

PARISH NEWS

St Cuthberts, Wells and St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole

June 2014

Veni Sancte
Spiritus



Swan Song

by Revd Elizabeth Sidwell

This month we have got several things happening – perhaps the most important is the Pentecost service for all churches in Wells which will take place at 10.30 am on June 8th. Building on the success of last year's event, each church will make a contribution in its own style. For most of us there will be places in the service where we are uncomfortable but allowing ourselves to sit with that, to observe if we don't feel we can participate, gives us the chance to learn something about the huge range of responses people can give to God's glory and God's love.

Then there is the Wells Big Day Out on June 21st. The sports department on the Blue School site is running a multi-sport event for anyone who wants to join in – from netball and football, to cheer leading, gliding and on to Chess and Scrabble. Back in 2012 this was an event initiated by the Churches together in the Wells Area, and we acted as stewards as well as offering roast meat rolls over lunch time and tea and coffee and cake all day. This time, anyone can offer to help around the site, and the churches will be doing the hot and cold drinks

and cakes, again for free – just speak to the Vicar or curate. It is an event for all the family and it's free. It is interesting how people are surprised by this – often wanting to pay something, or just not able to believe that they are getting something for nothing. It means the churches can just be generous to people around us, reflecting God's own generosity to us.

Of course in June we also get to meet the new bishop for the first time. There is a big jamboree on Saturday June 7th, the day before Pentecost – firstly a service in the cathedral at 2 pm and then tea in a marquee on the green. You may be able to get in even if you don't have a ticket if you arrive before 1.30 prepared to queue.

I hope to be at this service, although for me it will be a bit of hail and farewell. My time at St Cuthbert's and Wookey Hole will come to an end at the beginning of July as my training will have finished. I am looking for a post in a new parish, which might be in Somerset, but could be anywhere in the South West.

I have enjoyed being in Wells and Wookey Hole from the moment I arrived here. The churches,
(continued)

the places, the people all opened up to me and have given me a good time. I have got to know teachers and pupils in St Cuthbert's Infants' and Juniors' Schools, and learned how to run Collective Worship, or contribute to an R.E. lesson. I took part as a steward in the first Wells Big Day Out 2 years ago and was amazed to find how many different sports and activities' clubs there are around here. I have met many local families as they come to have their children baptised, and been able to keep up with some of them as they come to church or I meet them at school and on the street.

In a way you don't meet in bigger places, both Wookey Hole and Wells have good networks for caring and for getting things done. Someone is sent home from hospital and the care that is supposed to be provided fails to happen – and neighbours step in to make sure all goes well. Someone needs to undergo radiation therapy and it is the hairdresser who works out how to organise lifts. The Wookey Hole Residents' Forum now meets to give different groups who want to get things done a platform where they can explain their ideas and get enthusiastic volunteers. Citizens of Wells come to a meeting to question the decision to move the bishop out of the palace, and in the end the decision is changed. Rather than just complaining about things that do not work well, people get on and try to make a difference. I'm sure that is part of the reason that this is such a good place to live.

Of course much of this work is done quietly on a day by day basis. There is the occasional high profile event, whether disaster or triumph, but most of the work is not spectacular. Sometimes it may feel as if not much is being done, and even more that there is nothing we can do to change things. But that is not true – little things done below the radar help build communities up so that they can come together for the big things. Big events are fun, but it is the daily kindness that really makes people's lives better.

I have loved being here, and thank every one of you for all you have done to make me feel at home. I hope that you will be supported by all those around you and that you will know the presence of God in your lives.

Grace be with each one of you.

Elizabeth



Sunday 8th : This year's amazing 10.30am Pentecost service

Do bring yourself and friends to the service on Sunday 8th at the later time of 10.30 am.

The church leaders of Christians Together in Wells and Area, led by Tobie Osmond as Chair, have planned another service to build on last year's huge success, when over 300 people packed into St Cuthbert's from all the churches of all denominations to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church.

As last year, rather than being what I call a Lowest Common Denominator "hymn sandwich" it will be a service with contributions in the whole range of styles of worship and prayer that CTWA represents. Some will be familiar, some will not – but we will be together, and we will be affirming each other's shared identity as disciples and fellow travellers on the Way of Christ.

There will be separate activities for children of Primary School Age, run by all the different churches and coordinated by Jane Tibbs.

And I think some are bringing picnics to sit and eat afterwards.

See you there – bring anyone else you can!

Alastair

Saying Good Bye and Thank You to Elizabeth

After four years starting her ordained ministry here in our two parishes, Rev Elizabeth Sidwell is drawing to a close of her time ministering amongst us.

Her final Sunday at Wookey Hole church is at the 11am service on Sunday 22nd, followed by light refreshments and the chance for Wookey Hole members to chat and say their goodbye's.

Her final two services at St Cuthbert's are the following Sunday, 29th June – both the 8am (which she has greatly enjoyed regularly taking) **and the 10am**. After the 10am service at St Cuthbert's on 29th there will be cake and refreshments and the chance to send her on her way with our love and gratitude for all she has given us in her ministry here – she will be greatly missed!

Alastair

Why have these Christians pinched our Pentecost?

Reader Marilyn Smith explores the Jewish traditions behind Pentecost.

This was a cry often heard in my childhood. I was born into an Orthodox Jewish family, my paternal grandfather being one of the Jewish clergy in Cardiff.



There is a Pentecost in Judaism called Shavuot in Hebrew. This word means 'weeks' and the Greek word Pentecost means fifty. The festival takes place fifty days after the beginning of Passover.

The feast is also a spring harvest festival when the Israelites were to present an offering of new grain in the temple. So it is also known as Firstfruits, see Numbers 28:26.

According to Jewish tradition, it is believed that Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai on Pentecost, based on Exodus 19:1. Hence the receiving of the Law is also celebrated on this day.

Nowadays the Feast of Shavuot is celebrated in the synagogue by reading the account of the giving of the Law, Exodus 19 and 20, and, in some communities, by decorating with a harvest theme. The Book of Ruth is also read as it is a book of harvest and redemption, ending with the genealogy of King David who, according to tradition, was born and died on Shavuot.

For us Christians, Pentecost (3 June) marks the first fruits of the New Testament covenant – the first believers in the church of Jesus Christ. It also celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit so the Law could be written, not on tablets of stone but in our hearts.



Marilyn Smith, Castle Cary, Somerset

(from Connect magazine)

St Cuthbert's Ladies Group

Summer approaches, and our thoughts and monthly meetings turn to the great outdoors! Our June meeting starts at 7.00pm when we meet at Wells Recreation Ground for a pleasant evening of gentle chatter before retiring to the Venue Club in South Street for pre-ordered food at 7.45. If dry, look out for a committee member standing near the entrance to the South Street public car park to point you in the direction of the Rec, or possibly a short detour to view a nearby prize-winning garden plot. If wet, do come along for your food anyway; after all it's paid for! Do remember that if you bring a drink for the first part, no alcoholic drink is permitted in the Recreation Ground area. Let's hope for a pleasant sunny warm evening.

That evening is the last opportunity of booking a seat on the coach for the trip to Buckfast Abbey and Dartmouth on 15th July. A quick reminder of the details:

We will be leaving Wells bus station at 8.45am for the drive to Buckfast Abbey, arriving for a 1½ hour visit, allowing time for mid-morning refreshments in their large café, a wander round the shops – perhaps buy some of their world-famous tonic wine - and also time to wander around the beautifully-kept gardens. We then continue with a 40-minute run through the Devon countryside to Dartmouth, arriving in time for lunch, and staying 'til 5pm. This allows time for food, perhaps an hour's cruise on the river, a look at the shops, or just simply sitting watching the activity on the water, especially the amateurs trying to control their craft! The cost is £11.20 per person including driver's tip, and you can book through Sarah Sheldon on 679117, though it would be better to book in person as bookings will not be confirmed until payment has been made.

Bid

Signs

In a Podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels".

At an Optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you are looking for, you've come to the right place".

Wookey Hole Parish News

Our Lent Course, very well supported this year, finished just before Holy Week, but the monthly bible studies, kindly hosted by Lucy, Juliet, and now Vanda start again on Friday, June 6th, at 4.00-5.30 when we will continue to explore the "Lectio Divina" method of meditative bible reading. New members will be very welcome. For further

details ring Hugh on 679678. Do join us for our friendly sessions following refreshing tea and cakes.

The flower ladies, as always, made the church very beautiful and fragrant for Easter. However, there was a panic stricken search for the missing stones of the Easter garden, giving the question "Who moved the stone?" a contemporary relevance we could have done without!! The stones for the Easter garden were finally discovered carefully stored in the kitchen sink cupboard! Our humble Saviour on a donkey would surely not have disapproved!!

In March the village was very sad to lose a much loved member of our village community, Betty Reynolds. She had lived all her life in the Village, and was a fount of fascinating knowledge about village history, the school and the Mill. For many years she organised and baked delicious cakes for the church fete. We shall miss her dignified presence among us very much, and the packed church at her funeral showed the affection and esteem in which she was widely held.

There are some dates for your diary. The date of the village fete has had to be changed, and is now Saturday July 26th. The Community Hall is booked for the Harvest Supper on Saturday, September 27th, followed by Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 28th.

Finally, on behalf of the parish, I must thank Lucy for all her enthusiastic work as Churchwarden. We have had a lot of fun and laughter in our tasks together, and both church and village are very grateful for the valuable contribution she makes both musically and in so many other ways to our village community.

Elizabeth and Hugh

Wookey Hole Ladies Club

Our speaker on Tuesday 6th May was Aileen Hase who also gave a demonstration of Chinese Cookery. Aileen had lived in Hong Kong for 30 years and was very knowledgeable about Chinese lifestyle and in particular about cuisine. We all had the opportunity to taste portions of various Chinese dishes.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and a vote of thanks was given to Aileen for her talk and the wonderful food she cooked for us.

The next ladies club meeting is on Tuesday 3rd June and will include a very short A.G.M. Our speaker for the evening, Mr. Howard Burnett, will give a talk on growing Orchids.

As the annual outing takes place on Saturday 5th July, there will not be a meeting. We also have a break in August. The next meeting is on September 2nd at a new time of 2.30 p.m. at Wookey Hole Village Hall when Edith will give a demonstration of flower arranging.

We always welcome new members and for any further information please ring Margaret Plaster 01749 675415.

Lyn Astle

Information about the lunchtime concerts.

13th June at 12 noon: Amy Jolly, cello, Kate Roberts, flute and Lydia Scadding, piano : a collection of music for flute, cello and piano including the popular Martinu Trio.

4th July at 12 noon: The Galban Piano Trio. Featuring young musicians currently working at Wells Cathedral School. The piano trio—violin, cello and piano— will be playing a selection of pieces including the Ravel piano trio and Brahms Trio No. 3 in C minor.

Helen Briggs.

Wookey Hole WI, May meeting 2014

This month we held our annual meeting, at which we elect the committee for the next year and debate the Resolution that will be presented and voted on at the national meeting next month. Sue welcomed members and our visitors, Veronica, who is currently acting as our WI Advisor, and Maggie and Lynn from Croscombe WI who were to act as Tellers for the election. We received apologies from several members, Myrtle, who is away on a WI holiday, and others who were unwell and we extended our best wishes to them. Lorna distributed Birthday cards for the month, particularly to Jan who will be 80 shortly, and we congratulated Jill and Rod on their Golden Wedding due later in the month.

Jill presented the Resolution, which is on the subject of organ donation. There was a lively debate, as many members felt that the wording, which we have no opportunity to amend, was too prescriptive on members attempting to persuade family and friends to sign up; we felt that it should be a personal decision and that many people do not wish to discuss such matters.

The committee was re-elected unopposed, and Sue was re-elected President, as the other nominees decided that they did not wish to stand. Joan presented the committee's report for the year, an extensive run down of our multiple activities for the year, including Scrabble, skittles, coffee mornings and lunches, hosting the county tea party and decorating the Christmas tree in St Cuthbert's Church. Lesley presented the financial report, which shows our bank account in a satisfactory state. Sue thanked the committee for their efforts, and all members who had contributed to the success of the year. Sheila thanked Sue and the committee on behalf of the members.

Our visitors judged the competition for a painted flower, which was won by Jean, with Jill second and Sue H third. The Flower of the month was won by Jan, with Margaret L second and Elizabeth third. Veronica presented the cups for the year, Jill winning both the Competitions cup and the Flower cup and Elizabeth won the Scrabble cup. The presentation of the Skittles cup was held over as the winner wasn't able to be with us.

Rose Docherty

Better by half

As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: "You are better looking than half the women here."

Wookey Hole Residents' Forum (WHRF)

PRESS RELEASE – MAY 12th 2014

'To be a success, as many people in the village as possible need to get involved', said Rev'd Hugh Talbott, Chair of the new Wookey Hole Residents Forum.

Many towns and villages in this part of Somerset now have Residents' Associations or Residents' Forums but in the recent past there has been no such group in Wookey Hole.

The idea of the Forum is that it can act as a focus for residents' opinions on issues that affect the village and the adjacent hamlets of Milton, Glencot, Haybridge and Elm Close and can encourage ideas and actions for the benefit of the Wookey Hole community.

At the Forum's recent inaugural meeting a committee of eight was elected and ten Working Parties were formed by residents keen to improve the village.

'This will be an *'umbrella organisation'* formed to support Working Parties of local residents who have a particular interest and *'want to do something about it'*. Above all else the Forum wishes to avoid being a *'committee-led group'* where a small number of people work very hard but then *'run out of puff'*. It is important that we all take the initiative if we see something that needs doing', said Rev'd Talbott.

More than forty residents have volunteered to join one of the ten Working Parties, with ideas ranging from clearing the local footpaths, to helping to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan, to keeping an eye on a proposed new housing development in the village.

There is no subscription fee for the new Forum and all residents of Wookey Hole over the age of 18 will automatically be members.

Residents of Wookey Hole who feel there is an issue concerning the village that should be looked into by the group, or who would like to be added to the mailing list can contact the Secretary, Nicky Venning, on 01749 677394, or email nicfa@dircon.co.uk.

Bishop's Message – June 2014

Rt Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath & Wells

Dear Friends,

As I write this Jane and I are looking forward to moving to the diocese and to the Installation Service in the Cathedral on June 7. We will be sad to leave Hampshire, which has been our home for many years, but are excited about all that lies ahead. We are putting our trust in the Lord and asking him to guide and equip us.

My Installation will be Pentecost weekend. Let us use that as an opportunity to join together across the whole diocese to pray that we may all be filled and renewed by the Holy Spirit. The first disciples were more than a little shell-shocked when the risen Christ ascended into heaven, but that all changed on the day of Pentecost when the ascended Christ filled his disciples with the gift of the Holy Spirit. On that day the Church grew at a tremendous rate – from 120 to 3,000 believers – and, contrary to popular

belief, has not stopped growing since. The Church is the most dynamic organisation which the world has ever seen. The world-wide Christian Church is growing faster today than ever before. It is said there are more Christians alive right now than have ever lived and died throughout the whole of history. In Africa alone the percentage of Christians has risen from 3% to 45% in just a hundred years. Yes, in the West the Church has been in decline for decades, but even here there are signs that this is changing. That is something to get out of bed for in the morning!

I addressed you as friends, which might sound a bit presumptuous, but I do look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you over the coming months.

With warm Christian greetings

+Peter Bath & Wells

Notes from the PCC meeting on 13th May 2014

St Cuthbert's Bells: Graham confirmed that the net cost to the PCC of repairing the bells had been about £800.

Trinity Chapel: Graham reported the details of the work which will commence shortly, and of the £8000 grant by Somerset Churches Trust – *see separate article on page 28*.

Finance: Income and expenditure for the first four months was in line with last year, though there is concern about church costs (notably heating oil).

Annual Gift Day on 19th July: Music and other activities would help to promote enthusiasm on the day; publicity could be given to the need to fund a children's worker.

Reordering Appeal: With agreement from major donors, the remaining funds can now be transferred to the PCC General Fund, free of restriction; ongoing donors will be urged to redirect their future donations – motion to this effect carried unanimously.

Part-time young people's worker: Patsy Barrow was appointed as line manager and chair of the support group, which would apply to the Fund for Church Growth for a grant to finance the employment of a family and children's worker.

Schools link: The heads of both the Junior and Infants Schools will be retiring soon; replacements are being sought.

Bishop Peter Hancock is to be installed on 7th June, and will visit the Shepton Deanery on 28th October.

Volunteers are sought to carry out baptism preparation and take communion to the housebound.

Elizabeth's last Sunday here will be on 29th June – a presentation is to be organised.

Choir: In response to their plea, Alastair proposes to include the psalm alternating between the 2nd and 4th Sundays, with the augmented choir and psalm on the 3rd Sunday.

Peter Lloyd wishes to step down from the intercessions rota; The PCC would write to thank him for all his ministrations over the years.

Working party needed to paint the railings around the oil tank and to emulsion paint the inner walls of the south porch – please contact Graham.

Music Festival: Alistair reported that all is in hand for this year and planning for next year's Festival is under way.

Lay Pastoral Assistants: Patsy and her team are now looking for referrals.

Kitchen: Since this raises £5000 a year towards the church's revenue, the organising of teams of helpers needs attention. The choir, who no longer serve on Wednesdays, would be asked to run a Monday morning rota. There is concern about Health & Safety and the frailty of some volunteers.

Chill Group: Alistair reported that the recent barbecue had been most successful.

St Cuthbert's Archives: Colin had delivered to the Somerset Heritage Centre at Norton Fitzwarren the PCC records for the years 1964 to 2009 to add to the documents already held there, some of which are more than 400 years old. The Heritage Centre has emailed to Colin a 36-page schedule of documents held for St Cuthbert's, all of which are available there for inspection. Colin has offered to provide the Wells Historical Society and Civic Society with this record and has emailed a copy to the Wells Museum archivist Dr Julia Wood at her request.

Holy Land Pilgrimage morning Saturday 28th 10.30am

You may remember that in last month's magazine I wrote about the group of between 15 and 35 people from a number of churches who will be going with me on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May next year. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, remember that on Saturday 28th June at 10.30am in St Cuthbert's Church I will be showing pictures of some of the places we will be visiting and talking a little about them, and will also be able to answer questions.

Leaflets are still available in church or from me that give full information, or just have a word to find out more!

Alastair



On the impossibility of keeping silence in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your remark that you rather liked the silence we keep before starting Services gave me pause for thought. I suppose all things are relative. I know that the noise your congregation makes before worship resembles a packed stand on the football terraces any Saturday afternoon, but the days seem long-gone when I could expect our congregation to sit in real silence for ten minutes.

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There's the sound of the treasurer counting the previous day's jumble sale takings, of the ladies at the back asking each other when the fish van will next come round, and of Major Hastings's deafening whisper as he comments on some women's choice of hats. Add to this the weekly competition between the organist and the bell ringers to see who can make the most noise, the roar from the choir vestry as they all complain they don't like my choice of hymns and the sound of books, umbrellas and collection money being dropped. I sometimes suspect that an informal rota is arranged whereby people volunteer to drop heavy objects in rotation, thus maintaining a constant clatter, for which no single person can be held responsible.

There is also the weekly ritual when the vergers – always waiting until the church is full – goes round each microphone, giving them a bash and bellowing "Testing, testing" and relishing the echo as it bounces off the walls.

The only time the noise level drops significantly is if the congregation see Miss Simpson sidle up to me to have one of her confidential little chats about someone in the village. Everyone knows that her information will provide more than enough to keep gossip flourishing for the following week.

Equally, periods of silence during Services are rarely welcomed; some find them threatening, but the majority simply assume it means I have lost my place. I gave up after one occasion when, on announcing we would say the Lord's Prayer and then leaving a time of silence for recollection, a choir member leaned over to me and whispered helpfully: "It begins 'Our Father'"

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Reasons for marriage

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, "Did you marry Dad because he was a vicar?"

"Not really," I replied.

"Did you marry him because he was good-looking?"

"No, not that either," I replied.

"Did you marry him for his money?"

"Definitely not," I laughed. "He didn't have any."

"So," he concluded sadly, "you just felt sorry for him."

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 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?"

Grandmothers

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are not just all-wise, but also prehistoric.

More signs

On a Maternity Room door: "Push. Push. Push."

In front of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully—we can wait".

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet —miss a car payment".

In a vet's waiting room: "Back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

On a Plumber's truck: "Don't sleep with a drip—call your plumber".

At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows".

At a tyre shop: "Invite us to your next blowout".

On the back of a Septic Tank truck: "Caution—this truck is full of Politicians' Promises".

On an electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts".

Wookey Hole Cinema Club Film for June 2014

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (15)

Wednesday 11th May



Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts and Ewan McGregor star in this dark, hilarious and deeply touching story of a family, whose lives have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Midwest house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them.

**Come and join us at Wookey Hole Community Hall at the bottom of School Hill
Doors open 7pm film starts 7.30pm. Tickets on the door £6**

More info and a trailer at:
wookeyholecinemaclub.weebly.com

'Created in Somerset' Exhibition at The Bishop's Palace, Wells

24th May - 30th November 2014
Open daily 10am-4pm

This new exhibition at The Bishop's Palace will feature Somerset's rich church heritage bringing together a diverse range of artefacts, all of which were created by artists and craftspeople working within the Diocese of Bath & Wells. The idea for a series of exhibitions of church artefacts at the

Palace goes back several years and in 2008 a Church Treasures Team of volunteers was set up. Their first exhibition opened in 2012 and this new display is the result of two years of exploration and research throughout the Diocese.

Most of the items on show are being loaned by parish churches and a few from museums in the county. We have been delighted by the enthusiasm and generosity of the lending parishes. About 80 artefacts will be on display representing over 50 different parish churches with a wide geographical spread. The items have been chosen for a variety of reasons, including their visual appeal and historical significance but particularly for the fascinating stories they tell.

Not only are portable objects to be shown in this exhibition but the stained glass makers of Somerset are highlighted in a projection of many magnificent windows around the Diocese. Music by Somerset hymn makers also features in the exhibition with a sound track provided by the Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir and sponsored by the Golsoncott Foundation. A CD of old Somerset Hymns titled 'Rejoice, ye tenants of the earth' is also for sale in the Palace Shop.

The Bishop's Palace is delighted that this new exhibition has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and a generous private donation.

Find out full details on The Bishop's Palace website www.bishopspalace.org.uk.

If making a special visit, it is recommended to check the website or telephone 01749 988111, as the Palace Rooms are occasionally closed for functions.

Mary Gryspeerd

Collections Manager

mary.gryspeerd@bishopspalace.org.uk

From the Registers 2014

WEDDINGS

- 10th May Thomas Stuart McNab & Zoe Cundill
- 17th May James Alexander Minns & Greer Louise Cooper
- 17th May Adrian Franco Costanza & Claire Hope Filer

FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES

- 15th April Thomas Landsdown
- 8th May Arthur Thomas Loxton
- 9th May Sheila May Thompson
- 15th May Doris Radford
- 20th May Thomas Holley

Sheila Jenkins



St ALBAN

St Alban, whose special day is 22nd June, was the first English martyr, the first English person to be killed for the Christian faith.

He lived in Verulamium which was an important Roman settlement in Hertfordshire. At the time the Romans were persecuting followers of Jesus and Alban was brave enough to shelter a travelling Christian priest. Exchanging clothes with the priest so that he could escape, Alban was arrested.

When asked to prove his loyalty to Rome and the Emperor by making offerings to the Roman gods, Alban declared his faith in 'the true and living God who created all things'. He was condemned to death and had his head cut off.

All this happened a long time ago but St Alban is remembered today in the name of the place where he lived and died: Verulamium was renamed the city of St Albans.



THE FIRST

All the answers to this Bible quiz are the first: either the first thing in a list or the first person to do or be something.

1. The first man (Genesis, chapter 2).
2. The city where Jesus' followers were first called Christians (Acts, chapter 11).
3. The first bird Noah sent out of the ark (Genesis, chapter 8).
4. The first woman (Genesis, chapter 3).
5. The first person to see Jesus on the first Easter Sunday (John, chapter 20).
6. What happened on the first day of creation (Genesis, chapter 1).
7. Israel's first king (1 Samuel, chapter 10).
8. The first of the four Gospels (New Testament)

What is a forum?
Two-um plus two-um!



Why didn't the two 4s feel like dinner?

Because they already 8.

Answers: 1.Adam 2. Antioch 3.Raven
4.Eve 5.Mary Magdalene 6.God made light and dark 7.Saul 8.Matthew

Reordering of the Trinity Chapel - an update

For those of you who have been wondering what is happening with the project to transform the Trinity Chapel I am delighted to announce that work is to commence on Tuesday 27 May.

A Diocesan Faculty has been granted, Building Regulation Approval given, Health and Safety regulations checked and various grant applications are now secured, so it is all systems go, with the work scheduled to take 3 months and be completed in time for this year's Music Festival.

There will inevitably be some disruption and dust/dirt but I am sure that the end result will be well worth the inconvenience, and protective sheeting over the scaffolding and organ will help keep it to a minimum.

After the initial erection of scaffolding and the removal of the old dais and relaying of the stone flooring there is likely to be a lull on site whilst the glass screens are manufactured offsite and the timber glazing framework is fashioned. These will then be installed in the two arches and the tracery window will be glazed, a new independent heating system installed and an updated lighting system fitted.

Plans are going to be displayed so that visitors and worshippers can see what is going on behind the screens.

Graham Barrow