

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

C.S. Lewis said "Perhaps the greatest tragedy in the world today is the fact that we are just playing at being Christians". The Early Church was not playing, it was in deadly earnest and the world looked on in astonishment as more and more became disciples of Jesus Christ.

Yet it started with twelve totally committed followers. Jesus calls us to be His ambassadors, to be his representatives, so that others may come to know and love Him.

What is the function of an ambassador? An ambassador tries hard to represent his country in the best way he can, he does his best to handle awkward people with patience and tact, with courtesy and kindness. By his behaviour he hopes to create warmth and interest towards his country. In the same way, if we are to be true ambassadors for Christ, we must represent Him in the best possible way by our behaviour.

If we are cold and unfriendly, distance ourselves from people and show lack of care and concern, we betray Him. Perhaps we are their only contact with Jesus. Somebody once said "If I could meet a real Christian I would be one". What he meant was that it sounded wonderful, Christianity, but nobody seemed able to live as Christ did, nor to obey His commands and follow His teaching. It seemed to be all theory, but no action. And, of course, we do fail; we know we fail, but why do we fail so often and so badly? One of the reasons is that we try to live in our own strength instead of asking for God's grace, God's power enabling us to do what would otherwise be impossible.

It is only by the grace of God that our divisions can be healed, but we must sincerely want them healed. What so often happens is that we get entrenched behind our walls and have to wish to break the walls down and build bridges instead. The walls keep out all that might disturb our comfort; all those people we want no contact with, any ideas or views that might challenge us. We can be self-centred and self-indulgent behind walls, and blind and deaf to the injustice in the world, and to other people's pain and problems.

On the other hand, to come out and build bridges, stretching out in friendship to others means that we are in a very vulnerable position. We know that, like our Master, we shall experience times of rejection; we shall experience ingratitude as He so often did, and often our love and friendship will be thrown back in our face. But this is how Jesus lived and He calls us to do the same. While there are walls there can be no peace and harmony and it is hypocritical to pray for world peace if we are not being peacemakers in our own surroundings and circumstances. World peace will come when there are enough individual hearts working for peace. Jesus gave His life on the Cross to break down the walls, so that all mankind would be brought into a loving relationship with God and with each other.

It is unlikely that we shall be asked to lay down our life, but we must be ready to take the hurts and insults that come our way and to deal with them in the same way as He dealt with injustice, cruelty, ingratitude and rejection, even the rejection of His friends. He did not retaliate, He did not hit back.

Let us stop building walls, harbouring resentment and instead build bridges, build bridges especially towards those whom we find difficult to get on with, towards those who

irritate and annoy us; towards those who are unpleasant to us. As we do so, we are sharing in a very real way in Christ's work of reconciliation. We must not draw back as we attempt to build because we come under attack. When, in spite of the sniping and gunfire, we calmly go on building our bridges of friendship, we will find, though it may take a long time, that the enemy becomes less hostile, even, perhaps, becomes a friend. Isn't God reaching out to us all the time, persevering, never giving up?

Do we want Him to keep account of our misdeeds, the things we are ashamed of, or do we want Him to look only at our good points? Then it is the least we can do for each other.

With all good wishes
Andrew

BROWNSEA CASTLE REBORN

Brownsea Castle, on Brownsea Island, is one of a series of castles Henry VIII built to guard the south coast against invasion by the French and other pirates.

The Island belonged to Mrs Bonham-Christie from 1927 until her death in 1961. On taking over the Island, she dismissed most of the inhabitants, closed it to visitors and lived as a recluse. All was left to nature. Needless to say, rats (which she fed), mosquitoes, weeds, brambles, etc. were rampant.

In 1961 the National Trust, Naturalists and the John Lewis Partnership took on the Island. The Partnership was offered the castle, 16 acres of adjoining beach and grounds and two cottages, on a 99 year lease at £3,000 per annum.

Following a first visit in 1962, my late husband, George, was asked to coordinate the renovation of the castle and adjacent grounds, with a planned opening in 1965 - what a task! After a fire in 1897, the castle was empty and in a very poor state. The windows were cracked or broken, all ironwork rusty, timbers full of wet rot, dry rot and woodworm, the exterior covered in ivy, hundreds of rats and mosquitoes, the grass waist high, broken stone pillars and nine old military buildings in the grounds!!! A less determined man would have refused. Four options were offered:

1. Leave it as it was and do nothing
2. Demolish and do nothing more
3. Demolish and build something else
4. Keep and renovate

Number 4 was decided upon. Fortunately the main fabric proved to be in a better state than first appeared. It was decided to make the building and grounds a holiday venue for John Lewis employees. The locals imagined "a garish place, noisy and brash - those drapers from London disturbing the local peace!" The renovation was estimated to cost £100,000 with tight controls. The first task was to make the castle watertight and safe, as one could currently fall into the dungeons below. New windows were necessary. In those days the bedrooms were named after flowers reflected in the fireplace tiles. This was changed to numbers in case of offence, i.e. narcissus!

The interior decor was to reflect the exterior - greens, browns and blues. There were strict financial controls - ten shillings per roll of wallpaper, and with some drops of 22 inches, the curtains must have been a nightmare. In room 22 there was an enormous marble bath - actually a second century marble sarcophagus from Carthage, weighing one and a quarter tons. It was a valuable antique. Putting a

hammer to it was considered! Installed in 1908, but removal was another question. Eventually, taking three days, and a cost of £75, it was transferred to the rose garden outside.

A submarine cable from Sandbanks brought electricity and telephone, and an oil fired boiler was installed. The National Trust provided fresh water from local sources. The old military buildings were an eyesore, and not easy to destroy, as they were protected against bombing by nine inch reinforced concrete - a local contractor, with a bulldozer, was found and the Royal Marines at Hamworthy agreed to transport the bulldozer to and from the Island as a training exercise.

Major problems remained. The rats were removed by the Rodent Operator from Swanage, his dog, and three hundred pounds of warfarin! The mosquitoes didn't worry the Naturalists - food for their birds, - the National Trust wasn't too concerned, but the Partnership were very worried and called in the malaria research unit from Epsom. Twenty-three different types of mosquito were identified and the main problem site was found and manageable. Clearing the weed in Seymer's Marsh in March, and letting the high spring tide flow in and out would take most of the larvae with it. An all-weather sea boat was necessary to transport visitors, luggage, provisions, stores, etc. to and from the mainland. George designed a craft based on a police boat on the river Thames with these provisos - the coxswain had to be for'ward, passengers needed weather protection with the capacity of 25 when full, embarkation for'ward, and the ability to travel from the castle to Poole Quay in half an hour. She was named Castello, and has two permanent coxswains - one living on the Island and one on the mainland. A bar licence had to be obtained from the Justices at Wareham, not to include the terrace, as it was felt inappropriate to drink in full view of passing yachts and

ferries. The Justices were suspicious, but on visiting included the terrace.

The castle opened in April 1965, followed two years later by the National Trust. In conclusion, remember the Partnership were allowed free hand with the castle, yet the National Trust had no qualms about it disappearing totally. Longer term the lease will expire in 2061, but perhaps the Partnership will obtain the freehold of the castle and adjoining land. Consider the possible alternatives - a holiday camp, massive hotel/block of flats, a speculative project - the Partnership kept its word and created a beautiful place. George deserves enormous thanks for his dedication, vision and endurance in seeing through this gigantic task to a wonderful result.

Mary Cooper

TO MAKE YOU SMILE.....

US Holiday

A couple with three young children went on holiday to America, and eventually ended up waiting in line at San Francisco's Pier 41, to purchase tickets for a boat trip to Alcatraz. Others watched with varying degrees of sympathy and irritation as the young children fidgeted, whined, and punched one another. The frazzled parents reprimanded them, to no avail. Finally they reached the ticket window. "Five tickets, please," the father said. "Two round trip, three one way.



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

<u>STALL</u>	<u>STALLHOLDER</u>	<u>TEL</u>
Books	Perry Jeandren	706107
Raffle	Michael Wright	707735
White Elephant	Graham Luker	723305
Handbags	Tessa Yeoman	707629
Jewellery	Nina Crane	376325
Nearly New Clothes	Nina Crane	376325
Flower Guild Stall	Susanne King	707265
Home Produce & cakes		
Toys	Andrew O'Brien	700341
Bottle Tombola	Andrew O'Brien	700341
Teas/Cakes/Kitchen	Wendy Bales	709850
Crafts	Joanne O'Brien	700341
Car Park	Richard Goodall	
Gate	Clive Gameson	
Treasurer	Michael Wright	707735

Items for all the stalls would be very gratefully received by the stallholders. Susanne has put in a special plea for the Flower Guild stall and Nina would be very grateful for any unwanted jewellery. As

usual we would be very grateful for cakes for both refreshments and the cake stall.

Just a note about the fete stalls!

Book Stall: Paperback and hardback books needed, only novels or non-fiction please. No CD's or DVD's.

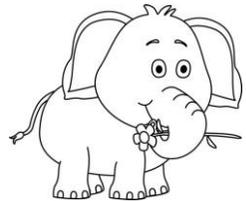
Cakes both for the Home Produce Stall and for Refreshments: just normal size cakes please, no elaborate cakes. Cupcakes welcome!

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

The needs of a White Elephant

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

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



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



CALENDAR FOR JULY

Fri 1 10.30 am ***Coffee Morning in hall***

TRINITY 3

Sun 3 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Parish Communion
6.00 pm Choral Evensong

Wed 6 10.30 am NO HOLY COMMUNION
Fri 8 10.30 am Mums and Toddlers

TRINITY 4

Sun 10 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Matins

Tues 12 11.00 am Pre-Fete Meeting *in hall*
Wed 13 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Fri 15 10.30 am ***Coffee Morning in hall***

TRINITY 5

Sun 17 8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Family Service
10.30 am Parish Communion

Wed 20 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Fri 22 10.30 am Mums and Toddlers

TRINITY 6

Sun 24 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Matins

Tues	26	10.00 am	Craft Group
Wed	27	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	28	3.30 pm	Magazine collation

TRINITY 7

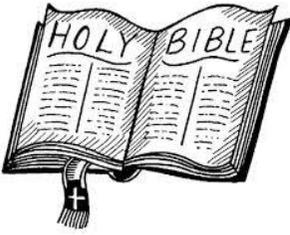
Sun	31	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion

ST. JAMES, THE APOSTLE TO SPAIN

James and his brother John were sons of Zebedee and fishermen from Galilee – the ‘sons of thunder’, as the gospel writers describe their impetuous characters and fiery tempers.

James stands out on three accounts: he was one of the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus took him, along with Peter and John, to ‘watch’ with him in the garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he went on to be the first apostle to die for the Christian faith, when in AD 44 King Herod Agrippa put him to the sword in Jerusalem at Passover time.

In the centuries following his death, James became associated with the evangelising of Spain, and as a powerful defender of Christianity against the Moors. The heyday of the cult of Santiago de Compostela was from the 12th to the 15th century, and the pilgrimage to Compostela became one of the most important of medieval Christendom. This in time transformed the iconography of James, and his emblems became the pilgrim’s hat and the scallop-shell of Compostela. Over 400 English churches have been dedicated to James.



SUNDAY READINGS **IN JULY**

Sunday 3rd July - Trinity 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 66.10-14

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

NEW TESTAMENT: Galatians 6.7-16

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

GOSPEL: Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

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

Sunday 10th July - Trinity 4

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 30.9-14

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

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 10.25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan.

Sunday 17th July - Trinity 5

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 18.1-10

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

NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 1.15-28

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

GOSPEL: Luke 10.38-end

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

Sunday 24th July - Trinity 6

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 18.20-32

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

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 11.1-13

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

Sunday 31st July - Trinity 7

OLD TESTAMENT: Ecclesiastes 1v2, 12-14

Solomon exhorts his listeners to remember their creator in the days of their youth and to fear God and keep his commandments.

NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 3.1-11

Colossians 3 explores what it means to set your mind on things above, enabling us to experience the true joy the Father wants to lavish on us.

GOSPEL: Luke 12.13-21

The parable of the rich fool reflects the foolishness of attaching too much importance to wealth. It is introduced by a member of the crowd listening to Jesus, who tries to enlist Jesus' help in a family financial dispute.

The Platinum Jubilee – on board the Spirit of Chartwell

The Royal Barge started life on the Rhine in 2000 as "*Vincent van Gogh*". It was then bought by the Magna Carta Steamship Company for cruises along the River Thames as "*Spirit of Chartwell*" and was selected in 2011 to be the Royal Barge as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations when she carried the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant in June 2012 - she was lavishly decorated in red, gold and purple with an ornate gilded prow sculpture, thousands of flowers and, while the Queen was on board, flying the Royal Standard. She was sold in June 2012 to Douro Azul to operate luxury cruises on the Douro River. The distinctive cream and chocolate-coloured barge has now lost its gilded prow but there is still a wonderful royal crest on the outside and the interior, designed in the style of the 1920s Côte d'Azur Pullman Express, remains virtually the same as it was for the royal pageant.

We were lucky enough to book a 7-night cruise on the Royal Barge. starting in Porto, cruising upriver to Barca d'Alva and back to Porto through 6 locks each way, always a fascinating experience, one of which was the Barragem do Carrapatelo – the deepest lock in Europe at 115 feet drop.

Starting in Porto, our city introduction tour took us out to the Douro Estuary on the Atlantic Coast where, on an unusually warm and windless day, many families were enjoying the beaches and then back to the centre where we had the first of many port wine tastings - the first being at the Burmester wine cellar. Our first day of cruising took us to Entre-os-Rios and then on to Régua, where we moored and took a short journey to the 18th century Mateus Manor House, a beautiful small palace with impressive gardens and wonderful views - a place known to many as the palace

featured on the label of Mateus Rosé. Onward to Barca d'Alva from where we took another short bus ride to the hilltop medieval village of Castelo Rodrigo which looks down over the plateau eastwards to Spain and northwards to the deep valley of the Douro and whose Church was founded in the 12th Century to assist pilgrims in their way to Santiago de Compostela. Our final visit away from the barge was to Lamego, an ancient centre in a fertile valley between two hills, atop one is the pilgrimage church – Nossa Senhora dos Remedios – approached by a magnificent Baroque-style 600-step staircase lined with Portuguese blue tiles.

On Thursday 2 June, on our return to the barge from Lamego, the crew had decorated the barge with flags, bunting and balloons, all in red, white and blue. They had even invented a pre-lunch cocktail in red, white and blue – as far as we could work out it was a bit like a raspberry sundae with raspberry puree, ice cream and a dash of Curacao – but very resourceful of them. After lunch we were treated to a video of the 2012 Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant and it was a very strange experience watching the barge in which we were actually in at the time in another guise at the Jubilee 10 years ago. Portuguese television covered quite a lot of the Jubilee so we were able to see snippets of Trooping the Colour, the many street parties, the crowds in the Mall and the balcony appearances.

Michael and Wendy

I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone writing articles for the magazine. It makes the whole thing much more interesting and varied. Please keep them coming!
Joanne

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2022

I was absolutely delighted to receive tickets for the flower show as an early birthday gift from my daughters. Watching daily on TV familiarised us with the treats in store, and after a week of cold wet weather, Thursday was perfect for our visit.

Shelley and I took an early train to London then walked through streets lavishly decorated for Chelsea in Bloom and the Jubilee arriving in a party atmosphere shortly after 8am opening time.

The crowds build during the day, but we had a leisurely walk around the huge area with time to chat with the exhibitors at the displays and show gardens. The impact of colours in the main tent was breathtaking.

This year the RHS included new categories to include everyone with window boxes, containers and balconies. Their displays showed great imagination in using use of cramped conditions. Also, mowing grass is discouraged to allow wildflowers and random, informal planting is the order of the day. This was a boon to the industrious Bumblebees working everywhere enjoying the blossoms. They will have to move on after the show ends. A striking display of perfect daffodils made me query how do they achieve this effect out of season . The large Bonsai display was particularly eye catching, some over 40 years old needing to be watered 3 times daily. Sadly there were few roses and no sweet peas to give that wonderful scent in the Pavillion. I am particularly fond of orchids and was thrilled to see the new exotic blooms to grow outdoors as well as in.

The sanctuary gardens were thought provoking and restful devoted to mental issues healing and ecology. The ice

garden was fascinating with a monolithic ice block melting slowly releasing stored organic matter, reminding us of the effect of climate change. The show gardens drew the crowds, the RAF Benevolent garden particularly, depicting a huge figure of a young pilot gazing skyward held our thoughts and attention. There were so many to admire, the work in planning the assembling of huge trees, plants and water features all in top condition. Next year all gardens must be transferred to a new site for use after the show, although I was told that is the case with a lot of gardens this year. Shame my garden is so small!

We passed all the outlets selling souvenirs and mugs, Barbour clothing and wellies as well as ironwork and garden tools from hand trowels to robotic lawn mowers programmed to mow the lawn even when you are away on holiday. We saw several Personalities being interviewed, not my favourite Monty Don however.

As the crowds increased we took off to walk to Knightsbridge passing amazing floral displays outside shops and clubs such as a Spitfire diving through blue sky and white cloud overhead. Then the Royal coat of arms with lion and unicorn towered across windows with flowers in abundance decorating every premises. We stopped at Harrods for a cup of tea before making the journey to Waterloo and an easy journey home. Several passengers had bought plants and chatted about their day. We arrived home tired and weary after a long day out but with lots of photographs to enjoy before my next visit.

Tricia Newton

SEA SUNDAY (10th July)

Over many years the 2nd Sunday of July has been kept as Sea Sunday, with a special focus on prayer for all seafarers. The Mission to Seafarers supports the work of sailors facing difficult waters, piracy, and separation from loved ones for long periods at sea. However, we can also experience storms in our own lives.

In Acts 27 we read how Paul was being taken as a prisoner to Rome, when he was caught in a storm off Crete. After 14 days they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Paul had warned the crew that it wasn't a safe time of year to sail: "*I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives.*" But his words were ignored, and the ship sailed into a violent storm.

By the third day they '*finally gave up all hope of being saved*'. How do we face up to storms in our lives? Do we worry and panic? God doesn't necessarily prevent storms from taking place, but we can trust His purpose through them.

Paul urged the sailors to "*keep courage, because not one of you will be lost, only the ship will be destroyed*". His confidence rested on an angelic promise: "*Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.*" Only the sovereign God, who created the wind and waves, can promise to save people from a storm. What does this mean for us in our circumstances today?

'Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. Grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.' (Amazing Grace: John Newton).

The Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 3 rd July	Rozanne Parsons
Sunday 10 th July	Rozanne Parsons
Sunday 17 th July	Rozanne Parsons
Sunday 24 th July	Wendy Bales
Sunday 31 st July	Wendy Bales



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the August issue of the
Church Magazine is

Friday 22nd July