



CROSSROADS

The Family Magazine of St Hilda's, Ashford, Middlesex

No. 712 September 2020

Free - but donations welcome!



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Charity Reg. No. 1134119

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at the Parish Office, or e-mail:
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For the latest information on
Church Services at St. Hilda's,
Zoom meetings etc., please see
the church web site:

www.sthilda.org

Things change too quickly to
include in a monthly publica-
tion!

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, *'What is in your hand?'* (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, *'I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.'* A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given *you* that will help and encourage others?

Canon Paul Hardingham

WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH?

We had a card from a friend with a very thought-provoking message, beautifully written, eloquent and concise, and very challenging for church members!

Robert Dobbie

I have had a hard year on the work front – what’s new? – but also an interesting year in terms of my own development. It began last Christmas when I attended 3 carol services in one day – one at my mother’s old church, one at the church where my brother was a choir boy, and one at the church where I was formally a bell-ringer. I realised I feel happy in church, and, to cut a long story short, have begun attending regularly. I’ve struggled to find the ‘right place’ for me as I need thought-provoking sermons, a church choir (now, alas, uncommon), a fairly traditional service (with BCP services optionally available) and active bell ringers.

The result is that I have spread myself rather thinly across four churches, three local, and one in a nearby city. I am in two church choirs (one is a relief choir for a traditional boys + men choir), and regularly bell ring with the other two, and, occasionally attend a fifth, the local Methodist church where my mother worshipped. They are very friendly and have an occasional choir too.

Perhaps I will narrow the field eventually, but no one seems to mind, and I enjoy a variety of approaches to worship, some of which I might not have expected to value, whatever the form, the result is uplift, and a glad – if chastened – heart!!

ELECTORAL ROLL - ST HILDA'S CHURCH

If you consider St Hilda’s to be your regular place of worship why not complete an Application for Enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll. Applications Forms are available **by contacting the Parish Office by either emailing: office@sthilda.org or by calling 01784 253525.**

Frances Forsbrey

MORE ABOUT DIVA

It is now more than six months since we got Diva, our rescue dog from Romania. She has settled in very well and is now very much part of the family.

She has now mastered coming down stairs, and does it at great speed. I fear one day she will go head over heels. She is still not keen on car journeys, but we manage. We even got her to Annette and Dale in Wiltshire, a distance of 92 miles. She made herself perfectly at home while we stayed there.

She does not bark at all, but makes strange keening noises when greeting us and almost a howl if we leave her too long on her own. Diva loves a fuss and when we stop petting her a paw comes up for more.

She is gentle and loving and we count ourselves fortunate to have her.

Valerie Scott

WANTED

Your contributions!

or

a new editor

Thank you Robert and Valerie for your contributions, but apart from these, this magazine has again relied on material from Parish Pump. This suggests to me that it is time for a new look with a new editor. Any volunteers?

Ed



MU'S 'THANK YOU KEY WORKERS' APPEAL

The Mothers' Union wants to help families of key workers by offering them a range of free day trips/experiences and short breaks. It is appealing to MU supporters to help make this possible.

As a spokeswoman for MU explains: "There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. But because of their personal sacrifices, quality family time has not always been possible.

"Therefore, we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) to say a special 'thank you' to key workers in these unprecedented times.

"Any donation will help provide a range of day trips/experiences and short breaks for families of key workers, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes - families who would generally be unable to have experiences like this."

If you would like to send a donation, go to:

[Say thank you to a keyworkers family today - Donate now](#)

23rd September: EQUINOX

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

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NOW EVEN MORE PLASTIC

There is growing concern in the Government, among campaigners, and among scientists over how coronavirus has sparked an increase in single-use plastics.

Not only are millions of disposable masks and gloves now ‘out there’, but there has been also a huge increase in disposable cutlery, sachets and containers.

One study by UCL estimates that in the UK alone, if every person used a single-use face mask every day for a year, it would create an additional 66,000 tonnes of contaminated waste, and 57,000 tonnes of plastic packaging.

Two environment ministers, Lord Goldsmith and Rebecca Pow, have said: “We are actively thinking across the Government and NHS whether we can safely reuse PPE and we are aware of other countries who have begun looking at the potential to decontaminate and reuse it.”

Scientists warn that it could take up to 500 years for polypropylene face masks to degrade. Meanwhile, according to some estimates, 129 billion masks and 65 billion plastic gloves are being used each month worldwide.



Our worship rings hollow if in our daily lives we despoil the world around us (the proof of God’s provision) and neglect our sisters and brothers who bear the image of the Creator. – *The Rev Andrew Dotchin*

2nd September: THE NEW GUINEA MARTYRS OF 1942

The Anglican Church in Australia still honours the New Guinea Martyrs of 1942. These brave men and women, 10 Australians and two Papuans, refused to leave their missionary work on the island as the Japanese military forces advanced. As one tribute to them put it: *'They knowing full well the risk, elected to stay with their flock.'*

The missionaries were serving the people of Papua New Guinea as Christian priests, teachers, workers and medical nurses. All twelve were unarmed as they were going about their normal missionary work. They were probably killed for no reason at all, other than to pre-empt any possibility that they might be a danger to the Japanese in the future. Or perhaps they were killed out of some vague Japanese hatred of Australian Christians, who were poles apart from the then fanatical Emperor-worship that enveloped the whole military strategy of Japan.

The martyrs were:

In Gona, on the NE coast of Papua: May Hayman (medical sister), and Mavis Parkinson (teacher): both bayoneted to death.

In villages inland from Gona: Vivian Redlich (priest), Margery Brenchley (medical sister), Lillar Lashmar (teacher), Henry Holland, (priest), John Duffill (carpenter): all beheaded. Also, Lucian Tapiedi, an indigenous Papuan: axed to death. (A statue of Tapiedi now stands as a memorial above the West Door of Westminster Abbey.)

Outer islands: John Barge (priest), Bernard Moore (priest), boat sunk.

In open sea: Henry Mathews (priest), Leslie Gariadi (Papuan assistant): boat sunk and men machine-gunned in water.

Today the Church also remembers the more than 300 church workers of all churches who were killed in 1942, during the Japanese occupation of Papua New Guinea.

9th September: ST PETER CLAVER - compassion for slaves

Here is a saint for anyone with a social conscience. Claver was born in 1581 near Barcelona at Verdu, and at 20 became a Jesuit. He went as a missionary to New Granada and worked to alleviate the terrible suffering of the slaves who arrived from West Africa, caged like animals. (It was said that you could smell the stench of a slave ship while it was still seven miles from shore.) Claver helped the poor wretches who survived long enough to reach dry land. He gave them food and medicine as well as spiritual comfort. He is said to have cared for and baptised 300,000 slaves. What a difference one life can make to thousands of people!

6th September: CAPTAIN ALLEN GARDINER – founder of SAMS

Captain Allen Gardiner is a saint for anyone who refuses to give up on their calling. For this courageous and indomitable man founded what became the South American Mission Society, though he sacrificed his own life in the process.

Gardiner had not started out to be a missionary. Born in 1704, he had left Berkshire to embark on a naval career which took him to Cape Town, Ceylon, India, Malaysia and China. But the death of his first wife in 1834 caused him to turn back to Christianity. He left the navy and became missionary.

With his second wife, Elizabeth, Allen Gardiner felt called to South America. But from 1838 onwards he faced implacable opposition from the authorities there, both secular and religious. His efforts to evangelise among the Chilean Mapuches - which included a family journey of 1000 miles overland by pack mule from Buenos Aires to Santiago and Concepción - met with hostility. So, in 1842 he settled on the Falklands, and tried to reach the Patagonian Indians. By 1844 he had founded the Patagonian Mission, because no other British Christian society felt able to take on responsibility for his work.

Next, Gardiner reached out to the Bolivian Indians of the Gran Chaco. But again, he was repulsed. So, he then decided on a bold attempt to evangelise the Indians of Tierra del Fuego.

He tried to raise the funds for a 120-ton schooner, which would have provided him with a secure base near Picton Island. But in the end, he could only manage two 26-foot launches, the *Pioneer* and *Speedwell*. Nevertheless, in December 1850 Gardiner and six other men sailed to Picton Island. But again, nothing went well. Fierce weather, Indian hostility, a series of errors and logistical problems led to disease and finally disaster. By March 1851 the group had had to flee for their lives. They sailed eastwards to Spaniard Harbour, a bay at the mouth of Cooks River. Here they waited in vain for fresh stores to arrive, and by September all six men had died of starvation.

Gardiner's journal, water-damaged but readable, was found in his hand the following year by the crew of HMS Dido, and includes the plea to God, "Let not this mission fail", and this prayer:

"Grant O Lord, that we may be instrumental in commencing this great and blessed work; but should Thou see fit in Thy providence to hedge up our way, and that we should even languish and die here, I beseech Thee to raise up others and to send forth labourers into this harvest..."

The work of the South American Society in the subsequent 160 years and the growth of the Anglican Churches of South America are God's answer to that prayer. Gardiner had to face many failures in his life, but his solid, resolute faith is an inspiration.

LOUIS PASTEUR – ‘FATHER’ OF MICROBIOLOGY

A tiny invisible thing that brings disease and death where have we heard that before?! But Louis Pasteur, who died 125 years ago this month, on 28th September 1895, was not interested in a virus from China, but in tiny living organisms that brought disease and death in other ways.

Pasteur made some outstanding breakthroughs. He discovered the principles of vaccination, and then created the first vaccines for anthrax and rabies. His medical discoveries provided support for the germ theory of disease and nullified the theory of spontaneous generation.

But Louis Pasteur is best known for his invention of the technique of treating milk and wine to stop bacterial contamination, a process that was named after him: pasteurisation. In doing so, he saved the French beer, wine and silk industries.

All in all, this gifted French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist well deserves his title as the ‘father of microbiology,’ and to be seen as one of the three main founders of bacteriology.

Happy Birthday, Glastonbury Festival !

Glastonbury Festival. The name conjures up images of world-famous bands and singers making loud music before enthusiastic crowds who are up to their knees in mud.

The statistics for the famous Pyramid stage are impressive: standing 25 metres tall, it has 292 audio speakers and 8.5 km of cables for video and audio. It has 354 microphones and 3743 lightbulbs. The festival uses about 27 megawatts of power, enough to power the city of Bath.

It all began 50 years ago this month, on 19th September 1970, when a farmer, Michael Eavis, opened his farm, Worthy Farm near Pilton in Somerset, for a festival. He called it the Pilton Pop, Blues & Folk Festival and about 1,500 people turned up. It was a success, soon had changed its name, and by 1981 it had become an annual event.

Glastonbury was born out of the hippie ethic and free festival movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. It is now the world’s largest greenfield festival, attracting about 135,000 each year.

By 1985 the festival had grown too large for Worthy Farm, but neighbouring Cockmill Farm was purchased.

2000 saw an estimated 250,000 people attend the festival (only 100,000 tickets were sold) due to gate-crashers.

The 2015 festival made good use of the hundreds of pairs of wellington boots discarded by festival goers – they were donated to the migrant camp at Calais.

Then this Spring, in March 2020, the 50th anniversary of the festival had to be cancelled due to coronavirus. The next Glastonbury Festival is planned for June 2021.

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BRING BACK HEDGEROWS

We need our hedgerows back – urgently. They are part of ‘nature’s toolbox’ to help us reduce our carbon emissions.

That was the recent message from the CPRE countryside charity which points out that there were twice as many hedges in England before the Second World War. Since then thousands of kilometres of hedges have been ripped up to make way for new housing and motorways, and to merge and enlarge fields.

The 2007 UK Countryside Survey found that there were 600,000 kilometres of managed and unmanaged hedgerows in the UK, with the vast majority of them in England.

This was a significant decline on the same survey from 1984, when there were about 680,000 kilometres of hedges across Great Britain. That is a reduction of 80,000 kilometres, or 50,000 miles. To put that another way, we have ripped out about 57,000 times the entire length of Britain (874 miles).

No wonder, then, that the CPRE’s report, *Greener, better, faster: countryside solutions to the climate emergency and for a green recovery*, calls for millions of pounds to be spent on new hedges. It says: “By planting more trees and hedgerow, restoring peatlands and moving toward a more sustainable way of farming, we can use nature’s toolbox to capture greenhouse gases from the air, while revitalising our natural environment.”



BEYOND THE PARISH

‘BIG CONVERSATION’ LAUNCHED ON CLERGY CARE AND WELLBEING

Churches and clergy across the country are to join in a nationwide discussion, the ‘Big Conversation’, aimed at improving the care and wellbeing of ministers.

It follows the recent welcome of the *Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing at General Synod*. Now General Synod has asked that the whole church reflect on the questions it poses over the next two years. Hence, the ‘Big Conversation’.

The Covenant commits all parts of the Church, as well as individual clergy, to sharing responsibility for the welfare of ministers and their households.

Recommendations include promoting awareness of stress and the dangers of burnout as part of training for ordained ministry. Also, there will be new resources for licensing and induction services that highlight the care and wellbeing of clergy. The Group also recommended more pastoral supervision for clergy through coaching or mentoring.

The Revd Canon Simon Butler, who headed the Working Group, said: “The care and wellbeing of the clergy is crucial to the health of the Church at worship, in mission, and in pastoral care.”

THE DIASPORA CHURCHES

The ‘Diaspora’ Churches is a new name for what have previously been called ‘Overseas National Churches’. The Global Connections network of Christian organisations is now using this new and clearer name – Diaspora Churches.

There are dozens of different denominations which could be included under such a heading. The forthcoming new edition of *UK Church Statistics* lists:

33 different national Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Westminster alone, as well as others serving wider afield.

- 16 different Lutheran denominations, mostly based in England, but some, like the Finnish, German, Latvian, Norwegian and Polish, have work in other parts of the UK as well.
- At least 26 nationalities represented by Asian or non-British White countries
- Huge numbers of black congregations from many African and Caribbean countries.
- 24 different Orthodox denominations each focussing on a particular nationality.

When in non-pandemic times the congregations in the UK were worshipping God on a Sunday, His praise was being extolled in well over 100 different languages here in the UK.

PANDEMIC AMID MILLIONS OF LOCUSTS

The six African countries where Send a Cow works face devastation, not only by the pandemic, but also the huge swarms of locusts which have destroyed thousands of acres of crops.

In response, Send a Cow staff have supported struggling communities by teaching them how to prevent the spread of the virus, as well as good hygiene.

Send a Cow is also providing radio broadcasts with information, and emergency food supplies and seeds, so that the farmers do not miss the next critical planting window.

Now Send a Cow is asking supporters in the UK if they could commit to a personal challenge like a run, cycle or climb, to raise funds, or maybe even simply donating on behalf of their business or family. One couple ran and cycled for 260 miles, raising £2000. “Whatever we can each do is greatly appreciated,” says Send a Cow. If you can help, go to: <https://sendacow.org>

TEARFUND IN YEMEN

Yemen faces the world’s biggest humanitarian crisis. More than 24 million people need urgent aid, safe water, food and sanitation. The country is on the brink of famine and facing complete meltdown.

Through its partners in Yemen, Tearfund has been responding with medical help and providing safe water, food, seeds and farming tools.

Just one example of the thousands of people whom Tearfund has helped is Samed, a father of four who suffers from severe scoliosis (curvature of the spine). He and his wife were forced to send their children out begging, just in order to stay alive.

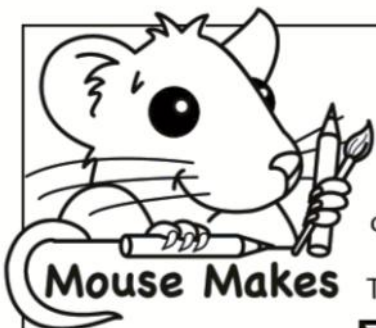
Then the local Tearfund partner began bringing Samed’s family regular supplies of flour, beans, sugar and salt. Samed says: “I thank God that our children no longer have to beg.”

If you can help, visit <https://www.tearfund.org>

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: “Eve was made from Adam’s rib, and that surely was a surgical operation.”

“Maybe,” admitted the architect, “but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job.”

“But,” the politician pointed out in triumph, “somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!”



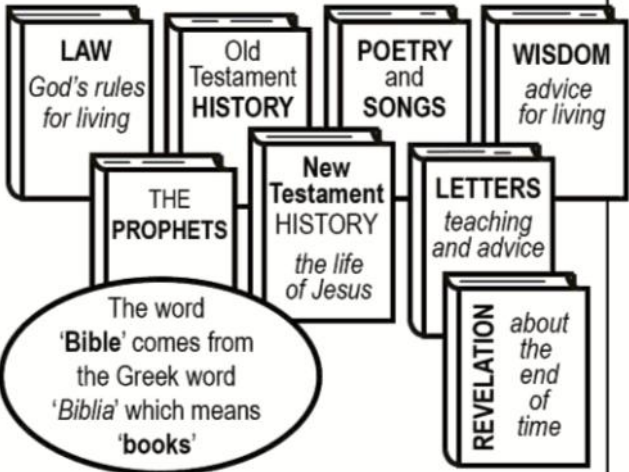
The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?

BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K
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 T E A E G O D
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The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblia' which means 'books'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

- Mirror**
James 1:23
- Food**
Hebrews 5:12- 6:1
- Honey and Gold**
Psalm 19:10
- Light**
Psalm 119:105
- Rain**
Isaiah 55:10-12
- Seed**
Mark 4:14
- Fire**
Jeremiah 20:9
- Sword**
Ephesians 6:17
- "God said..."
- Living Word**
Hebrews 4:12

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

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