

Crosstalk

The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad

www.thurstaston.org.uk



40p

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July



August

2011



Diary Dates

Saturday 16th July
Men's Breakfast
9-10am at Maluca Café, Irby

Thursday 21st July
'Wellspring'

8pm at the Rectory

Saturday 20th August
St Beartholomew's Day
2pm at St Bartholomew's
Bring your teddy

Thursday 1st September

M.U. Canon Bob Evans

St. Chads 2.15pm

Friday 2nd September

EMU 'Summer Meal'

at Maluca

Friday 2nd September

M.U. Deanery Quiet Afternoon

St. Michaels, Newton 2pm

Notices



Why not visit your local park this summer.

Love Parks Week: 23 - 31 July

www.loveparksweek.org.uk

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

26th June

Henry John-Paul
Johnson

Weddings

*We ask for God's blessing upon the
marriage of*

8th July

Andrew Ramsden &
Ciara O'Sullivan

From your rector

Dear Friends,

This morning, Chris (who runs our parish office) said to me "Have you forgotten the magazine?" and I had to admit that I had! So what to write and what to say in the Rector's Letter for July and August.....

The reading last Sunday contained these verses:-



*"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden
and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble.*

My yoke is easy and my burden light."

Matthew 11:28-30

There are all kinds of reasons why people become weary and feel heavy laden. As I write there is the worst drought in Africa for 60 years and the people of Africa must be feeling weary both physically, emotionally and spiritually. The people of Iraq and Afghanistan must be feeling weary as a result of war. The people of Japan and New Zealand are feeling weary as a result of Tsunami damage. Closer to home, maybe you know people who feel weary as a result of long term illness, divorce, long term unemployment, problems with the kids, financial worries.....

Jesus invitation to ALL who feel weary, bring your burdens to me, dump them at my feet and I will carry them for you.

And that is followed by a second invitation, that we learn from him. Jesus says his yoke is light. What is Jesus' yoke? The word, "yoke," symbolizes religion. The religion of the Pharisees was rules and regulations which essentially said, "No" to everything. Whereas the religion of Jesus was simple and positive:-

To love God and love neighbour.

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul and your neighbour as yourself.

To be merciful, loving and kind.

Jesus' rules were simple positives like worshipping God and practicing mercy.

We are all to learn from Jesus. Jesus is our teacher and we are his students or disciples. We are to learn:-

gentleness and humility,

love and forgiveness,

faith and trust in the goodness of God.

We are to have faith that moves mountains and carries momentous burdens.

Many Biblical scholars remind us that Jesus was a carpenter, and we often assume that Jesus was a master carpenter in his day. One of the primary jobs that Jesus would have done for others was to craft yoke for their oxen. Jesus would design and craft personally tailored yokes that would be a “perfect fit” for the shoulders of a particular oxen. The yoke wore easily, like a fine fitting pair of shoes or a fine fitting dress or suit. Because Jesus’ yoke was well fitting, it was both easy and light. To pull a plough with ill-fitting yoke created unnecessary burdens for the oxen.

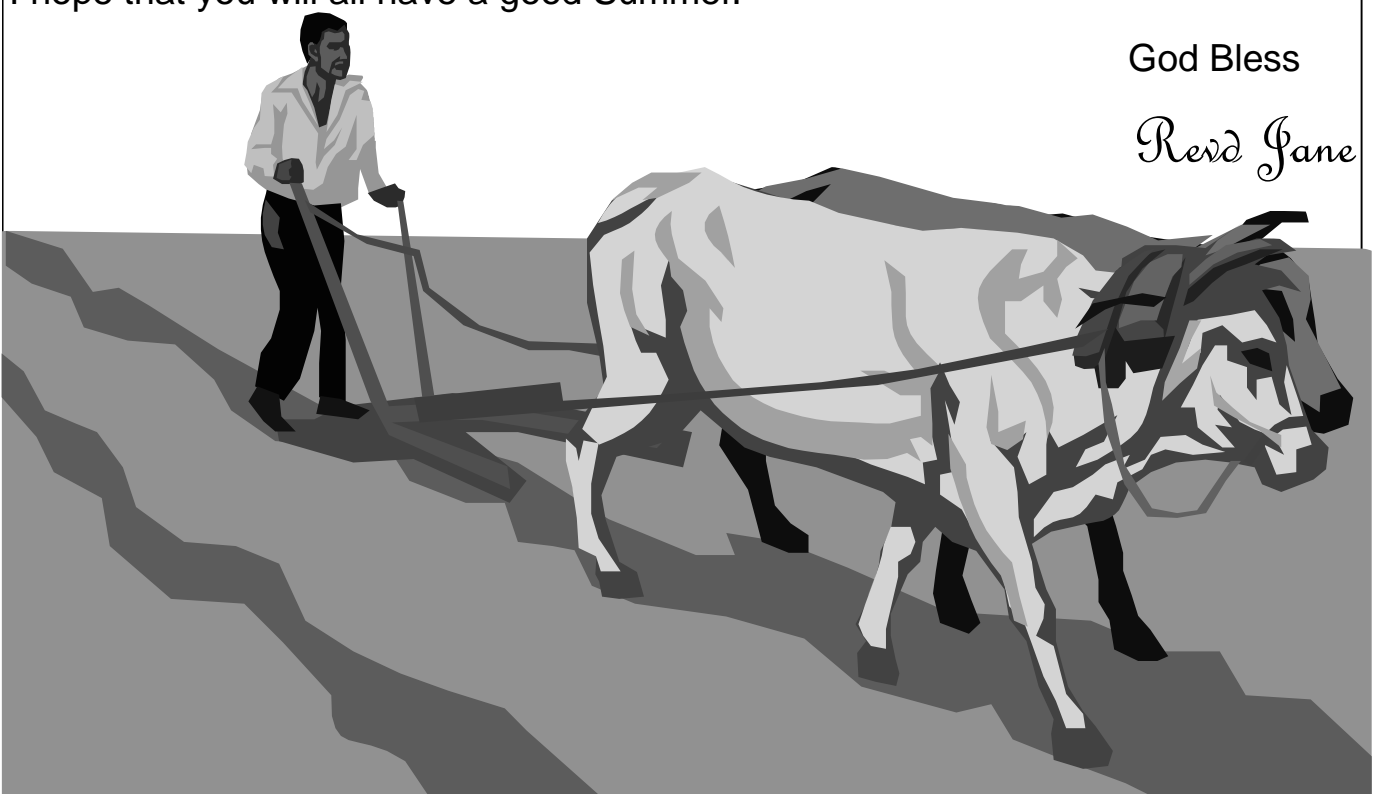
There are certain Bible verses which are infinitely valuable like rubies, diamonds and emeralds. Matthew 11:28-30 are some of them.

Why not learn these verses by heart, and then allow their meaning to affect the way that you live your life.

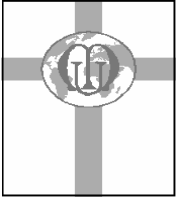
I hope that you will all have a good Summer.

God Bless

Rev'd Jane



Mothers' Union



During her gap year, after completing her degree, Catherine Thursby spent some time in Tanzania with a youth charity doing voluntary work and she came to tell us about her trip. They were working at a nearly completed school, helping a little with the completion of the kitchens. But mostly their work was landscaping the grounds and planting bushes to help prevent soil erosion in the rainy season.

Catherine very obviously enjoyed her stay in Tanzania and was delighted to have had this opportunity of helping in a very practical way. We saw her slides and souvenirs of the trip, and we learned so much about life in Tanzania - told in her lively and enthusiastic way. It was not all hard work and living conditions very different from home! They also had their fun times and holiday trips.

If any young people are interested in spending a few months helping in this way I'm sure Catherine would be happy to talk to them.

Across the world
those who have so much
please give to those who have so little.
What does it cost?
A compassionate heart,
a pair of hands,
a little time.
Lord God, are you calling to us now?
Here we are, use us.
Amen

Diary Dates:

Thurs. 1st. Sept. St. Chads 2.15pm Canon Bob Evans

Fri. 2nd. Sept. St. Michaels, Newton 2pm Deanery Quiet Afternoon

Sat. 24th. Sept. St. Chads 10am. MU Coffee Morning

God Bless

Sue Burns

Dear Friends,



I know that your churches have helped raise funds for Christian Aid Week and we're so grateful for all the work you put in each year – thank you.

You will have heard on the news about the severe food crisis gripping East Africa and to which Christian Aid is currently responding. Ten million people across the region, in particular Kenya and Ethiopia, are facing severe food shortages. For some time now the combined effect of drought, irregular harvests and high food prices has been causing hunger and forcing families to migrate in search of food – and the situation is continuing to escalate across the region.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that the situation is the worst food crisis in the world today, and some parts of the region are experiencing the most dry conditions in 60 years.

At the same time large numbers of people have been displaced in the region, within Sudan and from Somalia, and they are in desperate need of food and other assistance.

Christian Aid is responding in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. Appeal funds will enable partners to provide urgent, life-saving assistance including providing tanks of water to villages experiencing the worst drought conditions, food for families in remote areas, and animal feed to protect the livestock that are so crucial to the survival of the pastoralists. We will also be supporting recovery and helping communities become more resilient to future crises. For further updates please visit www.christianaid.org.uk

From Linda Tiongco (NE Regional Manager for Christian Aid)

A Prayer for East Africa

We cry to you, O God, out of our distress at the suffering of the people of East Africa who are currently experiencing severe food shortages.

Please help the hungry people of Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia get the assistance they need.

Please energise those who have resources to share to give, and give generously.

Please protect those working in difficult circumstances to deliver aid swiftly and fairly.

Please help us to continue to hold these people before you in our prayers.
Amen

Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan

On August 30th the Church celebrates the life and works of John Bunyan - all time best-selling writer of Pilgrim's Progress.

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only re-call Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ

has received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.' ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

Why not borrow this book from the library and make it part of your Summer Holiday Reading?

Jesus loves me this I know

Here is a new version of an old favourite.

It is for those of us who have white hair, or no hair at all.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in him.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME... YES, JESUS LOVES ME...
YES, JESUS LOVES ME - THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

Though I am no longer young,
I have much which he's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile.

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart he puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

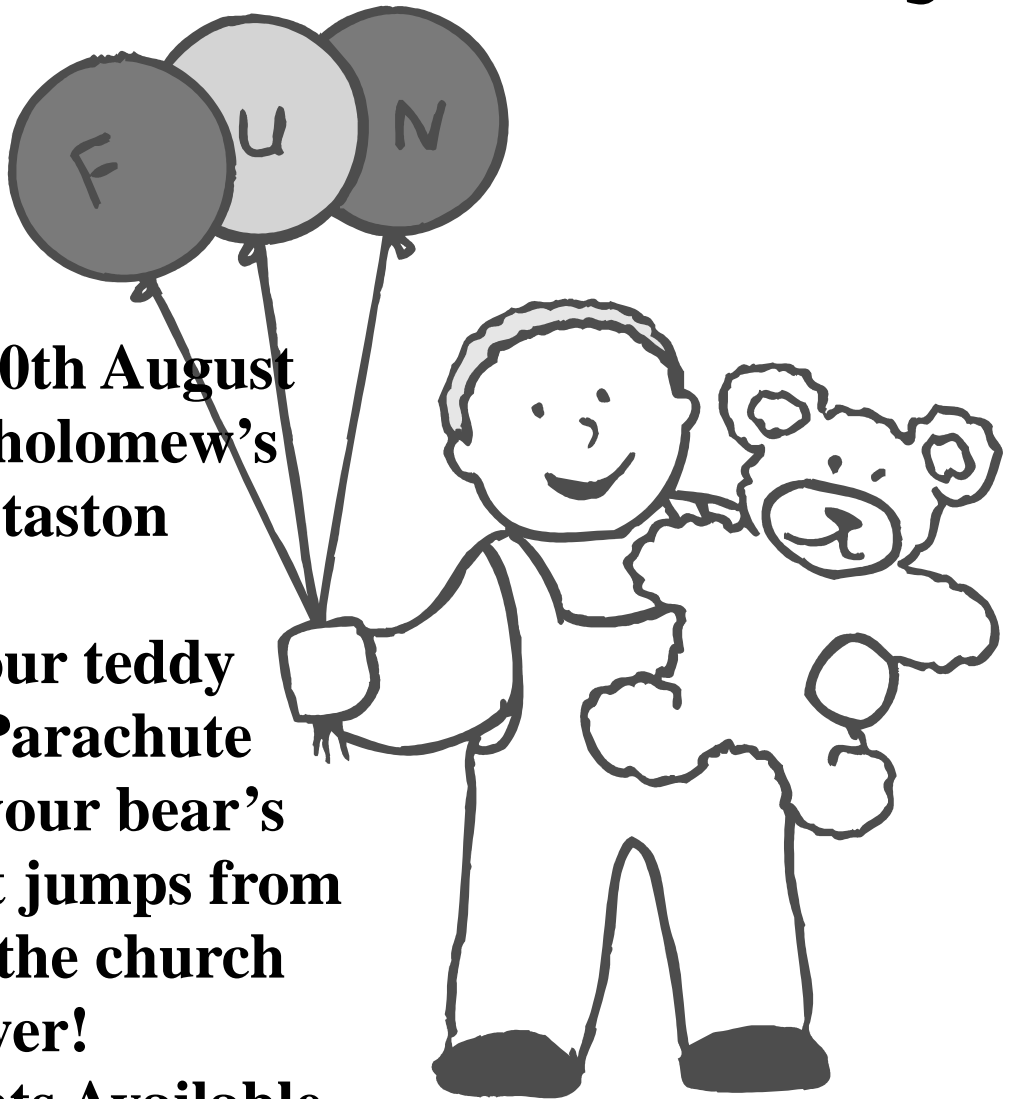
When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand his love.

Come and Celebrate

"St Bartholomew's Day"

2pm Sat. 20th August
at St Bartholomew's
Thurstaston

Bring your teddy
Make a Parachute
Applaud your bear's
bravery as it jumps from
the top of the church
tower!
Refreshments Available
Various stalls



Lots of FUN
for all the family

The Way I See It - as the Duke of Edinburgh turns 90....

By writer and broadcaster David Winter

This summer the Duke of Edinburgh reached his ninetieth birthday. Those of us who can remember the tall, fair-headed naval officer who married Princess Elizabeth in 1947 have become used to his figure walking just behind the Queen on royal occasions over the last 64 years, often raising a laugh as he follows her along a line of well-wishers with a few well-chosen (or occasionally not quite so well chosen) remarks. His has been a remarkable life and his continuing energy and individuality as the Prince Consort have been remarkable. It's hard to believe that he is ninety.

Yet the truth is, we are becoming increasingly aware that more and more people around us are reaching that once rare milestone. I remember being taken as a child to see a great-aunt who had just had her ninety-thirtieth birthday. We were ushered into the room to be confronted with a frail figure, mouth open, pale eyes almost invisible - a kind of living wax-work. Today among our friends, neighbours and fellow church members there will probably be many ninety year olds - and even centurions- who are far from being wax-works. People may not yet match Methuselah in the Bible, who (it is claimed) reached 969 years, but we are on average living longer, and that prolonged life more often retains a degree of good health and activity.

Yet we live in a world which worships youth! The reason the Bible lists all those legendary men of old in Genesis (chapter 5) is that old age was seen as the mark of wisdom, something to be valued and revered. The leaders of Israel, and the leaders of the early churches, were called 'elders', because it was inconceivable that younger men could do it. None of that 'too old at fifty' in those days!

It's an observable fact that congregations in our churches are, on the whole, well above the national average age. That probably doesn't matter too much, so long as they are constantly fed with the rising age-groups. As one shrewd observer commented to me, 'It's quite natural to mug up for finals!' St Paul told Timothy not to let the people among whom he ministered 'despise his youth' (he was well over thirty at the time). We now need the balancing advice. Let no one despise the elderly! We're not just hanging around. Like Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we'll faithfully do our bit until we topple off the perch.

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This is a whimsical story – with a good point

What happens in heaven when you pray?

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was deputised to show me around.

Our first stop was at a large room filled with angels. They were unfolding, reading and stacking thousands of bits of paper, of all sizes. My angel guide explained, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around the area, and it was terribly busy. Angels were sorting out petitions from all over the world. Some were long and involved and weighty, others merely a sigh on a scrap of paper.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings that have been asked for are processed and delivered to the people who need them." I noticed again how busy it was there. The angels were working hard to package and send back to earth all the blessings that had been requested.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor, we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, doing nothing much. "This is the Acknowledgement Section, my angel friend said quietly. He seemed a bit embarrassed." How is it that there is no work going on here? 'I asked.

The angel sighed. "Well, after people receive the blessings that they ask for, it seems very few think to send back any acknowledgement."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked..

"Simple," the angel answered. "Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.' And mean it."



July/August Recipe - Welshcakes

This recipe is a cross between a cake and a scone, it is cooked on a griddle or a heavy frying pan.

INGREDIENTS

225g (8oz) S.R. flour

a pinch of salt

1 teaspoon mixed spice

50g (2oz) butter or margarine

50g (2oz) lard or white

vegetable fat

75g (3oz) sugar

75g (3oz) mixed currants and
sultanas

1 egg beaten

Makes about a dozen.

Method

Sieve the flour, salt and spices into a mixing bowl. Rub in the fats until all the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs.

Add sugar and dried fruit. Pour in the beaten egg and stir to make a fairly stiff dough.

On a floured board, roll or press the dough out to approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick.

Cut into disks with a 1½" or 2" cutter.

Bake the Welshcakes on a medium hot griddle, turning once until golden brown on both sides, but still a little soft in the middle.

This usually takes about 4 mins. on both sides.

Hope you enjoy them!

Betty Rimmer



Looking at the church

The Rev Dr Jo White considers why we 'bend the knee'

Signs & Symbols : Bowing and Bending

Have you noticed that some people – and in some churches just about everyone – genuflects or bows when they pass in front of the altar? Perhaps you do it yourself? But do you know why or is it just because 'we've always done it that way'?

To 'genuflect' means to 'bow (or bend) the knee' so they are in essence the same and have the same meaning. If you've never genuflected, have a go! It's like kneeling, but only the right knee touches the floor and then only for a second. You need to keep your back straight and if you put your hands on your left knee you can keep you balance easier.

Both come from the time of the early church when the Romans were in charge and these gestures were used within their court traditions; though the Romans in their turn had taken them from oriental court traditions. They symbolise one's smallness or lowliness in the presence of one's 'Lord'. In Japan today, people still often bow to each other; with the deeper and longer-held bow being made by the 'inferior' person to the 'superior' one.

Bowing is an outward show of an internal attitude or thought. In this case it is showing respect, love, awe and esteem to the person, place or object to whom or to which one is bowing. Sometimes people will bow when the name of 'Jesus' is said within the service (in Roman Catholic traditions this may happen also at the name of 'Mary'). This is clearly because Jesus is 'Lord'. But why to the altar? Or to ask another way, why not to the Bible or the cross?

This month: - Have a careful look and listen to what is done and said at the altar itself. A priest will often make the sign of the cross when the liturgy is speaking about Christ's Second Coming, the Resurrection of the dead and / or the life to come. In other words – a commitment of their whole life to the future with Christ.

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How to find FLAME

-your Christian and Community Radio Station

If you live in Wirral

- Turn your radio to the **medium wave** band
- Find BBC Radio Merseyside at the top end of the wave band
- Then a tiny tweak upwards with your tuner will bring you to

1521 medium wave - FLAME RADIO

If you live outside Wirral – or happen to be in one of the few Wirral spots where it is difficult to receive Flame -

You can still tune in if you have a computer

*Access www.flameradio.org

*Towards the top of the Flame material on your screen you will see a long bar bearing the words 'On-line click to listen On-line'

* A single click with your mouse on this bar is all that is needed to bring you **FLAME RADIO on line.**

Enjoy Listening!

Further information which may be of interest:

Station Director: Norman Polden

Email Address flameccr@googlemail.com

Postal Address PO Box 53, Upton, Wirral

Tel: 0151643 1696



Wednesdays at St Chad's 7.00pm-8.00pm

Contact Maria Salter on 651 0511 or 07787547170

If you like to dance, this is the fun way of keeping fit and losing inches latin style



Men's Breakfast



Saturday 16th July

9 – 10am

Maluca Cafe, Irby Village

Eat, chat and share in fellowship.

Contact Matthew James on 07817625122 or
mjames@doctors.org.uk for further details.

Dates for your diary: Where possible Men's Breakfasts will take place on the fourth Saturday of alternate months. Future dates for 2011 are:

Saturday 24th September

Saturday 26th November

Looking at your Community

Spot an orchid – or meadow saxifrage - in your churchyard

Shrinking the Footprint, the Church of England's national environmental campaign, is encouraging churchgoers to follow in the footsteps of the Rev Gilbert White and other naturalists to take a closer look at wild plants, including those with faith links, in their churchyards.

As a partner in the UN International Biodiversity celebrations, Shrinking the Footprint has drawn up a list of plants and web links that will help nature enthusiasts make the most of some 10,000 churchyards around the country.



With monocropping and chemical pesticides used in farms and gardens, churchyards are often the most biodiverse places in communities. Wildlife audits have revealed a surprising range of wild flowers and animal life in churchyards.

Some plants, like meadow saxifrage and the green winged orchid, are now only found in churchyards. These grow side by side with other plants gathered naturally over the years, but also alongside those introduced inadvertently from decorations in the church or on graves.

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Flowers with Christian connections

There are many plants whose names reflect something of Christianity. Plants with faith links include:

Columbine - *Aquilegia vulgaris* - is also known as 'dove flower'. The dove is a symbol for new creation and baptism and carvings of the flower are often found in cathedrals and churches.

Sorrel - *Rumex acetosa* - was one of the bitter herbs that Hebrew people ate with Passover lamb and so possibly part of the Last Supper.

Moschatel - *Adoxa moschatellina* - also known as the Good Friday flower. There is no other flower like it with its five petals facing north, south, east and west and a fifth facing the sky and a scent of musk. It is the only species in its genus and the only genus in its family in the world.



Wild Pansy - *Viola tricolor* - a member of the violet family, and also known as 'heartsease' and 'Trinity Violets' because they are yellow, white and purple.

Cow Parsley - *Anthriscus sylvestris* - also sometimes known as 'Our Lady's Lace'.

Pasque Flower - *Pulsatilla vulgaris* - thought to be the lilies of the field Jesus pointed to in his Sermon on the Mount.

Solomon's Seal - *Polygonatum multiflorum* - grows in the wild now only in a few places. King Solomon was renowned for his wisdom, composed 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs and built the first temple.

Speedwell - *Veronica*. When Jesus carried his cross, legend has it that Veronica was the girl in the crowd who offered him her handkerchief. When Jesus handed it back his face was imprinted on the cloth. An old country name for speedwell is 'God's Eye'.

Lady's Smock - *Cardamine pratensis*. In the cloisters of Lincoln Cathedral which is dedicated to Mary there is a garden full of her flowers.

Lords and Ladies - *Arum maculatum* - has also been known as 'Parson in the pulpit' and 'Parson in his smock'.

Wirral Grave Care

Welcome to Wirral Grave Care and Tending.

We give a personal, professional and local service.

It can be difficult to visit and tend our loved ones grave and they can become untidy very quickly, let us take away all that worry by visiting your loved ones graveside.

We can visit once before a special date for **as little as £7.95** or regularly to keep things looking good. *Details on our website.*

We can even **leave flowers** on your behalf during our visit for £1.70.

A full receipt and invoice will be sent to you on completion of our work with a photograph confirmation. We cover **Wirral, Merseyside and Cheshire** at the moment, other areas will be available soon.

What we do during a tending visit:

- CAREFULLY TRIMMING OF ALL GRASS AROUND THE BURIAL PLOT
- CLEANING OF THE HEADSTONE (with gentle biodegradable detergent)
- WEEDING AND REMOVAL OF DEBRIS
- CLEANING OF FLOWER VASES AND URNS
- CLEANING OF ANY GRAVEL OR CHIPPINGS
- PLACE FRESHLY CUT FLOWERS **OR** **PLANTS** (EXTRA CHARGE APPLIES)

Please be assured that all our maintenance work is carried out with the utmost sensitivity and respect of your loved one.



For more details or to book a visit please go to our website at: www.wirral-gravecare.co.uk

Wirral Grave Care, 5 The Quadrant, Haylake, Wirral, CH47 2EE.
Email: info@wirral-gravecare.co.uk, Telephone: 0151-632 6281

It now looks lovely with the bulbs coming up. We have 1000 bulbs

Our fishing policy is all at sea

As Christians, we care for the environment and seek to avoid waste of finite food resources. So it is not surprising that many church members are among those (nearly 700,000 at the time of writing) who have signed a petition started by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's Fishfight campaign - sparked off by his TV series earlier this year.

People were stunned by the revelation that, under current EU rules, around half of the fish caught in the North Sea are thrown back in the ocean, dead or dying. This is called discard.

The problem is that in a mixed fishery, where many different fish live together, fishermen can't control the species that they catch. The EU estimates that in the North Sea, discards are between 40 and 60 per cent of the total catch. Many of these fish are species that have fallen out of favour, so we could prevent their discard just by recovering our taste for them. Others are prime cod, haddock, plaice and other popular species that are "over quota" (the quota system is intended to protect stocks by setting limits to how many fish can be caught).

Fishermen can't help accidentally catching 'over-quota' fish but are not allowed to land them - so they must throw them overboard.

What to do? The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is currently being reformed for 2012. Scientists and environmental groups have suggested a number of ways in which the policy could help to protect fish stocks. The answer will lie in a combination of various ideas.

What can you do? To learn more and sign up to the Fishfight petition - visit the website at www.fishfight.net

We can also expand the selection of fish that we eat by trying some of the lesser-known species of local fish currently being discarded. Tasty and nutritious fish such as flounder, dab, coley and pouting are overlooked and thrown away.





St Mary's Church in Upton has a 'Unique' shop selling high quality affordable clothes designed and partly made by young local people. Hoodies, t-shirts and accessories. Knitted and handmade goods.

Vintage second hand clothes.

Opening hours Mon-Fri 10.00am - 5.30pm

Sat 10.00 - 4.00pm

For more information see page 7 of the enclosed Chester Diocesan News.



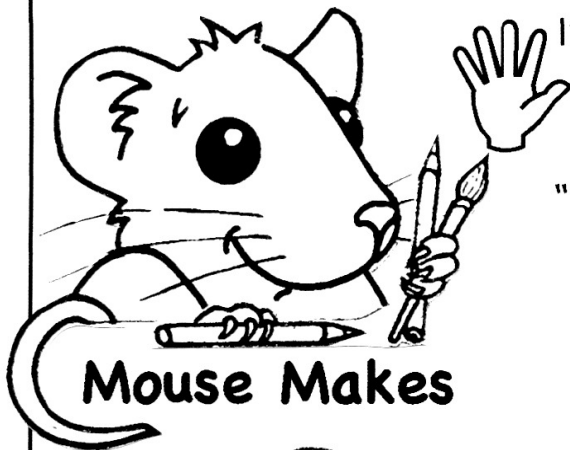
Third Thursday of each month

21st July and 18th August

8.00pm Meeting at the Rectory

An opportunity to Listen to God and to Pray.

All are Welcome



It was Jesus who taught us to call God our '**Heavenly Father**'. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray he said:
"When you pray, go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. And your Father who sees what you do in private, will reward you."

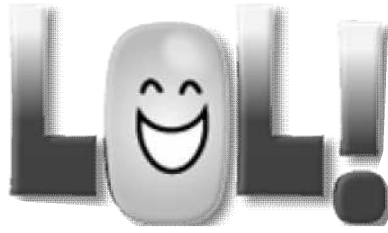
READ Matthew 6:9-15



To make a praying hand bookmark, carefully cut out around the hands, fold back along the centre dotted line and glue together.
 Use the the words on the hands and fingers to help you as you pray.



July 11



Sum problem

"Now, James," said the teacher, "If your father gave you £1, your uncle 75p, and your brother a 50p, what would you have?" Jimmy was deep in thought for some time.

"Come, James, that's not a difficult problem," said the teacher.

"It is for me," said James. "I can't make up my mind whether I'd have a large ice-cream or small hamburger."

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Cost of preaching

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

**

Cricket

"Well, well," said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. "I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old."

"You CAN join in," said the 'captain'. "Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back."

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Flight path

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise.

One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

Pilgrimages Holidays Conferences

RETREAT TO IONA: Reflection and Prayer led by Revd Rob Marshall

3rd - 7th October 2011

BOOK NOW! INCLUSIVE COST - £493

An opportunity to discover the meaning of pilgrimage in a special break to the island of St Columba with the writer, broadcaster and veteran pilgrimage leader Revd Rob Marshall. The tour price includes; three nights half board (breakfast and dinner provided) and one night bed and breakfast (dinner is not provided), coach travel from York to Glasgow and Iona, coach and ferry journeys between Oban and Iona, all lectures and visits.

Items not included: All lunches, gratuities & gifts to churches (£20), Single Room Supplement (if available) £95, Drinks with meals and any items of a personal nature.

Contact Adam Orr (UKLTG): 01482562455 www.ukltg.com

To be a Pilgrim! - how the practice of pilgrimage offers 21st-century Christians a new way to communicate

By Andrew Jones

More people are going on retreats than ever before. Many of them are not people who attend church every Sunday, but almost all of them are seeking space, time and fellowship for rest, peace, breathing space, perspective and spirituality. These are the things that enable the mind and heart to be joined in that inner place where God is present to every human being. All of us have that inner place; a retreat is an opportunity for a given group of people to discover that inner place gently and carefully in an environment of peace and beauty.

Similarly, pilgrimage has been at the heart of human spirituality since the beginning of time. People from all religious traditions have practised pilgrimage and it continues to be an important tradition in our own day. Today, so many people are searching for those traditions that inspired early Christians, particularly at times when the faith was vibrant, and the increasing pilgrimage-traffic shows that modern-day Christians are actually rediscovering the historical importance and significance of pilgrimage—it's an experience that often provides that vital link between the inner journey of the heart and the outer pilgrimage of life.

In my new book *Pilgrimage: The journey to remembering our story*, I explore how pilgrimage is able to awaken people at all stages of belief to remembering the story of God's creating and redeeming work in history—it helps to tell us who we are, where we have come from and where we are going. I also make the claim that the contemporary church seems increasingly and tragically exiled and estranged from our culture.

Significantly, this act of remembering—pivotal to pilgrimage—not only offers a life-transforming way out of that exile situation but points to the way 'home', to the place where we can live authentic and balanced lives.

Many places of pilgrimage beckon and draw not only people but also that inner place within people. These locations are described by some as 'thin places'; places where the boundary between heaven and earth hardly exists at all! Bringing the experience of retreat, pilgrimage and that worrying exile place that much of the contemporary church finds itself in together could prove transfiguring and transforming. It may even be an opportunity in which our own faith and Christian discipleship might be refreshed and challenged.

Andrew Jones is Archdeacon of Meirionnydd and rector of four churches on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales. He previously served as Director of Pastoral Studies at St Michael's College, Llandaff and lectured in theology for Cardiff University. He regularly leads pilgrimages to sites around the UK and abroad. His new book is: *Pilgrimage: The journey to remembering our story*, BRF, £8.99.

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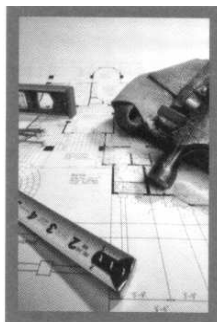
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Contacts

Churchwardens

Mr J Roberts **342 2149**
23 Riverbank Road Lower Heswall CH60 4SQ

Mr R Jackson **648 0365**
13 Norton Drive Irby CH61 4XP

Reader

Mr Alan Jones **648 1400**
8 Edgemore Drive Irby CH61 4XT

Retired Clergy

Rev'd J Edwardson **648 2661**
38 Hazel Grove Irby CH61 4UZ

Rev'd S Beckley **648 7767**
162 Heathbank Irby CH61 4YG

Rev'd I Morris **625 8474**
43 Abbotts Way West Kirby CH48 6EH

PCC Secretary

Mr G Barley **648 1867**
5 Sherwood Avenue Irby CH61 4XB

PCC Treasurer

Mr C Eden **648 9517**
8a Woodlands Road, Irby, CH61 2XD

Verger

Mrs J Ratcliffe **648 6171**
135 Thingwall Road Irby CH61 3UD

Organist

Mr C Vickers **648 7405**
34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office **648 8169**

St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary

Mrs J Heath **648 6015**

Mothers' Union, Branch Leader

Mrs S Burns **648 1022**

Evening Mothers' Union (EMU)

Mrs C Rostock (Secretary) **6481112**

Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs E Jones **648 1400**

Flower Guild (St Chad's)

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Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs J Bibby **678 8124**

Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs M Reid **648 1766**

Bellringers Tower Captain

Mr R Turner **648 1742**

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Junior Church

Mrs J Deboorder **648 6331**

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Mrs K Robson **648 6691**

St Chad's Playgroup

Mrs Ceri James **648 3355**
Mrs S Newton
(during playgroup hours) **0783 5096171**

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Karen Fearn **648 9833**

Brownies (Brown Owl)

Mrs Linda Churchill **07860239422**

Guides

Revd J Turner **648 1816**

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Mrs J Heath **648 6015**

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Mrs P Hulme **648 1827**

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Church Services

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

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11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Baptism
6.30pm Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

10th July
Trinity 3

17th July
Trinity 4

24th July
Trinity 5

31st July
Trinity 6

7th August
Trinity 7

14th August
Trinity 8

21st August
Trinity 9

28th August
Trinity 10

4th September
Trinity 11

St Chad's

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Book Giving

9.30am Family Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Service

9.30am Holy Communion

Closed for maintenance

9.30am Family Communion

9.30am Family Service

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