

SHOTTERY SEARCHLIGHT



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



by John McCrae, May 1915



2018
November

80p

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Each Sunday morning the 1662 Eucharist is celebrated at 8.00am

Each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm there is a Said Eucharist

Every Thursday at 10am. Said Eucharist with address

4th: FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

10.00am Family Service.

6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Eucharist.



11th:

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Fellow Travellers, with Act of Remembrance

6.30pm Evensong.

18th: SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

10.00am Third Sunday Service.

6.30pm STAY CAFÉ SERVICE

25th: CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

30th: ST. ANDREW'S DAY (Friday)

6.30pm Parish Eucharist followed by supper.



MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

I must confess that I have never been keen on having George as the Patron Saint of England. For one thing, I am not into dragons which in this case I reckon are a load of rubbish and this so-called patron Saint was not born here, did not live here, did not work here and did not come on holiday here.

Surely the political view in this country is that most foreigners are treated with suspicion? The dragon clearly makes all the difference! But then, which George are we talking about? There are four in the starting gate. Older research reckons on the four being, George of Arabia, George of Cappadocia, George the Monk and George of Laodicea. I would certainly discount the latter as he was condemned as a semi Arian heretic. In case you are wondering what, a semi Arian heretic is or was, then here goes. Somebody who does not express or believe in the fullness of the divinity of Christ. The line taken would be that Jesus was like God but not God! But I could spend ages discussing the relative merits of these Georges, however it is time to move on.

Who might we choose? In the midlands it could be the great St. Chad of Lichfield who was noted for his pastoral zeal and undoubted holiness. Then there are the Saints of East Anglia who brought the faith there in the dark ages. In addition, there is St Alban the protomartyr and St Osmund if you want to throw in your lot with the East Anglians. There must be the potential for many a dissertation on the Saints of England but I am always called to the crucible of holiness in the wilds of Northumbria. There is almost a North/South divide, but this time it is in favour of the North.

When I was Vicar of St. Clare's Newton Aycliffe, we used to sing litanies of the Northern saints and also go on A.B.C. pilgrimages! Aidan, Bede and Cuthbert. These Saints, to which you can add many others meant a lot to the people of Durham and Northumberland. There are so many Churches dedicated to the blessed name of Cuthbert, with Oswald, Aidan and Bede

keeping them company. Cuthbert died in 687. He had become a monk at Melrose in 651, having given up a fairly prosperous life on the land. He moved to Ripon and then to Lindisfarne. After a while he felt called to the hermitic life and lived on the small island of Farne for 8 years. His was a life of heroic holiness which touched the hearts and lives of hundreds of people. He was eventually persuaded to be consecrated as Bishop of Lindisfarne. After his death he was buried on Lindisfarne, but there was always the danger of the marauding Danes to contend with and his burial site was invariably in danger. Eventually in 999, his body was translated to Durham Cathedral where it still lies in a special shrine.

Many signs and wonders are associated with him. Cuthbert himself related that he saw a manifestation in the sky which persuaded him to become a monk. It turned out that this happened exactly at the time of the death of St. Aidan. It is strongly rumoured that at the time of the death of Cuthbert there were also other manifestations.

Quite honestly the only way to experience the holiness of Cuthbert is to go up to Northumbria and visit the island of Lindisfarne. You will feel it there, it pervades the whole place and you get a wonderful sensation. Whatever you do, make sure you respect the time of the tides or you might find yourself shinning up a ladder into a rescue hut. You will save your life but your car will be a right off. My favourite memory is of wading through the low tide with a guide and then coming up onto the beach to the sound of Northumbrian Pipes. We then had an open-air Eucharist in the grounds of the old abbey. And to add to the spiritual ambience, we could see the castle of Bamburgh, nearby to which is the Shrine of St. Aidan and then there is Lindisfarne Castle. In the distance can be seen the Farne Islands and then the tide comes in and you are cut off from the world for a time. It is a wonderful sensation.

Long live the memory of the Saints of Northumbria and especially that of Cuthbert. March 20th is his feast day. That would make a nice break in our Lenten disciplines!

Revd. David Capron

Wardens' Watch

Is it really a whole month since our last Wardens' Watch ? In looking back through my diary , I am really amazed just how much has been happening at Shottery during these last few weeks.

We were very privileged to be visited by Bishop Christopher when he preached to us and Celebrated the Eucharist at our 10-00am service. It was good to see so many of you in the congregation who were able to be there. Our appreciation also to Revd. Mary who led our worship on that occasion and for all the extra preparation involved.

In total contrast, and a demonstration of our versatility, on the evening prior to the Bishop's visit, we had an evening of "Mirth, Merriment and General Silliness" – the latter being most certainly true! What fun we had with beautiful music and singing, enjoyable sketches....and some most awful jokes! John, as always, you did an excellent job in bringing this whole thing about and with your "oh so smooth" charm, encouraging us not only to take part, but for so many to be persuaded to buy tickets! A really enjoyable evening and thank you to everyone.

Our Church was resplendent with breathtaking, floral arrangements for our Harvest Services. From the beautifully decorated West door arch as one came into Church; arrangements at the Altar and the Font and in the new part of the building, flowers everywhere, even on hoops hanging from the ceiling. Our thanks to all of the flower arrangers who really excelled themselves. Revd. Patrick Taylor, our Area Dean, led our worship at the 10-00am service, holding our attention as various "likes and dislikes" were brought out of his picnic basket – bananas versus Marmite and many others! A truly memorable service. Thank you all for your generosity in giving produce, food and necessary toiletries all of which have been taken to Stratford Food Bank to help those individuals and families in need of our support. May both those receiving and the "givers" feel God's blessings at this time.

The joy of the Harvest Service was followed by a delicious chicken meal. To Nic, Brenda and the whole team thank you so much, your excellent team work resulted in a magnificent meal enjoyed by us all. Last month, Bob referred to the 8 Quality Areas of a Growing Healthy Church and the survey we undertook some 18 months ago – these celebrations are all clear indications of our “Loving Relationships” and most certainly would not be possible without our excellent “Effective Structures”.

On a different note, a Quiet Day was held for our Church at Charlecote Vicarage led by Revd. Rachel Saum. The Day offered a depth of peace and spirituality, when in the stillness of a beautiful home and garden individuals have been enriched in their focus on God. If you missed the opportunity at the last Quiet Day, there is another Day planned for 8th December, 2018. For details see the notice in the Welcome Area or speak with Revd. Joan Whyman.

We also look forward to a reflective Wholeness and Healing Service towards the end of October in the evening. We ask God’s blessing on those in need and upon their loved ones.

November is also a time of looking forward as we approach Advent and the coming of Christmas. Joan’s Advent Booklets will soon be available to help us in our daily readings and meditations as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus Christ. Along with those celebrations we have the Christmas Fair on 24th November when many Christmas items may be bought and of course our Patron St. Andrew’s Day celebrations on 30th November with our traditional “Piping in the Haggis” at our Supper, following our 6-30pm Communion Service.

Such a lot has happened and we look forward to so much more. Yes, we are continuing with our Interregnum, the PCC are still working together with Archdeacon Morris on our Church Profile which we feel is almost complete apart from photographs of the various activities. This then has to be approved by a full meeting of the PCC before publication.



Our thanks again to “Team Shottery” for not only keeping the ship afloat but making good headway towards Christmas and the future of our Church.

May God bless you richly,

Best wishes,

David Whyman Churchwarden



What does 'Love' mean?

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does 'love' mean?' The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

'Love is when Mummy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'

Elaine-age 5

'Love is when Mummy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.'

Chris - age 7

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8



WEDDING

20th October

Isaac Alun-Jones and Charlotte Alun-Jones .

FUNERAL;

15th October Robert Ernest Cross (88).



St. Andrew's Church Christmas Fair

*November 24th
11am - 3pm*

Afternoon Tea from 2pm

Tombola

Traidcraft

Raffle

*New Christmas
Gifts*

Stalls

...and Santa will be visiting...!

*Lunches available. Please call the Parish
Office to book: 01789 293381*

CAROL SINGING IN TOWN

We have a licence to collect any time in Stratford on **Sat Dec 15th**, from 10am, but it is no longer possible to book a pitch. These are allocated on a first come served basis and last year our preferred spot opposite the Library had already gone at 9.30am!

Please contact me in person, by e-mail to brian.richardson3@ntlworld.com or phone S/A 551081, if you would like to join us for all or part of the time (10am to 11.30am).

If you are a friend of the estate agent opposite the library please let me know and I will try to be nice to him. We were not in a no go area but he did not appreciate our efforts.

There will be a list in the welcome area from *November 25th*.
I really need as much help as I can get and all offers will be appreciated.

Corinne Richardson



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 24th
November

See page 9 for
further details

ST ANDREW'S in BISHOPTON

Lunch Friends

15th November

LUNCH CLUB

8th November

12.30pm £7.

Names to Parish Office
please

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

19th November, 2pm

"God's Word is the only sure
foundation for life".

Joe Whittaker -
10 years

*"They shall grow not old, as
we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.*



This Remembrance Sunday
will be our 10th since losing

Joe, who was killed in action in 24.6.08, aged 20 years. It's ten years since Kate and I had the honour of walking down the steps and across the floor of the Royal Albert Hall London, leading the small group representing the bereaved during the Festival of Remembrance. We were back here in St Andrew's with our church family the following morning for our service of Remembrance.

Joe's ashes are buried by our war memorial under the tablet with his name on. I think back to the first sponsored walk we did years ago, to raise the money to have the war memorial professionally repaired and cleaned. So many of our church family took part and/or contributed to that, and to see it clean and the names properly legible was something we were proud of doing.

We delayed burying Joe's ashes until we were able to give him his Para Wings. Joe was so proud to have been selected to join and serve with the Parachute Regiment and wear the maroon beret. He desperately wanted to attend the jumps course and earn his wings but courses were cancelled before he left for Afghanistan. It was the last thing we could do for him. Joe's late father Peter, (previously curate of St Andrew's) was at Ridley Hall Theology College and one of his best friends there was a chap called Jerry and they shared a love of motorbikes. Fast forward 20 years or so and it

just so happened that Revd Major Jerry Sutton was chaplain to the 4 Battalion the Parachute Regiment. In September 2010 at Arnhem in the Netherlands, Jerry (with Joe's ashes carefully stowed in his rucksack), led hundreds of paratroopers to land on Ginkel Heath before taking an annual service commemorating the bravery of 20000 allied paratroopers who landed there on 17th September 1944. On that day Joe had become 'Airborne' and gained his Wings. Shortly afterwards we buried his ashes and Jerry gave the address at the service here. The heather growing at our war memorial came from Ginkel Heath.

Over the last few years Kate and I have been given the honour of laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday. We have never taken this for granted, it has been a great privilege to be invited to do this on behalf of the parish. I never thought that I would ever **not** be present on Remembrance Sunday, but strangely, neither of us will be here this year. Kate is working abroad for 3 months, and I have been invited by The British High Commissioner to Australia to attend the Centenary Remembrance events in Parliament in Canberra. This includes a formal dinner event on the Saturday at which I have been asked to do a reading, and to attend the service at the Cenotaph on Sunday.

This is an incredible opportunity to visit a country I never thought I would have the chance to see. Why me, when 456 families lost loved ones as we did? Well I'm not really sure about that but as you can imagine, I am feeling incredibly humbled and privileged (and excited).



So with Kate and I both away, we will leave Joe in the safe hands of our church family and friends on Remembrance Sunday, so many of whom remember him well, with my parents, who will all stand together to honour the memory of him and the

other young men of the Parish who gave their lives in the two world wars, remembering their courage and ultimate sacrifice.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*



Naomi Whittaker

SHOTTERY REMEMBERS

An evening of music and readings from the time of the First World War

Presented by members of local organisations— including St. Andrew's Church, who will provide humour from the trenches and lead community singing of popular numbers from the era.

Programme also includes Howell's Elegy for viola and strings, stories of Shottery soldiers and more...

**SATURDAY 24th NOVEMBER,
Shottery Memorial Hall, Hathaway Lane.**

7.30pm. Bar opens from 7.00pm

Tickets £2.

To order, call or text 07895 098278

Chocolate, Free Will and Pelagius.



Scene...a cosy evening at home.

She: Do have a chocolate dear.

He: No thank you.

She: They are your favourite Belgium ones.

He: O.K. alright....just one.

A little later:

She: Do have another one.

He: No thank you (perhaps remembering his diabetes2).

She: Oh go on, they really are lovely.

He: Just one more then.....(crash, loss of discipline).

This amusing exchange has a more important slant. If one believes in an all knowing, loving and forgiving God will He* know the result of the dialogue from the beginning? In which case does “free will” really exist?

By the early fifth century Christianity was developing its own theology and philosophy in an attempt to dissociate itself from Jesus’ own religion, that of the Jews. It was the time when Saint Augustine of Hippo began to exert influence. He focussed on the need for Christians to be dominated by their original sin (1).

Controversy arose with a principle opponent stated as Pelagius. A very recent study (2) however, suggests that he was certainly not the main critic of Saint Augustine.

Pelagius was a British monk living in Rome and in reality we know very little about him. He believed in a God that demanded unquestioned obedience and that mankind’s nature had been created for this perfection to be achievable. In 418 AD he was condemned as a heretic although Dr. Bonner (2) suggests that the philosophy behind his heresy he did not teach. His heresy occurred because he defended free will and the proposition of the goodness of human nature. A Christian could achieve grace by his/her own

endeavours. Such a belief denied the three “orthodox” doctrines of original sin, the need for God’s grace to descend upon us and the presence of predestination or rather preordination.

Alas, all this seems too many to sound difficult. Looking back to the opening scene does free will exist in the sense that the all-knowing God will know in advance that the second chocolate will be taken. Of course, the sceptic might ask “does it matter?” For many it does matter.

Certainly, Pelagius and his followers believed it did matter. Saint Augustine denied this belief by asserting that for a person to achieve perfection in this life amounted to sheer arrogance (3).

The Christian society of those times had virtually abandoned any attempt to live as Jesus and His teaching required since it was felt to be too hard for most people of the faith to fulfil (3).

Today the debate still continues. Most members of the “Free” Churches would probably favour Pelagius.

In the words of Dr.Bonner (4):

“We have still not decided whether we are the sole determiners of our destinies”.

R. David Langman.

*Written as Gender free.

As an aside I well remember a well-loved member of our Bible Class (now with the Lord) when this subject was mentioned saying with vigour “I am not conscious of being sinful”.

“The Myth of Pelagianism”, Dr.Ali Bonner, OUP 2018. (book).

“Saint Augustine of Hippo” by Prof. Peter Brown, Faber (1967) and later editions (book).

Dr. A. Bonner “In praise of Pelagius”: article in Church Times 31 August 2018.

Do you Believe that Children are the future?

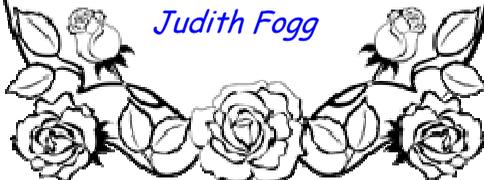


1. Place your finger on your leg and close your eyes
2. Then draw a small circle with your finger, and pray for (if you have them); your God Children, your own children; and any children you have a special relationship with
3. Draw a slightly larger circle and pray for all the children in your Community
4. Draw a slightly larger circle and pray for children around the world
5. Put your finger back in the centre and pray for yourself, and how you might help children to learn to know Jesus as their friend.

What an outpouring
of love and affection has
surrounded me during the past
weeks from my church family at St.
Andrew's. Your cards, letters,
thoughts and prayers have held and
sustained me through a difficult
time and I am very
grateful.

My love to you all,

Judith Fogg



Audrey Edwards welcomed members and friends to our meeting on 2nd October and we are glad to see three members from Newbold-on-Stour joining us.

Audrey led our introductory hymns and prayers.

There were reminders about -

The Christmas Fair in November and members were asked to bring donations for our Bathroom Stall to the November meeting. This stall did well last year and any remainders can be of use to the Women's Refuge or the Foodbank.

Also at the November meeting, nomination forms would be available for the Triennial/ Christmas Meeting in December. New members on the Committee would be most welcome.

The new list of members required by the Diocese had been completed (including birthdays) and Hilary had kindly offered to manage our new Birthday card scheme.

Audrey introduced the **Rev. Mary Crameri** who recounted "Extraordinary Tales and Tails" which she had come across during her many years in the ministry and she began with "Tails".

One lady she called on was trying to teach her parrot to bark like a dog in an effort to deter burglars. However, this was obviously "work in progress" as despite Mary being asked (repeatedly) to knock on the door, she never did hear the barking parrot.

There were several other "Tails" but one quite dramatic one concerned Mary's

Labrador—Silver - an intrepid swimmer. A friend had taken him on a walk by a canal and in he went; after showing no intention of coming out after several miles, serious remedies were called for in the shape of the Fire Brigade and a net slung across the canal; this did the trick but was reported in the local press as “dog being swept along by the current” - in a canal?

Mary’s “Tales” were on a more serious note being concerned with her work with the Diocesan Deliverance Panel - training is given for this work which is to help with strange occurrences and there must be two people in attendance.

Mary cited a couple of the instances she had witnessed - one, of shoes being thrown down the stairs (which the husband was convinced his wife was doing) and another concerning moving water jugs. The underlying cause of such poltergeist activity seems to be an unusual build-up of tension in a home and dealing with this as well as prayers and sprinkling of holy water is often the remedy. There were other instances of “strange occurrences” - some more mundane but still causing disquiet which need to be dealt with if possible.

Mary was thanked for her entertaining and interesting talk and as usual our social teatime ended the afternoon.

Next Meeting: 13th November, 2 p.m. - Talk by Carole Taylor - “The History of St. Andrew’s Church”; followed by the “*Memories are Made of This Singers.*”

Visitors are always very welcome.

Daphne Jones.



WARWICK POPPIES 2018



At 11am on the 11th November 1918, the guns fell silent, marking the end of the First World War. To commemorate the centenary of this historic event and to highlight the part that Warwickshire people played in that terrible war, **Warwick Poppies 2018** is mounting a massive display of thousands of handmade poppies within the magnificent Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick, from 6th October until 9th December.

11,610 soldiers from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment alone lost their lives in the Great War and the initial aim of Warwick Poppies 2018 was to have a poppy for each of them. The project exceeded this target by a long way and the organisers have received more than 30,000 handmade poppies. The poppies arrived from all over the country and some from all over the world, many bringing poignant stories with them of the lasting effect of the First World War on families.

The display also includes bespoke tributes from the Warwickshire Federation of Womens Institutes, the Woodloes Evening Townswomens Guild, and the Guild of Bellringers.

Entry to the display is free and any donations given will be shared equally between the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and St Mary's Church. The display will be open daily 10am to 4pm from October 6th until December 9th 2018, except when the Church is closed for services, weddings or other events.

Along with the display, there will be a few special events to mark the centenary, including "Battle's O'er", part of the Nation's Tribute to the Fallen on the 11th November at 6am followed by an Armistice Breakfast. Also local historians will talk about the famous Christmas Truce on the 6th December, which coincides with St Mary's famous Christmas tree festival.

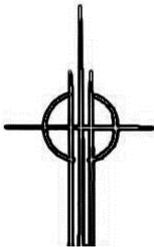
On the 21st November the Lord Lieutenant's Service of Remembrance is being attended by around 400 Warwickshire pupils representing 32 schools – from the very north to the very south of the county. Together with the Lord Lieutenant, Bishop John will be participating, along with the High

Sherriff, Mayor, and the Chairmen of both the District and County Councils. There will be bell ringing, the Last Post, Reveille, the National Anthem and action songs for children. It is set to be a truly memorable event for Warwickshire's school children.



For more information about the display and the services see www.warwickpoppies.org.uk

Update on Bishopton Lunch Friends



Thank you to everyone who has offered to help with the new Bishopton Lunch Friends. To clarify, the Lunch Friends takes place **once a month on the THIRD Thursday** of the month. (St. Andrew's parish lunch club is now on the second Thursday of the month)

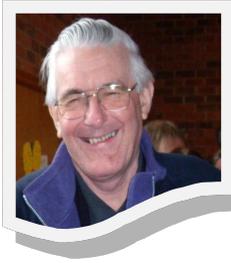
We will trial three monthly Lunch Friends at Bishopton October 18th (now gone!) November 15th and December 20th 2018.

The request for helpers has been excellent- about 16 people have offered to help. Initially for the first one in October, we used a very small number of people, as too many helpers can be off putting for non- church people. Please be patient- if the Lunch Friends takes off, we will need more helpers each month, but I am writing this before we've had the first one!

The kitchen at the Bishopton Community Centre is very small and can only accommodate 2 or 3 people at a time. If anyone would like to offer to make soup for the Lunch Friends in November and/or December, all offers gratefully received.

Thank you again for an excellent response.

Mary Crameri



MORE THAN REMEMBERING.

The passing years continually make their presence felt, and as the Holy Bible teaches - under heaven there is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Nothing remains the same and all things change in one way or another and this, of course, applies to our services of worship, witness and praise.

One change that has taken place over the years has been the loss, from all but one version, of four words in the affirmation of our faith - the Creed. I suspect that this will have passed unnoticed by many people and, at one service only, are these particular words heard and affirmed thus the majority (in my opinion) lose words that convey a deep and necessary spiritual reality.

Now, only at Evensong, can one affirm belief in "the communion of saints".

This month of November is the month for remembering. Our church Lectionary offers to us *All Saints Day*, *The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*, *The Saints and Martyrs of England* and, of course, *Remembrance Sunday*. In these services the Church invites people to remember and commemorate those who were here but have now journeyed on before us.

But I would like to think that there is more than just remembering. The affirmation of belief in "the communion of saints" indicates more than just remembrance. It denotes an ongoing situation where, "in Christ", those who currently live on earth and those who have left this physical realm all equally share God's great gift of life. The act of dying is not a full stop but a comma on a journey to an eternal destiny.

However, due to the strident atheism of our times and the subsequent secularization of much of society that this has brought about, the realm of the spiritual is not considered to be relevant or even true by numerous people. And for many who do become aware of a spiritual void in their lives then it seems anything and everything can be used to fill that vacant space.

But, for Christians, "anything and everything" is not an option. With the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ everything changed for human beings, and thanks to the biblical record and its preservation, the world is aware (even if many are in denial) of God's self-revelation. When the gospel is heard and accepted then not only is life completely changed but so also is death.

Following firstly the Transfiguration, and then the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, humanity is given an insight into the authentic essence of life. Life that is wholly animal-like and materialistic is shown to be a delusion and that "the spiritual" is assuredly a reality. As Teilhard de Chardin the philosopher and Jesuit priest once said - "we are not human beings on a spiritual journey but spiritual beings on a human journey".

With this knowledge the Christian walks each day in resurrection light and as David in his 23rd Psalm wrote - "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil" (N.I.V.).

Edmund Burke, the 18th century philosopher, once commented that "custom reconciles us to everything" . This indicates that the more an opinion is aired the more people will come to accept that opinion regardless of its veracity. This we have seen in the hostility against Christianity by the "New Atheists" of modern times. In answer Christianity increasingly needs to show to the world the trustworthiness of The Bible and its message - not only for today - but for the choosing of one's eternal destiny.

So, as the focus for November rests on our earthly mortality let us remember "the communion of saints" and take heart in the words of our Lord as recorded by John -"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

Alan Minchin.

Don't worry about old age—
it doesn't last



With her marriage she got a new
name and a dress.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

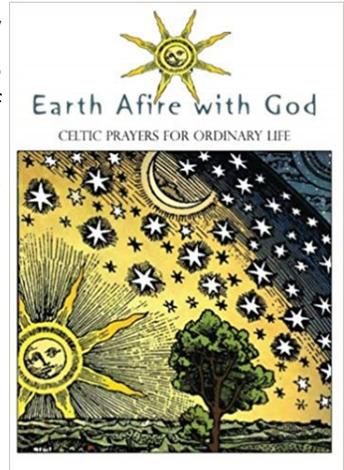


BOOK REVIEWS

Earth Afire with God

Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life

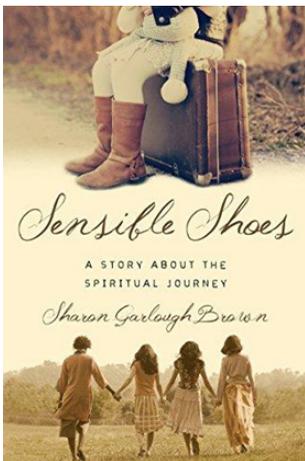
This contains prayers and blessings for daily activities, aimed at looking for the holiness in the everyday and the real presence of God in Creation. These short but powerful prayers connect daily routines with the spiritual and include prayers for washing in the morning, starting the car, seeing a child off to school and sitting at the computer. They will illuminate your life and could become treasures to bless your walk with God.



Sensible Shoes

A Story about the Spiritual Journey

By Sharon Garlough Brown



I decided to read and review this novel after hearing Joan Whyman enthusing about it. It is the story of four very different women who attend a Christian Retreat Centre and are drawn into a spiritual formation journey. It is the prose is deft and beautiful, filled with spiritual insight, truth, beauty and discovery. It is a story to open eyes, comfort and remind us of the importance of relationships. It is the first in a series of four novels and is well worth reading.

Janet Insoll

Shakespeare Hospice

Our November charity will be the Shakespeare Hospice.

The Shakespeare Hospice is asking the people of South Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds to help safeguard its future. The hospice, which last year helped over 1,000 adults and young people, has launched a £500,000 fundraising campaign because as CEO, Angie Arnold explains, the financial climate has become increasingly difficult.



“We are working in challenging times and raising funds in an increasingly competitive market. Demand for our services is growing year upon year and we want to be able to help more people. As our population’s needs change, the complexities of caring for those with a life limiting illness is also changing and we must be able to respond to this.”

The hospice provides support to families affected by life limiting illness, servicing a population of over 300,000 across South Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds. To continue to provide its current level of service, the hospice will need to secure total funding of £2.4 million. The NHS provides just over one tenth of this, leaving the rest needing to be raised by local people and businesses.

The £500,000 will help ensure that The Shakespeare Hospice can continue to provide specialised services, like its 24/7 Hospice at Home service, allowing people to receive end of life care in the place of their choice, surrounded by their loved ones. The Hospice at Home service alone costs £399,000 a year.

“The gravity of our situation is clear, we need to raise more money to meet the increasing demand for our services. Our local community are so supportive and we need more regular donors.

Helping families since 1998, The Shakespeare Hospice is an award-winning hospice and the largest independent day hospice in the West Midlands, offering a diverse range of services to patients, and their families/ carers across South Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds.

Last year, The Shakespeare Hospice supported over 1,000 adults and young people from South Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds who accessed one or more of its specialised services, including the day hospice, hospice at home service, and pre and post bereavement support for families, young people and children.

It also includes transitional care for 16 to 24 year olds, support for young carers, and spiritual, emotional and complementary therapies.

**PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY ON 11th NOVEMBER —
YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**



LITTLE STARS



Over the past two years, Little Stars has provided an opportunity for Mums and toddlers to spend time together twice a month on Friday mornings. The peak has seen twelve children at one time but due to various work commitments and children starting nursery/school numbers have significantly fallen.

Numbers currently average just one, so we feel it is no longer viable to continue at present and from November we will be suspending the group. I wish to thank Hilary Mattocks for her help and support and to the mums and tots who made this such an enjoyable experience.

Jan Walker.

As I was walking Down life's highway many years ago I came upon a sign that
read **Heavens Grocery Store..**

When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide
And when I came to myself I was standing Inside..
I saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said 'My child shop with care.'
Everything a human needed was in that grocery store,
And what you could not carry you could come back for more.
First I got some **Patience, Love** was in that same row.
Further down was **Understanding**, you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of **Wisdom**, and **Faith** a bag or two.
And **Charity** of course I would need some of that too.
I couldn't miss **The Holy Ghost** It was all over the place.
And then some **Strength And Courage** to help me run this race.
My basket was getting full but I remembered I needed **Grace**,
And then I chose **Salvation** for Salvation was for free.
I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.
Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do the Master's Will.
As I went up the aisle I saw **Prayer** and put that in,
For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into Sin.
Peace and Joy were plentiful, the last things on the shelf.
Song and Praise were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to The angel 'Now how much do I owe?'
He smiled and Said 'Just take them everywhere you go.'

Again I asked 'Really now, How much do I owe?'

'My child' he Said, 'God paid your bill a long long time Ago.'

THE INTERREGNUM

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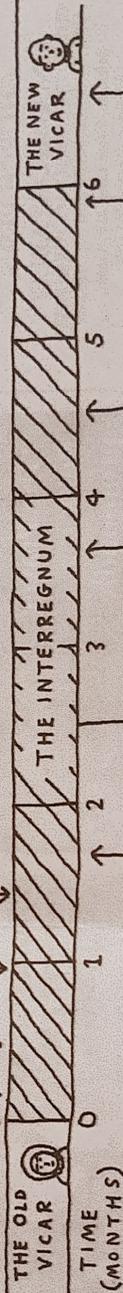
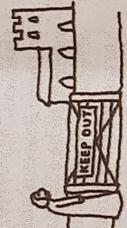
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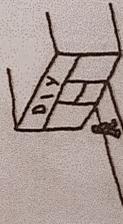
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CHURCHWARDENS PHONE AROUND NEIGHBOURING CLERGY TO FIND ANYONE WHO WILL TAKE A SERVICE

OVERWORKED NON-STIPENDIARY CLERGY TRY TO KEEP EVERYTHING GOING



A FEW PEOPLE DRIFT AWAY



THE DIOCESE SAVES A LOT OF MONEY NOT HAVING TO PAY A STIPEND



CANDIDATES ARE INTERVIEWED. VARIOUS COMMITTEES MEET



THE HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENT

WE HAVE A NEW VICAR!



3 DAYS BEFORE MOVING DAY, WORK ON VICARAGE BEGINS



WELCOMES, BASKETS OF GROCERIES, ETC



John & Maureen Naish would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and presents we received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Also, for the beautiful flowers presented to us in church.

Thank you all so much for your good wishes.



Corinne and Brian Richardson who celebrated their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary in October.

WORD PLAY:

England has no kidney bank but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog but I mist.

I didn't like my beard at first but then it grew on me.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

Whilst on retreat recently I was invited to reflect on John 1:35-51, the call of the first disciples. As part of my time of reflection I wrote the attached poem.

-

The Call of Christ

Come child, come and see, come, come and see;
Lord, I can hear you, are you calling to me.

Come child, come and hear, come, come and hear;
Come and draw close, come, come and draw near.

Come see the old man, dignity lost;
Stumbling and shaking, age has a cost.

Come see the widow, weeping and sad,
Recalling the good times, the love that they had.

Come hear the worker, tired and worn;
Fast-fading youth, bright hopes never born.

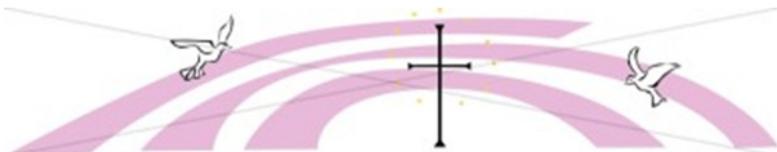
Come see the youth, fuelled by drugs and drinking;
Running with fear, from reality shrinking.

Come hear the hungry with family to feed;
Food banks and benefits barely filling the need.

Voices cry out, sad, weary eyes plead for care;
Hands that need holding, reach for love that is rare.

If only you'd listen; if only you'd see.
I'll be there for you always. Come, follow me.

Joan Whyman



NOAH...TODAY.

In the year 2018, the Lord came unto Noah, Who was now living in America and said: "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me."

"Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing, along with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying: "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Noah!", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?" "Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed." I needed a Building Permit." I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system."

"My neighbours claim that I've violated the Neighbourhood By-Laws by building the Ark in my back garden and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Local Planning Committee for a decision." "Then the Local Council and the Electricity Company demanded a shed load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it."

"Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl."

"I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!" "When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space." "Then the Environmental Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood." "I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew." "Immigration wants me to hire illegal aliens to work." "The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience."

"To make matters worse, the IRS seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species."

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

"Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky."

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?" "No," said the Lord. "The Government beat me to it."

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Diary of a cross in the pocket.

Reminder to check out our Facebook and our website (weekdays) short meditations by Revd. Joan Whyman.

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269714 Email: clodagh.mallison@btinternet.com

Searchlight Distribution: Bob & Fran Kibblewhite—07906355065
Pat Morris (Deputy)

Searchlight Advertising: David Millington. 269598
Email: dmillington3@hotmail.com

PARISH CONTACTS

Vicar: Vacant—in interregnum. Please contact the Parish Office—01789 293381
st.andrewschurch@btinternet.com

Honorary Clergy with Permission from the Bishop to Officiate:

Revd. Canon David Capron - 762904 and Revd. Mary Crameri .— 296650

Preacher: Revd. Joan Whyman

Readers: Sarah Cushing and Jan Walker

Churchwardens: Bob Macvie 551767 ragmacvie@hotmail.com

David Whyman. 298905 joan.davidwhyman@virgin.net

Parish Office. (Open Monday/Friday 10-12 and Monday 2-4 pm)
Margaret Spencer. 293381 Email: st.andrewschurch@btinternet.com

P.C.C. The Clergy, Churchwardens and

David Millington (Secretary) 269598 dmillington3@hotmail.com

Carole Taylor (Treasurer), 295132 carole@carookes.co.uk

**Other Members: Hilary Capron, Sarah Cushing, Jackie Daniels*, Sylvaine Gravestock,
Jane Ireland, Orion Johnson*, Ann McNeil, Clodagh Mallison, Hilary Mattocks, Pat
Morris, Chris Susnik. * = Deanery Synod Reps.**

Audio Visual Manager: Nic Carree 294121 measure4pleasure@btinternet.com

Baptism Visitors: Mary Radbourne/ Betty Ingram 204551/551994

Bereavement Visitors: Sarah Cushing 293381 sarahlcushing@gmail.com

Bible Reading Fellowship: Alan Minchin 294731 alan.minchin941@gmail.com

Cathedral Parish Partner: Clodagh Mallison 269714 clodagh.mallison@btinternet.com

Cell Group: Mary Boddington 263643 bodds4@btinternet.com

Church Flowers: Parish Office 293381 st.andrews@btinternet.com

Churchwarden Emeritus: David Challis 298388

Churchwarden Emeritus: Jackie Daniels 266637

Fabric Committee: David Whyman 298905. joan.davidwhyman@virgin.net

Fellow Travellers : Rebecca Harrison 293381 st.andrewschurch@btinternet.com

Finance: Richard Prior (Chairman) 720118 richardjohnprior@hotmail.co.uk

Ladies Fellowship: Jo Carver 292528 tonecarver@gmail.com

Little Stars Toddler Group Jan Walker 293381 pjanwalker@hotmail.co.uk

Mothers' Union: Audrey Edwards 204538 audreymedwards46@yahoo.com

Organist & Choir Master: Rosemary & Larry Robson 296134

therobsonfamily@hotmail.com

Parish Centre: David Millington 269598 dmillington3@hotmail.com

Parish Information Officer: Clodagh Mallison 269714 clodagh.mallison@btinternet.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: David Millington. 260598 dmillington3@hotmail.com

Sacrist: Alan Minchin 294731

Asst. Sacrist: Andrew Mills 205276

Stewardship & Gift Aid: Anne Challis 298388

Transport : Parish Office. 293381 st.andrewschurch@btinternet.com

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