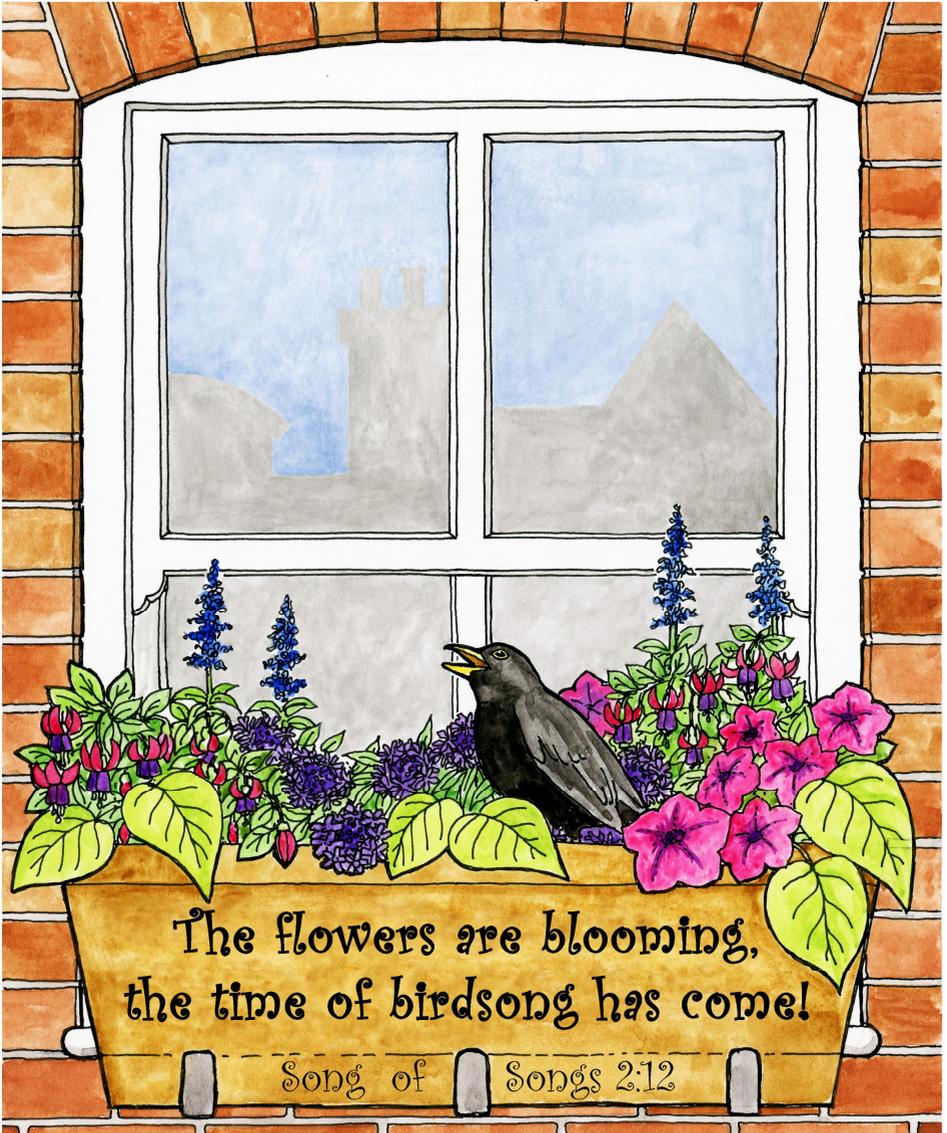




June
2019

St Michael's, Oulton.



Services and Events June 2019

Sunday 2nd June: 7th Sunday of Easter.

10:00am Morning Prayer led by Debbie Allsop with Jill Pirrie preaching.

Sides persons: Karen Langfield & Carol Keightley.

Thursday 6th June: Women's Fellowship Meeting.

2:30pm: Meet at 1, Elmhurst Avenue.

Sunday 9th June: Pentecost (Whit Sunday).

10:00 am : Holy Communion led by Jill Pirrie with Rev. Nick Ktorides preaching.

Sides Persons: Elissa Norman and Stella Saunders.

Sunday 16th June: Trinity Sunday.

10:00am: Christening Service led by Debbie Allsop with the Rev. Nick Ktorides preaching.

Sides Persons: Carol Keightley and Carolyn Woodcock.

Monday 17th June: Knit and Natter Group.

1:30pm: Meet at 1, Elmhurst Avenue, Oulton Broad.

Sunday 23rd June: 1st Sunday after Trinity.

10:00am Holy Communion led by Jill Pirrie with Rev. Nick Ktorides preaching.

Sides Persons: Tim Jones and Jane Boyce.

Friday 28th June: Guided Suffolk Wildlife Trust Walk

Why not come and join us on a guided wildlife walk round Oulton Marsh with Suffolk Wildlife Trust Learning officer Katy Runacres.

Time: 9:30—11:30 am. Meet at the church.

Sunday 30th June: 2nd Sunday after Trinity

6:00pm Evening Prayer Led by Debbie Allsop with Jill Pirrie Preaching.

Famous Christians.

I'm sure there would be few who could not recognize our Famous Christian selected this month by his photograph. Of course it's Harry Secombe (1921 – 2001) Harry was a Welsh entertainer with a talent for comedy and a noted fine tenor singing voice. He is best known for playing Neddie Seagoon, the central character in the BBC radio comedy series *The Goon Show* (1951–60). He also appeared in musicals most notably as Mr Bumble in *Oliver!* (1968) – and, in his later years, was a prominent presenter of television shows incorporating hymns and other devotional songs.



His rotund appearance and high-pitched giggle were his trade mark and when once questioned about his size he offered the advice, "if you insist on slimming: Eat as much as you like - just don't swallow it!"

During World War 11 Harry was serving in North Africa when he and his company were being addressed by General Montgomery who was standing on the back of a truck making one of his rousing speeches to the troops before they went into battle against the Axis forces. At some point his gaze fell on Harry Secombe who was standing at the front. Harry was a Bombardier in the Artillery, covered in boils, had his glasses broken in several places and put back together with sticky tape, and wore an ill fitting uniform for his rotund shape. Montgomery's speech ground to an awkward silence as he examined his soldier who was beaming up at him. With a huge grin and a salute, Harry filled the void with a cry of "We are with you sir!", to which the troops cheered and Montgomery replied "um, good", before continuing.

Harry died on the 11th April 2001. Upon hearing of his old friend's death, Spike Milligan quipped, "I'm glad he died before me, because I didn't want him to sing at my funeral." But Secombe would have the last laugh: upon Milligan's own death the following year, a recording of Harry Secombe singing was played at Spike's memorial service.

My Favourite Hymns,

This month we asked Shuba Ktorides to share some of her favourite hymns and the reason why.

Fade, fade, each earthly joy

Jane Catherine Bonar (1821 - 1884) wrote this hymn. Jane was married to the famous Scottish churchman, poet and prolific hymn writer, author and tract writer, Revd Dr Horatius Bonar (1803 - 1889). Bonar authored the favourite hymn, "I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest' ". Jane was the daughter of Revd Robert Lundie, who died when she was just about ten. Jane and Horatius had nine children, of whom five died young.

This hymn, which I came across in my twenties, has spoken to me through the passage of my life as it weaves in and out of the labyrinth of joys and woes. Recently I was lying in a ward with palliative cancer patients who were nearly ready to go into a hospice. I thought they all had a similar look in their eyes - a deepening consciousness of mortality. We all were consciously living in the shadow of our mortality - minute by minute. People who do not have to experience such constant consciousness are only momentarily reminded of mortality in brief encounters. Prince William talking about his work as an air ambulance pilot on TV recently, said it left him feeling that "death was just around the door".

But this hymn brought to me not fear, but joy, comfort and hope, while entrapped in the spider web of transience, temporality and mortality, in which human beings live and move and have our being. Jesus is mine! - makes all the difference to me. For me, chiselled in the words of the hymn shine the sense of my relationship with Christ - joyful but also poignant. Here are some of my own brief reflections on each verse:

1. Fade, fade, each earthly joy,
Jesus is mine!
Break every tender tie,
Jesus is mine!
Dark is the wilderness,
Earth has no resting place,

Jesus alone can bless,
Jesus is mine!

Sometimes when I have finished drinking from the broken cisterns of earthy enjoyments - I trip on reality with a thud! Sometimes even as I stoop to drink the waters run out - and leave the broken cisterns in my hand- to mock me. Then it is that I turn to the place of reality - Jesus, who alone is my bedrock and spring of all that is truly blessing.

2. Tempt not my soul away,
Jesus is mine!
Here would I ever stay,
Jesus is mine!
Perishing things of clay,
Born for but one brief day,
Pass from my heart away,
Jesus is mine!

Scriptures frequently point to the fragile and vulnerable nature of the biological stuff of which we and all environment are made:- (Lamentation 4:2)"considered as pots of clay" i.e. breakable and perishable ; we are "jars of clay" (2. Cor 4:7). Biological fabric, the stuff of creation, are all perishable - as with stellar explosions or extinction of matter. What will not perish is Jesus enshrined in my soul- to pass beyond my brief day through death into eternity.

3. Farewell, ye dreams of night,
Jesus is mine!
Lost in this dawning light,
Jesus is mine!
All that my soul has tried
Left but a dismal void,
Jesus has satisfied,
Jesus is mine!



Ecclesiastes 2:22 asks, “What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun?” and then the Preacher sighs: “All is vanity and a chasing after the wind!” (Eccl 2:17)- all except Jesus!

Farewell, mortality,
Jesus is mine!
Welcome eternity,
Jesus is mine!
Welcome, O loved and blest,
Welcome, sweet scenes of rest,
Welcome, my Saviour’s breast,
Jesus is mine!

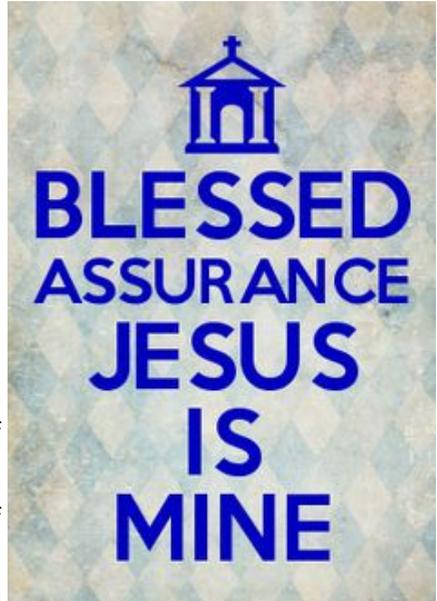
Ecclesiastes 8:8 gives the stark warning: “No one has power over the day of death”. No-one that is except Jesus, who has passed through the tunnel of death and come out intact and alive. Resurrection! When I have passed

through the death tunnel, when my earthly tent is destroyed, what is mortal will absorbed into life (2 Cor 5:4). Paul and all Jesus’s disciples speak of this with a certainty that is amazing for its clarity and imperative tone: 1 Cor 15: 54, “the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality”.

So I stare into my own mortality, mirrored in the eyes of other fellow travelers on this palliative road. But I know I will wake up into the morn of eternity that tearless will be - waking up still lying on my Saviour’s breast. As Jane died she reportedly said in her final moments of breath: “He giveth me Salvation.”

How glorious that goodbye!

Shuba Ktorides.



Editor: David Pickup is a solicitor who here considers a common problem...

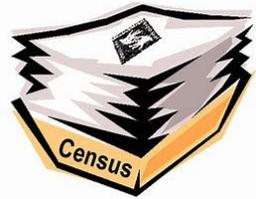
How to fill in a form

Solomon took a census of all the foreigners residing in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600. He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills... (2 Chronicles 2:17-18)

We can spend much of our working life filling in forms of one sort or another. Sometimes we struggle to complete an online form and have to use the telephone help-line. The young people who help us on the end of the line can leave us feeling that we are obviously idiots.

Do you like filling in forms? No, of course not! No-one does. There are a few censuses in the Bible, which are a type of form. The above quotation is about authorities getting information to use for their benefit to get people in work.

Do you always have to give the details they ask for? No! If you just bought an electric iron does the manufacturer really need to know your name, address, date of birth, number of people in your house and cat's mother's name? If not, then why are they asking for such details? Always be careful about what information you give out, and to whom.



Sometimes if you are in debt you are asked to fill in a budget form. Again, be careful. Do they really need to know your employer's name and address and your bank details? On the other hand, do not forget to include every item of expenditure. If you just put down your earnings and the amount you spend at the supermarket it may look as you have plenty of money. Remember bus fares, school meals, rent, council tax, telephones and all the rest.

There is never enough space on most forms, though they must know email addresses are usually long. Then there are questionnaires asking you to rate the experience. Was the webpage helpful? Why was it helpful.... and suddenly you may be asked to give away yet more information about yourself... be careful. As a general rule, try and give as little as possible, just sufficient for the task in hand.

I hope you have enjoyed this article. Now please complete the 18-page satisfaction survey and include your bank account number, inside trouser leg measurement and bank card. Oh, and don't forget the name of your cat's mother!

How to be a Vicar.

This month, dioceses across the Church of England will welcome new deacons and priests at special services in their cathedrals. This is because, traditionally, most ordination services take place at the end of June, during Pentecost.

Have you ever wondered how someone becomes a vicar? Here is a brief description of the journey:

It begins with a call from God upon your life. Discerning this can take months or even years of reflection and prayer.

The next step is to talk to your vicar, or to a member of the vocations team in your diocese. Your diocese will help you to identify what type of ministry could best suit your gifts and talents.

Your bishop will then send you to a selection residential known as a Bishop's Advisory Panel. Here they will assess your understanding of the Church, your faith, your sense of vocation, leadership, and collaboration.

The panel will decide whether or not to recommend to your bishop that you go forward for ordination training.

If you are recommended, then the next step is to enter a training course at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country. These can be either residential or non-residential.

Training usually takes two to three years. After the course, an ordinand will normally receive either a bachelor's degree or a diploma of higher education. Your tuition fees are covered by the Church, which also pays a contribution towards your living expenses.

After ordination, newly ordained clergy begin their ministerial life as deacons. The first jobs they do are called curacies (they are known as curates). Your curacy will be an opportunity to serve alongside an experienced vicar. Here you can put into practice the knowledge gained from your course and learn from them as you prepare for your own ministry. After a year, most deacons are ordained again, as a priest.

All sorts of people train for ordination. There really is no such thing as 'typical' ordained person. What all candidates do share is a genuine and heartfelt desire to serve God and to serve others.



The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Never, ever feel aggrieved that your summer strawberry tea has to be held in the church hall rather than on a lawn, since there is hardly a single blade of grass to be found in your entire parish. You have no idea of the potential calamities you are avoiding.

Here, during the previous week, the organisers will be desperately asking the opinion of local farmers about the weather. In doing so, they forget that for the farming community, it is always the wrong sort of weather anyway. I once received a heartfelt plea from the staff at Heathrow Airport for our ladies to stop calling them at hourly intervals to find out if hurricanes may be imminent.

Naturally, the day will start out warm and sunny and so all the tables will be arranged on the vicarage lawn. By 10am, tablecloths will have been laid. By 10.10am, a brisk breeze will have sprung up and someone will be delegated to retrieve them all from deep within the nettle patch. By 11am, clouds will gather, and a decision will be made to transfer everything into the church hall. Once that is completed, just when it is almost too late to change, the sun will re-emerge and there will be a frantic dash to put everything back on the lawn. This ensures that by 2pm when teas start, the ladies will already be in a state of collapse.

Last year, the Dowager Duchess of Trilby graced us with her presence. As she sat with her entourage, elegantly sipping tea under a giant parasol over the table, the thing – equally elegantly – closed around her, leaving her looking like one of those unfortunate insects trapped by a carnivorous plant. To emerge from its depths looking entirely unflustered was beyond even her social skills. Fortunately, attention was diverted from her predicament by the wife of one of our farmers. This substantial lady had been sitting in a chair with slightly too thin legs for the damp lawn. The rear two slowly sank into the grass, eventually catapulting the dear lady backwards into the lap of the local mayor. Disentangling red flannelette from mayoral

chains took some time, and delicacy.

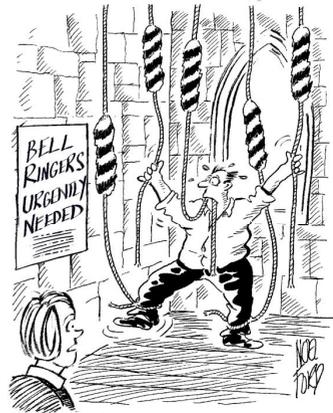
At least when I have had enough, the lawn can be cleared in minutes by drawing the raffle. The moment the last plastic shower cap and set of Christmas doilies has been awarded, there will be a dash to get home, giving my dog the opportunity to retrieve remnants of cream cakes from the flower beds.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace.

Cautionary Verse

Being a member of our newly formed band of bell-ringers at St. Michael's, has had its alarming moments especially during the early days of training. I don't think my fellow ringers will ever let me forget the time I broke a 'stay' through pulling the bell beyond the point of balance, and with enough force to break the 'ash stay. This in turn resulted in the rope being whipped out of my hands and disappearing up into the belfry like the proverbial rat up a drain pipe, allowing the bell to swing uncontrollably for several minutes. This misfortune, which occasionally happens puts the tower out of action until the broken stay is replaced with a new one. The stays can become weakened if they are permitted to bounce against the slider. Eventually they will break, often to the humiliation and surprise of the ringer.

I was recently reading an old book entitled 'Eastern Counties Collectanea' published in 1874, and was somewhat amused to see an article entitled, 'Belfry Rhymes, Elvedon, Suffolk.' It contained a verse copied by a Mr. Jermyn, a local antiquarian whilst visiting Elvedon Church in 1819. It is a cautionary verse to any potential bell-ringer both then and now.



"Ready when you are, George..."

*“If that to ring you do come here,
You must ring well with hand and ear;
But if you ring with spur or hat,
Two-pence be sure you pay for that.
“Or stay you break, or bell do throw,
Sixpence you pay before you go.
This law is old, it is not new;
We ringers now must pay our due.*

I would imagine sixpence at the time was a considerable amount of money, and the prospect of having to pay it through one’s own carelessness was enough to ensure the ringers were circumspect in their actions.

Oulton Workhouse.

Several people have spoken to me about the old Oulton Workhouse following last month’s entry in this publication on that very subject. It’s interesting to note that the building was constructed in 1775 and was named as the “Poor Law Institute.” It remained as such until 1813 when it became known as the “House of Industry.” In 1844 it became known as the Union Workhouse, which conjures up images of Dickensian hardship and autocratic rule. In 1908 the name was again changed to the more agreeable name of “Lothingland House.” Finally, being named “Lothingland Hospital.

It’s use over the years has been variable from a place of refuge for vagrants and paupers to a infirmary. In 1949 – 45 it served as an army camp, and then an Italian prisoner of war camp. Latterly it served as a hospital for the disabled. Now it has been demolished and new housing occupies the old site.

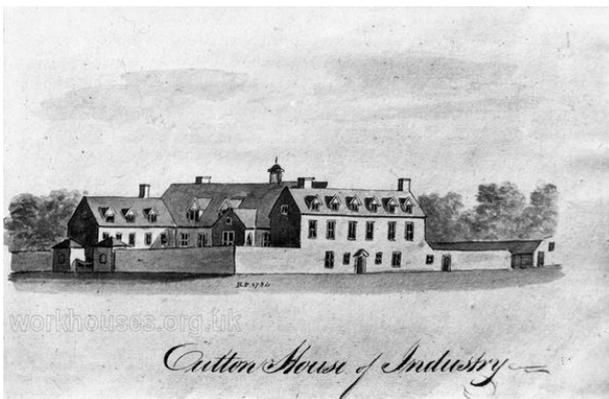
I have again included some items of news about activities at the workhouse giving a glimpse into parish life over a hundred years ago

Glimpse from the past.

The following was reported in The Diss Express on Friday 18th December 1914 and tells us of a fire at the nearby Oulton Workhouse:

On Friday night a fire broke out at Oulton Workhouse near Lowestoft; the straw house was completely gutted, and the Master's horse was suffocated and burnt to death. About 4:30 am the Night Nurse of the Infirmary observed a fire near the engine-house, and she immediately went round to the lodge and informed the night-watchman. It was soon found that the seat of

the fire was in the straw house, which contained half a ton of hay. By the time that the Master (Mr. F. W. Childs) and other officials had got to work with the hose, the roof of the straw house fell-in. The Master and his staff prevented the fire from spreading to the barn and stables;



but his horse which was in the stable was suffocated with smoke, and burnt on the hind-quarters. At a special sitting of the Lowestoft County Bench on Monday, Edwin Went, sailmaker, was charged with feloniously setting fire to a stable at Oulton Work-house, the property of the Guardians, on December 11th, doing damage to the amount of £52 10/=. The workhouse Master having given evidence, Inspector Moss of Oulton Broad said he saw the prisoner at Lowestoft Police Station. The witness said that he was suspected of having caused the fire and he said, "I went to the shed at about 11:30pm to have a sleep. I left my pipe on the straw, and when I awoke the place was on fire. I got three or four buckets of water, but failed to put it out, so I left it. I lost my cap and the old-fellow lost his thoroughbred. I don't suppose they'll give me more than three years." When before a Magistrate on Saturday, Went said, "I dropped a match on the straw." Went was remanded until December 23rd.

Editor: Whilst I cannot say what sentence Edwin Went received for this particular crime, what I can say he was a regular inmate at Norwich Prison.

All in the month of JUNE

Believe it or not it was:

200 years ago, on 12th June 1819 that Charles Kingsley, British clergyman and writer was born. Best known for his historical novels Hypatia, Westward Ho! And Hereward the Wake.

175 years ago, on 6th June 1844 that the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was founded in London.

Also 125 years ago, on 30th June 1894 that Tower Bridge in London was officially opened.

100 years ago, on 28th June 1919 that the Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Paris Peace Conference, marking the official end of the war.

90 years ago, on 12th June 1929 that Anne Frank, German Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, was born.

80 years ago, on 7th June 1939 that King George VI became the first British monarch to visit the USA.

75 years ago, on 6th June 1944 that D-Day took place with the Normandy landings. Over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, at the start of the Battle of Normandy. The battle ended on 25th August and was an Allied victory.

65 years ago, on 7th June 1954 that Alan Turing died. This British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist was noted for his contributions to codebreaking during World War II. Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

40 years ago, on 1st June 1979 that Rhodesia ended 90 years of white minority rule, established a black government and changed its name to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

30 years ago, on 5th June 1989 that the Unknown Rebel ('Tank Man') of Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China, made world headlines. He temporarily halted a column of tanks by standing in front of them on the morning after the massacre. It became one of the most iconic images of the 20th century. (There are conflicting theories about what happened to him afterwards.)

Pause For Thought

As many of you will know John Worsfold is currently convalescing at home following surgery, and has therefore been unable to write for this month's edition of the Pew News, chronicling the life of St Francis.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and with God's Blessing, he will soon be back with us.

Therefore in order to continue the Franciscan theme I have included two quotes from the Saint which will hopefully serve to inspire and direct us in our daily lives.



Quotes on Humility.

*Where there is Love and Wisdom, there is neither Fear nor Ignorance.
Where there is Patience and Humility, there is neither Anger nor Annoyance.
Where there is Poverty and Joy, there is neither Cupidity nor Avarice.
Where there is Peace and Contemplation, there is neither Care nor Restlessness.*

Where there is the Fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter.

Where there is Mercy and Prudence, there is neither Excess nor Harshness.

Let us also love our neighbour's as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve.

St Francis

The Tale of 
The Friend
at
Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD RUN OUT OF BREAD...

...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...

... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!

BLAM! BLAM!

WAKE UP!! I NEED SOME BREAD

PLEASE WILL YOU LEND ME THREE LOAVES?

GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!

OH GO ON... PLEASE I REALLY DO NEED SOME!

ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!

JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'

'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS.'

Signs & Symbols: Eucharist, Communion and the Lord's Supper

What do you call the church service where Jesus' last meal with His apostles is re-enacted? And does it matter what we call it?

The word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek word eucharistia, which is itself a translation of the Hebrew word berekah. All three words have the meaning of thanksgiving, or praise for the wonderful works of God. So, we are giving thanks for all that God has done for us and all that Jesus has achieved through His life, death and resurrection.

'Communion', according to the Cambridge dictionary, has the meaning of being in a close relationship with someone in which feelings and thoughts are exchanged. So, at Communion we are together with Christ and with each other.

The term 'The Lord's Table' refers to recalling the last meal that Jesus ate with His apostles, and doing so in remembrance of Him.

There is a lovely invitation which is sometimes used to invite people to come forward to receive the bread and wine which goes along these lines:

Come to this table,
not because you must but because you may,
Come, when you are fearful, doubtful or in need;
to be held by the God who made you and loves
you.

It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

What's important is not so much what we call this act of worship but rather our attitude in accepting this invitation from the Lord Himself.

Come.



In The News

Bishop welcomes report calling for a long-term rural strategy

The Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, has welcomed the recent publication of a report from the House of Lords Rural Economy Committee. He said: “As we approach a post-Brexit landscape, we must be conscious how vulnerable our rural communities are and make sure their interests are protected in any future Government action.”

The bishop says the report is “an urgent call to the Government to implement a comprehensive, long-term rural strategy,” and said that it identified “significant opportunities and challenges. I would hope the Secretary of State to welcome its cross-party, rurally-literate recommendations.”

The bishop warned that the ‘opportunities for rural areas’ as identified in the report, (such as for new high-growth businesses that support community flourishing), “will require strong backing from the Government. Where we can, I am sure the Church of England will support these efforts.”

The bishop also hoped that the Government “will embrace the many difficulties identified,” especially the challenge of housing for working age people and equal access to services.

The Bishop is the lead Church of England spokesperson for rural affairs.

Funding repairs is 'top problem' facing churches

A new online poll has revealed the top five problems facing the UK's church buildings.

In the poll, run on the National Churches Trust’s website, people were asked to identify what they thought was the biggest problem facing the UK’s church buildings. The top problems were identified as:

Not enough money available for repairs – (identified as top problem by 32% of people)

Declining congregations – (identified as top problem by 26% of people)

Shortage of volunteers to help look after church buildings – (identified as top problem by 16% of people)

Lack of modern facilities – (identified as top problem by 14% of people)

Lead theft – (identified as top problem by 8% of people)

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust said:

"Over the last two years, there has been a 56% increase in applications for our grants, with numbers rising from 381 in 2016 to 593 in 2018. One of the reasons for this increase is that less money is available from the National Lottery Heritage



age Fund and the end of Government backed schemes such as the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund."

"Our nation's religious heritage belongs to all of us and is too precious to lose."

Did you hear about the man who dies and is met by Peter at the pearly gates. Peter says, 'You need 100 points to make it into Heaven. Tell me all of the good things you've done and I'll give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in.'

'Okay,' the man says, 'I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart.' 'That's wonderful,' says Peter, 'that's worth three points!'

'Three points?' the man exclaims. 'Well, I attended church all of my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service.'

'Terrific!' says Peter, 'that's certainly worth a point.' 'One point? OK, well I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for the homeless.' 'Fantastic, that's good for two more points,' Peter says.

'TWO POINTS!' the man cries. 'At this rate, the only way I'll get into Heaven is by the Grace of God!'

'Come on in!'

Final Thoughts

It is important to recognise through all our ups and downs, the grace of God that each one of us have experienced: which has led to some aspect of spiritual growth and development in our Christian identities.

My fellow pilgrims, as we hear in 2 Timothy: “let us continue in what we have learned and have become convinced of” (2 Tim3:14). Because there will be drastic times ahead; in fact I think they are here now.

The Brexit conundrum and the uncertainties of our national future.....etc. etc

Moreover, the time certainly has arrived when, as Paul says, folks will no longer put up with what scripture, nor even what common sense teaches.

We’re living in a so called post-modern era where truth is relative. That is if it is true for you fine but my truth might be different. That can, if we’re not careful, erode away our sense of what is actually true.

So Paul charges Timothy or pleads with him, if you like, to keep going. For us that means that we, like Paul, will have to fight the good fight -to the finish. It may not always be plain sailing to fulfil our calling.

But we do not choose our calling - it is God’s calling on our lives - and he will not fail us. You and I know that since the word of God came into our lives we have been growing in faith through all sorts of trials. So let us continue in our aspiration to be obedient to the word of God. For our God says in Isaiah 55:11 : “my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Stay aligned and in tune with the teaching of Scripture which is able to make you wise to discern the will of God.

So dear friends let us continue our journey fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. For as we read in 2 Peter 1:19 “...(we) will do well to pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts”.

Nick Ktorides.

If you have any contributions for the next monthly edition of the 'Pew News' please send your material to Robin Keightley

robinkeightley175@btinternet.com
