

PARISH NEWS

St Cuthbert, Wells *with* St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole
Linked with the parish of West Livingstone, Zambia

February 2016



Readership

by Revd Jennifer Cole

As you possibly all know, I have a full time day job in the Diocese and part of that concerns the training of Readers – I have this lovely job title of being the Assistant Director of Reader Studies. Occasionally people ask me about being a Reader, what's involved, how does one become a Reader?

The definition of a Reader in our diocese is: Readers are lay ministers who are called to lead services, preach and attend to pastoral work arising from these ministries.

St Cuthberts have a Reader – it's Alistair Glanville and I am sure you have seen him leading services, taking funerals, preaching, visiting the sick, taking Home Communion and doing many other things around the parish.

I spoke to Alistair about being a Reader and this is what he said: 'I have been a Reader since 1969 and my vocation has never been to be an ordained person but it was a clear call to a lay vocation. I feel privileged to have been able to serve God, the Church and the community over the years as a Reader. It has never been boring or ordinary – each encounter is a new challenge.'

When I am asked about Readership, one of the questions is often about the training to be a Reader. How long does it take? As always it's not as straightforward as you may think. Part of training for Readership involves the study of theology and people sometimes present themselves for

Reader ministry having undertaken such study at some time in the past. Some have taken our diocesan course called Exploring Christianity which is a course for lay people who want to find out more about their faith. It's run in small local groups with people meeting weekly for about 2 hours having done some reading and thinking before coming to the session. There are six modules to the course covering Spirituality and Prayer, New Testament, Questions of Faith, Reshaping Church, Old Testament and a module on ethics called Challenging Choices. Anybody can join this course and it's a great way to learn about Christianity.

Others may have studied theology at a college or through distance learning – whatever people have done we will always look at this and see if there are any gaps.

The next stage of Reader training involves what we call the two formation years. Those who have been selected for Reader training join a discrete group of Readers in training and learn about preaching, leading worship and pastoral care. Licensing then takes place after the first of the two formation years.

If this speaks to you and you may feel called to such a ministry, do get in touch with me or speak to our Reader Alistair or Alastair Wheeler about this.

The Revd Jennifer Cole

St Cuthbert's Ladies' Group

On January 19th, St Cuthbert's Ladies' Group began the year's activities with the AGM and, after prayers, Pam Pearce was proposed as Chairman and kindly accepted, as did the other Committee members. The new programme was discussed and donations were agreed to the Chicken Project in Livingstone, Hope for Life and Heads Up.

Our thanks will be sent to Bid for her Chairmanship, also wishing her and Alastair a happy retirement in Beaminster.

Our Annual Dinner is to take place at Café Piano on February 16th. We look forward to another enjoyable evening—thanks to Faye Lowe's great organisation—and hope to receive some nice raffle prizes in aid of our Charity.

Maureen Simon

CTWA calendar for February & March

February 2016

2nd Tues. 7.30pm United Church, Wells Forum Meeting
 15th Mon. 12.00 - 1.30 Seager Hall, Wells Lent lunch
 17th Wed. 10.00am Denning Room, WUC Monthly
 informal prayers
 21st Sun. 6.30pm Henton United service
 22nd Mon. 12.00 - 1.30 Seager Hall, Wells Lent lunch
 29th Mon. 12.00 - 1.30 Seager Hall, Wells Lent lunch

March 2016

4th Fri. 10.30am United Church, Wells Womens
 World day of Prayer service
 7th Mon. 12.00 - 1.30 Seager Hall, Wells Lent lunch
 14th Mon. 12.00 - 1.30 Seager Hall, Wells Lent lunch
 16th Wed. 10.00am Denning Room, WUC Monthly
 informal prayers
 25th Fri. 10.00am St Cuthberts to Market Place Good
 Friday Walk of Witness

Mary Martin

Lay Pastoral Assistants

The Team are happy to visit anyone in the Benefice who is lonely, unwell or bereaved.

Please contact us via St Cuthbert's Parish Office, telephone 01749 676906

Patsy Barrow

Why 3000 Eritreans leave every month

A talk by Alex Jackson



Education Room, Wells Cathedral

4.00pm on Sunday March 6th

All welcome—donations to Amnesty International

Over 25% of the people given asylum in the UK in 2014 were Eritrean. Alex Jackson knows well the agonies faced by this troubled nation

THE FRIENDS OF MENDIP HOSPITAL CEMETERY

REG. CHARITY NO 1085981

www.mendiphospitalcemetery.org.uk

TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 5th MARCH

St Thomas Church Hall: 9.30 am—12 noon

* * * * *

AGM: FRIDAY 11th MARCH

St Thomas Church Hall: 7.30pm



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!

CTWA LENT COURSE

THEME: THE MESSAGE OF EASTER IN LUKE'S GOSPEL. We will introduce Luke's Gospel, and then study in detail the essential chapters at the end of Luke's Gospel. The concluding session will investigate the meaning of this for today's context (The 21st Century)

THE TIMING OF THE COURSE: IT WILL RUN FROM 17TH FEBRUARY TO THE 20TH MARCH IN THREE DIFFERENT PLACES:

1. ROWENA FRANCIS WILL RUN ONE GROUP ON MONDAY EVENINGS AT 67 LETHBRIDGE ROAD, WELLS, BA5 2FW
2. PAT CAMPBELL WILL RUN ANOTHER GROUP ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT 3 LEWMOND AVENUE, WELLS.
3. ROLY SIMS WILL RUN ANOTHER GROUP FROM 4 PORTWAY AVENUE, WELLS, BA5 2QF

RESPONSES: IF YOU OR OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO JOIN ONE OF THESE GROUPS PLEASE PHONE ROLY ON 01749 673 296 OR E-MAIL HIM ON rev.roly@talktalk.net.

Bishop Peter's letter for February

As the new year gets underway so our thoughts turn to spring time and new growth. Even in the midst of a wet winter and the sometimes seemingly relentless flow from news channels of strife between nations and stories of sadness for individuals, we look forward in hope.

Hope is a peculiarly Christian virtue which St Paul puts alongside faith and love and it's a mindset for everyday life, not just for the afterlife. Our trust is in the promises of Christ that this life is not the end but those same promises can also renew us daily. The world is God's good gift and we are a special and much loved part of it – individually, and collectively. Shaping our future is a part of what following Christ is all about.

As I write I am preparing for a Bishop's Staff residential at Abbey House. We will meet in a spirit of prayerful reflection, seeking wisdom in the quiet and listening carefully for the voice that calls us and compels us to action. We are looking for ways to grow the church and to shape the future of what 'church' means in this part of the world. We will be rejoicing in all that we have and love and looking forward to see where the Lord is leading us. Seeking prayerfully and carefully to the call and leading of the Holy Spirit will be at the heart of all we will discuss together.

At the heart of our faith is the call to worship God, to proclaim Christ, to make disciples, to serve our communities and to further the Kingdom. The words *Sumorsæte ealle* (all the people of Somerset) come from the County motto. God's

love is for "all the people of Somerset" and it is our task to be channels of that love.

As 2016 unfolds may it bring you much joy as we continue to put our faith and trust in Christ.

With warm Christian greetings

+ Peter Bath and Wells

Letter from Wookey Hole

We celebrated Christmas in Wookey Hole in traditional manner beginning with the Nine Lessons service when we heard the familiar readings and sang the well-loved carols. Very appropriately, on this occasion our new Advent wreath and candle stand, given in memory of Brenda Wilkinson by her family and the flower ladies, was dedicated by the vicar and was much admired.

By Christmas Eve we had a beautifully decorated church and tree for the Crib service when we were pleased to welcome families who were staying in the village for Christmas as well as our own families. Midnight mass also included visitors from Wells and further afield who joined us to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The congregation on Christmas morning had a wonderful musical treat from Juliet, Lucy, Louise Palmer, Polly Palmer, Rosemary Darby and Mary Ellis who played the Christmas Concerto by Corelli before the service and during the administration of the Eucharist four of them played the slow movement from one of Mozart's flute quartets and at the end the last movement from the same quartet. This was a much-appreciated Christmas present for all of us there.

Now, as the days begin to lengthen and amazingly spring flowers are appearing in our gardens – and daffodils in the verges between Wookey Hole and Wells! - we, at St Mary Magdalene wish a very happy new year to all in our village and to all at St Cuthbert's

Elizabeth Talbott

COFFEE MORNING

The Ladies Flower Arranging Group for St Mary Magdalene Church Wookey Hole invite you to a Coffee Morning on Thursday 18th February at Wookey Hole Community Hall
10 am – 12 noon



There will be a Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle
We look forward to seeing you there

ALL ARE WELCOME

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES

These are taking place in the Seager Hall on Mondays from 15th February until 14th March. Do come – the soups are always splendid (and you get refills!), and with baguette and butter and tea or coffee, it's a bargain at £3.50! There are sometimes 'bring and buy' or cake stalls too.

St Cuthbert's is responsible for providing soup for Monday 14th March. I'm hoping that some of you will be kind enough to make soup. We need several wonderful volunteers to provide about 4 pints of their favourite vegetable soup. Last year's soups were all delicious!

We also need some help on the day from 10.00 am, please.

There is a notice at the back of the church. Please do sign up.

Antonia Gwynn

GIVING UP SOMETHING FOR LENT?

WHY NOT COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS INSTEAD....

A Christian Aid idea for Lent.

This Lent, why not reflect each day on the blessings in our lives and join others in giving thanks. Be inspired by daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities in need. Enjoy Count Your Blessings as a personal journey or share it with family, friends or your church.

The Count your Blessings programme for Lent suggests areas of life in which we are blessed, such as food, education or water and an amount which might be donated to give thanks for our blessings.

For instance on Monday 22nd February we are asked to reflect on the fact that *'Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91% but a staggering 57 million children still remain out of school across the globe.'*

Give £1 for every family member who has completed secondary school.

Or on Monday 21st March *'Many people were poorly housed in Haiti even before the 2010 earthquake left 1.5 million homeless. Our partner is working hard to ensure that citizens know about their housing rights and how to demand these from their government. Give 30p for each room in your house or flat.'*

Obviously the programme can be adapted in any way you like, but if the idea appeals to you please do ask me for a leaflet. It would be more fun if several of us took part.

Antonia Gwynn

Don't die

The vicar announced: 'I am sure that you will not wish to overwork our visiting priest while I am on holiday, and will keep funerals to a minimum.

EXTRA NATIVITY SET

Is it yours?

After everything was packed away after the Crib Festival, I seem to have acquired an extra nativity set.

It is a beautifully carved wooden set piece, probably German.



As much as I enjoy looking at it, I should like to return it to its rightful owner. Please get in touch if it's yours, and thank you for letting us borrow it.

Sue Harding 672653

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,

When our dreams have come true

Because we have dreamed too little,

When we arrived safely

Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when

With the abundance of things we possess

We have lost our thirst

For the waters of life;

Having fallen in love with life,

We have ceased to dream of eternity

And in our efforts to build a new earth,

We have allowed our vision

Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,

To venture on wider seas

Where storms will show your mastery;

Where losing sight of land,

We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back

The horizons of our hopes;

And to push into the future

In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

Books, the Chapter Book Fairs and storage needs

Discussing the continuing need to increase St Cuthbert's fund-raising, the PCC recently considered the possibility of reviving the Book Fairs. These Fairs have a history going back about ten years. Originally held in the Church, the last two, Chapter 1 2011 and Chapter 2 2012, were held in the Town Hall. They were great fun, attracted hundreds of visitors and raised £1,001 and £1,386 (gross) respectively. The organizers then prepared budgets that showed a possible future income from the sale of books of £1,900 p.a. within three years. So why did we kill the project off?

There was one over-riding problem: storage for 3,000 or more books. The acquisition of second-hand books, inviting people to help sort and price them, dealing with the venue and publicity, selling the books – all these things proved no problem. But **storage** defeated us. We were unwilling to revert to the old system whereby books were kept under people's beds, in their loos, in their lofts and spare rooms, even underneath the main altar. (Tincknells offered us a corner of one of their sheds, which was fine; but the arrangement was short-lived, and we had to vacate it at short notice.)

The PCC has invited us to elaborate, yet again, what we need of a storage facility, in the hope that someone, somewhere, might know of a building, a garage, an outhouse, an old workshop, anywhere that might suit. We have always believed that somewhere there must be an available space – the problem is finding it. This is what we would be looking for, ideally:

- The arrangement should be semi-permanent, with a likely tenure of not less than three years.
- The floor area should be about 200 to 250 square feet (20 to 30 square metres).
- The storage area must be dry and have electric power.
- It should be in Wells or within a couple of miles.
- It would be good if access were unlimited, although we could cope with some restriction.
- Ideally the store would be on the ground floor.
- We are looking for something free and gratis, or at a peppercorn rent.

Of course some compromises to the above might have to be made, but if you know of any space that would come close to these requirements, could you please let one of us know? It would be good to start organizing a Chapter 3 Book Fair for St Cuthbert's.

David Green (673356), Rosemary Willott (674409), Sarah Sheldon (679117)

Cuthbert's Coots 'n' Curlews

Twelve of us went starling-hunting on the Levels on 5 January. Although we saw or heard 18 other species (see below), the main attraction was certainly the amazing, almost hypnotic geometric shapes these remarkable birds make in the sky. People wanting to see this display have to realize that there are never any promises – bad weather, the birds' decision to perform where you weren't expecting them to, and doubtless many other factors, all can conspire to disappoint. But not this time. We saw millions. Literally. Bill and Graham were busy photographing the show, so do ask them to show you their pictures.

The rain, always threatening, decided to give us a miss apart from a spot or two just as we were walking back to our cars. So that was good.

And the other 18? Blackbird, buzzard, Canada goose, carrion crow, Cetti's warbler, coot, cormorant, gadwall, great crested grebe, great egret, heron, long-tailed tit, mallard, mute swan, robin, song thrush, tufted duck, wren.

Remember that Tuesday 2 February* is the date for our next visit to Chew Valley Lake – plenty of water birds on the lake, and hot chocolate and a cake or two at the café, good company assured. Let me or Pam Pearce know if you are intending to join us.

**Look out for a report in the March issue*

David Green



"But look", said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly any chocolates on"

WOOKEY HOLE CINEMA CLUB FILMS

Wednesday 10th February



SUFFRAGETTE (12A) Period Drama

Tremendous cast including Cary Mulligan, Helena Bonham-Carter, Meryl Streep, Anne-Marie Duff and Romola Garai depict the heart-breaking and inspirational struggle that led to votes for women. "Hot blooded, riveting"

Robbie Collin, the Telegraph.

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, under 16's £3.

More info and a trailer at:

www.wookeholecinemaclub.weebly.com

PCC PROFILES

PIERS ROSE – TREASURER

Beneath a conventional sports jacket, above a pair of brogues and in the peaceful setting of St Cuthbert's sits a man who has already packed a great deal into his life.

Piers grew up in the Gloucestershire village of Edge with his ex-Navy GP father, a classics teacher mother and three siblings. His paternal grandfather was a Professor at St Andrew's University who was set to employ a young lady lecturer, until his son distracted her, married her and took her off to Gloucestershire to produce a family!

Young Piers went to the village school, Gloucester Cathedral School, and finally Marling Grammar School, Stroud. After 'A' levels, several options beckoned and seemed to be in conflict, but – somehow – Piers managed to achieve them all! He spent some time in Ohio at a top-of-the-range private school, supported by an English Speaking Union scholarship. Afterwards came a period as a Midshipman in the Royal Navy, and then a law degree at Nottingham University. These experiences introduced Piers to a wide range of people and were hugely important in opening his eyes and mind to different ways of living and thinking.

Then it was back to the Navy to finish his training, including professional training as a Supply and Secretariat Officer. He became Captain's Secretary in HMS INTREPID with deployments in such contrasting places as the West Indies (too hot!) and the Arctic (too cold!!). In 1982, after eleven hectic days of preparation, Lieutenant Piers Rose and HMS INTREPID sailed to the Falklands, celebrating the first anniversary of his wedding to Sue away on deployment. Following the cease fire and surrender, Piers found another new role as an interpreter for the defeated Argentinian forces. This included being sent to the West Falklands to supervise the surrender, unsure whether or not the message of the cease fire had actually reached the Argentinian forces there. He admits he was very grateful for the reassurance provided by a hefty Royal Marine!

Once back home, the Navy sent Piers for barrister training and, after a few more years in various roles, he resigned from the Navy and took a post as Assistant Bursar at the Dragon School in Oxford where he had responsibility for all things financial. Sue taught at the Dragon and, for several years, life was relatively calm for them with their children, Peter and Alice.

It became more exciting again in 1997 when Andrew was born, Piers was made redundant and Sue was finishing her ministry training. Piers got a job in Somerset, Sue approached the Diocese of Bath and Wells for a curacy and a move to the south-west was on its way. But Piers's job didn't work out and things got complicated for a while.

At this point, fate, luck or God intervened and a position at North Petherton for Sue, money for a house and school for the children all unexpectedly and miraculously fell into place.

After eight years at North Petherton, Sue became Vicar of St Andrew's, Cheddar for a further six years, and then in 2015 took up her present post with the diocese which brought the family to Wells and to St Cuthbert's.

Piers has had the main domestic responsibilities since moving to Somerset, and also looks after granddaughter, Hattie, for one day a week in Exeter. He is Treasurer of St Cuthbert's, a member of the Board of Mendip YMCA and a Governor of St Cuthbert's Junior School. He has recently converted the attic above the stables and split a large room at the Vicarage in Nether Stowey to create extra rooms, and is clearly an experienced plasterer, builder, kitchen installer and decorator, skills learned while improving the ten plus houses in which the family have lived. A man of many parts!

SHEILA LINEGAR – PCC SECRETARY

Wherever they go, Alan and Sheila Linegar get involved in their local church - Sheila has been Secretary to the PCC, Deanery Synod Rep, and Parish Magazine Editor, as well as being involved with some form of "Sunday School", in several parishes throughout the land. But it was not always like that. Sheila's early experiences of church and of Christianity were not good. At the age of four she was sent to Sunday School at the local Congregational church in Hucknall near Nottingham, but slowly realised that she and her sisters were not 'accepted' because of their social standing and lack of money. Particularly galling was the fact that they were not allowed to sing in the choir, although they were asked to and did sing solos or duets for the Sunday School Anniversary. This 'Christian' spirit was also obvious in their mother's life: on the day of her confirmation at an Anglican church, after months of instruction, she was forbidden to take part because she did not have the proper white dress. Not a good start!

The young Sheila left the Congregational Sunday school at 12 and got on with her life. After school she worked as a telephonist at the GPO in Nottingham, joined the dry cleaners Sketchley as receptionist, and her last post was PA to Site Manager and Administration Director at Barrow Gurney Hospital. Sketchley was where she met Alan, a trainee manager. In the early years of their married life they moved to various places in the East Midlands and then to London, coming to the south-west when Alan moved to Bolloms based in Bristol, where he eventually became Managing Director.

During this time, their son Christopher was born. Sheila went to see the Vicar of the local parish church at Rainworth in Nottinghamshire (John Fern) to ask about a christening and was told in no uncertain terms that 'I don't just do christenings'. He insisted that both parents spent some time finding out about Christianity. After months of learning about Jesus and faith, they came to know Jesus as their saviour, and at the age of 30, Sheila was baptised and understood what it meant to be a Christian.

When Alan and Sheila retired they moved to East Markham in Nottinghamshire to be close to their parents, and were able to enjoy time in their villa in Spain. Then it was back to the south-west and to Wells, which they love. They live right in the centre and are close to their son, daughter-in-law and granddaughters, Skyla and Nyah. They tried out St Cuthbert's and immediately felt welcomed. And – guess what – in no time at all, Sheila was Secretary of the PCC!

Antonia Gwynn

Report of the January 2016 meeting of Wookey Hole WI

Our numbers were considerably depleted for the first of the New Year, both by the usual viruses of the season, and by a couple of painful falls that had left Jan with a bad back, and Lorna with a broken leg. Get Well cards were circulated for members to sign. Our business meeting was busy, with members renewing their subscriptions, and submitting their votes on the proposed Resolutions for 2016. There were also a number of items to enter into our diaries, Road Shows, craft workshops and Scrabble contests among them.

Our speaker this month was Stephen Darch, who spoke to us about breathing. At first sight it seemed unbelievable that the vigorous man talking to us had been until five years or so ago a chronic asthmatic, dependant for survival on multiple medications. Equally unlikely was his assertion that too much breathing can be bad for you. He relieved his own condition by following the methods of a Russian Doctor Buteyko, who had realised when treating traumatised military personnel that they usually hyperventilated, and improved when that was dealt with by exercises to slow down breathing. Stress causes many of us to over breathe, as the threats we face are not like the sabre toothed tigers we evolved to deal with, we can't kill or run away from the boss. Stephen pointed out that on the continent people with breathing difficulties are more often given breathing exercises than medication, which is the norm in this country. Although the biochemistry of carbon dioxide was a bit over our heads, we were happy to pick up hints on how to achieve better sleep by controlling our breathing. Stephen was thanked by President Sue Harding.

Rose Docherty



"It's very good of the vicar, allowing him to use it to supplement his small church-organist's salary in this way."

During a church service my young niece had to go outside, as she did not feel well. She returned a few minutes later and admitted: 'I have been a little sick. But it doesn't matter, there's a box at the door marked 'for the sick'.

On how to run a church council meeting



The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your Vicar running out of the room half way through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do chair your first church council meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.
2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.
3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone has to respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.
4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.
5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Giving up for Lent

At the end of the vicar's pre-Lent sermon he suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.



HYMNS

When you come to church you hear hymns. Hymns are songs of praise to God. Some are very old and some, like the ones you may sing at school, are new.

Have you ever wondered who wrote the hymns we sing? For example, one hymn writer was Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Londonderry. She wrote a book called 'Hymns for Little Children' which was dedicated to her godchildren. The book was published in 1848 and contained hymns that we know well today; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'.

It is said that she wrote the last hymn because of the view from the Bishop's palace. The house looked out over the city walls to the green hills in the distance. So the words we sing today come from the view that Mrs Alexander had from her window.

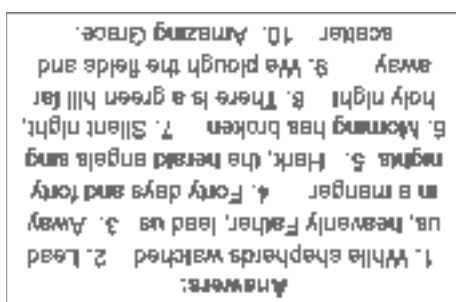
HYMN TITLES

All the following hymn titles have some words missing – can you fill in the blanks. All the hymns are from Mission Praise and the answers are below.

1. While ____ watched
2. Lead us, ____ ____, lead us.
3. Away in a ____
4. Forty days and ____ ____
5. Hark! The ____ ____ sing
6. ____ has broken
7. ____ night, ____ night
8. There is a ____ ____ far away
9. We plough the ____ and scatter
10. Amazing ____

Didn't your teacher say your singing was heavenly?

Well, she did say it was like nothing on earth.



Judgement?

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel... 'He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon. Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: "Was it something I said?"'

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Starts on 29th February and runs until 13th March –

"It continues to be a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of Fairtrade." *Fairtrade Foundation*

To support Fairtrade make and share Banana and Chocolate Muffins – good for breakfast, a snack or tea. Buy your ingredients at the regular local Fairtrade stalls ...

Ingredients 300g plain flour, 1tbsp baking powder, 125g Fairtrade Demerara sugar, 225ml milk, 2 large free range eggs, 125g butter (melted), 2 Fairtrade bananas (mashed), 100g Fairtrade chocolate, chopped into small pieces.

Method - Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Place 12 muffin cases in a 12-hole muffin tin. Sieve the flour into your mixing bowl. Add the baking powder and stir. Add in the Demerara sugar, stir to combine, and set the bowl aside. Pour the milk into a separate bowl or jug. Crack in the eggs and beat the mixture. Stir in the melted butter. Add the bananas and chocolate and stir to combine. Add the wet mixture to the dry mixture and stir well (but not too well, it should be slightly lumpy). Spoon the batter into the muffin cases, dividing it equally. Place in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until well risen and golden (from The Fairtrade Everyday Cookbook, Dorling Kindersley, 2008).

Read that again?

This true story appeared in Episcopal Life: 'When I was on the diocesan staff... I was a frequent visitor to the Parish of St Michael and All Angels in Anniston, Alabama. Upon one of my Sunday visits, I was to have been welcomed in the Sunday bulletin with the comment: 'Dr Gribben has been with us frequently.' Instead, a typo acknowledged my presence with the observation: 'Dr Gribben has beer with us frequently.'

In a sack

Seen in a church magazine: 'Bring your old newspapers (and your neighbours), put them in a sack and tie them if possible.'

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2016

Monday	1	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group (St Cuthbert)
Wednesday	3	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
Thursday	4	9.30 am	Meditation Group (Trinity Chapel)
		11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
		7.30 pm	Wells Cathedral School concert (St C.)
Sunday	7	Sunday next before Lent	
		10.00 am	All Age Communion (St Cuthbert)
		11.00 am	Parish Communion (Wookey Hole)
		4.00 pm	Informal Service (Wookey Hole)
Monday	8	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group (St Cuthbert)
Shrove Tuesday	9	10.30 am—12 noon	Pancakes served (St Cuthbert)
Ash Wednesday	10	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		7.30 pm	Local Ministry Group service (St Cuthbert)
Thursday	11	11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
Friday	12	9.30 am	LPA 'Listening' Group (Trinity Chapel)
Saturday	13		Holy Land Picture show 1 (Trinity Chapel)
Sunday	14	First Sunday in Lent	
		10.00 am	Parish Communion (St Cuthbert)
		11.00 am	Morning Prayer (Wookey Hole)
		4.00 pm	Informal service (Wookey Hole)
Monday	15	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group (St Cuthbert)
Tuesday	16		Ladies' Group Annual Dinner (Café Piano)
Wednesday	17	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch (St Cuthbert)
			Wookey Hole PCC meeting
Thursday	18	9.30 am	Meditation Group (Trinity Chapel)
		11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
Sunday	21	Second Sunday in Lent	
		10.00 am	Parish Communion (St Cuthbert)
		11.00 am	Parish Communion (Wookey Hole)
		4.00 pm	Together@4 (Trinity Chapel)
Monday	22	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group (St Cuthbert)
Wednesday	24	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch (St Cuthbert)
		7.00 pm	LMG Pilgrims Course (Trinity Chapel)
Thursday	25	11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
Saturday	27		Holy Land Picture show 2 (Trinity Chapel)
Sunday	28	Third Sunday in Lent	
		8.00 am	1662 Holy Communion (Wookey Hole)
		10.00 am	Parish Communion (St Cuthbert)
Monday	29		Leap Year Day

From the Registers 2015-16

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

December 22nd	Trevor Gray
January 6th	Arthur Dackombe
January 7th	Audrey Peggy Churches

BURIAL OF ASHES

January 8th	Gordon Oakley
-------------	---------------

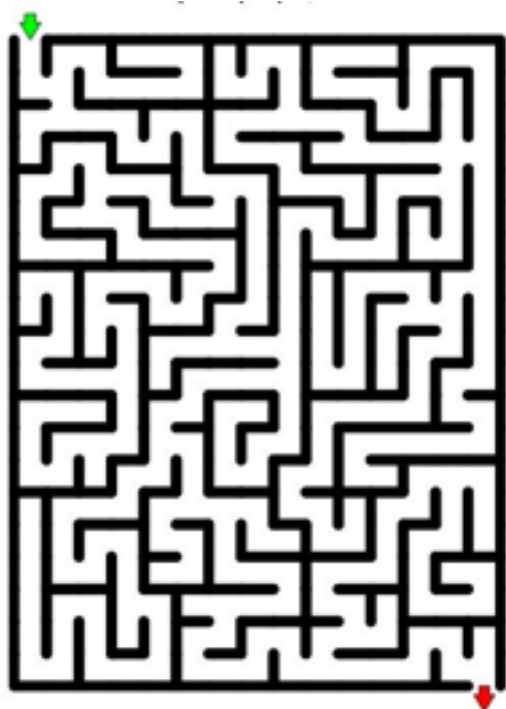
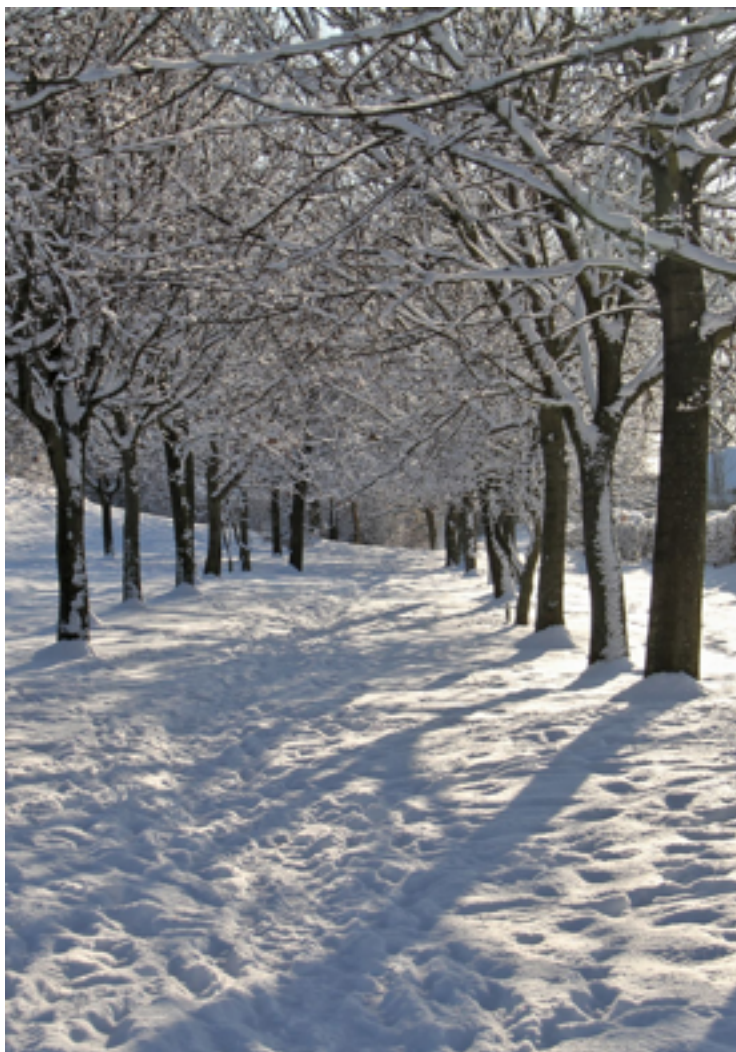
***29 Oswald - the saint for Leap Year**

There is a saint for Leap Year: St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.

Oswald was a popular Archbishop, who was in the habit of washing the feet of the poor every day in Lent. On the 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester, when he collapsed and died. Later Oswald and his successor at Worcester, Wulfstan came to be the two chief saints of Worcester. You can see them together, for instance, flanking the tomb of King John before the high altar of the cathedral.



Deadline for Parish News articles : the **12th** of each month,
 Please support the advertisers with your custom, and tell
 them you found them in this magazine.
 To advertise your business in these pages,
 please phone the editor, Bob Haigh, on 01749 677038
 or email bob@thehaighs.me.uk

Editorial note:

Views expressed in articles in this magazine are the views of the authors, and do not necessarily express the views of the Vicar, Churchwardens or PCC of St Cuthbert's Church.