

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

On the 30th May we celebrated Ascension Day and I thought I would share some thoughts on that event.

Acts 1.9: "A cloud received him from their sight". The cloud is the means of separation. The disciples realised that they would not see Jesus in the way they had seen him. He had been taken away. He had gone from them. Although we might think of the cloud as being a barrier, in the Bible it is more often a symbol of God's presence. There was the cloud by day that accompanied the Jews as they went through the wilderness, and there was the cloud which hung over Moses in his encounter with the Lord. A cloud was seen on the Mount of Transfiguration, and it is on clouds of heaven that Jesus is said to return. So the cloud, which is in human terms the means of separation, is in divine terms the sign of God's presence.

God works in mysterious ways. There was no room for him in the inn. God was shut out. Yet the bare manger which seems to deny the splendour of God is in fact the expression of it. The Cross where Christ is defeated is also where he triumphs. It is in those very places where God seems most obviously absent that he is in fact most really present.

When we understand this, then we are more able to cope with our own problems. When we are besieged by the cloud of doubt or sorrow or loneliness, when we wonder where God is, we can take comfort in the fact that God is with us even though our vision of him may be obscured. With all good wishes

Andre



From the first planning meeting, we have welcomed some new helpers and, as ever, requests were made for others to come forward. Please give all helpers your support and respond to requests for items for sale if you can (which should be delivered in good time for pricing and preparation.) *Please remember that this is a Fête and not a jumble sale!* As always, assistance will be required in setting up and dismantling the Fête. **A final pre-Fête meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th July at 11.30 am.**

<u>STALL</u>	<u>STALLHOLDER</u>	<u>TEL</u>
Books, cds & dvds	Perry Jeandren	706107
Raffle	Michael Wright	707735
White Elephant	Graham Luker	723305
Handbags	Tessa Yeoman	707629
Jewellery	Nina Crane	376325
Nearly New Clothes	Tove Taylor	707018
Flower Guild Stall	Susanne King	707265
Home Produce & cakes	Jan South	768900
Toys	Julie Bailey	701020
Bottle Tombola	Andrew O'Brien	700341
Teas/Cakes/Kitchen	Wendy Bales	709850
Art Group	Tony Ogg	700058
Crafts	Joanne O'Brien	700341
Car Park	Richard Goodall	c/o 738198
Gate	John McGill	700372
Treasurer	Michael Wright	707735

Just a note about the fete stalls!

Book Stall: Paperback and hardback books needed, but only novels please.

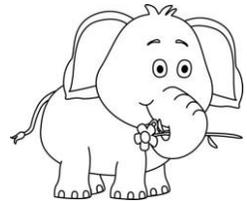
Cakes both for the Home Produce Stall and for Refreshments: just normal size cakes please, no elaborate cakes. Cupcakes welcome!

Jewellery: Please give any items of jewellery to Nina or leave with Joanne.

The needs of a White Elephant

New bric-a-brac stock is required for the upcoming fete. Items such as ornaments, tea sets, crockery and general household goods would be helpful.

Please remember this is not a jumble sale and I am unable to sell electrical items of any kind and I mean anything with a plug on it – telephones, chargers, printers, table lamps. Please do not bring mirrors, curtains, cushions, air beds, duvets or large pictures. Space is restricted and it is not a dumping ground. Please do not be put off, but I know from many years of running the stall that large items are left behind and then have to be cleared elsewhere. If you are having a clear out and find things that you could pass on that you would be happy to purchase yourself then please bring them along before the day.



Graham Luker the moaning white elephant. I will pick up if necessary, telephone 723305.

St. Benedict - author of the famous rule (11th July)

St Benedict (c.480 – c.550) was an abbot and author of the famous Rule that bears his name. Because of his Rule, Benedict is also the Patriarch of Western Monasticism, and Patron Saint of Europe.

Surprisingly little is known about his life. Born at Nursia, Benedict studied at Rome, which he then left before completing his studies to become a hermit at Subiaco. After a time disciples joined him, whom he organised into twelve deaneries of ten. After an attempt on his life, Benedict moved on to Monte Cassino, near Naples, where he wrote the final version of his Rule.

Benedict's Rule is justly famous and respected: not only did it incorporate much traditional monastic teaching from revered monks like Basil, but Benedict went on to modify this in a way characterised by prudence and moderation within a framework of authority, obedience, stability and community life.

Benedict's great achievement was to produce a monastic way of life that was complete, orderly, and *workable*. The monks' primary occupation was liturgical prayer, which was complemented by sacred reading and manual work of various kinds.

Benedict's own personality shines through this Rule: wise, discreet, flexible, learned in the law of God, but also a spiritual father to his community. Benedict's Rule came to be recognised as the fundamental monastic code of Western Europe in the early Middle Ages. Because of his Rule, monasteries became centres of learning, agriculture, hospitality, and medicine. Thus, Benedict came to influence the lives of millions of people.

The Bible that was thrown away

The story is told by Brother Andrew, who worked for many years with the Persecuted Church, of a Christian pastor who was travelling some years ago on a train in the old Soviet Union.

There was just one other passenger in the railway car, and soon the two men were chatting. The subject of religion came up, and the other man extolled the logic of atheism and criticised religious belief. Then the Christian bravely expressed his own views, and even took out his Bible to show the man some relevant verses. But the atheist was both unmoved and annoyed.

As the futility of their argument became clear, the men lapsed into silence. When a little later the Christian was nearing his stop, he left the compartment for a few moments to get his suitcase. He returned to find his Bible was missing. The atheist was just closing the train window and sneered at him. It was clear that he had thrown the Bible out. The journey continued the final few miles in stony silence.

A few months later, a stranger came to call upon the Christian pastor in his village. It was a man from a neighbouring village who asked to be baptised. The pastor was astonished and asked him what he knew about such things. The stranger told him this story:

“Until a few months ago I knew nothing of Christianity. I am just a local builder, working on a site near the railway track. Then suddenly one afternoon a book came flying out of the window of a passing train and landed in the dust nearby. I walked over and picked it up. It was a Bible – the first I had ever seen.

“So I took it home and out of curiosity began to read it. I was amazed by what I read, and I have become a Christian. Now I want to be baptised and meet with other Christians. I have heard rumours that you are also a Christian, so I hoped that you would help me.”

The astonished Christian pastor did indeed baptise the builder, and also confided his side of the story of the flying Bible. Within a few years the builder had converted several of his neighbours, and a tiny Christian church had been planted within his own community. All because of a thrown-away Bible.

DHCT May Church Crawl

We set off on a sunny, spring day to travel to an area hidden in the Dorset countryside just north of the A35 between Bridport and Lyme Regis. Our first port of call was the village of Whitchurch Canoniorum. The name means ‘of the Canons’ and may also refer to the church being built of light coloured stone and that it was St Wite’s church (also St Candida). Surprisingly large for a village church St Candida and Holy Cross is known as ‘The Cathedral in the Vale’ and has always attracted visitors because it contains the shrine housing the genuine remains of St Wite, a martyr who died at the time of the Viking invasions and renowned for her healing powers; a feature shared in England only by Westminster Abbey. A statue of St Wite or St Candida can be seen in a niche on the outside wall. Some distinguished people are buried in the churchyard including Sir George Somers who sailed with Sir Walter Raleigh. The church was restored in 1848 but still retains lovely Norman and early English features including arches, floor slabs, wall carvings of two Saxon roses, arcading featuring unusual carvings

based on local flowers and wild plants and a carved oak pulpit which is mainly Jacobean.

We next headed for Charmouth and St Andrew's church which is in the early 19th century Gothic revival style. It was built in 1836 on the site of an earlier church by architect Charles Fowler who was renowned for designing Covent Garden market. The quoins, cornices, copings and all other wrought work were of a whitish freestone from the quarries at Beer on the Devon coast and contrast with the brown tints of the flintwork. Of note were the brightly coloured stained glass windows of the 1860s and 70s by Baillie and Co and Lavers and Barrow. These were in memory of the Revd Edward Rose Breton, rector for 32 years from 1843, and his children. We had our lunch here which was kindly provided by Sue Bruce-Payne who, I was reliably informed, had just returned from holiday so it was a sterling effort on her part to provide us with such delicious refreshments.

After lunch we crossed back over the A35 to visit St Andrew's church at Monkton Wyld which was built in the mid 1850s. The Revd John Camm, vicar from 1869 to 1891 embellished the church with brass altar rails, oaken traceried choir stalls, rood screen with brass gates and the altar of Bath stone. The stained glass windows by G E Cook depicted Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and are reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts movement. Of interest in the churchyard is the grave of James Harrison of Charmouth who discovered the earliest British dinosaur!

Our final port of call was the tiny, exquisite church of St Mary, Catherston Leweston which stands up a long drive in the grounds of a fine manor house and has been designated a Dorset Treasure partly because of its Victorian



stained glass memorial windows and also because of it is an excellent example of a Victorian building. It was designed by J L Pearson of London who also designed Truro Cathedral. The windows are by Clayton and Bell, the west window having recently been restored with DHCT contributing to the cost. Also of note is the elaborate stonework on the pulpit. We finished off the day with a most welcome cup of tea and cake and a chance to take photographs of this lovely little church.

Nina Crane

MIDSUMMER ART SOIREE

On Friday 7th June, despite the inclement weather, we had an enjoyable evening admiring the beautiful art work of the parish Art Group and other exhibitors. It was a very successful evening, attended by around 100 people and raised a wonderful £1000 towards the repair of the church roof.



Thanks go to Tony Ogg and David Hudson who organised the event and to those who provided the delicious refreshments on the night. It takes a lot of work to prepare such an evening and everything went very smoothly. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Andrew



CALENDAR FOR JULY

Wed 3rd 10.30 am
 Thurs 4th 10.00 am
 Fri 5th 10.30 am
 Sat 6th 4.00 pm

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
 Parish Art Group
Coffee Morning in hall
 Wedding of Elizabeth
 Dedman & Zachary Davis

TRINITY 3

Sun 7th 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

Holy Communion
 Parish Communion
 Evening Prayer

Wed 10th 10.30 am
 Fri 12th 9.30 am
 Sat 13th 12.00 pm

NO HOLY COMMUNION
(Clergy study day)
 Baby Group
 Wedding of Emma Hockey
 & Jacob Baker

TRINITY 4

Sun 14th 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

Holy Communion
 Matins *(Sunday Club in hall)*
 Evening Prayer

Wed 17th 10.30 am
 11.30 am
 Thurs 18th 10.00 am
 Fri 19th 10.30 am
 Sat 20th 2.30 pm

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Pre-Fete Meeting *in hall*
 Parish Art Group
Coffee Morning in hall
 Wedding of Jolanta
 Riskeviciute & Alexander
 Denley

4.00 pm Wedding of Emma Hill &
Ian Warford

TRINITY 5

Sun	21 st	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.30 am	Family Service
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
Tues	23 rd	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>in hall</i>
Wed	24 th	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	25 th	3.30 pm	Magazine collation
Fri	26 th	9.30 am	Baby Group
Sat	27 th	12.30 pm	Wedding of Sarah Hall & Simon Elder

TRINITY 6

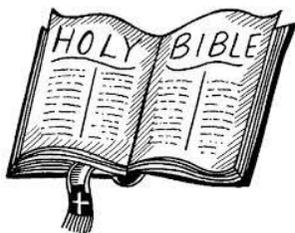
Sun	28 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Matins <i>(No Sunday Club)</i>
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	31 st	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>

AUGUST

Thurs	1 st	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	2 nd		NO COFFEE MORNING
Sat	3 rd	2.00 pm	SUMMER FETE

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sun	4 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion and Baptisms
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer



SUNDAY READINGS IN JULY

Sunday 7th July - Trinity 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 66.10-14

The chapter describes judgement and hope and here in these few verses we learn of the peace and love of God to his people.

NEW TESTAMENT: Galatians 6.7-16

Paul speaks about how we reap what we sow and also describes the new creation.

GOSPEL: Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

Jesus sends out the seventy-two in their mission to spread the Gospel.

Sunday 14th July - Trinity 4

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 30.9-14

Moses challenges those who feel the torah is too difficult and encourages Israel to observe the torah.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 10.25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan.

Sunday 21st July - Trinity 5

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 18.1-10

The passage has literally become iconic. It depicts the three visitors to Abraham and this has been reflected upon as a type of Holy Trinity.

NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 1.15-28

There are two parts to this reading. The first is a poem which celebrates the characteristics of Christ. The second summarises the importance of the Colossians remaining firm in their faith.

GOSPEL: Luke 10.38-end

At the home of Martha and Mary, this passage describes how Martha was busy and Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening.

Sunday 28th July - Trinity 6

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 18.20-32

Here is the first solemn prayer on record in the Bible. Abraham prayed earnestly that Sodom might be spared, if but a few righteous persons should be found in it.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 11.1-13

Jesus teaches about prayer and gives the disciples and ourselves the Lord's Prayer.

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY:

ADVANCE NOTICE: There will be no coffee mornings in the hall during August. They will restart on Friday 6th September at 10.30 am.

POST-FETE LUNCH: This will take place on Wednesday 14th August at 12.30 pm in the hall.



HOLY DAYS OR HOLIDAYS?

Some porters were hired to carry a group's possessions on a trip through the jungle. The pace quickly increased until the head porter called a halt: 'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'

How often do we feel like this? July is a month when many of us take a break. Jesus and His disciples often took time to withdraw from the crowds: 'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break from their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday or taking time off gives us an opportunity of letting go the burdens of everyday life and renewing our rest in Him. This enables us to entrust Jesus with our issues and concerns, as we take time aside declare a holy day or holiday!

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, 'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'. John replied, 'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'

The Rev'd Paul Hardingham

The absent-minded William Spooner

William Archibald Spooner, university lecturer, dean and priest, was born 175 years ago, on 22nd July 1844, in London. Known for his absent-mindedness, he sometimes mixed up the syllables of words, to comic effect. These are now known as spoonerisms.

Spooner was an albino and suffered from defective eyesight. He studied at New College, Oxford, and then lectured there for 60 years in history, philosophy and divinity. He was well liked and respected, kind and hospitable. He was also highly intelligent, and it was suggested that his mind was occasionally too quick for his lips to follow – resulting in the unintended plays on words that made him famous.

Many of those attributed to him are undoubtedly apocryphal, but it is fairly certain that in 1879 he gave out from the pulpit the first line of a hymn as “Kinkering Kongs their titles take”. He is said to have disliked the reputation he gained for getting his words muddled, but at the same time he is believed on occasion to have made the “errors” deliberately.

According to Roy Harrod, Spooner exceeded all the heads of colleges at Cambridge or Oxford that he had known in “scholarship, devotion to duty and wisdom”. He died in 1930.

Tim Lenton



When Torch Trust was born 60 years ago, a vision burned to see God’s Word in action, to enable all with sight loss to be fully able to play their part in a Christian community and to grow in faith.

From humble beginnings in 1959, and a family motivated by their love both for God and people living with sight loss, a community grew; extending God’s love, providing support and employment for many with sight loss and those called into this ministry.

250 people daily in the UK receive a diagnosis of sight loss. The impact on their sight – and everything else – is life-changing and a challenge that deserves a kingdom response, ensuring that isolation and loneliness is not the reality in Christian communities, although so often this is the case.

Today’s reality for Torch Trust is an established ministry. Chair of trustees, singer songwriter Marilyn Baker, who is without sight, champions the cause which sees Christian literature made available in accessible formats (large print, audio and braille); over 80 friendship groups established throughout the UK; holidays and retreats in our centre at Hurstpierpoint near Brighton, and partnerships with organisations across the globe from Malawi to Australia.



The humble heart remains, with a renewed and God-inspired vision for the future.

Torch’s time of celebration will mark the official launch of their Sight Loss Friendly Church initiative. Torch wants to

connect with 50,000 churches across the UK; equipping them with resources and free expert advice, ensuring that every person living with sight loss is provided with the opportunity to grow in faith. Torch's website and team of advisors offer online resources, training and workshops, to help churches include all with sight loss.

The recent initial launch had a positive response, with more than 40 churches signing up in two weeks.

Torch would invite churches and individuals to visit its website www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk and consider how they would like to get involved.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Grandparents' Answering Machine

Hello. We can't get to the phone now, but please leave a message after the tone.

- 'beep' -



If you are one of our children, dial 1 and select 'birth arrival' option 1 to 5, so we know who you are.

- For child-minding services, press 2.
- To borrow the car, press 3.
- For having clothes washed and ironed, press 4.
- For grandchildren's overnight accommodation, press 5.
- For school taxi service, press 6.
- For emergency catering, press 7.
- To book a mealtime at our house, press 8.
- For emergency finance, press 9.
- If you are inviting us to dinner or taking us to the theatre, start talking- we're listening!

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

So, your bishop is dropping hints that you should begin to consider a move to having your own parish – ‘not forever in green pastures’ comes to mind. Do not be too hasty to leave; remember that a curate can do no wrong, but a vicar can do no right. That means that as soon as you get your own parish, you will be held accountable not only for everything that goes on inside the church, but also for the goal average of the local football team and the state of the economy. And if it rains for your first Summer Fete, you will be told reproachfully that this never used to happen when ‘the former vicar was here’.

As you begin to ponder this momentous decision, allow me to give you a few pieces of advice. It will be assumed in the parish that every new incumbent is bound to be worse than his predecessor. The greatest compliment I ever received when leaving a parish came from an elderly parishioner: “I’ve known six Rectors of this parish; you weren’t the worst.”

Naturally the church you go to will have asked for a married man between 30 and 35 with a wife who will not have her own job but who wants to devote her entire life working for the parish – and it will be a definite advantage if she is a brilliant organist, professional caterer and fully computer literate. They will expect you to have two children, one of whom should be of primary school age, so he can attend the local Church school, where you will naturally wish to be chairman of governors and coach of the football team. They will want you to have exceptional talents for attracting young people – but for young people who enjoy the sorts of

Services that the present congregation prefer – and you should have the ability to stop a baby crying during Mattins with the briefest of glances. They will want you to bring ‘a breath of fresh air’ into parish life without changing anything. They will hope you will shun holidays, preach short sermons and be able to run a tight jumble sale.

Your CV is a little thin. If you could acquire a wife and family within the next six months, become an expert flower arranger and qualify as a football referee, chartered accountant and trained electrician and plumber, it would prove very helpful. If in addition, you learned how to service photocopiers, had a mini-bus available for church outings, were an heir to a family firm producing a single malt whisky and could provide reliable horse racing tips, your choice of parishes would be endless.

On the other hand, my advice would be to stop attending all meetings where you know the bishop may be present; out of sight, out of mind. Have your phone disconnected, your letterbox sealed and only appear in public wearing dark glasses and a false beard. Keep your head down, lay low, hold on to the charmed life of being a curate for as long as possible. Life will never be better.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

(A few tips for the future Tom and Sarah!)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

24th June Peggy O'Brien (95)

Wedding

9th June Emily Bolden & Robert Bowering

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 7 th July	Jette Fletcher
Sunday 14 th July	Jette Fletcher
Sunday 21 st July	Gilly Bourne
Sunday 28 th July	Gilly Bourne



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the August edition of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 19th July