

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

In our Communion Service we are told to 'Lift up your hearts' and we respond 'We lift them up unto the Lord'. But do we? Do we raise our eyes, our minds, our souls away from the darkness of the world to the Light of Christ, to God our Creator, who loves us - or do we remain here, down here, in the dark because of fear, of lack of trust; because we are blind to the height, depth and breadth of God's love, let alone the power of his Holy Spirit.

In the gospels we find no fear, only joy and excitement as the disciples discovered what following Jesus really meant, not some future reward, but here and now abundant life. They made mistakes many times, did not understand at first, but as they grew they discovered the meaning of abundant life, enabling them to face anything, knowing Christ was with them.

Too often we allow our minds to be gripped by paralysing fear, fed increasingly by the media and the constant bombardment of our minds with negative stories. When we find ourselves pulled down by life's problems we should try to recall how God has acted in the past, trust in his love and power and know that God is working his purpose out.

Jesus, in his humanity, had to struggle in the garden of Gethsemane, with fear of the horror ahead of him, but he won through and we have to try and do the same. We have to face our fears head on and by doing so rob them of the power they have over us.

St Augustine prayed `Light of my heart, do not let my darkness speak to me.'

It is easy to lose heart, but if we fight to disempower it we will gain the confidence and light of the Risen Christ as we move forward in our lives.

With all good wishes
Andrew

“Out of Afrika” Project - Children’s Books for Kenya.

The charity is founded on the close links its founders had with the community in and around Thika District and other parts of Kenya. It was founded in 1996 in the Poole area by Julie Martin and Desmond Nganga. The Rotary Club of Poole Bay worked with them for a number of years. Sadly, Julie died but the Charity continued led by Desmond.

(www.outofafrika.org).

This appeal by the charity is for children’s books that can be distributed to their homes during the school closures due to Covid19. They hope that this will help the children to continue their reading skills and encourage their love of books. They are planning to send a batch of children’s books to Kenya in December 2020.



If you have any books that your family no longer need, that are in good condition, can be any subject – educational, factual or fiction - and any age group from very young children to twenty-year olds. Then please contact John Walker on 01202 701112 to arrange collection or delivery between now and the end of November 2020.

NURSE EDITH CAVELL

(12th October)

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.



After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

THANK YOU, DR LUKE!
(18th October)

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' – my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' – an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise – indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged

reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

David Winter

ELIZABETH FRY

The prison reformer and philanthropist Elizabeth Fry died 175 years ago, on 12th October 1845. She was widely admired during her lifetime and after, and was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

She was born into the family of a wealthy Quaker banker, John Gurney, in Norwich in 1770. She rededicated her life to Christ at the age of 18 and devoted herself to helping the downtrodden. This she continued to do after her marriage to London merchant Joseph Fry, and while giving birth to 11 children.

She was a minister of the Society of Friends from 1811 and travelled in England and Europe inspecting prisons and writing reports that were highly influential, transforming gaols from "pits of indecency

and brutality" to more orderly places with a new interest in reform. She was admired by both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale.

Early on she made frequent visits to Newgate Prison in London, suggesting radical improvements that were adopted both there and in other prisons. She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away, combining social work with proclamation of the Gospel in a way that inspired future generations. Her insights also led to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.

Tim Lenton

IVY - NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ITS GOODNESS!

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.

Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greeny-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground. [There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.



What a useful plant it can be! Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy. But has anyone discovered why although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?

Kirsty Steele

ST. FRANCIS, PREACHING TO THE FISH

On 4th October we give thanks for one of the most loved saints in the church – Francis of Assisi. He died in 1226, but his example and witness have lived on to inspire Christians through the centuries.

His was a life focused on the crib and the cross, Lady Poverty and the stigmata, suffering and transfiguration. But also, it was a life marked by a deep love of creation: St Francis had a special nearness to all creatures great and small. As we read the stories of Thomas of Celano, we learn how he tamed a wolf in Gubbio, how swallows would chirp and fly around his head, how lambs would come close and gaze with delight, how his faithful donkey wept as the saint approached death, and in this month's painting, how fish would come to the shore to hear him preach.

Thomas relates how Francis returned some fish that had been caught to the water, telling them not to be caught again. They lingered near the boat, listening to the saint until he gave them permission to leave.



The sermon to the fish is portrayed in the work by Luc-Olivier Merson, a French artist who lived from 1846 to 1920. He is better known for his

work with designs for banknotes, postage stamps, and the basilica of Sacré – Coeur in Montmartre. Here in this canvas, we see St Francis with followers young and old, a faithful dog and the fish at the water's edge.

What was the saint telling them? I think that they were loved and valued as part of the rich tapestry of God's creation, and they must return that love. It is the mood of the Benedicite where all things that move in the earth, the skies and the seas are exhorted to praise the Lord and magnify him forever. St Francis captures that mood in his own Canticle of the Sun.

In the weeks and months of lockdown many of us have had the time to look afresh at our relationship with the world of nature as we have journeyed through the seasons of spring and summer. We have learnt to wonder at the richness and variety of creation. We need to take that lesson into the 'new normal' as restrictions are gradually relaxed. The clock and the complexity of life may easily take over again, but St Francis is inviting us to journey with him in simplicity and joy as we praise God with all His creatures:

*'Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness.'*

The Rev'd Michael Burgess

*(If you would like to see the painting more clearly please
look at the magazine on the church website)*



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

TRINITY 17

Sun	4	8.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
Wed	7	10.30 am 2.00 pm	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i> Bible Study <i>in meeting room</i>

TRINITY 18

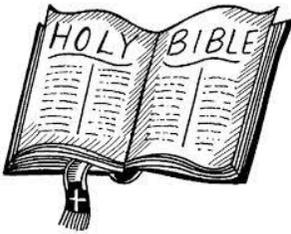
Sun	11	8.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Matins
Wed	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>

TRINITY 19

Sun	18	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Family Service Parish Communion
Wed	21 st	10.30 am 2.00 pm	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i> Bible Study <i>in meeting room</i>
Thurs	22 nd	3.30 pm	Magazine collation

LAST AFTER TRINITY

Sun	25 th	8.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Matins
Wed	28 th	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>



SUNDAY READINGS **IN OCTOBER**

Sunday 4th October: Trinity 17

OLD TESTAMENT - Isaiah 5.1-7

Isaiah describes the song of the unfruitful vineyard and compares it to the house of Israel and the people of Judah.

NEW TESTAMENT - Philippians 3. 4-14

Paul exhorts his readers to put away the things of the world in favour of following Christ.

GOSPEL - Matthew 21.33-end

The parable of the wicked tenants. A familiar passage where the owner sends first his servants and then his son to collect the harvest and they are killed.

Sunday 11th October: Trinity 18

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 25.1-9

Judah's song of victory which celebrates God's faithfulness to the house of Israel.

NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 22.1-14

The parable of the wedding banquet. When the guests made their excuses the king goes out into the streets to replace them.

Sunday 18th October: St. Luke

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 35.3-6

After the judgment on the nations described in Isaiah 34 God will bring a beautiful restoration.

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Timothy 4. 5-17

Paul instructs Timothy in various matters from his prison cell.

GOSPEL: Luke 10.1-9

Jesus sends out 72 followers to heal the sick and proclaim the gospel.

Sunday 25th October: Last after Trinity

OLD TESTAMENT: Nehemiah 8.1-12

Ezra summons the people to obey the law.

NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 24.30-35

In this passage we have described the coming of the Son of Man and the lesson of the fig tree.

ALL SOULS SERVICE - On *Sunday 1st 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.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CHARGES - because of the reduction in visitor numbers, Salisbury Cathedral are now being stricter on the way they charge visitors:

"Those attending worship or wishing to pray will not pay the charge, and several groups will be exempt: Salisbury residents, Diocesan parishioners, members of the electoral roll, and the under-13s.

"Parishioners in the Diocese will be able to book up to 2 free visitor tickets. We ask that this is done through you, the

parish administrator or churchwarden - so that we can ensure probity."

In light of these new restrictions, if you would like to visit the Cathedral please contact Andrew or the Parish Office to arrange tickets.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE.....

Moses revisited

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she said: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: "Thou shalt not kill."

DHCT Cycle Ride – 12th September 2020

As soon as we heard that the annual sponsored cycle ride in aid of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust was definitely going ahead it was all systems go to try and get enough sponsors in the relatively short time we had before the day. A big thank you to all those who gave generously and half the money goes to the Transfig of course.

Graham, Tom and I decided to do the Tarrant Valley again as it is such an enjoyable ride along country lanes with relatively little traffic. We met up on a lovely sunny morning at Tarrant Keyneston where we left our cars (we had brought the bikes over in the cars) and called at All Saints Church in the village. There was no-one there to meet us so we filled in the form and moved on. In these days of Covid 19 with social distancing and using hand sanitizer becoming the norm we wondered if any of the churches we would be visiting would have anyone to welcome us with refreshments. We needn't have worried. At Tarrant Rushton and Tarrant Rawston there was tasty Dorset apple cake to help us on our way albeit carefully wrapped in cellophane paper. We were also welcomed by enthusiastic volunteers at Tarrant Monkton, a really lovely village with thatched cottages and locally well known pub and restaurant, the Langton Arms, and Tarrant Hinton with its beautiful church with the Easter sepulchre. At Tarrant Gunville we met Tim Smith who was driving around in a splendid red MG open top touring car to take photographs of the cyclists. We duly had ours taken outside the church so it may appear in the Annual Report!

After last year's wild goose chase round the perimeter of the Eastbury Estate trying to find the way to Chettle, this year, with the help of Tom's mobile phone technology, we found the correct turning which still led us somewhat off the beaten track and gave us a bumpy ride negotiating tree

roots and stony paths. We were glad to arrive at the church where we had lunch in the picturesque, sunny churchyard overlooking the recently renovated Chettle House which stands in lovely grounds suitable for outdoor concerts. Although no-one was there a kind volunteer had left us some nice cake to go with our lunch.

After lunch we cycled on to Farnham where we had been on one of the hugely entertaining and informative church crawls organised by the Trust a few years ago so we knew where to find the church. Farnham is well known in the area for the Museum pub and restaurant. There was no-one to meet us and sign the form to say we had been so we went off in the direction of Minchington only to sail past the turning for the church which was not signposted. By then, having been on the road for most of the day, we thought we had better head for the Salisbury Road which would take us back into the Tarrant Valley and to our starting point. Unfortunately, it was not very enjoyable cycling along with cars passing by at break neck speed.



We were thankful to get back to the country lanes again. All in all we had a very enjoyable day in glorious weather which made for good cycling conditions – probably why we

met quite a lot of other cyclists along the way also doing the sponsored ride. Once again, many

thanks to all our sponsors who helped raise such a good sum of money towards a very worthy cause. We really do have some very fine churches in Dorset which deserve to be preserved for all to admire and take in their history.

Nina Crane

(photo of Nina and Graham outside Farnham (Dorset not Surrey!) Church taken by Tom Moore) See clearer picture on church website.

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept "just in case" and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my

vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst – they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents – and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

The charity Tearfund has moved fast to help people hit by the huge explosion in Lebanon on 4th August.

The country was already suffering beneath the weight of an economic crisis, growing food insecurity, and widespread poverty.

Tearfund's local partners have been distributing thousands of hot meals, as well as vouchers to enable those most in need to buy food and hygiene items. Its partner churches and faith organisations are also giving emotional support to families, and also providing shelter for those who have lost their homes.

Tearfund has been working in Lebanon since 2013, responding to the crisis caused by the conflict in Syria. Around 1.5 million refugees call Lebanon their home – 25 per cent of the whole population – many of these living in makeshift accommodation in Beirut's slums.

If you can help, please go to: <https://www.tearfund.org>

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

27th September Monty and Oscar Baxendale

Funeral

28th September Cedric Nielsen

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 4 th	Grace Martin
Sunday 11 th	Grace Martin
Sunday 18 th	Gilly Bourne
Sunday 25 th	Gilly Bourne



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the November issue of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 16th October