

The Rectory St James the Least

My dear nephew Darren



Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised an annual pumpkin growing competition. Regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since our church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. There is a certain irony that our church sponsors the most war-like activity in our annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts with planting and from that moment every other potential entrant is regarded as the enemy. Once seedlings are planted out armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate about sinister undetectable herbicides.

As the big day approaches contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. On the eve of the show tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for 25 years.

The Earl of Stowe always wins first prize. That his mother is the judge is, I am sure, pure coincidence.

That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick does raise doubts.

And I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate.

It has been suggested that another judge should be appointed but no one has stepped forward. They would face a year of hatred from all who were not successful. Who could dare?

Your loving uncle, Eustace

HOLLINFARE St HELEN August 2025 Bulletin



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Thank you to Sharon at Conexus for
printing our Bulletin

50 years ago this month

Sunday School restarted in August after the summer break with 37 children on the roll with classes once again being held in Church House after the completion of its redecoration work.

Two new teachers, Julie Outram and Linda Fryer, took one of the infants' classes while the other was taken by Joyce and Ann Gibbins.

Jackie Strapps, Diane Pownall and Shirley Herridge were all engaged on a project for the six to 10 year olds; it was concerned with the role of our own community and its meaning in God's world.

An innovation was the post-confirmation class in the capable hands of Stephen Shaw. All those recently confirmed and their friends over 12 were welcomed and Alan hoped some of them would become Sunday School teachers in the future. This aim was ultimately achieved.

The PCC had agreed the next major project would be the redecoration of the interior of church and preliminary work of waterproofing and plastering was started and completed within the month, our Sunday services being held in our day school.

Ian Webster master-minded the whole operation and the entire cost of the project was paid in advance by a member of the congregation who wished to remain anonymous.

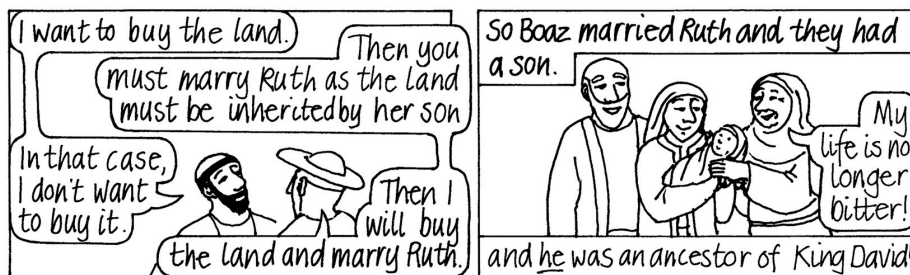
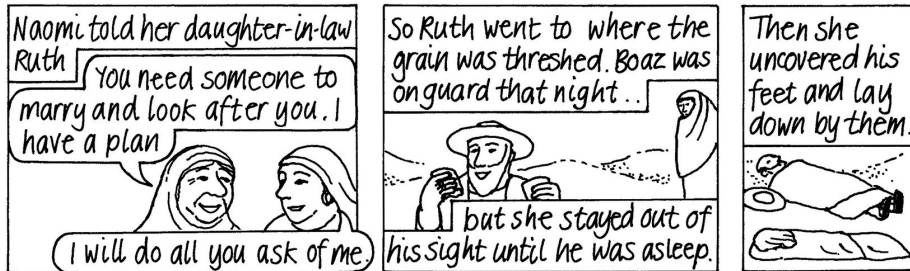
Once again, we were assisted in the work by inmates of Appleton Open Prison and the former young offenders living in the vicarage as part of their rehabilitation.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ruth chapters 3 and 4

Naomi and Ruth had returned to Bethlehem as widows. Ruth had worked during the harvest in the fields of Boaz, a near relative.



Shared worship

The congregations of our own church and All Saints worshipped together once again at Glazebury last month.

Even though our day schools had closed and the summer holiday period had begun the attendance was once again excellent.

We will be together again on Holy Cross day, September 13, here at St Helen's.

Most appropriately, we shall be back at Glazebury on the feast day for all the saints on November 2 and with us that day will be our interim bishop, the Right Rev Ruth Worsley.

Both services will start at 10.30am.

P. J. LUNDY

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Diary dates for August

Services

- 3 Holy Communion 9.30 T7
- 7 Monthly service is cancelled
- 10 Holy Communion 9.30 T8
- 17 Holy Communion 9.3 T9
- 24 Holy Communion 9.30 T10
- 31 Holy Communion 9.30 T11



Readers

- 3 ROY
- 10 TBA
- 17 RAINFORDS
- 24 TBA
- 31 ROY



Prayers

- 3 ROY
- 10 ROY
- 17 ROY
- 24 ROY
- 31 ROY

Cleaning rota

- 3 SHEILA, VIRGINIA, IRENE C
- 10/17/24/31 ALAN AND IRENE D

Coffee morning

Saturday August 23 10.0

Just for fun

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?" "Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

The new curate had visited the local prison and had taken along his electric guitar. He was so pleased with the applause that he responded: 'Thank you for your appreciation. I hope that I will see you all back here again next year.'



VILLAGE GREEN BARBERS



Church House, Manchester Road

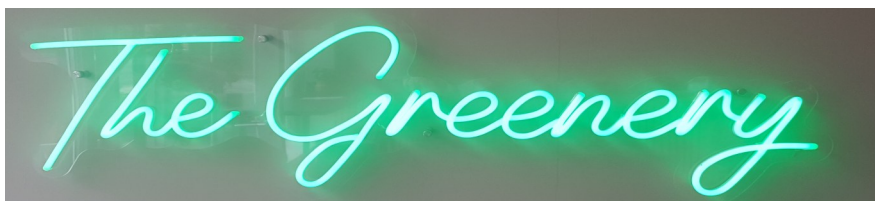
Open Monday and Tuesday 9 to 5.30
 Thursday 9 to 7.0
 Friday 9 to 5.30
 Saturday 8.30 to noon

Proclaiming the Word

Our Holy Bible is to be read in its entirety at Christ Church in Padgate from August 18 to 23 and everyone is welcome to take part. From 6.0am to 10pm each day a portion of scripture will be read for 20 minutes at a time.

The Rev Simon Renison of the Christ Church Collective is overseeing the initiative along with Rev Philippa Shaw of the adjoining parishes of St Margaret and All Hallows and St Andrew's.

The rota with spaces to complete is contained on the web address hello@churchcollective.uk If you simply wish to attend at some time during the six days you can simply go along and listen.



96 Glazebrook Lane

Open

Tuesday to Friday	8am-5pm.
Saturday & Sunday	9am-4pm

The Lord's Prayer has the best lines

People in the UK are more likely to identify correctly a short extract from the Lord's Prayer – also known as the Our Father – than one from the National Anthem and other sources chosen for their deep cultural resonance, a new poll has found.

The polling, carried out for the Church of England, also found the reference in the prayer to being forgiven and forgiving others was the element people found most meaningful to them.

Pollsters Savanta surveyed more than 2,000 people across the UK. They asked them to match seven famous lines – spanning areas ranging from literature and history to popular culture – with their source, from a list of correct answers.

Overall, the phrase from the Lord's Prayer was recognised correctly by the largest number of people (80.3 per cent), just ahead of Star Wars (79.9 per cent).

They were followed by Hamlet's "To be or not to be" (73), an extract from the National Anthem (63) a line from Churchill's 'The Few' speech (61) and You'll Never Walk Alone (58).

Overall, 89 per cent said they had previously heard of the Lord's Prayer.

This was highest among those who described themselves as Christian (95 per cent), but also by 88 per cent of those who had no religion.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell commented: "The Lord's Prayer remains a steady guide – perhaps never more so than now.

"Lines like 'Give us this day our daily bread' speak powerfully to today's challenges, reminding us to seek sufficiency, not excess, and to consider what 'enough' truly means."

August 15: the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our front cover shows our magnificent window celebrating the Annunciation of our Blessed Virgin Mary, installed 50 years ago.

On August 15 we remember her Assumption into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

This has been marked in the Church since the fifth century and became widespread 200 years later.

The feast reflects the belief that Mary, being free from sin, was not subject to the corruption of death that is our fate.

The occasion passes almost unnoticed in our own country but across Europe there are lavish events. Irene and I came across a day-long host of activities and entertainments in the Breton seaside town of Benodet while we were on holiday some years ago.

They finished with hundreds of boats emerging from the Odet river into the Finistere seafront where from static barges there ascended thousands of fireworks.

Dull humankind needs these mountain peaks of life.

John Mason Neale: a special hymn-writer

One or two members of our congregation have expressed their appreciation of the notes about our hymn writers which appear on the front page of our weekly sheet.

The Church remembers a special composer on the 7th of this month—John Mason Neale who is worthy of a more detailed tribute.

John wrote some of our most beloved hymns and also translated dozens more from the Latin, old German or old French, the latter including my own favourite, *Jerusalem the Golden*, which has been sung for 1,000 years.

A tenth of the hymns in our *English Hymnal* are attributed to John.

Born in London in 1818, John was educated at Trinity College Cambridge and ordained in 1841. He had set his heart on becoming a vicar with his own parish but sadly his chronic ill-health left him too weak for his calling.

Instead he was appointed warden of an alms house in East Grinstead where he lived and worked for the rest of his life.

He used the peace and quiet of his job to good effect producing *All glory laud and honour, O happy band of pilgrims, The day of resurrection, O come Emmanuel*, and *Christ is made the sure foundation* among many many others.

At a time when Anglo-Catholics were “in fashion” he provided an important balance by reminding the Church of its largely forgotten Eastern heritage.