

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

There has been a lot in the news and on television about our increasingly violent society. We hear a lot about various groups and organisations wishing to take the moral high ground, but, of course, as Christians we have already been shown the way in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus says, 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' pray for those who ill-treat you' (Luke 6.27-28). Turning the other cheek has never been a popular activity, even among Christians. Many just see it as a sign of weakness and frailty. Response to hurt is often quick and instinctive. We strike back sometimes physically or verbally.

So, what is turning the other cheek all about? It is not simply a question of forgiveness or non-violence. It is also a question of determining how far I will allow someone else to control my personality and behaviour. If I respond unpleasantly to an unpleasant person, then I am allowing that person to rule my life. I am reacting to his anger and allowing myself to be pulled down to that level. If I take hold of myself and say 'No, I am not going to react like that', then I stay a little more in control of events and I am that little bit more mature as a person than I was before.

The power of control is not in us, but in the spirit of God within us. As we cooperate with the spirit in controlling these instinctive reactions, we give him a little more elbow room in which to work. So, when we feel ourselves welling up with anger and irritation, let us pray to God and ask him

to nail it to the Cross and fill the space it leaves with his love.

'For man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires' (James 1.20)

With all good wishes
Andrew

ALL SOULS SERVICE - On *Sunday 3rd November* at 6.00 pm we will be holding our annual All Souls Service at which candles will be lit by those who wish to remember a loved one. We will be writing to families of the recently bereaved to invite them especially, but this service is, of course, open to anyone who would like to come.

There will be lists at the back of church if you wish to add the name of a loved one to be remembered.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

11.00 AM - 1.00 PM

more details next month

Christians have taken action to promote biodiversity for Season of Creation 2019

Church-goers across the world have been in wellies in recent weeks, in order to clean local waterways, plant trees and promote wild areas in churchyards as part of a global initiative to encourage biodiversity and help stem the effects of climate change.

From 1st September to 4th October Christians around the world, including from the Church of England, have joined together for the Season of Creation, a festival of prayer and community action to help protect the natural world.



An Ecumenical initiative launched in 1989, Season of Creation was given a major boost by Pope Francis in 2016 when, speaking before nearly two million people at the World Youth Day in Krakow, he declared 1st September an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. And with devastating wildfires in the Amazon and Siberia, the hottest late August Bank Holiday on record in the UK, and global wildlife populations reported to have reduced by 60 per cent between 1970 and 2014, more and more people are being moved to action.

Under its full theme 'The Web of Life: Biodiversity as God's blessing', Season of Creation 2019 encourages churches and communities to hold sustainability events, including cleaning local waterways, planting trees and allowing churchyards and other spaces to grow wild in order to encourage biodiversity. Participants are also challenged to photograph and share images that celebrate the biodiversity around their church on social media using [#SeasonofCreation](#).

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam a member of the Season of Creation Steering panel who also chairs the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, said: "We love the beauty of the earth. The fires in the Amazon show how interconnected we are in this beautiful, wonderful, fragile planet. We know there are serious issues to address if we are going to care for God's earth.

"Season of Creation is a chance once again to give thanks for the gifts of creation, to pray and act in ways that care for God's creation and address the issues of climate change and the depletion of species. It is the joyful, hopeful responsibility of people throughout the world and particularly of the Church which is both local and global."

Churchyards are important for their habitats and as refuges for wildlife and plant life. Most churches have some green space. And in some urban areas they are the only green 'breathing' space available for both wildlife and people. It is estimated that six out of 10 churches in this country have churchyards, roughly equalling the area of a small national park.

They are a precious resource which can make a huge difference to the biodiversity of the UK.

The theme encapsulates two theological principles, that all creation comes from God, and that humans play a part in it.

The Church of England has collated online resources to equip churches, communities and individuals to respond and pray during the Season of Creation 2019. It also provides resources for prayer and worship throughout the year here, and practical advice on biodiversity. For more information and resources, visit churchofengland.org/seasonofcreation

Thomas Traherne – lover of nature *(10th October)*

Thomas Traherne (1636 – 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve Creation. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. But Traherne did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford. From there he became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgement, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, Traherne led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as “one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with”, and being of “cheerful and sprightly Temper”, ready to do “all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability”. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

Flyers overhead

There are up to 10,000 different kinds of birds in the world, and with about 530 different kinds in Israel alone, no wonder birds get a frequent mention in the Bible.

Noah released a dove from the ark to look for dry ground. A stork, an ostrich and an eagle are mentioned in Job. Quails were food for the Israelites in the desert. Elijah was fed by ravens. Proverbs refers to sparrows chirping on rooftops. Peter denied Jesus before the cock crowed. A dove descending is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The flight of the eagle reminds us of freedom and the renewal of strength. The psalmist uses wings as a symbol for the protection of God in times of trouble. Isaiah likens a bird hovering over its nest, to protect its young, to describe God’s protection of Jerusalem. Jesus yearned to gather the people of Jerusalem to Him as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

Jesus also compared us with sparrows: *"For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent...so do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!" (Matt 10:29-30)*

For Jesus encourages us to know that each one of us is significant to God. He knows us personally, and, in His sight, we are precious and of great value. Let's raise our eyes heavenward and when we see all the birds flying overhead this autumn, let's give thanks to God. Like them, we can be confident, for we are always in His loving care.
Lester Amann

FOOTPRINTS

Two members of our community - John and Jennie Paterson - are both involved with a local Charity, Footprints. In brief, the mission of Footprints is to use volunteers to mentor people returning to Dorset and Hampshire on their release from prison. Footprints helps them turn their lives around and as a consequence make their lives better and our community safer. However, as you can imagine raising funds is very hard. So, on the 19th October, they and others will be walking 21 km around the Isle of Portland and its two prisons.

Any sponsorship, however modest, would be very gratefully received

Here is the link:

<https://www.footprintsproject.co.uk/appeal/win-win-walk>



Curate's Corner – Egypt

I thought I might indulge myself this month and let you all know about the holiday which Sarah and I have been on these last two weeks in Egypt.

We flew out late on Monday night, arriving in the boat we would spend the first 4 nights in, at about 1am in the morning. This would have been tolerable if it were not announced almost immediately that we would be starting at 5:30 am, in order to leave by 6:30 to visit the Valley of the Kings and the grand funeral temple of Hatshepsut. Boat is probably a misleading description; the MS Tulip was more like a floating hotel, with very pleasant rooms and a large sundeck, from which to watch the stunning scenery, the green Nile valley with the Sahara desert pressing in in the near-distance.

The Valley of the kings was a highlight of our trip up the river, as was the huge and very well preserved temple to Horus at Edfu. As we cruised towards Aswan the weather got hotter and hotter, reaching into the low 40s in the sun, and almost unbearable even in the shade – a retreat into the air conditioned room was necessary.

Once at Aswan we undertook a very early morning trip to the temples at Abu Simmel which were built by Rameses II, the longest lived and greatest of the Pharaohs of the 'new kingdom' (16th-11th century BC), a temple set up to glorify

himself and his wife. The well preserved carvings, and the monolithic statues of himself and his family were well worth the 4 hour drive each way (and the 2:45am start).

Also interesting was the island temple of Philae, near Aswan. It had been reused as a secret and safe place for the early Coptic Christians to worship, and the inner hypocaust hall – with huge pillars – was decorated with Coptic symbols and text from the Greek new testament (a good test of my Greek reading skills) carved over the top of the Egyptian hieroglyphics.

After a train ride back down to Luxor, ancient Thebes, Sarah and I spent a full day enjoying the sites without a tour group, visiting the worker's village (which was later a Coptic monastery) and seeing some of the wonderfully painted tombs in the workers village and the valley of the Nobles, which is where the picture of us was taken. Many more pictures are available to those who are interested! We finished our holiday in Cairo, the huge city – it felt much more modern than Luxor, which was comparatively tiny and rural. A visit to the pyramids on one day was followed by a trip to the world famous Cairo Museum the next – it is well worth visiting. Of particular interest to me was the Merneptah Stele, an ancient document describing the victories of Merneptah in Assyria and Canaan, mentioning 'Israel' as a people – an important piece of corroboration between the archaeological record and the biblical narrative.

Overall we had a lovely trip, the weather was very hot and dry, the sites were fantastic and the people there very friendly (albeit always looking to part you from your cash). I think we would love to return – the sheer amount of things to see in Luxor merits more than the 3 full days which we spent there, and we haven't even gone close to Alexandria, or any of the wonderful temples on the Nile between Luxor and Cairo. *Tom*



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Wed	2	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	3	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	4	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall

TRINITY 16

Sun	6	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer
Wed	9	10.30 am 2.00 pm	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i> Bible Study Group <i>in hall</i>
Fri	11	9.30 am	Baby Group

TRINITY 17

Sun	13	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i> Matins Evening Prayer
Wed	16	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	17	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	18	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall

TRINITY 18

Sun	20	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Parish Communion Choral Evensong
Tues	22	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>in hall</i>

Wed	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
		2.00 pm	Bible Study Group <i>in hall</i>
Thurs	24	3.30 pm	Magazine collation
Fri	25	9.30 am	Baby Group

Sat 26 REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

LAST AFTER TRINITY

Sun	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Matins
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	30	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	31	10.30 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	1	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall

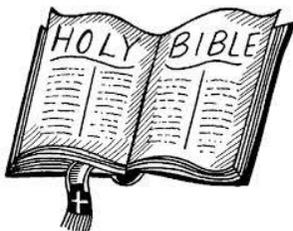
ALL SAINTS

Sun	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	All Souls' Service

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Our Christmas Coffee Morning will be on Friday 13th December at 10.30 am in the hall. Please come along and join us for coffee and nibbles. Everyone welcome. **This will be the only Coffee Morning in December.**





SUNDAY READINGS IN **OCTOBER**

Sunday 6th October - Trinity 16

OLD TESTAMENT: Habakkuk 1. 1-4; 2. 1-4

*If God is not attentive to injustice, there is no safety.
The lament calls out for God's attention.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Timothy 1. 1-14

*The letter is an exhortation not to be ashamed of the
gospel and to stand firm even if that would mean
suffering on its behalf.*

GOSPEL: Luke 17. 5-10

*This passage contains two sets of sayings on being a
follower of Jesus. The first deals with faith and the
second deals with what is expected of disciples.*

Sunday 13th October - Trinity 17

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Kings 5. 1-3, 7-15

*Elisha ministers to a foreign general suffering from
leprosy and self-importance.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 17. 11-19

*The story of the ten lepers who were healed and the
one who thanked Jesus.*

Sunday 20th October - Trinity 18

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 32. 22-31

*God commends Jacob for his successful wrestling and
blesses him with a new name and a new shape for
his future.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Timothy 3. 14-4.5

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for
teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training
in righteousness.*

GOSPEL: Luke 18. 1-8

Jesus tells a parable about a persistent widow who demands justice from an unjust judge. If even a scoundrel like the judge can finally be moved to grant justice, how much more likely will God bring justice to those who pray continually for it?

Sunday 27th October - Last after Trinity

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 45. 22-end

God calls everyone from all the ends of the earth to turn and be saved.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 4. 16-24

In his hometown synagogue Jesus reads from the book of Isaiah and announces that his ministry will fulfill a vision of liberation described by the prophet. When he explains that the people of Israel will not be the primary beneficiaries of his work some of them try to kill him.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Our Bible Study groups take place on the following dates at 2.00 pm in the church hall.

Wednesday 9th October

Wednesday 23rd October

Wednesday 20th November

The Advent Groups will start on Wednesday 4th December at 2.00 pm in the hall and will then meet on Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 18th November.

7th Earl of Shaftesbury - the Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus and that small statue of an angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a 'horror' of 'cruelty and starvation'. The only love came from the family's housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: 'She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.' The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer. After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life's work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury's maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve conditions. He wrote: 'By God's blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.'

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of 'the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.'

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years. Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of 9 should work in the cotton or woollen industries below the age of 9, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day. Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land. Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for

hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'. One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him "the best man of the age". He "lived for the oppressed", he "was a moral anchor in a drifting generation", "friend of every living thing", "he had a fervent love to God and hearty love to man".

When insults had class

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." – *Winston Churchill (about another MP)*

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." – *Moses Hadas*

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." – *Oscar Wilde*

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." – *George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill*. "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." – *Winston Churchill, in response*.

ST. MATTHEW'S, KNOWN AS THE GLASS CHURCH

Having visited the Channel Islands in September, I wanted to tell you about a remarkable small church near St. Helier in Jersey.

The story began with the friendship of two neighbours in the south of France. Florence, Lady Trent, had commissioned "the man next door", Rene Lalique, to design and make two glass panelled doors for her villa. She was delighted with the result. Florence then asked if he would refurbish the interior of a church, much in need of attention, which was opposite Villa Millbrook, her home in Jersey. This was to be a tribute to the life of her husband, Jesse Boot, who was the first Lord Trent, and founder of Boots the Chemist chain of stores. Lalique accepted.

The interior of St. Matthew's church is breathtaking in beauty and serenity. The font is believed to be the only full sized glass font in the world. The floor and the pillars supporting the twin screens are of Portland stone, and the walls lined with Bath stone. The glass in the windows is decorated with Jersey lilies - *Amaryllis belladonna* - otherwise known as Madonna lilies. The lily motif, which symbolises purity, is echoed throughout the church. The Sanctuary, usually at the east end of Anglican churches, is situated at the south end of the building.



The communion table, or altar, made of frosted glass, stands in front of a dominating glass cross over four metres

high. The cross, flanked by two pillars, contains concealed lighting that, when lit, displays the glass to the best advantage. The cross and pillars are decorated with Madonna lilies.

The Lady Chapel, to the left, has a beautiful reredos composed of four angels complementing the designs in the main doors of the church. The glass angels, set in panels, in the main oak doors are 15 centimetres thick. The chip two thirds of the way down the left hand angel is said to have been caused by a Nazi gun being flung against it in a street fracas during the occupation of Jersey in the Second World War.

There was originally a large glass cross mounted on the exterior of the south side of the church, which came to be used as a waymark for shipping. The heavy cross became unsafe and was removed,



being replaced with a more light-weight cross which is there today.

The refurbishment was completed and dedicated in September 1934 when Lalique was 74 years old. This memorial to Jesse Boot has also become a monument to the work of Rene Lalique of Paris, craftsman in glass, and has been preserved in their memory and to the glory of God by successive generations of worshippers. If you visit Jersey do make time to see this very special church, and share the feeling of peace, prayerfulness and artistry - it is unique.

Anna Castley

All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

175 years ago, on 15th Oct 1844 that Friedrich Nietzsche, the German philosopher was born.

150 years ago, on 2nd Oct 1869 that Mahatma Gandhi, Indian activist, was born. He led the Indian independence movement against British rule.

Also 150 years ago, on 16th Oct 1869 that Girton College (now part of Cambridge University) was established as one of England's first residential colleges for women. It became part of Cambridge University in 1948, and co-educational in 1976.

100 years ago, on 7th Oct 1919 that the Dutch airline KLM was established. It is the world's oldest existing airline.

Also 100 years ago, on 22nd Oct 1919 that Doris Lessing, Iranian-born British novelist, short story writer, biographer, playwright, librettist and poet, was born. Winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Literature. (Died in 2013.)

90 years ago, on 29th Oct 1929 that the Wall Street Crash took place. Also known as Black Tuesday, it led to the Great Depression in the USA.

80 years ago, on 16th Oct 1939 that the German Luftwaffe carried out its first aerial attack on British territory, bombing ships in the Firth of Forth, Scotland.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

15th September

Ellia Alejandra Daniella Orr

22nd September

Rupert Thomas Sydney Stephenson

Wedding

21st September

George Fulton & Isobel Nettleton

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 6 th October	Susanne King
Sunday 13 th October	Grace Martin
Sunday 20 th October	Grace Martin
Sunday 27 th October	Grace Martin



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the November edition of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 18th October