

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

I suppose we all live in uncertain times at the moment and at the heart of uncertainty is fear. Many of our churches have stopped communal worship and I would suggest it is because the leaders of those churches are fearful in case they get the blame for spreading Covid 19. So how do we face fear? If we face it head on we rob it of the power it holds over us.

It is easy to lose heart, emotionally and psychologically, when we feel hemmed in by fear, but sometimes we actually gain strength and confidence when we summon the courage to confront and disempower it. Outer or inner darkness must never have the last word, St Augustine once said,

"Light of my heart, do not let my darkness speak to me"

We can be sure that God is always with us. He never abandons us, of that we can be certain. God's love actually shines in the darkness of our lives, through all our trials and confusions. So let us take heart in these difficult times as ask God to help us, to trust, to be grateful, to appreciate all we have and not to take anyone or anything for granted.

Help us to value
this place,
this day'
this time.

With all good wishes
Andrew

Vaccine Update

Many of you know that I have volunteered to be a vaccinator with St John Ambulance and there is an article on my training on Page 9 of the magazine. Just to warn those who have not yet had their vaccine, or are due a vaccine, I will be volunteering at the Bournemouth International Centre. The shifts are 7.30 am – 2.00 pm or 1.00 pm – 8.00 pm, so that should keep me out of mischief!

EULOGY **BERYL RUNDLE THOMAS** **1924-2021**

Beryl's Early Life (1924-1943)

- Born on 30 January, so the Saturday before her funeral was her 97th birthday.
- 2nd child of Dr James Thompson & his wife Ethel, who had trained as a nurse.
- Her parents met in January 1916 when both were stationed at No.16 General Hospital, Le Treport, during the First World War.
- She was named Beryl after her aunt who was killed in an earthquake at Dharmasala, India, in 1905.
- Her father bought a GP practice at Oughtibridge, just outside Sheffield, in 1920 and it was here that she and her elder brother Dan were born.
- Educated at home under a governess until the age of 11.
- Completed her education at St. Leonards, a girls' boarding school (which still exists), in St Andrews where she finished her School Certificate in 1942.

The War (1943-1945)

- Her father didn't want Beryl spending the war peeling spuds in the ATS, so she spent the first half of 1943 at a commercial college in Sheffield learning shorthand and typing.
- Second half of 1943 spent at The Triangle Secretarial College in South Molton Street, London.
- On completion of her secretarial training she went to the Labour Exchange for a job & was sent to the Air Ministry for an interview. The job turned out to be as a typist in a large pool of other girls so she asked for something else.
- She was given another interview, this time with the Inter Services Research Bureau (a wartime cover name for SOE – the Special Operations Executive).
- She reported to their HQ in Baker Street and worked initially as secretary to the head of female recruitment.
- She was subsequently moved to one of the country sections. In her case this was EU/P (Poles outside of Poland). These were Polish railway workers based around the Lille area who had formed their own resistance network & were supported by SOE with personnel, equipment and training.
- Beryl was sent over to Belgium as part of a small team from her section in September 1944. They
 - Initially closed down the Polish network, which had completed its role.
 - Redeployed some of them down to the Ardennes where a new network was established to contact Polish prisoners thought to be in German concentration camps.
 - After December 1944 her section was responsible for creating and supplying large volumes of false documents to resistance & agent networks in occupied territories.
- She returned home in May 1945.

United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration (1945-1947)

- Not wanting to settle down at home, Beryl secured a 2 year contract with UNRRA via the father of a schoolfriend.
- Based in Paris, setting up a registry for cable messages, September 1945 - March 1946.
- Based in Warsaw as Secretary to the Head of Operational Analysis Division, March 1946 – summer 1947.
- Conditions in Warsaw at the time:
 - No buildings taller than first floor level.
 - Main streets cleared simply by driving a bulldozer down the middle, pushing the rubble to right & left.
 - For the first month she shared two rooms with five other girls. No hot water. Cold water available for only one hour per day.
- Highlights: fields of wild flowers in summertime.
- Lowlights: a tour of Auschwitz given by a former inmate.

University (1947-1951)

- Edinburgh University, studying modern languages.
 - 2nd year summer vacation spent at the University for Foreigners at Perugia, Italy
 - Entire 3rd year 1949-50 in Paris
 - First Class Honours degree

GCHQ (1951-1960)

- August 1951 – July 1952 at Ruislip.
- July 1952 onwards at Oakley Farm, Cheltenham.
- Met her future husband Bob Thomas at the GCHQ Christmas party in 1958 & they were married in March 1960.

Married Life (1960-1978)

- Two tragedies:
 - The death of her first child Isabelle at the age of 2½ from asthma in 1963.

- The death of her husband Bob (who served as a sidesman for many years in the Transfiguration) from cancer in August 1978.

A Full Life (1978-2014)

The death of her husband encouraged Beryl to step out from his shadow and form her own interests:

- Hobbies
 - Gardening
 - Antiquing, especially her various collections.
 - Courses: Spanish, genealogy, porcelain restoration.

Service

- A committee member of Poole Youth Enterprise Trust (1983-1992).
- A committee member and archivist of Canford Cliffs Land Society.
- This Church
 - Ran the White Elephant Stall at the church fete for many years.
 - A leading member of the Church gardening group.
 - Bible study group.

The Transfiguration was her spiritual home for sixty years. She wished her ashes to be scattered in the Church garden and it is very fitting that she will spend the rest of her days there.

Robin Thomas

CUTHBERT: beloved monk and bishop of Lindisfarne (20th March)

Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c 634-87) has long been northern England's favourite saint. It is easy to see why: Cuthbert was holy, humble, peaceable, prayerful, faithful in friendship, winsome, and really kind.

Cuthbert was born into a fairly well-off Anglo-Saxon family, and he became a monk at Melrose in 651. He and another monk, Eata, were sent to start a monastery at Ripon, but Alcfrith, who owned the land, insisted that they adopt the Roman customs, which Cuthbert's Celtic church did not allow. So, Cuthbert and Eata quietly returned to Melrose, where Cuthbert became prior in about 661. Then came the Synod of Whitby in 663/4, and the Celtic Church formally decided to adopt the Roman customs. After this, Cuthbert was sent on to Lindisfarne as prior, where he sensitively introduced the new ways, and won over the monks there.

Cuthbert was very much loved at Lindisfarne. His zeal was evident in his constant preaching, teaching, and visiting of the people. He was also said to have gifts of prophecy and healing. Occasionally, Cuthbert reached 'people overload'. Then he would retreat to a tiny islet called Inner Farne, where he could pray in total seclusion. When, to his horror, he was told he had been made Bishop of Hexham, he immediately 'swapped' sees with Eata, and stayed on at Lindisfarne as Bishop. Sadly, Cuthbert died on little Inner Farne, only two years later, on 20 March, 687.

Cuthbert was buried at Lindisfarne, but that is not the end of his story. For it was only now that his travels began. After the Vikings destroyed Lindisfarne in 875, several monks dug him up and set out to find Cuthbert a final, and

safe, resting place. For the next 120 years Cuthbert was deposited in various monasteries around the north of England and southwest Scotland. Finally, in 999, Cuthbert was allowed to rest in Durham, where a Saxon church was built over his shrine.

All that travel must have done him good; when his body was exhumed to be put into the 'new' Norman Cathedral in Durham in 1104, it was said to be still in perfect tact, and 'incorrupt'.

News from the Diocese

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, will retire on 3rd July 2021, a month short of his 67th birthday. He will have been Bishop of Salisbury for 10 years.

"Being the Bishop of Salisbury has been a privilege and a joy", the Bishop said. "In present circumstances, the timing of my retirement has not been an easy decision but it feels right to me and to those I have consulted. The impact of the pandemic is going to be felt for a long time. The Diocese is developing a Mission and Pastoral Plan and we have an agreed financial framework with which to face the future with confidence. We continue to be about Renewing Hope as we Pray, Serve and Grow.

"In Bishops Karen and Andrew and the four archdeacons, the Diocese of Salisbury has excellent leadership. Our Diocesan Secretary, David Pain, is well established and Joy Tubbs is an outstanding Director of Education. The Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Board of Education are people of faith, commitment, skill and expertise. I am enormously grateful to them and to the Diocesan Synod.

When the pandemic subsides, the scale of what faces us will benefit from a new diocesan bishop with whom to make decisions about the future.

“This is a testing time and the life of the Church has never been more important as a witness to Christian beliefs and values for the sake of God’s world. In many ways the Diocese of Salisbury is one of God’s small miracles. The energy, variety and resourcefulness of our churches, chaplaincies and schools are just three of the reasons why being the Bishop is a joy. I am full of admiration for our cathedral, for clergy colleagues and for the people of the Diocese who have been extraordinarily resilient and creative in the adaptation of continued ministry and mission.

“It has been good to welcome the Channel Island Deaneries to the Diocese in a new relationship for which the legalities have still to be finalised. I am sorry not to be able to get to know them better and work with them for longer. The Diocese is glad to have them with us and we pray the relationship will deepen and be a blessing to us all.

“When we came to Salisbury in 2011, Helen had just retired as a Maths teacher. She has supported me particularly through hospitality and fundraising in The South Canonry and in the beautiful garden, notably running the Sudan fete. She has maintained her Quaker membership at Salisbury Quaker Meeting throughout our time here. She established a weekly origami workshop for prisoners at HMP Erlestoke selling their cards to raise funds for prisoner rehabilitation. Helen has been a major part of what I have been able to do and I am grateful for her and our family’s support. We look forward to retiring to Brighton to be closer to our children and grandchildren.”

Closer to home on the Diocesan website!

'Giving hope and love'

How do you transform lives and communities during a pandemic? Well, some have joined the volunteer vaccination programme.

One of our priests has done just that.

The Revd Andrew O'Brien, Vicar of Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks, explains:

"During the first lockdown in March last year, as a church we were involved in coordinating a community response to help those unable to leave their homes. I became a delivery driver dropping off food to those in need. This time round, having heard a plea on the radio for volunteers to help with the roll out of the vaccine, I decided to heed the call and volunteer for the St John's Ambulance as a volunteer vaccinator - no previous medical knowledge required!



"Having applied, I then had a Zoom interview and having been successful was directed to undergo training via the internet: first with St John Ambulance via their portal and then NHS training modules, learning about and earning certificates in such diverse subjects as Vaccine storage, legal aspects of giving the vaccine as well as knowledge of the vaccines themselves.

"I then underwent a day of training face-to-face at St John Ambulance in Wallisdown Poole from 9.00am until 5.00pm, which involved basic first aid and what to expect at the vaccination centre as well as practising administering jabs on silicon arms. There were a range of different people at

the training day, from a young mum to people who had recently retired, none of whom had previous medical experience.

"I have to commit to a minimum of two 8-hour sessions a month, but hope to do more. I have been ordained 33 years and in that time have hopefully been there when people needed me the most and feel this is once again such an opportunity to be there in time of need.

"I feel it is important that we do not retreat behind our closed church doors, but go out into the community and help where we can. Church is about our love and care for others and that is very difficult to express through a computer screen. Hopefully through my volunteering I can give hope and love to those I serve. I will obviously not be wearing a dog collar as that is likely to strike fear into the recipient!"

Andrew, our prayers are with you and all those who are helping to roll out the vaccination programme across our Diocese.

**HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY
TO
GEOFF HAYWARD
FOR
1ST MARCH 2021**





CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Wed 3 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

LENT 3

Sun 7 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Parish Communion

Wed 10 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

LENT 4

Sun 14 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Matins

Wed 17 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

LENT 5

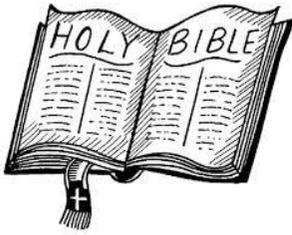
Sun 21 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Parish Communion

Wed 25 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

PALM SUNDAY

Sun 28 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Matins

Wed 31 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*



SUNDAY READINGS **IN MARCH**

Sunday 7th March: Lent 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 20.1-17

The code of conduct of the Ten Commandments provides the legal basis upon which the old covenant rests.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

Christ the wisdom and power of God. The message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

GOSPEL: John 2.13-22

Jesus condemns the secular exploitation of the Temple and makes it clear that he himself is the sanctuary of God.

Sunday 14th March: Lent 4

OLD TESTAMENT: Numbers 21. 4-9

This incident takes place near the end of Moses' life and the conclusion of Israel's wandering in the wilderness. The Israelites were never a particularly patient people and now they have to bypass Edom and go north into the promised land and they are not happy about it.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 3. 14-21

Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus leads into this passage about three related subjects: the Son of Man being lifted up, eternal life and judgement.

Sunday 21st March: Lent 5

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31. 31-34

The prophet heralds a new covenant, a new contract and relationship between God and his people based upon a law of forgiveness planted in the heart.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 5.5-10

Paul recognises Jesus as our great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL: John 12. 20-33

Jesus acknowledges his destiny of suffering which must be shared by all who follow him.

Sunday 28th March: Palm Sunday

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 50.4-9

In this reading from the prophet there is a foretaste of suffering combined with a touch of confidence in God's ultimate victory.

PASSION GOSPEL

An account of the events of Palm Sunday

TO MAKE YOU SMILE ...

An advert appeared in a student newspaper of a university: "Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student – especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D." It was signed: "his mother."

A conscientious minister decided to get acquainted with a new family in his church and so he visited them one Spring evening. After his knock on the door, a lilting voice from within called out, "Is that you, Angel?" "No," replied the minister. "But I'm from the same department."

A Day to Remember

The winter term of 1950 produced a very successful rugby team to represent the school. We had beaten all the local opposition quite easily, including Sherborne Prep who were always a difficult team to beat, and so a new fixture was arranged with Bryanston under 14s who were also unbeaten.

The match was at Bryanston but there were complications. Because a lot of the team were choristers, Bob Baker, Clive Archer, Adam Hogg, Paddy Clynes and yours truly spring to mind, we had to be back in time to sing evensong which meant that an early kick-off had to be arranged. I can still vividly remember that game.

It was drizzling, the pitch had a slight slope to it, and when we looked over to our opponents they looked massive! Outweighed in the scrum and out-jumped in the line out we spent most of the time desperately defending, but we kept them out and our line intact. Then a wonderful thing happened. Just before half time we won a scrum. The ball was quickly passed down the line to Wilson our flyer on the wing. He handed off a would be tackler and out-paced the opposition to score in the corner! We hung on grimly all through the second half which seemed endless, but we kept them out and when the final whistle blew we still had our unbeaten record intact!



After a magnificent tea, we were hurried into the coach to get back in time for evensong. We arrived back at school with a quarter of an hour to spare! With the quickest "Frills on" and the only time we ever ran along the path to the cloister gate, we then ran through the cloisters to the vestry

to be confronted by the Precentor Canon Cyril Jackson and the lay vicars.

As Bishop's Chorister it was my job to arrange the music for evensong for Douglas Guest in the organ loft. He met me at the foot of the organ loft steps.....I expected a telling off....."where's my music.....why are you late etc. I was just about to apologise but he got in first....." Well, did you win?" I was so surprised as it was not what I had expected. I mumbled " Y Y Yes Sir, we won 3-0" "Oh, smashed them then, well done" he replied. And then he smiled and said "Oh ,by the way, I've changed the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to Stanford in G...you're happy to do the solo parts? Good, that's settled then". He turned to mount the stairs and I was left to ponder that the life of a chorister was very rewarding with its contrasts experienced in just 4 hours!

Nigel Yeoman

THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY



The passion flower looks so exotic that most people imagine that it gets its name from being a powerful aphrodisiac. In fact, the passion is quite a different emotion, it refers to Christ's passion, or his suffering during his last days. When the Spanish missionaries found this beautiful flower in South America they used its complex shape to teach the native Indians about Christ's suffering in Holy Week. The filaments represented his crown of thorns; the five anthers his five wounds; the three stigmas were the nails in the cross; the stamens the hammers and the tendrils were a reminder of the lashes that he received before being crucified. Even the amount of time that a single flower lasts, three days, is the same time from the crucifixion on Good Friday to Christ's rising again on Easter Sunday.

25 YEARS ON - A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

The garrison church in Hameln, Germany - of Pied Piper fame - was named the Church of the Nativity. This was very apt, since the building was originally a stable used by the German Army for their horses. After the war the British Army took over the barracks, and the stables were converted into a garrison church. There remained various signs of its origins - tethering rings around the walls, a cobbled floor, and great double stable doors. The old hay lofts and harness rooms gave accommodation to many church and garrison activities. From floor to ceiling on the white interior walls were painted huge, magnificent murals in sepia, depicting various scenes of the Nativity. The church was dedicated in October 1953, and 25 years later, in 1978, a thanksgiving service was held in celebration.



Remarkably the Commanding Officer in 1953, the Padre, the first couple to be married, the first baby who was baptised, and the architect who masterminded the work, all accepted their invitations.

In 1978 - 25 years later - my first husband was Commanding Officer of the Regiment stationed in Hameln, and church warden, so very involved in the planning of this celebration. Somewhat late in the day it occurred to me to invite the local German artist. The murals were signed, so with the help of the phone book I rang the surname. This turned out to be the artist's brother who gave me the right number. On phoning and explaining the reason, there was a very, very long silence, and then a small voice accepted.

After the service the artist told me that among the many large and beautiful angelic wings that he had painted, there was one pair, small and at right angles to one angel's body. (The same as on a German Army officer's



uniform). To my knowledge nobody had ever noticed this. The German artist may well have served in the war, or at least been in the Hitler Youth. I am certain he never imagined he would ever see those wings again, and I admired his courage in accepting my invitation. For me this made an amazing celebration even more remarkable.

Anna Castley

'Zoomed Out?'

'*You're still on mute!*' If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry! After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is using it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: '*For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*' (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel safer, but in

reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: *'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!'* (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that *'God is bigger than Zoom'* and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.

The Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham

Wear your daffodil and unite in memory

Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life care charity will this year celebrate their 35th annual Great Daffodil Appeal, which is held every March across the UK. The money raised from this appeal enables the charity to continue their vital work providing care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their families. The coronavirus continues to have a devastating effect on Marie Curie's fundraising, as activities up and down the country have had to be cancelled. However, there's still lots of ways people can get involved, with things like the Step into Spring Challenge in March where people walk 10,000 steps a day, they can host a virtual collection



or buy and wear one of the charity's iconic daffodils in memory of a loved one.

This year will be even more special as the charity encourages the nation to come together to reflect, grieve and remember for a National Day of Reflection. Tuesday 23rd March 2021 will mark one year since the UK first went into a nationwide lockdown and Marie Curie is inviting the nation to unite and remember those who died and show support and solidarity for those who have been bereaved. The charity knows how important it is for people to grieve and the emotional and psychological impact of not being able to say goodbye properly and grieving in isolation can have.

Due to the pandemic, Marie Curie won't have their normal collections on the street, so donations are more important than ever. To support the Great Daffodil Appeal, you can donate at www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or you can buy your daffodil pin in store at a number of high street stores including Superdrug or Savers.

John Climacus and his ladder to Paradise

Is there something down at, say, B&Q, which reminds your friends of you? John Climacus (d 649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends (at church, not B&Q); during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude.

He wrote The Ladder to Paradise, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

17th February

Robert (Bob) Arthur Garratt (96)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 7 th March	No flowers (Lent)
Mothering Sunday	Susanne King
Sunday 21 st March	No flowers (Lent)
Palm Sunday	Susanne King

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the April issue of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 19th March