

Brookfield News

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Prayer: no pressure-tactics needed!

“And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly.” (Luke 18:7,8)

In today’s pressurised world, DELAY is invariably the name of the game! Just last week my wife and I went to the pharmacy to collect some long-promised medication, only to be told, “No, we haven’t got them in yet; come back again next week.” In East Africa, at Uganda’s famous Entebbe Airport, an announcement went out, “We apologise to our passengers for the delay. The delay was caused by... the delay”!

In this parable from Luke’s Gospel it was a somewhat similar picture

presented by Jesus. Here was a widow, buffeted by an ill-wisher, yet unable to get herself any legal justice from above. With no money and no powerful friends, her only weapon lay in her non-stop appeals to the local godless judge. Not that he cared about her at all; it was only her refusal to stop bothering him that caused him at last to cave in!

God is not like the judge; that is Jesus’ message here. And when afflicted people like the widow call upon their Lord for relief, the answer is instantaneous.

Do you face an issue, a falling-out with a callous individual or institution – even a religious group - right now? At any one moment- ‘day and night’ (v.7), there it is once again,

wrecking your peace and eroding your energies. Luke, in his writing, loves the theme of steady prayer (Bible check: Luke 11: 5-10). God will not reject us, whatever the time of day or night.

As the English Puritan leader John Trapp declared 300 years ago, “Yea, He can feel breath when no voice can be heard for faintness.” Even if the final outworking of divine justice requires a necessary process (2 Peter 3:9), our case will be taken up, right there in the very courts of heaven... and – we read - ‘quickly’!

‘Five words, a few broken sentences from a broken and contrite heart, are more desirable than to pray for hours without spiritual feeling’ (John Newton, 1725-1807)

This Month..... Winnie the Pooh.....Page 7

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 2nd October Harvest Festival

11.00am Choral Mass and presentation of harvest gifts for the work of the Holy Cross Crypt Centre

Tuesday 18th October St Luke

7.30pm Mass

Wednesday 2nd November All Souls Day

7.30pm Choral Requiem Mass and Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

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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Audio Bible programme helps young Ethiopian Christian

If you ever doubted the effect that listening to the Bible may have, here is a good news story from Bible Society in Ethiopia.

It concerns a young man, Tesfaye, who as a teenager lived rough on the streets until Christians had taken him to The Light House orphanage in Addis Ababa. It was here that Tesfaye first heard the Bible read, through a Proclaimer audio Bible programme, supplied by Bible Society.

Since then, says Tesfaye, "my life has changed totally. I'm trusting in God now. I don't know what's going to happen to me, but I believe that God has a plan for me." Tesfaye is now in his third year at university. And he's still listening to his Bible. It has changed the direction of his life.

As Halloween approaches^o

Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway?

The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal! Thus the idea of 'dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

So what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: *occultus*, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into

the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day is promised us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have deeply disturbing after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

While the occult world is certainly there, we are wise not to imagine, as some do, that every sin we commit, every bad habit, illness or misfortune we meet is due directly to an attack on us by Satan himself, and that therefore we need to be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this regard by Christians who mean well but who are uninformed.

The kingdom of spirits is real, but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits shrink and re-

treat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence) for "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

If ever you are frightened by anything occult, remember some sound biblical advice: resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7). But remember, a Christian has no business dealing in anything occult. All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (eg Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19, 20; Acts 19:18-20).

Remember: the demonic world is very real, very powerful, but it is also already doomed and defeated. (Colossian 2:15; Hebrews 2:14, 15). Why? Because the death of Jesus Christ has achieved this victory.

So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world, and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

Online shopping soars

More than half (51%) of all our purchases (if you exclude groceries) are now being made online. That is as opposed to 48% in 2015.

So finds the Office for National Statistics. Only when food shopping is included is physical shopping still way ahead – at 88%.

The success of online shopping depends on how easy it is to return

your purchase if you do not like it. This is critical, as shoppers are unable to feel or try on items ahead of time. The return process is a huge industry all on its own, and known as 'reverse logistics'.

It seems that clever shoppers visit high street shops to assess the item they want to buy, and then search for a better deal online.

Here and there with the PCC Secretary

“Where are you on Monday mornings?” The Archdeacon asked the PCC this question during his Visitation to the Parish last month. He was referring to Ambassadors 2020, a project organised by the Diocese of London to encourage us all to reflect on our lives as Christians in the everyday world.

It is an interesting question in itself. We talk to each other all the time about Christian concerns, less so, I think, about what we get up to on the other six days of the week. I certainly don't, because I spend most of the time over coffee persuading people to give up their Saturdays for one reason or another.

So for the closing Sundays of Trinity, here is a game of pairs. Among our regular worshipers we have two former members of the

50 Things to do in a Church

‘50 Things to do in a Church’ celebrates the many uses of church buildings, and invites the public to share their favourite things to do in a church or chapel by adding to the list.

Finding peace and quiet is one of the ‘50 Things to do in a Church’ that is a particular attraction for Michael Palin, writer and performer and Vice-President of the National Churches Trust. “Once asked to declare my religious beliefs I described myself as ‘an agnostic with doubts’. However my interest in and fondness for churches is undiminished.

“Two years ago I was being cross-questioned in a court case in London and during a lunch break in which I was not permitted to talk to anyone, I desperately wanted somewhere to sit quietly and get myself together. And yet there was

Metropolitan Police, two speakers of Arabic, one mother tongue, one who studied the language at university, and two people whose fathers were Member of the House of Commons. Do you know who they are?

I know many of us were sad hear of the death of Pat Walker. She was a very active member of this Parish: on the PCC for many years, and Brown Owl to at least two generations of Brownies. She ran the tombola at bazaars and fetes, and even when she moved to live with her daughter Marcia for health reasons she would return to visit us on those occasions. Often while she was working at fete or bazaar I would see her deep in conversation with matronly women. After

nowhere where the price of a seat didn't involve eating, drinking or some commercial transaction.

“Then, out of the blue, at the very heart of Fleet Street, I discovered the church of St Dunstan-in-the-West. I was never so grateful for a place of repose, an oasis of peace and quiet in the midst of the mayhem.”

There are, of course, many other uses for churches and chapels and the National Churches Trust's list – which ranges from finding the Green Man to helping out at a night shelter – can be found at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/50things Why not visit it, and see if you can add to the list?

Watch a video of Michael Palin talking about finding peace and quiet in a church at <https://vimeo.com/175322636>

they had gone Pat would say with a smile and a shake of her head: “One of my Brownies.”

I hope all of you who volunteer at the homeless shelter have met Becky Walker at some time or other in her capacity as Shelter Co-ordinator. This autumn she begins a new project running an after school club for children whose families live in hostels. She will not be far from the Shelter as the project is funded by Caris, the charity which funds C4WS. Your prayers please, for her new venture.

And speaking of the Christmas Bazaar, this year it will be held on Saturday November 26th. I hope you can keep that date clear.

Bill Saunders

Faith motivates charities

Almost half, or 49%, of overseas-aid charities are faith-based, 45% of human-rights ones are faith-based, and 39% of anti-poverty charities are faith-based.

Two-thirds, 64%, of faith-based charities (27,500) are Christian. These faith-based charities raised £16.3 billion in 2015, with £13 billion coming from just 1,700 organisations. (Source: Faith Matters report.)

Choice

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president, and 50 for Miss America?

“Dear Friends...”

From the Vicars Desk

As I write we are in the midst of the Political Party Conference season. It is fascinating how since the Brexit vote parties have all woken up to the recognition that large numbers of people in our country are feeling lost, neglected, disenfranchised and abandoned by society. Despite what on the face of it looks like growing numbers of people employed more and more people feel that there is no future for them and no possibility of ever having a fulfilled and positive life.

It is exactly this feeling that has led to the popularity of Donald Trump in the USA where large numbers of people have lost their jobs in what were once seen as basic industries. Governments on both sides of the Atlantic have been guilty of painting a rosy picture of the life of the few and ignoring the worst off in society.

Just last night the BBC began a new series on the London Ambulance Service seeking to show how stretched it is with its resources continually cut. (I have to admit that I have not yet had chance to see the first episode so am relying on the previews.) This is symptomatic of so many of the services we rely on to make community work in our nation. And yet most if not all are facing major cuts in their funding and an uncertain future.

So what are our priorities and do we need to revisit them in the light of the nations needs today. It seems to me that despite its unpopularity with many, we as Christians need to make our voice heard and one way would be to make it clear that we would be prepared to accept higher taxes in order to provide the services that we and most of the nation want or need. Of course there is waste and misuse of money within the system and by all

accounts that applies to the tax system as much as elsewhere. That needs to be addressed so that everyone pays their fair share towards the health and prosperity of all. We are reaping today the benefits of the 1980's attitude that society is irrelevant and personal gain is the mantra for everybody. Unless and until we tackle some of the fundamental issues then we will see a gradual breakdown in the life and culture of our land.

Turning to more parochial matters, the PCC this month have taken the decision to try to move forward on the urgent work to restore the brickwork of the east end of the church. In June we had the five yearly inspection of the church by our architect who reported that there had been a very significant deterioration in the state of the brickwork since the last inspection. The PCC have therefore set in train the process of getting the architect to draw up a specification for the work that we can begin to use to apply for grants from the Lottery Heritage Fund and obtain quotes for the work. We are currently thinking that they will be in the region of £200,000 when VAT and fees are all included!

As you are aware if you have looked at our annual accounts we have been saving for a while but recently have had to spend some £35,000 on the church hall with another major bill expected very soon to make the flat roof over flat two waterproof. So a major fundraising exercise will be required. We will all need to work hard if we are going to be able to tackle this work in the near future. Inevitably the grant process is quite long winded so work may not be possible next year though there is an outside chance that it may be. Although this gives us a longer time for fundraising the down side is that building costs are currently rising

and a very high rate, so urgent action is imperative.

What can you do? Right now ideas however big or small will be very welcome. If we all pull together we can as we have done before raise considerable sums.

Your parish priest

A WC worth visiting

Years ago a young couple were house-hunting in rural Somerset, and so visited an elderly clergyman who had a cottage for sale. Later they could not remember seeing a bathroom in the property, and so wrote asking where the WC might be.

The minister was not familiar with the term, and decided they must be asking for the nearest Wesleyan Church. And so he wrote them this reply:

‘Dear ... I regret to inform you that the nearest WC is fifty miles away, which is most unfortunate if you are in the habit of going regularly. This one is situated in a beautiful valley, and many local people make a day of it, setting off in early morning and taking picnics with them. Some travel by car, others by bus, and some (on foot) arrive just in time. A bell rings 20 minutes before the WC opens, and there is plenty of standing room if you are late.

Inside, there are 40 plush seats, and beautiful carvings on the walls. The children sing as they process in, and there is even an organ accompaniment. I hope this will encourage you to visit it, and enjoy what it offers. I myself have not been for five months, and you can imagine this pains me very much. Yours faithfully...

Nehemiah: prayer, planning and preparation

Nehemiah was called by God to rebuild the broken walls of the city of Jerusalem. He was cupbearer to Artaxerxes, the Persian king when he heard the news. We have our own 'broken walls' that need rebuilding, in our workplaces and communities, or among family and friends. What can we learn from Nehemiah's response?

Firstly, he prayed: for guidance, that God would make the king help him. It was a capital offense to be sad in the king's presence, yet he was able to raise the matter with

him, when the king asked 'Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill?' (Nehemiah 2:1-2).

Secondly, Nehemiah was someone who planned. He didn't embark on this project without thinking about materials he needed and the tasks of the workers. 'The king said to me, 'What is it you want?' and Nehemiah was able to tell him (Nehemiah 2:4-9).

Finally, he was thoroughly prepared. Before telling the people what God wanted him to do, Nehemiah went out on his own at

night and toured the broken walls and burnt gates of the city, to fully understand the size of the task before them (Nehemiah 2:11-16).

Is God is calling us to take on a challenging task: visiting a lonely person, providing support to a lone parent, or taking on a leadership role in our youth group? Or is He leading us to step out in faith in our workplace, or get more involved in our church or neighbourhood? Like Nehemiah, we need to prepare well, taking time to pray about the people and places where God is calling us to serve. And like him, we can ask for the guidance and strength that comes from the 'Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God' (1:5).

Breakthrough healing

This month we celebrate St Luke (18th October) with his focus on healing, as Luke was a doctor by profession. The healing of the paralytic man by Jesus (Luke 5: 17-26) gives us some 'breakthrough' principles of healing for our lives, remembering that the man was brought to Jesus through the roof!

Faith: It was the adventurous and persistent faith of man's four friends that brought him to Jesus to be healed. Jesus was the object of their faith, which trusted His ability and willingness to transform the man's life. We are also called to such trust, exercising faith in a great God!

Wholeness: Jesus' first words are surprising, 'Friend your sins are forgiven' (20). Jesus' challenge is that before anything else the man's relationship with God must be right. God wants to bring wholeness to our lives, including

spiritual, emotional, relational, as well as physical healing. Often he wants to deal with sin, hurt, unforgiveness, guilt or fear before physical restoration.

Authority: Jesus challenges the Pharisees with a question, 'Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'" (23). By healing the man's legs, Jesus not only confirms that He has authority over sin and sickness, but that He is truly God. We can confidently bring our needs to Him prayerfully 'in the name of Jesus'.

'Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician
of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit and
through the wholesome medicine
of the gospel,
give your Church the same love
and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our

Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.'
(Collect, Common Worship).

100 Club Winners

Draw for August 2016

1st prize: Berti the Dog
2nd prize: Pat c/o The Boston
3rd prize: Oliver Butt
4th prize: Matthew Cook

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 of the Mr Mark Williams.

Theresa of Lisieux - making the most of life

Theresa of Lisieux (1873-97) should be the patron saint of teenage girls and young women who want to make the most of their lives, despite being constrained by family and school or work.

Theresa grew up in a strict, devout Roman Catholic middle-class family in France, one of four sisters. Her father was a watch-maker. Like her sisters, she entered a Carmelite convent at 15, and stayed there. She was never able to go anywhere, do anything extraordinary, or hold any responsibility. She died at the age of 24 of tuberculosis. Yet this quiet young Carmelite nun became so nationally popular



that she was declared patroness of France 50 years after her death.

Not bad for someone who didn't get out much!

So how did Theresa do it? By not intending to do it at all. Theresa never set out to become famous: instead, she quietly determined in her spirit to seek God, and, having found him, to hon-

our him in her life, to live as closely as she could to the teaching in the gospels.

The result was a life so spiritually radiant that her convent asked her to write a short spiritual autobiography of her pilgrimage. Theresa obliged with 'L'Histoire d'une Ame', which soon became so popular that it was translated into most European languages and several Asiatic ones. Theresa also prayed for people who were ill, and there are many reports of miraculous healings that took place in answer.

After Theresa died in 1897, her book just went on selling. People found the artless sweet simplicity of her observations on her pilgrimage as a Christian compelling. Theresa reminded people of what Christianity was really all about: simple but utter devotion to Christ, not endless outward observance of religion. Theresa helped many in the Roman Catholic Church in France to remember the first principles of their faith.

Winnie the Pooh ± a much loved bear

Winnie-the-Pooh was born 90 years ago this month, on 14 October, 1926 – in the sense that this was the date on which the world-famous children's book by A. A. Milne was first published.

Technically, Winnie-the-Pooh, also called Pooh Bear, is a fictional anthropomorphic teddy bear hero of a number of books, always illustrated by E H Shepard, who therefore gave Pooh his distinctive shape in the mind of the reader.

To his many admirers, Pooh is the wise, kind and loving companion they always wanted – a bear of very little brain and with many faults,

but whose heart is always in the right place.

The Pooh stories, written originally for the author's only son, Christopher Robin, and set in an area recognisable as Ashdown Forest in Sussex, have been translated into many languages, including a Latin version, Winnie ille Pu.

Though naive and somewhat literal-minded, honey-loving Pooh composes songs and hums and comes up with unexpected solutions to problems. He also invents the game Poohsticks. He has been recommended to Christians for his love toward his friends, such as Piglet, Tigger, Kanga and Rab-

bit – all modelled on Christopher Robin's soft toys.

Examples of Pooh's wisdom are widely quoted. His refusal to let Piglet worry him can be seen as deeply Christian:

"Supposing a tree fell down, Pooh, while we were underneath it?"

"Supposing it didn't," said Pooh after careful thought.

No

A curt reply to a bishop who had suggested that a certain incumbent consider moving read: Dear bishop, I REMAIN, yours faithfully....

The Way I See It - THE JOY OF ORDINARY

by Canon David Winter

For those who attend to such ecclesiastical details, the Church is now in what it calls the 'Ordinary Season'. It doesn't mean it's going to be bland, boring or predictable in church at the moment (or at any rate, no more than usual), but that following Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, there are no great festivals of the faith to celebrate until we get to Advent, and that's not till the end of November. For a few months, we can forget the high days and holidays and simply concentrate on, well, being 'ordinary'.

Personally, I find that rather encouraging. All my life I've been a person who enjoys the ordinary. Even on holidays which I've en-

joyed, I've secretly looked forward to getting home and picking up the familiar routine. The dictionary defines 'ordinary' as 'with no distinctive features, normal, usual'. Well, I think everyday, ordinary, normal, usual life still includes plenty of 'distinctive features' - surprises, too.

To me an impressive feature of the biblical gospels is how normal and ordinary most of it seems. Yes, there are those mighty acts of power which we call miracles, but the setting of them is about as 'ordinary' as you could get: a cattle-shed, a lakeside, a fishing boat, a garden, a little girl's bedroom, a wedding party.

It's in the rich raw world of the ordinary that God does wonderful things, just as it's in the routine of daily life that kind words are spoken, the sick healed, the sad comforted. I'm sometimes more aware of God in these 'ordinary' settings than in the extraordinary splendour of a great cathedral. Long live the 'ordinary'!

If you understand it^o

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

Lost in translation

Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist - 2nd floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

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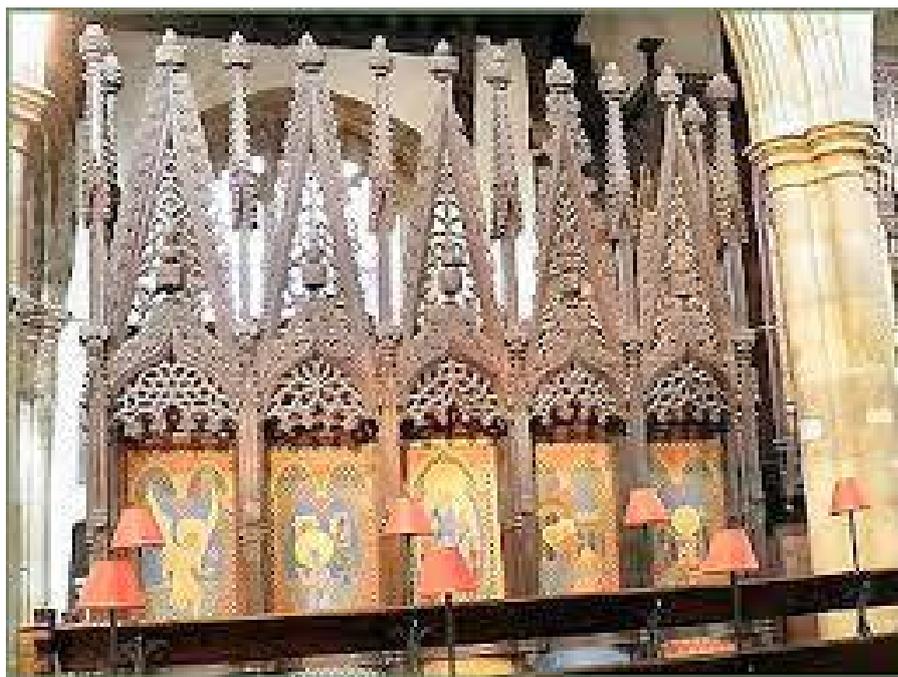
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'He gave us eyes to see them' ± the choir stall

'Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing My God and King.' George Herbert's poem from 'The Temple' tells us that 'the church with psalms must shout. No door can keep them out.' It is a reminder of the rich tradition of music in our worship that reaches back to the people of the Old Testament praising the Lord. 2 Chronicles 5 paints a vivid picture of musicians and singers gathered to welcome the Ark of the Lord to Solomon's Temple.

Because music is such an important part of worship, churches have set aside places for the singers to offer praise and petition. Some of the most wonderful choir stalls in the land can be found in Lancaster Priory, the parish church of St Mary. They are 14 in total, the third oldest choir stalls in England dating back to the 14th century. John Ruskin called them the finest in the country. The canopies are richly decorated with foliage and carved



heads, and they enclose tapestries from the 1970s that depict saints and shields. Beneath are the seats: misericords with carvings that have survived the vandalism of the Civil War.

We can imagine the medieval monks gathered in these stalls to sing the offices. Today the stalls are a resplendent, harmonious blend of the old and the new – a work of

beauty for the eye, just as the music offered there is a work of beauty for the ear. The word 'choir' means a dance to God, and the Priory has a fine choir whose chants and hymns dance from side to side of the chancel and resound in the air. But the music sung there is not just for our enjoyment: its focus is God. Herbert tells us that the songs we create here in our churches on earth have no other destination but the courts of heaven.

Be like a pumpkin

A lady had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.

The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. And so she said: "Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got

from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

"Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see.

"It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today, and shining with His light?

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church, and announced: 'Children: free'

YES, I have NO Religion

Those with No Religion, usually referred to simply as Nones, now outnumber Christians in the UK, according to the latest British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey. That may be true from interviewees for the BSA survey (over 3,300 people, so a substantial number) but the definitions used for both groups need further consideration.

When someone says they have No Religion, this is often interpreted as meaning they have no religious belief, or no belief about God or a

life force or similar, but this is not correct. Prof Linda Woodhead did a series of surveys in 2013 exploring religious ideas. She found that most Nones are not atheists; they don't decisively reject God, but what they DO reject is an identification with "religion" or with a particular religion.

One in six, 16%, of them said they believed in God, and a quarter, 23%, say they are influenced by religion. Yet support for the established churches especially is

waning, with more older folk dying than new people joining. No Religion therefore has become the new establishment.

The author of an article in The Daily Telegraph, Tim Stanley, was asked if, as a consequence, British Christianity was in terminal decline. He argued that it wasn't, but that it was merely "sleeping". Christianity was like Tesco, he said, it had to advertise to get sales. "At the centre of the faith is the truth that Jesus died and rose from death ... The power of the Good News is so great that it cannot fail to win converts. Time to share it."

Project Joseph to help with 'unfolding tragedy' in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia

Barnabas Fund has launched Project Joseph, as a way of stepping up its food aid to Christians in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, as both countries are facing a grave humanitarian crisis.

In Ethiopia, two failed rainy seasons followed by catastrophic flooding have destroyed crops across large parts of a country in which the persecution of Christians is growing. The present famine is the worst for 50 years.

Ten million people are facing starvation.

In Zimbabwe, recent drought has caused between 95% and 100% crop failure. Many families are reduced to one meal a day, sometimes less. More than four million people are in danger of starvation.

Barnabas Fund is working through local churches to reach the most needy and vulnerable Christians. So far it has provided 1400 tonnes of food, and thus saved thousands of lives. If you would like to help, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org/projects>

from his illness days later, on 19th October.

The jewels have never been found, partly because the Wash area is very different 800 years on, with the course of rivers having been altered substantially. King John himself has never had a good reputation, but the Magna Carta, which he was forced to sign in 1215, survived miraculously to become the bedrock of English law.

During much of his troubled 17-year reign, John was in dispute with the Pope over control of the English church, with the result that the Pope placed England under Interdict in 1208 (suspending services and prohibiting Christian burial) and eventually excommunicated John.

King John and the Crown Jewels

October 1216 was a bad month for King John. Much of his country was under the control of Louis VIII of France, the barons had forced him to sign the Magna Carta, he was ill with dysentery and he was on the road, carrying his crown jewels with him.

Attempting to reach Newark Castle from Bishop's Lynn (now King's Lynn), he lost all his treasure to the incoming tide on the Wash – then a huge area of marsh and bog – which swamped his wagons and drowned many of his soldiers. He himself escaped (either because he took a different route or because he fled the tide successfully), but died

Though skilled to a degree in administration, John was suspicious by nature, with (some say) near-paranoid tendencies. Following his death, the Pope restored the English church to its traditional status.

Hymns and Readings

2nd October Harvest Festival

Readings Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Psalm 100
Philippians 4: 4-9
John 6: 25-35
Hymns 259 Come ye thankful people come
Autumn Days
262 We plough the fields
265 Lord of beauty thine the splendour

Sidesperson: Nick Bethune
Readers: Rob Nesbitt, Denise Sealy
Intercessions: Bill Saunders

9th October Trinity 20 proper 23

Readings 2 Kings 5: 1-3 & 7-15
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2: 8-15
Luke 17: 11-19
Hymns 468 Through all the changing scenes
337 As pants the heart
453 Stand up stand up for Jesus
695 To God be the glory (HON)

Sidesperson: Irada Fracassi
Readers; Nicky Pittam, Joe McKenzie
Intercessions : Lucy Boyd

16th October Trinity 21 proper 24

Readings Genesis 32: 22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4: 5
Luke 18: 1-8
Hymns 466 Thou whose almighty word
357 Father hear the prayer
484 The churches one foundation
398 Lift up your hearts

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

23rd October Last after Trinity

Readings Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-17
Psalm 84
2 Timothy 4: 6-8 & 16-18
Luke 18: 9-14
Hymns 391 King of glory King of peace
29 Amazing grace (HON)
475 Ye holy angels bright
436 Praise my soul the king of heaven

Sidesperson: Bill Saunders
Readers: Jenny Kauntze Ray Evans
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

30th October All Saints Sunday

Readings Daniel 7: 1-3 & 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1: 11-end
Luke 6: 20-31
Hymns 396 Let saints on earth
225 Give us the wings of faith
197 For all the saints
381 Jerusalem the golden

Sidesperson: Rob Nesbitt
Readers: Ruth Godwin, Tim Florey
Intercessions: Ian McGregor

Is the internet taking over your life?

Ofcom, the media watchdog, has issued some sombre warnings based on a recent survey of national internet habits:

- More than half (59%) of all 50 million internet users in the UK say they are addicted to surfing the web. (That includes 45 per cent of the over-65 age group who are using the internet.)
- We now spend an average of more than 24 hours each week online.
- Huge numbers of us have neglected housework, been late for work, and even walked into people on the street, because we simply could not put down our digital devices.
- The internet is damaging our social and working lives. Around a third of us have avoided friends and family in order to stay online, while a quarter of teenagers are late for school because they are online.
- A third of us have attempted a 'digital detox'. One in six of us has even chosen a holiday destination with no online access.
- Meanwhile, perhaps most awesome - a quarter of adults admit to sending a text or instant messages to someone in the same room as themselves while at home. Why not just say something?

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For your prayers

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 2016

2nd Laurier Road
 9th Lissenden Gardens
 16th Mortimer Terrace
 23rd Spencer Rise
 30th Twisden Road

SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

1st St Remigius
2nd Harvest Festival
Trinity 19
 4th St Francis of Assisi

9th Trinity 20
 10th St Paulinus of York
 11th St Ethelburger
 12th St Wilfrid of Ripon
 13th St Edward the Confessor
 15th St Theresa of Avila
16th Trinity 21
 17th St Ignatius of Antioch
18th St Luke
23rd Last after Trinity
 25th Ss Crispin and Chrispinian
 26th Alfred the Great
28th Ss Simon and Jude
30th All Saints Sunday