

Poetry and Prose

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BRADBURNE

O John, we rejoice as we
call on your name,
Remembering 'twas you
who ignited the flame
That rendered Mutemwa
so holy, so blest,
A place of refreshment
where pilgrims could
rest.

As we climb up Chigona
and follow your way,
Who knows how the
Spirit will guide us
today?

Shall we dance with the
sun, or see colours
unfold?
Shall our rosaries turn
there from silver to gold?

And what of our souls
when your prayer path
they see?

Shall they soar like an
eagle, or buzz like a bee?
From your place up in
Heaven, look down on us
all,

And bless the dear
children who answer
your call.

©By Derek Van Der Syde



Rainbow over Mutemwa

*O sacred mountain, monarch of the sky,
With soaring gaze, on eagles wing we fly;
Then dip in deepest reverence to the ground
Whereon the peace of Christ is to be found.*

*O who'd embellish such a work of art
Such majesty by Heaven set apart;
The silken cascades booming down the hill
Til all of thirsty Nature's had its fill.*

*'Tis God Himself who flings his magic scarf,
And sets the clouds aglow along its path;
He cleaves the Heavens with an aerial bridge
That sanctifies Mutemwa's rocky ridge*

*How happy they who living this hour
Bear witness to the Father's mighty power;
As with a holy brush He sets us free
To mount His rainbow to eternity.*

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Mutemwa Leprosy Settlement is located about 150 km to the North East of Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. It is best known for its association with John Bradburne.

John served as an officer with the Ghurkhas in Burma during the Second World War. In 1947 he converted to Catholicism and later would become a lay member of the Third Order of St Francis.

He was nearly forty when he came to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). On a visit to Mutemwa he saw the plight of the lepers and resolved to stay to tend to these desperately poor neglected people. For the rest of his life, John bathed, fed, ministered and gave dignity to the patients of Mutemwa. During the Bush war, conditions were terrible and the dangers ever present. In September 1979 John was abducted by the guerrilla forces. On the morning of the fifth, as he rose from prayer he was shot.

It is fitting to remember John Bradburne at this time of the year. Like the Christ he served, he spent the last days of his life serving others and died rather than abandon them. Today, Mutemwa still cares for lepers, as well as those suffering from sickness, hardship and distress. Sadly, in that tragic African land there are too many.

March



2009

The Chaplain writes From Ashes to Lilies

As of Ash Wednesday, we enter into that stark and compelling period of the church year called Lent. It is a time in the agricultural calendar when farmers turn over the soil in preparation for planting. Spiritually, it is a time when we are invited to turn over the soil of our souls, investing some discipline, with God's help, in clearing away any unhealthy growth that prevents the seeds of God's kingdom of love and peace from sprouting up in us.

We begin the period in worship, by receiving a mark, in ashes, on our heads. This echoes ancient biblical and ritual practice. To wear sackcloth and ashes was an expression of grief and mourning (Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Daniel 9:3), but ashes were also an offering for purification (Numbers 19:9). These two notions of sorrow and purity are combined with an idea drawn from our burial liturgy, specifically the words spoken by the priest at the committal of the deceased: 'We have entrusted our sister to God's mercy, and we now commit her body to the ground (or to be cremated): *earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...*' Ashes, then, are a rich and manifold symbol: of our sorrow, of our mortality, and of our deep need for God's cleansing.

Lent is an opportune time to take a frank look at our lives, to become aware of and admit the bad that we do and the good that we leave undone. Lent is an opportune time to recognize our great need for God's love, support and power. Lent and ashes may make us aware of failures, but are not intended to leave us in them.

One of the paradoxes of Lent is that, although we confess that sin is real and that all is not right in our lives and our world, there is hope. Because God, in Christ, has demonstrated His power to defeat sin and death. For us, then, I believe, it is far better, more honest and hopeful, to admit to sin, than simply to ignore the symptoms of what is wrong, or to believe that it doesn't matter, or to assume that nothing can be done. We do not need mourn our sin unceasingly either, because we have faith in the ultimate cure. Lent helps us to see that it is in initially owning up to the problem that we make the first step to it being treated. (This truth is widely acknowledged in secular psychotherapy, too.) Lenten ash points us away, from decadence on the one hand and despair on the other, to real hope for a new life.

My father used to have an organic vegetable garden. One of the curious things he

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Lent Study on Worship

Ever wonder why Christians usually have their main worship on Sunday? It has partly to do with the idea, from Genesis 1, that the Lord rested on the 7th day in order to delight in his creation. The 4th of the 10 commandments in Exodus (20:8-11) cites this as a reason for keeping the Sabbath (which means ‘desist or stop’) holy.

But another, arguably more central reason Christians worship on the Sunday (the day *after* the *Jewish* Sabbath) is that, in all four Gospels, Jesus’ resurrection was witnessed ‘early on the first day of the week.’ Sunday, in Christian theology, has thus become the main day to commemorate the raising of Christ to new life. And giving thanks and praise for that resurrection, that incredible victory over death, that new dawn for a whole new creation, is the driving force of all our worship.

You could argue that Easter is the focus of all our worship. Lent, the time leading up to Easter, provides us an ideal opportunity to reflect together on the nature and meaning of worship – from how the whole Church year is organized, to the content of specific kinds of worship and sacraments, like the Eucharist, baptism, and anointing for healing and reconciliation.

Sunday afternoon group. A group will meet on Sundays after church at 13:00 in March to follow the 5 session program.

- March 1 Anja van der Neut’s, Stationslaan 26, Goor
- March 8 Sietze & Anneke Postmas’ Catsstraat 16, Goor
- March 15 Sietze & Anneke Postmas’ Catsstraat 16, Goor
- March 22 Anja van der Neut’s, Stationslaan 26, Goor
- March 29 Sietze & Anneke Postmas’ Catsstraat 16, Goor

To join in, please contact the Chaplain (sam.van.leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620) or Everhard Ottens (efh.ottens@gmail.com or 0572 850199) or sign up on the list in Hut available after services.

Thursday evening group. There is also a group that will meet on Thursday evenings (beginning 26 February) at 19:30 at Sjoerd & Erica Bontings’ (Specreyse 12, 7471 TH Goor). Contact the Bontings (s.l.bonting@wxs.nl or 0547 260 947) for details.



St DAVID’S DAY 1st March

St David, Saint Dewi in Welsh, is the national saint of Wales. When he was about 30 years old he established a monastery at Glyn Rhosyn, the Vale of Roses. A legend about Glyn Rhosyn says that years before David was born St Patrick came there to settle but an angel sent him on to Ireland, saying that the place was already reserved for David who would be Wales’ patron saint. This place is now called St David’s (Ty Dewi) where the cathedral now stands.

There are lots of legends about St David: one story is that there was very little fresh water near the monastery but when David prayed for water, a spring came up at his feet.

When he was a young man he attended an assembly of bishops where the crowd was so large that people couldn’t be heard for the noise. But when David began to speak a hill rose under his feet so that everyone could see and hear him.

MARCH

When we shorten the name of this month we write Mar. – all the answers to this quiz begin with the letters MAR, so which MAR is.....



1. A breakfast jam made with oranges?
2. A long distance race?
3. Author of one of the Gospels?
4. A small ball of glass?
5. The 4th planet?
6. A wooden puppet?
7. Lazarus’ sisters?
8. An alternative to butter?

Answers at the bottom of the page.



How do you get two whales in a car?

Across the Severn Bridge.

Last month I wore white all the

time so the traffic could see me.

That must have kept you safe.



No, a snowplough knocked me down.



Answers: 1. marmalade 2. marathon 3. Mark 4. marble 5. Mars 6. marionette 7. Mary and Martha 8. margarine

Colourful writing

The foreign student, writing a letter to the superintendent of the mission society, desired to end with the words: 'May Heaven preserve you.'

Not being quite confident of the meaning of 'preserve', he looked it up in a dictionary. When the letter reached the director, it ended with the words: 'And may Heaven pickle you.'

The raise

Account clerk: "I want you to give me a raise in pay, sir. After all, there are three other companies after me."

Startled employer: "Is that so? What companies?"

Account clerk: "Light, phone and gas."

Teacher: "What is the difference between results and consequences?"

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Social News

Thank you all...

My 45th anniversary of ordination was made a very joyful occasion for me by having the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist on Sunday Jan. 25th and by being given a reception on the following Sunday, and by the many kind words spoken

to me.

I hope to be of occasional use to our community for a while longer.

Sjoerd L. Bonting



Book Sale March 15

Please sort out your extra books and magazines for our annual sale. Records and CDs also welcome. Sale to be held after the church service to benefit the Flower Guild. For more info contact Linda ten Berge 0546 868129

22 March



There is an old Jewish saying:
*God could not be everywhere,
.....and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods -

our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.



Forum on Christian Belief and Practice Today

On **March 14**, there will be a Northwest Europe Archdeaconry Forum on outreach and Christian growth. Organized in cooperation with the Anglican mission society ICS, the forum will involve a mixture of short talks, interactive discussions, and group work, exploring topics such as:

- Why church attendance is low in many European countries
- How contemporary people think and what are their views of Christianity
- How our churches can attract more English-speakers and help them understand the Christian Gospel and faith
- Encouraging individual growth in the Christian faith given the demands of modern life, cultural pressures and work patterns.

Speakers will include: Dr David Smith, Lecturer in Urban Mission and World Christianity at the International Christian College in Glasgow; David Healey, General Manager of ICS; and Archdeacon John de Wit.

The forum will be held from 11:00 to 16:30, Saturday, March 14 2009 at the Theological and Pastoral Centrum in Antwerp (Groenenborghlaan 149, 2020 Antwerp, Belgium). For more details, see the booking leaflets available in the Hut or contact the Chaplain (sam.van.leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620).

Study Group on Background to Anglicanism

Though many of us have been around Anglican churches for many years, and have gained some grounding in the development of the Anglican church's history and spirituality, many others of us have not yet. Initially to meet

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Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens.

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Bright pupil: 'Results are what you expect; consequences are what you get.'

Pastoral care

The young clergyman was walking through the village when he met one of his elderly parishioners. 'How's your cold?' he asked.

"Verra obstinate," came the bleak reply.

"I'm sorry." The clergyman decided to try again. "Well, how is your arthritis?"

"Verra obstinate," came the reply.

"Oh dear, I am sorry," soothed the clergyman.

He tried a third time: "And how is your wife?" "About the same."

Jane was always glad to say her prayers, but she wanted to be sure she was heard in heaven. One night after the usual 'Amen', she dropped her head upon her pillow and closed her eyes.

After a moment she said, 'Lord! This prayer comes from 203 Seldon Ave. I'll get you the postcode tomorrow.'



Visitor to Crufts: "Has this dog got a good pedigree?"

Indignant Breeder: "Has he? If this dog could talk, he wouldn't speak to either of us."

"Dad," said the son, "what is a financial genius?"

"A financial genius," said his harassed father, "is a man who can earn money faster than his family can spend it."

Mother (singing): "By low, my baby..."

Father (overhearing): "That's right; you tell him to buy low and I'll teach him to sell high."

Professor: "What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?"

Student: "The telephone rings."

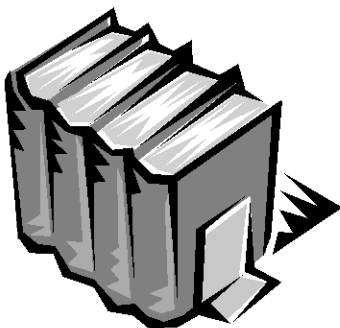
Mini

Driver on a tight budget: "I need three litres of petrol and a cup of oil, please."

Garage: "And shall I cough into the tyres, sir?"

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is our congregation's register of electors; it is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Also, all those elected to serve on the church council must have had their names on the Electoral Roll for at least six months before joining council. The Electoral Roll is updated each year and has to be completed and published two weeks before the AGM. This year our AGM has been scheduled to take place on Sunday 19 April 2009. This means that we have until 5 April to add any new names to the Electoral Roll. Currently there are 59 names on the Electoral Roll. There are still some church



members who do not yet have their names on the Electoral Roll. If anyone wishes to have their name added to the Electoral Roll please contact the Electoral Roll Officer (Simone Yallop) who will provide you with an application form. Please make sure that the completed forms are provided to the Electoral Roll Officer before 5 April 2009.

Why Thailand?

On Sunday 28 September 2008, after the service and after coffee, an "Open Forum" was held in the church hut. The purpose of the "Open Forum" was for me to tell something about my transformation process and to give church members the opportunity to ask questions. I was very encouraged by the interest shown in this event. About 17 church members attended and we had a very lively discussion, which I think was useful and was appreciated by everyone who attended. A few weeks later I was invited to repeat my presentation for the International Ladies Club in Almelo, to which three members of the congregation also belong. There we also had a very lively discussion.

In these presentations I explained that I had now completed the 18 month "Real Life Test" and that my name had been put on the

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of misconceptions to be challenged."

One Christian summed it up well: "Isn't it great these rich atheists are using their own money to put the name of God on the sides of buses across London?"

A bicycle trip of 7,500 Km is not taken lightly.

But then again, it was not just for fun. A Dutch physiotherapists and South African optometrists took part in the sponsored cycle trip to raise awareness of their specializations in Ethiopia. Although the population of Ethiopia is in excess of 76 million people, only a handful of physiotherapists work there. In addition, there is little access to even the most basic eye care. More than a million people suffering from simple preventable eye diseases are at risk of losing their sight.

Others face a lifetime of disability and suffering from congenital defects, the after-effects of major surgery or traumatic injuries because the physiotherapy they need is not available.

Sponsored trip

After working a year in the large academic hospital in Gondar it became abundantly clear to us that there was neither means nor money to train optometrists and physiotherapists. We therefore decided to organize a sponsored bicycle trip. Starting on the 16 October 2008, we cycled from Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, to Cape Town in South Africa in five months. An impressive trip that helped raise the money needed to buy books and equipment for training and further development.

The trip was 7,500 kilometers in total and took us through ten countries. We carried everything we needed on the bicycles with us. On the way we slept in tents and cooked on open fires. You can follow our journey.

Would you like more information about the trip, or about us?

Information about us and our experiences on the trip can be found on www.cyclesight.org. If you would like to support us in our work there is a link on the site that takes you through to the charity page. We are also selling postcards at €5 for a packet of 5 cards.

If you would like to speak to:

Gabriel, Press 1

Michael, Press 2

For a directory of other Angels, Press 3

If you would like to hear King David sing a psalm while you hold, please Press 4

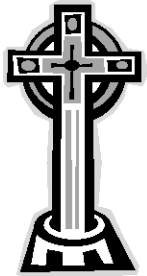
To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, Press 5, enter his or her SoFi number, then press the crosshatch key. (If you get a negative response, try area code 666.)

For reservations at "My Father's House" please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again Monday after 9:30 AM. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local priest.



We have all learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of modern life. But have you wondered, what if God decided to install voice mail?

Imagine praying and hearing this:

Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for requests

Press 2 for giving thanks

Press 3 for complaints

Press 4 for all other inquiries

What if God used the familiar excuse...

"I'm sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call God in prayer?

There's probably no God. But then again....?

bendy-buses now carry the slogan : 'There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life' all over London.

The campaign was the idea of the British Humanist Association and has been supported by prominent atheist Professor Richard Dawkins.

Christian response to the bus campaign has been mixed, and includes: A Church of England spokesman said: "We would defend the right of any group representing a religious or philosophical position to be able to promote that view through appropriate channels. However, Christian belief is not about worrying or not enjoying life. Quite the opposite: our faith liberates us to put this life into a proper perspective. Seven in ten people in this country describe themselves as Christian and know the joy that faith can bring."

The Roman Catholic newspaper The Universe quotes Fr Stephen Wang, of Allen Hall Seminary, as providing the official RC response: 'He said he believed the campaign had started as a "bit of fun" and was not sure how seriously atheists were really taking the idea. "But I think it is great to get people thinking. I love the idea of this bus winding its way through the streets of London, and someone stopping to think, 'Mmm ... Maybe there is no God ... But maybe there is'....

"My only sadness is that these posters betray such a negative view of religion - as if religious believers are walking around oppressed by worry all the time...Hard-line atheism doesn't make sense. It's simply not rational to say, for example, that there is no ultimate cause behind the whole universe, or that there is no deeper meaning to our lives. I like this advert because it is so hesitant, and in its own casual way it opens you up to very serious religious questions." For the Methodists, the Rev Jenny Ellis, the Methodist Church's Spirituality and Discipleship Officer, is quoted as saying: "We welcome the atheist bus campaign as an opportunity to talk about the deepest questions of life. The God many atheists have rejected is not the God we recognise and this campaign has opened up a dialogue between Christians and atheists which allows these types

Most people have heard about the new atheist bus campaign, recently launched in Central London. Many

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the expressed needs of those who would like to be (or have recently been) confirmed or received into the Church of England, we have decided to form a small group to learn more about Anglicanism. As our main text, we'll use a helpful little book by Alastair Redfern, entitled *Being Anglican*, which sets main aspects of Anglicanism in the historical context of such inspiring people as mystic poet George Herbert, theologian Richard Hooker, and social reformer Josephine Butler. There will be five sessions in total, meeting roughly fortnightly. Our next meetings will be on the afternoons of Tuesdays, 10 and 14 March at 14:00 at Backerstraat 47, in Oosterbeek (to allow those from Arnhem-Nijmegen and Twente to come). Space and books are somewhat limited, so please contact the Chaplain (sam.van.leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620) if you'd like to join us!



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did was use a bit of ash (only from pure wood fires) to mix into the fertilizer for his plants. Apparently, pure wood ash is an excellent source of potassium and can reduce excess acidity in soil.

Lenten ash may be a necessary prompt for us to dig deeper and to recognize our need for God to do His transforming work in the soil of our souls. Lenten ash is a powerful symbol that God treats not just the signs and symptoms, but cures the real and underlying causes of sin and death. God brings new life through and out of the ashes. My Dad didn't grow flowers, but I know that pure white Easter lilies can emerge from ash and soil, their blooms like trumpets, hailing the Good News of our own resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

Sam



Grandpa and granddaughter were sitting talking when she asked, "Did God make you, Grandpa?"

"Yes, God made me," the grandfather answered. A few minutes later, the little girl asked him,

"Did God make me too?" "Yes, He did," the grandpa answered.

For a few minutes, the little girl seemed to be studying her grandpa, as well as her own reflection in a small mirror. Her grandfather wondered what was running through her mind. At last she spoke up.

"You know, Grandpa," she said, "God's doing a lot better job lately."



A Mother was reading a Bible story to her young daughter.

She read "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt".

Her daughter asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Sermons

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall what the menu was for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be dead today."

No comments were made on the sermon contents anymore.

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waiting list for the operation. Unfortunately, that waiting list is very long so that the operation would not take place before the spring of 2010. The Gender Team in Amsterdam appreciate that this is a long time to wait and are quite happy for me to have the operation abroad instead of in the Netherlands.

During October and November 2008 I have been in discussion with my health insurance company, my employer, the Gender Team in Amsterdam, my GP and with a private clinic in Thailand. It is well known in transgender circles that Thailand is one of the best places to go for this particular operation.

As a result of all these discussions my surgery has been scheduled to take place on Monday 16 February 2009 with Dr. Suporn of the Suporn Clinic in Thailand. I will be travelling to Thailand on Thursday 12 February and will be arriving back in the Netherlands on Saturday 14 March 2009. I have to stay in Thailand for 24 days after the operation so that they can check that everything is healing properly before I return home.

The operation will take place in Chonburi, which is about 45 km from Bangkok International Airport and about 80 km to the South East of Bangkok itself. The Suporn Clinic makes use of the operating theatres in the local hospital in Chonburi, which is where I will stay for 7 days after the operation. After that I will be moved back to the Mercure hotel, which is 200 m away from the Suporn Clinic. For the remaining time in Thailand I will be looked after by the nursing staff from the Suporn Clinic, with regular checkups with the surgeon Dr. Suporn.

The complete care package provided by the Suporn Clinic is very well organised and people travel from all over the world to have their operations there. I think that I will be in good hands. I am writing this because many people are surprised when I say that I am going to Thailand for the operation. I hope that I have provided you with sufficient information for the time being. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them. During my time in Thailand I will have internet access so I will be able to provide updates of my progress to anyone who is interested.

Simone Yallop

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by it having steps rising up to it and there being a rail around it. The rail reminds people that they are approaching a special place, and not to enter unless authorised to do so.

Some people will genuflect or bow to the altar (give it reverence) when they pass in front of it - whether a service is taking place or not - as their recognition of the uniqueness of what takes place there at the consecration.

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem only the priests could enter the sanctuary, and the most central area - the Holy of Holies - was entered by only one priest on one day of the year. Hence the importance that Christians place on the tearing apart of the temple cloth when Christ died on the cross - the Holy of Holies is now visible and accessible.

When Words are all you Need

I said a prayer for you today
I know God must have heard,
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke no word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
(I knew you wouldn't mind)
I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind.

I asked that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day,
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small,
But it was His loving care
I prayed for most of all.

Contributed by Maureen v.d. Heide

From Cornwall

There was a well known Methodist Preacher who lived in Porthleven and was very short. One Sunday morning he was preaching at Helston Wesley Chapel, Because the pulpit was so high he stood on a wooden box. He announced, "My text is, A little while you see me and in a little while you see me not." Just at that point the wooden box collapsed and he disappeared from sight.

From Devon

A Bishop of one of the most populous Diocese in the country was on holiday in Devon. One morning whilst out walking he met the local shepherd and they fell into conversation. "How many sheep do you look after?" asked the Bishop. "Oh it varies" replied the shepherd. "Sometimes 300 and sometimes 500, but what do you do for living?" The Bishop smiled and then said, "Well, in a way, I'm also a shepherd." "And how many sheep do you tend?" asked the shepherd. "Well I can't say exactly, but somewhere around six million." the bishop replied. "Good heavens, cried the shepherd, It must be hell at lambing!"

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Last Sunday, the pastor of a local church began his sermon with a supposedly true story...

"I was on a plane last week, flying from Amsterdam to Italy, when we ran into some very severe turbulence over the Alps.

As it got worse, the passengers became more and more alarmed, and finally even the flight attendants began to look concerned.

Finally, one of them noticed that I had "REV." in front of my name on the passenger list came over to me and said, "Sir, this is really frightening. Do you suppose you could ... I don't know ... do something religious?" "So I took up a collection."

A grandfather and his little grandson were praying side by side in church. The little boy was muttering in a barely audible voice so his grandfather said: "Don't mumble, I can't hear a word you saying." "I'm not talking to you" said the little boy indignantly.



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and threw the rest over the church roof. When he ascended the ladder - and English Perpendicular architecture tends to be rather high - he tied the other end of the rope round his waist. Thus, if he fell off, the rope anchored to the car, would hold him.

Unfortunately he did not allow for Mrs Overall. She was passing the church, laden with shopping. Seeing their car and having a set of keys with her, she decided her husband could easily walk home, so loaded the car and set off. For those who witnessed the event, Mr O's airborne arc over the church roof was a truly magnificent sight. The holly tree on the other side may have cushioned his landing, but not in the most comfortable way.

The only problem we are now left with is how to remove a thick black line of paint running up one side of the church roof and down the other.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Sanctuary

The Rev Dr Jo White continues her series on the Signs and Symbols in our churches

Signs and Symbols: The Sanctuary

When you think of a 'Sanctuary' you probably think of somewhere safe: in a retreat, perhaps a refuge from harm, or a shelter in a storm. In the Middle Ages one could flee from the law to a place of sanctuary for so many days.

Even today one hears of cases where people have moved into the sanctuary of a church building to prevent their being taken either by the police or perhaps the immigration authorities.

The word Sanctuary comes from the Latin, 'sanctus' meaning 'Holy', so hence a church or other sacred place would count as a place of 'sanctuary'.

In a church the most holy place is considered to be where the bread and wine are consecrated and become, or represent, the body and blood of Christ himself - the altar. So hence the close area around the altar is called 'The Sanctuary'. You can normally see where it begins

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St James the Least of All - On the advantages of hospital visiting

Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I was delighted that you mentioned hospital visiting in your last letter; it is an important part of ministry and has several advantages over general house visiting. It means that when a parishioner is confined to a hospital bed, you have a captive audience and they cannot pretend not to be in.

Should you ever knock on a front door and get no response, try looking through the sitting room window. You will probably see the occupants kneeling under the table or hiding behind the sofa. In which case, pretend that you haven't seen them, but make it quite clear to them that you are pretending. The fact that you politely fail to mention the incident the next time they are in church will discomfit them even more.

If they are in hospital, it also means that after the first five minutes, they can't excuse themselves with having to collect the children from school/take some clothes to the dry cleaners/visit an elderly relative. You can stay as long as you want while eating their grapes. In their desperation to get you to go, they will agree to anything.

Thus one hospital visit could procure you a new Sunday school teacher, finance committee chairman or bell tower captain. The only lady to get the better of me in this game was Lady Burlingham, who generally said after five minutes: "Well, it has been nice seeing you." It's the most unavoidable "clear off" I've ever received.

I happened to be visiting our local hospital myself this last week - to see our Verger, Mr. Overall. Part of his duties is to protect the guttering with black paint every Spring; it is a job he hates, since he's terrified of heights. This year, he came up with a novel solution. He parked his car on the side of the church opposite to where his ladder was, tied one end of a rope to the car bumper

Fractured Dictionary

Arbitrator
\ar'-bi-tray-ter\ - A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.

Avoidable
\uh-voy'-duh-buhl\:
What a bullfighter tries to do.

Bernadette
\burn'-a-det\:
The act of torching a mortgage.

Burglarize
\bur'-gler-ize\:
What a crook sees with.

Control
\kon-trol\:
A short, ugly inmate.

Counterfeiters
\kown-ter-fit-ers\:
Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

Eclipse
\i-klips\:
what an English barber does for a living.

Eyedropper
\i'-drop-ur\:
a clumsy ophthalmologist.

Heroes \hee'-rhos\:
what a guy in a boat does.

Left Bank
\left' bangk\:
what the robber did when his bag was full of loot.

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1st March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
First Sunday of Lent	Intercessor	Philippa te West
St. Davids Day	First Reading Maureen v.d. Heide	Genesis 9:8-17
	Second Reading Blair Charles	1 Peter 3:18-22
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Mark 1:9-15



22nd March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Intercessor	Young People
Mothering Sunday	First Reading Young people	Isaiah 49:14-16;
	Second Reading Young people	
10:30 am All Age Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 2:33-35

8th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Second Sunday of Lent	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	First Reading Caroline Siertsema	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
	Second Reading Hans Siertsema	Romans 4:13-25
	Gospel	Mark 8:31-38

29th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
Passion Sunday	First Reading Joyce Wigboldus	Jeremiah 31:31-34
	Second Reading Simone Yallop	Hebrews 5:5-10
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John 12:20-33

15th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Third Sunday of Lent	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	First Reading Nettie van Sisseren	Exodus 20:1-17
	Second Reading Philippa te West	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
	Gospel	John 2:13-22

5th April	Celebrant & Preacher	The Right Revd. Geoffrey Rowell
Palm Sunday	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	First Reading	Mark 11:1-11
	Second Reading	Philippians 2:5-11
10:30 am Litany of the Palms	Gospel	Mark 15:1-39