

Poetry and Prose

Pam Ayres (born in the English county of Berkshire in 1947) discovered a love of singing and acting during her time in the Women's Royal Air Force, and she decided to opt for a career as an entertainer. She began reading her verses in the local folk club and her appearance on the television talent show *Opportunity Knocks* in 1975 led to a host of guest spots on television and radio.

Pam Ayres' work is funny, approachable, and demonstrates a keen eye for detail and the absurdity in everyday life. Her live performances, where her Oxfordshire accent is an essential ingredient, bring a warmth and gentleness to the words. But along with the laughter comes realization of the truth of that old saying:

There's many a true word spoken in jest.

Downhill Skier

For sale:

*One goggle with elastic round the ears,
Stained with perspiration and with tears,
One photo of beginners' class, grouped,
And one bobble hat - drooped.*

*Photographs of mountains and of snow,
Of people that I didn't get to know,
Me laughing in the snow and waving mitt,
Pretending to be glad. A hypocrite.*

*One salopette, elasticated calf,
One cartilage in kneecap, torn in half,
One book of useful phrases learned for days,
And ridiculed by Frenchmen in cafés,*

*One lift map showing type: drag, T-bar, chair,
With length of queue anticipated there,
In agonising detail I recall,
How surely I fell screaming from them all.*

*One postcard showing icy mountain range,
One bruise, the shape of hotel key and change,
Tears of humiliation hotly dabbed,
And voodoo doll of ski instructor, stabbed.*

*For sale, one skiing jacket, hardly worn,
Suitable for up the Matterhorn,
Excellent condition, perfect fit,
Retirement sale. Owner forced to quit.*

*From Surgically Enhanced by
Pam Ayres*



February 2011

The Chaplain Writes

In the Bleak Mid-Winter??

The Lord has a sense of humour. Recent evidence: At none of the four Carol Services this past December and indeed at none of the three Christmas services did we sing the well-known (and a bit melancholy) carols *In the bleak mid-winter* or *See amid the winter's snow*.

And of course, it snowed. In abundance. The Lord has a sense of humour.

I've always been bemused by the meteorological anachronisms in these two Victorian carols, however much I appreciate the lyricists' effort to relate the incarnation in terms understood by their culture. The baby Jesus was not born in the bleak mid-winter, and there was no snow in Bethlehem that year. Still, the poetic licence of *See amid* writer Edward Caswall (1814-1878) and *In the bleak* lyricist Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) clearly struck a chord with English Christians in the 19th century, and still does today. That, of course, is the most important thing, however odd it may seem to sing these carols when December is balmy.

Though the Lord has a sense of humour, many may not have appreciated this example of it, as December's snow and ice made travel treacherous, and so tested the resolve to come together for fellowship and worship. The increased darkness and slippery conditions reduced mobility. Ever since we lived in Switzerland, Coretta and I have invested in winter tyres, and I also like to visit people by train, so my own pastoral work and worship involvement was not hindered. But I have seen how isolating and disabling the wintry conditions can be for many of others of us. A week or so ago, I was never happier to see rain – warm, wet rain, to dissolve the snow and ice. Who'd have thought: happy to see rain in the Netherlands!



Twente News

Soon No Longer Cold Feet at Services in St Mary's Chapel

DIEPENHEIM – The parishioners of the Anglican church will soon be snug and warm at St Mary's Chapel on the Weldam Estate. Estate workers are currently installing a new floor with under-floor heating. According to Jan Zandvoort, the Weldam Estate manager,

the present radiation heating no longer works very well. Pointing to the heater still hanging from the chapel ceiling, he adds, "Not only is that out of place here, it also makes a lot of unwelcome noise during the services."

The new system is being installed in what used to be the coal cellar. Warm air will be circulated through a series of pipes and emitted through gratings in the floor. "It will then be far more pleasant here," says Jan Zandvoort.

St Mary's Chapel dates back to 1900 and is built in the English Cottage style. Since 1979 the chapel has been used every week by the (English-speaking) community in the East Netherlands. As the chapel was designed by an English architect, visitors to the service feel quite at home.

In addition to the heating, a new wooden floor made from trees from the Weldam estate is also being installed in the chapel. "Planks have been sawn from several hefty pine trees that were felled and laid in water for a year," explains Jan Zandvoort. "The church pews, which are now in storage, will be sanded and re-varnished, and the tiled floor by the entrance will be re-laid. The chapel is in reasonable condition. We only have to replace some glass occasionally and do a bit of painting."

The Anglican church is temporarily holding its services in the Weldam Hunting Lodge. According to Church Warden Everhard Ottens, the first service held in the hunting lodge last weekend went off well.

"The hunting lodge was quite full, with the 51-strong congregation packed more closely together than usual. It was cosy and cheerful and most people were enthusiastic about the temporary venue."

We've all been there!

Sandra was out driving and, while stopped at a red light, the car just died. It was a busy intersection, and the traffic behind her starting growing. The man in the car directly behind her started beeping his horn continuously as Sandra struggled to get her car going again. Finally Sandra got out of her car and approached the man in the car behind her. "I can't get my car started," she said smiling. "Would you be so kind as to see if you can do it? While you try, I'll stay here in your car and beep your horn for you."

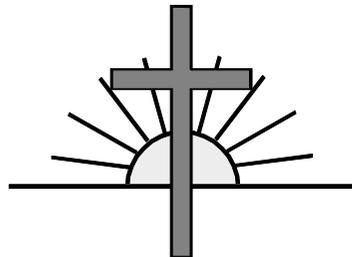
Missing

Mother: "Bobby, last night I put two apples in this cupboard and now there is only one. How do you explain that?"
Bobby: "I expect it was so dark I couldn't see the other one."



A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

On 18 February 1678, one of the most famous Christian books was published for the first time. It was *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. The book tells the story of a character called Christian who travels towards the heavenly city, encountering a host of difficulties and getting led astray, but finally succeeding.



John Bunyan suffered many difficulties in his own life. He was put in prison twice because he refused to stop preaching God's word. His strength of purpose and the story of a pilgrim's journey through the troubles of life have been a source of strength to many people in the years since the book was published.

BIBLE WORDS

Can you find all the answers to this Bible Quiz? All the words begin with the letter **P**.

1. Andrew's brother, one of the disciples.
2. Another name for a king of Egypt.
3. A tribe who fought Saul and David (2 Samuel).
4. The first place in Europe where Paul established a church (Acts 16).
5. The island where St John had his revelations.
6. She travelled with St Paul and was married to Aquila (Acts 18).
7. The Italian port where Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28).
8. The Roman Governor who set Barabbas free (Matthew 27).

NEWSFLASH:

Two prisoners escaped from custody today. One is 7 feet tall, the other is 4 feet 3 inches. The Police are looking high and low for them.

Answers: 1 Peter 2 Pharaoh 3 Philistines
4 Philippi 5 Patmos 6 Priscilla 7 Puteoli
8 Pontius Pilate

(Source: Parish Pump)



(continued from page 13)

Lost ... and Found

The Rabbi's Son

A Jewish father was troubled by the way his son had turned out, and went to see his rabbi about it. "I brought him up in the faith, gave him a very expensive bar mitzvah, and spent a fortune on educating him. Then he tells me last week he has decided to be a Christian! Rabbi, where did I go wrong?"

"Funny you should say that," said the rabbi. "Like you, I too brought my boy up in the faith, put him through university, in fact spent a fortune on his upbringing, and then one day he too tells me he has decided to become a Christian."

"What did you do?" asked the father. "I turned to God for the answer," replied the rabbi.

"And what did he say?" pressed the father.

"He said, 'Funny you should say that ...'"
— J. John and Mark Sibbe (Box of Delights)

A few months later, a stranger from a little distance away called on the pastor. He wanted to be baptized. Startled, the pastor asked why his own church had not baptized him. "There are no Christians and no church in my village," said the man. "But I have read my Bible and I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and I want to be baptized and follow him."

The pastor was astonished. "If you know no Christians, how did you even get hold of a Bible?"

The man paused. "You aren't going to believe this," he said, "but God sent it to me direct. Some months ago I was working as a builder near a railway track when, as the train went by, a book came flying out the window and landed in the dust near to me. It was a Bible! I started to read it out of curiosity, and then I could not put it down. Through it I have found God."



The pastor had no trouble in believing that a Bible had flown out of a train window. He rejoiced that it had landed at the man's feet. He baptized the man, who returned to his village brimming with enthusiasm. He shared his faith with his neighbours. Soon a little group of believers was formed, and began to grow. And all because of a thrown-away Bible. The atheist on the train would have been mortified to find out that he had planted a church.

(Source: Parish Pump. This story was told by Brother Andrew (Anne "Andrew" van der Bijl, born 11 May 1928 in Sint Pancras, Netherlands), who smuggled bibles to communist countries during the Cold War, thereby earning the nickname "God's smuggler".)



"We're particularly happy that the chapel is being renovated. This is the second severe winter in succession and as the old heating system was inadequate, all those attending the service had to be very well insulated," says Ottens. "What's more, the blower made a great deal of noise."

The first service in the renovated chapel will be held at the beginning of March.

(Source: Tubantia 21-1-2011 (translated into English). Original text with photo can be seen on the notice board.)

Hunting Lodge: Second Service

Many people gathered together on 23 January to celebrate Covenant Sunday, a special service with a special prayer that enabled them to renew their Covenant: ... *Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so forever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.*

After the service, there was the opportunity to congratulate Wim Veltman, both personally and in time-honoured musical fashion, on his 90th birthday, which he had celebrated the previous day with family and friends. We were then very happy to welcome Christina, grand-daughter of Maureen van der Heide, who gave a multimedia presentation on her work on a project in Nepal. Many thanks to Christina for giving us the chance to share in her experiences.

So a remarkable morning, made even more so by the presence of Dr Sjoerd Bonting, who had undergone a serious operation earlier in the week but was happily back among us again in record time.



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.

Sure Prognosis

"Doctor," said the worried woman, "I'd like you to evaluate my 13 year-old son."

"OK. He's suffering from a transient psychosis with intermittent rage disorder, punctuated by episodic radical mood swings, but his prognosis is excellent for a full recovery."

"How can you say all that without even meeting him?"

"I thought you said he's 13."

Keep It Simple

A reporter was interviewing a local millionaire for his newspaper: "Sir, you have made a considerable fortune over the years. How did you actually manage to do this?"

"Well," answered the millionaire, "I went into the carrier pigeon business."

"Carrier pigeons!" exclaimed the reporter. "That's really amazing! How many did you sell?" "Oh," replied the pigeon magnate, "I only sold one, but he just kept coming back."

An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly!

— Gene Perret

Snow

Since it's been snowing
all my wife has done is
gaze through the window
... .. If this carries on,
I'm going to have to let
her in.

Eye Test

Count every F in the
following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE
RESULT OF YEARS OF
SCIENTIFIC STUDY
COMBINED WITH THE
EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.



How many? Wrong,
there are 6 – no joke. The
reasoning behind this is
that the brain cannot
process “OF”. Incredible
or what? Go back and
look again! Anyone who
counts all 6 Fs on the
first go is a genius. Three
is normal, four quite rare.

Reflections

One of the many notable
contributors to the BBC
Radio 4 programme
Thought for the Day,
Rabbi Lionel Blue man-
ages to bring a touch of
both humour and reflec-
tion to his listeners – all
in the space of two and
half minutes.

“Like most people, I’m
not cut out for instant
sanctity. I fall down in
life, pick myself up, fall
down again, and pick
myself up again.”

(Continued from page 1)

December brought home the words of Christina
Rossetti, as never before:

*In the bleak mid-winter/ frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, / water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, / snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter / long ago.*

Regardless how one feels about the rest of Rossetti’s
carol, the final verse is undeniably powerful, for the
gentle yet direct way it invites us to offer something
of ourselves in honour of the birth of Christ:

*What can I give him, / poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd / I would give a lamb,
if I were a wise man / I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - / give my heart.*

The beginning of a New Year is a time when we
reflect on our goals, and also on our plans for our
use of time, talents and treasure in the following 12
months.

We did get a chance to sing *In the bleak mid-winter*
at worship on Epiphany Sunday, to begin the year.
The winter weather was still with us, so the choice
seemed doubly appropriate. So we sang again
Christina Rossetti’s hauntingly simple question:
“What can I give Him?”

We cannot be everywhere and do everything we
want to in this life. We are limited by the constraints
of time and place and our own physicality. (And
winter slows all of us down!) But God has given each
and every one of us the gift of time, the gift of talent
and the gift of some degree of material sustenance.

What can we give Him this year?

For a start: our hearts. Everything else
follows, in the right place and time.

Yours in Christ,
Sam Van Leer



Vandals Axe Holy Thorn Tree

LONDON – The British police have instigated a
search for vandals who have chopped down a cen-
turies-old hawthorn. The sacred hawthorn of Glas-
tonbury has been revered for centuries by Chris-
tians, but all that remains of the tree now is a two-
metre-high stump.

According to the mayor of Glastonbury, John Coles,
The violation took place after a sprig was cut from
the tree for presentation to Queen Elizabeth in a
ceremony on Thursday. He thinks that the defiling
of the hawthorn came as a reaction to the cere-
mony, which was broadcast on local television.

According to legend, the hawthorn sprouted from a
tree that was planted by Joseph of Arimathea – the
merchant who, the Bible tells us, donated his own
tomb for the burial of Jesus – when he came to
Great Britain 2,000 years ago.

(Article appeared in Dagblad Tubantia on 11
December 2010; contributed by Sarah
Zweers and translated into English)



The Train Journey

Some years ago a pastor was travelling by train in
the Soviet Union. He got talking to the man shar-
ing his compartment, and soon the conversation
turned to God. The pastor listened patiently as the
other man extolled the logic of atheism and
mocked his faith in God. When the pastor tried to
talk about Jesus, the atheist grew very angry. The
pastor then left the compartment for a few min-
utes, and on his return found that his Bible was
missing. The atheist was just closing the window.
The pastor was deeply hurt to lose his Bible, and
the journey concluded in stony silence.

(continued on page 14)

Miraculous Bloom

The Glastonbury Holy
Thorn tree is said to be
descended from the mi-
raculous hawthorn
planted by Joseph of
Arimathea 2,000 years
ago after reaching land-
fall in England. Accord-
ing to legend, he and his
party landed on the coast
a mile or so away and
trudged to the hill that
has since rejoiced in the
name Wearvall Hill. St
Joseph thrust his staff, a
dried hawthorn branch
that once belonged to
Jesus, into the ground
and the staff miracu-
lously grew into a tree. It
also miraculously blooms
twice a year, once in the
spring and once at Christ-
mas. Strangely enough,
trees grown from seeds
and planted cuttings of
the Holy Thorn do not
bloom twice a year, but
those propagated by
grafting do.

Seen as a symbol of Ro-
man Catholic supersti-
tion, the tree was cut
down and burned by
Cromwell’s Roundheads
during the English Civil
War, but its roots and
propagated cuttings were
faithfully preserved in
secret to ensure it would
continue to live on in its
descendants.





(Continued from page 11)

television producer of the widely-popular series *Kerkepad* approached Count Alfred Solms and invited him, and the English-speaking congregation attending services in his delightful little chapel in the woods, to take part in the programme. Never before had so many people descended on Diepenheim as they did on those two Saturdays in August, and *Engelse Vesperdienst* was held in the chapel on both evenings, with a queue of folk waiting at the door well before the services started. The programme was televised on Sunday 9 August at 7.45 pm. The whole event was a great success and the weather was just perfect. Previous days had been wet and dreary and we feared that the field chosen to be used as a car park was waterlogged. But Count Solms, ever the optimist, told us not to worry, that he would have a tractor on hand to tow out anyone in trouble. In fact, the sun shone brightly on both Saturdays and the car park was as dry as a bone. And that amazing event not only improved the church's financial situation, but it also resulted in attracting people from further afield to join our congregation.



Not long after that momentous occasion, we had another – the Service of Dedication of St Mary the Virgin, Weldam, on 20 September 1987, with the Right Reverend Bishop Edward Holland, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe officiating. Now that was a wonderful day too.

Well, these are just a few of my many memories of our time at Weldam – although I could go on for pages (!).

Gentle Thoughts for Today

Birds of a feather flock together ... and then spatter your car.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

He who hesitates is probably right.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble..

Did you ever notice: When you put the two words *The* and *IRS* together, it spells *Theirs*.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

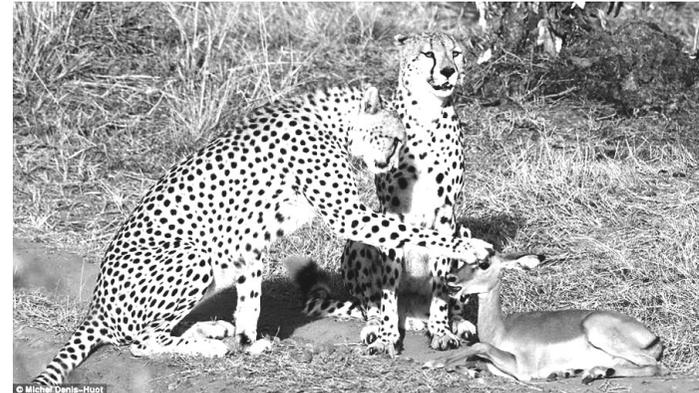
Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Contributed by Blair Charles

The Law of The Wild

... says kill only when you are hungry. Photographer Michel Denis-Huot captured this amazing picture of a young impala with cheetahs on safari in Kenya's Masai Mara.



The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:6

Key Dates

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 28 February | Twente Council Meeting |
| 9 March | Ash Wednesday |
| 27 March | Twente AGM |
| 3 April | Mothering Sunday |
| 17 April | Palm Sunday |
| 24 April | Easter Sunday |
| 2 June | Ascension Day |



Another date of interest: On 2 February, Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, received an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University of Leuven in recognition of his services as a public theologian and international church leader.

Repentance, for me, doesn't mean wringing my hands but learning a bit more about my soul and the world every time I fall down. Here are some sayings I learned from my teachers to help me spot real religion – I pass them on to you:

Guide yourself by the stars, but don't think you'll land on them.

A righteous person looks after his own soul and other people's bodies. A hypocrite looks after his own body and other people's souls.

Beware of perfectionism – just try to do a little bit better each day. Small things will get you into the habit of goodness and that's the surest way to heaven.

And be warned by this minister who had to sit in a train next to a drunk reading a newspaper. 'What's gout?' the drunk suddenly shouted. The minister saw his chance for a quick conversion. 'Gout', he said, 'is a disease brought on by booze, gluttony and sex.' 'Well,' said the drunk, 'it says here that the bishop's got it.'"

Adapted from *The Godseeker's Guide by Rabbi Blue*

Just the Ticket

A young man, Jimmy, moved to the country and bought a donkey from an old farmer for £100. The farmer agreed to deliver it the next day but when he drove up, he said, "Sorry son, but I've got some bad news. The donkey has died."

"Oh well," said Jimmy, "just give me my money back."

"I'm sorry," answered the farmer, "but I'm afraid I've spent it already."

"In that case, unload the dead donkey," came the reply.

"But what on earth are you going to do with a dead donkey," asked the farmer.

"I'm going to raffle him off."

Amazed, the farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"

"Sure I can. Just watch me. I won't tell anybody he's dead," said Jimmy. A month later, the farmer met up with Jimmy and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

"I raffled him off," explained Jimmy. "I sold 500 tickets at £2 each and made a profit of £898."

"Didn't anyone complain," asked the farmer.

St James the Least of All

On how to deal with your church's correspondence

My dear Nephew Darren,



You may have had several years of intensive training on biblical interpretation, preaching and church history, but theological courses never seem to cover the most important matters in parish life: how to evade disgruntled parishioners, run a tight jumble sale and, in your case at the moment, deal with correspondence.

The accepted practice is to read all the letters you receive and then discard them. If the matter is truly important, you will receive a second one, to which you respond; more likely, the sender will either have forgotten all about his first letter after the second month or will write to some other cleric instead. In either case, you will be saved a great deal of trouble.

You only need two folders for your filing system. The first is for complaints; they are to be filed and ignored, no matter how many duplicates you are sent. Should you be confronted personally, you simply say that the matter has been passed on to the bishop. Those truly dogged complainants who pursue the matter will eventually receive an episcopal reply saying he knows nothing of the matter, for which you then blame the postal system. After letters have ricocheted round the country for many months, the person complaining will either have lost energy to pursue the matter, or the will to live.

The second file receives all other correspondence chronologically. The earliest letters will be at the bottom of the pile and the most recent on the top. In

Memories of St Mary's

Maureen Underwood

Yes, John was on St Mary's Church Council) for a number of years and he studied for lay-readership. During the interregnum (when Professor Bonting left us and went to the USA) John and John Tugwood took it in turn to lead the services. As for me, well, I too was a member of the Church Council and was Secretary for eleven years.

We were involved with St Mary's from the start, when the Anglican Church Twente was initiated at the beginning of 1979 in response to the needs of the growing number of English-speaking people engaged in industry in the area. During the early part of that year, services were held in the St Lambertus Church in Hengelo, which, although central, proved to be far too large a building for such a small community as that of the Anglican Church Twente. One of its members, Count Alfred Solms, generously offered the Church the use of the delightful chapel on his Weldam Castle estate in Diepenheim, and the first service was held there on 19 August 1979.

In those very early days, we were extremely lucky to have the support of Professor Bonting, who was willing to give us Communion once a month. When he left, to further his career with NASA in California, our small congregation had to work very hard to try and scrape enough money together in order to fund the costs of a permanent chaplain. After numerous letters of plea to Church House in London, we managed to catch the eye of the then Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, and eventually got the support we needed from the Intercontinental Church Society.

St Mary's moment of fame came in 1987, when the

(Continued on page 12)

of making God's word speak afresh to that person.

In one handwritten Bible project in Portugal, the main organizer, Alfredo, decided that he ought to do some of the writing himself. Worn out by all the activity, he sat at the table and picked up the pen. He read the words that he was supposed to copy out – "Come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest" – and burst into tears. Alfredo looked up at the woman supervising the writing and she simply said, "It's OK, it happens all the time."

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the *King James Bible* (Source: *Parish Pump*)

Let Nothing Disturb Thee

Let nothing disturb thee,
nothing affright thee;
All things are passing;
God never changeth;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth.



– St Teresa of Avila

The Year of the Bible

For centuries, the only way of making a copy of the Bible was to do it by hand. Men and women copied Scripture one verse at a time. It was backbreaking work sitting on a stool hunched over a tiny desk day after day, but also a labour of love. It could take up to five years to produce a single Bible, and if a mistake was made then the whole page would have to be recopied. Then in the 15th century the printing press arrived and what had previously taken years could be achieved in a fraction of the time.

But now across the world, people are rediscovering the power and impact of the handwritten word. The physical act of writing gives the person time and space to think about the words that they are committing to paper and to reflect on what place the Scriptures have in their lives. It is a way



Grateful that he was part of our lives, it is with deep sadness that I inform you of the death of my dearest, beloved husband, cherished father of Lindsey and Simon, dear brother of Eric, Sheila and Dorothy and friend of many,

(Cecil) John Underwood

Born at Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent died at Norwich, Norfolk
on 26th March 1935 on 12th December 2010

The funeral, in the form of Requiem Mass, took place at St Andrew's Church, Holt, Norfolk on Monday 20th December 2010 at 2 pm, followed by interment in the churchyard.

Donations in memory of John are to be divided between
the Alzheimer's Society, North Norfolk Branch
and St Andrew's Church, Holt, Funds

Maureen Underwood

Correspondence address:
9 Rowan Way, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6TZ, England

As we gathered together in St Mary's Chapel for worship on the first Sunday of the New Year, we were greatly saddened to learn that John Underwood had passed away just before Christmas. John and his wife, Maureen, were stalwart members of our church community, not only in the early days but over many years, serving faithfully in many capacities – in fact wherever they were most needed! We really appreciate it that, during this difficult period, Maureen has been willing to put fingers to keyboard and recall their time in Twente, no doubt rekindling memories of the older members of our congregation while giving newer members some interesting glimpses into the history of the Anglican community at Weldam.

my experience, this file only needs attention when it reaches a height of about two feet and becomes unstable. The practice then is to discard the lower six inches and allow it to continue its steady growth until the process is repeated. If the stack is kept in the church vestry, then mice usually attend to the papers on the bottom of the pile in their own omnivorous way.



Sadly, your own church, with its electronic systems for filing, sorting and retrieving correspondence and with its parish secretaries, removes all of these blessings at a stroke. You have therefore no excuses for not dealing instantly with every note that comes your way. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

May I also remind you that not even St Paul, that unflagging letter-writer, ever ended one of his letters with a request for a prompt reply. Need I say more?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

©The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

©Bible Gateway www.reverendfuncom



I'm sorry sir, but you'll have to pay €25 for the second bag or I can't let you board ... Ark policy.

"Just the guy who won," said Jimmy. "So I gave him his £2 back."

Safety in Numbers?

Mike picked up the phone. "Hi, Mike, I'm calling you from the motorway on my new cell phone," came his wife's voice. "Be careful Julie," said Mike. "They just said on the radio that there's a nut driving the wrong way on the motorway." "Only one nut?" queried Julie. "No kidding, there are hundreds of them!"

Judgement

A judge calls the counsel for the prosecution and the counsel for the defence into his chambers. He says, "The reason we're here is that you have both given me a bribe." The two lawyers squirm in their seats. "You, David, have given me £10,000 and you, Richard, have given me £5,000," continues the judge. Handing a cheque for £5,000 to David, he says, "Now you're even, and I'm going to decide this case solely on its merits."

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Sam Van Leer |
| HUNTING LODGE | Duty Warden | Joyce Wigboldus |
| Fifth Sunday before Lent (Proper 1) | Intercessor | t.b.a |
| 10:30 am All Age Service and Holy Communion | First Reading t.b.a. | Isaiah 58:1-9a |
| | Second Reading t.b.a. | 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 5:13-20 |

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| 13th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Sam Van Leer |
| HUNTING LODGE | Duty Warden | Caroline Siertsema |
| Fourth Sunday before Lent (Proper 2) | Intercessor | Simone Yallop |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | First Reading Pauline Talstra | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 |
| | Second Reading Philippa te West | 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 5:21-37 |

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| 20th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Sam Van Leer |
| HUNTING LODGE | Duty Warden | Joyce Wigboldus |
| Third Sunday before Lent (Proper 3) | Intercessor | Joy Romeijn |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | First Reading Joyce Wigboldus | Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 |
| | Second Reading Simone Yallop | 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 5:38-48 |

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| 27th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Sam Van Leer |
| HUNTING LODGE | Duty Warden | Caroline Siertsema |
| Second Sunday before Lent | Intercessor | Caroline Siertsema |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | First Reading Linda ten Berge | Genesis 1:1-2.3 |
| | Second Reading Arthur Cass | Romans 8:18-25 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 6:25-34 |

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| 6th March | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Sam Van Leer |
| HUNTING * LODGE | Duty Warden | Everhard Ottens |
| Last Sunday Before Lent | Intercessor | Pauline Talstra |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | First Reading Janice Collins | Exodus 24:12-18 |
| | Second Reading Arjen Haffmans | 2 Peter 1:16-21 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 17:1-9 |

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| 9th March | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen |
| HUNTING * LODGE | Duty Warden | Joyce Wigboldus |
| Ash Wednesday | Intercessor | t.b.a |
| 20:00 hrs Ministrations of Ashes and Eucharist | First Reading t.b.a. | Psalms 51:1-18 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 OR John 8:1-11 |

*or St Mary's Chapel, pending completion of renovations