

Poetry and Prose

John McLeod, disabled since childhood, began writing poetry to help him overcome the difficulties of his situation.

This modern Scottish poet believed that words can be a powerful healing tool if used with loving intention, to uplift, encourage and inspire. His poems are wrought from his own experience and were published in the hope that they would help others.

To quote John, *"Life, though, is full of compensations and I have been well blessed throughout my 'Life Journey' with good friends met and made along the way. Life is a kind of swings and roundabouts situation; if you can't kick a football you turn to other pursuits."*

John retired to a small fishing village outside Edinburgh after a career in banking. He published two poetry books, "Peace...be ever yours" and "Quiet...flows the love".

John McLeod passed away in August 2006.

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It's the Journey that's Important

*Life, sometimes so wearying
Is worth its weight in gold
The experience of traveling
Lends a wisdom that is old
Beyond our 'living memory'
A softly spoken prayer:*

*"It's the journey that's important,
Not the getting there!"*

*Ins and outs and ups and downs
Life's road meanders aimlessly?
Or so it seems, but somehow
Leads us where we need to be,
And being simply human
We oft question and compare....
"Is the journey so important
Or the getting there?"*

*And thus it's always been
That question pondered down the ages
By simple men with simple ways
To wise and ancient sages....
How sweet then, quietly knowing
Reaching destination fair:
"It's the journey that's important,
Not the getting there!"*

by John McLeod

May



2010

The Chaplain writes **Why did Christ go?**

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide are a single festival period in which we celebrate the gloriously risen Christ. This is why 'Alleluia' (from the Hebrew for 'Praise the Lord') features so frequently in our worship in this time. We shout it out, because we are filled with a sense of thanksgiving, joy and triumph at what God has done in Christ. And, at least through Ascension Day, we keep the Paschal (literally 'Passover') or Easter Candle lit to signify the presence of Christ, the Light of the World, amidst his people. The whole season concludes with the Feast of Pentecost, which celebrates the powerful advent of the Holy Spirit upon followers of Christ. But, in fact, early Christians used to refer to the entire season from Easter to Whitsun as 'Pentecost'.

Forty days after Easter Day, we observe Ascension Day, recalling the return of the risen Christ to his rightful place in Heaven. All of our great festivals point back to momentous events in the life of Christ and His Church, and, when one really ponders each of the high holy days, one is made aware just how mysterious, awesome and even disturbing the actual events they commemorate are. Take the Ascension itself, mentioned by Mark (16:19) but described in detail only by Luke (24:50-51; Acts 1:1-11). In many ways, it must have been a shocking event. Regardless how Jesus disappeared from the disciples' sight, he was gone. Though they had rejoiced at his resurrection, he was now leaving them for what appeared to be a second and, for all intents and purposes, final time – at least until his eschatological (end-time) return (which many did believe was imminent). He had promised them the Holy Spirit, but perhaps not knowing fully what that meant, the disciples, I suspect, must have felt slightly bereft, even though Luke 24:52 says they did return to Jerusalem 'with great joy.'

Why must he leave us now? It could have been understood intellectually, perhaps, but emotionally and spiritually, the Ascension itself might not have felt encouraging. Once again, the disciples felt the absence of the Lord. And that must have been a bit hard. In a Lent course, some of us followed a study based on CS Lewis' writings. As you may know, Lewis lost his wife, Joy, to cancer, after a very brief, but blissful, marriage. By the time he and Joy had met in

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Garden Day 2010

On Sunday, 16th May, we celebrate our annual horticultural bring and buy event. Anything connected with gardening is welcomed. Plants, cuttings, seeds, fresh fruit and vegetables, cut flowers, gardening equipment, etc. etc.



Gardening donations will be sold after the service in front of our coffee hut. Prices are low and everyone loves a bargain! Our garden sale is always colourful, popular and benefits the Floral Guild. See you there!

Linda ten Berge 0546-868139

Tea with Daddy



One day my mother was out, and my dad was in charge of me..



I was maybe 2 1/2 years old. Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift, and it was one of my favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the newspaper when I brought Daddy a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Mom came home.

My Dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!' My Mom waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy; and she watched him drink it up.

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Annual General Meeting 18 April

Following the service on Sunday morning, and after a short break for coffee, the chaplain Sam Van Leer chaired the AGM of the St Mary's Weldam chaplaincy. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

The Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report were read out. The budget for the following year was presented and the electors voted to approve the budget. The chaplain reported that attendance figures were consistent with a slight increase in the number on the electoral roll.

The chaplain also reported on the proposed new heating system planned for the end of this year. This should reduce the ambient noise levels in the chapel. A vote of thanks was given to Count and Countess Solms for their continued support and generosity to the chaplaincy.

The new council for 2010 was elected with the following changes.

Joyce Wigboldus was elected to the one warden position vacated by Blair Charles, who was stepping down. Everhard Ottens was re-elected as warden for another year.

Jeanet Luiten and Caroline Siertsema were elected to the council, and Simone Yallop was re-elected. There were no candidates for the remaining two seats on the council. Lub Gringhuis agreed to serve as assistant

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UNDER THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the month of May we can remember two very different men who fought under the sign of the cross.

On the night before a great battle, the Roman Emperor Constantine dreamt of a cross in the sky and the words 'in this sign conquer'. After his victory, Constantine ended 300 years of persecution and Romans were allowed to become Christians. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine died on 22nd May in the year 337.



Some 1,500 years later, Jean Henry Dunant (who was born on 8th May 1828) was horrified to see the dreadful suffering after the Battle of Solferino. He spent the rest of his life working for the casualties of war, fighting under the banner of the Red Cross to relieve world-wide suffering.

WHAT'S IT FOR?

What would you do with these things? All the words are in the Bible but are rarely heard today. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. KNOP a) polish it
b) eat it
c) harness it
2. DARIC a) herd it
b) sharpen it
c) spend it
3. HYSOPP a) carry it
b) cultivate it
c) dig with it
4. SHOFAR a) drive it
b) play it
c) prune

it
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



**Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Some poems rhyme,
This one doesn't.**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Answers: 1. a) polish it, it is an ornamental knob, part of the lamp-stands in the tabernacle. 2. c) spend it, it's gold coin 3. b) cultivate it, it's a type of plant 4. b) play it, it is musical instrument made from a ram's horn.

THE OBSCENE CLONE

A pastor's church was getting too large for him to cover all of the duties so he had a clone made of himself. All was going well, he could be in two hospitals at once praying for the sick, attend two meetings at the same time, this was his answer for his busy life.

Suddenly, the genes went crazy and the cloned preacher's personality changed. He started making passes towards women, yelling at drivers who cut him off, and making obscene gestures. This concerned the pastor so he and the clone took a day off and went to the Sears Tower, ate lunch, and enjoyed the view from the top.

While the clone was looking at the skyline through the telescope, the pastor pushed him over the side and that was the end of the clone. When the pastor left the building and walked past the crowd that had gathered, the police stopped him and placed him under arrest. 'Under arrest?? What's the charge?' 'Making an obscene clone fall'.

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A Quiet Day

for the Anglican Chaplaincies of the East Netherlands
Led by Maria Kersten, OFS

Franciscan House, Gravenallee 30, 7591 PE Denekamp
(Overijssel)

June 12, 2010, 10:00-16:30

Bring yourself, €15*, and something to write with, and on. Lunch, coffee and tea are provided.

To sign up, contact the Revd S Van Leer
Sam.Van.Leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620

Please sign-up by 6 June 2010.

*Special discounts can be given to those in need – please discuss with the Chaplain.

St. Mary's Teas

The teas will run from the 4th of July to the 8th of August, 13.30 –16.00 hour. Theda and Jan ten Barge will be present most Sundays to help and to coordinate the helpers.

In a few weeks, two lists will go up in the hut for people to put their names down to help. Each week one or two people will be needed to serve teas and cakes in the hut. In addition, as an essential part of the teas, one or two volunteers will be needed to help visitors in the Chapel. For those people who do not want to serve teas or guide, volunteers are also needed for baking. Therefore the second list is the baking list where you can put your names down.

Look out for more information in May and June.

All that is being asked for is a few hours on an afternoon, or maybe a couple of plates of fresh scones. The Chapel visits combined with the teas helps with the Chaplaincy finances as well as helping to advertise the presence of the Anglican Church in the Twente Region. With your help and prayer, the teas this year will be as successful as last year.



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treasurer, replacing Kathleen Rusius, who, after many years service, had decided to step down from the post of assistant treasurer.

The chaplain gave thanks and presented gifts to Blair Charles and Everhard Ottens for their service as wardens, as well as to Els Ottens for her role as deputy warden. Kathleen Rusius was also thanked for all the work she had done and was presented with a gift. Thanks and bouquets of flowers were presented to Louw Talstra and Cor Bos for their service over the past year as organists. The meeting closed with prayers.

Change in Magazine Editors

As Marilyn and I are leaving the Netherlands this year, (once the house is sold), a replacement editor/ publisher for St Mary's magazine was required. Very kindly, Janice Collins has agreed to step in and take over. Her contact details appear on the back cover of this issue. Marilyn and I would like to thank Janice and wish her all success in producing St Mary's magazine.

The first ANT Church News came out in 1988 with three editions per year. Nettie Foeken was the original magazine editor. Marilyn and I took over the task of producing the magazine from Paul and Joyce Chesmond in July 2003. In January 2005, the first edition of St Mary's Magazine came out. Our seven years labouring over the hot press seem to have passed in the blink of the eye. Marilyn and I thank all the readers for their support. We are confident that Janice will get the same support, and enjoyment, in producing and editing St Mary's magazine.



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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Then she said, (as only a mother would know), "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?"

Contributed by M. de Lange

Garden produce

A toddler was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust his mother asked, "Well . . . what does it taste like?" "Worms," was the reply.

Genesis and politicians

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

Decisions, decisions

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

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The English language....

It's how you say it....

Time flies like an arrow;
fruit flies like a banana.
A backward poet writes
inverse.

A chicken crossing the
road: poultry in motion.
If you don't pay your
exorcist you can get
repossessed.

Marathon runners with
bad shoes suffer the
agony of de feet.

Some perks of getting old

There is nothing left to
learn the hard way.

Things you buy now
won't wear out.

You can eat supper at 4
pm.

You get into heated
arguments about pension
plans.

You can sing along with
lift music.

Your eyes won't get
much worse.

Your secrets are safe
with your friends -
because they can't
remember them either.

Committees

A steering committee is a
group of four people
trying to park a car.



Archdeaconry of North-West Europe

CHORAL FESTIVAL

Conducted by Gordon Stewart (of Songs of Praise fame)

Saturday 19th June 2010

The Festival is a theme service, based on the RSCM Festival Book 'The City'

You can either take part, as a singer –as some of St.Mary's Chapel will do, or by joining the Service, starting at 16:30. Our Archdeacon will also take part in the Service. For singers, the day starts at approx.10.00, (administration & coffee); singing starts at 10.30.

The chaplaincy of St. Mary's Church, Rotterdam is hosting the Archdeaconry Choral Festival 2010. They are looking forward to hosting the Festival, so let us try to have a good number of us there to support them!

The Festival will take place at the Oranjekerk, Rozenlaan, 3051LK Rotterdam (see Google maps; it is in the Northeast part of Rotterdam; train link: station Rotterdam Noord or by car: take exit A20 nr. 14 (at Schieplein and turn right at roundabout).

You will need your own copy of the Festival Book to take part in the Festival. You can confirm your joining the festival and order your copy via:

Martin van Bleek M.Sc, ARSCM - Organist and Choirmaster of the Anglican Church of St. Anna and St. Mary, Haarlem, the Netherlands - Area Chairman for RSCM NEW Tel / fax: +31 23-54 22 133 / Email: (martin.van.bleek@planet.nl)

The Festival Books will be available very shortly and will cost € 7,50 each **excluding** postage and handling charges. Fortunately, once again - and in spite of the credit crunch - we have been able to keep the costs the same as last year. The Festival Books will be available in the next few weeks.

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The prologue (1:1-14) brings together the gospel's major themes, like an overture in a musical work. John proclaims Jesus as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father to us. Throughout the gospel many references are made to Jesus' deity. Most notably Jesus declares, 'Before Abraham was born, I am!' (8:57-58), referring to Exodus, where God describes himself as 'I am.' John also presents the contrast of darkness and light; Jesus has come as light into the world so that those who believe in him will not remain in darkness (cf 12:46).

The heart of John's narrative contains seven signs or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and show his creative and transforming power over creation and in people's lives:

turning water into wine at Cana (2:1-11)

healing of the royal official's son (4:46-54)

healing of the paralytic at the pool (5:1-18)

feeding of the 5000 (6:1-14)

walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee (6:16-21)

healing of the man born blind (9:1-41)

raising of Lazarus (11:1-44).

After these signs, Jesus 'hour' arrives, and the story moves into the discourses in the upper room that interpret the meaning of the death, and resurrection narratives that follow. The whole gospel is a progressive revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father.

It can be well summed up in its most famous verse: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16).



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Blessing, O Holy Spirit,
spell

With each and every one
to dwell,
With each and every one
to dwell.

*From an ancient Celtic
prayer*

Art and Craft

Roger: The handicraft
teacher does not like
what I am making.

Owen: Oh? What are you
making then?

Roger: Mistakes!

And how are you?

Church member to the
minister's wife: 'Did you
wake up grumpy this
morning?'

Wife: 'No, I thought I'd
let him sleep on.'

Change

Scientists have come up
with a term to describe
organisms that are not
constantly changing: it's
DEAD.

Many people hate any
change that is not
jingling in their pocket.

'Never doubt the power
of a small group of
committed people to
change the world. That's
about the only way it has
ever happened in the
past.

*Margaret Mead,
Anthropologist*



THE PRAYER THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD?

A Prayer for You

May the sun brightly
shine in your corner
And the wind always
billow your sails,
May you always find
peace and contentment
And shelter from life's
fiercest gales,
May you always be
blessed with compassion
And concern for the
needy and weak,
May you always be
truthful and honest
In each single word that
you speak,
May you always be just
in your dealings
Protect fairness with all
of your might,
But above all may you be
granted the will
Forever to do what is
right.

by Colin Hammacott

Family Blessing

Bless, O our God, the fire
here laid,
As thou didst bless the
Virgin Maid;
O God, the hearth and
peats be blest,
As thou didst bless thy
day of rest.
Bless us, O God Life-
Being, well,
Blessing, O Christ of
loving, tell,

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When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your

direction and guidance.

We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good", but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot anti-abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest.

In six short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively.

The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

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the mid-1950s, Lewis had already become an acclaimed author and Christian apologist. So Lewis' bereavement was doubly heavy: he had lost the love of his life, but also began, as a result, to lose grip on the faith that had been his support. The painfully honest book *A Grief Observed* (1961) records the emotional and spiritual struggle Lewis faced at a time when God seemed silent and/or absent when Lewis needed Him most. I can commend that book, as well as the excellent film, *Shadowlands*, which explores this phase of Lewis' life. (Indeed, I can recommend just about all of Lewis' works – those I've read are generally remarkable for their insight, clarity and courage.)

As we move Easter joy to the ambiguity of Ascension, I cannot help but recall Lewis' reflection on the necessity of God's apparent absence at some points in our lives. Yes, that's right: necessity. Lewis grew to understand that God was never really absent, even in the author's own darkest distress. But Lewis did surmise that God from time to time appears distant, as it were, partly in order that we might grow in Christian maturity. It is in times of challenge that we become mature children of God, who can stand on our own two feet, and choose to walk the path of righteousness. As Hilary Brand puts it, '[God's] intention is for us to manage responsibly the little bit of his kingdom he has given us.' Or, as Lewis himself writes, '[God] wants a child's heart but a grown-up's head.' (Mere Christianity, Bk 3, Ch 2)

This is not an easy lesson. But it does help us make some sense of the Ascension for ourselves. Christ appears to leave us partly so that we may grow in faith, a mature faith that will survive, and which can move mountains. Christ is never really 'absent'. He promised to be with us to the end of the age (Matt 28:20), and from the Pentecost of Acts 2 (if not the events of John 20, or even before) his Spirit is ever with us. But it may well be that it is in the apparent 'absences' that we may grow stronger in faith, showing we are truly God's children.

Yours in Christ,
Sam Van Leer

Sharing one's faith at work

His local church had done a week of outreach training, leaving the local barber feeling guilty. When had he last shared his faith with anyone? So the next morning he prayed: "Lord, today I promise to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a haircut and a shave, please." The barber said nervously, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment."

The barber rushed into the back of his shop and sent up a desperate prayer: "Dear God, this is it. Give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen."

Then slowly the barber came back to his customer with his razor knife in one hand. He laid a shaking hand on the man's shoulder, stared at him in the mirror, and said: "I am glad you came to see me this morning... are you ready to die?"



A gracious rival

Modern political campaigns might take a lesson in graciousness and kindness from Edward Campbell, the great British statesman of the 1930s.

Once when Campbell was opposing Thackeray for a seat in Parliament, the two contenders, in the course of their campaigning, met and engaged in friendly conversation.

On taking leave of his rival, Thackeray remarked: "May the best man win!" "Oh, no," Campbell replied, "I hope not – I want to win!"

New car

A husband, the owner of a new car, was somewhat reluctant to allow his wife to drive his prize possession, even to the local shops, a few streets away from the house.

After she insisted, he finally relented, cautioning her as she departed, "Remember, if you have an accident, the newspaper will print your age!"



St James the Least of All

On the perils of a Scout camp

My dear Nephew Darren

It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges. Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol. Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day.

You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes – which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it.

Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm – for you are bound to

service for George – and apparently it attracted a good deal of comment and enquiry. You may already know the poem concerned, but it seems that many people do not, so here it is once more:

*You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has
lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray
that she'll come back
or you can open your eyes and see
all she's left.*



*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of
yesterday.*

*You can remember her and only that she's gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn
your back
or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes,
love and go on.
(Anonymous)*

What's the Big Idea?: An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: John

'I like the comparison of John's Gospel to a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is both simple and profound. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian.' (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of the fourth Gospel, writing in Ephesus (Asia Minor) at the end of the First Century. John writes 'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.' (20:31). He stresses the deity of Christ, and presents Jesus as the Son of God. His gospel is quite different in character from the three synoptic gospels, with different stories, but highly literary and symbolic.

Jesus

Maybe Jesus was Irish
He never got married
He was always telling stories
He loved green pastures

Maybe Jesus was Puerto Rican
His first name was Jesus
He was bilingual
He was always being harassed by the authorities

Maybe Jesus was Italian
He talked with his hands
He had wine with every meal
He worked in the building trade

Maybe Jesus was black
He called everybody brother
He liked Gospel
He couldn't get a fair trial

Maybe Jesus was a Californian
He never cut his hair
He walked around barefoot
He started a new religion

Music

'To those who understand music, they know that music does not come out your mouth. The only reason that it comes out there is that it has to get out from somewhere. Anyway, music is sung by heart and your soul and it is felt by all those who really understand and love it.'

A homeless man
Interviewed in a night shelter

When you plan your garden this Spring

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:
Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and dance.

Water freely with patience and Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden.
Because you reap what you sow

To conclude our garden We must have thyme:
Thyme for fun
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves.



Ripples

Janice Collins

Perhaps you were in the pews at St Mary's on Sunday, 7 March. If so, you may remember the beautiful intercessions of Philippa te West, which included a moving tribute to Pat van der Meer. She read a poem that had been among some newspaper cuttings that Pat had sent her a while ago – a lovely poem that, while recognising the pain of bereavement, offered great consolation. It was read at the funeral of Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, held in Westminster Abbey in April 2002, and apparently attempts to trace the author have so far come to nought.

Anyway a few days later I had a phone call from Susan, a friend of mine in England, to say that her husband had died unexpectedly. Ours is a comparatively recent friendship; in fact, you could say it is an inherited friendship. Susan and George had been friends and near-neighbours of my aunt's for over 25 years and, although on visits to England I had heard tales of their outings together and other happenings, we didn't actually meet until about six years ago. Unfortunately it was my aunt's illness that brought us together: she was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. My aunt was unmarried and lived alone, and as the situation deteriorated George had gradually taken over the handling of her financial affairs. No easy task by a long chalk! Of course, no intervention or medical consultation can be undertaken in such circumstances without the consent of the sufferer but eventually in my aunt's case two independent doctors stepped in. Working together, Susan, George and I were able to make comfortable arrangements for my aunt and I was able to negotiate the labyrinth known as the Court of Protection and assume guardianship.

After the phone call last month, as I was writing a letter to Susan, I remembered Philippa's inspirational reading at Weldam and attached the poem (with the obvious adaptations), hoping it might bring some comfort in the dark days. Her response was to include it in the funeral

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spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders.

My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it.

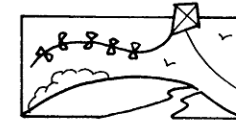
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

©The Rev Dr Gary Bowness

The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.



And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcifed.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Signs of the times

Seen on a plumber's truck:

"We repair what your husband fixed"

At a towing company:

"We don't charge an arm and a leg, we want tows"

On a Plastic Surgeons Office:

"Hello, can we pick your nose?"

On yet another plumbers truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Pizza shop slogan:

"Seven days without pizza makes one week"

On an electricians van:

"Let us remove your shorts"

On a vet's office door:

"Back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"



In a restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry. Come in and get fed up."

On a Maternity Room door:

"Push. Push. Push"

2nd May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Can D van Leeuwen
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Fifth Sunday of Easter	First Reading Heleen Rauwerda
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Vivian Reinders
	Gospel	John 13:31-35

16th May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	Seventh Sunday of Easter	First Reading Louw Talstra
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Pauline Talstra
	Gospel	John 17:20-26

9th May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Can D van Leeuwen
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	Sixth Sunday of Easter	First Reading Peter Ribbens
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Joy Romeijn
	Gospel	John 14:23-29

23rd May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	
	Pentecost	First Reading Acts 2:1-21
	10:30 am All Ages Service with Eucharist	Second Reading Romans 8:14-17
	Gospel	John 14:8-17

13th May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
	Ascension Day	First Reading Caroline Siertsema
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism	Second Reading Hans Siertsema
	Gospel	Luke 24:44-53

30th May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	Trinity Sunday	First Reading Philippa te West
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Ministry for Healing	Second Reading Joyce Wigboldus
	Gospel	John 16:12-15