One was giving me a cup of coffee. As she pushed the sugar bowl towards me she said, 'How many lords, my lump?"

Several years ago the then Bishop of London reported to the General Synod that before attending a church function he had said he would bring his pastoral staff. "And how many seats will you want?" came the reply.

Letter From St Mary Magdalene Church, Wookey Hole.

David Scarth has now taken over from Lucy as churchwarden. We were officially sworn in at the oddly named "Archdeacon's Visitation" in the lovely church of Norton sub Hamdon, although as we made our way through nether Somerset it seemed as though we were doing the visiting! As we made our way David was very pleased to see trees he had previously planted in the village now flourishing in their Spring foliage.

On June 2nd our church was packed to overflowing for the funeral of Bill Angel, born and raised in the village; and again on June 7th the extra chairs were again out for the lovely wedding of Ellie Cohen and Kane Truckle in beautiful sunshine. It is good to see the church as the focal point for such important occasions for families and their friends.

Sadly in June we say farewell to our curate, Elizabeth Sidwell. Her final service here on June 22nd will be followed by refreshments as we celebrate her time among us and thank her for her contribution to both parishes. We have always enjoyed her visits to St Mary Magdalene, and we will very much miss her (Juliet will also miss her violin!).

July is a busy month in Wookey Hole. Saturday, July 19th is our Gift Day when the church will, as usual, be open all day to receive gifts and money to maintain its buildings and its work. We are always amazed and delighted at the generosity of villagers. Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. The following day, Sunday 20th has a morning



Communion and at 6.30 a service of Evensong when we will be joined by other Christians from Wells. Do come and join us. **The Fete** is on Saturday, July 26th with all the usual attractions of music, stalls, teas, and children's activities- a truly village occasion! We hope to see you there!

Elizabeth Talbott

Wookey Hole Ladies Club

The last meeting before the Summer break took place on Tuesday 6th June. Our speaker was Howard Burnett and his topic was the growing and care of Orchids. He developed a love for these plants when he moved to Somerset to take up the post of Trading Standards Officer. Howard joined the Somerset Orchid Society and eventually trained as a judge.

Orchids are the largest flowering plants in the world, there are 25-30,000 naturally occurring Orchids in the world and they are still being discovered. There are up to 35 varieties in the United Kingdom. They will grow anywhere except in cold climates.

A lot of them are very easy to look after and some have a lovely scent. We were shown slides which demonstrated the sheer beauty of these plants. Howard gave us a lot of tips on how to look after them and the best places to site them in the home.



There was a lively question and answer session after which Sue proposed a vote of thanks to our speaker.

Ladies Club will enjoy their annual outing to Bicton Park Gardens, Nr. Sidmouth, Devon on 5th July leaving Wookey Hole Caves at 9.30am returning at approximately 6 pm.

There is still room on the coach and anyone wishing to come along will be most welcome; telephone Diana Ford on 01749 675635 for cost and further details.

The next meeting will be on September 2nd at the Wookey Hole Village Hall when Edith will be giving a demonstration of making a flower arrangement for the table, everyone will have an opportunity to make their own arrangement. The time for future meetings is now at 2.30 pm.

New members are very welcome - for further information ring Margaret Plaster on 675415.

Lyn Astle

Wookey Hole WI, June meeting 2014

At our June meeting, President Sue Harding welcomed members and took apologies, then introduced the speaker, Mr Mike Littleton, who is now Community Relations Officer at Bristol Airport, having spent most of his working life in various posts at the airport, including air traffic control.

We were fascinated by his illustrated account of the history of the airport from its start at Whitchurch when the Bristol and Wessex Flying Club, established just after WWI, moved there from Filton. We looked back at the days of luxury flying in the 1930s, when the very rich flew by Imperial Airways in biplanes that held a maximum of 36 passengers. A picture of the airport restaurant with its waitresses in parlourmaid dress showed the contrast with the casual coffee shops of the modern airport. The airport continued to operate through WWII, flying VIPs, including Winston Churchill, in safety and security. Meanwhile, the RAF was developing an airstrip at Lulsgate, which had an unexpected visitor even as it was being constructed, as a Luftwaffe pilot mistook the north Somerset coast for the coast of France and landed, only to be promptly captured by the workmen.

Since moving to Lulsgate from Whitchurch, which had become too small, the airport has had many changes. One problem was hill fog, which has been sorted out by modern technology that enables aircraft to be landed automatically in all states of visibility. Modern package flights have changed the face of flying, as has tourism to the West of England and the development of local businesses. We were shown the proposed future in an animated video that shows a very space age terminal, with all the convenience of easy access, parking and passenger comfort.

Jill expressed our thanks to Mike for sharing his amazing knowledge of the many changes that have happened at a very important local facility, saying that she was particularly intrigued by the lost German pilot.

Our competition for an ornament of something that flies was won by Jan's souvenir of Concorde, with Jill second and Sue H third. The Flower of the month was Myrtle's lily, with Jan second and Sue H third.

Mrs R Docherty

The Way I See It: TAKE CARE!

Canon David Winter ponders the modern passion for 'health & safety'.

People say it to me all the time, usually as I'm about to leave: 'take care!' It's a bit like the American 'have a nice day', harmless enough but utterly pointless. Do they think I'm about to rush out into the road and spring across it in front of an approaching bus? Or do they, more realistically, look at me and think 'poor old boy, any minute now he'll walk into a lamp-post'? Either way, the implication is, I suppose, that I should eschew risk and always take the safe option (probably not bad advice, in my case).

Perhaps 'take care' is symptomatic of a society which seems to live in fear of its own shadow. 'Health and Safety', so utterly sensible in its purpose, so often petty and nit-picking in its application, is an example of it. A

churchwarden friend told me of a health and safety officer who condemned the pulpit steps in his church. They had no hand rail and were demonstrably a safety hazard. My friend pointed out that they'd been there for five hundred years and there wasn't a single recorded instance of anyone falling down them.

Children are prevented, sometimes even by their own parents, from playing 'dangerous' games like hop-scotch, rugby or hockey. Climbing trees is definitely to be avoided. 'Take care!' has become our watchword. Funnily enough, my generation climbed trees, played hop-scotch, jumped off walls, took appalling risks damming up streams and insisted on hurling or hitting hard cricket and hockey balls at each other. Yes, there were the odd broken bones and bruises, and probably we did at times take stupid risks - only cats have nine lives.

But the unavoidable truth is that life is a risky business, and no amount of 'taking care' can alter that. I wonder if the eighteen residents of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus who were killed when the Tower of Siloam collapsed on them had been told to 'take care' as they set off that morning? And what difference would it have made if they had?

We live in a risky universe. That's how it comes to us from our Creator. Of course we shouldn't take unnecessary risks, or endanger our own or other people's lives needlessly, but live faithfully, sensibly and adventurously in the beautiful if risky world God has given us

Plurality and Absenteeism

I am in the midst of further research on plurality and absenteeism in the Georgian period, but suddenly realised those terms might be applied to my ministry now!

Not really, because I am not an incumbent.

Many of you will know that, although I see St Cuthbert's as my base church, and Alastair kindly designated me as 'honorary assistant priest', I am often missing. Since retirement I have helped in vacancies throughout most of the deanery and beyond - Chewton Mendip etc (including weekly school assemblies); the Harptrees; Ashwick, Oakhill and Binegar - and now three concurrent vacancies: Pilton, Croscombe, etc; Henton, Wookey & Coxley; and Fosse Trinity. I have been most involved in the latter.

Sadly the four churches of Fosse Trinity (Alhampton, Ditchat, Pylle and East Pennard) have been without a vicar for more than a year, and, for reasons that I won't go into now, this interregnum is likely to continue another 1-2 years. So with the warm approval of the people, Archdeacon Nicola has asked me to be 'Interim Minister' for the next 18 months or so, providing stability and a guiding hand while preparing for the next stage of their life. I will now be involved most Sundays and in some midweek activities (up to two days per week).

However we all agreed that I should retain an association and ministry with St Cuthbert's, and so I hope to preside at the Parish Eucharist on one Sunday in the month as well as continuing on the Wednesday rota and communions at the almshouses. In this way I can give some support to Alastair, not least when he is away on holiday or otherwise engaged.

Strangely as this comes in to force, there will be greater regularity than there sometimes has been over the last year.

So I still look forward to being with you all.

Graham Hendy

Couscous with squash, sultanas and pumpkin seeds

Try this delicious couscous using Traidcraft Zaytoun maftoul...

Large-grain Palestinian couscous, or maftoul, is easier to cook than ordinary couscous (as in it's less likely to go mushy) and carries very well the flavours of everything you put with it. If you like, add some soft goat's cheese to the mix, too.

Serves four.

Ingredients

- 70g sultanas
- 60g pumpkin seeds
- 1 medium-sized squash (about 750g)
- 3-4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- Flaky sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 200g large-grain couscous
- Water or vegetable stock
- 1 handful picked flat-leaved parsley, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp finely chopped dill
- 1 tbsp apple balsamic vinegar or cider vinegar



Put the sultanas in a bowl, pour over hot water or hot tea and leave them to plump up a bit. Warm a frying pan over a medium heat and toast the pumpkin seeds, rattling the pan from time to time, until fragrant and toasted. Tip into a bowl and set aside.

Heat the oven to 190C/375F/gas mark 5. Peel the squash, halve it and remove the seeds and fibres. Cut it into largish chunks of about 3cm and place in a roasting tin. Toss in two tablespoons of the olive oil, sprinkle on the cumin, salt and pepper, and toss again. Roast for 30-35 minutes, rattling the tin halfway through, until soft in the middle and gently charred around the edges.

Cook the couscous in water or stock according to the instructions on the packet.

To assemble the salad, toss the drained sultanas, pumpkin seeds and herbs with the couscous until well combined. Trickle over the remaining tablespoon or two of olive oil and the vinegar, and toss again. Taste, adjust the seasoning as necessary, and when you've achieved the balance of flavour you like, toss gently with the squash. Serve hot or cold.

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Over the Hills and Far Away 2014

Our eighth annual walk was blessed with wonderful weather, good sunshine, a pleasant breeze and good company.

28 of us from St. Cuthbert's, Ss Joseph & Teresa and Oxfam set off from Cathedral Green at 10.00am and via the Bishops Palace moat we climbed up over Tor Wood and then on up through the Wells Golf Course and into Kings Wood.....Plenty of bird activity, fine views and real peace. From here we had a level walk to Furzy Sleight and Crapnell Farm, where many acres of Solar Panels were in the adjacent fields. Here we crossed the road and followed the footpath towards Ham Wood where, in a pleasant inclined field, we all enjoyed a picnic lunch.

After lunch we then joined the old S & D railway, immediately crossing over the viaduct at Windsor Hill and moving on through the old Windsor railway tunnel which was nearly 300 yards long and very dark; it's where the Concord engines were tested! Then it was a long descent into Cowl Street and then we crossed Waterloo Road and followed the track over Barren Down, pass the Cider factory and into Kilver Court for some much needed liquid refreshment.

Our thanks to all who walked and a big thank you to all of you who so generously sponsored us; our total sponsorship will be around £500.00. It was a great day out.

Bill Oke



Photos courtesy of Maria Komornicka
(more on the St CuthbertsWells Facebook page)

On the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar



The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St. James the Least with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to compliment the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed – just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry – most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So – enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

22nd July: St Mary Magdalene - patron of repentant sinners

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life.

Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberias in Galilee. She became his follower to the bitter end. She followed him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint his body on the Sunday morning.

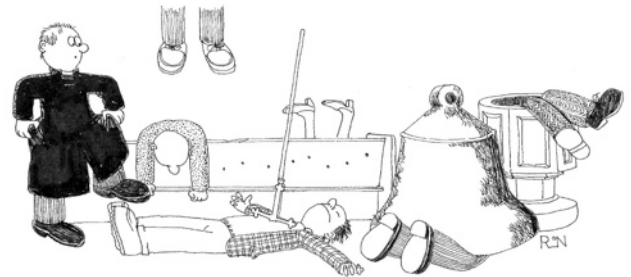
Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid: it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought he was the gardener at first.

Mary Magdalene has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Luke 7:37). Over the centuries many artists have painted this scene. Mary Magdalene's feast has been kept in the West since the 8th century. England has 187 ancient churches dedicated to her, as well as a College in both Oxford and Cambridge.

A moving tale

Friends sympathized as our curate complained that her back was really sore from moving furniture. "Why don't you wait till your teenage son gets home?" someone asked.

"Well, I could," our curate replied, "but the couch is easier to move if he's not on it."



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

Miscellaneous Quotations

'You're a Christian?'

'Church of England,' said Mr Polly.

'H'm,' said the employer, a little checked. 'For good all round business work I should have preferred a Baptist.'

H G Wells ('The History of Mr Polly')

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages.

William Shakespeare (As You Like It)

For bells are the voice of the Church; they have tones that touch and search the hearts of young and old.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

How beautiful to have the church always open, so that every tired wayfaring man may come in and be soothed by all that art can suggest of a better world when he is weary of this.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Faith in foodbanks

A rapidly growing network of foodbanks has emerged across the UK in recent years. Some are small 'community larders', while others seem to operate on an almost industrial scale. As so many local churches have played a part in launching them, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union, the United Reformed Church and Church Action on Poverty have now published a three-part resource for churches about the growing food poverty crisis.

Faith in Foodbanks? recognises the ministry of many churches in helping to feed people. It looks at why there has been such a growth in foodbanks, and suggests ways churches can tackle the underlying causes.

Go to: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/faithinfoodbanks.

No biblical whale in the Royal Park

A giant inflatable whale which Bible Society wanted to use to tell the story of Jonah has been banned from the Royal Parks because of its 'religious' undertones.

Officials turned down recent applications to hold a children's fun day based on the Bible story at either Hyde Park or Greenwich Park in London. The Royal Parks are owned by the Queen, who is Supreme Governor of the Church of England and the Patron of Bible Society. The decision came just a month after David Cameron insisted that the UK is a 'Christian country' and said Britain should be unashamedly 'evangelical' about its religious identity.



St. THOMAS

Thomas was one of the 12 disciples and one thing we know about his family is he had a twin because he was called 'Didymus' which means a twin.

Thomas was ready to die with Jesus (John 11:16) but it is as 'Doubting Thomas' that most people remember him.

Thomas wasn't afraid to ask the questions that the other disciples were thinking.

Thomas wasn't with the other disciples when they first saw the risen Christ. He refused to believe that Jesus had returned from the dead 'unless I see... and touch... I will not believe', but when he saw and touched Jesus he exclaimed 'My Lord and my God'. You can read this in St John's Gospel, chapter 20.



Without Thomas' doubts perhaps we wouldn't be as sure about our faith today. We need someone to ask the questions that we are too afraid to ask for fear of seeming silly or foolish.

T-TIME PUZZLE?

All the answers to this Bible puzzle begin with the letter T – can you find them all? The first one is too easy.

1. The disciple called Didymus.
2. The town named after a Roman Emperor (John, chapter 6).
3. Roman to whom Luke addressed his Gospel.
4. Where St Paul was born (Acts, chapter 9).
5. Paul's companion on the journey to Jerusalem (Galatians, chapter 2).
6. She came from Joppa and was also known as Dorcas (Acts, chapter 8).
7. Deborah sat underneath one (Judges, chapter 4).

Are there any tiles that won't stick on the wall?

Reptiles.



Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint and he has to touch it.

Excuses, excuses

Found in a heap of recycled files donated to our school was this curiously labelled folder: "Excuses I Have Used."

As I sat opposite the Treasury Bench, the Ministers reminded me of those marine landscapes not unusual on the coasts of South America. You behold a range of exhausted volcanoes.

Disraeli

If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone; one should keep his friendships in constant repair.

Samuel Johnson

Answers: 1. Thomas 2. Tiberias 3. Theophilus 4. Tarsus 5. Titus 6. Tabitha. 7. Tree

