

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

"Heavenly Father, my wound is as deep as the sea; who can heal me? No-one is near to comfort me, no-one to restore my spirit, but I will pour out my heart like water in your presence Lord, for great is your faithfulness, you are good to the one who seeks you. You, O Lord, reign forever, restore me, renew my days of old". (Lamentations)

We all have our share of suffering and pain, events in our lives which hurt and transform them. These moments can either destroy us or lead us into a greater knowledge of God. He, who suffered as one of us, understands our pain, our fears, our hurts, he has compassion on his children.

The same Jesus who came to seek and save the lost, also came to bind up the brokenhearted, to heal, and to give us a life that is full, free and joyous. The same Saviour who died for our sins, also bore our griefs and sorrows. He is willing to bring healing to the whole person.

He waits for us to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the hurts we have repressed and to face willingly past painful experiences that we have tried so hard to forget. We can "become like little children" and invite Jesus to take our hand and go back into every negative situation and visualise His presence there with us. In His love He, who freely gives all things, will reach out to pour oil into our wounds, bringing healing and peace and enabling us to forgive those who have hurt us.

"Walk with me back through the years, Lord,
As I place my hand in thine,
Talk with me about my fears, Lord
While I travel mem'ry lane.

Speak in my imaginings, Lord,
As I picture Jesus there,
Bring to light the hidden things, Lord,
That I've pressed down year by year.

Heal all that still hurts inside, Lord,
Until I feel whole and strong,
Until love and peace abide, Lord,
And forgiveness flows along".
(Marj Donellan)

With all good wishes
Andrew

Rev. Robert Stephen Hawker, Cleric
extraordinaire

On the north coast of Cornwall, close to its border with Devon, stands the church of St. Morwenna at Morwenstow. Built in the 12th century, it is an imposing building, typical of west country churches, with a graceful 4 pinnacle tower. Located in a dell, between cliffs rising to 450 feet on either side, its outlook the vast expanse of the Atlantic ocean, its tower is a landmark for passing ships, and the sound of its bells strikes a chord of peaceful memory to the listening sailors. According to the church records, the first vicar was installed in 1243, but it is the noble hearted but eccentric Robert Stephen Hawker, vicar between 1834 to 1875 that made such an impression on life in that parish during his 40 years of service.

Educated at Pates grammar school Cheltenham and Pembroke College Oxford, he was always known to his parishioners as "Passon Hawker". Well read and eloquent, he was a poet as well as a great benefactor to the local community. In his spare time he wrote his exquisite poems in the little hut on the edge of the cliff which he built from driftwood overlooking some of the finest scenery in the country. It is still there and Tessa and I walked out to the cliff-top, and sat right in the place where he would have spent many hours writing and contemplating. It was a thought- provoking experience.....

In the old sailing ship days, it was a well-known fact that any vessel inside Hartland Point with an on-shore wind was doomed....."From Hartland point to Padstow Light, is a watery grave, by day or night". It was the shipwrecked sailors that the Rev. Hawker devoted his energies, diligently searching among the rocks for their remains after some unfortunate vessel had been dashed to pieces. He buried over 40 of them, side by side, under the trees in the upper churchyard. In 1842, the ship "Caledonia" was wrecked, and Hawker buried the Captain and 5 of his crew in the churchyard and placed the figurehead of the ship over their grave where it remains to this day.

With his own money, he built a school in the centre of the parish and although he was not a rich man, he defrayed the cost of running it. A flamboyant dresser, he never wore black except his socks, and usually was seen in a blue coat, a fisherman's sweater and sea boots. He had a great love of animals, with a pig and 7 cats, although he excommunicated one of the cats for "ratting" on a Sunday! What a man! As they say, "They don't make them like that anymore!"

As an epitaph, here is an extract from one of his poems;

Welcome! Wild rock and lonely shore,
Where round my days dark seas shall roar,
And thy grey fane, Morwenna, stand
The beacon of the Eternal land.

Nigel Yeoman

NEWSROUND

Cathedrals to mark moon landing anniversary -

Space suits, meteorite fragments and a giant sculpture of the moon are to be displayed in one of the Church of England's ancient cathedrals as part of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

A lit art installation, *Museum of the Moon*, by artist Luke Jerram, with detailed NASA imagery of the moon's surface, will be suspended from the nave of Ely Cathedral for a science festival on space exploration, Artificial Intelligence and future technologies.

The festival at the cathedral will include science-themed worship as well as lectures from high-profile figures including the Astronomer Royal Lord Rees and lunar expert and broadcaster Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock. There are also exhibits on show loaned from the Science Museum and the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge.

Ely Cathedral joins Lichfield Cathedral in mounting a spectacular display to mark the anniversary of the lunar landing, with Lichfield's nave floor due to be transformed into a huge visual reproduction of the Moon's surface. The cathedrals are among 14 church projects receiving a total of £70,000 in grants from the Scientists in

Congregations scheme to foster greater understanding about science and faith.

Scientists in Congregations is part of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, a project run by the Universities of Durham and York in collaboration with the Church of England. The project is funded by Templeton World Charity Foundation.

Knife Angel sculpture installed at Coventry Cathedral -

A sculpture dedicated to victims of knife crime has been temporarily installed at Coventry Cathedral for this month (April).

The 27ft (8m) Knife Angel sculpture is made from 100,000 blades handed into police across the country. (see it at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-47569093>)

Messages from families of the victims of knife crime have been engraved on the sculpture's wings.

The Bishop of Coventry, Rt Rev Dr Christopher Cocksworth, said the Knife Angel was "a stark reminder of a form of violent crime infecting our city and threatening lives with great danger, especially our young people."

Artist Alfie Bradley, who created it at the British Ironworks Centre in Oswestry, said it was "a memorial to those whose lives have been affected by knife crime".

The Knife Angel was unveiled in 2017 and has been displayed in Liverpool and Hull. The sculpture will be displayed in Coventry until 23 April.

Bishop and MP welcome marriage registration changes by Parliament -

Recent changes made by Parliament to allow for mothers' names to be included on marriage certificates have been welcomed by the Bishop of St Albans together with Dame Caroline Spelman MP.

Royal Assent was recently received to the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act following a Private Member's Bill.

Dr Alan Smith, together with Dame Caroline, who is the Second Church Estates Commissioner, said: "The passing of this Bill into law is to be welcomed and marks a significant step forward. After years of tireless work by politicians, faith-leaders and campaigners, we have finally achieved tangible progress towards the equal treatment of both parents."

Prior to this Act, only fathers' names were formerly recorded when marriages were registered, a custom unchanged since 1837. Bishop Smith said: "This clear and historic injustice reflected the time when children and wives were considered property of men and it is high time for this to be corrected."

James the Less: quiet son of Alphaeus

One thing for sure: the apostles were not self-obsessed. In fact, many a church historian has wished that they had left us just a few more personal details about themselves in the New Testament. James the Less is an excellent example. This is the name we give to James the son of Alphaeus, but – beyond that, who was he? Sometimes he is identified as the James whose mother stood by Christ on the cross.

Sometimes he is thought to be the James who was 'brother of the Lord'. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who saw the risen Christ. He has also, and often, been called the first bishop of Jerusalem. And finally, sometimes James the Less has been thought of as the author of the Epistle of James.

But – who knows? If none of these identifications are correct, we know practically nothing about James the Less. So perhaps on this day we can simply recall 'all' of the James' above, and thank God for the mother who stood by the cross, the brother that supported Jesus, the apostle who saw his risen Lord and gave his life to proclaiming the truth, the first bishop of Jerusalem, and the author of the marvellous Epistle of James. Whether it was one James or several, they were all faithful to Jesus, and proclaimed Him as the Messiah. So perhaps that should make them James the More!

James the Less has been given an unusual iconographic emblem: a fuller's club. Tradition has it that he was beaten to death with one, after being sentenced by the Sanhedrin in AD62. In England there are only 26 churches which are dedicated to James the Less.

St Matthias: the replacement apostle

If you're saying to yourself, 'Who?' you'll be in good company. May 15th is the feast day of St Matthias the Apostle, and in describing him thus we have said just about all there is to know about him. He gets just one mention in the Bible, in the first chapter of Acts, immediately prior to the day of Pentecost, where it tells us that he was elected to take the place in the ranks of the twelve apostles recently vacated by the betrayer Judas Iscariot.

Eusebius, in the fourth century, says in his history of the apostolic era that Matthias was one of the 70 disciples sent out by Jesus (Luke 10:1), and that seems reasonable. When it was necessary to fill the vacancy among the apostles it would be natural to turn to someone who had followed Jesus from earlier years, as well as being a witness of the resurrection. Two names were suggested and prayed over. Then the apostles cast lots, following the Old Testament practice of the high priest's Urim and Thummim, one assumes. When they did, 'the lot fell on Matthias'.

Casting lots to fill vacancies on committees or councils, or even to appoint bishops, would seem to us a bizarre and risky practice, and it may be, as the great Victorian preacher Campbell Morgan suggested, that the 11 acted in haste and pre-empted God's choice of Saul (later known as Paul), who at that time was busy persecuting the Church, arresting Christians and having them thrown into prison. He hadn't yet travelled the Damascus Road.

Be that as it may, Matthias was elected, and for us he can stand for all those excellent, consistent, reliable and faithful servants of Christ who never make a headline, not even in the parish magazine. He was chosen because he could be a 'witness', and so are we.

Doubtless he fulfilled that responsibility admirably, without, as we say, 'setting the Thames on fire'. Let's salute him on his day – the 'Unknown Apostle'.



CALENDAR FOR MAY

Wed 1st 10.30 am
 Thurs 2nd 10.00 am
 Fri 3rd 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
 Parish Art Group
Coffee Morning in hall

EASTER 3

Sun 5th 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

Holy Communion
 Parish Communion
 Evening Prayer

Wed 8th 10.30 am
 11.30 am
 Thurs 9th 5.00 pm
 Fri 10th 9.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Pre-Fete Meeting *in hall*
 PCC Meeting
 Baby Group

EASTER 4

Sun 12th 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

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

Wed 15th 10.30 am
 Thurs 16th 10.00 am
 Fri 17th 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
 Parish Art Group
Coffee Morning in hall

EASTER 5

Sun 19th 8.00 am
 9.30 am
 10.30 am

Holy Communion
 Family Service
 Parish Communion and
 Baptism

6.00 pm

Choral Evensong

Wed 22nd

10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Thurs 23rd

3.30 pm

Magazine collation

Fri 24th

9.30 am

Baby Group

Sat 25th

1.30 pm

Wedding of Barry Smith &
Eleanor Baker in church

EASTER 6

Sun 26th

8.00 am

Holy Communion

10.30 am

Matins (*Sunday Club in hall*) and

Baptism

6.00 pm

Evensong

Tues 28th

10.00 am

Craft Group *in hall*

Wed 29th

10.30 am

NO HOLY COMMUNION

at St. Nicolas

Thurs 30th

10.00 am

Parish Art Group

10.30 am

Holy Communion for

Ascension Day *at St. Nicolas*

JUNE

EASTER 7

Sun 2nd

8.00 am

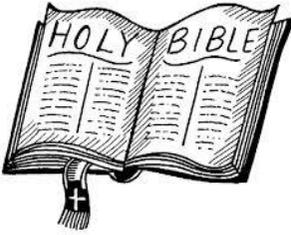
Holy Communion

10.30 am

Parish Communion

6.00 pm

Evening Prayer



SUNDAY READINGS IN MAY

Sunday 5th May - Easter 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Zeph. 3. 14-end

In his vision of the Messianic age, God will come into the midst of his people with forgiveness and mercy to renew them with his love.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 9. 1-6

Jesus, whom Saul is persecuting, speaks to him on his way to Damascus and orders him to go into the city and await orders.

GOSPEL: John 21. 1-19

Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish and following this Jesus reinstates Peter as the head of the church.

Sunday 12th May - Easter 4

OLD TESTAMENT: Acts 9. 36-end

Peter goes to Joppa where he raises Tabitha from the dead and stays on with Simon, the tanner. Many in Joppa then believe in the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 10.22-30

Jesus tells the Jews who gather round him at the Feast of the Dedication that they are not part of his flock because they do not believe in him.

Sunday 19th May - Easter 5

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 22.1-18

After his willingness to sacrifice Isaac, God anoints Abraham because of his absolute trust and faith.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 11. 1-18

Peter's narration assures the gentile community that God's spirit belongs to them as well as to the Jews.

GOSPEL: John 13. 31-35

Jesus predicts Peter's denial.

Sunday 26th May - Easter 6

OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 37. 1-14

Ezekiel's vision depicts God's will and capacity to revive Israel's flagging hope and courage, thereby restoring her stature and prosperity.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 16. 9-15

Paul and Timothy respond to a call to cross into Macedonia, thus coming to Europe, where they preached the gospel.

Christian Aid Week (12 – 18 May): 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.



Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

CHRISTIAN AID FERRY COLLECTION

We will be collecting in aid of Christian Aid at the ferry on Saturday 18th May.

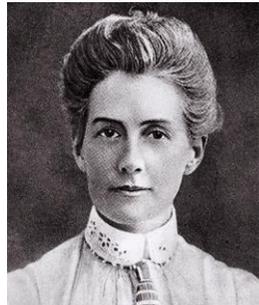
Edith Cavell – faith before the firing squad

Nurse Edith Cavell gave her life to others – and was executed as a result. This year is the centenary of her state funeral at Westminster Abbey.

The daughter of a Norfolk vicar, Edith trained as a nurse, and because she could speak French fluently, she was invited to start a nurses' training school in Belgium.

When war was declared in 1914 she was in England on holiday but went straight back to Brussels where she cared for Belgians and invading German troops alike.

When English soldiers were trying to escape back to England, she gave them shelter – and when she was betrayed, her only defense was that if she had not helped them to escape, they would have been shot.



She had confessed to the crime of 'conducting soldiers to the enemy' – helping soldiers escape who could potentially return to the battlefield. Guilty, she was sentenced to death in a German military court in occupied Belgium. But Edith's last words were not of revenge or recrimination. On the night before she was executed, she met with her local priest Revd H. Stirling Gahan.

She told him, *"I thank God for this ten weeks' quiet before the end...Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty...This time of rest has been a great mercy..."* She then said words that have become her memorial around the world: *"But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."*

Edith knew that people who had been close to her had played a part in her betrayal. She knew patriotism was not enough for these final hours. She knew that to enter into God's presence she needed to be forgiven for her own shortcomings. And just as Jesus' death had bought her forgiveness, she needed to forgive any and all who had wronged her.

After celebrating Holy Communion, the Rev Stirling Gahan began to say the words of the hymn 'Abide with me' and Edith joined him in repeating *'...When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me...'*

She then gave the priest the letters she had written to friends and family and when they came to say 'Goodbye' she smiled at him and said, "We shall meet again." She was confident that death was not the end and they would meet again in God's presence. She was 49 years old.

Edith was executed in Brussels on 12th October 1915 and at the end of World War 1 her body was repatriated. After a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, her body was reburied outside Norwich Cathedral on 19th May 1919. Her body was returned to England on the same ship that carried the body of the Unknown Soldier in 1919.

In the biography *Edith Cavell – Faith Before the Firing Squad*, Catherine Butcher explores Edith's life and faith, in particular considering how she could be so confident in the face of death.

Bluebells

They are often treated as the messenger of early summer, flowering from late spring and early summer. Bluebells can be found in the countryside from Scotland to Lands End providing the conditions are right. They prefer neutral soils, damp leaf mould and filtered sunlight. Their ideal environment is beech woods. However they also tolerate very successfully, cliff tops and in Cornwall amongst large boulders at sea level. At Canford Cliffs the UK native bluebell will be found growing with the Spanish bluebell and can interbreed successfully. The Spanish bluebell produces its flowers at right angles to the flower stem, while the UK flowers hang as a bunch. The flowers occasionally may be white or pink.



Bluebell seeds can remain dormant for many years then germinate when the environment is suitable. There was such a situation when the Winchester bypass was

constructed and a conifer plantation was removed. Several years later once the acid pine needles had rotted the area became a sea of blue for several years. It is not known how long the seeds may remain dormant. For example wild poppies can remain dormant for many years such as Flanders Fields during and long after the First World War. A good place to visit locally to see bluebells is at Pamphill woods, with pathways guiding you through the ancient trees and bluebells.

Cedric Nielsen

Curate's Corner

You may have noticed this Easter that it has been announced that I will be ordained Priest on Saturday 29th June at 1630pm. I wanted to write a couple of lines about what this meant, as I know a lot of you are curious.

Currently I'm ordained as Deacon, which was the service many of you attended last year. Deacon is a translation of the Greek *diákonos*, which means servant, minister or messenger. My role combines all of these things – I do a lot of visiting and teaching. The first deacons were found in Acts 6 – they were responsible for distributing bread to the widows, and sharing out the possessions of everyone fairly. They were also responsible for witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus, and spreading his story to others – this is how the first deacon, Stephen, was martyred, for angering the religious authorities.

In services, you might notice I wear a stole across my body – tied at the hip. This is part of the distinctive dress of a deacon. I also help Andrew lead the services – I often invite the congregation to confession, to share the peace, to declare the mystery of God and to go out in the peace of Christ at the end. These roles are connected by being the points where the congregation are invited to particularly

participate in the service. You might also notice that I never say the words of consecration, blessing or absolution. These three acts are particularly Priestly in ministry. Priests are particularly responsible for administering the sacraments to the church. They occupy the role of the Apostles, teaching, blessing, assuring people of forgiveness and reminding everyone of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross, in the Eucharist. The word Priest comes from the Greek *presbyteros*, which means elder or leader. The most obvious change for most of you will be in the services, where I imagine Andrew and I will be alternating roles leading the service. I will be wearing my stole straight – if you come to the ordination service, there is a moment, after the ordination, where Andrew will take my stole off me and put it back on straight as he wears them. The service itself will be very similar to the diaconal ordination, with slightly different activities. Rather than washing our feet, the Bishop will anoint the candidates with oil. I hope that many of you can attend – it will be a joy to share the occasion with you.

Tom

All in the month of May

It was:

500 years ago, on 2nd May 1519 that Leonardo Da Vinci, the Italian artist, scientist and inventor, died.

80 years ago, on 25th May 1939 that Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal of England and Scotland, died. His observations of the 1919 solar eclipse helped prove Einstein's theory of relativity. He also introduced the Greenwich Time Signal ('pips').

John & Charles Wesley: Let's Sing a Hymn

Later this month the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He actually wrote over 6,000, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – 'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'. 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing' – and scores more.

40 years ago almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for 'Songs of Praise' on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50. With only about ten per cent of the population even irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is 'Jerusalem' and 'Amazing Grace', because they are frequently heard outside church. Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing 'Bread of heaven'! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience.

Canon David Winter

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

30th March Zara Kate Elizabeth Mumford

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 5 th May	Wendy Bales
Sunday 12 th May	Wendy Bales
Sunday 19 th May	Rozanne Parsons
Sunday 26 th May	Rozanne Parsons



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the June edition of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 17th May