

The Benefice of St Anne, St Paul and St Augustine

**THE
LINK**



St Anne's Church



St Paul's & St Augustine's Worship Centre

June 2023

60p



Who's Who in the Benefice

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St. Paul's & St. Augustine's

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For more information go to the web site at

www.stanneschurchleicester.wordpress.com

or

www.stpaulscommunity.co.uk

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PASTORAL LETTER

Its Ordinary Time!

I don't know about you, I have always found the term Ordinary Time in the church calendar a bit strange. Why on earth would the church want to describe any period of worship as just ordinary? Ordinary Time, is the time of the year, when we use the colour green in our worship. Sharon, Sharon and I will wear green stoles and chasubles, and the chalice and paten (the cup and plate) we use for Holy Communion are also covered in a green cloth (the technical term is a burse and veil, if you are interested).

So all of these green things means that I think of Ordinary Time as a period of growth, of maturing, just as the long June days encourage the plants in my garden to grow to maturity. We can also enjoy the first of the summer harvests, eating strawberries and fresh peas, straight from plant to kitchen in minutes.

June is also a really important month of growth for our Curate Sharon Plant. At the end of the month, she will be embarking on her pre-ordination retreat and will be ordained again, this time as a priest, on Saturday 1st July. I am sure she will experience a big growth spurt, a bit like she did last summer, when she was ordained as a deacon.

There will be three opportunities to celebrate with Sharon and I hope that you will be able to join us. The first is at the Ordination of Priests service, Saturday 1st July, 3pm at St Mary's church, Melton Mowbray. The second is later in the afternoon, when we will be having a party at St Anne's Hall (from around 6pm). The third opportunity will be as Sharon presides at her first Holy Communion service. This will be a benefice service on Sunday 2nd July, 11am at St Paul's with St Augustine's Worship Centre.

I hope that you will be able to support Sharon at one or all of the occasions and please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for the next stage of her ministry.

With love in Christ

Rev'd Liz Wilson



SERVICES FOR JUNE 2023

Saturday 3 June

4.00pm Children's Church, St Anne's Hall

Sunday 4 June (Trinity Sunday)

9.30am Eucharist, St Anne's

11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's

11.00am JBenefice Telephone Church,

Tel. 033 3113 3356, Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#

6.00pm Evensong, St Anne's

Thursday 8 June

12.00noon Lunchtime Eucharist, St Anne's Church and Hall

Sunday 11 June (First Sunday after Trinity)

9.30am All Age Worship, St Anne's

11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's

11.00am Benefice Telephone Church,

Tel. 033 3113 3356, Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#

6.00pm BCP Eucharist, St Anne's

Saturday 17 June

4.00pm Children's Church, Allotment

Sunday 18 June (Second Sunday after Trinity)

9.30am Eucharist, St Anne's

11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's

11.00am Benefice Telephone Church,

Tel. 033 3113 3356, Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#

6.00pm Evensong, St Anne's

Sunday 25 June (Third Sunday after Trinity)

9.30am All Age Eucharist, St Anne's

11.00am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's

11.00am Benefice Telephone Church,

Tel. 033 3113 3356, Room no. 72775483#, Pin no. 1459#

6.00pm Evensong, St Anne's

Every Wednesday 9.30am Eucharist, St Anne's and 4.00pm Stations of the Resurrection, St Paul and St Augustine's

Every Thursday 9.30am Eucharist, St Paul and St Augustine's

2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month, 3.30pm, Allotment Prayers meet at Boynton Road gates. LE3 1PS



READINGS FOR JUNE 2023



	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
7 May				
Eucharist/TC	<u>Isa 40:12-17, 27-end</u>	8	2 Cor 13:11-end	<u>Matt 28:16-end</u>
Evensong	Isa 6:1-8	93		John 16:5-15
14 May				
All Age Worship Eucharist/TC	<u>Hosea 5: 15 – 6:6</u>	50:7-15	Romans 4: 13-end	<u>Matt 9:9-13, 18-26</u>
Eucharist (BCP)				
21 May				
Eucharist/TC	<u>Exo 19:2-8a</u>	100	Romans 5: 1-8	<u>Matt 9:35- 10:8</u>
Evensong	1 Sam 21: 1-15	43		Luke 11:14-28
28 May				
All Age Eucharist/ Eucharist /TC	<u>Jer 20:7-13</u>	69:8-11	Romans 6: 1b-11	<u>Matt 10:24-39</u>
Evensong	1 Sam 24: 1-17	46		Luke 14:12-24



The Blessed Trinity



**A Service of Meditation
St Paul's with St Augustine's
starts Wednesday 4.00pm**



Creation Matters



June: Flaming June is never guaranteed, of course, in the British Isles, but it is common to have hot days in June. Nature could not be more abundant or ripe... The birds that started breeding may be producing more than one brood. As they fatten and grow their feathers which can only take a few weeks, they prepare to fledge...Birds can carry empty eggshells to another place to deter predators and sometimes, we can spot them on the ground if they are dropped. On the British coastline it is the best time to see seabirds as they breed...June sees an increase in the amount of insects. Though not always welcomed, their industry contributes to our food cycle...The wild flowers and garden flowers are too many to mention. In June the abundance and brilliance of the flowers are at their peak and make the heart sing...As well as fruit and flowers, herbs are ready to be plucked and used and their healing properties thought to be at their most efficacious...The trees are in full strength and thick with green at Midsummer. In Celtic the Oak is called "Duir," which means doorway, and it is seen as the tree standing at the doorway to the second half of the year. Mistletoe is traditionally gathered on Midsummer's Eve. The solstice can fall on June 20-23 (this year it is 21st). The Christian **feast of John the Baptist** is on June 24th...John who was the son of Elizabeth, whom Mary visited when she was pregnant, was Jesus' cousin and six months older than Jesus so his birthday was six months before Christmas Day.

Traditionally in church they would recite the Benedicite. This is a tiny extract of the beautiful canticle, all of which can be found in the Morning Prayer section of any official Anglican prayer book... **Corpus Christi** is Latin for 'the Body of Christ' and is celebrated ten days after Whitsun [Pentecost] so is always on a Thursday...It is the thanksgiving for the gift of Holy Communion. Communion is one of two central sacraments (the other is Baptism). A sacrament is an outward sign of an inner reality. In this case, the bread and wine are believed to be a way that Christians "take in" Christ's body and blood. Corpus Christi ends the Easter Cycle of festivals and also ends the six months of festivals in the Church. Officially, the liturgical year does not start again until Advent in December. Certainly for the next few months it is "ordinary time" and the liturgical colour is green....So June is about celebrating nature in Midsummer,...being outside more in the long evenings...knowing it is a transitional point...



Getting on with the ordinary business of living and finding God in our lives, in the religious sacraments and in the Created sacraments all around that are radiant with God's love....For some there is an awareness of needing to be fed by God at community tables in bread and wine...For others, a need to be outside...to feel connected to the Spirit who connects us all. For others still, the need is for both. The Celtic Wheel of the Year, Tess Ward

Green Fair- Saturday September 30th, 10-4pm:

Green Fair – preparations are underway to host the first ever Eco fair in Western Park, at the Hall at St. Anne's 10am- 4pm. The day will be rounded off with a short outdoor Harvest Festival service. We're looking for stall holders that would like to come along to raise awareness, encourage and support local people to make small changes that can positively impact the natural world now and for the future. We also hope to offer children's activities, refreshments; especially home-made and from local ingredients, and activities in the church building such as prayer responses, reflections, poetry, flowers and craft displays. If you, or a person or organisation that you know would like to help us to bring this together please do let us know. The event is being overseen by the Eco-Church team so please do chat to any one of them for general information. For offers of help in preparation, on the day or to arrange stall holders please speak to Rev. Sharon (P) or Justin Webber.

Bible Verse:

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:4-9

Prayer Response – Creator of light, the blessing of light be upon us – the blessing of daylight, the blessing of sunlight, the blessing of Christ light. Scatter the darkness from before us that we may walk as children of light. (The Celtic Year, David Cole).

If you would like to contribute something for this page, please send to Rev.sharon.pioneercurate@gmail.com

TABLE TOP SALES

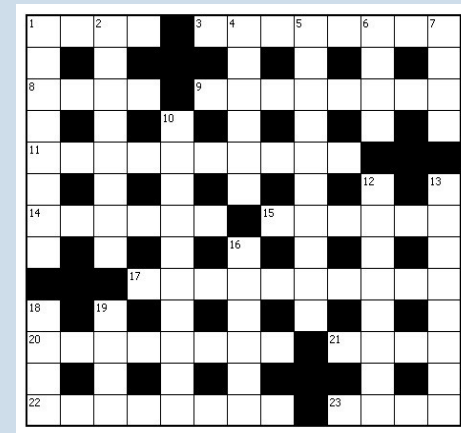


10 AM - 2 PM

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE!

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH

**ST PAUL'S & ST AUGUSTINE'S WORSHIP CENTRE
2 KIRBY ROAD,
OFF FOSSE ROAD CENTRAL/GLENFIELD ROAD**



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
 8 Invalid (4)
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
 7 Swirling current of water (4)
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

The Table Top Sale held on May 13th raised £770 (including pre-sales of homemade and sales from the Community Hub) for Church funds with £110 being sent in support of the work of LOROS (see LOROS page on Website) and £110 in Contribution to Leicester Diocese.

The next Table Top Sale will be held on Saturday 10th June

Any donations for the forthcoming Table Top Sale will be gratefully received – contact Dave 07800746121

The April 100 Fund draw took place on 30th April after the Benefice Service in the Church Hall.

Winning Numbers

£100	7
£50	71

Congratulations to the winners and remember you have to be in it to win it!

HAVE YOU PAID UP ? WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?

The following numbers are available:-

1, 12, 23, 26, 27, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 48, 49, 51, 52, 76, 79, 84, 85, 89, 91, 92, 96, 97, 98 and 99.

*If you are interested in joining the 100 Fund then please contact Dave on 07800746121 or email

dave1960king@hotmail.com

The winner of the May 100 Fund draw due to be held on Sunday 27th May will be announced in July's magazine.





GAMES AFTERNOON



SATURDAY 24TH JUNE

3PM – 5PM

COME AND JOIN US

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

FREE ENTRY

ST PAUL'S WITH ST AUGUSTINE'S WORSHIP CENTRE

2 KIRBY ROAD

OFF FOSSE ROAD CENTRAL/GLENFIELD ROAD

LEICESTER LE3 6BA

Find us on www.facebook.com/stpaulsandstaugustines

Follow us on www.twitter.com/StPaulsandStAug

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

Beware the Church Microphone

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does *not* necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargoyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

I was also not convinced that the 16th century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Whoever fixed the fencing failed, and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped, and ended up in the Colonel's flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats, and chomping everything in sight.


Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Parable of the Month



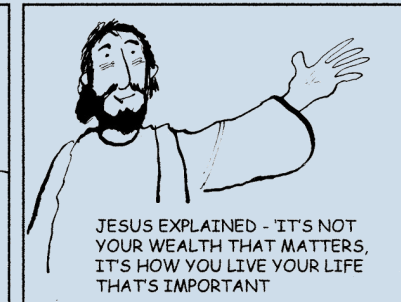
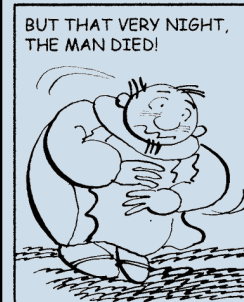
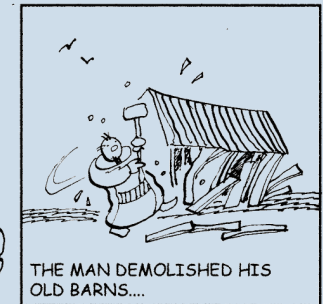
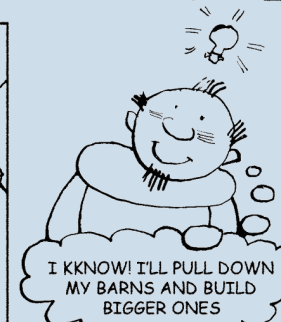
The tale of
the
**RICH
FOOL**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.





HOLY DAYS FOR JUNE

- 1 Justin Martyr - first ever Christian philosopher
- 2 Erasmus - a good saint for when you're all at sea
- 3 The Martyrs of Uganda
- 4 Trinity Sunday**
- 4 Petroc – the abbot of Padstow
- 8 William of York – victim of injustice
- 9 Columba of Iona – missionary to Scotland
- 11 Barnabas – Paul's first missionary companion
- 13 Antony of Padua – friend of St Francis of Assisi
- 16 Richard of Chichester - wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly
- 18 Father's Day – time to celebrate male role models
- 21 Summer Solstice – longest day of the year
- 22 Alban – Britain's first Christian martyr
- 24 John the Baptist – preparing the way for the Messiah
- 29 Feast of SS Peter & Paul - the two most famous apostles**

8th June William of York, a victim of injustice

Have you ever been the victim of someone else's malice and ambition? Then William of York (d 1154) is the saint for you. William Fitzherbert was born into a noble family, with royal connections. He was also smart – appointed treasurer of York at a young age, and also as a chaplain to King Stephen. But none of it went to his head - he was loved for his kind, amiable and easy-going personality.

Then in 1140 Thurston, the archbishop of York, died. The canons of York knew whom they wanted, and with royal support William was made Thurston's successor. Yet all was not well: a disappointed minority hated him and had the support of powerful men. William was accused of simony, and of being unchaste. The row brought in the Pope and several bishops, and William was cleared. Yet still – all was not well. That Pope died, and the new Pope was a Cistercian, who preferred the enemies of William. And so, he was deposed.

Yet William seems to have taken all this malice and power-grabbing in his stride. He simply retired to Winchester to live as a devout monk until 1153. Then that year several of his key enemies died, and he was restored as archbishop to York. At last all looked good for him – and he made a triumphant return to York in 1154.

But then – disaster struck again: a few days later William was dead poison was strongly suspected. He was buried in his cathedral and miracles were reported at his tomb. He was regarded as both the victim of grave injustice and as a saint. In 1421 the famous St William window was made, depicting his life and miracles and death in 62 scenes.



ST ANDREWS METHODIST CHURCH



TUESDAY 10AM
WEEKLY
COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY 3-5PM
17TH JUNE
CREAM TEA

COMMUNITY

TOGETHER



ST PAULS & ST AUGUSTINES WORSHIP CENTRE



WEDNESDAY 2PM
WEEKLY
COMMUNITY HUB



SATURDAY 3-5PM
24TH JUNE
GAMES AFTERNOON

WEDNESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME 2023

1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

ST. ANNE'S HALL, LETCHWORTH ROAD

JUNE 7th Strawberry Tea

JULY 5th Ann & Robert's Garden

AUG 2nd Dogs Trust

SEP 6th Karen, Central Co-op, Fairtrade

OCT 4th Take Heart Leicester

NOV 1st Roxanne, Belly Dancer

DEC 6th Christmas Celebration Lunch 12.30pm. Please book your place in advance with Lesley or Hilary

Just come along on the day, or contact Lesley 0116 2331884
Hilary 07970 075039



KNIT AND NATTER

The knit and natter meetings is on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.

**The next meeting will be on
Tuesday 27th June**

We look forward to seeing everyone that used to come before the pandemic took hold.

If you know of anyone who you think would enjoy an afternoon of friendship, and to just come along for a chat, please do invite them along.

They will be made very welcome.

Ann 2858581



REFLECTING FAITH – THE LECTERN



Why not have a good look at the lectern in your church, to see what it was made from and if it has a particular design.

There seem to be two distinct styles for lecterns, either a 'simple' plain book holder or one in the shape of a bird. Both styles are usually made from either wood or gilt metal (brass).

The bird is an eagle - often holding the world in its talons. The intention being that the eagle is known as the most powerful bird, which can fly the highest and longest without pausing and so can take the Word of God - the Bible that it holds - to all the places in the world.

There are 44 mentions of eagles in the Bible, but just two to include here:

In Exodus after the Israelites have left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea they camp in the wilderness, where they are not surprisingly worried about what will happen next. Shall we say 'there's a bit of grumbling and groaning' going on?

So God calls to Moses with words to encourage them, *'The Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'* (Ex 19: 3- 5)

And the second is one to uplift us all when we are in need of support:

Isaiah in chapter 40 is trying to describe how awesome and powerful God is and concludes that even our youth will grow weary in comparison. However, *'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'* (Is 40: 30 – 31)

So perhaps as we hear the words of the Bible passage read to us from that symbolic figure we are reminded to both trust in the Lord and to gain inner strength.

This month

As you hear the Bible passage(s) read from the lectern during this coming month, listen not just to the words themselves but reflect on their intention to encourage you.



SMILE LINES



Laundry

I often do the laundry for our church, and one day I decided to do the altar cloth with a lavender-scented detergent. When our minister next walked past the altar, he sniffed in bewilderment. "What's this?" he asked. "Guess," I said coyly. "I have no idea," he said. "It smells like the stuff my daughter uses to line the hamster's cage."



DIY

Our churchwarden has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church. For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that she once tried to fix. So, our vicar wasn't surprised the day he found her in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "This thing won't cooperate," she complained.



The vicar thought for a moment: "Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"

This Next One

A local DJ was introducing a record at our annual church fete/parish party. "This next one," he said, "is for Charlotte, a choir member, who is a hundred and eleven! Hey, Charlotte, congratulations on a ripe old age!"



There was a short pause and then the DJ said in a somewhat more subdued voice, "I'm sorry, I got it wrong. This next one is for Charlotte, who is ill."



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

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

Cartoons



Friday Coffee Morning



At the Hall at St Anne's

Every Friday coffee from 10am
to 12noon.



All welcome for friendly get together of coffee and chat.
Catch up with friends.

DIARY NOTES FOR JUNE



What a super Spring Lunch we enjoyed yesterday. Again, Sharon and Mary did us really proud - certainly, nobody went home hungry, and the food was so plentiful that many of us went home with "doggie bags". And as I write this, we still have the coach trip to St. Alban's to look forward to!

As far as this month is concerned, on June 13th, we are having a visit from "Oliver" who is going to come and talk to us about "Blood Bikes" and what vital work is undertaken by these individuals who, legitimately, tear around the country on their motorbikes. On this occasion, we shall not be charging for tea and biscuits or have a raffle, so that we can make a donation to this very important charity.

Looking ahead, in July, Rosie O'Hanlon Hills will be coming to talk to us about the importance of making Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney; then, in August, a real treat! Ann and Robert Bing will be hosting a Garden Meeting!

Wednesday 7th June at 9-30. Corporate Communion

Tuesday, 13th June at 2-30. Blood Bikes

Mavis Walker

mavis55walker@gmail.com

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN:

Lord, for the Years

By Timothy Dudley Smith

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.



Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for the Queen herself. She did indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

The 'extra' verse, added for the Queen, can now become our prayer and hope for King Charles.

Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.



DEADLINES

The deadlines for the next three issues are:

July/August Issue
September Issue
October Issue

Wednesday 14th June 2023
Wednesday 16th August 2023
Wednesday 13th September 2023

Contributions accepted in person, by post or by email.

Contact details
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E-mail

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All contributions are welcome. Contributions can be submitted at ANY time before the deadline, so please do not feel you have to wait until then if you have something to contribute.

If you have something that is for a particular issue and the previous deadline(s) have not passed please make sure you mark it with the issue in which you would like it to appear. If you would like something to be in several issues please also mark it accordingly.

For items sent by email please try to use the following:

Send all items regardless of size, as an attachment, not in the body of the email.
(This saves a lot of time!!!!)

Set the page to A4 with margins of 2cm all round.

Set the font to 12pt and Arial.

Where possible send files in the word format .doc (open office can save to this format just as Word can)

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75 YEARS SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF WINDRUSH

It was 75 years ago, on 21st June 1948, that the passenger ship *HMT Empire Windrush* docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

It was a result of the British Government's invitation to people from Commonwealth countries to settle in Britain and help rebuild the country after the devastation of the Second World War. The promise was one of prosperity and full employment, and the *Windrush* – ironically built and launched in Germany in 1930 – carried more than 1000 people, though the figure is often given as 492.

In fact, there were probably 492 men from Jamaica, but also men and women from other islands, plus Polish men and women.

Most of the Caribbeans remained to settle permanently, despite mixed reactions. The first of what became known as the Windrush generation were housed temporarily in the Brixton area, where Windrush Square – an open space in front of the Brixton Tate Library – marks their arrival.

The Windrush generation generally defines everyone who emigrated to Britain from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1971, at which point all Commonwealth citizens living in the UK were given the right to remain. In 2018 a scandal emerged involving ineptitude by the Home Office which had resulted in people from this generation being wrongly detained, denied legal rights and threatened with deportation. It was calculated that more than 80 had been wrongly deported.

These people had been living and working in the UK for decades but had never been provided with the official paperwork, and the Home Office had kept no record of those granted leave to remain. The UK Government apologised, and the Home Secretary at the time, Amber Rudd, described her department's performance as "appalling".



SIDESPERSION'S ROTA

Date	Name	Name
June 4th	Ann Bing	Sheila Skertchley
June 11th	Paul Archer	Cathy Harrison
June 18th	Mavis Walker	Michael Walker
June 25th	Rachel Spiers	
July 2nd	Gail Inskip	Ellen Bateman
July 9th	Jan Gough	Richard Davey
July 16th	Ann Bing	Sheila Skertchley
July 23rd	Judith Knox	Lesley Orriss
July 30th	Ivor Sutton	Maureen Sutton



Any problems, please contact

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HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM

Tintoretto's 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee'

In 1833 Mendelssohn composed two overtures inspired by the sea. 'Fingal's Cave' portrays the gentle roll of the waves and the call of the wind on the waters around Staffa. 'Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage' paints a sea journey when the fog lifts, the sky clears, the safety of land beckons and the boat arrives in the harbour.



This month's painting shows us a very different picture of the sea. It is 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee' by Tintoretto. He was an Italian painter of the Renaissance period who worked in Venice until his death in 1594. All his paintings are marked by intensity and drama, whether it is the Last Supper, the Conversion of St Paul, or this canvas. Tintoretto worked so quickly and so single-mindedly that he was nicknamed 'Il Furioso.' And it is the fury of the sea that is captured here. Not the lazy waters of Venice or the calm seas of Mendelssohn's music. Now the sea and the sky above are in torment and revolt, and the world is dominated by the violence of this storm.

The Sea of Galilee is like that. One moment, the sky is clear and windless, the next, a gust can whip up the waters into anger. In Scripture the sea is always an element to fear. For the psalmist the sea contains creeping things innumerable and even monsters. For John in the book of Revelation, the sea ceases to exist when the new heaven and the new earth appear. The threat of that element is pervasive in this painting. The sail of the boat bends with the raging of the wind, and the vessel is tossed up and down – so near the shore, and yet so far. Above, the clouds frown.

But enfolding the scene are two signs of hope and life. To one side we see a tall tree in leaf and growing. At the other side is the tall figure of Jesus: a sign of safety and hope to the disciples, floundering in the boat. His feet are just vague outlines in the water, but His hand is firm as He beckons to His followers. Peter, brave and headstrong as ever, begins to climb out of the boat with no immediate sense of danger. This month of June ends with his feast day when we celebrate a saint who was so much like us. Wanting to follow Jesus, but finding himself weak; eager to serve, but unable to back words up with deeds. And yet, through all that, God's grace triumphed in Peter's life. We know that he will be saved here as he steps onto the wild water to reach Jesus.

This raging element is a parable of life with its storms and challenges for Peter and for all of us. Just as the sea threatens to swallow the boat and the disciples in it, so we know how the world threatens to swallow us up. Each of us, in our discipleship, faces concerns and challenges, anxieties about the present, even despair about the future. Tintoretto is saying to us from this canvas, Reach out and take hold of the sure hand of our Lord. That will be an anchor for you when the sea of life is calm and when the storm rages. 'Will your anchor hold?' asks the hymn, and we can reply

*'We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.'*



GOD IN THE SCIENCES

A scientist reflects on God's heart for the suffering

It's difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people's pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, during lockdown, I found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19, because the reminders of its impact on people's lives were everywhere that I looked.



One of the ways I managed my own feelings during the pandemic was by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It's not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised "new heavens and new earth" mentioned in the New Testament. One day "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay" (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.



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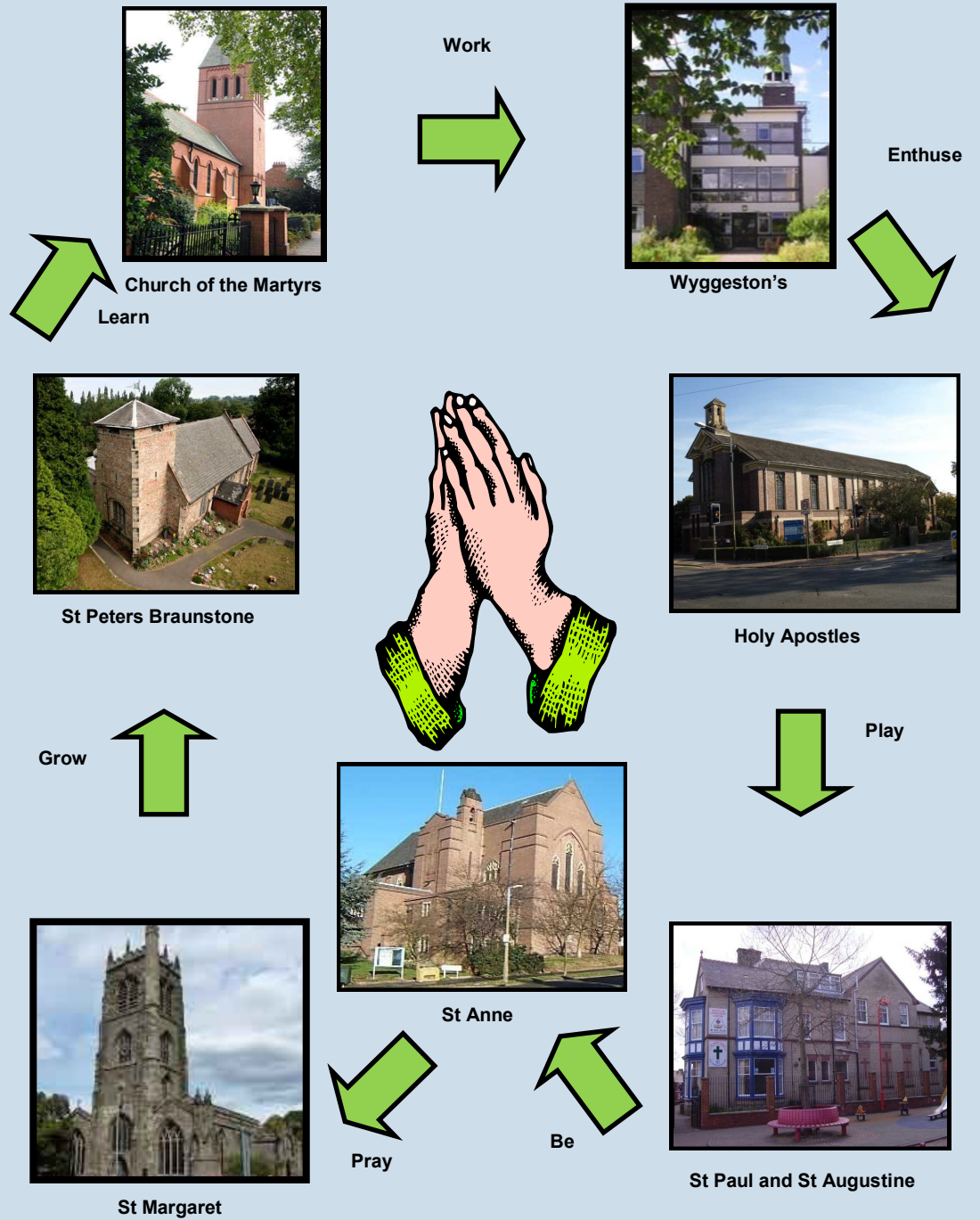
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