

# St Michael's, Oulton.



## Notices for August 2018

### **5th August - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.**

10:00am: Morning Prayer with Jill Pirrie and Debbie Allsop.

Sides persons: David Boyce and Karen Langfield.

### **12th August - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost.**

10:00am : Holy Communion led by Rev Gillie Powell.

Sides persons: Sue Parish and Elissa Norman.

### **16th August—Young @ Heart.**

9:30am—12:00 noon at St Michael's. 'Come and be curious. Come and eat cake. Come and join in the fun!'

### **19th August - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost.**

10:00am: Holy Communion led by The Venerable David Hayden and Jackie Makower.

Sides persons: Jill Pirrie and Carol Keightley.

### **20th August – Knit and Natter Group.**

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

### **26th August – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost.**

10:00am: Holy Communion led by Canon Peter Baxendall.

Sides persons: Tim Jones and Carol Keightley.

**May we offer a very warm welcome to all worshipping with us today. Please join us after the service for tea or coffee and a chat.**



## Famous Christians

As a young lad I attended the Methodist chapel Sunday School in Bungay with my brother Brian, who was five years older than me. Whilst I had a very high regard for my brother he had the extremely exasperating habit of walking ahead of me along Trinity Street and then knocking on doors and running away leaving me to face the consequences! Entering the relative sanctity of the Sunday School rooms, red faced and seething, I would find myself gazing at a large framed colour print depicting Jesus knocking at a closed door, and I found myself wondering why he didn't have to run away as I often did. In later life I was to learn that the picture was painted by **William Holman Hunt** (2 April 1827—7 September 1910) who was a founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite Movement.

That particular painting is called '**The Light of the World**' and shows the figure of Jesus preparing to knock on an overgrown and long-unopened door, illustrating **Revelation 3:20**: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me". The door in the painting has no handle, and can therefore be opened only from the inside, representing "the obstinately shut mind," which Holman Hunt had to explain 50 years after painting it. Hunt painted 'The Light of the World' after his religious conversion from atheism. He went on to paint many beautiful religious paintings but it is this one that I hold especially dear to me for it reminds me of those 'heady-days' of youth, but more importantly the fact that I eventually heard the 'knock' and opened the door.



*'The door of the human heart, can only be opened from the inside.'*

**William Holman Hunt**

## In the news:

The *Sunday Telegraph* (1/7/18) recently reported that Archaeologists have found a treasure trove of historical artefacts preserved in the dust beneath the floor boards in Westminster Abbey's attic.

Objects uncovered in the recent refurbishment of the Abbey's upper rooms, known as the triforium, paint a picture of life behind the scenes at pinnacle moments in the nation's history.

From late 17th-century tobacco wrappers to handwritten, wax-sealed invitations to the Coronation of Queen Anne in 1702, the items reveal details about the occupants of cheap seats and workmen who had access to the rooms that make up the Queen's Jubilee Galleries, which opened in May.

One artefact on display in the gallery exhibition is a medieval overshoe, worn to protect handmade shoes from the thick mud of London's streets.

Along with this, Canterbury Cathedral's stained glass studio has created a window from the centuries-old shards discovered in the dust. However, other objects yet to be put on display includes a rare hand-painted Jack of Hearts playing card, from the 16th to 18th centuries, which is remarkably "near-complete". It could have belonged to members



of the public invited to watch high profile occasions from seats in the galleries, or to Christopher Wren's workmen who fixed the roof 300 years ago.

Other items include post-war sweet wrappers, which could have belonged to the BBC commentators who used the triforium during the Coronation in 1953, and cutlery from the 18th century. "These are not really artefacts you would expect to find in an Abbey, said Chris Mayo, project manager for Pre-Construct Archaeology, which conducted the work. "It's more domestic, like tobacco pipes and playing cards".

Construction of the triforium halted in 1272 when Henry III died. It remained a derelict attic space, save for coronations and a few concerts, for eight centuries, until work began on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries. "We're dealing with a treasure trove of rubbish," said Dr Märit Gaimster, finds manager. It's like a time capsule."

The items show how people held picnics, played cards, read newspapers, combed hair and smoked clay pipes while they waited for and watched historical occasions.

## The Enquirer

*'This month I put a few questions to Sue Simpson about her life in Guiding.'*

'I was born and brought up in Surrey. My father was a company accountant working for a shipping line in the City and my mother a secondary school teacher. I have one younger brother. I, like most of the small girls living in area went to a small private school before taking the eleven plus and going to Wallington Grammar school for girls. On Sunday afternoons I went to Crusaders where I loved singing the choruses and hymns. We also went to the parish church in Belmont where we attended children's church services, later becoming members of the church youth club.

I joined Brownies at the age of seven. We had a wonderful Brown Owl and I was an enthusiastic Brownie, gaining lots of badges including my first class which meant that at the age of eleven I 'flew up' to guides.

The guide company, 1st Belmont was a large one despite not having a Captain and was run by a number of lieutenants. It was a very active company with a weeks' camp each year with an extra



Girlguiding UK

*girls in the lead*

weekend camp when you became a patrol leader or second! We often did a show and were also involved with church activities. As patrol leader at about fifteen my friend and I went to Queen Mary's Hospital in Carshalton on Sunday mornings where we ran guiding activities with the children on the wards. It was a hospital which primarily had youngsters suffering from polio and were confined to bed. However this did not stop us pitching tents and cooking outside. We would often have the whole ward involved not just those who were brownies or guides. While a patrol leader I took my Patrol Leaders Camp Permit which allowed me to take my small group away to camp. I also gained my Queens Guide award. Two events stand out in my memory. In 1957 Scouting and Guiding celebrated the centenary of Lord Baden Powell's birth. The county held a rally on Epsom Race course in which we all took part. It depicted his life, including his army career and the relief of Mafeking, the first scout camp on Brownsea Island and the growth of guiding and scouting around the world. His widow Lady Baden Powell, who was the Chief Guide, attended this event and I was chosen as a member of the guard of honour. She stopped and spoke to all of us and I was to meet her again later in the year when I attended the World Camp which was held in Windsor Great Park.

On leaving guides I had intended to join the Land Rangers but instead a friend and I were asked to help run a company in Cheam which had no Guiders. The mother of one of the girls had agreed to get involved but had no guiding background. Thus my guide leadership started in earnest. We ran the company for some years until my friend went off to college, and someone was found to take over the company. At this time it was decided to split my old company in Belmont as it now had about 50 girls and so I became Captain of the 2nd Belmont Company. I ran this company until I got married and moved to Cambridge.

Once we were settled there it wasn't long before I was Captain of a company in Barton. Here I was able to complete my Guiders Camp Licence, something circumstances had not allowed me to do before although I had run a number of camps with another guider as the licence holder. We continued camping each year and both my daughters were introduced to guide camps as babies! We subsequently moved to



Kent where again I ran a company before coming to Lowestoft in 1976. We had only been here a short while before I was introduced to Barbara Taylor through our daughters. Barbara was running the 2nd Oulton at the time and I went along to help her. When Violet Parker moved from the area I became Captain of the 1st Oulton until my retirement. During my years in Lowestoft I was District Commissioner for Oulton Broad before becoming involved with the Trefoil Guild\* where I am now in my second term of office as the Chairman of the Lowestoft Guild. I was also assistant county Trefoil chairman for some years. During this time we organised a service at the Cathedral to celebrate the centenary of Guiding and I also ran a number of county house parties to guide houses around the country. I have also had the privilege of taking both guides, guiders and Trefoil members abroad to Austria, Switzerland, and India.

The uniforms, guiders names and programme has changed but Guiding tries to keep up with the times and is about to launch a new programme for the girls. However its core values remain the same and they even return to some of the old ideas. Camping has changed; most units have got rid of the old bell or ridge tents in favour of lightweight varieties . I bet they don't last as long as the old ridges which are still going strong after 30 years!

As you will see guiding has been a large part of my life. It has given me friends all over the country and has enabled me to visit Guiding Houses in Switzerland, Mexico and India. I have seen lots of changes but it still gives girls and young women throughout the world lots of opportunities. After all it is the largest female organisation in the world, crossing barriers of race, religion and class.

*The Trefoil Guild\* is an adult-only group within the Girl Guide movement for women that keeps the Spirit of Guiding alive! Across the UK, there are over 1,100 Trefoil Guilds with over 20,000 members - some meet every week, others less frequently, perhaps in the evening or in the afternoon.*

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## **Summer Coffee Morning**

On the morning of Saturday 21st July we held our annual Summer Coffee Morning in church and we were delighted to see so many people turn up to this annual event. Due to your wonderful generosity we were able to raise a magnificent £489 for church funds as well as 'touching base' with our visitors. Can we though the newsletter offer special thanks to all those people who toiled to make it such a wonderful success.



# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

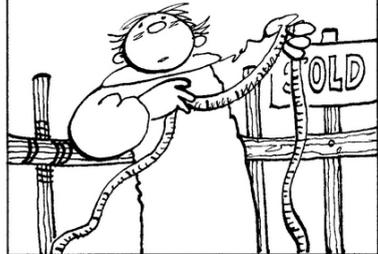


OH! NO!!



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

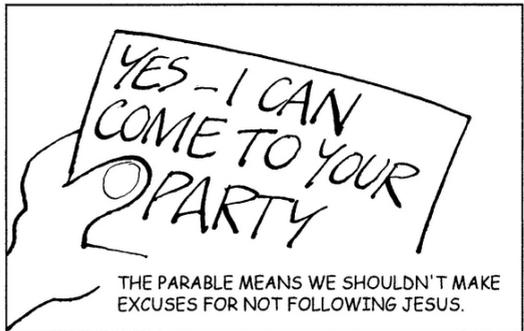


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

## Julian of Norwich.

In last months bulletin I had picked Julian of Norwich as my 'famous Christian'. A few days ago Carol and I called in at The **Julian Centre** in Norwich where we were very warmly received. The Centre is on the Rouen Road next door to St Julian's Church. It is here that visitors like us are welcomed and books, cards and other merchandise associated with Julian is sold, plus teas and coffees. There is a reference library that aims to stock the principle books and articles which continue to appear about Julian throughout the world, and a lending library that includes books on general Christian interest. The small church is tucked away behind the centre and houses the small cell where Julian wrote her book, *The Revelation's of Devine Love*. Please, if you find yourself in Rouen Road, do call in at the church and centre where I guarantee you will be warmly received. Incidentally, I asked at the centre why Julian is often portrayed with a cat and the answer is that anchoresses were only allowed to keep cats, as they were gainfully employed in keeping all the mice and rats at bay.



St Michael's sits serene in the warm summer sun. It only seems like yesterday it was reposing beneath a heavy blanket of snow. Oh well, *Tempus fugit* as they say.

## My Favourite Hymns

This month Chris Simpson shares with us his favourite hymns.

“Hymns are one of the many ways of worshipping God. They can express our thoughts about the nature of God and Jesus and can also be directed towards them. They can also help us worship in a more friendly way.

I very much like traditional hymns like ‘O Lord My God ‘(How Great thou art) and Wesley’s ‘And can it be that I should gain (Amazing love! How can it be) and of course John Newton’s ‘Amazing Grace.’

Having said that I also like the hymns of modern writers like Graham Kendrick and Stuart Townsend for ‘All I once held dear (Knowing You) and ‘In Christ Alone.’ Another great favourite is ‘My Jesus, my Saviour (Shout to the Lord).

Hymns sung together (especially in gusto) can help us in our faith and encourage one another.”

Many thanks to Chris for his selection and I was delighted to see that one of the ones he had chosen was ‘And Can it Be’ that great Wesley hymn.

When Carol and I were at school, many years ago, it was a hymn that was often sung at school morning assembly and everyone waited in anticipation for our Welsh games master, Harry Hartles to boom out in his baritone voice those immortal words, ‘Feed me now and evermore’.

Charles Wesley is one of my heroes and he is accredited for writing over 6,000 hymns! Some 150 of these are in the Methodist hymn book Hymns and Psalms, including that Christmas great, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul". Many of his hymns are translated into other languages, and form the foundation for Methodist hymnals as, well as many other denominations.

## Pause for thought.

A certain vicar never visited his parishioners but spent all his time looking after the churchyard and tending the graves. Challenged about this, he claimed that his first duty was to those who paid his stipend. The intended point of this little parable was to make us feel guilty that the Church of England relies so heavily on its endowments, the gifts of those long dead, and that the living contribute comparatively little to its upkeep. Maybe Christians' long dead, did this to make sure they were remembered for generations to come. If you go around a churchyard and look at the graves there are probably thousands that you have



never met or known. Praying for the departed, even those long dead, is the most useful thing we can do for them, far- more useful than putting flowers on a grave — although that can of course be a thoughtful thing to do.

There is a little non-conformist church in Westcott where there is a marble bust over the holy table of one of my great grandfathers he died in 1882. He was very well off; a roaming preacher who preached on the village green converted him. The village had no church at that time, so he built that very church. When looking at that bust I can see the features of my father. If I were to go to Westcott now and ask the villagers about the man who built that church, very few people would know whom I was talking about. All those ancient headstones, which were erected to remember the life of an individual or a family, are now forgotten. They are our ancestors, people who gave us the freedom to live the lives we now enjoy.

They are still an important part of our lives and I believe we should pray for them. In the past funerals were a very important part of living. Those who can't face the fact that they will die someday do not live life to the full; in order to live life to the full we have to come to terms with our death now. The dead are an important part of living, but in contemporary society you would hardly believe it. After a perfunctory funeral; as moving as a Tesco checkout, the bereaved are expected to get on with the business of living - in which even the recently dead have no place. There are no longer any recognized rituals of grieving, patterns of behaviour which not only help the living, but were intended to help the departed, and which kept the two worlds in touch with each other. The eldest son of an Orthodox Jew is required to say the Kaddish prayer every day for a year after his parents death and any synagogue he attends recognizes that this is both his duty and his privilege. We Christians now have nothing comparable. When a hearse passes people on the street they no longer stand quietly and take their hat off. Slowly rituals we used to practice for the dead are being forgotten. We, as a nation, no longer have much respect for the dead. How often have we gone to the funeral of someone we knew and come away very rarely thinking of them again? I know I have. I know that when I die — there may be a good few people at my funeral, but I know that after a year or two I will be forgotten, gone off into the future, hoping that one or two will pray for me. A service to remember the dead each year is so important for the dead as it is for the living. A time when we do pray for our departed loved ones.

*John Worsfold*

## **The Final Word**

Around the world there are some amazing revolving restaurants. In Munich you can dine in the Olympic tower 181 metres above the city. The sunset menu is a good time to take in the best of the views and will cost over 50 euros. Then there is the highest revolving restaurant in the world which is 3,500 meters above sea level in Switzerland which takes diners in an awe inspiring view of the mountain peaks. It takes one hour to do a full rotation so over the course of a meal you see it all. Hong Kong's only revolving restaurant offers, in addition to breath taking views, a wide variety of international delicacies to eat.

A few weeks ago I was delighted to be in a revolving restaurant. The menu was great – wraps with meat and salad and strawberries and cream. I was in the middle of Malthouse Broad near Ranworth. We had planned to moor at the Staithe. Unfortunately people had beaten us to it and there were no places to moor, even stern on. So we decided, as it was lunch time, to head out into the Broad and put the mud weight down. Sailing boats used us as a roundabout with, it seemed, a competition to see how close they could get to a moving object without putting their boom through our windows. There was enough breeze to keep us moving in circles all the time we were tucking into our wraps. It was far more exciting that one full rotation an hour!

After lunch we prepared to set out for the M25 of the Broads – the Bure - including Horning and Wroxham. Of course the mud weight had to be raised. We could not have dragged that. Unfortunately I have problems with my neck and back and so I needed help to pull up the mud weight. I later found out that more modern boats have power assisted mud weights, bow and stern thrusters and an electric toilet. It was a considerable task to get the mud off the mud weight. Even swinging it in the water was not good enough, it clung so closely.



*"Let me know if you notice the water level going down."*

The writer to the Hebrews says, 12v1, 'Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.' We alone know what 'weight' we have and 'mud that clings so closely' which get in the way of our relationship with the God who loves us so much.

God bless you always and not just when you are going round in circles!

**David Hayden.**

If you have any contributions for the next monthly publication, please send your material to Robin Keightley.

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