

New Leaves

September 2017



**Parish Magazine
of St David with
St Michael and
All Angels,
Exeter**

50p

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WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the
magazine for the Parish of St David’s with St.
Michael and All Angels.

The Parish extends a warm welcome to all visiting clergy during the
interregnum

**The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate
articles which reflect Church, Parish or Community interest**

**Please send as Word documents to:
newleavesnews@gmail.com**

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name

Enjoy this month’s read.
We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by
Sue Holden, Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

September 2017

Entering the 3rd year of my Curacy



Milestones in life are important opportunities to reflect upon what has gone before. To help us understand our deep behaviours and hidden attitudes; to help us prepare for what might be coming in the unknowingness of our futures. Milestones

are reminders of our mortality, of how limited we are as creatures.

Milestone reflections encourage us be grateful for all that has happened in our lives, however much pain has been caused or how sorrowful it feels.

Milestones are hopeful indicators of how we can change, of how we can respond in a living way to changing relationships. Whether we like it or not, milestones in life are endings to what has gone before.

Bishop Sarah signed-off my second year of curacy in late July. My weighty IME 5 ministerial assessment portfolio was satisfactory. I'm now over half way through my curacy serving God in the parish of St. David with St. Michael & All Angels. This milestone is my important opportunity to reflect upon what has gone before. How have I been formed as a priest by my experiences? How can my experiences teach me to become more Christlike?

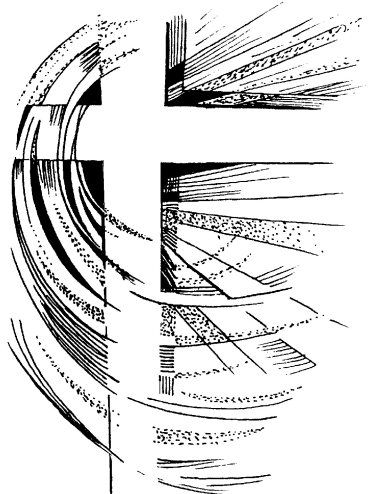
What are the important milestones in your life at this time? Perhaps you are returning to school another year older. Perhaps you are starting college or have begun your first full-time job. Perhaps you have moved house, having sifted through a lifetime of meaningful objects and memories. Perhaps your health is failing such that driving is now

impossible. Perhaps a person you have loved has died, or has married, or has moved away. As a gathered worshipping community, we the Church share in the festival milestones of God's revelation kept in proper liturgical season.

But what does this mean? It means meaningful existence itself. Milestones in life are endings to what has gone before. That is, they are little deaths. We can choose to turn away from this reality, and deny the passing of time and expiration of what has gone before. This way leads to fantasy, isolation, and harm. Or we can choose to turn towards these little deaths, and thereby recognise God at work in our lives. Serious reflection upon our actions and agendas denies the enemy sanctuary.

In Christ crucified, God shows us the way of meaning. The epic milestone of the death of God is how the whole world of interconnected relationships may choose to turn towards Him. By the incarnation, through His outrageous death on a cross so are the little deaths of our lives given outrageous significance. If we choose to view moments of disappointment or celebration through a cruciform lense, each milestone in life will become not only the ending to what has gone before, but an important opportunity to discern and embrace resurrection hope.

Milestones in life are important opportunities to obediently nail our subtle and grotesque fantasies to the cross. Sacrificing time and energy reflecting upon the everyday milestones of life is to awaken ourselves to our deep yearning for shared identity, for nourishing meaning, for Christ alone.



Rev. / Fr. Christopher

Ways with Words Festival Celebratory Service, July 9th 2017

The quadrangle at Dartington Hall, bordered by the Great Hall and simple rooms, evokes many memories for me of residential educational courses, where for a whole week you could escape the busyness of the classroom and the noise of the playground. They were halcyon days when the educational year was considered incomplete without the magic of a "Dartington experience." I can still see that amazing toaster coping with half a dozen slices of bread like an escalator built over a hillock. Teachers of today do not know what they have missed not to have walked and talked in the rooms and grounds of that unreal world. All courses would finish with a sigh of "Oh well! Back to reality."

So as I walked into that quad on a wonderful, warm sunny afternoon in early July those memories came flooding back. How long ago since I was here? 20, 30, or 40 years? But on this day Avril, my wife, and I were here for a Celebratory Service for the Ways with Words Festival. We'd already enjoyed the most delicious Sunday lunch at the nearby Cott Inn and now strolling through those lush grounds, trying to recall the estate map, the heaviness of the Dartington drug kicked in. Perfect, idyllic, dreamlike - an intoxicating atmosphere! We were in good time and able to join the front of the queue at five o'clock, an whole hour before the service was due to begin. By 5.45 the queue snaked around almost half the quad - women in frocks or bohemian shorts and headgear, fashionable in that part of Devon; men in shorts, panamas, light-coloured jackets or sandals - all queuing to worship the Lord. How good is that!

Eventually allowed in, people scrambled to their seats in the Great Hall anxious to get the best ones going. The Hall filled quickly until not a seat could be seen not even on window sills or up in the gallery. A quartet of two violins, a cello and a flute, Divertimento, began to play gentle reflective music before the Rev Jane Frost welcomed the congregation of all generations and dress and introduced the two guest speakers, John Bell, author and hymn

writer with the Iona Community and Ian Adams, poet, photographer, artist and Anglican priest. The liturgy, primarily from the Iona Community worship book, was inclusive and participative. What one would expect for such an occasion. The singing was led by the Ashprington Community Choir, which was directed by Liz Chandler. How powerful to be in such a congregation of all sorts and types, from all parts and places, all worshipping the Lord with an awesome, creative energy.

Ian Adams' poems appear simple and short but are born of a strong desire to be at one with the world and oneself through the following of Jesus Christ. He performed his poems dramatically using his hands and arms, sensitively articulating the power of his words, holding the congregation in the palm of his hand. His 2014 book of poems entitled "Unfurling" and published by Canterbury Press was the source of his first poem "Run Barefoot" (see appendix to this article), which illustrated the feelings of freedom and release.

John Bell gave the title of "The Eloquence of Resonance" to his talk, declaring God was a God for everyone, not just for the theological intellectuals, and that we were more likely to meet Jesus in our hearts and souls than in our head and thoughts. No right ways; no right answers. It was here in Dartington Hall that we encountered our God and like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we dared to ask, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he opened up the Scriptures to us?" Leaving that Hall and walking once more into the quad my thoughts were simple. Sometimes we search so long and so hard for God, but it is always best when He comes to you and walks beside you. That was the privilege on that wonderful summer evening in July. That Dartington magic was still there.



Bill Pattinson

10.07.2017

Appendix

RUN BAREFOOT

*Tender could we learn
once more to run
as lovers
landing soft
with tender feet?
To take off our shoes
and run barefoot to
trust our toes
and sift the sand
sense the stones and
take the shred, the bruise and cut
to feel the red soil pulse again
and run as our ancestors ran
so light on earth's dust skin;
the beginning of some sweet recovery
and the shedding
of more than shoes,
the softening
of more than tread.*

Ian Adams



St David's Eucharist September

September 3rd :

Reading 1	Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Lawrence Sail
Reading 2	Romans 12: 9 – end	Gina Redman
Gospel	Matthew 16: 13-20	
Time of prayer		Chris Gill
Junior Church		

September 10th :

Reading 1	Ezekiel 33: 7-11	Philip Walker
Reading 2	Romans 13: 8 – end	Hilary Francis
Gospel	Matthew 18: 15-20	
Time of prayer		Mollie Curry
Junior Church:		

September 17th: (Family Service)

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

Family service - No Junior Church

September 24th :

Reading 1	Jonah 3: 10 - end of Ch4	Charles Prosser
Reading 2	Philippians 1: 21 – end	Debbie McNeile
Gospel	Matthew 20- 1-16	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
Junior Church:		

October 1st :

Reading 1	Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end	Jeremy Lawford
Reading 2	Philippians 2: 1-13	Paula Lawford
Gospel	Matthew 21: 23-32	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson
Junior Church:		

September 2017: Some thoughts from St Michael's

You will have seen the photograph: a clear gaze, neither coy nor bold, almost smiling directly at the camera; eyes bright and a beautiful gentle amber; neat hair; clean and even teeth and not afraid of the close-up. No, it's not someone who has spent thousands on cosmetic re-arrangement to find perfection (and that's the word for this piece) but a curious monkey who saw the equipment left by the photographer and went to investigate. The picture went viral, was taken up by animal rights enthusiasts who asserted the monkey's right to royalties and almost bankrupted the photographer through litigation. It is a beautiful picture, now girdled round with controversy and nastiness. To be lovely, the monkey had not resorted to surgery, diet, make-up, air-brushing or any ploy to appear other than he was.

Unfortunately, these tactics are used by many who post the 'selfies' looking for fame and adulation, perhaps because they have the notion that perfection can be achieved by money and surgical intervention. I'm not a news-feed nerd, but a little item caught my eye recently: a young-ish woman, obsessed with Barbie, the plastic doll, had spent thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars to have her face and figure re-modelled to channel Barbie. She had been lovely in her own right; as Barbie, she was grotesque and, she admitted, not very happy. She had thought the idea of perfection would bring her happiness.

We were blessed by the visit of The Reverend Glen Graham, who came to talk to us as part of the Summer Lecture Series. His topic, 'Building the Body Beautiful: A Vision of a Perfectly Imperfect Church' led us to consider what we intend when we use the word 'perfect'. It's been a response to me when I have given an answer to a question about an address to be filled in on a form, for example, or when giving the correct amount of money in a payment. Glen's concern was how we view the notion of 'perfect'. It seems that the word has lost its original suggestion of completeness, as in all things have been completed, but how does one deal with that and our sense of imperfection: limited hearing, poor sight, physical disability? Against what standards are these to be judged? If God made us, why are we

not in all senses, completely perfect? Working through these challenges, we learn about ourselves and the needs of others, we learn acceptance and patience, trust and tolerance. Glen Graham has posted, on Friends St Michael's website, some of his thought-provoking statements, which are well worth studying.

It was an understanding of the need of the differently-abled world that led Jean Vanier, who is now 88, and rumoured for sainthood, to establish (the) L'Arche project, which enables those with learning disabilities to live in communities and to work together. Many of the people whom the outside world would consider to be 'perfect' admitted to learning much more than they would have expected through their contact with the so-called disabled. The documentary describing his work, *Summer in the Forest*, turns our unquestioning attitudes upside down, suggesting that the two cultures in the world, one of power, the other of relationships, are not compatible. The culture of relationships can help us to learn to live with loss, but we do tend to try to hang on to things, especially in the age of materialism. We are sometimes measured by what we possess and the monetary value – an imperfect measuring tool. Hang on as we may, loss can actually be cathartic. I have recently been clearing my father's flat. Some things are too precious to dispose of, like his early school reports (1928, etc,) but others have had to go. We are not defined by things but by our relationships, if we follow Vanier's philosophy. The communities that Vanier has built are indeed the 'Body Beautiful' because of the acceptance and love that they demonstrate.

George Herbert's poem, '*The Pulley*', sets the scene of God, rather like a sacred Alchemist, putting man together from elements stored in 'a glasse of blessings', including strength, beauty, wisdom, honour, pleasure; God decides not to give all the items out, thus making man perfect (or complete), but to hold the last feature, 'rest', because if it were in our make-up, we would not need to seek for God:

For if I should (said he)

Bestow this jewell also on my creature

He would adore my gifts instead of me,

And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature:

So both should losers be.

Yet let him keep the rest,

But keep them with repining restlessness:

Let him be rich and wearie, that at least,

If goodnesse lead him not, yet wearinesse

May toss him to my breast.

So we cannot yet be perfect; only, ultimately, can we be complete or perfect when we rest in God and when God's design for us is perfected.



Stephanie Aplin

Music & Events @ St Michael's – Sept 2017

Tuesday & Thursday 6pm Sung Vespers & Meditation resume early in September.

Choir Practices continue on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Matins & Low Mass are said at 9.30/10am on Wednesdays.

Communion is also celebrated at St David's Church at 10.30am on Thursdays.

All are welcome to services and events at St Michael's.

Please see our website <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/> for

the September Music List.

Sat 2 Sept at 2pm at Exeter & Devon Crematorium – a Service of Remembrance (phone 01392 496333 to request a name to be remembered aloud).

Sunday 3 September, Trinity XII, 10.45am Sung Mass. We welcome Fr Andy Atkins, former Curate, as our celebrant & preacher.

Bountiful Table this morning – please continue to support our successful Bring&Buy produce stall.

Sun 3 Sept, 6pm, Evensong and Benediction. Led by Fr Christopher Durrant. Psalm: 105 vv 1-15.

Saturday 9th September, Heritage Open Day 9am-6pm, and Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride. Guided Tour of Mount Dinham & Church at 2.30pm with Richard Parker.

Sunday 10 September, Trinity XIII, 10.45am Mass. With Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

Also Heritage Open Day 10am-5pm, with Cream Teas for fund-raising from 3-5pm,

Thu 14 Sept at 6pm. CBS Mass for Holy Cross Day with Fr David Hastings.

Thu 14 Sept from 6.30pm starting in Northernhay Gardens, Richard Parker leads a 2 hour architectural history walk around central Exeter. Cost £7.

Sat 16 Sept at 11am. Nuptial Mass and Wedding of Terence Beverton & Analyn Castro-Perez.

Sun 17 Sept, Trinity XIV, 10.45am Mass. Fr Christopher.

Tue 19 – Sat 23 Sep. Exhibition at St Stephen's on the High Street, from 11-4, 6pm on Thurs. Stories of Exeter's War Hospitals 1914-19.

<https://www.exeterlocalhistorysociety.co.uk/world-war-1-hospitals-exhibition/>

Sun 24 Sept, Trinity XV, 10.45am Mass. Fr Christopher with Bill Pattinson preaching.

Wed 27 Sept, 7.30pm, St Michael's Lecture. We welcome Dr Felix Flicker, a Research Fellow in Physics at New College Oxford. His intriguing title is "Paradoxes: Jokes, Riddles, Zen Buddhist Kohns, and some Questions in

Theoretical Physics.” Come & be enlightened!

Friday 29th September is Michaelmas and we have our **Festival Sung Mass at 7.30pm**. All are most welcome to this service, which is followed by a Bring & Share Party – please join us. Our guest preacher is Fr Peter March.

Sun 1 October, Trinity XVI, 10.45am Sung Mass & Bountiful Table. Fr Christopher.

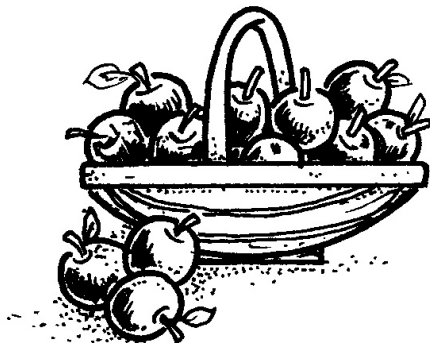
Sun 1 Oct, 6pm, Choral Evensong and Benediction.

Advanced Notice. For 3 Wednesdays in October (11th, 18th & 25th) Oliver Nicholson will lead a Reading Group at St Michael's Church exploring of the writings of Egeria, an Early Christian Pilgrim. Egeria was a religious lady who spent the years 381 to 384 AD in the Holy Land and visiting the Desert Fathers of Egypt. She wrote an extensive account of her travels to 'her dear sisters' back home in what is now the south of France; her pilgrimage has been described as 'biblical commentary written with the feet'. The group will meet at 7.15pm on three Wednesday evenings in October (11th, 18th & 25th) to talk about her travels. Copies of the excellent translation by Canon John Wilkinson will be available for purchase on the first evening (October 11th), when Oliver will introduce the topic of Egeria and early Christian pilgrimage in general. Folk who are going on the Holy Land pilgrimage in April 2018 might find this of particular interest.

Feast Day or ordinary, you're always welcome at St Michael's.



Richard Barnes – 22 Aug 2017



Letter of Introduction - Howard and Helen Friend

We arrived during Holy Week this year from the wilds of North Devon – Exmoor – keenly anticipating all that the city might offer us now that we had retired. We were warmly received by St David's and St Michael's congregations, which some friends had advised would probably suit us. They were right. However it was a sermon from the Palm Sunday evening Cathedral service, which put us right. Basically it was along the lines of the often quoted Kennedy quip: 'Ask not what the city can do for you but rather what you might do for it'.

So, keeping in mind all our friends' advice, about not signing up for everything when newly retired, we have made a modest and tentative start.

For me, Howard, that means offering my Reader experience to St David's and St Michael's, which I have done. The administrative wheels are in motion. Christopher and Bill have been a great encouragement. I already have a sense of teamwork. It is hoped that I will be licensed at the end of October in the Cathedral with David James as my sponsor. I trained as a Reader in Tiverton 20 years ago and have been active in Tiverton, North Molton and Malawi. Technically I am applying for what might be called an intra-Diocesan 'Free Transfer'

We have spent half our professional lives in Malawi working for UK Aid and the Foreign Office, and the other half in rural Devon. I spent 30 years as a GP and 10 years as a Hospice doctor. Helen worked as a physiotherapist and gardener. We have 4 adult children and now 3 grandchildren.

I am a farmer's son from Barnstaple from an Open Brethren

background and Methodist schooling. Helen grew up abroad, mostly in rural Uganda and has a mainly Anglican background. Her grandfather was a Bishop in Mozambique and South Africa. We were both involved in the founding of an International Baptist church in Malawi in the 80s and have been to a variety of churches since. So we are 'Definitely Into - Blue Sky Thinking - Outside the Box – Going Forward'.

We have just bought and moved into a house in St Leonard's to be within walking distance of the things we enjoy: the river, the city centre, theatre, music, and so on. In the African tradition we would be happy to welcome you for coffee if you ever wander our way.

Please pray for us as we settle in and find out exactly how we can be of service to this community – and benefit from it.



Howard and Helen Friend

21.07.2017

39, Barnardo Road
Exeter,
EX2 4ND



Parish Quiet Day at Mill House - 22nd July 2017

Mill House retreat centre, a beautiful thatched farm house, is set in seven acres of Devon countryside near Tiverton. This was the glorious setting for our July parish quiet day, led by our good friend and neighbour Bishop Martin Shaw.

This quotation from the Mill House web site gives you an idea of their ethos:

Exploring spirituality is challenging - it helps you reconnect with yourself, with others, with God - it takes time to think about the pattern and rhythm of your life.

Coffee was served as we arrived at 10 a.m. by members of the community, who live and work alongside local volunteers. They offered a friendly, quiet welcome and, later on, delicious home cooked food for lunch and lemon drizzle cake for afternoon tea.

Christopher Durrant introduced the day in a delightful upstairs room overlooking the gardens. We listened to Martin's first address on "Where do I see the Face of Christ?" This was followed by 45 minutes of silence. Some of us explored the beautiful gardens, the contemporary courtyard development and inside the house. Others, like me, preferred to sit in one space and think or meditate on Martin's words.

"How have I been that Face?" was Martin's second address. Such a lot to think about – I needed my notebook! Looking back over my

life I remembered caring for my parents at the end of their lives, the people I had the privilege of working with at school, *Nightstop* emergency house guests over the years, bereavement counselling, and rich friendships. Martin told wonderful stories about "the hidden Face of Christ", Christ in the stranger, Christ where he is least expected, the "incidental Face of Christ".

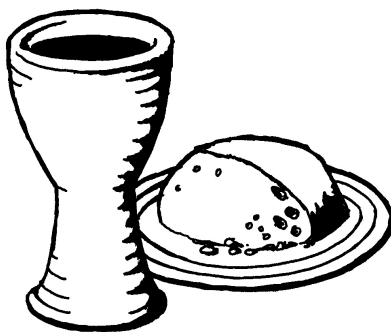
I deliberately haven't written down Martin's personal stories but, please, if you get the chance, go and listen to him telling them. Martin speaks and teaches in the true tradition of a Wisdom teacher, using stories, puzzles and pithy sayings. He spoke in language we could all understand and relate to. Perhaps his approach will help you in your quest to understand and explore your faith and spirituality?

We ended our diverse and challenging day by sharing our experiences, and with a simple Eucharist led by Martin and Christopher. It was an excellent day.

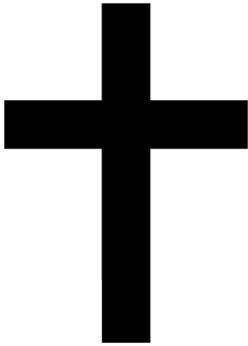


Imogen Walsh

18.08.2017



Two September Feast Days



At St Michael's we will celebrate Holy Cross Day on Thursday 14 September with a CBS Mass at 6pm to which all are welcome.

Like Corpus Christi in relation to Maundy Thursday, this little feast day can be seen as a joyful sequel to Good Friday. It marks the date in AD335 when the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was dedicated, built over the site where later legend says Saint Helena, mother of Roman Emperor Constantine, had discovered 3 ancient crosses.

A friend's recent Facebook post reminded me of the exciting, passionate, and rather difficult a cappella Motet "Christus factus est" by the Austrian composer, Anton Bruckner (1824-96).

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens, usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.

Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

Christ was made obedient for us, even to death, death on the cross. Therefore God has exalted Him and given Him a name which is above all names.

The words are a Gradual, based on Philippians 2:8-9, used on Holy Saturday and other Feasts of Christ's Cross & Passion. I say 'based on' because it omits the first half of v8, 'And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself' and adds 'for us' which is not in the biblical text at all.

Many of us do our Theology through our Liturgy, so I think 'pro nobis' is a useful addition. I also think 'Therefore God' is a rather weak translation of 'Propter quod et Deus', which could perhaps be better put as 'And on account of that obedience, God'.

The Cross, a shameful death in the Roman world, took a while to become the Christian logo of choice; for the first few centuries the fish and the Good Shepherd were more popular. Christ on the Cross can have many meanings – I could list 'Theories of the Atonement'. But I leave it as an exercise for the reader to think what the Cross of Jesus means for you.

Michaelmas, our Patronal Feast at St Michael's, is on Friday 29 September, with Sung Mass & Procession at 7.30pm, followed by a Party with Prosecco & Nibbles – please join us.

Some more Latin has been on my mind recently (don't laugh) – sed signifer sanctus Michael – from the 'Offertorium' of the Requiem Mass.

But may the holy standard-bearer Michael lead them into holy light, as once you promised to Abraham and his seed.

My thoughts have been revolving around ideas of what standards our St Michael's bears, what banners we fly over Mount Dinham from our very visible spire, where we are leading people, how we are fulfilling the promises & hopes of John Dinham, William Gibbs, and our ancestors in faith?

For me, one image of St Michael's is the 4 poles of the Corpus Christi canopy, which might be our liturgical worship, faithful prayer, beautiful music and good partying. But more importantly, beneath that canopy fluttering in the wind, we meet with Jesus, with Christ in God through the Spirit, both as a Church and as individuals.

We will likely each have a different 'relationship with Jesus', because we are diverse, imperfect & difficult people (well I am). So we pray that St Michael's will continue to help us, as living stones of the Church, to seek and find some faith, hope & love, here and now.



Richard Barnes – 20 Aug 2017

Summer Time Travel

'That both our hearts...' - the 2nd Collect at Evensong can remind one of Doctor Who! While some Christians spend a few Summer Days at New Wine or Greenbelt, the good folk of St Pythagoras & All Angles did a little time-travelling.

First stop (courtesy of dramatic photographs at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh) is the cold wastes of Antarctica in 1916 as Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew show heroic endurance against the forces of nature trapped on the dazzling white ice floes. Providence, perseverance and a daring journey to South Georgia bring eventually rescue. Meanwhile a world away in Europe their fellow men are slaughtering each other on the poppy red fields of Flanders. Homo sapiens - will we ever learn?

Back 90 years and Sir Walter Scott, the great story-teller, welcomes us to his Scottish Baronial Borders home, Abbotsford. He has little time for religion as he sets about rediscovering and reinventing Scottish nationalism. But when his grand-daughter Charlotte, and her husband James Hope Scott, inherit Abbotsford in 1847, they soon take the Roman high road where it forks from the Oxford Movement. They build a Chapel there (as one does) and John Henry Newman is a visitor. Sacred objects and prayers are their memorial.

From 1857 in Thebes near Luxor, young Scottish archaeologist Alexander Henry Rhind brushes back the years as he excavates and catalogues an Egyptian tomb. It's been used at least 3 times. In 9BC, missing a refugee family from Bethlehem by a mere decade and a few hundred miles, mummified bodies of those who can afford it are laid to rest, as others were 800 years before.

This tomb was cut in 1300BC for a Pharaoh's Chief of Police and his wife. Ironically their sacred objects were looted by tomb robbers. The guide tells us 'magical objects and spells' help them find their way to eternal life with the gods. I wonder if the guide thinks the ancient Egyptian religion less valid than ours, or that the genre of Harry

Potter speaks better to us 21st century visitors.

But I am too cynical – 'magic' is a technical term for Egyptologists for rituals and forms of prayer than compel a god to do one's will.

“Osiris, we just really want to pray ...” Maybe not so different after all.

On the way back, we stop at AD920 in Galloway, south-west Scotland; a worried Viking merchant is burying a hoard of valuables in a field. Two hoards actually, the family's treasures deep in the ground, their lesser valuables nearby as a decoy. They have integrated into society, converted to Christianity, but these are troubled times, strangers are not welcome. A decorated pectoral cross is his pearl of great price, left with a prayer for others to find and marvel at 1100 years later,

Some are so holy, they come to reflect the uncreated light of God, transfigured. The rest of us imperfect humans still need to approach Jesus, the incarnate God, through sacred objects and prayers, through creation and creativity.



Richard Barnes – August 2017



International group of volunteers working on the St David's Churchyard

For 10 days in mid-August, our group of volunteers conducted various kinds of gardening work on the St David's churchyard. The work effort was part of an international summer camp organized by Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP). ARSP is a German NGO originally known as 'Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste'. Lothar Kreyssig founded this German organization in 1958. He argued that the Germans had harmed other people unimaginably during the Second World War. The mission of ARSP should be to ask 'all peoples who suffered violence at our hands to allow us to perform good deeds in their countries. (...) to carry out this symbol of reconciliation'.

The core area of ARSP's work has always been the deployment of one-year volunteers. The mostly young volunteers are working in political and historical education, in social projects as well as with older and disabled people. Currently, ARSP offers its service program in approximately 180 projects in 13 countries that were affected by the Germans during the Second World War. ARSP started its work in England in 1961 when volunteers helped to rebuild Coventry Cathedral. Another field of ARSP's involvement are summer camps, like the recent one in Exeter. Over the course of the summer, 26 summer camps take place in many different countries and last about two weeks each.

From August 9 to 19, 14 people participated in the summer camp in Exeter. Most of us are German, while three people come from France, Belarus and Russia, respectively. Our group was composed of high school and university students, employees and a retiree. For 10 days, we stayed at a hostel in Exeter and enjoyed our time with a diverse program. Amongst other things, we attended two Shabbat services at the Exeter synagogue, hiked on Dartmoor and visited the last night of the Sidmouth Folk Festival. We also met with a 95-year-old eyewitness who told us about her experience as a member of the Women's Land Army during the Second World War.

On six days, we worked on the St David's churchyard for a few hours each day. We split up into smaller teams tackling various tasks. Some of us mowed the lawn with mowers and string trimmers. The cut grass was

raked and taken to the compost. Others freed the tombstones from ivy and other plants, and cleaned the surfaces of the inscriptions. We also removed weeds from the path around the church and collected rubbish laying on the premises. During our work, we were blessed with overall pleasant weather conditions.

Finally, I would like to thank the St David's congregation for giving us the opportunity for a meaningful summer camp and welcoming us warmly!

Wiebke E. Volkhardt

20.08.2017



Our Three Magnificent Musketeers

Summer holidays haven't meant a downing of tools for St David's Musketeers. John, Russell and Roger have continued their intricate and meticulous work at the back of the church. We are very fortunate to have such skilled craftsmen in our midst and it is wonderful to watch what they are creating.

There have been various unavoidable delays which have been frustrating.

So what is happening right now?

THE MEETING ROOM

Roger at the top, Russell up the ladder, John instructing at the bottom.



This is going to be such a useful addition to the church, as well as enhancing its beauty by the use of the old pews in the woodwork. There will be ceiling hatches in both the Meeting Room and in the Kitchen, but for maintenance only, so sadly any ideas about storing Christmas Trees will have to be forgotten.

THE KITCHEN



John holding up one of the front wall panels made from an old pew, with the space for a window at the top. These will be stained to match the wood below. There will be sliding hatch doors and integrated kitchen fittings .

It is difficult to give a time scale for all this to happen. There may well be a delay for sorting out the glass window panels ,but it will all be so well worth waiting for.

I mentioned the kitchen fittings. In addition to our Three Musketeers we

are also very fortunate to have another skilled operator available to us. Paul Adams, a retired professional engineer, is currently designing the interior kitchen layout to be actioned when the external structures are completed. I worked with Paul when I was Church Warden and he was involved in a number of developments, including the original upstairs toilets which replaced the crèche at the back of the church. He has a long history of offering his considerable expertise to St.Davids. He wants to share his plans with the ladies of the church, with whom he had a meeting in May, and will try to incorporate their wishes wherever possible. The new kitchen will also be available to rent .

Another very exciting prospect ! We are to have one large mobile pew very shortly .

Money is not presently available to shorten and mobilise all the original pews. John has suggested that as a stop gap, he could adapt a pew as it is, with possibly a later modification for increased seating comfort , and we could see how it feels to push a pew .



Ann Watts

19.08.2017

With the Hillwood Singers at Exeter Cathedral

For 4 days in the middle of July, a multi-national choir gathered to sing 4 Evensongs and a Eucharist in Exeter Cathedral. From Exeter and Florida, as well as Harris, London & Brussels, we were made most welcome by Bishop Martin Shaw (who seemed to be single-handedly keeping the Cathedral's worship going).

After a couple of full rehearsals we launched at Thursday Evensong with Smith Responses, Psalms 69 & 70, the tuneful Brewer in D Canticles and a powerful Anthem "Blessed be all they that fear the Lord" by Leo Sowerby (America's answer to Howells).

Friday Evensong is traditionally a cappella, so we sang Tallis' Dorian Canticles and Walford Davies' beautiful miniature "Blessed are the pure in heart" with words by John Keble, whose day it was. The intelligent and dramatic reading of the Lessons by Bishop Martin was also a highlight of our Evensongs.

Saturday Evensong was a big sing with Bairstow in D Canticles, composed in 1906 with Edwardian exuberance, and his lovely Anthem "I sat down under his shadow" with words from the Song of Songs. High time to mention and thank Dr Bob Parrish conducting from his iPad and Neil Page expertly selecting from the wide palette of organ sounds, guiding us through 6 chants and 40 verses of Psalm 78.

We had good congregations in the Quire for all our Evensongs, but they were nothing compared to the full Nave that faced us as we sang Tallis' "If ye love me" and processed in to sing the Sunday morning Eucharist. Bishop Martin had to read a letter from the Lord Lieutenant telling us all that a new Dean had been unanimously selected at the recent interviews, but it would take a few months' formalities before the name could be made public. The decision may impact on St David's & St Michael's search for a new Vicar as the Cathedral is our Patron.

We enjoyed singing Rheinberger's Mass in F. Special mention of Erika for intoning the Gloria and Gradual sentence. Our Anthem was an American gem, "Set me as a seal upon your heart" by Rene Clausen. Revd Professor Morwenna Ludlow's sermon was a study of Augustine and Paul's difficulties with the transitory "Pleasures of the Flesh", contrasted with the incarnate

Jesus, welcoming feasting and fellowship, but putting ultimate value on love and service.

Just time for a quick Carvery in the Hogsmeadesque White Hart, before returning to the Cathedral for our final Evensong. The Canticles in E were by Horatio Parker, another American composer; think Sir John Stainer meets John Philip Sousa.

Bishop Martin Shaw's Sermon had hard-hitting criticism of those who spend all their time worrying about buildings and finance, while frail vessels damaged by the storms of life need rescuing and bringing to a kindly haven.

Our final piece was a world première! Graham Keitch had composed an ethereally beautiful setting of "O lux beatissima" for Choir & Organ, words by Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton (1150-1228). O light most blessed, fill the inmost heart of your faithful. Without your grace there is nothing in man that is not harmful. Wash what is unclean, water what is dry, heal what is wounded.

Thanks again to Bob Parrish, Erika Wagstaff and Neil Page for all the work, seen & unseen, that enabled us to offer our talents, worship and prayers in this extra-curricular adventure.



Richard Barnes – July 2017





50 Years of Liturgical Revision – a personal view from the Choir-stalls

With apologies to German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller's poem "First they came for the... ", this slightly tongue-in-cheek parody charts some of the changes I have seen.

First they came for Matins, and gave us All-Age Worship.

Then they came for the all-age robed Choir, and a few of the Vicar's friends formed a Worship Group.

They took six centuries of sacred music, and gave us sanitised sounds of the 60s.

I let them take my Hymn book, and for a while followed Youth Praise in my waywardness.

They couldn't take the Book of Common Prayer from the 8 o'clockers, so added the Alternative Service Book, which seemed fine to begin with, but

it lacked depth, and when one grew up it withered, and also with you.

They gave us Pebbles and Tea-lights, and called it Celtic Spirituality.

They gave us ladies in diaphanous nighties, and called it Liturgical Dance.

Then they took the ASB, the last complete prayer book, and said Come on, Worship with divers booklets, and echo the silent music of creation.

They gave us Fresh Expressions, and told us we were past our sell by date.

In some Churches – they removed the Altar and installed the Drum-kit.

They took the Rood Screen, and installed the Video Screen.

They took the Candles, and made people worship the purple uplit stage-show of the celebrity preacher.

Now they would take our Vestments, beat our Chasubles into Chinos and cut our Cottas in pieces.

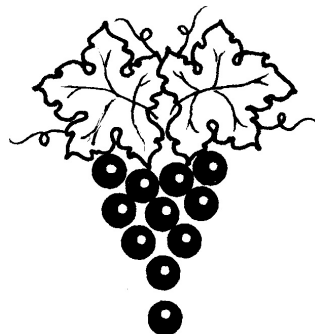
And Bishops & Deans agree for once, that their Cathedrals house a unique musical heritage, because as Vicars & Curates they oversaw the debasement and choroclasm of Parish worship.

And yet ... in Quires and Places there are still oases of Sacred Music amidst the cloned monoculture of bland worship songs. And we should be grateful to have two such in our Parish.

(Of course, as next month's Reformation issue will probably show, there never was a golden age when the Church all sang from the same hymn-sheet, because we are human, and because God's nature is beauty, creativity and many gifts.)



**Richard Barnes –
August 2017**



Parish Lunch Club

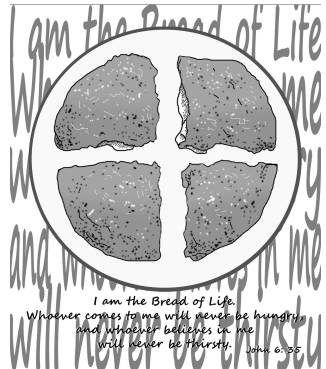
When I was a wage slave, I dreamed of being a “lady who lunches”. How much more civilised than the school lunches, which ranged from adequate to not bad at all, or a sandwich from the local supermarket. How pleasant to dress up and take a leisurely journey to a pleasant cafe or inn. Since I’ve retired, I’ve been able to fulfil this wish. Living alone it’s a treat to eat in company and what better company than St David’s and St Michael’s Parish lunch club? On Thursdays, once a month, Sue Wilson collects names at the churches and we go to Exeter College where an excellent and reasonably priced lunch is served. It’s a very pleasant experience with a chance to meet both old and new friends. To make this an even more pleasant experience join in the Thursday Eucharist service at 10.30am. When the College is closed Sue arranges an alternative venue. You will find it well worth the effort of writing your name on the list.

Bon appetit



Eileen Jarman

02.07.2017



The Bountiful Table



In August, our fourth Bountiful Table sale, thanks to your generosity, raised over

£186.00!

More next month: first Sunday in September. Should we be aiming for escalating sums? Please continue to bring, buy and tell others about this fund-raising effort. We are thinking of putting the sandwich board outside, to invite passers-by in after 12 noon.

Currently, seasonal fruit and vegetables appear weekly for sale.

If you have specific request, please let us know and we will do our best to fulfil it. It seems marmalade and lemon curd are good sellers. What else would you like to see?

Orders for Christmas cakes, vegetarian mincemeat (for your Christmas mince-pies) and savoury biscuits will soon be taken. How about some Christmas bunting and tasteful table decorations? There will be lots of new ideas, especially if you have suggestions to share with us.

Elizabeth Hughes and Stephanie Aplin



PRIZE WINNERS DRAWN IN THE GRAND DRAW ON 24TH JUNE AT ST DAVID'S CHURCH

1.£100	Ian Watt
2.Boston tea party – meal for four	Paula Lewis
3.Boston tea party – meal for two Eileen Jarman	Lizzie c/o
4.Tao skincare – manicure Godslands	Margaret
5.Teamworks – shampoo, conditioner and bodywash	Dawn Hugo
6.Rolys fudge – box of fudge	Tony Pugh
7.Reed hall – lunch for two	P. Chant
8.Reed hall – lunch for two Canon	Connie
9.The Dinosaur cafe – meal vouchers - £15	David James
10.Herbies - £5 voucher	C.Martin
11.Devon coffee – coffee beans	Dilys Thorp
12.Aga shop - bread crisper and teatowel Bellamy	Jane
13.Old Timers wine bar - £10 voucher Ebdon	Debbie
14.The Citygate hotel – meal and drinks	Amy Down
15.Exeter Phoenix –2 film tickets Sampson	John
16.The Imperial – curry meal for two and drinks Vanstone	Marion
17.Hair Hub – voucher for cut and blowdry	K.Chant

18.Ben Bradshaw –House of Commons bottle of wine	Marion Vanstone
19.gardening vouchers - £40	Robert Owen
20.The Parkview hotel – case of stella artois	Jill Salway
21.The Parkview hotel – bottle of chaumet	Pam Smith
22.bottle of cherry brandy	Jeremy Lawford
23.the bike caffè, Barnfield Crescent –five coffee vouchers	Paula Lewis
24.Gill Carvill – foot treatment	K.Chant
25.@thirty – four, Exeter college – complimentary meal £25.00	George Grimsey
26.The Co-op – bottle of cava	Jane Bellamy
27.The Co-op – box of chocolates	M.Darch
28.Austins Department store - £20 gift card	Julia Spruntulis
29.Exploding Bakery – tea and cake for two	Lucy Browne
30.toddlers – plant	Graham Lerwill



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word
with you about your carbon footprint!

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 9th and 10th Sept 2017

WELCOME TO
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH
MOUNT DINHAM EX4 4EB



SATURDAY 9TH SEPT 2017 - DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST "RIDE + STRIDE"

CHURCH OPEN 8am – 6pm

Refreshments served all day – Coffee/Tea/Soft drinks/Sandwiches/Cakes

50% to St Michael's Church charity no.1135766

50% to Devon Historic Churches Trust charity no.265594

STALLS Fresh Produce – Cakes – Jams – Books – CDs – Bric-a-Brac

SUNDAY 10TH SEPT 2017 - CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

CHURCH OPEN 10am – 5pm

SUNG MASS 10:45 am

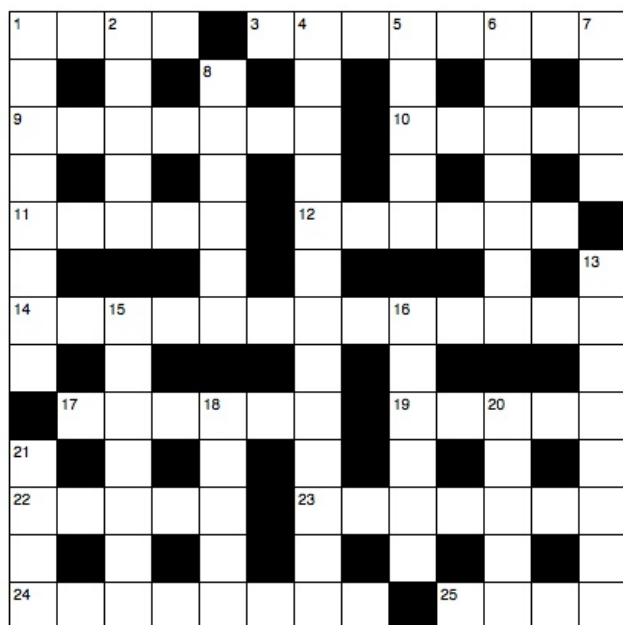
Afternoon Tea 3pm – 5pm Sandwich, scone and clotted cream **£4.00**

With Organ Music

STALLS Fresh Produce – Cakes – Jams – Books – CDs – Bric-a-Brac

Fundraising for St Michael's Church

September crossword



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm

118:8) (2,3)

22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)

23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)

24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)

25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)

2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)

4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)

5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)

6 Of the Muslim faith (7)

7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)

8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)

13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)

15 CIA char (anag.) (7)

16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)

18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)

20 Episcopal headwear (5)

21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

September

Sudoku -

Medium

					1	3		
5			4	3		2		
	8	3				9		
	2		9					
	3						9	
					6		7	
		4				1	5	
		9		7	8			4
		5	2					

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Days of Note - September

8th Sept The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In both eastern and western Churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour. Thomas Aquinas believed she was due *hyperdulia*, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or *latria*, due to God alone.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or *Magnificat* appears in Luke 1:46-55.

The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the

active one of teaching and preaching.

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called *Theotokos*, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2nd February), the Annunciation (25th March), the Assumption (15th August) and her Nativity (8th September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her. During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed. The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church.

Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico).

21st Sept St Matthew

Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

23rd Sept When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

29th Sept Michael and All Angels

Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with Michael.

29th Sept Angels Unawares

by Canon David Winter

One of those surveys which some newspapers love to publish claimed recently that a large number of British people believe in angels – almost as many, in fact, as claimed to believe in God. They didn't tell us what people

meant by 'angels'. I suspect quite a few were thinking of young children who die, who are often now said to be 'angels' 'up there'. They're not, of course. They are transformed human beings. Be that as it may, when Christians celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels later this month, there will be many of us, inside and outside churches, who will wonder exactly what or who we are celebrating.

Most simply, the word in the New Testament means 'messenger. An 'angel' is a being who brings to us God's message or his help. In the Bible angels are variously described. The familiar notion of wings and flight comes from a vision given to Isaiah in the Temple when he was being called as a prophet. The angel Gabriel, who told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, is not described at all, but his words are recorded in detail. Angels speak to people in dreams (Joseph, the husband of Mary, for instance) and Jesus spoke of 'angels' who particularly care for children ('guardian angels').

Most people, even very devout ones, have never knowingly encountered an angel, I guess. However, the New Testament tells us that in 'showing hospitality to strangers' some of us have 'entertained angels without knowing it'. Clearly wings and eyes of flame are not obligatory. Just human care. 'Oh, go on, be an angel and make me a cup of tea!'



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."



September 29

Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

In the Bible, angels are messengers from God. The word 'angel' comes from the Greek word for a messenger and it appears hundreds of times in the Bible. But the only angels whose names we know are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael who are archangels, captains among the angels. Each of these three has a different task: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides.

In the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, Michael leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil and in the Old Testament he is in the book of Daniel, defending Israel against its enemies.

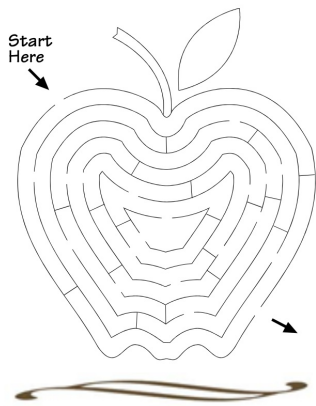
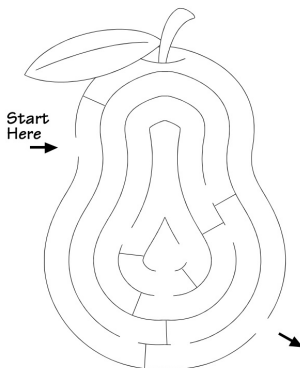


Gabriel is best known for his appearing to a young Jewish girl named Mary to tell her that she will give birth to Jesus.

Raphael is in the Old Testament story of Tobit where he guides Tobit's son Tobiah.

HARVEST PUZZLE

Can you find your way through these 2 fruit mazes?



What kind of nuts sneeze the most?

Cashews.

What's a vampire's favourite fruit?

Nectarine.

b	b	f	s	o	n	s	h	e	e	p
a	t	r	a	d	e	r	s	s	a	d
d	e	j	o	s	e	p	h	t	l	w
n	c	a	p	t	a	i	n	o	j	i
s	l	a	v	e	h	l	h	r	c	f
j	i	s	h	m	a	e	l	i	t	e
h	a	t	e	m	s	d	r	e	a	m
s	c	c	i	u	p	r	i	s	o	n
o	o	n	o	t	r	i	c	k	e	d
l	a	h	r	b	w	e	l	l	q	r
d	t	g	o	a	t	w	o	r	k	y

brothers

traders

Jacob

wife

dry

animal

sold

slave

coat

well

dream

prison

hate

goat

bad

sons

captain

Joseph

tricked

household

sheep

Ishmaelite

stories

work

Puzzle solutions

A	L	S	O		O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G
R		L		F		A		N		S		A
T	H	E	M	A	G	I		R	U	L	E	S
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V	I	C	I	N	I	T	Y		B	E	L	T

7	4	2	8	9	1	3	6	5
5	9	6	4	3	7	2	8	1
1	8	3	6	5	2	9	4	7
4	2	7	9	8	3	5	1	6
6	3	1	7	4	5	8	9	2
9	5	8	1	2	6	4	7	3
2	7	4	3	6	9	1	5	8
3	1	9	5	7	8	6	2	4
8	6	5	2	1	4	7	3	9

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the October issue of New Leaves is Sunday 24th September 2017

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us. Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the new editorial team at:

newleavesnews@gmail.com

Please send digital files via email and please make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!

Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine

- his hard work is much appreciated.