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The message of Advent? ± history is going somewhere!

'And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...' (Luke 2:7)

'They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.' (Matthew 24:30)

What a contrast between the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – and his eventual return! No one knows when that day will be, but it will be earth-shaking. In the meantime, Advent reminds us of the last of six great saving actions of God in Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem

was to inaugurate our salvation. The Death of Jesus at Calvary established it – forever. The Resurrection of Jesus at Easter confirmed it. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven celebrated it. The Gift of the Spirit at Pentecost drove it worldwide. And sixthly will come the Return of Jesus at the world's end – to consummate and complete it.

The message of Advent reminds us that history is not circular or locked into an unending stalemate. Neither can we ever accept a notion of successive reincarnations, for the Bible is clear that man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

The Bible has had many pre-runs of that final 'Day of the Lord.' Noah's flood, the overthrow of wicked Babylon; these and other upheavals were but pointers to the final 'Day of our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 1:8), when all wrongs will be stopped, and the Lord shall reign with justice.

For the Bible is clear that world history is leading to a Conclusion, to the new heaven and the new earth. That will be inaugurated when 'He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.' Christ's return will usher in the final triumph, bringing about the dismantling of the whole apparatus of Evil that has so harassed us across the centuries.

This Month.....The Assisted Dying Bill.....Page 6

Services

Sundays

11.00am Sung Eucharist

"Sunday Supplement" the childrens 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 1st November All Saints

11.00am Parish Mass

Monday 2nd November All Souls

7.30pm Solemn Requiem Rheinberger in D

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

10.55am Parish Mass and Remembrance Sunday ceremonies

Sunday 22nd November Christ the King

11.00am Parish Mass

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

11.00am Parish Mass

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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The Cross and Resurrection secured the victory over evil. Christ's return will make it final! Believers echo Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - 'And so we will be with the Lord for ever.' If we have a strong view of the future, we can be sure it will energise us in the present!

In the meantime, Advent is coming round once again. It's time to celebrate the first of God's six mighty acts that secured our salvation – and look forward to the future.

Sick

A vicar explained: "I resigned because of illness and fatigue. The congregation were sick and tired of me."

Oil

A vicar took his old car to the garage for an oil change. After the mechanic had briefly inspected under the bonnet he turned to the vicar: "If I were you vicar, I'd keep the oil and change the car."

What the Archbishop of Canterbury thinks of the migrant crisis

In a statement on the ongoing migrant crisis facing Europe and the Middle East, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said recently:

“This is a hugely complex and wicked crisis that underlines our human frailty and the fragility of our political systems. My heart is broken by the images and stories of men, women and children who have risked their lives to escape conflict, violence and persecution.

“There are no easy answers and my prayers are with those who find themselves fleeing persecution, as well as those who are struggling under immense pressure to develop an effective and equitable response. Now, perhaps more than ever in post-war Europe, we need to commit to joint action across Europe, acknowledging our common responsibility and our common humanity.

“As Christians we believe we are called to break down barriers, to welcome the stranger and love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:34), and to seek the peace and justice of our God, in our world,

Sleep easy

Don't let the sun go down on your anger. That has been biblical advice for millennium. Now a study at Oxford has found medical evidence that agrees.

A study at the university's sleep and circadian neuroscience institute has found that ending your day angry, or sleeping right after a traumatic event, can make bad memories stick. Instead, sleep depriva-

tion prevents the consolidation of bad memories, and therefore leads to fewer flashbacks. The findings, published in the journal *Sleep*, may also suggest that the practice of giving sedatives in trauma treatment should be reconsidered.

“With winter fast approaching and with the tragic civil war in Syria spiralling further out of control, we must all be aware that the situation could yet worsen significantly. I am encouraged by the positive role that churches, charities and international agencies are already playing, across Europe and in Syria and the surrounding areas, to meet basic humanitarian needs.

He went on: “We need a holistic response to this crisis that meets immediate humanitarian need while tackling its underlying drivers. I commend the UK Government for its strong commitment to the world's poorest people through the delivery of the aid budget. It has shown global leadership by providing £900 million since 2012 to the crisis in Syria. It has also shown moral leadership in using Royal Navy ships to save the lives of hundreds who have tried to make the dangerous crossing across the Mediterranean.

“The Church has always been a place of sanctuary for those in need, and Churches in the UK and

across Europe have been meeting the need they are presented with. I reaffirm our commitment to the principle of sanctuary for those who require our help and love. The people of these islands have a long and wonderful history of offering shelter and refuge, going back centuries – whether it be Huguenot Christians, Jewish refugees, Ugandan Asians, Vietnamese boat people or many, many more.

“It has always been controversial at the time it happened, always been seen as too difficult. Yet each time we have risen to the challenge and our country has been blessed by the result.

“We cannot turn our backs on this crisis. We must respond with compassion. But we must also not be naïve in claiming to have the answers to end it. It requires a pan-European response – which means a commitment to serious-minded diplomatic and political debate, but not at the expense of practical action that meets the immediate needs of those most in need of our help.”

Why did God create man before woman?

Because it's always good to have a rough draft before you create your masterpiece.

Nun

What do you call a sleepwalking nun?

A roamin'Catholic.

Moses

Why did Moses wander through the desert for 40 years?

Because even back then men wouldn't stop and ask for directions.

Halt the exodus of Christians from Egypt ± pray for the Suffering Church

Egyptian Christians have called for prayer for the church and for their nation. Release International, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide, is urging Christians in the UK to support them. And the Release #everyright campaign is pressing Egypt to guarantee full religious freedom for its dwindling Christian minority.

A recent Release fact-finding team found Egyptian Christians are still being attacked and driven out of their homes because of their Christian faith. “One of the families we met was forced to flee after the father had been brutally gunned down in front of his teenage son. The pretext for the violence? A dispute over shop prices,” says Release Chief Executive, Paul Robinson.

“Another man we met was thrown into prison for trying to create a room for his Sunday school, which had been meeting in the open air.

He and his children received death threats – and still are – and his father was detained and tortured.

“Despite changes to the constitution, freedom of religion is still way beyond the grasp of many Egyptians – especially in remote areas away from Cairo.

“What we’re seeing today is a modern day exodus from Egypt, as Christians are leaving the Middle East in droves. Yet Egypt’s Coptic community is still the largest Christian presence in the Middle East. It would be a tragedy if they felt compelled to leave. Release is calling on Christians everywhere to stand with them in prayer.”

Fouad Youssef is the former secretary general of the Evangelical Fellowship of Egypt. He says: “Many families and educated people in the churches have left, escaping an unknown future for their children – especially after the period

of burning churches and killing Christians in 2013. We have lost many of our good leaders, fleeing to the States, Canada and Europe. And this affects our ministry, our population and our leadership capabilities in Egypt.

“The church in Egypt is facing fanatics. We are the first line of defence. We are not defending ourselves, we are defending the whole world. In whatever way you support the church in Egypt and the Arab world you are supporting yourselves.

“What will be stopped here will be stopped in Europe. And what will be loosed here will be loosed in Europe. Wherever there is a voice for the church, we need to hear that voice.”

Release International is pressing Egypt to make good its new constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion in practice. The Release campaign #everyright includes an online petition, which can be signed at releaseinternational.org

Justus ± leading the Church in troubled times

10th November

Does this sound familiar? An Archbishop of Canterbury tries to bring unity and calm to a Church split down the middle over seemingly irreconcilable differences, and all the while to promote the Gospel to the wider non-Christian society, in the face of widespread ignorance and even hostility towards Christianity.

This isn’t Justin Welby, though. It was Justus, a 7th century archbishop of Canterbury. Like Justin Welby, he had a passion for mission – he began as one of the Roman missionaries sent in 601

by Pope Gregory the Great – to reinforce Augustine. Once in England, he was quickly put to work – becoming the first ever Bishop of Rochester, in 604. It was then that he joined with other church leaders to urge the Irish and British (Celtic) Christians to repair the great church divide of the time – to conform their customs to those of Rome. (They were largely ignored.)

In 616 things got worse. There was a pagan reaction in Kent and Essex, and without any support from the pagan King Edbald, Jus-

tus and Mellitus knew it was time to get out – quick. They escaped to France, and the whole English mission seemed in peril. Then – an unexpected breakthrough occurred – the king was converted. So back came Justus, to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 624. Pope Boniface V had faith in his ability and courage – he bestowed on him both the pallium and the power to consecrate bishops in England. When Justus died in 627, he was buried at St Augustine’s monastery. Then, in the 11th century, Justus was moved to a site in Canterbury Cathedral, behind the high altar.

“Dear Friends...”

From the Vicars Desk

November is always a hectic month in our parish as we begin with All Saints and All Souls, and end with the Christmas Bazaar and Advent Sunday.

As Bill has reminded you elsewhere in this issue we renew our Stewardship pledges for the coming year this month. So on top of looking back with the theme of remembrance we look forward as to how we might more faithfully fulfil our mission as Christ's disciples day by day.

On Tuesday 3rd November Bishop Robert has invited all the parishes of the Borough of Camden to a service at Goodenough College in Mickelenburg Square which will be a service of welcome and challenge. Challenge as to how we may more faithfully live out the gospel. He is proposing a period of reflection leading up to an Area Day next July when we will build a strategy for mission for the Area. The service will be at 7.00pm when a candle will be presented to a representative of each church to take back to their parish to remind them of the presence of the Holy Spirit during this period of discernment. All are welcome to attend so I am hoping that some of you will be able to come along, though I do recognise that this is asking a lot after attending the Requiem the previous night for All Souls.

Also this month we begin to renew membership of the 100 Club for the coming year. Mark will be chasing all the current members for their £12 for the year, but would also

be very pleased to welcome new members. For those who don't know there is a monthly draw with prizes of £25, £10 (x2) and £5.

I am pleased to report that our new initiative Bach to Baby on a Wednesday morning seems to be proving popular with local mums. I popped into church during the session this week and counted over forty adults and this was only the second session. There was a delightful concert for some 45 minutes by a harpist which of course sounded wonderful in the church acoustic. So if you know any young mums with children under five do let them know about this event, details can be found on the Church website.

Finally but by no means least this month sees the beginning of retirement for Carol Kenning from the post of Hall Manager. Fred and Carol came to the parish two months before I did in 1986, though I was involved in the interview process. Initially Fred looked after the Hall and Carol went out to work, but she soon became involved in the life of the church by becoming Sacristan and server and for a while Parish Treasurer. As Fred's health declined Carol took over many of his tasks in the hall and on his death took over as the Hall Manager.

Carol has worked tirelessly building up good relationships with so many in the

community making the Hall a very popular place for events especially for children. She has also worked with the Nursery and regular users to ensure that everything ran smoothly. How she has managed to fit everything in I will never know, especially as she seldom takes a day off. Each year she seems to increase the bookings of the hall and fit in cleaning between events. We will undoubtedly have to appoint two people to replace her!

So from the beginning of this month she will be moving out of the flat at the hall and going to live in a small cottage in Highgate Village. We are delighted that this will mean that she will remain as sacristan of St Mary's where her contribution to the life of the parish is invaluable.

Thank you Carol from everybody at St Mary's.

Your Parish Priest

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Assisted Dying Bill overwhelmingly rejected by MPs

The Church of England recently welcomed a vote by MPs to overwhelmingly reject a move to legalise assisted suicide.

The Assisted Dying Bill was defeated in the House of Commons with MPs voting nearly three to one - 330 to 118 - not to give the proposed legislation a second reading.

The Bill would have permitted assisted suicide for terminally ill patients with six months or less to live. James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle and lead bishop for the Church of England on health care

and medical ethics, said the vote sent a strong signal that the right approach to supporting terminally ill people is to offer compassion and support through better palliative care.

“We are heartened that MPs have decided not to change the law on assisted suicide,” he said. “We believe that the proposals contained in the Assisted Dying Bill would have exposed already vulnerable people to increased risk.

“The vote in the House of Commons sends a strong signal that the right approach towards supporting

the terminally ill is to offer compassion and support through better palliative care. We believe that all of us need to redouble our efforts on that front.”

The defeat of the Bill came after the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, warned that a change in the law to permit assisted suicide would cross a ‘legal and ethical Rubicon’ and would place thousands of vulnerable people at risk.

Archbishop Justin, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis joined more than 20 other faith leaders in signing an open letter to MPs opposing the Bill.

The ageing Church

British society is ageing. What are some of the implications for the churches?

Age of retirement. Should ministers, elders, trustees and others continue to retire at, say, 65, or, as in a number of denominations like the Church of England, at 70? Roman Catholic priests are not expected to retire until they are 75. Should the age be extended to be more in line with the age of congregations?

Impact of older people. Their physical ability is usually less, (often finding stairs difficult, for example). Not all older people enjoy modern, especially loud, worship. Some churches are already appointing a Minister for Older People. Are ministers in training being prepared to serve the needs of congregations where older people dominate? The increased life expectancy will mean

that there are more married people at older ages.

Helping Grandparents. Many Third Agers are grandparents, with an average of 4.4 grandchildren in the UK. Many will spend part of their time looking after their grandchildren two or more days a week. In what practical ways can Christian grandparents be more than just child-minders/entertainers, and instead share Christian truth and values? Should the churches provide facilities especially for grandparents?

Finance. Third Agers may become less able to give as much support as they used to. How can churches cope with dwindling financial resources? However, in the Church of England, total giving in 2013 amounted to £953 million, the highest amount ever given to the church, with an average member giving £13 per week.

Transport. The older people get, the less easy it is for them to travel to church, doctor or hospital. Can churches help by providing some kind of transport rota, even ‘bussing’ people to church? Public transport is frequently simply not convenient for many older people, and often too infrequent. Numbers using Mobility Scooters may also increase, churches needing space for access.

Elderly evangelism. Proportionately more elderly go to church than in other age-groups, but there are yet many who do not go to church at all, and still need to be reached with the Gospel. But like any group of churchgoers, they need to be befriended and enabled to join in suitable church activities. When Jesus said, “The fields are white, ready to harvest,” that included those 65 and over!

From the PCC Secretary

“Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people:”

You will have to have been coming to Church for a long time if you recognise those words as the beginning of the Collect for the 25th Sunday After Trinity from the Book of Common Prayer; I barely remember them in use myself. In times gone by, they stirred up more than wills. As a warning that Advent was about to begin they served as reminder that it was time to make the Christmas pudding.

The words have not vanished from the liturgy, you will find they are

now the prayer after communion on the Sunday we now celebrate as Christ The King, this year on November 22nd. And they still signal that we are leaving the green pastures of Trinity and that next week the altar will be purple for Advent.

There will be more subtle changes as well. This is the point in the year when we change the readings. Over the past year, as those of who attend Nicky’s Bible Study group will know, we have concentrated on the Gospel of Mark, over the next year we will concentrate on Luke. So this is an opportune time to look for new readers to read from the lectern. As the person responsible

for organising the rotas of people who read in Church, I try to invite everyone I think would like to read to do so. There is no need to wait to be asked however.

At the end of this month Fr. Guy will be sending all of us a Stewardship Reminder Letter. As well as the important matter of reflecting on our giving, you will see there is space on the pledge form to volunteer to read, lead intercessions and participate in other activities such as maintaining the Church Yard. Do give it some consideration. As perhaps you have seen a job that needs doing, that isn’t on the list. Do let us know what it is.

Bill Saunders

The trigger of Remembrance

‘Lest we forget’... Remembrance Sunday acts as a trigger for so many emotions; gratitude... grief... pride... indignation ... guilt, and questioning. Take the questioning of suffering Job:

CAN I BE REMEMBERED? - ‘Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll’ (Job 19:24). Job’s thoughts were in turmoil. He speaks not only for himself, but for all who have suffered the loss of honoured close ones – in the desire that emotive memories shall be ‘engraved in rock for ever’

Can they be remembered? The last Spitfire pilot, the last soldier who fought at Alamein – the last of a platoon ever to sing with Vera Lynn We’ll meet again.... there’s a desire to hold onto them. But here’s another question:

WHOM SHALL I REMEMBER? - Further words from Job – “I know that my Redeemer liveth” have

become incorporated into the greatest oratorio ever composed, Handel’s Messiah. From the early days of the human race there was a perception, by this godly man, of a living Redeemer who, as he puts it, would ‘in the end stand upon the earth.’

Thus the comfort Job looked for in all his troubles - the focal point that he wanted to remember – lay not in his three cliché-ridden companions, but in this divine Redeemer, in whom he prophetically discerned the prospect of resurrection. It is an experience that is common to millions – to look out for something.... Someone of permanence whom we can remember and hold onto in an unstable world. A third question:

WILL HE (the Redeemer) REMEMBER ME? - The biblical world-view is altogether solid and trustworthy. If a dying thief from the dregs of society can find it in

him to say to the crucified Christ next to him, “Remember me,” then anyone can; be they an unknown warrior – one day to lie in an unmarked grave in Flanders, Vietnam or Iraq; or someone caught in the swirling tides of bereavement.

For Job it was a settled conviction! He had reached the point when he was triggered into the personal affirmation that can be anybody’s: “I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth.” You may find the following reading to be helpful: Job 19: 23-27a

Life and death

The vicar was preaching a powerful sermon concerning death and judgment. In the course of the sermon, he said: “Just think – all of you living in this parish will one day die.” At this, a man in the front pew began to laugh quietly.

After the service the vicar demanded sternly why he had found such a serious subject so funny? The man explained: “I was just happy, because I don’t live in this parish.”

Faith before the firing squad

This year is the centenary of Edith Cavell's death. Many remember her patriotism. But for Edith, patriotism was not enough. Many saw her as a hero and a martyr; some even think she was a spy. But Edith asked to be remembered '... only as a nurse who tried to do her duty'.

Dozens of books have been written about Edith Cavell, but none answered the question: 'How could she be so calm and confident before the firing squad?' My new book, *Edith Cavell - Faith before the firing squad* (Monarch, £8.99) tells Edith's story. It traces the roots of her calm confidence, her love for others expressed in practical, selfless service to friend and foe alike, as well as her courage helping fugitives from war find freedom.

Self-sacrifice was the hallmark of Nurse Edith Cavell's life. She was executed on 12 October 1915 for enabling at least 200 Allied soldiers to escape occupied Belgium into neutral territory, but her care had extended to German and Allied soldiers.

On the night before her execution she told the chaplain who came to give her Holy Communion that she was grateful for the weeks of quiet she had spent in solitary confinement after such a busy life. She said, 'I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me ... This I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'

She knew that the patriotism her fellow prisoners had used in their defence was not enough to enable her to stand in God's presence. Throughout her life she had used the Book of Common Prayer, repeating the Lord's Prayer morning and evening, 'forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us'. She knew that she couldn't hold on to hatred or bitterness. She needed to forgive others, just as she had been forgiven.

After they had shared communion, they said together the words of the hymn 'Abide With Me', and they talked about heaven. As he left her cell, she took the chaplain's hand and said with confidence in her eternal future, 'We shall meet again.' She was executed by firing squad at dawn the next morning.

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On what it takes to be an ordinand

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was intrigued that you have been nurturing someone called Dave who is considering ordination. Since Dave had never travelled outside the city, your decision to send him to me was understandable. Sadly, I don't think he is cut out for the ministry.

We did our best. In a fit of hospitality the Colonel invited this Dave to stay at the Lodge, and to join his Saturday pheasant shoot as a beater. But Dave said firmly that he was against beating any kind of bird, and abhors all kinds of murder. It seems young Dave is a vegetarian! You might have warned us. The Colonel is now concerned that Dave is connected in some way with the Green Party. You cannot

be too careful these days.

Then Miss Saxby and Miss Tarby stepped in. They enjoy mushrooming, and kindly took young Dave off to the woods. It is not their fault that they are a bit deaf, and did not hear his cries of distress when he lost them among all the trees. They just assumed he had gone back to the Colonel's, and so of course they did not organize a search party until much later. Fortunately, the church warden's spaniel has a keen nose and found Dave before midnight. During all that time, Dave seemed to have had nothing better to do than slide about on fallen leaves and trip over hidden logs in the dark. He was even babbling about having heard a crying ghost. We feared he might be delirious, but then realized he meant the local owl. He also seemed surprised by the darkness, and asked how we manage without any streetlights at

all in the parish. We explained the obvious – we simply follow the example of the well-refreshed when leaving the pub - and feel our way along the walls.

On Sunday morning Dave rushed into the church to warn me that there were several loose sheep in the churchyard. I decided then that he should return to the safety of the city. There was no point in letting him near most of our church ladies, who would have savaged him on sight.

The visit only proves the obvious: potential ordinands should be carnivorous, cricketing fly-fishers, most at home in well-worn tweeds and preferably accompanied by a muddy dog. How else will they get along with normal folk?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

a friend (40%) or family member (34%). They think of the Christians they know as 'friendly', 'caring' and 'good humoured' and more than half (58%) of those who know a Christian had had a conversation with them about their faith in Jesus.

And what do they think about Jesus after that conversation? 1 in 5 is open to knowing and experiencing more about him.

Roy Crowne, Executive Director of HOPE, said: "It is the first time that a study like this has been done. The results are a game-changer for churches wanting to share the good news of Jesus. Church leaders can often get discouraged by reports of declining numbers.
turn to page11 col 2

Talking Jesus

What do people outside the Church know about Jesus? Do they know someone who actively follows Jesus? Have they ever had a conversation about Jesus?

Knowing the answers to questions like these could really help Christians share the most amazing message: the love of God for all of us through Jesus.

So HOPE, the Church of England and the Evangelical Alliance, backed by Church leaders of all denominations, commissioned the Barna Group research company to ask people living in England. Here is what they said...

60% said they thought He was a real historical person
43% said they believed He rose from the dead
21% think He is God while 30% think He is spiritual leader or prophet

The Talking Jesus research – available at www.talkingjesus.org – shows that practising Christians are talking to people about Jesus: 66% have had a conversation with a non-Christian about Jesus in the past month. And Millennial Christians – 18-34-year-olds – are talking about Jesus the most often.

Most non-Christians (67%) say they know a practising Christian and that person is most likely to be

THE WAY I SEE IT - THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER

Until fairly recent years 5th November in England was well known for foggy evenings as bonfires were lit all over the country. On many of them a 'guy' would be burnt – usually a couple of old pillows and some cast-off clothes in the rough shape of a man.

The 'guy' was, historically speaking, Guy Fawkes, one of the chief conspirators in a plot by Roman Catholic zealots to blow up the Palace of Westminster at the State Opening of Parliament on 5th November 1606, thus removing James I from the throne. Fawkes was arrested as he stood guard over

a massive collection of gunpowder in an undercroft beneath the House of Lords. Under torture he revealed the names of the other conspirators, and they were hanged, drawn and quartered on 31st January 1607, though Fawkes jumped from the scaffold and broke his neck, thus avoiding the actual execution.

The previous sixty years had seen unprecedented religious strife in England, following the breakaway of the Church of England from Rome under Henry VIII. Hundreds of priests loyal to Rome were hunted down and many put to death, often under the accusation of 'treason'. During the brief reign

of a Catholic monarch, Mary, there were many Protestants who were similarly executed. Years of strife, often over verbal definitions, were testimony to the bitterness of feelings which religious conviction can inspire.

There is still plenty of religious strife in the world, as we all know, though little now between different groups of Christians. 5th November might be a good day on which to pray to the one and only God that the world might see an end to the blasphemy of any killing in His Name.

New exhibition looks at 1200 years of Christianity, Islam and Judaism ± at the British Museum

The British Library is to lend one of its greatest treasures, the world's oldest Bible, to the British Museum for an exhibition exploring 1,200 years of Christian, Islamic and Jewish faith in Egypt after the pharaohs.

The Codex Sinaiticus is considered to be one of the most important books in the world. It dates back to the 4th century AD. Handwritten in Greek, not long after the reign of the Emperor Constantine the Great, it contains the earliest complete manuscript of the New Testament.

The Codex was bought in 1933 by Britain from the Soviet government of Joseph Stalin, desperate to raise cash for the second five-year plan. Remarkably, more than half the £100,000 cost was raised by public subscription.

Experts now believe the Codex

The top 10 Bible stories: Noah

A little boy was listening to the story of Noah's Ark. Suddenly he interrupted: "Where were you in the ark, Grandpa?" His grandfather replied, with some astonishment, that he had not been in the ark at all. That did not satisfy his grandson: "Then why weren't you drowned?"

This month we consider Noah, an example of faith in Hebrews 11:7 'By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.' So - what does Noah teach us about faith?

Faith believes God's Word: Noah believed God's warning of judgment on the people of the earth for their violence and wickedness, despite the lack of rain! Are we prepared to trust God's word, even when we can't see the evidence of his working?

Faith loves and serves God: Noah was moved by 'holy fear', like a child who does not want to displease his father. Do we seek to love God with all of our lives?

Faith obeys God in the face of opposition: 'The construction of the ark is the longest, most drawn out test of faith recorded in the Bible' (Oswald Sanders). Noah built a boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high, hundreds of miles from water to the amazement of the people. Is God calling us to step out in faith in a particular area of our lives?

Faith witnesses for God in spite of rejection: Noah was described as a righteous and blameless man who 'walked with God'. As one who lived right with God, he can be called a 'preacher of righteousness' (2 Peter 2:5). What is the witness of our faith to others? Where were the Noah jokes when it started raining?

Hymns and Readings

1st November All Saints Day

Readings Wisdom 3: 1-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21: 1-6
John 11: 32-44
Hymns 396 Let saints on earth
341 Blest are the pure in heart
197 For all the saints
381 Jerusalem the golden
Sidesperson: Monica Sarpong
Readers: Stephen Nicoll, Rosie Price Timmins
Intercessions: Bill Saunders

8th November Remembrance Sunday

Readings Jonah 3: 1-5 & 10
Psalm 62
Hebrews 9: 24-end
Mark 1: 14-20
Hymns 417 O God our help
National Anthem
579 I vow to thee my country
490 Judge eternal
334 All people that in earth do dwell
Sidesperson: Rob Nesbitt
Readers: Lucy Boyd, Nick Bethune
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

was the work of four scribes, known as A, B1, B2 and D (the existence of a C has now been disproved by modern scholars). The Codex was the prototype for every subsequent Christian Bible.

In the British Museum exhibition, the Codex will be displayed alongside two other founding texts of the Hebrew and Muslim faiths: the First Gaster Bible, also being loaned by the British Library, and a copy of the Qur'an from the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

They will be part of what is the first major exhibition to explore, in its 1,200-year entirety, the transition of Egypt from a pharaoh-worshipping society to a majority Christian and then majority Muslim society, with Jewish communities periodically thriving throughout. The exhibition will argue that the transitions, from a society worshipping many gods to a society devoted to one God, shaped the modern world we know today.

• Egypt After The Pharaohs is at the British Museum 29 October-7 February, supported by the Blavatnik Family Foundation.

15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

Readings Daniel 12: 1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10: 11-14 & 19-25
Mark 13: 1-8
Hymns 434 Oft in danger oft in woe
467 Through all the changing scenes of life
333 All my hope on God is founded
359 Fight the good fight
Sidesperson: Mark Williams
Readers: Denise Sealy, Ruth Godwin
Intercessions: Lucy Boyd.

22nd November Christ the King

Readings: Daniel 7: 9-10 & 13-14
Psalm: 93
Revelation 1: 4b-8
John 18: 33-37
Hymns 345 Christ is the king O friends rejoice
394 Let all the world
296 Lord enthroned in heavenly
352 Crown him with many crowns
Sidesperson: Nick Bethune
Readers; Bill Saunders, Jenny Kauntze
Intercessions: Nicky Pittam

29th November Advent Sunday

Readings: Jerimiah 33: 14-16
Psalm: 25
1 Thessolonians 3: 9-end
Luke 21: 25-36
Hymns: Litany
3 Come thou long expected
11 O come O come
1 Creator of the stars of night
Sidesperson: Elizabeth Oyedemi
Readers: Carol Kenning, Nick Bethune
Intercessions: Ian MacGregor

“But these results show that Christianity in Britain is diverse, full of life, and many people are passionate about sharing their faith. It will help us to equip Christians to be effective when they are talking about Jesus to those open to hearing more. This research is a first step: it changes everything.”

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For your prayers

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2015

1st Grove Terrace
8th Highgate Road
15th Kingswear Road
22nd Laurier Road
29th Lissenden Gardens

SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

1st All Saints Day
2nd All Souls
6th St Leonard
7th St Willibroad

8th 3rd Sunday Before Advent
Remembrance Sunday
9th Margery Kempe
10th St Leo the great
11th St Martin of Tours
15th 2nd Sunday before Advent
16th St Margaret of Scotland
17th St Hugh of Lincoln
18th St Elizabeth of Hungary
19th St Hilda of Whitby
20th St Edmund
22nd Christ the King
23rd St Clement of Rome
25th St Catherine of Alexandria
29th Advent Sunday
30th St Andrew