

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

J.B. Phillips writes "Christ made no promise that those who followed him would enjoy special immunity from pain and sorrow - nor did he himself experience such immunity.

He did, however, promise enough joy and courage, enough love and confidence in God to enable those who went his way to do far more than survive".

People are often tempted to explain suffering in terms of "the will of God". Not only can this evoke anger and frustration, but it is false. "God's will" is not a label that can be put on unhappy situations. God wants to bring joy, not pain, peace, not war, healing, not suffering. Therefore, we must be willing to ask ourselves where, in the midst of pain and suffering, we can discern the loving presence of God. The presence of God can be seen in those around us, those who support and uphold us in our most difficult times. Our families, friends and neighbours who ensure that we are not alone. It is also important that as a community we reach out to those in need, that we are aware of those who are suffering and need our help. In our society today we have lost something of the concern for others. We have become more concerned with our own lives, our houses, our family, our needs and we can so easily neglect those who live around us.

We give thanks for those who offer support, time and themselves to their communities. All those who give their time and efforts to help others and by so doing alleviate some of the suffering and pain in our world.

With all good wishes

Andrew

The Transfiguration - a glimpse of Jesus' future glory

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you

like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

(Please join us on Sunday 5th August at our 10.30 am service when we celebrate our Patronal Festival)

Growing food poverty crisis in UK

The Church Urban Fund has been warning of the growing food poverty crisis in the UK. For example:

- foodbank use has risen by 17% in the last 12 months;
- in some parts of the country 30% of families rely on free school meals
- nearly 2.5 million people are skipping meals because they can't afford to eat

The CUF is inviting churches across the country to support them in their efforts to help struggling families, as 'a poor diet can have devastating effects'. Just one example of how CUF works is in Lancashire, where their partnership works with the local county council to co-ordinate all 30 foodbanks and 15 drop-in centres, impacting 5,000-7,000 people every month.

(We as a church support our local Poole Food bank. If you have any items to donate please leave in the box at the back of the church. Items needed at the moment are:

Rice Pudding / Custard (Tinned)

Jams / Spreads / Peanut Butter(A sandwich is always a good option for a hungry child in the hot weather)

Fruit Juices / Squash

Packet foods / Microwave meals

Remembrance 100

On 4th August 1918 King George V met to pray with members of the Houses of Parliament. One hundred days later, the war ended. This year, 4th August 2018 will be the first day of 100 days of prayer across the country, running until Armistice Day in November. Every day there will be prayers, Bible readings and reflections written by contributors from UK churches, ministries, chaplaincies and the Armed Forces Christian Union. These *100 Days of Peace and Hope* can be downloaded, a week at a time from www.remembrance.co.uk for churches and individuals to print and use.



In an introduction to *100 Days of Peace and Hope*, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby says, 'From 4th

August let us mark 100 days with prayers for peace, hope and reconciliation.'

On Sunday, 11th November 2018, people around the Commonwealth mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. As well as reflecting on loss, this year also gives us the chance to look forward as we mark the end of World War 1 and pray for peace.

Remembrance 100 has been set up by HOPE, in partnership with a cross section of Christian denominations and ministries, to help churches bring communities together to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

HOPE has also published a beautifully illustrated booklet called *Silence* to give away at Remembrance events. *Silence* invites readers to look back with gratitude for the sacrifice made by so many in war, and to reflect on eternal themes of faith, hope and love.

To find out more, to download *100 Days of Peace and Hope*, or to order copies of *Silence*, visit www.remembrance.co.uk.

What's Your Talent?

For a number of years, talent shows have become popular on TV. The programmes feature contestants, of any age, performing a short act in front of judges in the hope of being awarded a large sum of money. This may also lead to a new career and fame too!

These programmes feature all kinds of people including singers, comedians, magicians and acrobats. Some acts are good and entertaining while others can be odd, quirky or downright appalling! Some people reveal a talent, while

others don't. Some have a big ego or an inflated sense of importance and cannot understand why they are rejected!

The Bible tells us that God is *our* judge. We are on show. He watches us, but He is not looking for the slip-up, the mistake or waiting to condemn. Our God is all-loving, kind, and forgiving and looks for our potential and is pleased when we do our best. He looks to help us, to build us up and desires the best from within us.

In the Bible, we see that God chose all manner of ordinary individuals to fulfil His purposes. Some made errors and committed dreadful sins, but even then God didn't discard them as worthless. For example, Jesus chose a mixed bunch of disciples with all kinds of flaws, yet they became (with the exception of Judas) the ideal men to spread the Good News about Him.

God has a plan for each one of our lives, and we are called to be faithful in serving Him, wherever we are. By God's grace, the Holy Spirit is given to every Christian, and the Spirit equips us for service and His greatest activity is amongst the ordinary. Under God's influence, what we regard to be natural talents and gifts, can be enhanced and released by His creative energy.

Isn't this encouraging? We don't have to put ourselves forward and hope to be a winner like contestants on a TV programme. If we give ourselves to God, He will prepare and use us in the way that best suits our gifts and personalities.

(Lester Amann)

Ride+Stride:

for churches

Graham Luker Parish Organiser

T 01202 723305

Dorset Historic Churches Trust provides funds to help parishes keep their churches weatherproof, warm and available for worship and wider public use. In recent years it has helped with grants for the addition of kitchens and toilets to increase the usability of buildings which have traditionally only been used on Sundays. Last year, the Trust awarded grants totalling £105,000 to 19 churches.

Most of the Trust's income comes from the annual sponsored Ride+Stride event. In 2017, over £86,000 in sponsorship was raised by hundreds of participants of all ages and abilities. 50% of all money pledged was returned by the Trust to the churches nominated by the riders or striders, so everyone benefited.

Please sponsor one of our riders and striders when they approach you over the next few weeks. Remember that half the sum pledged will be gratefully used by the Trust to sustain our wonderful churches and the other half will be given back to the parish that they nominate, or other nominated charity.

If you would like to take part please ask me for a sponsorship form and list of church that will be open throughout the county. You do not have to be a church-goer to be passionate about the splendid churches in our county. If you are not a cyclist or walker perhaps a holding coffee morning is another way to raise money for the Trust.

Ride+Stride on Saturday 8th September

Graham Luker



GOOD QUALITY
items for the FÊTE
still needed...!

CAKES...CLOTHING
TOYS...BOTTLES...
BRIC-A-BRAC
BOOKS...
HOME PRODUCE...
JEWELLERY...!

All in the month of August

100 years ago, from 8th August to 11th November that the Hundred Days Offensive in France and Belgium, took place. Allied Victory leading to the end of the 1st World War and the collapse of the German empire.

90 years ago, on 6th August 1928 that Andy Warhol, iconic American Pop artist, photographer and film-maker was born.

80 years ago, on 3rd August 1938 that Sir Terry Wogan, Irish-born radio and TV presenter was born. Popular for his

droll comments, amiable banter and self-deprecating wit, he hosted BBC Radio 2 shows and the TV chat show *Wogan*. He also hosted the annual *Children in Need* telethon and game show *Blankety Blank*.

A DAY OUT FOR THE PARISH

On 1st July a group of us boarded a mini bus heading to Salisbury Cathedral for the ordination as deacon of our new curate the Rev'd Thomas Pelham. It was a hot and humid day, but also a memorable one. Thomas was one of 7 deacons to be ordained that day by the Bishop of Salisbury. As well as those of us on the minibus, several had come by car and, of course, there were Tom and Sarah's friends and family, including a few students from Cuddesdon College, Oxford where Tom trained.

The Service was very moving with all the pageantry you expect from Cathedral worship. The Bishops washed the deacons' feet as a sign of humility for both them and the deacons, and then followed the ordination and Communion. We returned home and the following Sunday welcomed Tom and Sarah to our Parish with cake and bubbles.

We have had a busy few weeks as on the following Sunday the Bishop of Salisbury joined us as we celebrated 30 years of Andrew's ministry. Bishop Nicholas had been Ethics lecturer at Lincoln Theological College when Andrew was a student and Joanne the Warden's secretary and Academic Registrar. We celebrated once again with cake and bubbles. I fear any visitors might think we do this every week!!



CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Wed	1	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	2	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Sat	4	2.00 pm	SUMMER FETE

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sun	5	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer
Wed	8	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i> Post-Fete Lunch

TRINITY 11

Sun	12	8.00 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion Matins <i>(NO SUNDAY CLUB)</i> Baptism of Geordie Robinson <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
-----	----	--------------------------------	--

		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	15	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>

TRINITY 12

Sun	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion NO FAMILY SERVICE
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>

TRINITY 13

Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Matins <i>(NO SUNDAY CLUB)</i>
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tues	28	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>in hall</i>
Wed	29	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>

SEPTEMBER

Sat	1	3.00 pm	Pimm's and things party at the Vicarage (weather permitting)
-----	---	---------	--

TRINITY 14

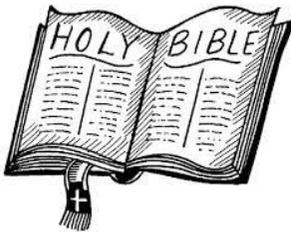
Sun	2	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	5	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	6	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
		5.00 pm	PCC Meeting
Fri	7	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall



SUMMER FÊTE – Saturday 4th August from 2.00 pm. PLEASE BE SURE TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS!

PATRONAL FESTIVAL – Sunday 5th August – PARISH COMMUNION at 10.30 am with Reception to follow with wine and nibbles! Please join us for our Church's anniversary morning.

POST FÊTE LUNCH – The Post Fête Lunch will be held in the hall on Wednesday 8th August at 12.30 pm.



SUNDAY READINGS IN AUGUST

Sunday 5th August - Transfiguration of our Lord

OLD TESTAMENT: Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

Daniel's vision depicts the joint supremacy of the 'ancient one' with the one to whom he confers eternal sovereignty over all nations.

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Peter 1.16-19

Peter underscores the function of transfiguration to confirm Jesus' identity as God's son and the fulfilment of the prophetic ministry.

GOSPEL: Luke 9.28-36

Luke's account of the Transfiguration of Christ serves to reinforce the authority of God's word in his teaching.

Sunday 12th August - Trinity 11

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Samuel 18.5-15,31-33

Absalom is dead. David's kingdom is again secure and David pours forth his grief: "O my son Absalom,

my son, my son Absalom!"

NEW TESTAMENT: John 6.35,41-51

Jesus declares that he is the bread of life. He tells his listeners that their forefathers ate the manna in the wilderness, but if they eat the bread of life they will live forever.

Sunday 19th August - Trinity 12

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Kings 2.10-12, 3.3-14

Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. He had reigned forty years over Israel - seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. Solomon followed him and walked with the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 5.15-20

Paul advises the Christians at Ephesus to give up foolishness and, instead, accept the Holy Spirit, giving thanks to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: John 6.51-58

Jesus tells the people in the synagogue at Capernaum that the food he provides – his flesh and blood – will nourish them for ever.

Sunday 26th August - Trinity 13

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Kings 8.22-30, 41-43

The same God who brought Israel out of Egypt now dwells with them in their land. The covenant at Sinai is now established on Mount Zion as well.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 6.56-69

Many of his disciples desert him on hearing Jesus say that he is the bread of life, but the twelve stay in the belief that Jesus does speak the words of eternal life.

Sunday 2nd September - Trinity 14

OLD TESTAMENT: Song of Solomon 2.8-13

This passage describes a love marked by fidelity and mutuality. The lovers are faithful to each other, they

have eyes for no one else.

NEW TESTAMENT: James 1.17-end

Every generous act of giving comes from God. We are called to be doers of the word not just hearers of it.

GOSPEL: Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23

Jesus' disciples are criticised for not observing the ceremonial washing rites of the Pharisees. Jesus points out that it is what comes out of us that makes us unclean, i.e. theft, murder, greed, etc.

REJUVENATION FOR CHORISTERS' GOWNS



With the recent hot spells, members of the choir started looking at their gowns and found that extra perfumes and patterns were apparent which weren't necessarily required! It had been a long time since any of the gowns had received attention, so it was agreed that the garments should be cleaned!

Ian, manager at Johnson's Cleaners in Canford Cliffs village quoted a very acceptable price and 28 gowns were duly brought back to life.

Everyone in their "red" or "blue" now feel much fresher and ready to sing. We can also have clean robes for any visiting choristers which is a sign of a good welcome. Our thanks go to Ian for making a very generous offer to the church.

Grace Martin

The Choristers' Prayer

*Bless, O Lord, us thy servants,
who minister in thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Summer Wedding in Sweden

Location: ONSALA, South of
Gothenburg.



Bride: Hanna. A classic Swede; blonde and slim.
Bridegroom: Will, whom Helene taught as a nine year old
at Lichfield Cathedral School. Father is my oldest friend,
born in the same street and apparently our prams knocked
together!

The weekend was dry and sunny - (sounds familiar).

We Brits stayed en masse in a multi-bedded property,
whose back garden was lapped by the North Sea, with a
jetty for cool dipping - in fact a tempting 19 degrees - with
a warming sauna in the basement! Interestingly, Denmark
was only a 35 mile sail away. The hinterland was
essentially a tapestry of green conifers and varying sized
lakes - one so vast that it has its own shipping forecast!

Hanna's parents gave a Friday evening drinks party to
welcome family and friends in their nearby home. It

boasted a fabulous extension designed and built by the very capable father, who also manages The Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, from where a trio of two violins and a viola, played in the Church service.

Here we met Hanna's one-eyed, 98 year old grandpa; a missionary in Tanzania for over 30 years. Most impressively all the Swedes we met spoke immaculate English and were extremely welcoming. Traditional meal of meatballs and a berry sauce with beer and/or wine filled the stomachs handsomely.

Saturday morning saw us at Onsala Kyrka, where Hanna's parents and grandparents had also been married. Originating in the Middle Ages, from whence stones are incarcerated in the walls, the Church shows strong influences from the 17th and 18th centuries. The pulpit was installed in the 16th century, when the area was still part of Denmark and accordingly is placed on the right side of the Church. Built essentially of wood, with beautiful ceiling paintings, the church was extensively restored in 1918/19. An ornate inscription in the Church remembers a married couple who became highly accomplished privateers around 1700 and were officially sanctioned by the King! In one year 100 foreign ships were captured and brought to Gothenburg harbour. The husband died aged 28 but his resourceful wife continued the trade for many a year thereafter.

The traditional service was split between English and Swedish - the vicar, Tore Elofsson, welcomed us in the usual faultless English. Before the bride's arrival and as an early impromptu 'ice-breaker', we were invited to sing an informal, unaccompanied version of "Goin' to the chapel and we're goin' to get married.....", which got the happy event off to an enthusiastic start. There was an English hymn; Eleanor Farjeon's "Morning has broken" and a Swedish one by A.F.Wirsen. The latter, without musical annotation, was a struggle for us but fortunately the Swedes sang it

vociferously! After completing the vows, the vicar remarked humorously that he hoped that, in the marriage partnership, the bride could keep the car clean and the groom could be active in the kitchen!

The bride and groom beamed throughout and were drenched by a deluge of confetti as they left the Church, accompanied enthusiastically by bridesmaids, Alma, the delightful little flower girl, stewards, family and friends.

We moved up the coast to a fine restaurant, where the reception appeared to be more formal, with drinks and canapes on wooden jetties, then retiring indoors for the dinner. Will's brother Charlie - another of Helene's educational proteges - as Best Man, was in charge of affairs. The various courses were interspersed with the speeches, of which there were many. Charlie opened proceedings, wholly in Swedish, with a lengthy and remarkable speech that he'd memorised in the preceding weeks. This went down a storm with all the Swedes.

A notable feature of the reception and a Swedish tradition, was that, whenever either the bride or groom left the room, a cacophony of sound; a magical tinkling, instantly erupted; caused by knives and forks striking table glasses. If the groom was absent, then all the menfolk leapt from their chairs and rushed to kiss the bride. Similarly if the bride exited, then all the women rose to kiss the groom. Amid the many speeches, one by a redoubtable aunt, who insisted on speaking Swedish throughout, there also featured musical interludes, memorably one by a family tribute Abba group in drag!

Apparently dancing continued well into the next morning, but, needless to recount, we missed that completely!

jTruly a joyous wedding day, full of love and ceremony.

Sunday, by contrast, found us driven to Gothenburg harbour, seated on a breakwater, watching the inshore race of The Volvo Round the World Yacht Race. We saw the 7 65 footers being chucked around the buoys like dinghies!

All in all, Happy Swedish times.

Andrew and Helene Symington

SCRUFFY

Scruffy is a little dog
He's less than one foot tall
His hair, all sticky-outy,
Doesn't make him look less small.
But for all his lack of inches
What sets our Scruff apart –
Within his doggy ribcage
There beats a lion's heart.

For Scruffy loves his Master
He loves his Mistress, too!
To keep them safe from danger
There's nothing he won't do!
Some dogs are loud and barky
Some dogs are not so cute,
Some half the size of horses –
He doesn't give a hoot!

If Scruffy senses trouble
His courage does not lack

He growls and barks and races
Straight into the attack!
Twelve inches of pure fury
The fiercest, big or small
Turn tail and flee for safety
They don't like that at all!
Despite his fearless ardour
His vigil, night and day
To keep his folk from danger
And trouble, come what may.
What thanks for all his courage?
What prize, for all that slog?
No! All he gets from Master:
"Be quiet, you stupid dog!"

By Nigel Beeton

(I had to include this poem as it reminds me of Tilly, our miniature, wire-haired dachshund! I'm not sure she'd protect us, but on the beach she will take on dogs of all sizes!)



PIMMS AND THINGS

Please come along to the Vicarage on Saturday 1st September, 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm, for a social event and you will have the dubious pleasure of meeting the above mentioned miniature wire-haired dachshund. We will be serving Pimms, soft drinks and a few nibbles. Obviously, at the moment, we are enjoying a long spell of wonderful weather, but if, on this day, it is pouring with rain we will reschedule!



FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

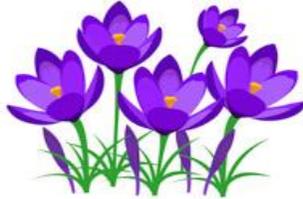
21st July Jason Anthony Doyle and Tara Kenni Richards

Funeral

25th July William Dawes Baron

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 5 th August	Grace Martin
Sunday 12 th August	Grace Martin
Sunday 19 th August	Wendy Bales
Sunday 26 th August	Wendy Bales



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the September edition of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 17th August