

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

I would like to share, this month, as we approach the season of Lent, an extract from Gerald Vanns "The Temptations of Christ":

"The virtue of patience includes the ability to be patient with oneself, with ones own slowness and lack of apparent progress. What we have to learn is simply to do the best we can and leave the results, our rate of progress, the direction in which we develop, in God's hands.

Trying to be perfect means trying to make the best possible use of the gifts, natural and supernatural, which God has given us: and that in turn means being aware of, and accepting, our physical, psychological and spiritual limitations.

The true meaning of "to comfort", is "to strengthen": not a soft, sentimental attempt to persuade us that all is well when all is far from well, but an attempt to pour into us new strength and courage to meet whatever demands are to be made on us. If then we are perplexed and hesitant, the spirit enlightens us; if we are ignorant, he teaches us; forgetful, he reminds us: and when we are weary and discouraged he puts new heart into us.

Whatever the trials to which he leads us, he is there to strengthen us, and to go with us through the ordeal to the end."

Wishing you all a very holy Lent.

With all good wishes,

Andrew

And as they did eat, he said, "Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me".

Name him not, Name him not, nor constellate
The one who led him to his fate. Nevertheless
Judas was part of Jesus.
For the god has always a foot of clay, and the soul
Grows in soil, the flower has a dark root.
And deep in all is the base collaborator.
The betrayer is ever oneself, never another.
All must say, "Lord is it I?". There is always
Evil in goodness, lust in love, dust on the dove's foot,
And without it purity's groundless. And the Cross
Had never been.

W.R. Rodgers





The computer swallowed Grandma,
Yes, honestly, it's true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.
I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.
In desperation, I asked Mr Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'.
So, if inside your 'Inbox',
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Scan, Copy and Paste' her,
in an e-mail back to me.

c. 2004 Valerie Waite

*We do not stop playing because we grow old;
We grow old because we stop playing*

*(Thank you to Mary Cooper who submitted this poem for
the magazine)*

The Crow Family

Since writing the article about the crows at Whitecliff I have received several comments, mostly referring to other genera of the crow group.



There are eight present throughout the year in the British Isles most of them remain in the same area. For example **rooks** come back to the same site – a rookery, year after a year and build new nests in the same trees. There is an old country saying, ‘that if they build new nests lower down in the branches, the weather in late spring will be stormy with high winds, if the opposite happens, the weather will be calm and dry’. Rooks eat cereals and insects and are often accompanied by jackdaws foraging in the fields. **Jackdaws** nest in holes in tall trees and frequently in unused chimneys. The nests often block the escape of smoke and are costly to remove.

The **carrion crow** usually nests in tall trees. Their nest is constructed with large twigs and then lined with a softer material such as dead grass and animal hair, often sheep’s wool.

The **maggie** usually nests in lower trees. It is made of twigs with a softer lining. The sides of the nest are built up and covered over with entry on one side. Usually three to four eggs are laid with both parents feeding and protecting the young birds.

The **jay** is less common and tends to live in scrub. The male is more colourful than the hen. The nest is a platform of twigs and both parents raise and feed the young. The **raven** is the largest of the crows. It usually lives on cliffs and feeds on carrion and some vegetable matter. Those at the Tower of London, remain captive because the flight

feathers in their wings have been removed and are looked after by one of the wardens.

The final member of the crow family is the **chough**. It is now confined to coastal cliffs on the west side of Great Britain. One of its habitats is along the Lizard peninsular in Cornwall. It is about the size of a jackdaw, has red legs and bill. It is depicted as a standard on the Cornish Coat of Arms.

Cedric Nielsen

Round, like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel...

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor. When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We have just started the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as being a time for giving up chocolate,

wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

All around God is motion, sound, change and decay – galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variability, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

At Christmas, we thanked God for entering the ever moving and changing life of the world. But one great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him His balance and authority.

"Be still then and know that I am God" wrote the Psalmist. Lent is a time for us to stop and remember that. Lent is a good time to be a little more silent than usual – quicker to listen and slower to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small Voice within.

God's stillness is still full of energy. That still centre of the spinning disc is also the point which drives the rest of the rotating circle. Equally, when we're in touch with that still centre, we'll be able to give strength and support to those who feel they're spinning at the edges.

Being still does mean that we need to take time to pause, to take stock, to take a critical look at our lives. That's what Lent is about. On the spinning discs of our own lives, we need to remember that there is a still centre, calm and yet full of energy – which is where God is.

The Rev'd Dr. Gary Bowness

CURATE'S CORNER

How did your 'Dry January' go? Or was it Veganuary you followed this year? The secular world seems to always be inventing new quasi-religious festivals through the year as it seeks to replace the passing of both the natural and the religious rhythm of the seasons with its own markers. It seems to me that there is deep human drive towards liturgy.

After very brief sojourn in ordinary time (you may notice the altar turned green again after Candlemas) we're back in another major season of the church this month, as Lent begins on the 6th of March. As I'm sure we all know, fasting and praying are a key component of the observation of Lent. I'd like to share a short story from the sayings of the 'desert fathers' – ancient Christian monks, who wrote about their lifestyles.

Once two brothers went to visit an old man. It was not the old man's habit, however, to eat every day. When he saw the brothers, he welcomed them with joy, and said: "Fasting has its own reward, but if you eat for the sake of love, you satisfy two commandments, for you give up your own will and also fulfill the commandment to refresh others."

Whilst the secular liturgy of the seasons places its fast in January, after the Christmas gorging, the Christian tradition places this time of self-denial in Lent. But the timing is not the major difference, I would argue. Rather it is the intent. We do not fast for any other reason than to help us to love God; we do not fast for weight-loss, or health. We do not fast to follow a faddish diet, or to boast about it. God is our aim. This is why, paradoxically, the 'old man' in this story – likely another monk – gives up his fast happily; not because he fails in his fast, not because he is careless or faithless,

but because the commandment to love others and feed others trumps his own private devotions. God is his aim. I don't know about you, but I've heard a lot of people say something along the lines of; 'I failed my new years resolution/dry January, so I just gave up'. The second thing that is different for a Lenten fast is what happens when (not if) we slip up. And the answer is not just to scrap the whole thing, nor is it to give yourself penitence, or feel bad about it. God does not demand misery in return for our failures; he bore that misery himself on the cross. Pick back up where you left off, and keep going! And finally, pick something achievable – don't try to do something more than you can manage, or that would make you unhealthy or unhappy – start small. So whatever you give up, give it up for the Lord, and give it up cheerfully; don't worry if you fail, keep trying, and start with something achievable. And, as ever, whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him! I pray that you all have a spiritually fulfilling time this Lent.

Tom

Passionate about The Poole Passion

The Poole Passion is back! As many will know, 'The Poole Passion' has been presenting a community Passion Play every other year since 2009. We have presented the play 'Through the Eyes of a Child' by Sharon Muiruri Coyne, to hundreds of people, many of whom return year after year and we also featured on BBC's 'Songs of Praise' on Easter Day 2016. After six productions we are renewing ourselves and are excited to announce our new version of the Passion of Christ, 'Footsteps' written by Ann Balaam, Artistic

Director. The premier of 'Footsteps' will be from 31st March to 4th April 2020.

A group of tourists, pilgrims, all with their own stories and agendas, will follow in the steps of Jesus and become personally involved in the events that go to make up one of the greatest stories ever told. We will witness the retelling of some of his miracles, hear his teaching, meet his friends and walk with him to the end and a new beginning.

As you may imagine, we will require a large cast for this. We are a very friendly and diverse group and anyone over the age of 7 may take part. There is no upper age limit and no religious barrier. We are open to all. We have many parts on offer both speaking and non-speaking and we also provide intern placements for students to work with professionals in such areas as lighting, costume, stage-management, projection, and music. We include experience of dance and music for our younger members. We are a mix of professional and amateur, and our productions involve the community in everything from acting and costume design to set building and promotion.

We hold workshops on the first Wednesday of each month at Parkstone United Reformed Church (PURC) on Commercial Road, at 5.45 for a 6pm start. Refreshments are available. In September we will commence weekly rehearsals. Maybe you are already a part of our cast and team, or maybe you have never heard of us and think you might like to be involved in some way. It is truly is a wonderful experience and well worth coming along. Bring your children, bring a friend or come on your own and make a lot of new friends. For further information look at our website www.poolepassion.com or email us at producer@poolepassion.com.

Come and join us and be a part of The Poole Passion 2020



CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Fri 1st 10.30 am ***Coffee Morning in hall***

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Sun 3rd 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Parish Communion
6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wed 6th 10.30 am **Holy Communion for Ash
Wednesday** *at St. Nicolas*
2.00 pm Bible Study Group
7.00 pm Bible Study Group

Thurs 7th 10.00 am Parish Art Group
Fri 8th 9.30 am Baby Group
5.00 pm ***Lent Devotion***

LENT 1

Sun 10th 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Matins (*Sunday Club in hall*)
6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wed 13th 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
5.00 pm ***Lent Devotion***

Fri 15th 10.30 am ***Coffee Morning in hall***
5.00 pm ***Lent Devotion***

LENT 2

Sun 17th 8.00 am Holy Communion

	9.30 am	Family Service
	10.30 am	Parish Communion
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
Wed 20 th	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
	2.00 pm	Bible Study Group
	5.00 pm	Lent Devotion
	7.00 pm	Bible Study Group
Thurs 21 st	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri 22 nd	9.30 am	Baby Group
	5.00 pm	Lent Devotion

LENT 3

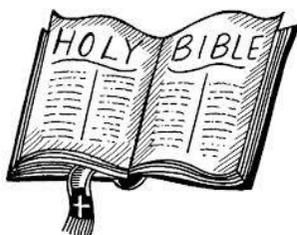
Sun 24 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Matins (<i>Sunday Club in hall</i>)
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tues 26 th	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>in hall</i>
Wed 27 th	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
	5.00 pm	Lent Devotion
Thurs 28 th	3.30 pm	Magazine collation
Fri 29 th	9.30 am	Baby Group
	5.00 pm	Lent Devotion

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Sun 31 st	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Family Parish Communion for Mothering Sunday
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 13th April 11.00 am Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the hall.



SUNDAY READINGS IN **MARCH**

Sunday 3rd March - Sunday next before Lent

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 34.29-end

It is in the light of Moses' transfigured face, and through his accompanying words, that God passes on his law to Israel.

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2

Paul speaks of the glory of the new covenant revealed in Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 9.28-36

God reveals Jesus as the culmination of the prophetic ministry and also identifies him as his Son with the absolute authority to speak God's will.

Sunday 10th March - Lent 1

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 26.1-11

The ritual tithe prescribed by the law must be given in a spirit of thanksgiving to God for his mercy and generosity.

GOSPEL: Luke 4.1-13

Jesus' experience in the wilderness portrays temptation as the power of Satan which tries to lure us into self-centred, not God-centred, behaviour.

Sunday 17th March - Lent 2

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

The Lord told Abraham that he would have many descendants who would be given the land between Egypt and the Euphrates.

NEW TESTAMENT: Phillippians 3.17-4.1

Paul explains how we should live and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 13.31-end

Jesus declares his love for Jerusalem and tells those questioning him that he will die there and that the Temple will be abandoned.

Sunday 24th March - Lent 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 55.1-9

God offers mercy and blessing to those who turn to him. Other nations will see through Israel's example.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 13.1-9

Jesus tells the people to turn from their sins or die. He tells the parable of the unfruitful fig tree which must bear fruit if it is not to be cut down.

Sunday 31st March - Mothering Sunday

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 2.1-10

The story of the birth of Moses shows his mother's love and courage and tells us of his adoption by the Pharaoh's daughter.

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Paul describes how God comforts us in our troubles and also through the sufferings of Christ we are comforted.

GOSPEL: Luke 2.33-35

When Jesus is presented in the Temple, Simeon speaks especially to Mary, his mother.

"Delivering Hope" tour comes to Dorset

The harsh reality of giving birth in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where ten women die from giving birth each day, will be brought to life when a Christian Aid worker shares stories from the frontline of maternal health in her country. The country's Senior Programme Officer for Health Projects, Joanna Tom-Kargbo, herself a trained nurse, will speak at events in Dorset during March to share how Christian Aid supporters are delivering hope to mothers and babies through a programme to make childbirth safer.



Joanna is speaking at over 20 events in a whirlwind tour of the South West to share with supporters how health clinics, training and improved hygiene are saving lives in a country where one in nine children don't live to see their fifth birthday and ten per cent of health workers were killed by Ebola.

Joanna said: "I am looking forward to meeting supporters in Dorset to share with them how their contributions are making such a difference.

"It is inspiring for me to go out to rural communities and see how, as a result of Christian Aid support, villages are taking charge of the changes they need to see and showing other communities what can be done. Together we are rebuilding health centres and improving hygiene and medical training."

Do join us and come along to hear Joanna speak at one of the following locations:

The Coach House, Mapperton House, West Dorset, DT8 3NR
at 7pm on Friday 15th March

St Michael's Church, Colehill, Wimborne, BH21 7AB at 10.30 on Saturday 16th March.
For more details about the events contact 023 8070 6969

A CHILD OF OUR TIME an Oratorio by Michael Tippett

Current events will make the Lighthouse performance of A Child of our Time on 20th March more accessible and meaningful. The performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus and Orchestra will be recorded live on BBC Radio 3.

The Chorus has received valuable background into the thoughts of the composer and the text as well as intense musical training.

Tippett started to write his oratorio on 3rd September 1939, the day that Britain declared war on Germany. A confirmed pacifist, his work was a response to the fascism and European disunity of the time.

A text that includes lines such as:

'Away with them! Curse them! They infect the state! We cannot have them in our empire. They shall not work or draw a dole. Let them starve in No-Man's-Land' is terrifying in its historical context, but in today's climate it is profoundly depressing too. It feels like the last 75 years have never happened. It seems we have been complacent in ignoring its warnings.

The work is structured around the singing of five traditional Negro spirituals which is incredibly moving within Tippett's contemporary language.

A Child of our Time urges us to feel empathy for everyone and expresses the need for us to try and understand

humankind's ability to be selfish, prejudiced and mean, without losing faith in our limitless potential to be considerate, compassionate and loving.

Tippett challenges us to understand those who disagree with us if we want to change their minds.

The Chorus sings:

"I would know my shadow and my light, so shall I at last be whole. Then courage brother. Dare the grave passage. Here is no final grieving, but an abiding hope. The moving waters renew the earth"

It is spring.

We are the most connected society of all time, yet in a sense we are the most disconnected. Humanity feels more divided than ever.

In bleak times, one looks for light. We should all understand that together is stronger than alone and the younger generation are the Children of our time! They deserve leadership and action that reflects their future, not our past.

Graham Luker

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



So, your vicar has appointed you to be the magazine editor; I wonder what you have done to offend him. I appointed our magazine editor 20 years ago, after her dog dug up my rose bed. Sadly, she seems unaware that I gave it to her as a penance and has been happily carrying on ever since. She has even developed a nasty persistence when it comes

to chasing me for a vicar's letter every month. Becoming editor has brought out the tyrant in her.

I applaud your hope that your magazine will be a great force for good in the community, but I fear you may be disappointed. You will hardly believe this, but many readers of *our* magazine seem to ignore my pastoral letter altogether, and instead scan the adverts for plumbers and undertakers – and even for both – if there has been a major burst in their pipes.

In any case, here are some editorial tips to bear in mind: if you want to keep any piece of church information confidential, then publish it in your magazine. On the other hand, if you accidentally transpose the names of the ladies responsible for the altar pedestal and lectern on the flower rota, it will be spotted within seconds of publication. And you will not be easily forgiven.

Staffing rotas can be helpful, so that people know who to blame when anything goes wrong. Reports of meetings of monthly groups are also welcome, because not everyone who goes to these meetings can stay awake the whole time, and thus a report informs them about the bits they slept through.

Always include a list of contact details for all the church officers, but don't worry if you mix up their various phone numbers. In fact, it can help get people talking to each other, because in order to reach the PCC Secretary, they will have had to phone most of the other PCC members first.

My final piece of advice is to omit any deadline for submission for the following month. A deadline is like a red rag to a bull, and simply incites people to break it. Whereas if you have them a bit worried that they may be left out, they will get you the copy in good time.

I wish you many happy hours reading badly written copy,
fending off fearful poems, and stalking your own vicar, in
vain hopes of getting *his* clergy letter.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

(O the trials and tribulations of being a magazine editor!)

17th March: St. Patrick's Day

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and

returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

It was

80 years ago, on 2nd March 1939 that Howard Carter, the British archaeologist and Egyptologist died. He discovered the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamen in 1922.

Also 80 years ago, that the fictional superhero Batman made his first appearance, in *Detective Comics no. 27*.

75 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944 that World War 2's 'Great Escape' took place. 76 Allied prisoners broke

out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging tunnels. 73 were recaptured and 50 executed. The event was dramatised in the classic film *The Great Escape*.

FROM THE REGISTERS

There are no entries for the Registers this month.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 3 rd March	Jette Fletcher
Sunday 10 th March	Lent - no flowers
Sunday 17 th March	Lent - no flowers
Sunday 24 th March	Lent - no flowers
Sunday 31 st March	Susanne King

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the April edition of the Church Magazine is
Friday 22nd March