

# Brookfield News

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## What is at the centre of your life?

‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you’ (Luke 12: 20)

**I**n this parable of Jesus, where did the businessman’s mistake lie, as he piled up this accumulation of wealth? Not in making wise provision for the future, but in getting the centre of his life all wrong. It is not that Christianity presents us with a biblical economic theory. Rather it gives us a viewpoint, a God-centred perspective on Life that helps us to cope with money, possessions, planning and disappointments alike.

Get this wrong, and a comment from the second century AD applies to us in the words of Clement of Alexandria – “Wealth is like a

viper.” Handled aright, it’s harmless, but once let it entwine you, Beware!

The warning of Jesus was plain enough. “Life,” he said, “does not consist in an abundance of possessions” (verse 15). Generally, people would have called the man in our story ‘a success’. God called him ‘a fool.’

1. The wise fool The guy was industrious, frugal, good at saving... and planning. But it was the God factor that was missing - the small matter of eternity! He didn’t profess to be an atheist, but he lived the life of an atheist. Wise in so many ways, he was a fool. Indeed, how happy was he in himself?

Back in the Spring of 1873, the American evangelist, D.L. Moody was planning to visit Britain for one of his first great preaching campaigns. His aunt asked him, “Are you going to preach to the miserable poor?” “Yes,” replied Moody – “and to the miserable rich too!”

2. The poor fool In Jesus’ story, the words ‘I’, ‘me’ and ‘mine’ dominate the businessman’s vocabulary (v.17-18). But nothing was going to remain his! There is a certain burden attaching to the accumulation of wealth. First, there is the burden of obtaining it, secondly the burden of keeping it, and thirdly that of parting with it! The Bible says, ‘We brought nothing into the world, and it is certain that we can

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# Services

## Sundays

11.00am Sung Eucharist

"Sunday Supplement" the children's activity takes place every Sunday in the sacristy during the service

## Weekday Services

Said Eucharist

Tuesday 7.30pm

Wednesday 9.30am

Friday 7.30am

## Saints' & Holy Days

Sunday 3rd July St Thomas

11.00am Parish Mass

**Saturday 9th July 2.00pm The Summer Fête in the Vicarage Garden or in Church if wet.**

Clergy Day off: Fr. Guy is off duty on Monday but don't hesitate to call him in emergencies.

The Vicar is usually available in the Vicarage, 85 Dartmouth Park Road, from 8:00pm until 9:00pm on Tuesdays for the purpose of interviews, arranging Baptisms, reading of Banns and Weddings etc. he is also available to hear confessions then or by appointment.

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carry nothing out' (1 Timothy 6:7). As far as lasting permanence was concerned, this man actually had nothing.

3. The universal fool This parable of Jesus is only a story. Who was this man who features in it? Why, he's a universal figure. It could be you. The days are passing. Let today be Make-up-your-Mind time about God, and Christ.... and your very soul.

## It's cool

I was at summer scout camp where the final service was to be taken by a bishop. It was a very hot, humid day and the clergy from local churches were slowly melting in their various heavy robes. Finally one snapped: 'When is that flipping bishop going to turn up?' Whereupon a man close by, dressed in Scouts shirt, tie and short trousers, said mildly: 'I'm already here.'

## Celebrating 150 years of Reader Ministry ± after the two World Wars pt 2

**I**t was probably the two World Wars that changed the initial direction of Reader ministry from being, as has often been said, a means to extend the effectiveness of the traditional parochial system to new pioneering work on the boundaries between church and world, into something more churchy.

During and following those wars (which followed one another fairly rapidly) large numbers of clergy became chaplains to the forces and many lost their lives. Readers naturally stepped into their places, at least as far as non-sacramental ministry was concerned. The arrival of the blue scarf a couple of generations ago completed the outfit, with the result that very few Readers have not been thanked for a 'Nice service, Vicar'!

The time has come to retreat from being 'clones of the clergy', and to rejoice in a confident and no-way second rate lay ministry, but one which will not be the same.

Lay ministry in the future will be much more diverse. Yes, we'll still need well-trained, articulate lay theologians, but we'll also need people equipped, authorised and accountable in evangelistic, pastoral, formational and liturgical ministry whose focus will be on the Kingdom of God.

They'll include evangelists, chaplains, teachers of the faith, lay congregation leaders, pastoral assistants, youth and children's workers, community workers, worship leaders and people like Readers who can bring God into the conversation. I have no doubt that some of the trappings will need to be shed en route.

Let us see what some others have pointed to about this gospel ministry. Bringing God into the conversation is about introducing people to the Lord Jesus Christ, just as you would introduce two people to one another because they are your friends.

That means you have to know Jesus and you have to know lots of people who are not-yet Christians. Our friends won't respond well to being introduced to Christ unless they see in my life and yours that knowing Jesus has made us more spiritually beautiful, that it is changing us from glory into glory. Every Christian disciple is called to 'make Christ visible'.

So the future is yours. I have asked the Archbishops to allow me stand down from being Chair of CRC after Follow#2016, because the movement needs someone younger with fresh vision after my seven years or so in the job. It has been great fun and I've had the privilege of boring Readers in most of the dioceses of England and Wales during that period. I remain totally committed to the discipleship of every Christian and to commissioned lay ministry until my last breath.

## 22nd July St Mary Magdalene - patron of repentant sinners

**I**t is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life.

Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberius in Galilee. She became his follower to the bitter end. She followed him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint his body on the

Sunday morning.

Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid: it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought he was the gardener at first.

Mary Magdalene has sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon (Luke 7:37). Over the centuries many artists have painted this scene. Mary Magda-

lene's feast has been kept in the West since the 8th century. England has 187 ancient churches dedicated to her, as well as a College in both Oxford and Cambridge.

### Come in

The choir was practising the anthem. The choirmaster said to the trebles: 'Now don't forget, when the tenors reach 'The Gates of Hell', you come in.'

# THE WAY I SEE IT - Stay-cations

We live in an era of freshly coined if slightly odd abstract nouns. We all got to know 'Brexit' (British-exit) but this month we shall also experience, I suspect, 'Stay-cation' – staying in Britain for your vacation. Terrorism is one powerful incentive to Stay-cate, but so is cost, and all the hassle of international travel.

Why not, people think, simply get in the car or book the train and visit some part of our lovely island that we've never been to before? If you haven't seen the Highlands of Scotland, or the beautiful west

coast of Wales or the Boston Stump or the Helston River or the Jurassic coast, then why not make that this year's holiday adventure?

There are, of course, two sides to the argument. For my generation, going 'abroad' was a wonderful adventure. Good heavens, they actually spoke a different language, and they ate exotic things like pizza, croque monsieur and paella, washed down with unbelievably cheap red wine. Just getting on the ferry was an adventure, let alone shopping in a foreign supermarket.

And there's also the Unique Selling Point, sunshine.

Balance up the arguments, and it still comes down to Stay-cation or Go-cation. Those who 'stay' will come home astonished at the beauty and diversity of our island home. Those who go will parade their tans for a few weeks and scoff at our fears of delays and terrorism. Whichever you choose – or even if you simply stay-cate at home and sit in the garden – do something different. Autumn is only round the corner.

## The story behind the HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

Oh may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart

The joy and serenity of this hymn are staggering, when you learn the circumstances in which it was written. Martin Rinkart was a pastor at Eilenberg, Saxony, during the terrible Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).

As a walled city, Eilenberg offered some protection to the inhabitants. No wonder that political and military refugees of all sorts poured into the city, making it dangerously overcrowded. Soon the water supply was fouled, the sanitation overwhelmed, and the food ran out – leaving people famished and diseased.

In 1637 a terrible pestilence swept through the city, killing some 8,000 people, including Rinkart's beloved wife. By that time Rinkart was the only minister left in Eilenberg, because the others had either died or fled for their lives. Rinkart alone conducted the burial services for 4480 people, sometimes taking as many as 40 to 50 funerals a day!

Eilenberg was besieged and over-

run three times – once by the Austrian army and twice by the Swedes. When a Swedish general demanded the town pay him 30,000 thalers. Martin Rinkart pleaded that the impoverished city could never meet such a levy, but the general scorned him. At that, Rinkart turned to his companions and said: 'Come, my children, we can find no mercy with man; let us take refuge with God.' On his knees there and then, Rinkart led his friends in a fervent prayer and in the singing of a hymn. The Swedish commander was so moved that he decided that the levy be not 30,000 thalers, but instead 1,350 thalers.

Somehow, out of the hell of the Thirty Years War came this lovely hymn of peace and total trust in God. Martin Rinkart had had to dig deep into his faith to survive, and the result was utter, serene dependence on God – despite chaos and destruction all around.

It is on our hymn list for Sunday 31st of July.

# “Dear Friends...”

## From the Vicars Desk

As I write I have just come back from school and am off to what is called a Section Twelve meeting tonight. As I have mentioned many times before in these columns I believe that getting schools right is key to the future of our nation. If we fail to create the right atmosphere and learning culture we are jeopardising the future generation and that will impact on us all.

We have heard a great deal recently in the debate about Brexit of the concerns about immigration. I was told a horror story only yesterday that led to one person voting out. The family live in East London and their five year old child was firmly told by other five year olds in their class that she was going to hell as she was not a Muslim. I sincerely hope that it was not a Church School as we would regard that as bullying of the worst sort. In fact the vast majority of Muslims would agree and would be horrified by this behaviour. But it is up to schools to create an atmosphere of respect for other people and communities which is vital if we are to live in peace. It is no different to another horror story I heard of a British man going into a shop run by a Pakistani and shouting at him that he would soon be out and the sooner the better.

What an indictment of our country if that sort of abuse is taking place. Our schools must be places of respect and cooperation. As it happens just this morning I was listening to stories written by two ten year olds, one from a West Indian background and the other a girl of Indian sub continent back-

ground but both British and writing a story in the fondest of terms about a white British boy in their class. For them racial background is immaterial, and that surely is just how it should be. They are interested in learning for their futures. It is of course down to me as Chair of Governors to ensure the right appointments are made to maintain the culture of the school as I would want it to be.

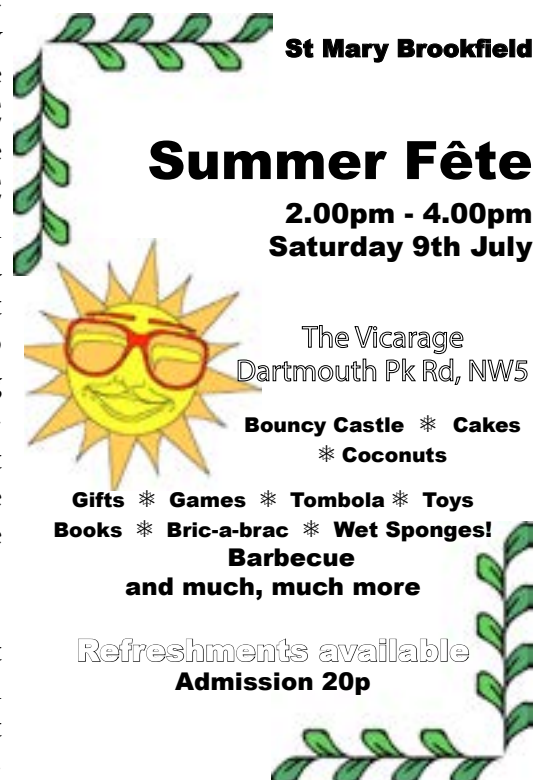
And the notion of appointments leads me to the Section Twelve meeting. As a member of the Diocesan Board of Patronage we are responsible for the appointment of the Incumbent of a number of parishes throughout the Diocese. We act with the Area Bishop in the interview process and present a candidate to the parish representatives for their acceptance. The section Twelve meeting is for the parish to present to us the needs of the parish as they perceive them, and a chance for us to question the PCC on their vision for the future mission. Hopefully the PCC will have prepared a Vision Statement that will be in a finished form, unlike last night where we ended up spending two hours going through the 14 page document line by line editing it. It was only at 10.00pm that we got to the final page on the person specification!

Despite that getting the right appointment for a parish is key to the future of that church. The sort of leadership they are looking for and

how that might fit in to the community both religious and secular is a huge responsibility. In this case I was able to say that I have known the parish since 1971 and served in a neighbouring parish for three years as well as having been a Governor of the parish school for some years, so have a pretty good idea what the parish is like. However the last parish we appointed to in West London was a complete mystery to me, so it was fascinating and very important to meet the PCC and listen to what they had to say.

Our vision for society both secular and religious is key to the future of our nation. We, the church need to lead in the cause of tolerance and love for our fellow human beings. Our mission is to offer the love and compassion of Christ to all as we preach the Gospel in our words and deeds daily.

Your Parish Priest



**St Mary Brookfield**

## Summer Fête

**2.00pm - 4.00pm**  
**Saturday 9th July**

The Vicarage  
Dartmouth Pk Rd, NW5

**Bouncy Castle \* Cakes**  
**\* Coconuts**

**Gifts \* Games \* Tombola \* Toys**  
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**and much, much more**

Refreshments available  
**Admission 20p**

## The Battle of the Somme ± and the comfort of the Cross

**O**n the 1st July 2016 we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and remember those who fought and died during the battle. The Somme was one of the deadliest battles of the First World War. During five months of combat, the total number of men killed, wounded and missing reached over one million.

A century later the battle scars still remain. It's still difficult to make sense of what happened and see God's place in the conflict. It challenges any image of a safe, problem-solving God who protects

at all costs from pain and suffering. As Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane demonstrates, God is to be found in the pain: Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.' (Luke 22:42). God did not take Jesus out of the situation, but was alongside in the agony.

Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy, the chaplain popularly known as 'Woodbine Willie', served at the Somme: 'We have taught our people to use prayer too much as a means of comfort; not in the original and heroic sense of uplifting, inspiring, strengthening, but in

the more modern and baser sense of soothing sorrow, dulling pain, and drying tears; the comfort of the cushion, not the comfort of the Cross.'

He is saying that prayer in itself won't save us from suffering, as it didn't save Christ from the cross. But it does enable us to fight evil in a way that will transform the situation, like Jesus going to the cross.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

## What it means when someone always complains

**D**o you know people who complain all the time? Hopefully you won't meet any on holiday this year, but if you do, you will know how tiresome they can be.

Complaining people go through life generally dissatisfied because everyone else does not share the high opinion they have of themselves. In the popular phrase, 'everything is about them'. In every situation they believe their wants must come first, regardless of the welfare of others. Whenever they do not get the honour they feel is due them, complaining people take offence, become resentful, feel hard done by, and whine bitterly. Second best is NEVER good enough for them – it is considered to be an insult.

What is behind it all? The Bible tells us that it is pride. Their ego has become a tyrant that must be appeased at all costs. The truth

is, proud complaining people are spiritually needy people. They are actually very fragile – feeling that their inner worth is under threat if others do not keep reassuring them that they are important and valued. They are selfish – with no bigger horizon than themselves. The Bible tells us that 'God opposes the proud'. The concept here is that He keeps them at a distance, He stiff-arms them.

What a contrast to the freedom enjoyed by humble, grateful people! Truly humble people are those who have turned to God and faced the truth about themselves. They have sought, and received, Christ's mercy and forgiveness for past wrongs. They are free from the burden of their past! The Holy Spirit is pouring His grace into their lives, and they know their inner worth is secure in God's great love for them. They don't need to rely on other people to tell them they are 'worth it'. Humble people are grateful to

God and this gratitude overflows into kindness and love towards others, and simple gratitude for whatever good comes their way in life.

### Asylum call for children at risk is welcomed

The Daily Mail's recent call for unaccompanied child refugees to be offered asylum has been welcomed by leading figures in the Church of England. The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Paul Butler, said: "Unless they are offered help and hope, children at risk will fall victim to trafficking and all kinds of evil.

"As a nation we must show kindness and compassion to children at risk, playing our part in offering proper refuge to those already in Europe whose lives are deeply traumatised. There is now a broad coalition for action, and the House of Lords latest amendment offers a clear way forward for the Government."

# 'I was Glad'

The Queen's Coronation Service opened with the anthem I was glad, a setting of words from Psalm 122 by Hubert Parry. As one of the Songs of Ascent, this psalm was used by pilgrims on their way up to the city of Jerusalem. It is a psalm of worship: 'I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" (1). What does it say about why we worship?

'Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. That is where the tribes go up' (3,4). For the people of God, Jerusalem was

## I 'selfie', therefore I am

Do you take selfies? Do you take more and more selfies? And – more? Be careful – there is a growing worldwide addiction to this seemingly playful trend. And it can be dangerous.

On the very practical side – literally dangerous. Last year more people worldwide were killed taking selfies than in shark attacks. "People are forgetting there's a cliff behind them, or getting squashed by trains," says one psychologist who has researched the phenomenon. One Japanese tourist in search of the perfect selfie jumped the barrier at Niagara Falls – with fatal consequences.

Even if you don't kill yourself posing for a selfie, beware what this growing trend may be doing to your mind. Such obsession with your own image is familiar in toddlers and teens, but should have a lesser grip on us as we grow older.

As the average millennial is now

the place of worship and a metaphor indicating what worship is about. It expresses our unity and when we come together, despite our differences of education, background, gifts and experience, we are united together as one people.

Worship is also the place where we obey the command to praise God: 'to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel' (4). It encourages our gratitude, as we respond to our experience of God's grace and love. This helps us to maintain God at the centre of our lives, during both the good

expected to take 25,700 selfies in his or her lifetime, Elsa Godart, a French psychoanalyst and philosopher warns that society is in danger of developing 'teen brain'. She warns that, far from selfies giving us a stronger sense of our own identities, they will only serve to increase our insecurities about how we appear to others.

'What may look like straight-forward narcissism can often be... a craving for reassurance that you can only ever get from 'likes'. But you're chasing the dragon, because far from calming any neuroses down, posting another selfie will only amplify them." Put another way, if you crave 'likes', you can never get enough of them.

She goes on to say that "it becomes worrying when the illusory virtual self you're selling is more appealing than the real self. So you can Photoshop yourself into your ideal and of course that illusion is so perfect that nobody wants real life

and difficult times.

The psalm ends by encouraging us to: 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may those who love you be secure' (6). This is a prayer for God's shalom or wholeness, which means the whole of our lives are in harmony with God's will. It is a reminder that worship engages our allegiance, as it is not simply about Sundays, but the offering of all our daily life in God's service.

Augustine declared 'a Christian should be a hallelujah from head to foot.' This Psalm helps us to see how we can make this a reality for ourselves.

any more... although selfies can be anodyne and fun, there is a real danger of us losing our connection to and consciousness of the world around us...

We think our readers are very balanced sort of people, and all of you are good-looking, so we would like to invite you to submit to us your current favourite selfie, with a one sentence explanation of where/why it was taken. Please send to the editor, for uploading in a special section of the church website later this month. We promise to 'like' all selfies equally!

Elsa Godart's book, *Je Selfie Donc Je Suis* is pub.by Ablin Michel

## No worries

A 102 year-old lady was asked if she had any worries about the future, and replied: "Not since I got my eldest son into an old people's home."

# Four lessons from Sport

**T**his summer will be dominated by Sport, with everything from Euro16 to the Olympics in Rio. Despite the wide differences in the various sports, there are four things each athlete will have in common: focus, discipline, communication and commitment. Such things guarantee success in our Christian walk, too.

**Focus.** What is it you want to gain, above all things? Paul said: For me to live is Christ, to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21) That sort of commitment is the Christianity that will survive any persecution and hardship.

**Discipline.** Just as athletes immerse themselves in everything

to do with their sport, surround yourself with Christian riches that will feed your mind and spirit. Deliberately choose good Christian music, read the lives of well-known Christians, and seek out mature Christians for friendship and even mentoring. Christianity is like sport, it flourishes best when it is enjoyed with others!

**Communication.** What would happen to an athlete if he or she stopped speaking to their own coach, for weeks on end? So this aspect begins with Psalm 46:10: 'Be still and know that I am God.' Fundamental to your faith is your prayer life alone with God. Jesus said 'No branch can bear fruit of itself, it must remain in the vine.' (John 15.4) The Psalms covers

every aspect of our walk with God day by day – so if you don't know how to begin to pray, simply begin by praying the Psalms. And read the Bible every day. God speaks to us through the Bible and prayer – keep the lines of communication open!

**Commitment.** This is nothing more than the resolve to keep going, no matter what the obstacles. Paul had a driving ambition: 'That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.' (Philippians 3:10)

And the final result of all our efforts? 'Our citizenship is in heaven...' (Philippians 3.20).

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## 'He gave us eyes to see them' ± Church Pulpits

It is a steep climb of 199 steps that leads the visitor to Whitby from the streets below to the church of St Mary's that stands near the ruined abbey. Having negotiated the climb, the visitor enters the church and is greeted by a glorious array of Georgian furnishings: box pews and a triple decker pulpit with candlesticks and cushions. The clerk would sit at the bottom level to give out the notices, the parson would lead the service in the middle, and then he would ascend to the third level to expound the Word of God.

George Herbert says that for the country parson the pulpit should be 'his joy and his throne.' Sydney Smith had a different slant when he wrote on going into the pulpit of All Saints Church in Foston in 1806: 'When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation.' Not so at Whitby where the church is cared for and

well loved.

Today preachers often remain at ground level, the better to interact with their congregations, but here at St Mary's Church the pulpit is a sign of the importance of teaching the Word: not because the preacher stands eight feet above contradiction, but to allow people to see and hear.

The word 'pulpit' means a platform or raised area to address the gathered family of God. As we look on in the pews, it stands often on our left. But God looks at us from the east end of the church and the pulpit stands at his



right hand: a sign that the sermon can be the divinely inspired message of prophet and teacher, and so become living and active in the minds and hearts of its hearers.

## 27th July The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus ± proving a nap is good for you!

Do you tend to avoid conflict? When you feel stressed, do you crave sleep? Then the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus would be good patron saints for you. But - you may find it hard to copy their successful method of avoiding trouble!

Legend has it that The Seven Sleepers were third century Christians who lived in Ephesus during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Decius. When things got very bad, the Seven Sleepers decided to 'go to ground'. Literally. They found a cave on the outskirts

of the city and walled themselves in. The story goes that then God simply put them to sleep.

200 years later they woke up, and peeped out of the cave again. Things had changed: Ephesus had converted to Christianity. Unfortunately the Seven Sleepers did not get much time to enjoy the new freedoms, because within a short time they all died - of extreme old age.

The story was popularised in the 6th century by Gregory of Tours

and Jacob of Sarugh, who venerated the Seven Sleepers as saints. But it was challenged by Baronius and many scholars since. It is sometimes called a Christianised pagan or Jewish legend akin to Rip Van Winkle.

A possible moral for anyone today is that when you find yourself in a storm of conflict, you don't have to fight all the battles yourself. You can indeed seek refuge in God. He may not put you to sleep for 200 years, but He will be a safe hiding place for your soul.

# The Five Fingers Prayer

When I am holding a Confirmation Class one of the things we talk about is how to structure daily prayer. This is one way to help as we seek to offer our lives in the service of God and neighbour each day.

1. Your thumb is nearest to you, and without it you are helpless. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you, without whom you, too, would be lost. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes

teachers, doctors, and clergy. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the next President of the USA, the next UK Prime Minister, the national leaders in Europe, the leaders in business and industry, and administrators. Its also good to include here all those who serve us in Local Government. These people shape our nations and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the

fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest-among you." Your 'pinkie' (as the Americans call it) should remind you to pray for yourself.

By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

## As fine silver...

*Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."*

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study. They got to wondering what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle

of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you - until He sees His image in you.

## Church Commissioners announce total 2015 return on investments at 8.2%

The Church Commissioners for England have recently announced their latest financial results. Their total return on their investments in 2015 was 8.2 per cent, exceeding their long-term target rate by 2%. Over the past 30 years the fund has achieved an average return of 9.7% per annum. After taking account of expenditure, the fund has grown from £2.4bn at the start of 1995 to £7.0 billion at the end of 2015.

# Hymns and Readings

## **3rd July Trinity 6. St Thomas**

Readings Habakkuk 2: 1-4  
Psalm 31  
Ephesians 2: 19-end  
John 20: 24-29  
Hymns 374 How sweet the name of Jesus  
342 Breathe on me breathe of God  
173 Blessed Thomas  
226 Hark the sound of holy voices

Sidesperson: Nick Bethune  
Readers: Mark Williams, Ruth Godwin  
Intercessions: Lucy Boyd

## **10th July Trinity 7 proper 10**

Readings Deuteronomy 30: 9-14  
Psalm 25  
Colossians 1: 1-14  
Luke 10: 25-37  
Hymns 473 When morning guilds the skies  
406 Lord teach us how to pray  
351 Come ye faithful raise the anthem  
378 Immortal love for ever full

Sidesperson: Irada Fracassi  
Readers: Lucy Boyd , Rosie Price Timmins  
Intercessions: Nicky Pittam

## **17th July Trinity 8 proper 11**

Readings Genesis 18: 1-10  
Psalm 15  
Colossians 1: 15-28  
Luke 10: 38-end  
Hymns 349 Come let us join  
339 Be thou my vision  
296 Lord enthroned in heavenly  
396 Let saints on earth

Sidesperson: Mark Williams  
Readers: Nick Bethune, Nicky Pittam  
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

## **24th July Trinity 9 proper 12**

Readings Genesis 18: 20-32d  
Psalm 138  
Colossians 2: 6-15  
Luke 11: 1-13  
Hymns 358 Father of heaven whose love  
499 Thy kingdom come O God  
297 Lord Jesus Christ  
372 He who would valiant be

Sidesperson: Bill Saunders  
Readers: Joe McKenzie, Denise Sealy  
Intercessions: Ian MacGregor

## **31st July Trinity 10th proper 13**

Readings Eccles 1: 2,12-14,& 2: 18-23  
Psalm 49  
Colossians 3: 1-11  
Luke 12: 13-21  
Hymns 472 When all thy mercies  
364 God is love let heaven adore him  
295 Let all mortal flesh  
431 Now thank we all our God

Sidesperson: Rob Nesbitt  
Readers: Tim Florey, Carol Kenning  
Intercessions: Bill Saunders

## **100 Club Winners**

### **Draw for March 2016**

1st prize: Diana Dworetzky  
2nd prize: Oliver Butt  
3rd prize: Shirley Caton  
4th prize: Rob Nesbitt

### **Draw for April**

1st prize: Rob Nesbitt  
2nd prize: Tim Florey  
3rd prize: Wendy Shale  
4th prize: Robin Barter

### **Draw for May**

1st prize Lucy Boyd  
2nd prize Irada Fracassi  
3rd prize Janet O'Carroll  
4th prize Elizabeth Oyedemi

### **Draw for June**

1st prize Pat @ The Centurion  
2nd prize Daniel Bowman  
3rd prize Fr Guy  
4th prize Mr & Mrs Bowman (senior)

Congratulations to you all and thanks for your support each month.

If you would like to purchase a number in this monthly draw please do make inquiries with Mr Mark Williams.

# Parish Priest

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**Prebendary Guy Pope**

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## For your prayers

### PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF JULY 2016

3rd Boscastle Road  
10th Chetwynd Road  
17th Churchill Road  
24th College Lane  
31st Croftdown road

### SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

**3rd St Thomas**  
6th Thomas Moore  
**10th Trinity 7**  
11th St Benedict

14th John Keble  
15th St Swithun  
16th St Osmund of Salisbury  
**17th Trinity 8**  
19th St Gregory of Nyssa  
20th St Margaret of Antioch  
**22nd St Mary Magdalene**  
23rd St Brigit of Sweden  
**24th Trinity 9**  
**25th St James**  
26th St Anne & St Joachim  
29th Ss Mary Martha & Lazarus  
**31st Trinity 10**