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VE

May
2020

St Michael's, Oulton.



Dear Friends

My, how the world has changed in the course of just a few weeks. This awful coronavirus that has spread its malevolent fingers worldwide, has certainly given us a new perspective on our daily lives. Many things that we took for granted have changed radically. For the time being no more Sunday services in our beloved St. Michael's. No catching up over a cup of

tea or coffee following the service. We are now governed by the rule of social distancing, no more getting up close, at least for a while.

With the onset of warmer weather, we find ourselves unable to take ourselves off to the beach. And then there is



the thought of no imminent holidays and certainly no football on a Saturday afternoon! I find myself asking will things ever be the same again. Yet we know that with time, prayer and some re-evaluation of our lives, things will eventually get better, of that I'm sure. Maybe in a few years' time children will learn of the coronavirus pandemic in their history lessons. Studying the mystery behind the great loo-roll shortage; the untiring devotion of the NHS and the enduring community spirit that is still very much alive in our modern culture.

I wonder if this has been something of a wake up call for us all. Have we as a race taken so much for granted? Have we abused our world by burying our heads in the sand, having been told so many times that we are on the road to self-destruction? There is a saying, 'everybody wants to change the world, but nobody is ready to change themselves for the world. Perhaps folks this is the appointed time for us to reflect on ourselves and ask, what have I done for mother nature?

We cannot get away from the fact that at the time of writing 20,000+ people have died in the UK as a result of the coronavirus, and that is just those who have died in our hospitals. In truth the figures are probably much higher than that. However, there are still many unanswered questions – can we annihilate the virus?- will it mutate and return? We put our faith in God and the ongoing research of virologists and clinicians. But for all the misery and sorrow that has been manifest, a great deal of good has come out of the situation.

There has been many wonderful displays of a caring community spirit. People are openly offering to help others. There has been a massive reduction in pollution, which can in turn save countless lives. Clean hands are back in vogue, and China has banned the wildlife trade that started coronavirus in the first place. Working from home has become a viable option, as has the development of telemedicine, and the church has entered the home via Zoom and kindred video links.



Moving on to other issues, you will note from the colourful front cover of the newsletter that this month marks the 75th Anniversary of the declaration of Peace in Europe, which occurred on the 8th May 1945. Prior to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, there had been plans to mark the occasion with a public holiday, to be held on Friday 8th May. The occasion

was to be marked with lots of community events, including street parties and the nationwide ringing of church bells. Unfortunately, many of those planned events will now have to be shelved due to the current government restrictions.

A great deal of hard work had been put into the planning and co-ordination of the event by the Queen's pageant master, Bruno Peek, and his team who recently said, "Whether mass events like ours go ahead will be for the Government to decide, and we'll be guided by them, but even if I have to ring around every organisation and individual involved and tell them we're cancelling, then there is something everyone can still take part in regardless.

At 3pm on Bank Holiday Friday, the nation will be asked to raise a glass to toast the heroes of World War II - men, women, children wherever they are.

We're not asking people to raise a glass of alcohol, so everyone, all people, faiths and creeds, can join in. It can be done anywhere: in the supermarket, or at home. The Prime Minister can even raise a glass from Number 10, if he's not able to leave Downing Street by then."

So, in good old British spirit and tradition, let's mark the occasion by raising a glass (containing a liquid of your choice) to those heroes of World War II, and to the many heroes of today who are courageously fighting our current enemy, Covid 19. 'Cheers and bottoms-up!'

Kindest regards

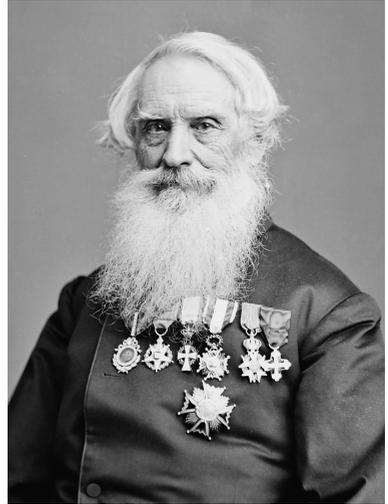
Robin.



Famous Christians.

I remember in my scouting days being taught the international distress signal in Morse code - dot, dot, dot, dash, dash, dash, dot, dot, dot. I'm not sure it would have been very useful if sailing in difficulties on the River Waveney but none the less, once remembered never forgotten.

Samuel Finlay Breese Morse is probably most clearly remembered for inventing the telegraph; however, he also invented the first camera in America and made the first photographic portrait. He was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts on April 27th, 1791. His father was Jedidiah Morse who was a Calvinist preacher who followed the strict observance of the Sabbath.



Morse the younger attended Yale University where he read religious philosophy, mathematics and the science of horses. However, he was a gifted artist and spent some years in England developing his skills under the tuition of Washington Allston. In 1811 he was granted admittance to the Royal Academy. He was an outstanding artist and served 20 years as the founder and president of the National Academy of Design, and in 1831 he was appointed professor of sculpture and painting at New York University.

On returning from Europe in 1832 Morse met Charles Jackson, a man who studied electromagnetism and it was from this encounter that Morse developed the single wire telegraph.

Morse was a man who deeply devoted to God. In the first message sent over his newly invented telegraph (in 1844), the message Morse sent was, "What hath God wrought!" He lived his life dedicated to loving and serving God. Morse wrote these words shortly before he died, "The nearer I approach to the end of my pilgrimage, the clearer is the evidence of the divine origin of the Bible, the grandeur and sublimity of God's remedy for fallen man are more appreciated, and the future is illumined with hope and joy" .

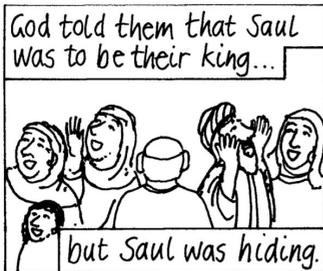
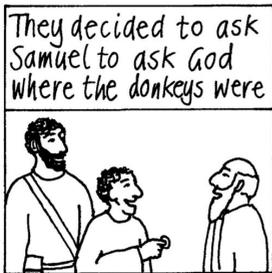
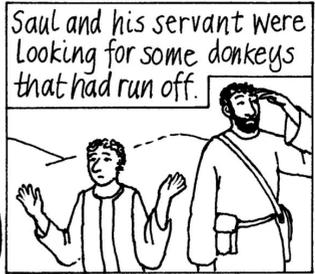
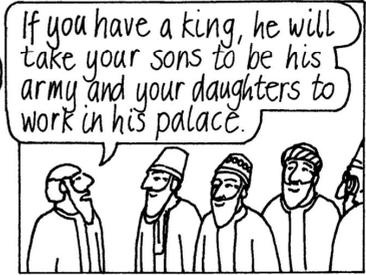
Morse died on April 2nd 1872 aged 80 years at 5, West 22nd Street, New York and was interred at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1 - 10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



New Mental Health Reflections published by the Church of England

A series of reflections on how to cope with anxiety and loneliness in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, including simple Christian meditation techniques and five tips, have been published by the Church of England.

A number of actions that could help people feeling isolated or worried, as well as those who grieve, are put forward in a new guide Supporting Good Mental Health and written by Durham University academic Revd Professor Chris Cook with Ruth Rice Director of the Christian mental health charity 'Renew Wellbeing'.

The booklet gives advice ranging from putting aside time to rest and eating and sleeping well, to using the phone and the internet to reach those who may be struggling on their own. Making a list of all the good things – and people – that you miss when you are on your own and thanking God for them, can be a way of helping cope with loneliness, the guide says.

Simple prayers can be said repeatedly as a means of helping to deal with stress, the booklet says, and lighting a candle, where safe, can be a helpful form of prayer for some people. Quotations from the Bible can be a useful aide to meditation and calming fears, including writing down and repeating short passages, it suggests.

A phrase such as Psalm 18:1 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer' could be chosen for each week and used as background for a mobile phone as a 'go to' thought when someone is anxious.

It also suggests repeating a simple phrase from the Psalms such as Psalm 4:8 'I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety,' to help calm the mind before sleeping.

The Rt Revd James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle and the Church of England's lead bishop on health and social care, said: "I welcome publication of these further resources.

"For some time now the issues of loneliness and isolation have been identified as major problems within our society. The coronavirus pandemic will only create further challenges in this respect. So it is vital that we do all we can as a church to protect people's mental wellbeing.

"The reflections are beautifully presented and scripturally based, with the 'Have A Go' sections intentionally focussing on how people should be kind to themselves. That is so important at this time. My prayer is that as many people as possible are able to draw upon these new resources over the coming weeks and months."

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



May 2020

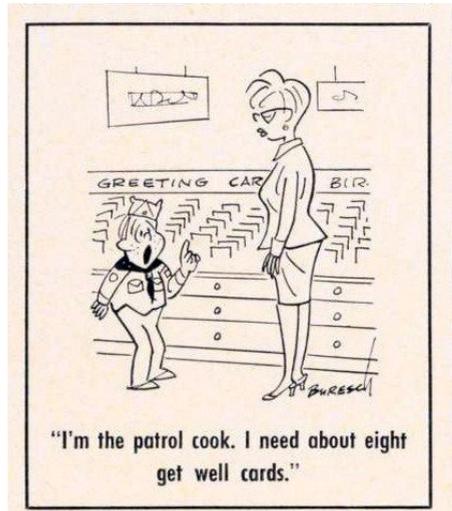
My dear Nephew Darren

It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges. Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that

there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol.

Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the car window and made encouraging



noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day.

You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose, it will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes – which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it.

Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm, for you are bound to spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders.

My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Lowestoft Foodbank.

One of the many drawbacks of the current pandemic situation is that with the churches being closed, the weekly collection of food stuff is not always being collected for the Lowestoft Foodbank. Restrictions on movement also means that getting to the shops for some is made even more difficult. However, in these challenging times the work undertaken by the foodbank charity becomes all the more important. They continue to need our help and support.

One way to offer tangible help is to make a monetary donation to the Foodbank. There are several ways of doing this and if you enter their website on <https://lowestoft.foodbank.org.uk/> you will see a red Donate button which will take you to the various options.

If, however you would like to send a cheque this can be undertaken by making it payable to 'LCC Foodbank' and posting it to 8, Hadenham Road, Lowestoft, NR33 7NF.

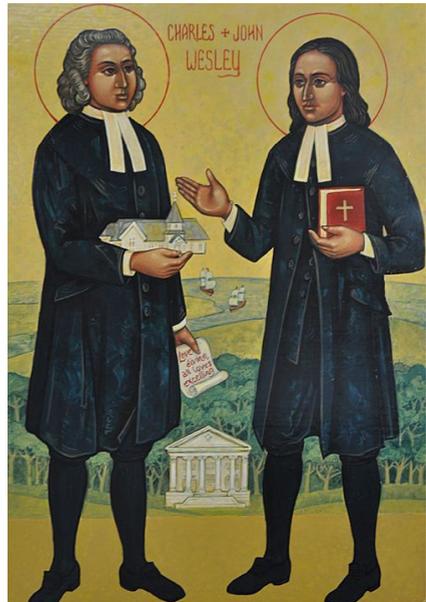
Holy Days: 24th May - John & Charles Wesley, evangelists & hymn-writers

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of 19 children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children.

Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a 'Holy Club' while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among Indians in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: "I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?"

Then the Wesley's made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this 'true' conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God 'chased away the darkness of my unbelief.'



Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John's turn. As he wrote in his journal:

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed." John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. In doing so, they turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners.

His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small 'societies' attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.' In all, he wrote more than 6,000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, and the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

Why Jesus walked on water

A little birdie tells me that a someone local was planning a trip to the Holy Land, and was somewhat aghast when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. "Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it would not have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked!"

The Dreaded Annual PDR's

Attempting to make good use of the recent enforced 'self-isolation', I found myself going through some old paperwork in order to make some much needed space. I was somewhat fascinated to find some of Carol's old school reports and found myself chuckling at the patronising clichés, which without putting a too fine a point on it, painted her in a very good light. Good enough no doubt for her parents to pat her on the back and say, "Well done Carol, here's ten shillings – go and buy yourself a new outfit!

Then I stumbled across one of mine, which for some obscure reason had never made it to my parents table; I wonder why? It was dated Summer 1966, and I'm sorry to say it doesn't make good reading. If I have any excuse it was that glorious summer when we as a nation lifted the Jules Rimet World Cup, so maybe I was somewhat distracted. It was my class teacher

John Cater who wrote those stinging words at the bottom of the report. 'The frivolous and immature attitude to school-work makes it very difficult to teach this pupil! It is to be hoped, that in time and with a real personal effort good progress will be made at a later date'. However, it wasn't all doom and gloom, I was marked very highly for attendance!

Annual reports seem to have been the story of my life. Throughout my apprenticeship as an engineer, I had to be annually assessed to see that I was making the grade. Similarly, in the police service I together with my colleagues had to undergo a yearly PDR or Personal Development Report. It didn't even finish with retirement. On taking up part-time driving work with a local Ford dealership, the annual reports were still being churned out with great regularity. However, in my defence I would like to think that over the years the assessments have somewhat perked-up. Many years later I had the pleasure of inviting my old form teacher John Cater and his wife to visit the Forensic Unit at Lowestoft Police Station where I'm pleased to report



that I got a belated nod of approval.

I found myself pondering on what sort of report one might expect on entering the kingdom of heaven. Would it be exemplary, or might there be a few embarrassing observations? I put the question to David Hayden who replied as follows:

'When we know Jesus as Lord, we do not have to fear the final report (judgement). We also know that we constantly let God down and fail to live as we should. But God will forgive those who are prepared to turn to him in repentance.

The letter of James is clear that 'Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.' Our relationship with God is meant to change how we live and thankfully God has given us the Holy Spirit to enable us to do so.'

Thank you David. Maybe now is the time to throw out my old school reports. Anyway, I was always told that "the quality of assessors is critical to the quality of the assessment result."

For example, Albert Einstein's form tutor once wrote on his school report, 'He will never amount to anything'

Poet and author Laurie Lee had written on his final school report, 'Off you go, and I am glad to get rid of you'

However, I think Gary Lineker's report takes the biscuit. It reads, 'He must devote less of his time to sport if he wants to be a success. You can't make a living out of football!'

Robin

Parental excuses

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.

~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

~ Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.

~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

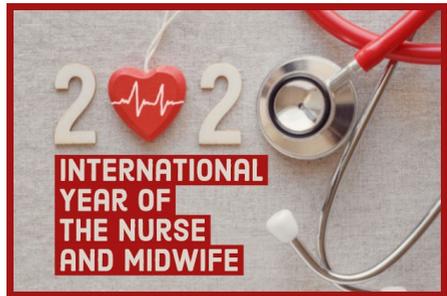
2020: WHO's Year of the Nurse

Editor: I think this is an appropriate article in light of the current pandemic. It is also a platform to thank our nurses Jane Boyce and Jane Davey for the wonderful work they both undertake in the community. Similarly to Pat Surridge who gave many years of devoted nursing service. Thank you. All of you.

When the WHO (World Health Organisation) decided to make 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, they based it on the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth on 12th May 1820.

But with the arrival of the coronavirus, it is a remarkably apt year to celebrate all that nurses do for us.

As the ICN (International Council of Nurses) says: "All around the world, nurses are working tirelessly to provide the care and attention people need, whenever and wherever they need it. Nurses are central to the delivery of health care; nurses are making an invaluable contribution to the health of people globally."



Nursing as a vocation goes back to the Early Church. When plague struck the Roman world in the third century, it was Christians who tended the sick and dying, often at great personal cost. Their self-sacrifice made a huge impression on Roman society. Centuries later, in medieval Europe, it was the monastic orders that provided health care.

Still centuries later, during the Crimean War (1853-56) Florence Nightingale saved thousands of lives when she transformed the field hospitals, hugely improving the standards of care for wounded and dying soldiers.

In fact, Florence Nightingale deserves the credit for establishing the modern profession of nursing and its structures of training. Although of course medical science has advanced since her time, the basic ethos of nursing care remains today close to Nightingale's vision.

Nursing is frequently described as a vocation, and it is one to which many Christians are called. Nightingale wrote of being 'called' by God, after having had a vivid religious conversion as a teenager. Writing in February 1837, she stated: "God has spoken to me and called me to His Service."

Four years before going to Crimea, she studied at a Lutheran religious community in Germany which trained deaconesses in medical skills, nursing, and theology. Many of the ideas that Nightingale adopted for her nurses came from that religious community.

Thus, Nightingale's training programme was not solely devoted to secular medical sciences. Her student nurses were required to attend chapel, and her nurses read prayers on the wards.

Nightingale wrote many letters of spiritual encouragement to her students. To one, she wrote that Christ considered it an "honour to serve the poorest and the meanest... He will not give His crown except to those who have borne His cross... Enduring hardship is what He encourages and rewards."

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally trained and worked as a nurse before being appointed to senior positions in the Health Service. She was Chief Nursing Officer for England between 1999 to 2004.

She says: "I became a Christian as a teenager and wanted to follow Christ with my whole life. Rather than having two careers, I have had one vocation: to follow Jesus Christ, to know Him, and to make Him known."

Certainly, of all the professions, nursing has one of the strongest claims to being rooted in the Gospel. Christian nurses implicitly witness to Christ in caring for others

Prayer of thanksgiving for our NHS.

Healer of nations, You provide insight to all who seek you, And defend those in need. We thank you for the gift of health services in our nation, Freely available to everyone no matter their background, income level or need. Give your wisdom to our government, health professionals, and advisers as they seek the right reforms especially in these troubled times.

The Concept of Cleanliness

In last months edition of Pew News, I included an article entitled 'The Spread of Coronavirus' (page 10) where the phrase 'cleanliness is next to Godliness' was mentioned and the fact that it is not mentioned per se in the Bible.

Following publication of the article I have since received a telephone call from Jeff Lewis who on talking to his family on that very point concluded that maybe the saying stems from the passage in Acts 9 v37 where Dorcas was washed following her death. Similarly it was thought that its origins may stem from the 17th or 18th century.

On further research it is suggested that the phrase was first used by John Wesley in a sermon preached in 1778. This statement had a huge impact on the culture of the day. During the late 1700's and through the 1800's the church began to take on social justice as part of their mission.

History tells us that from the 1500's until about 1800's bathing fell out of fashion. People believed bathing could be unhealthy! Thankfully, during the 19th century the church decided to push cleanliness as a concept in hopes that a value on physical cleanliness would also lead to a people embracing a cleaner spiritual lifestyle.

Certainly, washing and water feature heavily in the bible. I asked Canon Malory Makower for his views on the concept of cleanliness, he says:

'It seems to be a fact that in the Old Testament (Jewish scriptures) the main emphasis is on ritual uncleanness from external sources. But in the New Testament (Christian Scriptures) the concern is more with moral impurity whose main sources is the wickedness of the human heart. But this does not mean that for the first Christians it was all a matter of spiritual and inner cleaning: rather the sacrament of Baptism (Initiation) was the church using water both to symbolise and convey a total cleansing of the person and his/her life. This finds expression both in outward behaviour, after the pattern of the life of Christ, and a growing match between the outward behaviour and the shape of the inner life of the person conformed to Christ in the depths of the heart.

For me this is summed up in 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

Many thanks for that Malory and to Jeff for raising the point.

Try a little kindness

When TV presenter and celebrity Carolyn Flack took her life in February 2020 the world was shocked and saddened. How could someone so young, beautiful and successful do such a thing? It seems that the pressure of an impending court case, the vitriol she received online, and her own inner pain had become too much for her.

Shortly before she died, she posted, 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind.' These simple words are a call to our society to become more caring and careful in the way we treat each other. There is too much unkindness about, especially on social media where unkind words are so common and can be so destructive.



Kindness can be defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. It is shown through our words and by our actions, an everyday sort of quality that is not spectacular but which when we encounter it can lift our spirits.

It is above all a Christian virtue that ought to be demonstrated in great measure within Christian communities. It is a fruit of the Spirit, an attitude that is formed within us when the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives (Galatians 5:22). It is an aspect of love for love is patient, love is kind (1Corinthians 13:4). Yet sadly, the Church is often no different from the world. Congregations can sometimes be anything but friendly, generous and considerate.

Why not try a little kindness this month? Do something spontaneously to help another person. Reach out in friendship to someone who seems lonely, if only by phone! Speak some kind words to those around you. You will feel better yourself, and you will be making the world a better place.

By the Revd Tony Horsfall of Charis Training.

'Spring has sprung.'

Now that the biting north easterly wind seems to have abated, we can now begin to enjoy the long awaited onset of spring. Walking round Fisher Row recently, it was good to see an early mob of swifts swooping over the marshes following their long trek from spending their winter in South Africa. They travel through western France, across the Pyrenees, down eastern Spain into Morocco and across the Sahara. Some birds follow the west coast of Africa in order to avoid the Sahara.

We were also thrilled to hear a Bittern 'booming' away in the reedbeds. These members of the heron family are rarely seen, but their loud 'booming' call can resonate across a great distance on a still spring evening. These statements of nature have spurred us to install the 'swift' calls in the bell tower of St Michael's for the second season, in hope of enticing young birds to nest in the four specially constructed nest boxes situated on the inside of the western facing louvre. The calls operate in the early morning and late afternoon and evening.



My international adventures through Guiding.

Sue Simpson tells us something of her life and experiences in Guiding.

As many of you know I have been involved with the guide movement for over 70 years since I joined the brownies at the age of 7. What you may not know is that it is the largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women in the world, with over 10 million members in over 150 countries. Being part of a world-wide organisation gives opportunities to meet fellow members either at home or abroad.

I first experienced this in 1957 when I was selected to attend a Word camp held in Windsor Great Park to celebrate the centenary of B-P's birth. Three years later I was invited to attend a camp in Denmark by a young leader who had been working with me while working for a family in Surrey. Later 1st Oulton guides and rangers played host to Danish guides who camped

with us and had home hospitality. I was, some years later, to meet up with some of them again when I, together with 2 other guiders from Norfolk took a small party of girls to Denmark.

The WAGGGS, the world association of girl guides and girl scouts has 5 world centres. These are Our Chalet in Switzerland, Our Ark in London, Our Cabana in Mexico and Sangam in India. The fifth and newest centre Kusafiri does not have a building as it moves around existing locations in Africa. These centres offer participants a variety of courses as well as holiday experiences. Each centre is staffed by a mixture of paid and volunteer helpers from across the world.

I have been lucky enough to stay in 4 of the world centres. My first was a visit with Barbara Taylor and 2 other Norfolk guiders to Our Chalet in February 1990. Our Chalet is situated in the mountains in Adelboden. We tried our hand at skiing, did some sightseeing and walking and enjoyed singing and activities in the evenings. We have since been back twice, once with guiders from Lowestoft and then we took youngsters from the area and stayed in a chalet in the village. Each time we were able to meet other guiders and girls from across the world.

Barbara and I took girls for a stay at Pax Lodge which is in Hampstead. As well as being a centre which can offer holiday breaks it houses the offices of WAGGGS. While there we spent the days sightseeing and the evenings with the volunteers who were working in the house who arranged activities for us.

In 2007 the Trefoil Guild which is the senior part of Girlguiding, organised a trip to Our Cabana in Mexico. A group of us from Norfolk were fortunate to get places on the trip and it was an excited group that met early one morning at Norwich airport to start our journey to Mexico City where we stayed for a few days to acclimatise. This meant that we were able to explore the city and it also gave us the opportunity of visiting the ancient pyramids at Teotihuacan. We then travelled to Our Cabana in Cuernavaca, where we met up with trefoil members from all over the UK. We had the opportunity of trying Mexican food, and crafts, went on local visits and organised a day of activities for the local brownies and guides. At the end of our time there we travelled further south to the town of Oaxaca where once again we were able to visit ancient pyramids, the local markets and

We had chosen to attend a session entitled Feasts and Festivals. This meant that while we were staying in Puna we learnt a lot about the Indian gods and in particular the elephant God Ganesh whose festival was celebrated while we were there. We visit the local markets and were able to buy sari materials, and the house where Ghandi had spent 2 years in house arrest. The fabrics were made up for us by local tailors and at the end our stay we had a traditional feast all decked out in our Indian finery. After leaving Sangam we travelled north



to Agra – 24 hours on a train! We had arranged a tour of the golden triangle and were able to visit Agra, Jaipur and Delhi. In Agra we marvelled at the wonderful jewel encrusted Taj Mahal and watched as workers cut semi-precious stones and inlaid them into marble. In Jaipur, known as the pink city, we rode elephants up to the Amber Fort and watched craftsmen weaving carpets and block printing fabrics. In Delhi we were able to experience both the old and new parts of the city, taking in the sights, smells and sounds of India.

I know that I would not have been able to experience any of this had I not been a member of the big guiding family. It has given me friends around the country, and has allowed me to give the girls in the units an insight into the wonderful world of our World Association.

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

robinkeightley175@btinternet.com