

Together

Benefice Magazine

Cheddar, Draycott and Rodney Stoke



God has time for everyone

May 2026

£1

BENEFICE INFORMATION



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(St. Peter's & St. Leonard's information on inside back cover)

Pastoral Letter – Hilary Thomas



Do not be afraid

If we are honest, most of us are afraid of some things sometimes - and we worry. Maybe we are concerned for those we love, their health and wellbeing, or our own frailty. Or finances, how to pay the bills, provide for the future. What does the future hold? Will I get a job after all the training I have done? Can I afford to give?

The loss of someone we love, the loneliness and our fear of change, moving to a new area, a new school. Where will I fit in? Where do I belong? And the world itself is changing all the time. What is in store for our country, our world? So many problems that seem insoluble. So much to learn. And how do we know who or what to trust?

I am writing this just after Easter Sunday. We have been reminded that those first followers of Jesus were bewildered, terrified, that first Easter Day. The angels told them *“don’t be afraid. He is risen”*. Jesus, as He meets them, also tells them, *“don’t be afraid”* and He sends them to go and tell others that He is alive.

The Lord who has power over death and hell and all the world, the Lord who created the world, and holds the world in His mighty power is the One who loves each person, each creature. He is Lord of the present but holds the past and the future in His hands.

What deep peace and joy and comfort to know this. May we, in God’s strength, share the Good News with others by our words and by our lives.

Hilary

A footnote: Many of you will already know and love the beautiful walks, picnic area and views all around St. Andrew’s Church in Clevedon. I recently visited the inside of the church and found it very inspiring. I can recommend a visit to that area of Clevedon for all, including dogwalkers.



Photos:
Hilary
Thomas



Bishop's Letter



Called to care

I heard about one of the earliest scientists to get involved in climate change research. When he began, the researcher said, he'd believed that if we could just get the science right, all the challenges could be resolved. The best information would enable humankind to find the right technologies and take the right actions to bring climate change under control.

Twenty-five years on, the scientist said, he'd realised he'd got it all wrong. What we need to sort out, he said, is the human heart. We know what to do to address the climate emergency. Our challenge is that we're all too liable to place the actions we need to take into the 'too difficult' box, or just deny there's a problem altogether.

Yet whether we like it or not, the climate emergency is a reality that is advancing upon us. It's seen in rising sea levels and increased freak weather. Talk to our brothers and sisters in Zambia and they'll tell you that the climate emergency is upon them now in increased droughts and floods.

Last year the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis saw leading experts brief an audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The Briefing outlined the implications of climate breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. If you've not seen it please can I encourage you to find out where you can watch it.

I invite us all to think too about the next steps we can take to address an issue we'd probably rather ignore. The Church of England has set the bold target of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030. Our churches can make a difference in local communities towards achieving this ambitious goal.

I urge you to fill out your church's Carbon Footprint return, sign up to achieve an A Rocha Eco Church Award, make whatever difference you can where you are. Such actions are a sign of us turning around – metanoia as the New Testament puts it – away from denial of what's wrong towards putting things right. Our actions can be signs of the change in heart that all of us need to make.

Bishop Michael

READINGS AND SERVICES

| | Cheddar | Draycott | Rodney Stoke |
|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3rd May Easter 5 | 10am Morning Prayer | 9.30am | 11.15am |
| | 3.15pm First Sunday, Cheddar Village Hall | Holy Communion | Holy Communion |
| 10th May Easter 6 | 10am Holy Communion | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 11.15am Holy Communion |
| 17th May Easter 7 | 8am BCP Communion | 9.30am | 11.15am |
| | 10am Holy Communion | Holy Communion | Holy Communion |
| 24th May Pentecost | 10am | 9.30am | 11.15am |
| | Holy Communion | Holy Communion | Matins |
| 31st May Trinity Sunday | 10am Benefice Celebration Service | Holy Communion | St Andrew's |

| | Psalm | First Reading | Second Reading |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3rd May Easter 5 | 31: | Acts | John |
| | 1 - 5 | 7: 55-end | 14: 1-14 |
| 10th May Easter 6 | 66: | Acts | John |
| | 7 - end | 17: 22-31 | 14: 15-21 |
| 17th May Easter 7 | 68: | Acts | John |
| | 1 - 10 | 1: 6-14 | 17: 1-11 |
| 24th May Pentecost | 104: | Acts | John |
| | 26 - end | 2: 1-21 | 20: 19-23 |
| 31st May Trinity Sunday | 8 | 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end | Matthew 28: 16-end |

FROM THE REGISTERS:

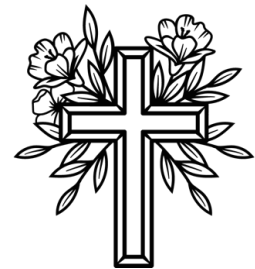
Baptism:

We welcome into the Church family:

Winnifred Scholes (St Andrew's Church, 28th March)

Lydia Tinten-Craciun (St Peter's Church, 12th April)

Stella Bruce and Simeon Thomas (Cheddar Baptist Church, 25th April)



Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of: Richard Hall, Alan Rayfield and Margaret Maher.



All Things not-so-bright (Part 2)

You might remember that I wrote in the March magazine about hymns that we sing in church but which are not really a happy experience, and I asked you to comment. More of the answers were about the tunes than the words, and the fact that they lie too high for easy singing.

Organists get into the habit of transposing tunes into a lower key, to suit voices that lose their flexibility as they get older. That great stand-by of carol services *Hark The Herald Angels Sing* is set to a tune by Mendelssohn in G major, but I would always play it down a tone in F major to avoid those repeated high notes.

Some tunes however have such a wide vocal range that they just can't be made any easier to sing. What would Harvest Festivals be without *We Plough The Fields And Scatter*? But whichever key you play that tune in it will always be too low in the voice at *the good seed on the land* and too high at *sent from heaven above*.

Another tune with a very wide range is *Londonderry Air* which we use for a number of wonderful modern hymns, such as *O Christ The Same, Though All Our Story's Pages*. The first half of the tune is deep and mysterious; the second half is high and triumphant. Men say they have to change gear and sing an octave lower. But the tune is just too beautiful to lose.

There seems to be a general antipathy to hymns with repeated choruses [but there are thousands of years of precedence for repeated refrains – just look at Psalm 136 at end of this article]. One hymn which is particularly singled out is *One More Step Along The World I Go*. It's fine for little children, but it quickly palls, and teachers say they're sick and tired of it. It's fun when you're seven to bark out when the world is RUFF, but when you're seventy...

One of the clergy wrote that more people learn their religion by singing "old favourite" hymns than by listening to sermons. I suppose that may be why, for many people, their knowledge of theology is stuck in the past. Our hymnbook has over 800 hymns, and some of the best and most relevant of them were written by people who are younger than I am; I do hope that before long these hymns will also become the old favourites.

David Cheetham.

(Extract from Psalm 136.

Sihon, King of the Amorites, *for his mercy endureth for ever,*

And Og, the King of Basan, *for his mercy endureth for ever.* Naughty!)



Latest News from St. Leonard's

Mothering Sunday was led by both Stuart and Thea and it was really lovely to have some children in the congregation who very enthusiastically got involved in Stuart's sermon discussing the colours in one of our windows and also helped distribute all the beautiful posies that were made.

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. At St. Leonard's we are very lucky that Rebecca Mann brings Daisy the donkey on **Palm Sunday** to lead the procession around the church whilst everyone tries to keep in time with the organ singing *All Glory, Laud and Honour*. **Easter Sunday** was celebrated with a good number in the congregation. The church looked beautiful and many thanks go to the talented flower arrangers and to those who organise a collection to purchase the lilies that are displayed on the alter.

The Somernotes Concert. A huge thank you to all those who supported the concert on the 28th March. We raised £517 all going to church funds. It was great to see the church completely full. A varied programme beginning with a Cole Porter Medley, which then led into four songs that have been recorded by Frank Sinatra such as *Blue Moon*.

There were songs from the musicals and Natalie Hope sang a song from *A Chorus Line*. This was followed by an aria and chorus from *The Magic Flute* and then a lied by Schubert. The next section included songs from the films such as *The Rose*, *Adelaide's Lament* from *Guys And Dolls* - once more sung by Natalie - and *Some Enchanted Evening*. The final section was mainly spirituals such as *Steal Away*, modern favourite *You Raise Me Up* and *I Got A Robe* which certainly created much foot tapping from the audience.

What with Dave's jokes, it was a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the PCC for the wonderful refreshments that were served after the concert. Many thanks, especially to The Somernotes (Steve Hope, Peter Bowyer, Roger Burdock, Dave Kelly and Bernie Tarleton) and to Natalie Hope for their time and wonderful.

Please see elsewhere in the magazine for another review of the concert and further forthcoming events at St. Leonard's.

Joanne Turner

TREASURE TRAIL

Centred around St. Leonard's Church and Stoke Street in Rodney Stoke

Saturday 20th June

From 1.45 PM to 4.30 PM

Start and finish in the Church Hall

Parking opposite the church.

Come and join in the treasure hunt. All correct answers entered into draw to win a luxury hamper.

(Draw at 4. 15 PM)

Lovely refreshments available. Raffle.

Preceded by Recorder Concert

1.00 PM – 1. 45 PM in the church.

All proceeds and donation towards church funds.



A WARNING?



The official guide to the parish church of St. Mary, Litton, recounts the recent story of when one of the churchyard lime trees, succumbing to fungal disease, crashed through several windows in the north aisle, just as the Vicar was in mid-sermon, speaking of the need to observe 'signs from on high'.

The Somernotes at St. Leonard's



A Somernote writes: On Saturday 28th March 2026, we resumed singing at our concert at St Leonard's Church in Rodney Stoke with our new line-up:
- Bernie Tarleton (bass), Dave Kelly (baritone), Roger Burdock and Peter Bowyer (2nd tenors) and Steve Hope (top tenor).



Natalie Hope also brilliantly contributed to our concert by singing two solos: *What I Did For Love* from *A Chorus Line* and *Adelaide's Lament* from *Guys And Dolls*.

Thank you, Natalie. We look forward to you similarly joining us again very soon.

Our accompanist and musical director, Paul Beechey recently moved away to Sherborne, Dorset and we were therefore left without an accompanist. That said, we were very relieved and delighted to be accompanied by Joanne Turner. She has been a real Godsend as she not only accompanied us but also designed and printed posters, banners, flyers and the concert programme. She also had a major hand in providing some very tasty refreshments after the concert.

Many thanks indeed go to Jo and her husband Alex who was a very efficient page turner. (And 'key note player' – Ed.) We sang to a packed Church and had a thoroughly enjoyable time and many of the audience came up to us afterwards to say how much they enjoyed our singing.

(Photos: Honor Neave)

CHURCH ROTAS

MAY

| | May 3 | May 10 | May 17 | May 24 | May 31 |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| CHEDDAR (St. Andrew's) | <i>MP</i> | <i>HC</i> | <i>HC</i> | <i>HC</i> | <i>Ben. Service</i> |
| | | | | | <i>Stuart's 10th Ann.</i> |
| Sidesperson (8.00) | <i>n/a</i> | | Marie | <i>n/a</i> | <i>n/a</i> |
| Sidesperson Team Leader | Fiona | Richard S./Gill | Ken B. | Ade | David B. |
| Sidesperson 1 | Rosemary | Helen | Marguerite | Frankie | Margaret G. |
| Sidesperson 2 | Anne L. | Peter | Adrian | Anne L. | Jennie |
| Sidesperson 3 | <i>n/a</i> | Gill (<i>if not TL</i>) | Jo | Anne H. | Claire |
| Sidesperson 4 | <i>n/a</i> | Ellen | <i>n/a</i> | <i>n/a</i> | <i>n/a</i> |
| Cleaning 1 | Mo | Margaret B. | Davies fam. | Ade | Rosemary |
| Cleaning 2 | David S. | Peter | Davies fam. | Frankie | Karen |
| St. Nectan Chapel Flowers | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> | <i>tbc</i> |
| Church Flowers - Altar | Frankie | Frankie | Julie H. | Julie H. | Alan |
| Church Flowers - Table | Frankie | Frankie | Julie H. | Julie H. | Alan |
| Brass Cleaning | Jean D. | <i>n/a</i> | Ade | <i>n/a</i> | Dawn |
| Coffee/Tea 1 | Roger B. | Rosemary | Deborah | Ann D. | Ann L. |
| Coffee/Tea 2 | Jane | Fiona | Hale family | Davies fam. | Pam B. |

| DRAYCO II (St. Peter's) | | May 3 | May 10 | May 17 | May 24 | May 31 |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | | HC | MP | HC | HC | Ben. Service |
| Organist/Music | | David | Ian | Barry | David | Benefice Service at St. Andrew's and Stuart's 10th Anniversary Celebrations |
| Reader 1 | | Roger | Jeff | Martyn | John | |
| Reader 2 | | Sue | Tricia | Lynda | Iain | |
| Sidesperson(s) | | Roger + Sue | Tricia | Chris | John | |
| Coffee/Tea | | Roger + Sue | Tricia + Jeff | Chris/Gill | Chris/Jan C. | |
| Cleaning | | Karen/Chris | | Heather | Tricia | |
| Flowers | | Lynda | Lynda | Tricia | Tricia | |

| RODNEY SIOKE (St. Leonard's) | | May 3 | May 10 | May 17 | May 24 | May 31 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | | HC | HC | HC | BCP | Ben. Service |
| Sidesperson | | Alan | Steve | Megan | Sue | Benefice Service at St. Andrew's and Stuart's 10th Anniversary Celebrations |
| Reader 1 | | Joanne | Steve | Angela | Jo Symes | |
| Reader 2 | | Alan | Heather | Megan | Sue | |
| Organist | | Joanne | Joanne | Joanne | Barry | |
| Cleaning | | Ann + Sue | | | | |
| Flowers A | | tba by Vicky | tba by Vicky | tba by Vicky | tba by Vicky | |
| Flowers P | | tba by Vicky | tba by Vicky | tba by Vicky | tba by Vicky | |

Celebrating
Rev Stuart's

10

Year Anniversary

Dear fellow workers in the vineyard,

On Sunday 31st May our united Benefice will join together
in St Andrew's to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of
Stuart's leadership.

We will gather together for a 10am Eucharist followed by
coffee and cake in the Church.

After this we will proceed to the Cheddar Village Hall
for a small amusement
followed by a bring and share buffet.

****Please sign up on the sheets in each church to help us
with numbers.****



Mothing Sunday Benefice Services

A selection of photographs from the March 15th Mothing Sunday Services at St. Andrew's and St. Leonard's. (And the 'Mothing Friday' Service on March 13th at St. Peter's, with the children of Draycott & Rodney Stoke First Church of England School).



DIOLCH YN FAWR, MR. A MRS. B!

Mae Margaret a Peter 'Bertie' Bassett wedi bod yn rhan ymroddedig o dîm glanhau Eglwys Sant Andreas ers blynyddoedd lawer ond maent wedi penderfynu camu i lawr ddiwedd mis Mehefin. Rydym yn hynod ddiolchgar am bopeth y maent wedi'i wneud.

(or, for the benefit of non-Celts)....

THANK YOU, MR. & MRS B!

Margaret and Peter 'Bertie' Bassett have been a dedicated part of the St. Andrew's cleaning team for many years but have decided to step down at the end of June.

We are extremely grateful for everything they have done.

Join our St. Andrew's Church Cleaning Team!

No previous experience necessary

Open to both sexes

Uniform not required

Ability to dust, sweep, polish and operate a vacuum cleaner are the only essential skills needed

Hours of your own choosing

All equipment supplied 'in-church'

Choose your own workmate(s)

Interested?

Contact Mo Steele

(01934) 743426



THE LLH TRIO ST LEONARD'S CHURCH



LUNCHTIME CONCERT

JULY 17TH - 1PM

ST LEONARDS CHURCH

RODNEY STOKE

The LLH Trio are a flute and cello trio based in Somerset. Lou, Louise and Helen have arranged a wonderful programme of music, including classical, easy listening and something very modern. A wonderful way to spend an afternoon!

A PRAYER FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Faithful Lord

Please encourage all those who feel disheartened and weary today because of the battle they are in against the powers of this dark world and in the everyday difficulties of their lives.

In Your mercy

Amen.



St Andrew's PCC Meeting (Thursday 19th March 2026)

The March PCC was held on a Thursday evening, with most members able to join in person. It was wonderful to have everyone together in the room - no juggling of virtual links this time. And, of course, the usual background soundtrack of bell-ringing practice was... noticeably absent, which some might say made the meeting feel quite different!

The meeting covered a range of important topics, from church maintenance to preparation of the APCM, and even event planning for 2027. Alongside these larger matters, some very practical details were also discussed. Consideration was given to ways of encouraging giving, including ensuring that pens are readily available for those wishing to use the yellow envelopes each week. The use of incense was also agreed, on up to four occasions each year, so that it can enhance services without being overused.

The reordering project has just reached an exciting milestone! With the DAC's approval in place, the PCC has formally passed the resolution to move forward, and the proposals are now ready to progress to the Chancellor. This major step brings the project closer to becoming a reality and is an important marker in the journey of improving our church.

Looking ahead, this year's Harvest Supper is getting a fresh twist. The takeaways of previous years are giving way to a self-catered cold buffet, which allows the evening to start earlier, keep things simple and affordable. With music and lively conversation, the evening promises to be a joyful celebration of harvest and community spirit - fun, relaxed, and full of warmth.

The PCC also spent time preparing for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, with reports on the year's activities being finalised and nominations for Deanery Synod and PCC membership now open. The meeting took place during a busy period in the church calendar, with preparations for the Easter services already underway. The PCC remains committed to supporting the ongoing life and work of the church.

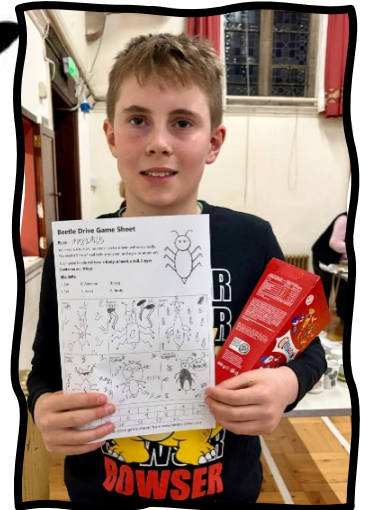
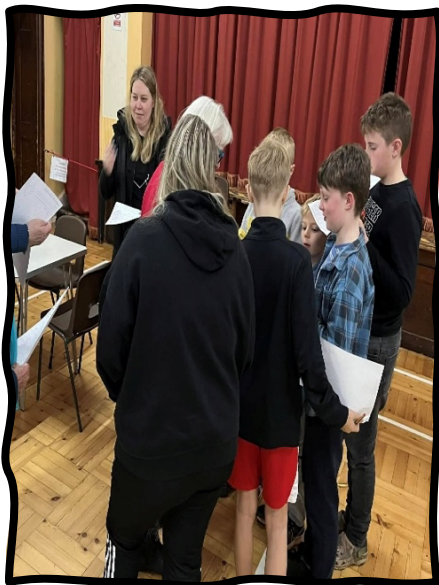
Lorraine Grover Ng (PCC Secretary)

The 3rd Annual Beetle Drive

at Cheddar Village Hall in March, once again proved popular with all participants.



Mere pictures cannot convey the dedication of competitors, rising at 4 AM every single day throughout winter, to practice and perfect their throwing techniques...



The two pictures on the left try to capture the tense and momentous period before the judges proclaim the 2026 winner of the highly-coveted Most Artistic Beetle Award...

...which went to Maximus, aka Bowser (right).

Thanks to all who contributed by organising, setting-up, judging and donating the delicious puddings.



For All The Saints...

St Bertha of Kent - First Christian Queen of England - (c. 539-612) : May 1st

Bertha was a Frankish princess and she married Ethelbert of Kent, a pagan. Marrying Ethelbert in 580 was conditional on her being allowed to follow her Christian religion. She brought her chaplain, Liudhart, with her and Ethelbert restored a Roman Church for her just outside Canterbury.

She had the Church dedicated to Martin of Tours and it became her private Chapel until the arrival of Augustine, sent on mission by Pope Gregory 1st. The Pope requested Bertha to have her husband converted to Christianity and to extend a welcome to Augustine and his mission, This agreed, Ethelbert granted Augustine a gift of land which decided him to remain; he used the land to build the abbey of St Peter and Paul. Without the support of Bertha and Ethelbert, and the good will of local monastic settlements, the Cathedral, would probably have been built elsewhere.



Pope Gregory addressed a letter to Bertha congratulating her on her faith and knowledge. She had two children, Ealdbald and Ethelburg and she is named in genealogies of various medieval accounts of the Kentish Royal Legend *. There is a wooden statue of her in St. Martin's Church which also contains many re-used Roman bricks, complete sections of walls of Roman tiles and at the core of the Church remains of a brick Roman tomb have been incorporated into the structure.

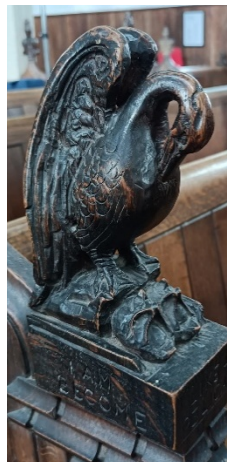
St. Martin's has been acknowledged by UNESCO as the oldest parish church in the English-speaking world, with worship having been taking place continuously since 580 AD. Along with Canterbury Cathedral and St Augustine's Abbey, St. Martin's makes up Canterbury's full UNESCO site. Among the many illustrious graves in St Martins graveyard lies the grave of Mary Tourtel - the creator of Rupert Bear.

*(*The Kentish Royal Legend is a diverse group of Medieval texts describing a wide circle of members of the Kentish Royal Family from the 7th to 8th centuries.)*

Pat Groves

Church Curiosities

Something a little different this month: some of the unique and newly-restored carved pew-ends from **St. Mary The Virgin, Wrotham, Surrey**.



“All Things Carved And Pew-tiful”

A Prayer For Spring

God of fawns and flowers

Your glory is revealed through each season.

As winter recedes

the story of renewal

unfolds once again.

Through mud and muck,

give us eyes to see

the quiet beauty

of awakening creation.

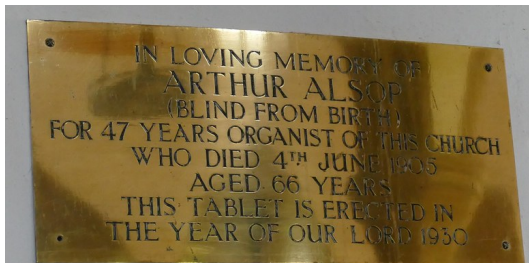
May each bud whisper

the truths of Your faithfulness.

May each new life

bring with it

the promises of eternity. Amen.



Information sought about **ARTHUR ALSOP**, the blind St. Andrew's organist. If you know anything of his history, please let us know.

AN ORGANIST EXPLAINS

by Horatio Netherwallop

BALANCED An organ swell pedal usually is, which is more than can be said of most organists.

BASSOON A fisherman hopes to catch this.

BIGAMY The only crime where two rites make a wrong.

BOLD EXPERIMENT Vicar's idea that didn't work.

BOTTOM LINE Part of the music where all the bum notes are.

BRAWL Old country dance, often performed at weddings.

First Sunday

An interactive service for all the family

The first Sunday afternoon of every month

Cheddar Village Hall

3.15 for 3.30 PM – 4.30 PM



Our children and family-oriented benefice Good Friday Service at St. Andrew's was once again expertly led by Rev. Ruth, assisted by Rev. Thea and Deborah.

The congregation walked to set points within the church, learning the story of Jesus' crucifixion and completing activities along the way. Each child (and many adults) took home a small wooden cross, emblazoned with symbols signifying the stages of Jesus' journey.



Above: Some (not all) of the participants.

For a further selection of pictures from this service, please see our Benefice Facebook page:

(Thanks to Samm Richards and others for the photographs)

A Taize Pilgrim's Further Travels

My travels around Asia were certainly a bumpy experience but above all extraordinary. Through the support and prayers from all of those back home I was able to appreciate every minute and find God in the dark just to see him even clearer in the light.

Jack Warwick

(A few pictures from Jack's peregrinations below)



An event for all the village, young and old, to support the fabric maintenance of 12th century St. Leonard's Church.

Friends of St. Leonard's Somerset Day Event



at Brangay Farm

Saturday 16th May

5.00 PM until 9.00 PM

A scrumptious Somerset Supper with drinks available
at our Field

Donation Bar

Tickets: £18 (adults), £8 (6 -12 years), under-5s FREE

A Somerset Address, Flag Raising, Live Music, Games
and Raffle

More live music at end of evening

Enquiries – Nikki Watts 07973280615

No dogs, please.

Book tickets at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/fosl/2110860>

A Special Birthday



The man behind the very successful revival of the monthly Parish Lunches held at the Riverside Inn, Cheddar, celebrated a very significant birthday in April. To mark this occasion, the April date was moved forward one week, as this was the birthday boy's actual anniversary of entering the world.

It would be ungentlemanly to reveal PHILIP WAIT's actual age but the balloons attached to his seat might provide a clue.



The lunches are open to all, not just those who attend a church and friends, family etc., are very welcome to enjoy the convivial atmosphere and excellent choice of food.

Our grateful thanks, as always, to Jo, Huw and every member of the Riverside staff and for the magnificent cake made in Philip's honour.

Very Happy Birthday, Phil.

Easter Archway at St. Andrew's



Our very creative 'Gateway' Team at St. Andrew's has again excelled itself. The decorated gates and archway feature knitted flowers, Easter bonnets and much more.

Thanks to Pam, Terry, Margaret, Peter and Helen for all their hard work. The display really beautifies the entrance.

ELEANOR AT THE SYNOD

Not content with speaking at the General Synod and creating her Tree Of Life (*see later in magazine*), Eleanor Motion has now become a member of the Synod, as one of five Young Peoples' Representatives.

It is so heartening to see youngsters becoming so involved in the church. Congratulations, Eleanor.

One Lord,
One Faith,
One Baptism



He that
Believeth and
is Baptized shall
be Saved.



Godfrey Reuben
Evans

was Baptised

at St Andrew's, Cheddar
by the Rev: J. N. Wallis
on June 18th 1922

SPONSORS: —

Bevis Evans

Reginald Evans

Ada Evans



THE PRESENTATION

Signed J. N. Wallis, Vicar

By one
Spirit are we
all Baptized into
one Body.

NOTICE TO SPONSORS.

Ye are to take care that *this child* be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him so soon as *he* can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, in the vulgar tongue, and be further instructed in the Church-Catechism set forth for that purpose.

Baptizing
them in the
Name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the
Holy Ghost.

A BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE FROM DAYS OF YORE

THE COMMUNITY TREE/TREE OF LIFE



For many months, Eleanor Motion has been hard at work, creating her Community Tree (aka Tree of Life), for her university photographic project. Entirely her own idea, the tree has branches from which hang pictures of many local people, together with 'leaves' containing prayerful thoughts and wishes from local schools and others.

There are many more pictures and leaves yet to be added but why not admire Eleanor's creation and add your comments in the book, both of which can be seen in the Nectan Chapel at St. Andrew's.

Well done, Eleanor!

For The Want Of A (Rusty, Bent) Nail...

There are 'collections' that aren't actively sought-after, like the socks and smalls that gather in the furthest recesses of a duvet cover, after washing and drying. There are collections that are purposely accrued and curated, such as first edition books, pottery thimbles or rare records. Then there are collections which are bizarre, by anybody's standards. Which brings me to Tich Nicholls.

Tich was the Storeman amongst my Estates Department staff at Dunn & Co. His duties included being responsible for despatching all manner of items to the 170 Dunns branches: items that included Bramah locks, kettles, vacuum cleaners, lighting and all else in-between and beyond. I'd receive a request from shops for these things and order them, with Tich receiving them and despatching where required, storing any additional ordered stock.

He only answered to 'Tich', being four feet eleven un-tall, and would never reveal his real Christian name. It was only at his funeral, we all learned it was 'Roderick'. An inveterate hoarder, Tich resented despatching anything and would swear blind he had none in stock, despite me knowing he'd received any number of fixtures and fittings that I'd ordered from the suppliers just days before.

Always wearing a long white lab coat and with round, owl-like glasses, Tich was a quiet man and very determined. Despite my position as his boss, he guarded his cavern of treasures zealously and always met you at the entrance to his store, thus trying to prevent entry. One time, when he was on holiday, I led a raiding-party into his store, to spend an entire two days assessing precisely what was there: he never took a holiday afterwards, such was his determination never to be caught out again.

We discovered all manner of strange things. Mouldy old carpet tiles, each hosting a thriving colony of silverfish; antique vacuum cleaners; and a vast number of bent and rusty nails were just some of the things unearthed. Tich was notorious for prising the useless nails from a piece of furniture on the grounds that they might prove useful at some unspecified date.

Once, when he was ill – and in the days when wages were paid weekly, in cash inside a brown envelope with a pay slip – two of us took his money around to his house in a side-street of Kentish Town. The house was huge, with typically lofty Victorian ceilings.

True to form, Tich was loath to let us in but from the entrance, piles of newspapers, tied into bundles but stretching almost to the 12 foot ceiling height, could be seen either side, leaving a very narrow central aisle. Fire and the risk of the precariously balanced towers toppling and crushing Tich were immediate thoughts.

Just to make sure he really was okay, being a naturally frail man, we insisted on entering and his front room had a round table, on top of which were at least 300 unopened weekly pay packets. Add possible theft to the two aforementioned risks. “Oh, I only use £3 a week, for my bread, baccy and a few other things” Tich insouciantly replied.

A furthering staggering revelation followed. “I’ve got all these tins of bully beef from the war under my bed. I heat those up and use them”. It was already thirty years beyond WW2’s end and it was pointed out that, even in tins, food didn’t last forever. Add food poisoning to the lengthening charge sheet.

Tich wasn’t a man to be swayed by anybody. He had lived alone since his wife died many years before (in the 1950s) and his two daughters never visited him. This must have caused him considerable sorrow but he never complained or moaned. A private, obdurate but very nice character. Try persuading him to send a screwdriver or a replacement light fitting to a Dunns shop, though....

Ade Macrow

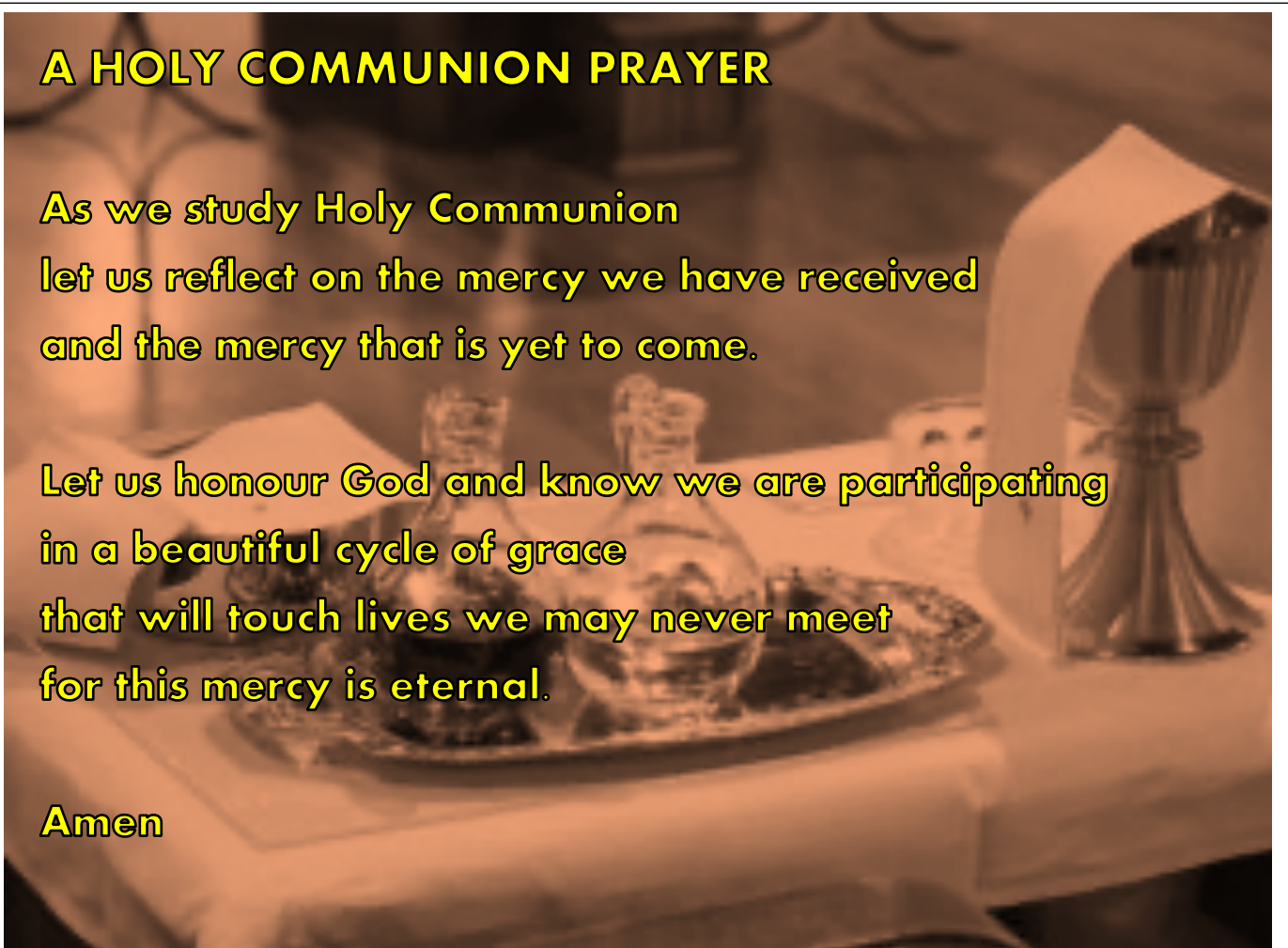
-oOo-

A HOLY COMMUNION PRAYER

**As we study Holy Communion
let us reflect on the mercy we have received
and the mercy that is yet to come.**

**Let us honour God and know we are participating
in a beautiful cycle of grace
that will touch lives we may never meet
for this mercy is eternal.**

Amen



Easter Splendour

The magnificent Easter Gardens or tableaux created by children and adults in our three churches.



A BRIEF BACKGROUND HISTORY OF SHELL, ECUADOR



(A short history of the Ecuadorean city where Rosemary and Paul Tullett's nephew Stewart and his wife Anne-Claire – AC – are working with Vos y Manos).

Shell is a city located on the western edge of the Ecuadorian Amazon and in the eastern foothills of the Andes. Its name comes from the Royal Dutch Shell corporation who had unsuccessfully tried to prospect for oil here in the 1930s and 40s but left behind a 5,000-foot (1,500 m) airstrip.

Sometime around 1949, Shell was re-occupied by Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), because of its airstrip and road access to Quito. They used it as their main base of operations for mission work in Ecuador, and it was also the home base of MAF pilot Nate Saint.

Worldwide attention focused on Shell in January 1956 at the news of the disappearance of Saint and four other missionaries – Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, and Roger Youderian. They had been trying to reach the Huaorani tribe, and had been making aerial reconnaissance missions. When they landed in Huaorani territory they were speared to death by the natives and their bodies thrown into the Curaray River .

Two years later, in 1958, the Hospital Vozandes Del Oriente opened its doors as the first hospital in that region of Ecuador. The hospital was the dream of Nate Saint, who had donated both land and time to work on its construction before his death in 1956. It has since served an estimated 65,000 people who lived on the eastern side of the Andes and in the jungle.

Also in 1958, Elisabeth Elliot (with her 3 year old daughter, Valerie) and Rachel Saint returned to the Ecuadorian rainforest to live with the Huaorani, the tribe who had killed Elizabeth's husband and Rachel's brother only two years earlier. Their choice to forgive, rather than retaliate, sparked a change in the Huaorani many of whom came to faith in Christ. Familiar with suffering, Elliot later wrote, *"The deepest things that I have learned in my own life have come from the deepest suffering. And out of the deepest waters and the hottest fires have come the deepest things I know about God."*

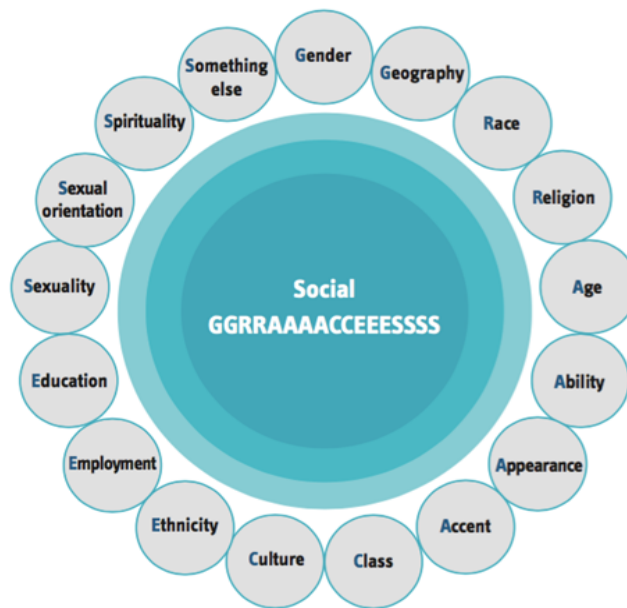
Rosemary Tullett



I'm not prejudiced, am I?

As part of a recent safeguarding course I was attending, we were asked to consider a framework called The Social GRACES. This rather awkward acronym to help us to think about how we might think about other people and how they might think about us.

You can see from the diagram below that there are so many different elements to our complex beings, and they will all have an influence on our perception of ourselves and of other people. Whether it is gender or race, age or class, education or sexual orientation, we all have our views, and maybe, dare I say it, prejudices.



Some of these characteristics are obvious e.g., appearance or accent, while others may not be immediately apparent e.g., employment or religion. Of course, I like to think that I am totally unprejudiced in my dealings with people and treat everyone equally. However I know deep down that this is unlikely to be true in every case.

For example, under the category of Appearance I am aware that, at first glance, I have an aversion to people who are heavily tattooed, thinking to myself, "Why on earth would anyone want to cover their bodies in ink?" Although, on reflection, many people in different cultures have painted their bodies over the centuries, often in times of celebration, or ceremony or war.

On a family outing a few summers ago, I also recall meeting a very extrovert young woman in a pub garden, who proudly explained the origin of her many tattoos, which clearly provided an important component of her outgoing personality. She was pleasant and sociable, spending time away from her friends to patiently explain the meaning behind each design. Which proves the old saying, "*You can't judge a book by its cover.*"

Being aware of our prejudices is an important part of safeguarding, since Jesus calls upon us to *“love your neighbour as yourself.”* In our churches we meet an eclectic mix of people, with diverse backgrounds, personalities and behaviours. Yet it is our Christian duty to look out for everybody, regardless of any conscious or unconscious bias we may have. The Social GRACES remind us of the wide range of areas that might influence our views, prompting us to reflect on the question, *“I’m not prejudiced, am I?”*

This model also asks us to consider how some folk may perceive us. How do I come across to others? Do I seem friendly and approachable or aloof and self-absorbed? Have I got time for others or am I always busy and onto the next task? Am I a good listener or do I tend to do all the talking?

A reflection on the Social GRACES reminds me that safeguarding is not just about those terrible concerns of physical abuse or sexual exploitation or internet trolling; it is also about treating people with respect, being aware of any problems or issues and keeping each other safe. Ultimately, being aware of our own prejudices helps us to be more able to put them aside and be more willing and able to help others, since, as is frequently said, *“Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all.”*

Jim Reeve (Safeguarding Officer: St Andrew’s Church)



Save the date!

WHEN
Saturday 9th May

WHERE
St Peter’s Church, Draycott

TIME
8.30am - 10am

We’re raising funds for Christian Aid to help people in poverty around the world. We’d love you to join us!



02-

GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

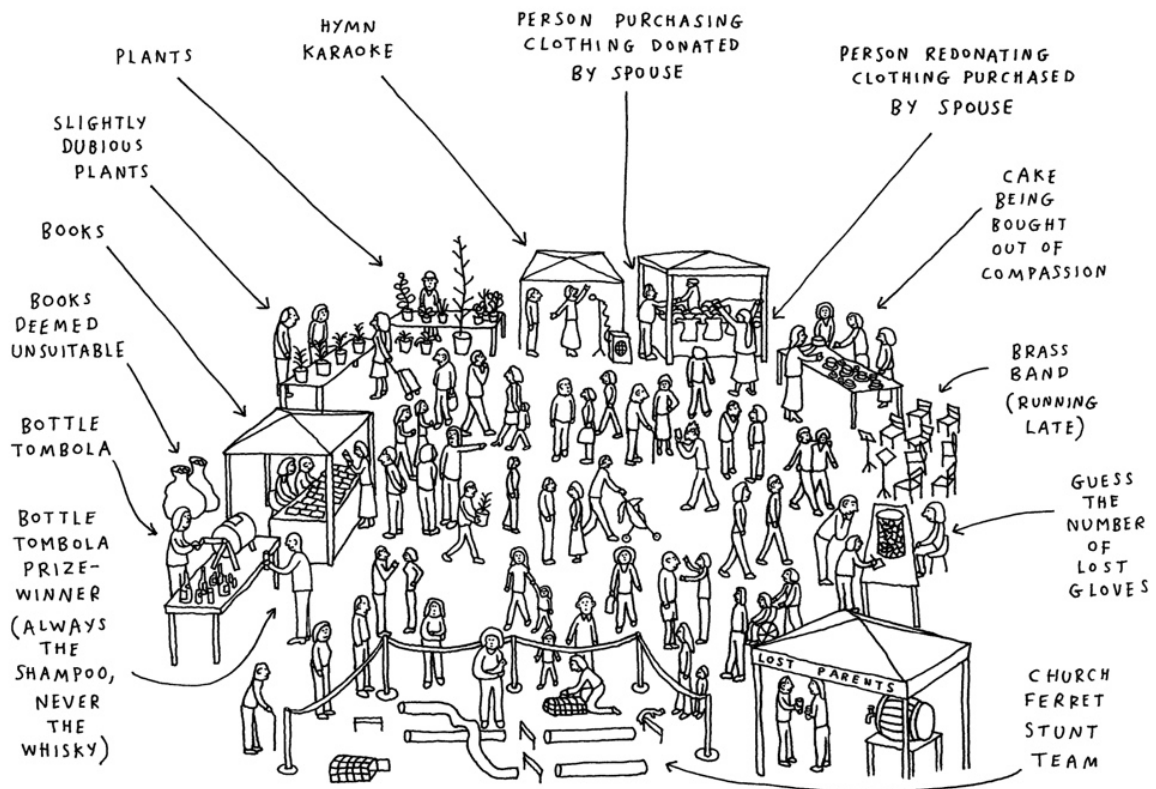


Thanks to Stephen Illich (See Genesis 6-8)

05-19-2005

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS

THE CHURCH FETE



Doomsday prophet day jobs



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