

WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM



50p

Trinitate 2

MINISTRY TEAM

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The Vicarage Sanigar Lane, Newtown (01453) 811 360 *Day off - Monday*

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**For Baptisms, Confirmations, Home Communions,
Wedding Arrangements etc...
Please contact the Vicar.
Benefice Website: www.heuristika.co.uk/lfgdiscussion/**

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Margaret Price (*Purton*) The Mill House, Purton (01453) 811 250
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Mr David Carrington (*Slimbridge*) 8 Lancelot Court (01453) 890 031
Vacancy - Slimbridge Warden

Parochial Church Council Officers

Sharpness with Purton

Mrs Carol Bailey (*Secretary*) 8 Jubilee Way (01453) 810 850
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Parish Diary - November 2021

(1st) SUNDAY 7th - 3 BEFORE ADVENT

9.00am	1662 Prayer Book Communion	St. John's, Slimbridge
9.30am	Morning Prayer	St. John's, Purton
10.00am	Sung Communion	St. John's, Slimbridge
11.00am	Morning Prayer	St. Andrew's, Sharpness

(2nd) SUNDAY 14th - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St. John's, Purton
10.00am	Service of Remembrance	St. John's, Slimbridge
11.00am	Service of Remembrance	St. Andrew's, Sharpness

(3rd) SUNDAY 21st - CHRIST THE KING

9.30am	Sung Communion	St. John's, Purton
10.00am	All Age Service	St. John's, Slimbridge
11.00am	Informal Communion Service	St. Andrew's, Sharpness
2.30pm	Holy Baptism	St. John's, Slimbridge

WEDNESDAY 24th

7.30pm	Slimbridge PCC Meeting	St. John's, Slimbridge
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(4th) SUNDAY 28th - ADVENT SUNDAY

10.00am	Benefice Communion	St. Andrew's, Sharpness
2.30pm	Holy Baptism	St. John's, Purton

TUESDAY 30th - *Andrew the Apostle*

7.30pm	Sharpness PCC Meeting	St. Andrew's, Sharpness
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*Join the ministry team for Morning Prayer
every Saturday at St. Andrew's, Sharpness
9am*

All Welcome!

Stanley Green was a well known London character. Between 1968 and his death in 1993, he walked up and down the busy shopping area of Oxford Street carrying a placard warning against eating protein.

Rather bizarrely, Stanley believed that if people ate less protein they would become kinder, better human beings. Despite his unconventional views, most considered Stanley a harmless eccentric and simply walked right past him.

The season of Advent begins on the last Sunday of November and we will be reading about John the Baptist, who could be dismissed as a similar sort of eccentric. Living out in the wilds of the desert, dressed in camel hair and eating locusts, he presents a strange figure. Like Stanley, he brought a message of warning and John's

was a particularly difficult one to take: judgement was imminent and there was a need to repent. Yet unlike Stanley, the Baptist was not ignored. People

flocked to hear his message with great anticipation and excitement, walking many miles from all the surrounding areas into the baking desert to hear his words.

So why was John's message so vitally important to them?

Well they simply rushed to see John because they were excited by what he had to say. He was teaching that what they had longed for for many years, the coming of the Messiah – it was now about to happen. He brought a prophetic message, the significance of which was emphasised by his being the first prophetic voice the Jews had heard for over

Personally Speaking

"Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan."

(Matthew 3:5)

three hundred years. God had finally broken his silence and people's expectations were high.

However, it was not only John's words that suggested he was a prophet with an important message. His camel-hair clothing would have reminded the crowds of Elijah, the very prophet that the Jews expected to return one day to herald the coming of the Messiah. Matthew supports this understanding of John by stating that he was the one spoken of many years ago by the prophet Isaiah, the one who would make the way ready for the Lord. John's way of getting people ready, however, was tough. He taught that they needed to repent, a word which in the original language means much more than feeling sorry or even saying sorry, but involves a turning away from wrongdoing and a radical change of behaviour.

John's message was a hard one. Would we, like the people of his day, greet him with enthusiasm and excitement, rushing on foot through many miles of hot desert to hear his message? Well, I guess that many in this modern age would dismiss him as an outdated remnant of times past. For Christians John is an uncomfortable figure who has been surpassed by Jesus' more welcoming message of forgiveness and salvation.

And like the people of John's day we, too, await the Messiah, but this time we anticipate his return. Jesus taught of the urgent need to be ready for this. He also spoke of judgement as well as salvation and grace. But can Christians really relax and assume these words are only aimed at those who have no faith in God?

Well both John and Jesus had harsh words for the religious leaders of their day despite them being people of prayer who believed strongly in God. John criticised them for viewing their heritage in the Jewish faith as a substitute for leading transformed lives. His warning to the Jews is also a warning for us too. We can grow complacent in our faith and fail to remain open to the voice of the Holy Spirit who prompts us to repent, to change and lead more fruitful lives.

The season of Advent reminds us that this world order is a transient thing: one day Christ will return and shake up everything. The people of John's day were very serious about getting ready for the Messiah. They did not ignore John or dismiss him as an over-the-top eccentric.

This Advent the Church asks us to reflect on how we deal with the Baptist: an oddball who can be overlooked, or God's prophet to be taken seriously?



BISHOP ROBERT – BISHOP OF TEWKESBURY

Advent Sunday falls on the 28th November. As it is the 4th Sunday of the month we keep it as a Benefice Service and this month the service is held at Sharpness. However, more than that we will be welcoming a visit from Bishop Robert, Bishop of Tewkesbury. This will be his first visit to the church at Sharpness, indeed it will be his first visit to the Benefice.

I encourage everyone to place the date in your diary and come along and say 'hello' to Bishop Robert. The service is our traditional Communion Service to mark the beginning of Advent. Do please make every effort to attend. Everyone is welcome!

COP26 in Glasgow

Bishops join leaders of other major faiths to demand climate action

Faith leaders have been joining together to demand climate action ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow (1st - 12th November).

Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, and lead Bishop on the Environment for the Church of England signed the letter alongside leaders of every major Christian denomination and representatives from Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh communities.

The declaration states: "We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity.

"We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

"Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations.

"To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26."

The Glasgow Declaration pledges a response to the challenge set by the climate emergency through being "advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future."

Historical Snippets

*Taken from the Parish archives
held at St Johns Church Slimbridge;*

*Years ago, each of the local parish churches submitted their news to a publication called 'The Parish Magazine'. Contributors came from quite a large area including: Lower Cam; Coaley; Eastington; Frocester; North Nibley; Stinchcome; and *Slymbridge. It was printed by: O. E. Hill, Cam, Gloucestershire, for the cost of 2d (tuppence) per copy.*

This month's historical snippet is taken from November 1947

**Slymbridge is the old-fashioned spelling for Slimbridge.*

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Rector; Rev. W. H. Thomas, M.A.

Church Wardens; Mr. J. Wherrett and Mr. W. P. Hill.

The Rector earnestly desires to be informed in all cases of sickness and sorrow.

My dear People, [*November 1947*]:

Calendar:

November: Services and events: -

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Saturday 1 st | ALL SAINTS DAY Holy Communion 10.30am |
| Sunday 2 nd | Commemoration of All Souls |
| Wednesday 5 th | All PC Councillors in the Dursley Deanery meet with Bishop of Gloucester at Dursley at 7pm – Address by the Bishop; |
| Friday 7 th | Lecture Mr Tucker |
| Saturday 8 th | Deanery music festival, Dursley Church 6pm. Preacher the Lord Bishop of Gloucester; |
| Sunday 9 th | Remembrance Day Combined Service in the Parish Church 3pm; |
| Friday 14 th | Concert, Church Hall, promoted by Messrs V Ward and C Cooper for Choir
Boys Christmas treat fund; |
| Wednesday 19 th | Young Wives.
Speaker, Mrs Saunders, Whiteshill. |
| Friday 21 st | Lecture, Mr Tucker; |
| Thursday 27 th | Mother's Union; |
| Sunday 30 th | Advent Sunday; |

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Altar flowers & Children's corner:

Sunday 2nd November ~ Miss H Pearce, Mrs G Tudor;

Brass cleaning: ~ Frank C and M Evans;

In Memoriam ~

9th November ~, Mrs J Haine, June Beard,

16th November; Mrs R Workman, Betty Cobb;

23rd November; Mrs Wherrett, Shirley Ward;

30th November; Miss Thomas, Margaret Gazzard.

Notes:

I very much regret to have to record this month the loss the Church has suffered through the removal of Mr and Mrs R Workman, Churchend, Slimbridge. They will be missed at Church services, which in the past years they have attended so regularly.

The Church sub-committee of the Church council, at a recent meeting decided to ask the members of the local branch of the British Legion if they would be good enough to undertake the care of keeping tidy the plot of grass which surrounds the War Memorial. I am pleased to be able to report that they willingly agreed to this, and in addition Mr Ivor James has kindly promised to provide bulbs and plant them. The Church council tender their thanks for this piece of voluntary work for the Church.

Steps have been taken to remedy the defect in the Church Clock, and the Council hope that this will done as soon as the firm of Church clock repairers can send their representative down from Derby to attend to it.

The following amounts have recently been sent to the various societies: Moral Welfare £1. 15s; S.P.G. £3. 17s 4d; Lebombo £6. 2s 9d.

Your friend and Vicar

Rev W H Thomas M.A.

NB

*Our archives containing these magazines can be viewed by mutual arrangement with the Vicar, Church Warden or any member of the PCC but not to be taken away.
David Carrington Vicars Church Warden*



O Gallant Youth

*Through long dark years our young have fought and died,
In Freedom's name our country's foes defied;
Now in Remembrance they are glorified,
O Gallant Youth, we owe so much to you.*

*Though they were young, when came their country's call,
Ready they were to stand up strong and tall.
They did not flinch when asked to give their all,
O Gallant Youth, we give our thanks for you.*

*Rows of graves, with headstones white
Tributes to our gallant men,
From Sun's rise till it sets from sight
We'll always remember them.*

By Nigel Beeton



From the Registers - September 2021

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Gift Aid</u>	<u>Envelopes</u>	<u>Cash</u>
<u>Sharpness:</u>	25	£223	£75	£ 23.05
Donation (<i>General</i>):				£ 4.00
Bonus Ball:				£236.00
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS (+ / -)
For the Month:	£561.05	£305.45		+£255.60

From 1st Jan. 2021 St. Andrew's has received **£2,597.14** more than it has spent

<u>Purton:</u>	125	£60	£30	£112.00
Donations (<i>Gift Aided</i>):				£ 50.00
Baptism:				£ 62.00
Wall Box:				£ 65.89
Donation (<i>General</i>):				£ 20.00
Fabric-Fund:				(£1769.20)
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS (+ / -)
For the Month:	£399.89	£175.58		+£224.31

From 1st Jan. 2021 St. John's has spent **£53.31** more than it has received

<u>Slimbridge:</u>	176	£375	£0	£768.36
Donations (<i>General</i>):				£ 50.00
Fund-Raising:				£ 86.50
Funerals:				£202.76
PCC Fees:				£417.90
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS (+ / -)
For the Month:	£1,900.52	£2,405.98		-£505.46

From 1st Jan. 2021 St. John's has received **£1,887** more than it has spent

Our thanks to all of you
who continue to support our churches

BAPTISMS:

We welcomed into the Lord's family:

HOPE EMILY SAVAGE (*Purton*)

17th Oct.

FUNERALS:

We commended to the Lord's keeping:

DAVE WILLIAM ROBERTS (*Gloucester Crematorium*)

5th Oct

ASHES:

We laid to rest the remains of:

MERVYN FRANK BURROWS (*Sharpness*)

23rd Oct

ELIZABETH DIANA HUGGINS (*Slimbridge*)

29th Oct

SLIMBRIDGE CHURCH

Christmas Coffee Morning & Festive Stalls

on

Saturday 11 December

Slimbridge Village Hall
10.30-2.00pm

In aid of St John's Church Slimbridge

Close Attention to Text

Written by Sue Pickering

John 17:20-end

Jesus said: "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them".

...may they also be in us (v21)

Jesus wants his disciples - and us - to have no sense of separation from God, to welcome the reality of the indwelling Spirit, breaking open within us the word of God, releasing the power of the risen Christ in our lives.

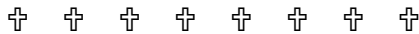
In a deep, loving relationship we may become so close to our beloved that we feel as if we are moving together in a way that transcends any differences. It's a glimpse of what is at the heart of the Christian vocation: union with God.

Union with God includes unspoken communication, having one mind with Christ, following the prompts and desires of the Spirit, knowing ourselves to be beloved and letting that love enable us to be Christ's hands, voice and kindness to those we encounter. This is

not impenetrable theory; it's been Jesus' lived reality on earth and it can be ours too.

Reclaimed over recent decades, contemplative prayer helps us grow in intimate connection with our personal loving God. In this daily practice, instead of vocal or mental prayer, we sit in silence, and, using a simple word to anchor our wandering mind, we intentionally make ourselves available so God may communicate *directly* with our receptive spirit. All we have to do is turn up each day and give God space to work within us. It's that simple - and that hard.

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and forever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Red Letter Days

All Souls Day— 2nd November

A time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain ‘the Beatific Vision’ through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls’ Day should follow the feast of All Saints’ Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls’ Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe’en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

Smile for a While

Daily Mail

At a recent church meeting, our Sunday School teacher requested that a notice be put into the weekly pew-sheet, asking for church members to bring in any old copies they had of the Daily Mail. She wanted the newspapers for a big Christmas project involving lots of paper mache, and thought that the ink on the Daily Mail would be less messy. The secretary made a rough note, and the notice went in: 'Wanted by our Sunday School teacher: lots of daily males.'



Know what to do

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning, and you have a number of people, spread throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

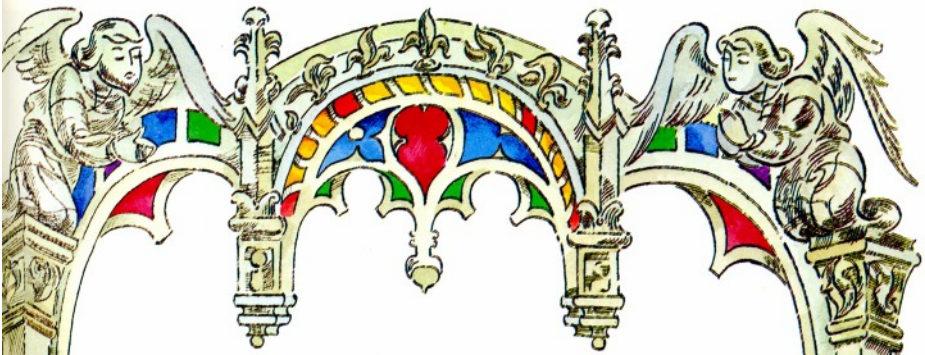
The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.



Rooms

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, and Mike has his own room, and Jemma has her own room, and Robbie has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."





All in the Month of NOVEMBER

It was -

150 years ago, on 10th Nov 1871 that Welsh journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley located the missing missionary and explorer Dr David Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika in present-day Tanzania. He might or might not have greeted him with the words: "Doctor Livingstone, I presume?"

125 years ago, on 16th Nov 1896 that Oswald Mosley, British fascist politician, was born. Imprisoned for three years in 1940 for founding the British Union of Fascists.

100 years ago, on 11th Nov 1921 that Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

30th Anniversary of the Dedication of the ground for building of the new Church of St Andrew at Sharpness.

I don't expect that many of you who are reading this have experienced the beginning of a new church building. Unlike our Victorian ancestors – who were great church builders – we in our time tend to oversee church closures. But for Sharpness that trend was to change as they came together to begin building the first new Anglican church in the Gloucester Diocese for more than 20 years. Carol (churchwarden at the time) and Katrina Bailey recall the day. . .

What a wonderful feeling of hope, joy and excitement as the 1st of November 1991, All Saints Day dawned.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury at that time, The Rt Rev. Jeremy Walsh came to dig the first piece of turf on the land next to the Vicarage, for the building of our new church in Sharpness.

The weather was kind to us, and a large crowd came to witness the historic occasion. Afterwards coffee was served at the Vicarage and over £100 was raised by sponsoring a brick. The enormity of what we were undertaking was always lightened by Donald's (*Donald Minchew. Vicar*) great sense of humour and by his and a great many others of the Church Communities unwavering hard work and faith in God.

A grant from the Diocese and numerous Coffee mornings, jumble sales, Country and Western events, summer fetes and Autumn Fairs were held at the homes of our Church Community. Brookend, Purton



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and Slimbridge churches hosted Coffee Mornings for us too. From the start some 5 years previously, from the planning through to the first piece of turf being dug and then the church being built, many, many fundraising events took place for us to meet our target and then furnish the church inside.

That All Saints Day on 1st November 1991 was a momentous event as we committed the whole project to God, and he did not fail us. Our beautiful Church stands proud in the centre of this community, as a witness to God's love, faith and unending goodness to all who enter its doors.

*With love and blessings,
Carol and Katrina Bailey.*



Out of the Silence . . .

The monthly journal of the journey of a Priest, Contemplative and Community Chaplain.

The Rose-Tinted Spectacles of Nostalgia!

I don't usually give these magazine articles a title but I have today and I think you'll see why!! These entries were written on two consecutive days last month!

Tuesday 12th October 2021

I woke, stressed and very aware of the size of the 'to do' list that I made yesterday for this week. Listing and planning are both a boon and a bane. They ensure that things are not forgotten but in the bare boniness of their apparent simplicity can feel, especially in the early hours, a threat. You very quickly brought to my mind, Lord, the days when I would prepare the week's sermon and service, a baptism or funeral or wedding perhaps, visit some sick or bereaved person, manage a house and large garden AND work full time with its attendant preparation and homework!!! You made all that possible (partly through my being younger I suppose) in such a way that I might misquote with hindsight and therefore with hope,

'sufficient to the troubles are the days thereof!'

I should know from experience of your loving-kindness that it has always been so and that there is no reason to think that it will change, for you do not.

"Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds."

Psalm 36

The prayer that accompanies Psalm 63 also says,

"I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him
in his word is my hope,
my soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning,"

The foolishness of recurring fears (to say nothing of their sinfulness) is well illustrated by the lengthy recitation of Israel's woes in the wilderness in Psalm 106 with its repeated '... but they forgot. . . ' followed

always by ‘. . . but God remembered. . .’! You do not abandon us to our fears or our repeated failures and for that I thank you, Lord.

Today’s Bible reading notes* commenting on the famous reading from I Corinthians 13 where it speaks of the many qualities of love also say, “If we live at 100 mph, hurtling from place to place and person to person as we work through our never ending list of tasks, then we simply won’t be able to love as God defines it . . . we have to take time, be patient . . . John Mark Cromer calls us to the ‘ruthless elimination of hurry’, a vital challenge . . . this may mean paring down our unfeasible to-do lists (which are often self-generated) and simplifying our lives. If we don’t do this, we won’t have time to show patience . . . we won’t have time for love.”

Wednesday 13th October 2021

Goodness what a shock!! I turned back to the journal I was writing in November 2007 to find the coping, cheery, fearless person I thought I was only a few months after ordination – oh dear! – to misquote Morrissey, ‘heaven knows I was miserable then!’ Talk about the rose-tinted spectacles of nostalgia! Wrong! I can’t bear to write out in any detail what I found – enough to give some highlights (lowlights!) each the beginning of a journal entry,

“I’m haunted by doubts . . .”

“Found myself in a really dark place . . .”

“Still quite tight and stressed . . .”

“On the theme of weakness . . .”

“It’s hard-going . . .”

As I said – oh dear!! I’m an infinitely happier person now and the words of Henry Van Dyke (who?!), today’s ‘thought’ on my little calendar, are wonderfully applicable.

“To be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to look up at the stars . . . and to spend as much time as you can, with body and with spirit in God’s out-of-doors – these are little guide-posts on the footpath to peace.”

Thank you, Lord!

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My morning worship today begins with these words and I suddenly recall that I had them stuck to the wall above my desk in my classroom in those final full-time working years, an indicator of my state of mind perhaps – I was fearful then too.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation,
whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27

Goodness what a shock all that was – and what a timely reminder.

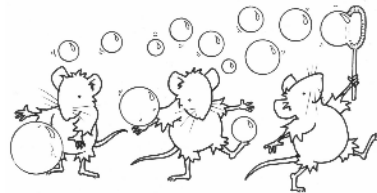
Hilarious P.S. – I’m typing this up at 11.15am on Wednesday – I only wrote the dreaded list on Monday and this is just about the final job on it – whatever was I going on about?!!!

More next month

With love and many blessings

Mary Tucker

* I can heartily recommend these quarterly booklets of Bible readings and notes/comments that I subscribe to and use. If you go onto the scriptureunion.org.uk website you too could have this daily fun (it really is!). The set of notes I use are called 'Encounters with God'.



Commemorating the War-Dead at Slimbridge

For one hundred years the War Memorial at Slimbridge has stood sentinel looking out onto the village as people pass by going about their daily lives. I wonder how many of them even notice its existence. The men – and boys – remembered there gave their all so that we could freely move around. That is something that we should never forget. It's certainly something that was in the minds of those who were responsible for erecting the memorial, as Pamela Storey recalls from records held by Slimbridge History Society. . .

As early as May 1918, the village had acknowledged the need to provide some enduring monument to those who had died. A memorial had been set up in the church with the names and regiments of the men who had died together with their photographs and the date and place of their deaths.

Meetings in May 1919 set in train the process of erecting a permanent monument. Where the memorial was to be sited became the



subject of a poll of the village. This resulted in 83 votes for the site in the churchyard, but this was outvoted. The popular vote, (89 votes) was a site adjoining the village school, close to the Cross-roads (ie the junction of St John's Road with the main Bristol Road). Mr A. Cloke, Mr H.J. Morgan and Mr L. Peake canvassed the village for subscriptions for the memorial which would take the form of a wayside cross containing the names of the men who fell. However, the County Education Committee responded that, with regret, it was unable to see its way to allow the land to be used for this purpose. So, the memorial was erected in the churchyard.

The war memorial had then to be redesigned because the Advisory Committee appointed by the Diocese vetoed the original design (there are no details of the original design but 'a sword' had to be removed.) We have no details of how the names were selected for inclusion on the monument, but there was further delay because the architect was not wholly satisfied with the stone.

A service of dedication took place 22nd May 1921 conducted by Rev A.S. Crawley as the Rector, Rev Carter, was too ill to take the service. Bereaved families and friends laid wreaths at the memorial.



the mouths of babes



THE WAY I SEE IT!

John Bell reflects on God's Creation. .

Maybe it's because in Glasgow we are increasingly aware of the climate change conference happening that I have become more alert to information concerning the care of the earth. In this context I discovered that if you have a spare £100,000, you can buy a robot which will milk your cows. I'm not presently contemplating such a purchase partly because I don't have that money to spare and also because it would be of little use in inner city Glasgow. But it would have implications in the part of rural England where I was working at the weekend, an area of exceptionally clean air, lush vegetation and authentic farm cooking.

Cattle farming is something about which like most urbanites I know nothing. I never knew how many times a day cows are milked or how supplements are added to their feed according to the milk yield. I asked the farmer with whom I was staying what he thought about robotic milking. He said it could be highly effective, but it couldn't assess the health of an animal in the way that the human eye could. Or, to put in other words, it couldn't care.

That word 'care' is being used more and more with regard to the natural world as the COP (Council of Parties) 26 takes place. It's not just an environmental concept. It is also a theological injunction. Humanity, according to the Bible, is not called to dominate creation but to care for it.

Indeed, the report of a government inquiry into the proposed demolition of a mountain in Harris revealed an even more pertinent theological truth. For at that inquiry the Gaelic speaking biblical scholar, Donald MacLeod, noted that when the Bible encourages humanity to till the ground, the more common usage of the Hebrew verb means not to till but to serve. This perception is later developed in the Law of Moses where it becomes compulsory every seven years to give the earth a rest. And the breach of that injunction leads prophets like Jeremiah to say: 'Your wrongdoing upsets nature's order and keeps her bounty away.' (Jer. 5:25)

We should not presume that the health of the globe is primarily dependent on the care of those who daily till the soil and herd the cattle. The bigger issue is how those of us who live comfortably in urban communities can own our responsibility for the health of the planet not just in what we purchase or avoid but in how we actively care for creation

When someone you loved is dead

*Tony Horsfall lost his wife last year to cancer.
He is a former missionary in East Malaysia.*

Since my wife passed away in July 2020, I have often been asked, "What are you learning from your grief journey?" Here are a few standout lessons:

1. That grief takes longer than you think to work itself through, and it can't be rushed. It is a journey you must take slowly.
2. That when you lose your spouse, you lose not only the person you loved, but the person who loved you. This second loss leaves a hole in your heart, making you very vulnerable to new relationships.
3. That you will need to re-discover your identity as God's deeply loved child in this season of your life, as if you had never known it before.
4. That God can be trusted to help you rebuild your life, but trust may not come easily. It is better to focus on God's trustworthiness than on your ability to trust, which may be shaky.
5. That your experience of grief and your response to loss is unique and personal, so don't compare your journey to that of others.
6. That good friends can make the journey so much easier. Be prepared to ask for help.
7. That you will be ambushed by grief. Some things will take you by surprise, especially the little things.
8. That the loss of a spouse will leave you feeling very lonely, even when you are surrounded by family and friends. This is not a weakness, just a sign of what you have lost.
9. That loneliness is not a mental illness, just a natural response to being bereaved, and it will get better.
10. That moving forward is not a sign that you didn't care, but that there is still a life to be lived and not wasted.

Continuing Rhyming History of Britain House of Hanover 1714 - 1901

George I

1714-27 The reigns of Georges- First and Second

George II

1727-60

Are very generally reckoned
The overture to what would be
The Iron Age of Industry.
But Commerce would bring war again
Halfway through George the Second's reign.

Louis XV

1715-74

The French, now ruled by Louis Quinze,
Were gathering rather useful lands
In Canada, and India too,
So action was long overdue;
And Spain maintained a constant raid
Upon our buoyant slaving trade.

But France was also threatening
The safety of the British King,
For Louis was a staunch defender
Of 'James the Third', the Old Pretender.

Feb. 1744

Invasion forces at Dunkirk
Were blown back, so that didn't work.

Charles

Edward

Stuart

1720-88

And then his heir, The Bonnie Prince,
The stuff of legend ever since,
Collected hordes of Highland men,
Whose massacre at Culloden
Preceded the extermination
Of the remaining Gaelic nation.

Battle of
Culloden Moor
16 Apr 1746

James Muirden



BONUS BALL SWEEPSTAKE



**October
WINNERS**

Issy Frankcom 43



Dot Beard 55



Kath King 22



Vicky Beard 19



Eileen Smith 17



**YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT
TO WIN IT!**

*Thousands of Pounds Won
Thousands of Pounds Raised
for Sharpness Church*



There is currently one number available!



THANK YOU!



LETTERS TO UNCLE EUSTACE

There are more frightening things than bishops

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurk much nearer home.

Your loving uncle,

PUZZLE PAGE

FIND THE MISSING GRID SPACES AND FIT THE WORDS BELOW

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 SAE
 RAISING
 ACCUSE
 HUMAN
 JUDITH
 STAR
 INANE

SCOUSE
 SEBA
 DENY
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 OGAM



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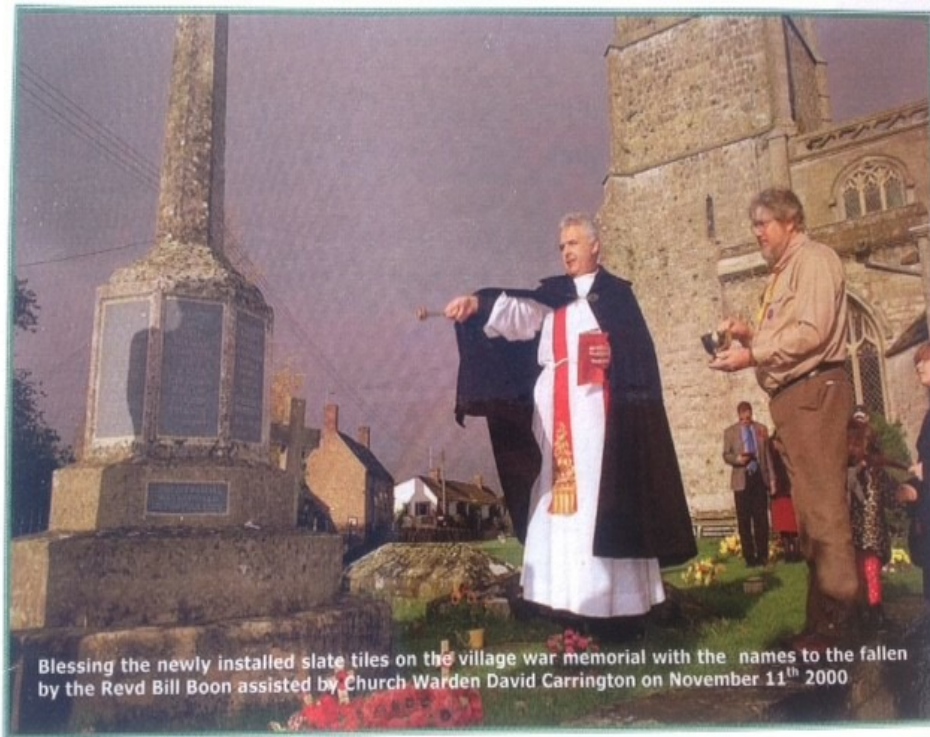
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Backpage Picture



The Dedication of New Name Slates

With inscriptions fading and to mark the New Millennium the names of the fallen were re-etched onto new slates and fitted to the Slimbridge War Memorial in November 2000. Donations from Slimbridge British Legion Club, Slimbridge Parish Council and St. John's PCC made this possible. *(See page 23)*

'De Trinitate is published monthly By Revd. Bill Boon at Sharpness Vicarage
A an electronic version of this magazine is available in pdf - contact Bill Boon for details.