

Poetry and Prose

Preb Michael Harding writes and collects graces. Here are some light-hearted ones

For GRACE as we eat....

For food and friendship,
we thank you Lord
even for foods (like
sprouts) which repeat on
us. Amen Amen Amen
Amen Amen

Or

God of goodness, who
blessed our food,
Keep us now in pleasant
mood.
Bless the cook, and all
who serve us.
From indigestion, Lord,
preserve us.
Amen

Before an AGM:

Three things in life are
certain:
death, taxes, and AGMs.
Thank you, Lord, that at
least the food today is
digestible.
Amen



Two Thousand Springs

*In a world of sharp contrast, of joy and despair
It's hard to be certain - does God really care?
We see the new blossom, hear ambulance wail
The smoke of the fire in the fair verdant vale.
Hear sound of the gunfire, the baby's first cry,
See Austrian mountains, read Arbeit Macht Frei.
The song of the blackbird, the howl of deep pain,
And the widow's sharp tears in the soft April rain.*

*Yet nigh on two thousand long years have gone by
Since another poor woman saw her dearest friend
die,*

*Sharp, too, were her tears of confusion and woe
As she to her Master's cold tomb had to go.
But - to add to her burden, and deepen her care
She found to her horror - his body not there!
In sorrow she turned to a man who stood near,
And discovered, alive, the one she held dear!*

*The rain eases off, but the widow weeps still,
Can such an old story cure such a fresh ill?
Yet, two thousand times since that day by the
tomb,*

*Have autumn leaves died, but spring blossoms
bloomed.*

*Two thousand times have deep frosts and dark
hours*

*Given way to bright fields of daffodil flowers.
In grief or confusion, our certain hope clings
To the story of life told by two
thousand Springs.*

By Nigel Beeton



April



2010

The Bishops Easter Message 2010

When the Roman Emperor
Constantine won a decisive
battle at the Milvian Bridge in
the year 312, he had a vision.

Constantine thought he saw in the sky the Greek letters *Chi-Rho* - the first letters of the word Christ - with the words *in hoc signo vincit* - 'in this sign, conquer'. Constantine won, and took control of the Roman Empire, bringing to an end the persecution of Christianity, and establishing it as a *religio licita* - a permitted religion, and then recognising it as the religion of the Roman Empire, even though he himself was not baptised until he was dying. The church historian, Eusebius of Caesarea, saw the conversion of Constantine as one of the great providential moments. Just as St Luke, at the end of the Acts of the Apostles, brings the Gospel to Rome, the political heart of the known world, so now the kingdoms of this world, and the Roman Empire in particular, 'have become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ.'

Would that things were so simple. A millennium or more after Constantine a German monk, Martin Luther, saw the corruption of the church and, in part, traced it back to Constantine. Had the church captured the empire, or the empire captured the church? The relation between church and state has always been ambiguous.

Jesus was put to death by both religious and political authorities. The Gospel accounts of his trial include exchanges with Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor whose name now echoes down the centuries through his place in the Creed: 'he suffered under Pontius Pilate.' Jesus tells Pilate that 'his kingdom is not of this world.' If it did belong to this world 'my servants would be fighting.' 'Are you a King?' said Pilate. 'King is your word,' says Jesus. 'My task is to bear witness to the truth.'

When Jesus dies in the hideous agony of crucifixion the reason for his criminal's death is nailed over his head - 'Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews.' Who is this Jesus? A political threat to the kingdoms of this world and to Roman authority in particular. Who is Jesus? A disturber and distorter of religion, one who claimed to embody the presence and authority of God, who purported to forgive sins (which

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Twente News

Inner Peace: This is so true

If you can start the day without caffeine,
 If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
 If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
 If you can conquer tension without medical help,
 If you can relax without liquor,
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs...
 Then You Are Probably

The Family Dog!



The making of.....

About eight years ago, I made a little cookbook for selling at the Fair and the Carol Service. It was a lot of fun to make it.

Now I have the idea to make another little cookbook, but this time with recipes from all the members and friends of this church.

Write a recipe that you think others will be interested in:
 Write the recipe of your favourite dish:
 Write the recipe you always wanted to cook and never found the time or occasion to do so.

Age or gender does not matter. You have more recipes? Also good. Do you want to tell us why this recipe is your choice? Go ahead, but keep it short.

Send your contribution to Erica Schotman, Specreyse 12 7471 TH Goor or erica.schotman@wxs.nl or hand it over after service to me or Sjoerd.

Ascension Day Picnic on Thursday May 13th

Soon we will be having our traditional Ascension Day Picnic. This year will be special, as Ferdinand and Pandu van Dijk's daughter Anna will be baptized in the service.

We are hoping for lots of people to join in. The lists will be up in the hut, as well as in Arnhem / Nijmegen church, from next week on, so please let us know how many of you are coming, and what your contribution to this event will be. Further suggestions are welcome. We are planning a paper plane flight contest (for children as well as adults) and other games too.

When possible bring your own chair and table, plate, cutlery and glass.
See you there, and keep praying for some sunshine.

Jeanet Luiten.
Tel: 053 4774716.

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EASTER FLOWERS

From the darkness of Good Friday, the day on which Jesus died on the cross, we come to the light and joy of Easter Day.

In Lent the church was dull and bare but at Easter it is bright with masses of flowers. The flowers remind us that the world is full of life, even though it looked so dead through the winter months.



You can read what happened in a special garden on that very first Easter Day in the Gospels; Matthew, chapter 28; Mark, chapter 16; Luke, chapter 24 and John, chapter 20.



What flower does everyone have?
Tulips.

YOUR OWN EASTER GARDEN

Lots of churches build an Easter garden to show the



empty tomb. You can make your own quite simply – you will need a shallow tin or dish, soil or potting compost, moss, stones, empty little jar (from baby food or paste), flowers and leaves and a small clay flower pot.

Line the dish with soil or potting compost and put the clay flowerpot on its side to make the tomb. Cover the sides of the pot and the soil with moss.

Make a hole in the 'grass' large enough to take the jar. Fill the jar with water and a small arrangement of flowers and leaves.



Decorate the garden with stones (for a path), pebbles and other flowers. Put one large stone by the side of the mouth of the flower pot to make the door of the tomb that was rolled away. Spray your garden with water and it will keep green and fresh for quite a long time.



**In memory of Patricia van der Meer - Wolstenholme
08/12/44 - 03/03/10**

(adapted from the moving tribute given by Robert van der Meer, to his mother, Pat.

As a young woman, Pat worked as a nanny/nurse in a care centre for small children. A pen-pal friendship with a young Dutch woman bought her to Holland. In 1966, on one of the North Sea crossings, she met a Dutchman, Hans van der Meer. In 1967, Pat and Hans were married and set up home in Holland.

Pat adapted quickly to being a foreigner in a foreign land. Pat managed to master the Dutch language, although it took a few years to learn some words, such as onions.

A succession of family dogs, all trained by Pat, gave the children a chance to share their mother's love of animals. Frequent holidays to England to visit family and travel through the stunning Yorkshire countryside, which she knew so well, passed on Pat's love of nature.

Pat's children were brought up in a bilingual, bicultural environment, combining both their Dutch and their English heritage. Bedtime stories, nursery rhymes, games and cuisine coming from both countries.

Once the children started school, Pat explored the world of hobbies. Bobbin lace, water colours, oil painting and of course, quilting. Pat regularly attended St Mary's Chapel as her faith was such an important part of her life.

Pat and Hans had settled down to enjoy his retirement when Pat's illness was diagnosed. After fighting cancer for 3.5 years, Pat learned in December 2009 that no more treatment was possible.

For the last month, Pat was in Leonardus Hospice in Hengelo, where she was supported by husband, Hans, son Robert and partner Jessica, and daughter Kay and her husband Arnaud, as well as Pat's twin brother Peter, over from Ireland. On Tuesday March 2, Kay gave birth to her second child, a daughter. And so Pat knew of it, and even saw pictures of the baby, on Tuesday morning, the day before she passed away.

Sorely missed by so many at St Mary's, we pray for peace for Pat's soul, and for God's strength and comfort for Hans and the rest of the family and friends in the coming time.

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Book Fair

The annual book fair, held on the 21 March, (and running over to Palm Sunday, 28 March), raised an impressive €93.83 for the Flower Guild. A big thank you to all who donated books, and then bought them back!

Report on Council Meeting, 15 March 2010

The main items of business were to agree on the budget to submit to the AGM, and to discuss other AGM related business.

The AGM will begin at 12:30 on Sunday, 18 April following the service and after a short coffee break. Any one can attend, but only people on the Church Electoral Roll are allowed to vote. If you wish to participate and are not yet registered, please see Simone Yallop. Please feel free to bring a sandwich/packed lunch.

The other issue discussed was Junior Church. This will now be held twice a month on a regular basis. Volunteers are needed to keep this vital service going. At present it is mainly the children's parents who participate. However adults of all ages are asked to volunteer to help, even if only a few times a year. The children are the Church of tomorrow, please help in this important work.

Forthcoming Dates

- 18 April AGM
- 13 May Ascension Day service and picnic
- 12 June Quiet Day



Intercessions

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

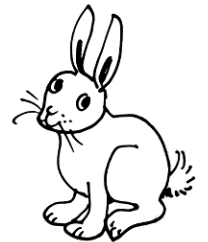
If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens.

What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookshop, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for "What would Jesus do?" and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions. The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think he'd pay €9.99 for that hat."

Awful noise

The wheel of my grocery cart was making a horrible scraping sound as I rolled it through the supermarket. Nevertheless, when I finished my shopping and saw a cartless woman, I offered it up, explaining, "It makes an awful noise, but it works." "That's okay," she said, taking it. "I have a husband at home like that."



Adoption

A class of junior school children were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had different colour hair from the other family members in the picture. One child suggested that he was adopted and a little girl said, 'I know all about adoptions because I was adopted.' 'What does it mean to be adopted?' asked another child. 'It means,' said the girl, 'that you grew in your mummy's heart instead of her tummy.'

Attitude

Some Christians give the impression they were baptised in vinegar!

Atheism

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both. As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, 'Oh my God! Help me!' At once the ferocious attack scene froze and a voice boomed from the clouds, 'I thought you did not believe in me!' 'Come on God, give me a break!' the man pleaded. 'Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness Monster either.'

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only God could do), healed the sick, attacked the traders in the Temple, and who proclaimed that in him the kingdom or rule of God was breaking in. 'It is expedient,' St John records the High Priest, Caiaphas, as saying, 'that one man dies for the people,' that one man dies lest the balance of religion and political power, the negotiated compromise, be overthrown. 'That one man dies for the people' – at a deeper level the ushering in of something much more profound, a redemption much more costly, a bringing in of that new order which sets us free from captivity to the powers of this world and enslavement to the domination of evil.

As Christians asked themselves the meaning of a crucified Messiah, and sought to understand the paradox of how the preaching of God's kingdom of justice, love and peace, ended in the crude appalling agony of a criminal's death, they came to see it as a battle – a glorious battle – a wrestling with the powers of darkness. As an old hymn puts it: 'Death and life have contended, in a conflict all stupendous.' The darkness over the land spoken of in the Passion narratives of the Gospels, is not just outward but inward. The great cry of dereliction, *Eloi, eloi, lama sabachtani?* – *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?* Is the deepest paradox of all? God himself in our human nature knows the absence of God, the blotting out of meaning, the engulfing and overwhelming horror of darkness, nothingness, and the triumph of evil and death. The German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing from a prison camp in Nazi Germany, where he was shortly to be hanged, wrote of God 'allowing himself to be pushed out of the world and on to a cross.' God saves us through that identification, by the seeming triumph of evil, and yet being absolutely and profoundly with us

*Therefore he who shows us God,
Helpless hangs upon the tree,
And the very nails and spear,
Tell of what God's love must be.*

*Thou art God, no monarch thou,
Throned in easy state to reign,
Thou art God, whose arms of love,
Aching, spent, the world sustain.*

How do we know all this? How can this dying be at the



Under his wings

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of the Lord's love for us...

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage.

One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

Psalm 91:4 "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

Praise the Lord for his goodness and protection for all those who put their trust in him.



"Practicing" Medicine

A Veterinarian was feeling ill and went to see her doctor. The doctor asked her all the usual questions, about symptoms, how long had they been occurring, etc., when she interrupted him: "Hey look, I'm a vet. I don't need to ask my patients these kind of questions: I can tell what's wrong just by looking." She smugly added, "Why can't you?" The doctor nodded, stood back, looked her up and down, quickly wrote out a prescription, handed it to her and said, "There you are. Of course, if that doesn't work, we'll have to have you put to sleep."

Abandon ship?

A high-school student came home one night rather depressed. "What's the matter, son," asked his mother. "Mom," said the boy, "it's my grades. They're all wet." "What do you mean 'all wet'?" asked his mother. "You know," he replied, "below C-level."



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Some hymns for people over 50

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

Door of heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"



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For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to his ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of his day. This includes women, the poor and *sinner*s (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. When compared with the other synoptic gospel writers, Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, '*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into his kingdom.

©Rev Paul Hardingham

Time for walkies?

When did you last take a simple leisurely walk with you own family? It seems that these days we are more likely to convene for meals and to watch TV instead. In a recent study people cited lack of time, lack of energy, not knowing where to walk, and no enthusiasm from anyone else in the family as reasons they do not walk together.

"Despite walking being described as an ideal form of exercise, it is concerning to see that families worldwide are not using this cheap and effective form of exercise to promote their family's health," said an expert at Loughborough University. "We have become a nation of TV parents who are happy to stay in our comfort zones and let the kids play on PlayStation.... and yet activity such as walking is as important, if not more so, than exercise sessions. Cumulatively, they can burn more calories than the odd visits to the gym.."

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centre of our Christian faith? Only because the Cross is seen in the light of Easter. The Gospels do not end with the cry of dereliction, and the limp and tortured body taken from the Cross and laid hastily in a tomb. If the stone rolled across the entrance to that tomb had sealed the story of Jesus as well as his lifeless body, there would be no Christian gospel, no good news of salvation, no church.

On Easter morning, 'on the first day of the week, just as the sun was rising' the tomb is found empty. Why? Because resurrection, the new creation, has happened. In a multitude of mysterious encounters that new life is found to be victorious and triumphant. 'He is not here, he is risen.' The Risen Christ speaks to a grief-stricken Mary Magdalene, and calls her by name; he walks as a stranger with sorrowing disciples, and their hearts burn within them. He makes himself known in the breaking of bread. He bursts through the imprisoning walls of grief and fear to speak the word of peace – the peace which is the harmony of the new creation, a peace which passes all understanding. New life ripples out from the empty tomb in a transforming tsunami of love.

*Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight the battle won,
Lo our sun's eclipse is o'er,
Lo he sets in blood no more.*

'The Prince of Life who died, reigns immortal'

This is the kingdom for which we pray; this new life for all creation. And the cross is seen in the light of Easter as the place where the glory of God shines out, in the love that comes down to the lowest part of our need.

This is our story, this is our song! Let your lives be touched by this love, transformed by this love, a love which is to Easter in us, and reach out through us to bring new life to the whole world. Then indeed the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. As he promised in blessing and sending out his disciples, he is with us always to the end of the age. In that faith and hope and love I wish you the joy and the blessing of the Risen Christ this Easter.

+GEOFFREY GIBALTAR

Substitution

One day a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him, 'I always park there. You took my place!'

The visitor went inside the church, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, 'That's my seat! You took my place.'

The visitor was upset by this rude welcome, but said nothing. Instead he found another place to sit and sat down. Another member of the church walked up and said, 'That's where I always sit. You took my place.'

The visitor was even more troubled by the treatment but said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars appeared on his hands and sandaled feet.

Noticing this, the members of the congregation called, 'What happened to you?' The visitor replied, 'I took your place.'

True

True story: a Sunday School teacher recently asked her pupils 'Does anyone know any of the miracles that Jesus performed?' One youngster put his hand up and said 'Yes, he cured people who had leopards.'

Flu

What is the difference between Bird Flu and Swine Flu?
For bird flu you need tweetment and for swine flu you need oinkment.

Smile

Q: What is a smile?
A: It's when you laugh in a whisper.

Can do

Q: Can you do anything that other people can't?
A: Sure, I can read my handwriting.

Working out

An elderly gentlemen sitting on the park bench talking to his old buddy remarked:
" My wife said to me, 'What are you doing?' I said, 'Nothing' She came back with, 'You did that yesterday' His friend asked," How did you get out of that one?"
"Told her I wasn't finished doing nothing"

St James the Least of All

On how to run your notice board

My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying "all are welcome" may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts' bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts' collective smirk during the following week's Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs' collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus "So light up the fire and let the flames burn" only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring *you* something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmers' Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember what while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

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In conclusion, we should see the endless details and instructions of Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. Through the sacrifice of his life, which we remember at Easter, Jesus totally fulfilled the law. He perfectly demonstrated the love and holiness of God to enable us to fulfil God's requirement, '*Be holy, because I am holy*' (1 Peter 1:16 quoting Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).



an Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Luke

This month we look at Luke, the third of the synoptic gospels. Luke also wrote Acts, as both are addressed to the same individual, Theophilus (1:3 cf Acts 1:1). It is clear from certain sections of Acts that Luke accompanied Paul, who mentions his '*dear friend Luke, the doctor*' (Col 4:4). We can assume that Luke was a well educated Gentile, a doctor by profession and a companion of Paul on his later missionary journeys.

Theophilus was probably a Roman official who acted as Luke's patron, ensuring that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was always intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is. Luke also wanted to show that Gentile Christians have a place in the kingdom of God, as the gospel of Jesus is intended for the whole world. Although we cannot be sure when the gospel was written, this was probably in Rome at around 60 AD.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections:

- the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13)
- Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50)
- his ministry (mainly teaching) *on the road* to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53)
- his final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53)

Heavenly Art?

A teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven."

Have you noticed?

People want the front of the bus,
the back of the church,
and the centre of attention.

Grace for life

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And the ability to pass it on to other folk

Long sermons

Old Gladys attended a church service one particular Sunday. The sermon seemed to go on for ever, and many in the congregation fell asleep. After the service, to be social, she walked up to a very sleepy looking gentleman and in an attempt to revive him from his stupor, extended her hand in greeting and said, 'Hello, I'm Gladys Dunn.'
To which the gentleman replied, 'You're not the only one!'

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Dollar Bills

There was two old dollar bills. One was a \$100 dollar bill and the other was a \$1 dollar bill. The \$100 dollar bill said, "I've lived a good life. I've been to the amusement park, the theater, the zoo and baseball games."

"Wow," said the \$1 dollar bill. "You sure have had a good life." "Where have you been?" asked the \$100 dollar bill.

What's Really Important

One warm summer evening a mother was driving with her three young children. A woman in the convertible in front of them stood up and waved. She was STARK NAKED. As the mother was reeling from shock, the five year old said, "Mommy, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

Ketchup

A mother was struggling to get the ketchup out of the bottle when the phone rang. She asked her four year old daughter to answer it. She heard her daughter say, "Mommy can't come to the phone. She's hitting the bottle."

What's the Big Idea?

- an introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Leviticus

Leviticus was the first book studied by Jewish children in the synagogue. However, in today's church it's usually the last book in the Bible that anyone looks at seriously! This is understandable, as it is largely concerned with such things as rituals for sacrifice and regulations about uncleanness that are incomprehensible and largely irrelevant to us. However, the book challenges our tendency to reduce God to fit our plans, ambitions and tastes!

Leviticus, the third book of the Old Testament, derives its name from the Greek translation of the Old Testament meaning '*relating to the Levites*'. This title reflects the fact that much of the book is concerned with regulations about worship, which was conducted by the priests (incl. the Levites). There are also instructions about ceremonial cleanness, moral laws, holy days and the Year of Jubilee.

The key theme running through Leviticus is that of *holiness*, for it defines who God is and our response to him. The book's perspective is that every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of this holy God. Also God provides a way through the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths, to bring everything into his holy presence. The book gives a pause in the story of Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt to entry into the promised land of Canaan. This extended teaching time gives space for the people to prepare for living in a culture of other gods, that doesn't know what holy is. God is calling his people to live, as he created them to be, reflecting his holiness.

At the heart of Leviticus is also the truth of God's *love*, which is also an aspect of God's character which we are to reflect. Therefore, our key verse states: '*Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord*' (19:18). This verse is extensively quoted in the New Testament by Jesus, Paul and James, as their summary of the law.

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Here's the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year's bonfire night.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

©The Rev Dr Gary Bowness

April 12 Feast Day of Zeno of Verona (d. 371)

Zeno should be the patron saint of all ministers who suspect that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

For instance: ethnic diversity...church-planting... teaching.... concern for the poor... women's ministry in the church... sound like modern-day Christian concerns? Not a bit of it – this was the life work of Zeno, bishop of Verona in the fourth century.

Ethnic diversity? Zeno was an African who had been consecrated a bishop in Italian Verona. Church-planting and teaching? Zeno had a reputation as a hard-working pastor and dedicated preacher who founded churches throughout his domain. Some of his sermons still survive.

Concern for the poor? Zeno was zealous in alms-giving, and encouraged others to do the same. Women's ministry? He founded nunneries and encouraged virgins living at home to be consecrated long before ever Ambrose did the same in Milan.

As for down-time? Zeno may well have been addicted to fishing in his spare time – he is, after all, usually represented with a fish. Nothing wrong with that: the links between fishermen and Christian leaders go back a long way!

Getting a Passport

Before she died, an elderly woman from the United States wanted to visit England, the home of her ancestors. She went to the passport office and requested a passport.

"You must first take the loyalty oath," the passport clerk said. "Raise your right hand, please."

The senior citizen raised her right hand as the clerk asked, "Do you swear to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, domestic or foreign?"

The sweet old face paled and the voice trembled as she responded, "Well, I guess so, but will I have help, or will I have to do it all by myself?"

Questions

If police arrest a mime artist, does the mime still have the right to remain silent?

How is it possible to have a civil war?

If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?

How do I set my laser printer on stun?

4th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Easter Sunday	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
	First Reading	Isaiah 65:17-25
	Second Reading	Acts 10:34-43
	Gospel	Luke 24:1-12
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

11th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Second Sunday of Easter	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	First Reading	Acts 5:27-32
	Second Reading	Revelation 1:4-8
	Gospel	John 20:19-31
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

18th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Thirds Sunday of Easter (AGM Sunday)	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading	Acts 9:1-6
	Second Reading	Revelation 5:11-14
	Gospel	John 21:1-19
10:30 am Sung Eucharist followed by Annual General Meeting		

25th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Fourth Sunday of Easter	Intercessor	
	First Reading	Acts 9:36-43
	Second Reading	Revelation 7:9-17
	Gospel	John 10:22-30
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

2nd May	Celebrant & Preacher	The Revd Canon Dirk van Leeuwen
Fifth Sunday of Easter	Intercessor	
	First Reading	Acts 11:1-18
	Second Reading	Revelation 21:1-6
	Gospel	John 13:31-35
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

9th May	Celebrant & Preacher	The Revd Canon Dirk van Leeuwen
Sixth Sunday of Easter	Intercessor	
	First Reading	Acts 16:9-15
	Second Reading	Revelation 21:10,22-22:5
	Gospel	John 14:23-29
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

May 13th, Ascension Day

10:30 Eucharist and Holy Baptism, followed by Bring & Share Picnic