



The Ginkgo Tree of Hiroshima a Story of Survival and Hope

Above: Autumn yellow ginkgo tree viewed from Senjokaku (Hokoku Shrine) in Miyajima, Hiroshima, Japan

At 6pm on Friday 15th August, we held a service of commemoration for VJ Day, to remember all those who suffered as a result of the war with Japan. Suggested by long time parishioner Rod Love, this article, about the Hiroshima ginkgo tree, is one of new life and resurrection.

On the morning of August 6th, 1945, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was forever changed. At 8:15 a.m., an atomic bomb was dropped over the city. In a matter of moments, tens of thousands of lives were lost, and the landscape was reduced to ashes. Buildings crumbled, the air burned, and even the trees seemed to vanish under the force and heat of the explosion.

Yet, in the midst of that devastation, something remarkable happened.

In the grounds of the Hōsenbō temple, just over a mile from the

blast's centre, there stood a ginkgo biloba tree. It was badly burned. Its branches were stripped bare. The bark was scarred and split. Many thought it was finished — like so much else in the city that day. But the ginkgo was not dead. The following spring, green shoots began to appear. New leaves unfurled. Life, stubborn and gentle, returned.

Today, over 80 years later, that same tree still grows. It is one of several “hibaku jumoku” — literally, “trees that were bombed” — that survived the atomic blast and continue to thrive in Hiroshima. The

ginkgo, a species often called a “living fossil” because it has existed for over 200 million years, seems to carry in its very nature a resilience against disaster.

For many in Japan, these trees have become symbols of endurance and hope. They are living reminders that life can emerge again from ruin, that the last word is not always destruction, and that renewal is possible even when the world seems beyond repair.

It's hard not to hear echoes of the Christian story in that image — of life springing up from what looked like certain death. Just as the ginkgo put out new leaves where there had been only charred wood, so the Gospel tells of resurrection where there had been only the cross.

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Draft Rota – Your feedback needed

A copy of the new draft rota is printed below. This version reflects the helpful comments I received after the first draft – thank you to everyone who took the time to get in touch.

It may not be perfect yet, so I would be very grateful if you could check your entries carefully and let me know of any changes, swaps, or corrections needed. Once I've gathered all your feedback, I'll be able to prepare the final version and publish it.

When the rota is finalised, the sidespersons, readers, and coffee rota notices will return to the regular newsletter, making it easy to see at a glance who's on duty each week.

Thank you for your patience, and for the generosity of time and energy you give to help our services run smoothly. And remember – if you don't spot a mistake, it might just mean you're down for everything!

		17-Aug	24-Aug	31-Aug	07-Sep	14-Sep
	Rota	Isaiah 5.1-7 Luke 12.49-56	Acts 5.12-16 Luke 22.24-30	Jeremiah 2.4-13 Luke 14.1,7-14	Jeremiah 18.1-11 Luke 14.25-33	Jeremiah 4.11-12,22-28 Luke 15.1-10
8.00am Said Eucharist	8:30am Said Eucharist	Trinity 9	Trinity 10 / Bartholomew	Trinity 11	Trinity 12	Trinity 13
	Officiant	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Preacher	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Reader OT	Andrea Waine	Peter Milner	Philip Range	Susan Range	TBC
	Sidespersons					
	Sidesperson 1	Franklin Bello	Peter Milner	Irene Farrimond	Franklin Bello	Irene Farrimond
	Sidesperson 2	Peter Milner	Angela Milner	Elizabeth Bunyan	Peter Milner	Elizabeth Bunyan
10.00am Sung Eucharist	10am Sung Eucharist	Trinity 9	Trinity 10 / Bartholomew	Trinity 11	Trinity 12	Trinity 13 / All Age
	Officiant	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Preacher	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Reader 1	Laraine Southwell	Brian Bamber	Andrea Waine	Melvyn Gardner	Ann Buttenworth
	Prayers	Angela Milner	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Diane Raynor	Set Prayers / Rev Simon King
	Sidespersons					
	Sidesperson 1	Barbara Palmer	Laraine Southwell	Brian Bamber	Andrea Cartwright	Linda Woollard
	Sidesperson 2		Jenny Stanton		Joyce Helm	Alistair Woollard
	Coffee					
	Coffee	Laraine and Ann	Brian and Melvyn	Laraine and Ann	Linda and Alistair	Barbara and Christine
		Banns - Robin Parkin & Jo Adkins	Banns - Robin Parkin & Jo Adkins			Baptism - Isaac Owens

		21-Sep	28-Sep	05-Oct	12-Oct	19-Oct
	Rota	Proverbs 3.13-18 Matthew 9.9-13	Jeremiah 32.1-3a,6-15 Luke 16.19-31	Lamentations 1.1-6 Luke 17.5-10	Jeremiah 29.1,4-7 Luke 17.11-19	Jeremiah 31.27-34 Luke 18.1-8
8.00am Said Eucharist	8:30am Said Eucharist	Trinity 14 / Matthew	Trinity 15	Trinity 16	Trinity 17 / Harvest	Trinity 18
	Officiant	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King
	Preacher	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King
	Reader OT	Angela Milner	Peter Milner	Philip Walsh	Andrea Waine	Philip Range
	Sidespersons					
	Sidesperson 1	Franklin Bello	Peter Milner	Philip Range	Irene Farrimond	Franklin Bello
	Sidesperson 2	Angela Milner	Angela Milner	Susan Range	Elizabeth Bunyan	Angela Milner
10.00am Sung Eucharist	10am Sung Eucharist	Trinity 14 / Matthew	Trinity 15	Trinity 16	Trinity 17 / Harvest / All Age	Trinity 18
	Officiant	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor
	Preacher	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King
	Reader 1	Laraine Southwell	Brian Bamber	Andrea Waine	Ann Buttenworth	Philip Walsh
	Prayers	Rev Janet Taylor	Angela Milner	Diane Raynor	Set Prayers / Middleforth Children	Rev Janet Taylor
	Sidespersons					
	Sidesperson 1	Sylvia Johnson	Barbara Palmer	Laraine Southwell	Brian Bamber	Andrea Cartwright
	Sidesperson 2		Jenny Stanton			Joyce Helm
	Coffee					
	Coffee	Laraine and Ann	Brian and Melvyn	Linda and Alistair	Barbara and Christine	Laraine and Ann

		26-Oct	02-Nov	09/11/2025 @ 8am	16-Nov	23-Nov
	Rota	Joel 2.23-32 Luke 18.9-14	Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18 Luke 6.20-31	Job 19.23-27a Luke 20.27-38	Malachi 4.1-2a Luke 21.5-19	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Luke 23.33-43
8.00am Said Eucharist	8:30am Said Eucharist	Last after Trinity	All Saints Day	Remembrance Sunday	2 before Advent	Christ the King
	Officiant	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Preacher	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Reader OT	Susan Range	Angela Milner	Andrea Waine	Peter Milner	Philip Walsh
	Sidespersons					
	Sidesperson 1	Peter Milner	Philip Range	Irene Farrimond	Franklin Bello	Peter Milner
	Sidesperson 2	Angela Milner	Susan Range	Elizabeth Bunyan	Angela Milner	Angela Milner

		10am Sung Eucharist	Last after Trinity	All Saints Day	Remembrance Sunday @ 9:15am	2 before Advent	Christ the King
10.00am Sung Eucharist	Officiant	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor
	Preacher	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Simon King	Rev Janet Taylor	Rev Simon King
	Reader 1	Melvyn Gardner	Andrea Waine	Ann Buttenworth	Laraine Southwell	Brian Bamber	
	Prayers	Rev Simon King	Diane Raynor	Set Prayers / Scouts?	Angela Milner	Rev Simon King	
	Sidespersons						
	Sidesperson 1	Linda Woollard	Sylvia Johnson	Barbara Palmer	Laraine Southwell	Brian Bamber	
	Sidesperson 2	Alistair Woollard			Jenny Stanton		
	Coffee						
	Coffee	Brian and Melvyn	Linda and Alistair	Barbara and Christine	Laraine and Ann	Brian and Melvyn	

The Ginkgo Tree of Hiroshima continued...

The hibaku trees are not just beautiful; they are also witnesses. They have stood silently for decades, speaking without words of the possibility of peace and the persistence of life.

Perhaps they also offer us a question: when the storms and fires of our own lives leave us feeling scorched and bare, can we trust that God can bring new growth from what feels lost?

The ginkgo tree in Hiroshima will never be quite as it was before the blast — its scars remain. But perhaps that makes it even more precious. Its survival does not erase what happened; it transforms it into a sign of hope.

In Revelation 22, John's vision of the New Jerusalem speaks of "the tree of life... and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." In a world that still knows war and grief, the ginkgo of Hiroshima stands quietly in its temple garden, offering its green leaves to all who pass by, a living parable of that promise.

Summary Fri 8 Aug	
Pool Swim Open Goal	
Freestyle (1,600m)	
11:46–12:37	
Preston	
Workout Time	Distance
0:50:50	1,600M
Active Kilocalories	Total Kilocalories
734KCAL	844KCAL
Avg Pace	Avg Heart Rate
3'10"/100m	95BPM
Lengths	Pool Length
64	25M

Summary Sat 9 Aug	
Pool Swim Open Goal	
Freestyle (1,600m)	
14:49–15:39	
Preston	
Workout Time	Distance
0:50:05	1,600M
Active Kilocalories	Total Kilocalories
700KCAL	808KCAL
Avg Pace	Avg Heart Rate
3'07"/100m	101BPM
Lengths	Pool Length
64	25M

Another week in the swimming pool and 13 miles done, the last length is in sight.

By the time you read this, Rev Simon should have started his third and final week of the 21 miles in 21 days challenge. Apart from the vague whiff of chlorine in the church, and a vicar who falls asleep whenever he sits down, the second week has gone well. Again a huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported him in this soggy adventure. With money still coming in on the gofundme page (QR code left), the final total may not be known until week commencing 25th August, by which time he may have dried out.



Summary Sun 10 Aug	
Pool Swim Open Goal	
Freestyle (1,600m)	
12:17–13:05	
Preston	
Workout Time	Distance
0:48:34	1,600M
Active Kilocalories	Total Kilocalories
727KCAL	832KCAL
Avg Pace	Avg Heart Rate
3'02"/100m	119BPM
Lengths	Pool Length
64	25M

Back Mon 11 Aug	
Pool Swim Open Goal	
Freestyle (1,600m)	
07:08–08:03	
Preston	
Workout Time	Distance
0:54:51	1,600M
Active Kilocalories	Total Kilocalories
795KCAL	913KCAL
Avg Pace	Avg Heart Rate
3'25"/100m	115BPM
Lengths	Pool Length
64	25M

Summary Tue 12 Aug	
Pool Swim Open Goal	
Freestyle (1,600m)	
07:21–08:14	
Preston	
Workout Time	Distance
0:52:53	1,600M
Active Kilocalories	Total Kilocalories
772KCAL	886KCAL
Avg Pace	Avg Heart Rate
3'18"/100m	117BPM
Lengths	Pool Length
64	25M

Summary Wed 13 Aug	
Pool Swim Open Goal	
Freestyle (1,600m)	
07:06–08:01	
Preston	
Workout Time	Distance
0:54:20	1,600M
Active Kilocalories	Total Kilocalories
791KCAL	908KCAL
Avg Pace	Avg Heart Rate
3'23"/100m	89BPM
Lengths	Pool Length
64	25M

St. Leonard's Afternoon Tea

To be held on

Sunday 31 August 2025
in the Church Hall
from 2pm

Please sign up on
the sheet at the
back of church
- Don't miss out
spaces are filling
up quickly.

£12
per person



ALL PROCEEDS TO THE CHURCH FUNDS

CHURCH DIARY

Sunday 17 August - Trinity 9

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 20 August

10am Eucharist

Friday 22 August

8am Morning prayer in church
for growth and renewal.

Sunday 24 August - Trinity 10

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 27 August

10am Eucharist

Friday 29 August

8am Morning prayer in church
for growth and renewal.

Sunday 31 August - Trinity 11

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 3 September

10am Eucharist



Good news for our wild flower project!

We're delighted to share that St Leonard's, Penwortham has been successful in our recent grant application to South Ribble Borough Council. We've been awarded £180 to help purchase pollinator-friendly shrubs for our wild flower border along the side of the church.

The new shrubs will provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies, and other important pollinating insects — helping to boost local biodiversity and make our church grounds even more welcoming for people and wildlife alike.

The wild flower border is already a much-loved splash of colour in the summer months, and this extra funding will allow us to add even more variety and seasonal interest. We look forward to planting the shrubs soon and watching them grow into a haven for pollinators.

A big thank you to South Ribble Borough Council for their support, and to all those in our church family who care for and maintain the gardens. This is a small grant with a big impact — helping us to care for creation right on our doorstep.

If you have any prayer requests that you would like to share in this newsletter, please email revsimonking@gmail.com

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Organist:	David Cookson (07721 677831)
Safeguarding Officer:	Vacant
Leo's (Sunday School)	Please see Jenny Stanton or Jeanette Smith

Church Hall Enquiries:
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Eco Champion:
Acting Choir Leader:
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Electoral Roll Officer:

Gift Aid Officer:

St. Leonard's News

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If you have any news that you would like to share in this newsletter, please email revsimonking@gmail.com