

Brookfield News

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Worker or Worshipper?

What would you do if someone famous unexpectedly arrived at your home? No doubt you would invite them in and have a good chat! When Jesus came to the home of Martha and Mary they reacted differently. Martha carried on working, but Mary sat with Jesus and listened to Him. (Luke 10:38-42)

Perhaps Martha wanted to be with Jesus but women, at that time, were responsible for looking after the guests. If men turned up it was the women's role to offer food and drink. Suddenly, Martha's role was to be in the kitchen while the men were elsewhere, sitting and talking!

So when Martha saw Jesus, it was

a time to get busy. A meal had to be prepared quickly. As this was a massive task she didn't like seeing her sister sitting around and doing nothing! Surprisingly, Martha didn't address her sister directly but spoke to Jesus wanting Him to intervene and issue the order that Mary should help with the work.

Jesus gives Martha a gentle rebuke. Her concern for hospitality was good, but at that moment it was the wrong decision. Mary ignored the catering to be with Jesus because this was a special moment and she didn't want it to pass. Mary's need to be with Jesus was so intense she went against Jewish convention and stayed with the men. Martha was so caught up with everyday

concerns, important as they probably were, that listening to Jesus took second place.

Of these two characters, which one resembles us? Are we like Martha, always busy with a hands-on approach to life, task-orientated, concerned and anxious with so many things? Or are we like Mary, calm, reflective, unrushed and discerning about what needs to be done?

Jesus knows what craves our attention and gently says 'Pause awhile in your busy times and listen to Me. Then, return to your responsibilities with a renewed purpose.'

As Christians we have to get the balance right between service and

This Month.....The Dambusters.....Page 3

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

Wednesday 2nd November All Souls Day. 7.30pm Solemn Sung Requiem

Sunday 13th November Remembrance Sunday. 10.55am Remembrance ceremonies and Parish Mass

Sunday 20th November Christ the King. 11.00am Parish Mass

Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday. 11.00am Litany in procession and 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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solitude, the work-place or the private place. If we do not discern when and how to have quiet times with God, we will become busy like Martha, and not be blessed. The temperaments of these sisters show us the need for a balanced life: a practical hand and a devotion to God; the worker and the worshipper.

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. "All those names," he said to the priest. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the priest. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

The other side of 'The Dambusters' ± God is our refuge and strength by Rev'd Richard Bewes

My wife Pam and I recently watched again the British war film 'The Dambusters' – and all that lay the behind RAF Squadron 617's historic 'bouncing bomb' attack on the dams that resourced Hitler's industrial heartland. At a 'Bible Week' once in Germany, I was driven by my generous hosts to see the initial target of the 1943 raid - the Mohne Dam. Some of the original scars were still visible on the great repaired structure.

But there is always another side to war. For, back in England, a church friend whom Pam and I greatly love is 'Inge' – a sweet German Christian woman. Her family home had been in the valley, just below the Mohne Dam, the night of the fatal 17th May. Somehow Inge survived.

"How could I ever forget it?" she confided. "We heard the planes and explosions; then came the crashing water - sweeping homes, people, whole families to destruction. Almost the worst sound," she went on, "was that of the animals all around us, in their terrified baying and shrieking, as they were swept away."

War... It occurs as an ever-repeated reminder of our own fallenness

Signs found outside churches:

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

and need of redemption through the cross of Christ. And yet – according to the Psalmist - we were originally made only 'a little lower than the angels,' capable – even in our fallenness and at the height of war – of acts of incredible heroism and selfless care.

I decided to write a hymn on Psalm 46, and obtained copyright permission to set it to the film's theme music – 'The Dambusters' March.' Since then, 'God is our Strength and Refuge' has gone all over the world, and is used in many churches on Remembrance Sunday.

A hand-written letter once arrived for me from an RAF veteran who had been rear-gunner in one of the Lancaster bombers flying in the famous 617 Squadron. He had been thrilled "to hear our own squadron's Dambuster's March now set to words of peace!"

There is massive inspiration in The Dambusters' story. Yet Remembrance Sunday, at its heart, reminds us again of the other side. It can even summon us on, beyond the memories, sorrows and hurt of war, to where our friend Inge is today; in the permanence of a secure faith, and in the membership of the eternal Church, against which – as Jesus promised - not even the

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

powers of hell can stand.

God is our strength and Refuge
1. God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble.

Though swirling waters are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us
evermore!

2. There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city,
God is in the midst of her –
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence –
God the Lord of hosts is with us
evermore!

3. Come, see the works of our
maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations –
God the Lord of hosts is with us
evermore!

From Psalm 46, Richard Bewes;
Copyright, Jubilate Songs; Tune
Dambusters' March, ("Sing Glory"
No 650)

Come in and pray today. Beat the
Christmas rush!

Thursday at 10am there will be a
meeting of the Little Mothers Club.
All those wishing to become Little
Mothers please see our new Vicar
in the vicarage....

Cathedral Statistics 2015 show continued growth

As some of you know I regularly conduct services at St Paul's Cathedral. At least once a month I say the 12.30 Mass where we have anything between 40 and 80 communicants. Also I occasionally step in for the Canon in Residence and preside at Evensong, usually on a Saturday evening. It has been very noticeable that over recent years numbers have dramatically increased so that now it is not unusual to have 400 people present. I was therefore interested to see the following statistics.

Attendance at cathedral worship continues to increase, with mid-week attendance rising and Sunday attendance stable in 2015, according to the latest Cathedral Statistics, published recently.

On average, 36,700 people (adults and children) attended services each week at the 42 cathedrals in England during 2015. This is an increase of 18% from 31,200 in 2005. Midweek attendance increased from 12,700 to 18,900, contributing most of the increase. Attendance at Sunday services has remained generally stable, at around 17,900 in 2015.

Other regular services, such as Fresh Expressions and schools services, conducted at least once a month and not part of the weekly pattern of services, attracted 471,300. More than 1.1 million people attended 5,310 public/civic events held in cathedrals.

"These figures are extremely encouraging," said the Very Reverend Dr Pete Wilcox, Dean of Liverpool.

"They show that, up and down the country, cathedrals are sustaining the growth that has been reported for a number of years. Clearly, something about cathedral worship is meeting a need and contributing significantly to the spiritual life of the nation."

Easter and Christmas

Meanwhile, Easter 2015 services saw 54,000 attending worship, 2% more than in 2014. There were 28,200 Easter communicants, the highest figure since 2009. Attendance during Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, was 92,500.

Christmas attendance was 125,200 in 2015, the highest figure since 2011. There were 33,100 communicants at Christmas in 2015. Services during Advent, the period leading up to Christmas, attracted an attendance of 824,300 in 2015, the highest figure for the past decade. All events and services from the beginning of Advent to 23 December are captured in the Advent total.

Baptisms, Marriages and Thanksgivings

In 2015, 760 baptisms and 12 thanksgivings were conducted in cathedrals, a number almost unchanged since 2010. Since 2011, the number of infant baptisms in cathedrals has been falling steadily, while the number of baptisms of people over a year of age has steadily increased since 2005.

In the year, 270 marriages and 30 blessings were conducted in cathedrals. The number of funerals has remained stable over the last

ten years at 370 with a further 120 memorial services conducted by cathedral clergy.

Children and Young People

The number of children and young people attending organised educational events in cathedrals increased by 14% from 280,900 in 2005 to 320,000 in 2015; a further 13,100 children visited Westminster Abbey. More than half of these visits were by children under 11 years old. Cathedral schools or schools formally associated with cathedrals had 12,440 children on their rolls in 2015.

Music

Cathedral choirs included 1,490 child choristers and 550 lay clerks and choral scholars in 2015. A further 600 children and 1,410 adults were involved in voluntary choirs. The cathedrals have, between them, 40 male, 30 female and 80 mixed cathedral choirs.

Volunteers

The number of people volunteering at cathedrals rose by 13% from 13,300 in 2005 to 15,000 in 2015. There were 9.4 million visitors to cathedrals in 2015; a further 1 million people visited Westminster Abbey.

More info at: Cathedral Statistics

Notice on a church in Cheshire:

'This is the House of God, This is the gate of Heaven.'
(This door is locked in winter months.)

Rural deans

The following notice was once seen at a conference at Launde Abbey, the Leicestershire Diocesan Retreat House. It read: 'Rural deans in stables.'

“Dear Friends...”

From the Vicars Desk

By the time that you read this the working group of the PCC will have finally put together the application for a Heritage Lottery Grant to tackle the urgent work on the church.

We have been talking about this for some two years, but the latest inspection by the architect in June has helped us to begin the process of applying for grants from various bodies and seriously getting fund raising under way.

So what is the urgent need? The major part of the work results from work done after the war. When the church was bombed in 1944 the repairs that were undertaken used inappropriate materials. Bricks that were damaged were faced with cement and the pointing between the bricks was repaired with the wrong sort of cement. The result has been that water has seeped into the brickwork and forced the facing off and the pointing to come out. You can see this all over the East end of the church facing Dartmouth Park Hill. There is further damage to the stone capping on the top of the walls and this is so bad at the West End that recently a large chunk fell off.

Inside you can see the result of water getting in via the roof gullies over many years. The bricks are disintegrating through being wet for so long and the pointing is coming out. When the roof was renewed in 2003 all the lead gullies were replaced so over the intervening years the walls have dried out so we are now able to deal with

replacing them. You can also see what is called efflorescence on the stone work. This is caused by salts in the water destroying the surface of the stone.

While all this work is in progress we hope to be able to relay the stone in front of the main doors taking away the steps and creating a gentle slope down to the pavement. We also hope to do some repairs to the church floor making it safer for everybody.

So as you might imagine all this is going to cost quite a lot! In fact the architect estimates that it will be £249,000! One of the major components of that will be the scaffolding that is likely to be in place inside and out for up to six months. Fund raising is therefore going to be a vital part of life over the coming months. Every little helps so please do put your thinking caps on and try to come up with something that you could do to boost the coffers.

There are three immediate ways to help this month. The Bazaar is coming up on 26th at 2.00pm in the Hall. Lets try and make this a bumper year. Do

talk to Bill Saunders or Nicky Pittam if you have any ideas that may make an extra few pounds, or may be even thousands! This is always a great event to showcase the parish in the locality. Then its also time to be renewing your 100 Club subscription. Mark Williams works hard to ensure that this monthly draw is successful, but new members are always welcome. If we were to go over 100 members we can increase the prizes so everyone benefits! And lastly and probably most significantly I will be writing to all of you this month to ask you to consider your level of regular giving. You will see elsewhere in this edition of Brookfield News some national statistics against which you might judge your level of giving.

Your Parish Priest

The Parish of
S. Mary Brookfield



Bazaar

Saturday 26th November
2.00pm- 4.00pm

Church Hall
York Rise

Home Produce * Cakes
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Toys * Games to play

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Increase in ministry numbers is necessary and achievable, report shows

Dioceses are responding to the call to work towards a 50% increase in candidates for ordination, with new posts and new procedures.

A review of numbers in ordained ministry over the last 67 years shows that the 50% increase in candidates for ministry by 2020 agreed by the General Synod in February, 2015, is needed to stabilise and increase the numbers ministering in parishes, chaplaincies and new forms of church.

The Church of England is seeking to increase by half the numbers training for ordained ministry and to sustain those numbers for a decade: an increase from about 500 to 750 by 2020. At the same time,

the Church is also seeking greater diversity among those training for ministry. This will better reflect the communities where the Church is working, in terms of age, gender and ethnic and social background. Encouraging more young men and, especially, young women, as well as more Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) worshippers to consider ordination will help the Church of England hit its aspiration of an extra 50% new clergy each year, according to a recent report on ordained vocations statistics.

The statistical review shows that, while similar numbers of men and women are being recommended for ordination training each year,

women are testing their vocations at a later age and tend to retire sooner than the men. Currently, women recommended for training are, on average, significantly older than the men recommended. The majority of younger paid clergy are men, while, among older clergy, more are women. The Church is encouraging women to test their vocations younger.

The projections illustrate a steady decline in the total pool of clergy if the current trends in ordinations and retirements continue.

Currently, around 500 candidates for ordained ministry are recommended for training each year. By 2020, it is hoped to increase this number to around 750.

Alphege ± the kidnapped Archbishop of Canterbury

It has always been a fairly hazardous job being Archbishop of Canterbury, but in the past several even went on to meet a gory end.

The tenth century Alphege was a pious and austere monk, who spent much time in prayer as a hermit. He was brought back into community life to become Abbot of Bath and later Bishop of Winchester. He stayed at Winchester for two decades and gained a wide reputation for his care of the poor. It was said that in his diocese there were no beggars, thanks to his generosity. He was also known for his gifts of diplomacy and the king, Ethelred the Unready, called on him to mediate with the Danes who had invaded his kingdom. Such was his charisma that even the Danish chief Anlaf converted

to Christianity.

In 1005 Alphege was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and six years later another Danish invasion force arrived, demanding gold and silver. The Danes laid siege to Canterbury. This time the outcome was far less happy. The cathedral was plundered and the Danes threatened to slaughter the inhabitants of the city. The archbishop volunteered to be taken prisoner if the citizens were spared. He was put in a dungeon and a ransom of £3000 was demanded for his release, a huge sum in those days.

When an epidemic of sickness struck the Danes, he prayed that they might be healed. Nevertheless, on 19th April 1012, when the archbishop was being held at Greenwich, the Danes became

increasingly impatient with their prisoner. He persistently refused to allow anyone to buy his freedom. He was seized by a party of drunken Vikings and pelted with animal bones and ox-heads. He was so badly wounded and his suffering so great that, according to one story, a Christian Viking took pity and despatched him swiftly with a blow to the head.

After his death, which shocked all England, he was much venerated. The Danish king Canute had his body taken to Canterbury. Alphege was canonised by Pope Gregory VII in 1078, and honoured not just for the manner of his death, but for his steadfast holiness. He became the patron saint of kidnap victims.

Parish finances show record level of giving

As later this month I will be writing to all the members of our electoral roll to ask them to review their giving, I thought you might all be interested in these national statistics.

The generosity of churchgoers from across the country is highlighted in the latest parish finance statistics. The figures – covering the year 2014 – demonstrate a record level of giving with total planned giving up £6 million at £329 million and total direct giving up £71 million at £481 million.

The figures also show that Church of England parishes donated £46 million to supporting other charities working around the world, from foodbanks and local chil-

dren's charities to international aid appeals.

Parishes raised these important funds from a combination of regular and one-off donations as well as investments and legacies. Total parish income from giving, investments and other income sources was £989 million – an increase of £36 million on the previous year. Expenditure levels also rose by £28 million to £948 million in 2014, leaving the 12,000 parishes a surplus of £41 million over expenditure.

Dr John Preston, the Church of England's national stewardship adviser, said:

"These financial statistics reveal an underlying financial health in the

church which is encouraging. As a result of the commitment and generosity of hundreds of thousands of churchgoers, we have seen record levels of giving - with the average weekly gift from all planned givers exceeding £11 for the first time, and the average gift from those able to give through Gift Aid exceeding £15 including the tax recovered."

Average weekly giving per tax-efficient givers has continued to rise year on year with members giving on average £12.01 in 2014. Average weekly giving per electoral roll member rose to £8.85 in 2014, an increase of £1.60 a week and the highest level recorded. Total planned giving rose by slightly less than inflation, while total income grew by more than inflation.

THE WAY I SEE IT: 80 years of BBC television

by Canon David Winter

Some things seem to have been around forever, and among them, I suppose, is television. Most people alive today can't remember a time when the TV set didn't stand in the living room. So it is worth noting that 80 years ago this month BBC television went on the air for the first time. I remember working in a studio at the front of Broadcasting House, and reading the plaque on the wall recording that the world's first television transmission was made from there in 1932.

It was not technically a 'broadcast', because in fact it was simply a successful experiment. Four years later regular evening programmes went on air from the BBC television

studios at Alexandra Palace, north London. And look at it now!

Some people would say that we are now in the 'post-television' age. On the whole young adults don't watch television, in the normal sense, but stream or download the content when it suits them, on various 'platforms'.

World-wide, however, television is still the universal medium of mass communication. Elections are won or lost on it, reputations built and shattered, genius recognised and incompetence or error instantly ridiculed on social media. It is an unforgiving medium, yet most of us, I suspect, would miss it enormously.

I like to think of television as sim-

ply rather sophisticated gossip. Most of it is the sort of thing my parents talked about with neighbours over the garden fence. Only instead of 'that Mrs Jones at No.72' it's 'that woman with glasses on Bake Off'. We feel as though we know – and like or dislike - all these important, dazzling and gifted people personally.

Indeed, TV personalities often remark how people on a train or even in the street will assume they know them and start up a conversation. And why not? It's important, surely, that we treat television as an accessory of life, not its substance. Neither we, nor the people who make it, should take television too seriously.

Muslim militia kill Christians in war-torn Central African Republic

Muslim Seleka militants murdered up to 26 Christians in September, in an attack on the village of Ndomete, around 220 miles north of the capital Bangui. A government spokesman said “The Seleka went door to door ... it was a massacre.”

Christians in the nearby town of Kaga-Bandoro also came under attack: a ministry partner told Barnabas Fund that one church has been forced to move the location of its meetings and “Yesterday one of the pastors informed me of the destruction of their Bible training centre in Kaga-Bandoro and looting of houses by the Seleka. Students fled for their lives. Several

humanitarian and international NGO centres were also looted ... Please keep the Central African Republic in your prayers.”

The Christian-majority country has been plagued by violence since late 2012, when Muslim Seleka militants initiated an uprising against the then president François Bozizé and forced him out of power. They took control of the government and Seleka leader, Michel Djotodia, declared himself to be head of state, although he was later forced to resign in January 2014. A transitional caretaker government took over and has now been replaced by the new government, headed by a Christian president.

The U.N. Security Council deployed more than 10,000 military personnel as peacekeepers to the Central African Republic in 2014, and the mission has now been extended until November 2017. Thousands have been killed since the overthrow of President Bozizé in 2013 and more than 800,000 people have been forced to flee their homes.

Christians living in towns and villages in the rebel-controlled central belt of the country are especially vulnerable. Barnabas Fund has been helping the victims of the anti-Christian violence. If you can help, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Muslim-militia-kill-Christians-and-destroy...>

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How debt is a danger to children's mental health

Bailliffs, utility companies and local councils who chase struggling parents over unpaid debts may be unwittingly inflicting real damage to children's mental health, The Children's Society has warned.

A new report by the charity, 'The Damage of Debt', finds that children in low-income families with multiple debts are at far higher risk of suffering from mental health problems than those in families who owe money to a single type of creditor.

For families in poverty, the crucial factor is the number of types of debts rather than the total amount owed. The more types of debt, the worse a child's mental health is likely to be.

The findings suggest that having to juggle a range of creditors, from utility companies to stores, banks and payday loan companies, all of which may be seeking to claw back debts at the same time, ramps up

the pressure on financially stressed households, who may also owe money to friends, family and other members of the community.

According to The Children's Society's analysis, the estimated 2.4m children in England and Wales living in households in problem debt are at greater risk of having poor mental health than the children of debt-free parents. Almost a quarter (23%) of children in debt-ridden families, equivalent to more than 500,000 children, are unhappy with their lives. This means that children living in families struggling with problem debt are five times more likely to be unhappy than those in families without debt troubles.

Children feel embarrassed for not owning things that are considered normal by their classmates, and guilty, anxious and a sense of failure for not being able to help their parents deal with their debts. This inability to help leaves them with lower self-confidence and self-

worth.

The Damage of Debt reveals how the impact of debt collection on children is felt directly, through the distress of repeated phone calls, letters or visits from bailiffs, and the fear of eviction, as well as indirectly, through the strain of family arguments. Both can have lasting impacts on children and their mental health.

The Children's Society, as part of its Debt Trap Campaign, is calling for an overhaul of the way household debts are treated to give families the chance to get things back on track – and to make sure children do not have to pay the price of debt with their mental health.

The Children's Society is calling on MPs to support Kelly Tolhurst MP's Private Member's Bill, proposing a breathing space for families in debt, and which is due to be debated in the coming months.

Canon David Winter looks forward to Advent^o Good old Advent!

On the last Sunday in November the Church celebrates Advent. In popular thought this is seen as the start of the Christmas season. Advent Calendars are on sale in the supermarkets. Christmas, our annual festival of excess, is just a few weeks away. Good old Advent!

I yield to no one in my enjoyment of Christmas, with all the trimmings, but where Advent is concerned I have to be a bit of a party-pooper. It's not the start of

the 'run-up to Christmas', whatever the shops think. In any case, they've been 'running up' since September. Advent is a solemn but exciting reminder that Christmas is not the end of the Christian story, but the beginning.

The end, with which Advent is concerned, is the ultimate triumph of love and goodness over evil and cruelty. The final loving purpose of God will be achieved. The kingdom of heaven will lie before us, its gates permanently open. 'Death will be

no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more'. God says, 'I am making everything new'.

'Advent' simply means 'Coming'. The first Advent was Christmas, the second Advent will be when all that the coming of Jesus promised will be fulfilled. Yes, it's a bit more complicated than a cattle shed and a manger, but it's a wonderful prospect. Good old Advent!

'He gave us eyes to see them' ± the altar

In 'The Temple' the reader travels through the poems of George Herbert and makes a pilgrimage through the church to arrive finally at the altar where Love bids us welcome to make our communion. For the poet and for us, the altar is a sign of Christ: His presence in the sacrament of His body and blood. At the Reformation stone altars gave way to wooden holy tables, but in 1972 a stone altar was created for a London church that was designed not only as a sign of Christ, but as a reminder of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – the place where Abraham was ready to offer Isaac.

The altar is a focus of offering. Its sculptor was Henry Moore who began his work 300 hundred years after Sir Christopher Wren designed the new church of St Stephen, Walbrook in 1672. Neither Wren nor Moore was afraid of innovation and experiment. As a result Wren created one of the most beautiful of London churches, famous and



admired throughout Europe, with its central dome carried on twelve columns. His concern was that in worship all should hear and see, just as Moore's concern was to show the altar at the heart of the church, and consequently a church that is at the heart of the city.

The placing of that altar led to a lengthy court case in 1987, and opinions may still vary over this

marriage of stone and building. But it remains as a focus for offering and worship, just as the church of St Stephen stands nearly 350 years after it was rebuilt. Both take us in faith and prayer to an earlier age when Jesus shared a meal with His disciples in the Upper Room. We rejoice that the same Jesus welcomes us to the Eucharist now at this altar of St Stephen and at the altars of all our churches.

Nehemiah: dealing with discouragement

It's one thing to have vision, but quite another to put it into practice and finish the task. Nehemiah persisted in the job of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. When the wall was half-built, the people started to get discouraged at the size of the task and their commitment began to waver:

'Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, 'The strength of the labourers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.' (Nehemiah 4:10).

It's often when we are half-way through a project that we can get weary and tempted to give up. It

could be DIY at home, a volunteer role in our community, a church responsibility, or a commitment to help a difficult person at work! Like the people of Jerusalem, we can easily lose sight of God's call upon our lives.

How did Nehemiah deal with the peoples' discouragement? Primarily, he encouraged them to focus on God not the rubble: 'Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes' (4:14). He also set up a rallying point: 'Wherever you hear the sound of

the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!' (4:20). They needed to encourage one other during difficult times.

When we grow weary and feel like giving up, we too can 'remember the Lord' who is 'great and awesome'. It's God's work that we have been called to be a part of, which often involves tasks that stretch our faith and resources. It's God who will be with us in difficult situations, who 'will never leave us nor forsake us' (Hebrews 13:5) and who 'gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak' (Isaiah (40:29)).

Hymns and Readings

2nd November All Souls

Readings Lamentations 3.17-26, & 31-33
Psalm 27
Romans 5: 5-11
John 5: 19-25
Hymns 329 Jesu Son of Mary
327 Christ enthroned in highest heaven
331 Abide with me
Sidesperson: Bill Saunders
Readers: Carol Kenning, Ian McGregor

6th November 3rd before Advent

Readings Job 19: 23-27a
Psalm 17
2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5 & 13-end
Luke 20: 27-38
Hymns 410 My God how wonderful thou art
113 Love's redeeming work is done
148 The God of Abraham praise
Our blest redeemer ere he breathed
HON 543
Sidesperson: Elizabeth Odeyemi
Readers: Denise Sealy, Lucy Boyd
Intercessions: Bill Saunders

13th November Remembrance Sunday

Readings Malachi 4: 1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13
Luke 21: 5-19
Hymns 417 O God our help in ages past
National Anthem
Make me a channel of your peace
HON 437
490 Judge eternal
334 All people that on earth do dwell
Sidesperson: Nick Bethune
Readers: Joe McKenzie, Nicky Pittam
Intercessions: Lucy Boyd

100 Club Winners

Draw for September 2016
1st prize: Wendy Shale
2nd prize: Robin Barter
3rd prize: Fred & Ginge the cats
4th prize: William Longlands
Congratulations to you all and thanks for your support each month.

20th November Christ the King

Readings Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1: 11-20
Luke 23: 33-43
Hymns 476 Ye servants of God your master
proclaim
629 Be still for the presence of the Lord
296 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
613 Christ triumphant ever reigning
Sidesperson: Irada Fracassi
Readers: Ray Evans, Jenny Kauntze
Intercessions: Nicky Pittam

27th November Advent Sunday

Readings Isaiah 2: 1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13: 11-end
Matthew 24: 36-44
Hymns Litany in procession
1 Creator of the stars of night
11 O come O come
14 The advent of our God
Sidesperson: Mark Williams
Readers: Bill Saunders, Ruth Godwin
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

Illtud ± patron saint of NGOs?

Feast day 6th November

Not many people have heard of Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief.

Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action. Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest 'emergency relief appeals', and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: "I was hungry and you fed me..." (Matthew 25:35) Certainly the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud's kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.

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For your prayers

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2016

6th Wesleyan Place
13th Woodsome Road
20th York Rise
27th Those who live outside the parish
but worship at St Mary's

SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

2nd All Souls
3rd Richard Hooker
6th 3rd Sunday before Advent
7th St Willibrord

8th Saints and Martyrs of England
9th Marjorie Kemp Mystic
10th St Leo the Great
11th St Martin of Tours
13th Second Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday
16th St Margaret of Scotland
17th St Hugh of Lincoln
18th St Elizabeth of Hungary
19th St Hilda of Whitby
20th Christ the King
22nd St Cecilia
23rd St Clement of Rome
25th Catherine of Alexandria
27th Advent Sunday
30th St Andrew