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Churchgoers encouraged to contact MPs over assisted suicide Bill

Churchgoers are being encouraged to contact their MPs NOW, to highlight the risks involved in proposed legislation to legalise assisted suicide.

James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle, has asked that parishioners either make an appointment to see their MP or write them a letter expressing their concerns about a Private Member's Bill to be debated in the House of Commons on Friday 11th September.

The Bill is expected to seek to grant physician assisted suicide for mentally competent, terminally ill adults, who have six months or less to live.

Bishop James, the Church of Eng-

land's lead bishop on health care, said the proposed legislation, if passed into law, would have a detrimental effect both on individuals and on the nature of society.

He said: "Our concern about this proposed legislation is rooted in our practical care for the most vulnerable in our society. In our communities and through health-care chaplaincy, the Church of England cares daily for the elderly, the ill, the dying and their families.

"If this Bill is passed we will have crossed a line that will make the future very uncertain and dangerous for a significant proportion of the most vulnerable people, including the elderly and those living with disabilities.

"This is a key moment for all of us as we decide what sort of society we want to live in and what future we want for our children and grandchildren, one in which all are valued and cared for, or one in which some lives are viewed as not worth living.

"I ask those who are happy to do so, to contact their MPs, either by making an appointment to see them in person at their constituency surgery, or by letter, to make it clear that they oppose this Bill."

To hear a full interview with James Newcome on the Assisted Dying Bill listen here: <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/assisted-suicide-01>

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Services

Sundays

11.00am Sung Eucharist

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

Weekday Services

Said Eucharist

Tuesday 7.30pm
Wednesday 9.30am
Friday 7.30am

Saints' & Holy Days

**Tuesday 8th September The birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7.30pm The Patronal Festival Mass with Baptism and Confirmation.**

**Tuesday 29th September St Michael and All Angels
7.30pm 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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And the congregation replied^o

Down in the southern United States, there are many churches known as 'answer back' churches. When the preacher says something, the congregation naturally replies.

One Sunday, a preacher was speaking on what it would take for the church to become better. He said: "If this church is to become better, it must take up its bed, and walk." The congregation intoned: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."

Encouraged by their response, he went further. "If this church is going to become better, it will have to throw aside its hindrances and run!" The congregation chanted: "Let it run, preacher, let it run!"

Now really into his message, he declared: "If this church really wants to become great, it will have to take up its wings and fly!" "Let it fly, Preacher, let it fly!" the congregation shouted.

The Preacher then bellowed: "If this church is going to fly, it will cost money!"

Whereupon the congregation murmured softly: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."

The Artist in the War ± and the War Artist

A few years ago I lived for a while in the beautiful Berkshire village of Cookham on the banks of the Thames. In the main street there is the Spencer Gallery, commemorating Cookham's most famous son, the artist Sir Stanley Spencer, who died in 1959.

He was (like my own father) a medical orderly in the Great War, though in Salonika, not France. In the Second World War he was made an official 'War Artist'. The young Spencer created many paintings capturing life at the front in the first of those wars, including a striking one entitled 'The Dressing Station', showing the horse drawn ambulances lining up (as at a modern A&E) to hand their patients over to the medics. That, and many other powerful evocations of life in the war zones, is part of the heritage of the Sandham Memorial Chapel, near Newbury.

The chapel was bought by the Sandham family, to commemorate a son who was killed in the Great

War. They commissioned Spencer to create a visionary array of murals capturing the life of the ordinary soldier (and his officers) to 'commemorate the forgotten dead'.

Visitors might notice (though I had to be told to look out for it) that amongst them all there is not a single weapon. These are men facing danger together, washing their clothes, cleaning their equipment and caring for the wounded – but not actually handling a gun or firing a shot. At the east end of the chapel is a main 'altar-piece', showing the risen Christ in the distance but all around him the resurrection of the soldiers who have been slain.

Resurrection was a great theme of Spencer's work. His most famous painting, 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', shows parishioners emerging from their graves, to be welcomed by the figure of Jesus, standing in the porch of the church. Much of his best work reflected the life and people of Cookham, often acting out a biblical scene. The exceptions are

his war paintings from both conflicts. Like many people who lived through the two world wars, they were defining events in his life.

There are older people in Cookham today who remember him, a somewhat eccentric figure wheeling his pram converted into a portable art station, complete with easel and paints, as he toured the area in search of suitable subjects. He made much of his living as a fine portrait painter, but his great reputation rests on a remarkable range of paintings in a modern style, which capture for ever the spirit of an age that is now past.

*The Cookham Gallery is open at weekends and bank holidays. 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard' is in the Tate Gallery, London. The Sandham Memorial Chapel is operated by the National Trust. Visitors must pre-book (it only holds 25 people) – phone 01635 278394. You could combine a visit with one to Highclere Castle nearby (alias Downton Abbey!).

Protecting the vulnerable ± in church

The General Synod gave final approval to a package of proposals intended to take further the process of making the Church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults.

Namely, by making the disciplinary processes under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 more effective where safeguarding issues arise. Also, the plan is strengthen the Church's wider legal framework in relation to safeguarding in various ways.

The legislation was originally introduced in February 2014 following a consultation launched at Synod in July 2013.

Bishop Paul Butler, lead bishop on safeguarding said: "We all want every single one of our churches and institutions to be safer places and communities for all people; notably for children and adults at times of risk and harm."

He added that along with facing up to the consequences of the past

"our emphasis has to be on prevention" stressing that, along with the new legislation, high quality training, safe recruiting and effective quality assurance needed to be implemented at every level of church life. Read more at: bit.ly/safeguardingfinalapproval

Cat

I know, I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" but someday, just once I want to say, "No, it's for visitors."

Baptisms ± a positive choice

Each week there are more than 2,200 Church of England baptisms across the country, attended by an estimated quarter of a million people.

Research for the Archbishops' Council has shown what makes parents decide to have a baptism 89% said that it was an essential foundation for life, giving their child a good start in life and seeking God's blessing. Being surrounded by family and friends is also really important – and godparents are the some of most important people involved, with 91% of families saying they are influence on the decision to have their child christened.

Respondents to the survey talked about how it was important to have

godparents to lead their children down the right path in life. One said: "A godparent is someone who is actively involved in a child's life and is there for them. To us, choosing a godparent was someone who would be there for our children, who are responsible, sensible and supportive individuals who would want the best for them."

Canon Dr Sandra Millar, who heads up the work said: "Having a baby baptised at a christening is the start of an amazing journey of faith. Helping children to grow up well is a big task, and knowing that they are surrounded by family, friends, godparents and the local church family to support and pray for them is something many families find special and helpful.

"Our research showed parents have serious spiritual reasons for wanting a child baptised, and whilst they may not always use church language to express that, the longing for support, blessing and a foundation of faith provide a great place to start a life-long journey of discovery."

The Rev Kate Bottley who is part of the baptisms project for the Church of England said: "I talk to mums and dads about why they're bringing babies to be baptised and they're deeply serious about giving their children the best start in life. They're looking for God's blessing, they're looking for protection and they're looking for the best start in the Christian faith."

For more details: <https://churchofenglandchristenings.org>

THE WAY I SEE IT: What is Beauty?

When we look at a landscape, mountains or lakes and describe the scene as 'beautiful', what do we actually mean? That it is pleasing to the eye? That it speaks to some inner sense of order, tranquility and peace? That it arouses in us feelings of admiration or joy? That it evokes a sense of awe?

What makes something beautiful is a very difficult question to answer, because we apply it to so many different things: a human face, a flower, a piece of music, a painting or sculpture, a sunset and even a cover-drive at cricket. Beauty is something we recognize, but can't really define. Not everything beautiful is 'pretty' (think of some of Picasso's paintings!). 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder', we say – a matter of individual taste.

In that case, it's surprising that almost everyone would agree with the most common assertions of beauty, whether scenes of nature or works of art.

My own suspicion is that beauty is linked to awe. 'Awe' is the recognition of something beyond our normal experience. The dictionary defines 'awe' in terms of 'respect', and that perhaps begins to capture how we feel when we encounter beauty. This is 'beyond' us, something which we can enjoy with others without being able to analyse it. It shares something with religious or mystical experiences.

The poet John Keats attempted a definition: 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty'. There is undoubtedly a sense in which beauty speaks of truth, because surely beauty exists

when great concepts of light and shade, form and contour, colour and context - truths of our human experience - work perfectly together.

The opposite of truth is falsehood, and there is nothing false about a thing of beauty. The Bible speaks of the 'beauty of holiness'. Could it be that there is also a 'holiness of beauty'? For those who believe in a Creator God, there is something truly awesome about the fact that the created world is so indescribably beautiful.

Is a snow-flake an evolutionary accident? Or a starry night? Or an open rose in the garden? Why does God bother making things beautiful? It's an intriguing question! Perhaps, like us, He simply enjoys it.

“Dear Friends...”

From the Vicars Desk

Whatever has happened to summer? As I write it is pouring with rain, slight rumbles of thunder and cold with it! I feel very sorry for the countless families on holiday with young children it must be very difficult to entertain them in such awful weather. Climate change is surely something to do with it. I know I am getting old and older folk always seem to think that things were better in their youth, but I really do think that this summer has been one of the worst for a long time.

It seems that at last the United States is beginning to take notice of climate change. President Obama has made it one of the focuses of his last 18 months as President. Although he will not be able to go very far at least he may be able to start the very long process of changing the culture of consumption of immense amounts of energy. Unfortunately the wobble in the Chinese economy is likely to put change there back considerably though there does seem to be a move to be more aware of emissions even there.

Care for the environment, the world that we are given by God is surely one of the most important things we can do. Even the General Synod of the Church has taken this message to heart and set up conservation groups. Sadly because we don't have the available cash to take advantage of it we are unable to make the most serious contribution which would be the installation of photo-voltaic cells

on the roof of the church. All Hallows has been able to do this and are now reaping the benefit. However if an opportunity arises when the Diocese has its next round of experiments I will certainly be putting our church forward.

You may well have seen the article in the Camden New Journal just last week about the mobile phone masts on the church.

As yet I am not sure how many objection have been lodged with Camden, but I do know that when the company itself asked the community for comments and sent letters to all local homes only six comments were made and just two of them were wholly against the plan. I hope therefore that the headline in the CNJ, “Church phone mast prompts unholy row” is something of an exaggeration. Certainly only two people have complained to me. In fact a number of comments have been shared on facebook fortunately all of them very positive and suggesting that those complaining should put their money where their mouth is as we are doing this largely in order to keep the ship of St Mary's afloat!

We are well aware of the £100,000 we need to spend on the brickwork of the east end of the church and the on going repairs that a very large building that is 140 years old requires. Only this week we have had to have the roof over the organ blower replaced, and at the same time the frame and doors of the blower cabinet renewed. Now

this is done we can do the repairs to the blower which were identified when it was serviced in July. None of these will be cheap and neither were they budgeted for. But if left things would only have got worse.

On Tuesday 8th of September at 7.30pm we will as usual be celebrating our Patronal Festival. The birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But this year it will have a twist! We will be joined by Bishop Robert Ladds the retired Bishop of Whitby who now lives in London who will come to Baptize and Confirm. We will be presenting three candidates, Marika-Rose Price Timmins, Gregory Armendariz and Victoria Dublon. As regular members of the congregation they are all well known to most of you, so I do hope that you will all do your best to come along and support them by your presence and prayers at this most important moment in their lives. After the service there will be supper for everyone in the Vicarage. Ruth Godwin will coordinating the food so if you are able to help in any way please do have a word with her. We have a growing reputation for excellent eats, so lets keep it up!

Your Parish Priest

Free

A mother asked her son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was four years old. That way he would ride for free. So as they got into the bus, and the driver asked Jimmy how old he was, the little boy replied solemnly: “I am four years old.” “And do you know when will you be five years old?” asked the smiling driver. “Oh yes, that's easy,” replied Jimmy – “just as soon as I get off the bus.”

PATRIOTISM IS NOT ENOUGH ± a tribute to Edith Cavell

In September 1915, at the height of the battles in Belgium and Flanders, a British nurse working in a Belgian hospital was arrested by the Germans and charged with treason.

Edith Cavell had resided and worked in Belgium for seven years after training at the London Hospital in Whitechapel (now the 'Royal London') and working in several hospitals in England. Now, as the brutal conflict raged around her and the German army occupied most of Belgium, she determined to do all she could to save the lives of those caught up in the fighting, whatever their nationality.

She provided shelter and medical care for Germans, Belgians, French and British troops. In the latter two cases she also – and this was the core of her offence – assisted them in escaping from areas occupied by the German forces and making their way back to their homelands.

Her motivation for this was entirely Christian. The daughter of a vicar, she had enthusiastically embraced the faith for herself, and now saw that the time had come to put the principles of the gospel to practical effect. Her own home became a secret staging post for escapees, but she did this not to 'take sides' but out of concern for the young men involved. She took a high view of her vocation as a nurse, seeing it as a calling that transcended racial and national barriers. For her, healing and rescue were simply part of the calling to be a good neighbour.

Those arguments didn't, of course, carry much weight with the German occupying power. As a Belgian resident, she was charged with treason, an offence which carried a death penalty. Her trial was widely reported, and there were many diplomatic moves made on her behalf, especially by the Americans (then neutrals in the conflict), but they fell on deaf ears.

She was found guilty and sentenced to death. On 12th October 1915, at the age of 49, she was executed by a firing squad, to world-wide condemnation. Nor was Edith Cavell's death to be forgotten. After the War her body was brought back to Britain and a service of commemoration held in Westminster Abbey. Her body was reburied in the grounds of Norwich cathedral, near the village of her birth.

A statue which stands in St Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London commemorates the life of this woman who gave herself totally to her calling – a pioneer of modern nursing methods as well as an heroic war-time figure. The statue records her most famous saying, words which capture the heart of her commitment: 'Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'

**Edith Cavell is commemorated in the Anglican Church Calendar on December 12th.*

Most popular Bible Stories: no. 1 - The Feeding of the 5000

This month sees the start of a new series on Scripture Union's Top Ten Must Know Stories. These were voted by parents and teachers as the most important Bible stories to share with the next generation. We begin with the feeding of the 5000, a story found in all four gospels and telling us important truths about Jesus and our relationship with Him.

Jesus and His disciples were confronted with a huge crowd (at least 10,000 including the women and children) in a lonely place with no food! When the disciples suggest-

ed that He send them away, Jesus challenged them: 'you give them something to eat' (Matthew 14:16). When we see the spiritual needs of our own community, Jesus challenges us with the same words! So how do we respond?

Look with compassion: 'When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them' (14). Do we see people in the same way, as those in all kinds of need, often lacking meaning and purpose in their lives? Unless we feel the needs as Jesus did, we cannot respond to those we meet at work, school, or in our community.

Respond in obedience: The disciples simply offered what they had to Jesus: 'Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.' (19).

When meeting the needs of others we simply offer to Jesus what we have, however insignificant it may seem, for Him to multiply to feed the crowd. He will use our plans, skills, time and energy. However, it is often only when we come to the end of ourselves, that God's power can be released through us.

Pray for One Another

A white man opened fire in a black church in Charleston, South Carolina, in June this past summer. He killed nine people during a prayer meeting. What was amazing in the church's response was their willingness to pray together and forgive the perpetrator, Dylann Roof.

Here is the power of praying in operation, as James says, 'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective' (James 5:16). He encourages us to 'pray for each other' (vs 16), especially for those who are 'in trouble' (vs 13), especially sickness, difficulties or setbacks.

Pray with expectation: James addresses specifically praying for the sick: 'And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.' (vs 15). But what about those who are not healed? He calls us to pray with expectation for healing, as God hears and answers prayer.

However, James is not just talking about physical healing. He literally talks of the sick person being 'saved', indicating that he is talking about prayer for wholeness, including emotional and spiritual healing eg. guilt and hurts, unforgiveness

and sin in our lives.

Pray with faith: James also calls us to pray with faith, following the example of Elijah, who was human just like us: 'Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.' (vs 17). We can pray powerfully and effectively, not because we are righteous, but on the basis of our relationship with Christ.

Did you know that the apostle James was nicknamed 'camel knees', because he spent so much time praying! 'The prayers a man lives on his feet are just as important as those he says on his knees.'

Cornelius ± the saint who had mercy on sinning Christians 16th September

Have you ever sinned since you became a Christian? Really sinned – or in other words done something that was SO wrong and totally 'out of line' with being a Christian that you are still ashamed when you think of it now. If so, and if you went on to ask God's forgiveness for it, and have resolved never to do it again, then Cornelius is a good saint for you. He fought for Christians who had failed miserably to be given a second chance.

The time was 251, and Cornelius had just become Bishop of Rome. The Church at this time was struggling with what to do about Christians who had lapsed, and who now wanted to come back. Novation, a powerful Roman priest, argued that the Church had no power to pardon and welcome back any Christian who had caved in under persecution, or who had committed adultery or murder or similar

serious offences.

Cornelius disagreed, and said that if a Christian truly repented and did the appropriate penance to prove it, then they should eventually be admitted back into the Church. The argument might sound over-earnest to modern ears, but it reflects how seriously the early Christians took their commitment to follow Jesus in leading a holy life, and in being willing to die for Him. In the end, that is exactly what Cornelius did – accepted death as the next persecution began, rather than deny Him.

Asia Bibi stay of execution welcomed by Release International

Release International has welcomed a stay of execution for Asia Bibi – a Christian mother who has been on death row in Pakistan for blasphemy. The

Supreme Court has suspended the death sentence pending an appeal.

Release, which supports persecuted Christians around the world, wants Asia's acquittal, a review of all blasphemy cases, and Pakistan to repeal its notorious blasphemy laws. All too often, allegations of blasphemy are used to settle scores with rivals. Those accused can face imprisonment and the death penalty. And even if acquitted, they can be murdered by extremists.

It's almost five years since illiterate farm labourer Asia Bibi became the first woman in Pakistan to be sentenced to death for blasphemy. Since then, Asia has been confined to a cell on death row. One cleric offered a reward of 500,000 rupees – about £4,000 – for the person who puts her to death. Militants have threatened to blow her up in prison, and her husband and children have been forced to go into hiding.

Beating your wife ± while going to church

In a fascinating paper at the Kuala Lumpur Lausanne Researchers' Conference, Philip Hughes, Director of the Australian Christian Research Centre, gave the results from two questions asked in the 2012 World Values' Survey. One of the questions in this survey was whether the beating of one's wife was sometimes or always justifiable – an extraordinary question to ask at the best of times. It also asked its more usual question on whether the respondent attended religious services and, if so, how often.

Sadly, answers to these questions were only available from 49 or around a quarter (23%) of the countries in the world, although they did cover every continent, and

the countries included accounted for half (49%) of the world's population. Even so the answers are interesting.

Across the world apparently 15% of men feel that beating their wife is sometimes or always justifiable. This percentage does not vary according to whether or not they attend church, except in Africa where the percentage is 19% for those who don't attend and 22% for those who do, and in South America where the percentages are respectively 5% and 7%! In North America it's the other way round – 10% if the men don't attend church and 7% of those who do. In Oceania (3%), Europe (11%) and Asia (16%) churchgoing makes no difference. The Asian contribution

is high because of its large population – without them the rest of the world averages 12%.

In a few countries, going to church appeared to make things worse! In Germany, for instance, 8% who didn't go to church felt wife beating was acceptable, but it was 16% for those who did! Likewise in Lebanon and Algeria the churchgoers were more in favour of beating their wives than non-goers. In some "Christian" countries there was a high level of acceptance of wife beating, for example, Rwanda (38%) and the Philippines (33%)!

Going to college

Lecturing is transferring information from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.

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On church management consultants

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I'm sure your church's team of management consultants meant well, but their visit here was not wholly helpful. It is all very well when they are co-ordinating office staff, secretaries, clergy teams and legions of volunteers, but here, there is me, Miss Margison and a golden retriever.

Our simpler pattern works perfectly well: if it happens in church, I do it; if it involves drawing up rotas, stoking the boiler, visiting the sick or clearing the car park of snow or the churchyard of leaves, Miss Margison does it. If something small and furry or flapping and feathery has strayed into the church, the golden retriever does it – by carrying it back outside.

Inevitably, there are legions of people around the parish who are always “glad to lend a hand if needed.” Having said that, they then feel satisfied, and actually do nothing – but complain about those of us who do do things.

Rotas are irrelevant, as whatever is written down never bears the slightest resemblance to reality

The most productive nightmare of all time?

1600 years ago, Europe's top scholar was an Italian called Jerome; he loved the works of Cicero. One night he dreamt that he had died, and reached the gates of heaven. The gate-keeper spoke to him: “Who are you?”

anyway. As soon as someone finds that they are booked on a certain date to read a lesson, make coffee, or mow the churchyard, they immediately book a holiday for that week.

If we are lucky, they may find a replacement - apart from one occasion. Major Hastings was unable to read the lessons on a certain day, so he booked another, then forgot and booked a second person. Cometh the day, they both went to the lectern and neither would give way, so we had the lessons read by two people. It would not have been too bad if they read at the same pace, but they got ever more out of phase as the reading progressed, one having returned to his pew while the other was still doggedly finishing the last few verses.

I did, however, greatly appreciate your team's advice on time efficiency. From now on, on Sunday mornings, the lessons will be read while the hymns are sung, the collection taken while the anthem is given and the sermon preached while the notices are delivered. In future, we should get through Mattins in twelve and a half minutes.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

“Christianus sum.” replied Jerome. “I'm a Christian.”

“No.” said the gatekeeper. “You're not a Christian. You're a Ciceronian!” He went on to explain: “You see, here in heaven we judge people by what they were most, when they

lived on earth. And you dedicated everything to the classics and the works of Cicero. So we judge you not to be a Christian, but a Ciceronian. You cannot enter.”

Jerome woke with a start, and made his resolve. Not only did he begin truly to follow Christ, but he bent his academic ability into translating the Bible into the common language of Europe, Latin. It took him years. His translation became known as the Vulgate version.

That Bible served Europe for a thousand years. With the Bible's message becoming the foundation of European civilisation, its culture became united. Once take Christianity and the Bible out of Europe - and all that we would be left with is a collection of squabbling, heathen tribes. It's time for Europe - like Jerome - to be woken up again.

Bullying ± where it happens and what it does

Being bullied at school is bad enough, but now it seems that the effects of the trauma can linger on. That is the conclusion of a recent survey by Oxford University, which found that nearly a third of young adults who suffer depression were bullied as teenagers. Peer victimisation can leave deep scars.

Meanwhile, another study has found that more than half of British children have been bullied online. The Cybersmile Foundation warns that the problem with cyberbullying is the ‘intensity’ of it. Young people feel most at risk on social networks, with a third naming Facebook and a quarter naming Twitter as the place where they felt most vulnerable.

Hymns and Readings

6th September Trinity 14 p18

Readings Isaiah 35: 4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10
Mark 7: 24-end
Hymns 376 I heard the voice of Jesus say
466 Thou whose almighty word
436 Praise my soul the king of heaven
406 Son of God eternal Saviour

Sidesperson: Nick Bethune
Readers: Stephen Nicoll, Ruth Godwin
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

13th September Trinity 15 p19

Readings Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 116
James 3:1-12
Mark 8: 27-end
Hymns 456 Teach me my God and King
Will you come and follow me
619 Lord for the years
439 Praise to the holiest in the height

Sidesperson: Elizabeth Oyedemi
Readers: Sophie Cook, Denise Sealy
Intercessions: Lucy Boyd

20th September Trinity 16 p20

Readings Wisdom 1: 16-3:1 & 12-22
Psalm 54
James 3: 13 - 4: 3 & 7-8a
Mark 9: 30-37
Hymns 285 For the beauty of the earth
406 Lord teach us how to pray aright
311 We pray thee heavenly Father
304 Once only once and once for all

Sidesperson: Monica Sarpong
Readers: Jenny Kauntze, Carol Kenning
Intercessions: Ian MacGregor

27th September Trinity 17 p21

Readings: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16 & 24-29
Psalm: 19
James 5: 13-end
Mark 9: 38-end
Hymns 467 Through all the changing scenes of
life
396 Lift up your hearts
433 O worship the king
64 Be thou my guardian and my guide

Sidesperson: Rob Nesbitt
Readers: Nick Bethune, Lucy Boyd
Intercessions: Nicky Pittam

Murder most popular

Have you been watching the latest Agatha Christi mystery series on TV on Sunday nights? It is curious that a woman who spent years thinking up ingenious ways to kill people should be so loved by us, even 125 years after her birth.

Yet Agatha Christie's crime/mystery stories made her the best-selling writer of all time. Born into a wealthy middle-class family in Devon on 15th September, 1890, Agatha Christie's first published novel in 1920 introduced Hercule Poirot to the world. Soon Miss Marple joined him, and the rest is history. Christie's 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections have sold two billions copies, just behind the Bible and Shakespeare. Her play, the Mousetrap, remains the world's longest-running play having been on the London stage since 1953 with over 25000 performances.

Why does murder and detection appeal to so many

millions of us at the end of a busy day, as we slump over our meal in front of the TV? Perhaps it is our anticipation that no matter how bad things are, that in the end, evil will not beat goodness, but instead truth will triumph. Sounds like an echo of the Christian message.

100 Club Draw for July 2015

1st prize: Mr & Mrs Bowman
2nd prize: Carol Kenning
3rd prize: Diana Dworetzky
4th prize: Luigi

Draw for June 2015

1st prize: Maureen Paddock
2nd prize: Christina Tamm
3rd prize; Jean Byers
4th prize: George Nesbitt

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For your prayers

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2015

6th Churchill Road
13th College Lane
20th Croftdown Road
27th Dartmouth Park Avenue

SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

1st St Giles of Provence
2nd Martyrs of Papua New Guinea
3rd St Gregory the Great
4th St Birinus
6th **Trinity 14**

8th **Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
13th **Trinity 15**
14th Holy Cross day
15th St Cyprian
16th St Ninian
17th St Hildegard of Bingen
19th St Theodore of Tarsus
20th **Trinity 16**
21st St Matthew
27th **Trinity 17**
29th St Michael and All Angels
30th St Jerome