

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

At this time of year we have our Harvest services which give thanks for the many blessings we have. Ephesians 5.20: "Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything".

It is said that laughter is of great benefit to health, but there is something that is much more lasting and benefits mind, body and spirit, gratitude, giving thanks. Being grateful not only improves our attitude to life, but also gives it balance. There are so many terrible things happening in the world and in the economy that it is only too easy to lose our focus and dwell on the bad things, especially with news bulletins stressing the grimmest facts in pictures.

There are so many references to giving thanks and praise in the Bible that there are almost too many to count. Jesus was always giving thanks, but then his entire life was one of dialogue with the Father. He was so aware of how God was always working, even when evil seemed to be gaining the victory. Perhaps we forget that Jesus himself did not live in peaceful times because the Gospels never present a gloomy picture. Now, of course, we know the victory of the resurrection, but before that time and without that knowledge, there was always trust and gratitude to the Father, not only from Jesus, but also his disciples.

Gratitude brings us closer to God and to one another. It can change our view of life and of each other. We all need some encouragement from time to time and even a little thanks expressed can bring much joy. If we practiced being

grateful and expressing it we should be on the way to finding the abundant life Jesus said he came to bring and become closer to God and each other.

With all good wishes

Andrew

NEWSROUND

Growing numbers of young people train as priests

Growing numbers of young people are seeking ordination to the priesthood, as the Church of England makes progress towards achieving a key target of recruiting more candidates for ordained ministry.

The number of people aged under 32 years old recommended for training for ordination this year rose by nearly a third, or 32%, to 169, compared to 128 in 2016, a report on vocations from the Church of England shows. This means nearly one in three, or 29%, of those entering training for the priesthood this year are expected to be under 32 years old.

The overall number of people recommended for ordination training is up 7% on last year, from 541 to 580. This follows a 14% increase the year before, putting the Church on course to achieving a key target of recruiting 50% more candidates for ordination by 2020.

The figures have been published alongside Ministry Statistics for 2017 showing just over 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England, with women making up nearly a third, or 30% of the total. But the number of clergy in paid positions in 2017 fell by 50 from 7,790 to 7,740 compared to 2016.

Nearly a quarter, or 23% of paid clergy in senior posts, such as Bishops, Cathedral Deans or Archdeacons were women in 2017, compared to 12% in 2012.

Meanwhile, the vocations report shows that women are set to be the majority entering ordination training for the second year running, with 54% of this year's recommended candidates being female.

Director of the Church of England's Ministry Division, Julian Hubbard, said: "I am delighted that the Church of England has seen a rise in the number of vocations to the priesthood for the second year running. We are particularly pleased to see the increase in the number of young women and men entering training.

The Church of England is aiming to achieve an increase in the diversity of those entering ministry and a 50% increase in the total number of candidates for ordained ministry by 2020. This is part of its Renewal and Reform programme .

Remembering the war horses

The eight million horses, donkeys and mules which are thought to have died in service during World War One have recently been commemorated in an open-air War Horse Remembrance Service in Coverdale, North Yorkshire.

The event was jointly hosted by four churches in Coverdale. The churches invited local racing stables, pony clubs and hunts, with proceeds from the service going to the equine charity, Brooke.

Hannah Russell, of Brooke's Every Horse Remembered campaign, said: 'It's so important that we honour the contribution of animals of the past in order to ensure a better future for the horses, donkeys and mules of today.'

Tim Peake speculates on intelligent design

The astronaut Tim Peake, on a recent visit to Peterborough Cathedral, has said that although he is not religious, his time in space made him consider the possibility that the

universe is not an accident, but the result of intelligent design.

Tim Peake spoke about his journey back to Earth in 2016. According to The Times, he said: 'Although I say I'm not religious it doesn't necessarily mean that I don't seriously consider that the universe could have been created from intelligent design. There are many things in science that lead us towards that conclusion.

'From a point of view of seeing how magnificent the Earth is from space and seeing the cosmos from different perspective, it helps you to relate to that.'



Peake added that, as well as the scale of the universe being impressive, looking at the minute details also made him think: 'When you look at the smaller scale, the micro level, and you understand quantum mechanics and quantum physics, there are many things that lead us... towards intelligent design of the universe.'

The Astronaut's Soyuz landing module and spacesuit is on display in Peterborough Cathedral until 5th November.

ALL HALLOWS' EVE OR HOLY EVENING

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

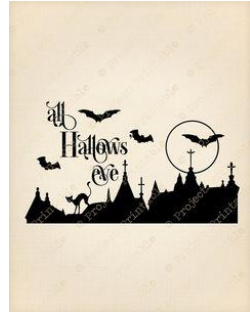
In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-

spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid

priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints’ Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called ‘All Hallows’ Day’. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called ‘All Hallows’ Eve’, The Holy Evening, later shortened to ‘Halloween’.



For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows’ Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Ride & Stride Saturday 8th September

The day dawned dry, grey and mild, perfect for cycling. Starting off from Transfig at 9am, Tom immediately had a front tyre issue which needed pumping. My plan was to cycle in the Poole conurbation for the day with our first church visit at Holy Angels, Lilliput. We were greeted by Maggie Richardson, the churchwarden who was just opening up in readiness for a wedding later that morning. In fact we encountered three weddings during our trail. Next, All Saints and the first of their riders were arriving. I note from our record of visitors, there were five riders from All Saints taking part. St Aldhelms, our next stop, where we duly registered and were greeted by the cleaner. Along Ashley Road now, not I must say an exciting route, but at least quiet early in the morning. St John's Church, (opposite Waitrose) is always welcoming with a cup of coffee and their Nit & Natter group in full swing. It is interesting to see their new glass entrance doors keeping the church warmer. Unfortunately the designer insisted they should have locks at the top of the door which very few can reach.



Free-wheeling from here brought us to the Orthodox Church of St Dunstan of Canterbury.

Here we were welcomed by the Deacon Father Filip, who hails from Belgium and his very knowledgeable wife who is in charge of the restoration project here and the lottery funding. We were given a tour and explanation of the work to be undertaken. A huge programme is planned to remove the screen and open up the church to what it looked like originally and site the altar directly under the dome where the acoustic is exceptional. Many icons and the Bishops throne would be moved to new positions and a major

undertaking is the restoration of the organ. The project aims to carry out essential repairs to the roof, windows and walls. The church hopes to attract audiences with musical performances by choirs and musicians. St Dunstan's is an early 20C Basilica in the Arts and Crafts style designed as the last work of the renowned architect E S Prior. It contains a number of furnishings and objects designed for the church by Bainbridge Reynolds, MacDonald and Eric Gill. This church is certainly worthy of a visit on your way to the Cathedral of Waitrose, and nowadays it is usually open. Within a few minutes we arrived at St Luke's, Parkstone, externally unattractive, but having an interesting open interior with colourful stained glass. More free-wheeling we were soon at St Peter's Parkstone which has towered over Ashley Cross since 1833. By the 1870s it was decided that a bigger church was needed and so the current church was built around the old church. The nave roof of the new church was built over the tower of the old church, hence the massive size of the present church. The new church would have had a tower and spire that was three times higher than the roof, but Lady Wimborne, who gave the money for this project, took the cheque back and used it to rebuild St Luke's, Parkstone. Lord and Lady Baden-Powell were married at St Peter's in 1912.

From here we cycled through Poole Park to Skinner Street Methodist Church. This proved to be the most welcoming of all our visits where on Saturdays an exhibition of old Poole photos and the church in its heyday with the pews full with everyone dressed in their Sunday best is on display. A welcome cup of coffee with home-made scones and cakes are also available. I have visited many churches but this is the only one I know where the flooring is raked to give the rear pews a clear view of the business end of the church. A ride through old Poole brought us to St James', here a wedding was in full swing. A couple from Tasmania were intrigued by us and took a photo of us both at the entrance.

This is where Tom's tyre gave up, luckily there was an up turned barrel outside the Hotel de Vin which proved useful to support the wheel to remove the inner tube. With the repair complete we continued over Poole Bridge towards Hamworthy and St Michael's Church, a brick building by the main road. This church is usually open but this time firmly closed, and another Rider from Wareham looking for a way in. The long straight Blandford Road brought us to St Dunstan's at Upton, a modern complex with adjoining hall. Here a stamp fayre was being held, so we were signed in by a member on duty.

We cycled on over the Upton by-pass to Lytchett Minster, an attractive building with medieval tower and early English windows. The nave was erected to replace the previous building which had been destroyed by fire. There are six bells and the oldest dates back to around 1490. We were given tea and classical music played while we took a break with a sandwich. We then searched for a dark stone carved with radiating lines and Roman numerals. This is a 'mass-dial' or 'scratch dial', a primitive time-teller which is usually marked to show the times of the Mass. It is a rare example of its kind and is tentatively dated to 1500. We found it on part of the buttress on the south side. For a church to be without dedication is not unique but there is speculation that the name of the nearby public house (St Peter's Finger) may have a bearing on the original name of the church. On leaving we bumped into the Archdeacon of Dorset who was also cycling for the day.

Our route now to Broadstone took us via Limberlost and the private church of the Barons of Rockley of Lytchett Heath. Hidden away in woodland it is kept locked, well maintained and with an interesting array of gargoyles, characteristic of Eric Gill. The Rockley's are a direct descendant of the Elizabethan statesman Robert Cecil. In 1934 Sir Evelyn Cecil was raised to the peerage as Lord Rockley and taking

his tile from Rockley Sands in Poole Harbour, which he had bought to block an industrial development.

Our road now was to Corfe Mullen and Broadstone St John's Church but unfortunately locked. The Revd. Helen Bailey presides here upon Nigel Lloyd's retirement in March this year. Once again Tom's tyre problem persisted, at which point he headed for home, making it to Fleetsbridge before calling for a lift home. I cycled on along the old railway track, now a cycle way to Canford Magna. This is the oldest building in the Borough of Poole with a foundation in the late Saxon period, probably 1050. Its setting despite its proximity to the famous school of the same name is both perfect and charming. Very much part of school life it was being prepared for an evening concert. Close by at Merley is the Lantern Church, part of a housing estate it is modern in design built in 1976 and part of the Canford Magna team ministry.

My homeward trail then took me to St Paul's Church at Canford Heath, again very modern in design on a new development. From here my final church visit was St George's, Oakdale. Very austere externally with the look of a fire station, but the interior is a joy of light and open design. The present Archdeacon of Dorset whom we met at Lytchett was previously vicar here. A full and tiring day but one of the most rewarding Ride & Strides I have undertaken. It is a pity that so many churches are locked even though it is stated on our information sheet that they will be open to accept Riders & Striders.

Thanks to all your generous sponsorship the sum of £340 has been raised to help with the restoration of Dorset Historic Churches and of course 50% of the total will be returned to our church.

Graham Luker



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Wed	3	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	4	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	5	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall

TRINITY 19

Sun	7	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer
Wed	10	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Fri	12	9.30 am	Baby Group

TRINITY 20

Sun	14	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Matins <i>(Sunday Club in hall)</i> Evening Prayer
Wed	17	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	18	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	19	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall

TRINITY 21

Sun	21	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Parish Communion Choral Evensong
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Tues	23	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>in hall</i>
Wed	24	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	25	3.30 pm	Magazine collation
Fri	26	9.30 am	Baby Group

TRINITY 22

Sun	28	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Matins (<i>Sunday Club in hall</i>) Evening Prayer
Wed	31	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>

NOVEMBER

Thurs	1	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	2	10.30 am	<i>Coffee Morning in hall</i>

ALL SAINTS

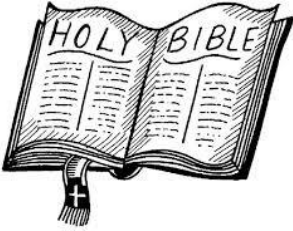
Sun	4	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion All Souls' Service
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All in the month of October

It was:

400 years ago, on 29th Oct 1618 that Sir Walter Raleigh died. This famous English explorer, writer, poet and courtier was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth 1. Well known for popularising tobacco in England. Executed for treason by King James 1 (mainly to appease the Spanish).

100 years ago, on 1st Oct 1918 that British and Arab forces led by T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) captured the Syrian capital, Damascus, from the Turks.



SUNDAY READINGS IN OCTOBER

Sunday 7th October: Trinity 19

OLD TESTAMENT: Job 1.1; 2.1-10

Satan attacks Job's health, giving him loathsome sores to test him.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels is now crowned with glory and honour because he has died for us.

GOSPEL: Mark 10.2-16

Jesus is questioned on the subject of divorce.

Sunday 14th October: Trinity 20

OLD TESTAMENT: Job 23.1-9, 16-end

Job is longing to find God in his suffering. He complains that God feels distant and absent.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 10.17-31

Jesus speaks with the rich young man and tells him to sell everything and follow him.

Sunday 21st October: Trinity 21

OLD TESTAMENT: Job 38.1-7

God talks to Job of how he had created the world and laid its foundations.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 5.1-10

As high priests were selected and represented people before God, so Jesus has become for us the great High Priest.

GOSPEL: Mark 10.35-45

The request of James and John who asked to sit

on the right and left side of Jesus in his glory.

Sunday 28th October: Trinity 22

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 55.1-11

An invitation to the thirsty to come to God and he will quench their thirst.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 5.36-end

Jesus berates the people for not accepting him who was sent from God, but accepting others who are not.

Sunday 4th November: All Saints

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 56.3-8

In this passage Isaiah states that even foreigners and those who are not from the people of Israel will gain salvation from God.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 12.18-24

Unlike Mount Sinai which was terrifying even for Moses, Christ promises us a new Jerusalem with Jesus as our mediator.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5.1-12

Jesus gives his sermon on the mount and teaches them the beatitudes.

The Guarding of the God of Life

The God of life with guarding hold you,
The loving Christ with guarding fold you,
The Holy Spirit, guarding, mould you,
Each night of life to aid, enfold you
Each day and night of life uphold you.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

The story behind the HYMN: Stand by me

We've recently mourned the death of the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. So it is a good time to remember another African American song-writer, Charles Tindley. He not only used his gift to give voice to thousands of people struggling with pain and rejection, he also gave them good reason for hope – in God.

Charles Albert Tindley knew all about hardship and suffering. He was born to a slave father in Maryland in 1851, ten years before the Civil War began. Although his mother was free, she died when he was very young, and so he was raised by his aunt and father. They lived in poverty, and from early childhood he was hired out – 'wherever my father could place me'.

Yet Charles wanted more out of life. As a teenager he taught himself to read, and managed to get to night-school. He had become a devout Christian and felt called to the ministry. And so, after completing a seminary course by correspondence, he was ordained a Methodist pastor, and went to Philadelphia. He did not go alone; when just 17 he had married a local girl, Daisy. They would share 56 years of marriage and produce eight children.

In Philadelphia, Charles and Daisy began a small church in a poor section of town. He was quickly noticed – at 6 foot four inches, it was hard *not* to see him! He was a born leader, and his little church soon began to grow... from nothing to finally 10,000 people. When he spoke, people could hear an authentic voice of painful experience, and yet always Christian hope as well. Charles knew about poverty and believed Christians should help: his church offered food banks and clothing drives to the local community, as well as

a soup kitchen from the church basement. Charles often went out into the streets of his rough neighbourhood, visiting the bars to talk to desperate people about Jesus Christ.

Like Aretha Franklin, Charles knew that most African-Americans felt trapped in hopeless situations, and that they were regarded as second class citizens. So his music urged them to have hope in the love of God, and in His protection for them. This hymn reflects that shining faith.

Stand by me

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me.
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,
Lord, who rules the wind and water, stand by me.

In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me.
When the host of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,
Lord, who never lost a battle, stand by me.

In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me.
When I've done the best I can, and my friends
misunderstand,
Lord, who knows all about me, stand by me.

When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me;
when I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.
When my life becomes a burden and I'm nearing chilly
Jordan,
Lord, the Lily of the Valley, stand by me.

By Charles A. Tindley

A TRIP AWAY!

I know that a number of people have asked Sarah and me where we were over the Summer this year, and I thought that you might be interested to hear about the week away in Italy I took with the Thames Youth Orchestra, at the end of August.

One of the many pleasures of music is to be able to share that with younger musicians, often inexperienced but capable of fantastic feats with the right sort of guidance and tutoring. I don't claim to be able to provide much of that, but the leader of the Thames Youth Orchestra, who founded it in 2006 (with me as one of the founding members), is certainly a great example of someone who can inspire and work with young musicians.

Whilst it might have 'youth' in the title, the orchestra certainly takes music making seriously, and has played some serious repertoire; Mahler 4, Shostakovich 5 and much other famous music, and has played it credibly. On tour, however, with inevitably lower numbers, we take a more restricted set of music, and perform it 3 times over the course of a week. This year this included Epic March, by John Ireland, Suite 1 and 2, English Dances, by Malcom Arnold, Bavarian Dances, by Edward Elgar and An American in Paris, by George Gershwin, as well as three concertos played by leaving members of the orchestra. As you can see, it is Simon's intention to take some typically English music to showcase on tour, as well as the show stopping Gershwin – if you haven't had the pleasure of listening to any of these pieces, I can only recommend them!

Tour is hard work; not only do we have the 24 hour coach journey at either end, the moment we arrive there is always a rehearsal scheduled, and mornings are filled with rehearsal time, either for the full orchestra or for the Big Band Jazz group that also plays with us (mostly made up

from members of the orchestra). Afternoons are spent sight-seeing – this year we visited Verona, Venice and Mantua, as well as Sirmeone. Evenings concerts require time to set up, a quick rehearsal, and, at least in Italy where concerts are expected to be late, a very late start and finish times, before a pack down and return to the hotel. It was not a relaxing trip! (especially not one night, where we were told the wrong address for the concert, and had to move venues at the very last moment).

But it was great fun, a real privilege to guide and look after the children and young adults on the tour, and a real sense of camaraderie amongst the tour staff.

The Rev'd Tom Pelham

Psalm 121 – the God who knows and cares

A man asked a friend about the two greatest problems in the world. The friend responded, '*I don't know and I don't care!*' '*You got them both!*' the man replied.

Psalm 121 presents a God who both knows and cares about our problems. As the first Song of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), it was used by pilgrims going to the great festivals in Jerusalem. Just as this road was full of dangers, this psalm speaks to our problems and set-backs, whether illness, family or work issues, or fear.

Where do we look for help? '*I lift up my eyes to the mountains...My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*' (1,2). The hills speak of a Creator God, who is bigger than our troubles, for whom nothing is beyond His reach.

What is His care like?

It is constant: 'He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber'(3). God is never off duty in His care, as we are constantly His concern.

It is close: 'The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand' (5). God is not watching us 'from a distance' as the songs says! His care operates at close quarters, to take the heat out of situations, or when circumstances are dark and uncertain.

It is continuing: 'the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.' (8). God's care is all encompassing, through life and eternity. We are not immune from difficulties, but in the bigger picture, God will use these in His eternal purpose for our lives. The psalm is fulfilled in Jesus, who has secured eternal life for us. So let's trust His care for us, and not be like the lady who asked: 'why pray when I can worry?'

The Rev'd Paul Hardingham

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Plans for our Harvest Supper always start several months in advance, with the annual argument about whether we dare increase the price of tickets by 20p to £1.50. After endless wrangling we compromise on 15p, with several warning that this will sound the death knell of Harvest. That every member of the committee cheerfully pays £50 a head to dine out elsewhere seems irrelevant.



Hotpots are provided by the ladies of the parish. It is always interesting to speculate on who has made which: some are robust and meaty, while others are wan and watery. Having sampled these dishes for the past 30 years, I can match each offering with the personalities of their creators. It is

also amusing to watch how the cooks manoeuvre to make sure the correct people receive their own dishes. Mrs French positively chases Lady Masterson with her hotpot. After the meal, we proceed to what parishioners optimistically call the entertainment. I settle myself on the back row, smile, applaud – and think of the large gin awaiting me back at the Rectory.

Colonel Hetherington imagines that the consumption of a bottle of claret over the meal improves his intonation as he gives his annual rendition of “The Lost Chord”. I can only assume the lost chords he refers to are the vocal ones he once possessed. Miss Simpson’s jokes have been repeated so often that the audience enthusiastically joins in with every punch line. Miss Sprocker makes her annual (failed) attempt to hand around paper and pencils and hold ‘a nice little quiz’ – she was a primary teacher.

Meanwhile the ladies in the kitchen provide a musical accompaniment of crashing crockery and cutlery, which sadly drowns out all but the most tantalising snippets of their gossip about the rest of us.

The evening always ends with the Major’s recitation of “The boy stood on the burning deck”. Before he can commence an un-requested encore, I surge up to the stage, thank all the performers, and wish everyone a safe journey home. The Major is left looking like a boy who had just had his lollipop stolen by the school bully. On reflection, that is quite an accurate analogy.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

FROM THE REGISTERS

There are no registers this month

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 7 th	October	The Guild
Sunday 14 th	October	The Guild
Sunday 21 st	October	Grace Martin
Sunday 28 th	October	Grace Martin



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the November edition of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 19th October