



Flowers of Love

*"Why are they selling poppies, mummy,
Selling poppies in town today?"*

*"The poppies, child, are flowers of love
For the men who marched away."*

*"But why have they chosen a poppy,
mummy,*

Why not a beautiful rose?"

*"Because, my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppy grows."*

*"But why are the poppies red, mummy,
Why are the poppies so red?"*

*"Red is the colour of blood, my child,
The blood our soldiers shed."*

*"The heart of the poppy is black,
mummy,*

Why does it have to be black?"

*"Black, my child, is the symbol of grief
For the men who never came back."*

*"But why, mummy, are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain."*

*"My tears are my fears for you, my
child,*

For the world is - FORGETTING AGAIN."



This poem was contributed by Maureen van der Heide, a regular reader of the quarterly magazine *This England*.

The poem was published in the Autumn 2005 issue and was sent in by Diana Groves of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, who was hoping to discover the name of the writer.



A Churchwarden Writes

Arrival of Advent

In the 10th-century Old English poem *The Wanderer*, the poet laments his lot now that he has to lead the life of an outcast in a hostile world. What good remains for him is the memory of the time when his Lord was still around, when he and his fellow warriors made merry in the hall in winter, safe from the elements outside, in the bosom of the community to which he belonged. His most coveted memory is the shared cup of beer (in fact a cow's horn of mead), an interesting mix of Germanic and Christian elements. He is in search of a new Lord but realizes that it is easier to lose one than to find a new one who will have him, because he is an unknown quantity for whom a new Lord will be reluctant to take responsibility.

In our individualized world, we can become wanderers too, yearning for belonging, which we sometimes find temporarily when we unite with strangers in common grief or joy, for instance when celebrities die (Princess Diana) and at sports events.

This time of year especially, with All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, brings home to us how much we need one another in our vulnerability and brokenness. That is why we come together on these occasions, to give voice to this need and go through the motions of well-known and cherished rituals to affirm that we are not alone. We are blessed as members of a Christian community, where we realize the importance of fellowship and where we strive to look out for each other. But it is also our Christian duty to reach out to others who we come across in our daily lives, to at least make the little gestures that can mean so much.

Every year again, the arrival of Advent makes us aware that we may hope for something big; that once more we can celebrate the



Twente News

Harvest Sunday

After the service on 25 September, the harvest offerings were carried to the Hut and were sold to replenish the coffers of the Flower Guild. And replenished they were ... by the substantial sum of €137!

The Guild is also seeking some physical replenishment. So if you feel you would like to join the group, please contact Linda ten Berge. You will receive a warm welcome.

Night Work

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his torch around, looking for valuables, when a voice in the



dark said, "Our guardian Angel knows you're here." He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his torch off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, after a bit he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Our guardian Angel is watching you." Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his torch beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that?" he

Council Meeting

The following issues were among those discussed at the meeting held on 15 October 2011.

Coffee

We all enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and the fellowship in the Hut after the service. Recently the price of coffee has gone up and the costs are no longer covered by the one euro that we pay for our cup of coffee. We do not want to put up the price of a cup of coffee because it is the fellowship that is important. We would just like to remind those who sometimes forget, to remember to pay for their coffee. For those who can put in a little more, that would be most welcome. Please do not feel any obligation here because, as already said, the fellowship is much more important than covering the cost of the coffee.

Vacancy process

In the weekend of 24 and 25 September we were visited by the Revd Canon Ambrose Mason, chairman of the ICS. On the Saturday afternoon the joint councils of Arnhem-Nijmegen and Twente had a very good meeting with Ambrose at the home of our Warden Joyce Wigboldus. We were given the opportunity to ask Ambrose all kinds of questions and were given a lot of information in return. On the Sunday Ambrose attended the services at St Mary's, Weldam, and at St Willibrod's, Arnhem. When Ambrose left he had re-

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



East Netherlands

Priest

ICS is looking for a Priest to serve the East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies which serve a widely dispersed community with three centres of worship in Arnhem, Nijmegen and Twente (Goor) each committed to spiritual and numerical growth.

If you would like to live and minister in the beautiful and accessible East Netherlands and are:-

- at ease with liturgical breadth and comfortable with an inclusive pastoral model
- happy to work in traditional church style as well as to explore new possibilities
- committed to inspiring and leading God's people in mission
- comfortable with a broad mix of people
- keen to work ecumenically
- well organised
- a good communicator
- willing to learn Dutch

For a full information pack contact: Jeannette Skuse, ICS, 1 Athena Drive, Tachbrook Park, Warwick CV34 6NL United Kingdom. E-mail: ajskuse@ics-uk.org; tel: 01926 – 430 347; fax: 01926 – 888 092; IDD code: +44 1926 – ; web: www.ics-uk.org

Appropriate support package (to include full stipend) will be tailored to successful applicant.

Closing date for applications: 30 Nov 2011. Interviews: 15 Dec 2011.



**INTERCONTINENTAL
CHURCH SOCIETY**



REMEMBRANCE: Cenotaph

Every year, on Remembrance Sunday, the television shows pictures of the Queen, politicians and those who have served in the armed forces at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. They stand in silence for two minutes to honour those who have given their lives for others.

But do you know what the word *cenotaph* means? It comes from two Greek words: *kenos* meaning empty and *taphos*, which is a tomb. The cenotaph is a monument to people whose bodies are somewhere else. Have you ever seen a war cemetery? They have rows and rows of simple tombstones and, while there are flowers and the grass is carefully mown, there is such a sense of sadness.

The Cenotaph was unveiled in 1920, the same year that the body of an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey. So many people have had their lives taken in wars and each one matters, not just to their families, or us, but to God.

Work it out?

(1) The drawer where you keep your socks has five pairs of grey socks and five pairs of black socks. If you can only take one sock from the drawer at a time and you can't see what colour sock you're taking until you've taken it, how many socks do you have to take before you know you will have at least one matching pair to wear to school?



(2) A girl lives in a bungalow. Everything in her home is pink. The lamp is pink, the bed is pink, the television is pink, the computer is pink, the mirror is pink, the kitchen is pink, the windows are pink, even the plants are pink. What colour are the stairs?

Answers to Puzzles

(1): Three. At worst, the first two socks you take out will be one black sock and one grey sock. The next sock you take out will match one or the other.

(2) There are no stairs – it is a bungalow.
(Source: Parish Pump)



EXASPERATED FATHER: "When Winston Churchill was your age he worked hard all day and studied his books at night."
TEENAGE SON: "Yes, and when he was your age he was Prime Minister."

ceived a lot of impressions of who we are and what we do here in the East Netherlands. A couple of weeks later Ambrose produced the advert for a new chaplain for the East Netherlands (see page 19). Advertising has now started. The advert is now on the ICS website <http://ics-uk.org/work/vacancies.shtml>. With regard to newspapers, the advert will be placed in the *Church Times* and *Church of England Newspaper* on 4 and 11 November and in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* on Friday 4 November. The advert will also appear on the Diocesan website and on the Church of England's Clergy Appointment's Advisor website. The closing date for applications is 30 November and the interviews will take place at the ICS office in Warwick on 15 December. We will be represented at the interviews by Joyce Wigboldus for Twente and Monique Wardle for Arnhem-Nijmegen.
Simone Yallop

Key Dates

13 November	Remembrance Sunday*
11 December	Carol Service followed by Christmas Market
13-18 December	Middachten Christmas Market: 13-15 & 18: 11:00-19:00 hrs 16 & 17: 11:00-20:00 hrs
24 December	Christmas Eve Eucharist 22:30
25 December	Christmas Day Eucharist 10:30

* As last year, the collection on Remembrance Sunday is to go to the Royal British Legion.



Intercessions

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

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

hissed at the parrot. "Yep," the parrot confessed, and then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you that he's watching you." The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?" "Cherub," replied the bird. "Cherub?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Cherub?" "The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Angel," retorted the parrot.

Washout

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his T-shirt. After he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?" "It depends," I replied. "What does it say on your shirt?" After a pause, he yelled back, "University of Portsmouth." And they say blondes are dumb ...

Quick March

Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way when you criticize them you're a safe distance away AND you have their shoes.

Ever Wondered Why ...

Supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

People order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke

Banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

We leave cars worth thousands of pounds in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage.

Women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

You never see the headline *Psychic Wins Lottery*.

Lemon juice is made with artificial flavouring, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons.

The man who invests all your money is called a broker.

The time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour.

They are called apartments when they are all stuck together?

(Continued from page 1)

light that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, has brought into the world; that even in bleak midwinter we are invited to belong to the community of Christ. We do not have to go out looking for a Lord. He has come to find us. And all are welcome.

Everhard Ottens

Archdeaconry of North West Europe

Pre-Lent Retreat

17 February – 19 February 2012

Bezinningscentrum Emmaus
Udenhoutseweg 15, 5268 CG Helvoirt
www.conferentieoord-emmaus.nl

Conductor: Reverend Canon Jeremy Haselock
Precentor of Norwich Cathedral

Information: Mrs M.P. Jägers
tel: 0031(0)30-6371780;
email: maryon.jagers@planet.nl

www.holytrinityutrecht.nl



Contributed by Nicole Zonnebeld

group of ladies attending the church – but quite a lot was made by Mrs Joyce Chesmond (who sadly died this summer). Joyce continued to run the jam stall for many, many years, faithfully producing a table full of a variety of jams, chutneys and curds, the like of which you will never see again. Joyce did this three times a year: for the Garden Open Day, the Autumn Fair and the Christmas Fayre, and the jars were always beautifully decorated, with flowered tops in all the hues under the rainbow. Quite a feat, for which St Mary's Chapel should be very grateful. There were also a few tables and chairs where the visitors could rest and have a cup of tea and a piece of fruit cake. If there was anything else ... well, we couldn't remember it.



Who came to support us? Well, we remembered families, friends, colleagues, contacts – as well as complete strangers just passing by! Certainly more people came than we could have hoped for, and they spent a considerable amount of money too, as well as having fun. How much was made we couldn't recall either, but it was a success. Maybe the treasurer or secretary can look in the old minutes to find the total.

This, then, is how it all began, we reminisced. Who would have thought that these humble beginnings started a tradition that has continued to 2011 and is now held in the grand setting of Weldam Castle gardens. We said, "Well done to all who have made it all possible over the years. Long may the tradition last!"

Brenda M. Pyle, Ruurlo

Your number, God, is the only one
That answers every time.

I never get a busy signal,
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God,
for listening
To my troubles and my sorrow.

Goodnight, God, I love You, too,
And I'll call again tomorrow!

Contributed by Annet Brill

International Day of Prayer

More than 25 pastors are killed in Colombia every year, simply because they lead churches. Currently there are over 2,000 Christians in prison in Eritrea, just because they're Christians. And in Iran there's a stifling climate of fear among Christians, as they're routinely arrested for no reason other than their faith. For these and millions of other Christians in the Persecuted Church, Christians across the world are being invited to unite in prayer on the 6th November (www.csw.org.uk/pray.htm).



Direct Line

Hello God, I called tonight
 To talk a little while
 I need a friend who'll listen
 To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it
 Through a day just on my own ...
 I need your love to guide me,
 So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep
 My family safe and sound.
 Come fill their lives with confidence
 For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face
 Each hour throughout the day,
 And not to worry over things
 I can't change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home
 And listening to my call,
 For giving me such good advice
 When I stumble and I fall.

The First Autumn Fair: Reminiscences!

Wandering around the Autumn Fair in September, I was inwardly thinking about when the first fair took place. It was quite some years ago and was held in the large front garden of my former home at Twistveenweg 3 in Vroomshoop.

Recently I spent a long weekend in the UK visiting Dianne and Brian Lynch in their country home in Ashprington, Devon. Together with Dr Bonting, Dianne and Brian set up the Anglican Church Twente. In fact the first communion was served from their kitchen table to a small gathering of interested persons in 1978.

Discussing the foundation of the Anglican Church Twente with Dianne and Brian, we remembered that it was decided to hold the first Autumn Fair in early September 1979. We didn't seem to worry about whether it would be successful; we were just going to do it as they did in England and thought it would all be okay. We set up various tables on the large front lawn and a variety of games for the children. There was a treasure hunt map to stick your flag in; a bucket of water with a guilder in the bottom, with a large collection of pennies to throw in to try and cover the guilder; and a game of quoits on the driveway. On one of the tables we had a selection of second-hand English books and magazines – still difficult to get here at that time. There was also a table with a small selection of home-baked cakes, which sold out very quickly, we remembered. We had a wheelbarrow of home-grown potatoes, which you bagged up yourself when buying them. On another table we had a selection of homemade jams and chutneys supplied by the small



My Santia-GO Pilgrimage

"Santia-GO" is our rallying call as we trek along this popular *camino* for seven slow but sweet days in the province of Galicia. My husband and I started walking in Samos since we don't have the required 32 days to follow the whole French Trail. However, we are feeling satisfied with our choices and experiences as we enthusiastically wind our way to the famous Santiago de Compostela (translates to "camp of stars" in Latin) Cathedral in northwestern Spain.



For a thousand years (a rough calculation), El Camino has been travelled by saints, sinners, kings and serfs with the intent to find deep spiritual meaning and resolutions in their lives. Speaking for myself, I found "The Way" as a great way to feel the completeness of my spirit, soul and patience while developing a close relationship to my feet! Tragically, some of the peace-finding missions have been derailed, since it has been a scene of great violence. For example, when Charlemagne was campaigning, 20,000 of his troops were ambushed on this ancient road. Needless to say, this was a major set-back to Charlie's plan to unify Europe under Christendom. Fortunately, in this present era, Spain has an extra harsh law if anyone interferes with a pilgrim's progress, making every native helpful.

Our pilgrim's path began after a three-hour bus ride from Santiago airport to picturesque Samos, situated on the gentle Ouribio River. Our Hotel Viego is surrounded by verdant gardens of vegetables, which pleased our palates at only nine euros per plate. Spain's second biggest Benedictine monastery cannot be missed with its impressive old walls and huge church. A jolly old

Children of Israel

In Sunday School one morning Joseph raised his hand to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time. "There's something I can't figure out. According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?" "Right," said his teacher. "And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?" "Er, right." "And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Again you're right." "And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?" "All that is right, too," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question, Joseph?" "Well what were all the grown-ups doing?"

Which Man Won?

Little Charlotte was at her first wedding and was enthralled by the entire ceremony. When it was over, she asked her mother, "Why did the lady change her mind?" "What do you mean?" her mother asked. "Well, she went down the aisle with one man, and came back with another one."

Observations

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Woman Explained by Engineer

To find a woman you need time and money, therefore:



Woman = Time x Money

Time is money so:

Time = Money

Therefore:

Woman = Money x Money

Woman = (Money)²

Money is the root of all problems:

Money = $\sqrt{\text{Problems}}$

Therefore

Woman = $(\sqrt{\text{Problems}})^2$

Woman = Problems

Modern World

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

monk guided us through the halls painted with historical scenes – a good way to see pictures of past events. The courtyard's fountain was shocking, since it is supported by graceful mermaids well-endowed with breasts as big as softballs! After pinching my bum and hugging my breasts, our laughing monk sent us on our way for our exciting but peaceful 142-kilometre pilgrimage.

For seven days, we have walked through forests of fresh-smelling pine trees, ancient knotted oaks and, as we reached lower elevations, rustling eucalyptus stands. We had a fascinating inspection of the extra thick, creased and calloused bark of the cork trees, which I call the "Old Gauchos of the Woods". There are not many wildflowers since it is early August. However, the domesticated flowers like the heavy curtains of bright purple bougainvillea are dramatic drapes falling from the heavy stone walls.

Many of the small Romanesque churches are a joy to enter, since they are all different, with many folk-style motifs and wooden sculptures. The loveliest of churches is Vilar de Donas (near Portos), because it was built in the 14th century by two sisters who became nuns and cared for the travellers' spiritual and medical needs. The finely-depicted Gothic paintings are still bright even after six centuries. Many of these churches had hospitals and cemeteries to serve as the end of the line for sick pilgrims. All were built by the rich buying their tickets to heaven. The useful bridges are especially intriguing to me. Even though their construction is simple, they are so old, set in low verdant valleys while crossing languid rocky rivers. Some of the walkways are only giant stone blocks allowing the creeks to pass between their sides. Their tops are so worn by centuries of foot-traffic that they are shaped like small canals.

Expressions of Church in a Changing Context, CHP, 2004), supported by a large number of Christian organizations and denominations, both in the UK and overseas. Since that time a number of initiatives have been taken, also in the Netherlands, where a working party has been set up (www.christchurch.nl under the heading "Mission in Benelux: Archdeaconry Synod background material"). One of the most significant developments in the past year has been the setting up of a team of translators to make a start on translating some key texts from *Common Worship* into Dutch in accordance with the guidelines of the Liturgical Commission. It is considered an additional help in mixed language services such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and Holy Communion, and is **not** intended to replace English language services. Later, we considered the Dutch situation in small groups and looked at maps and figures on English speaking people – first and second generation – divided over the provinces and the separate towns. An animated discussion followed of how to possibly reorganize resources.

Saturday morning we convened in the Annual Business meeting and then the separate meetings of the Anglican Council for Belgium and the Anglican Council of the Netherlands followed. During this second meeting there was a vote on the setting up of a translation group. All were in favour.

Finally, apart from dealing with a few of the major issues facing the Church of England, we also worshipped together, prayed together, shared opinions and engaged in (sometimes unexpected) discussions. Last but not least we enjoyed great fellowship with one another.

Joyce Wigboldus

Good Dog!

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him. He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, a pessimist by nature, and invited him to hunt with him and his new dog.

As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than

his paws wet.



The friend saw everything but did not say a single word. On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?"

"I sure did," responded his friend. "He can't swim."

Road Rage

A minister was being constantly criticized by a member of his congregation. After six months of this the poor man could stand it no more. He went out on a nice hot summer's afternoon for a drive in the countryside. He wound down the windows and after about an hour of driving began to feel much better.

Driving down a narrow country land, however, he was horrified to see a car careering towards him out of control. As it approached he realized with even greater horror that the lady driving the car was the very woman who had been harassing him.

As they passed within an inch of each other, the woman shouted "Pig!" Months of built-up tension got the better of the minister and he shouted back, "Cow!" Then he drove round the corner and hit the pig.

with practical matters of how the Covenant may be adopted by a particular church and how the Covenant will be functioning, and what happens if a particular Church breaks the Covenant. The Covenant ends with Our Declaration: *"With joy and firm resolve, we declare our Churches to be partakers in this Anglican Communion Covenant, offering ourselves for fruitful service and binding ourselves more closely in the truth and love of Christ, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit be glory for ever. Amen."*

A long debate followed, led by Archdeacon Curran, but there remained a lot of questions.

Finally our archdeaconry voted on the acceptance of the Covenant. We voted in two Houses : Clergy 11 for, 7 against and 5 abstentions; and Laity (non-clergy) 16 for, 1 against and 18 abstentions. General Synod has already approved the text but the Bishop's Council later this month will make the final decision.



The other subject discussed at Synod was Mission. Bishop Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone and Archbishop Missioner and leader of the Fresh Expressions Team (google Fresh Expressions for detailed information) gave an inspired address entitled: *Mission-Shaped Church in North-West Europe*. Fresh expressions are a response to our "changing culture". This movement assumes that the church is both shaped by the gospel and the culture it is trying to reach, like Christians living out the gospel in their cultural context like Jesus who tabernacled among us. It is **not** a new way to reach people and add them to an existing congregation. The fresh expressions of church are not meant to replace existing forms of church, and they are certainly not in competition with them, nor are they clones.

In 2004 the Mission-Shaped Church report was published (*Mission-Shaped Church Planting and Fresh*

There are a few cafés but we mostly picnic on these restful bridges, while spotting fish and birds.

Last but not least are the other pilgrims we meet on our way. They are from around the world, speaking many languages, but all share the words *Buen camino* as we pass by. There is a student group from France, who are so cute in their sweet straw hats and lyrical speech. And a couple of ladies from the USA we meet often and have enjoyed two dinners together. The camaraderie is infectious and everyone's energy is so positive !

After spending five nights in Samos, Sarria, Portomarin, near Portos, and Arzua, we enter Santiago with some trepidation because the frenzied freeway that we have to walk over is so loud. But a mother from Australia, walking with her family and us, sings beautiful hymns, which soften our nerve-racking return to frantic civilization. Once we arrive in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, our senses are soothed by the really good vibrations of many grateful pilgrims praying, smiling and hugging. We are proud to get our certificates of completion after we turn in our stamped El Camino passports.

If you wish to hear another story about this pilgrimage, there is a new movie called *The Way* which shows the whole camino. Also Shirley McLaine wrote her memoirs in *The Camino*, where I found one of my favourite quotes:

The true courage of individualism is the ability to follow one's passions which I know caused this long-dreamed-of journey to become a reality.
Katelyn Ferguson

Well Served

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a boy entered a coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress approached for his order. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The boy studied the coins in his hand. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.
Contributed by Blair Charles

Ministers

One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a minister. A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He'd just witnessed the Pastoral Relations Committee reject applicant after applicant for some minor fault – real or imagined. It was time for a bit of soul-searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read this letter purporting to be from another applicant.

*Gentlemen:
Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also had some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader most places I've been. I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real*

St James the Least of All

There are more frightening things than bishops out there

My dear Nephew Darren,

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds; it gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would've been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying you had just seen what the archdeacon had done, and then watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.



No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday to see a ten-foot high floral arrangement at the front of the church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for

recommended to adopt an "Anglican Covenant to rebuild trust at a time of great strain on the Anglican Communion worldwide". It was also stated that "for almost five centuries Anglicanism has tried to hold together diverse elements which in other traditions have failed to remain in unity". The Covenant can best be seen as part of that process and is not intended to be doctrinal; neither is it a (legal) contract. In 2008, when at the same time of the Lambeth Conference (which is held roughly every 10 years) a dissenting GAFCON conference simultaneously took place in Jerusalem, it became even more urgent to draw up a common statement. The full text of the Covenant and a brief history of its development can be found on the internet. It makes exciting reading and covers nine pages. It consists of an Introduction, then four sections:

1. **Our Inheritance of Faith.** In this the nature of the Anglican Communion as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church is described, as well as the two founts of our Communion, the sharing of Word and Sacrament.
2. **The Life We Share with Others: Our Anglican Vocation.** This section is concerned with the mission of the Churches of the Anglican Communion. Here reference is also made to "the five marks of mission": (a) to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; (b) to teach, baptize and nurture new believers; (c) to respond to human need by loving service; (d) to seek to transform unjust structures of society; and (e) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.
3. **Our Unity and Common Life.** This deals with the question "what is the source of our unity?" The immediate answer is "our participation in Baptism and Eucharist".
4. **Our Covenanted Life Together.** This deals

Victoria station and we are therefore stuck here for the foreseeable future, so let's take our minds off it and pass some time together. All together now *Ten green bottles, hanging on a wall*

We are now travelling through Baker Street . As you can see, Baker Street is closed. It would have been nice if they had actually told me, so I could have told you earlier, but no, they don't think about things like that.



Please allow the doors to close. Try not to confuse this with "Please hold the doors open." The two are distinct and separate instructions.

To the gentleman wearing the long grey coat trying to get on the second carriage -- what part of "stand clear of the doors" don't you understand?

Life on the Fast Track

Actual announcements heard on the London Underground

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do apologize for the delay to your service. I know you're all dying to get home, unless, of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you'll want to cross over to the Westbound and go in the opposite direction.

Do you want the good news first or the bad news? The good news is that last Friday was my birthday and I hit the town and had a great time. The bad news is that there is a points failure somewhere between Stratford and East Ham, which means we probably won't reach our destination.'

Please note that the beeping noise coming from the doors means that the doors are about to close. It does not mean throw yourself or your bags into the doors.

Ladies and gentlemen, we apologize for the delay, but there is a security alert at



Archdeaconry Synod 6-8 October 2011, Vaalbeek nr Leuven, Belgium

Our four enthusiastic representatives who attended the Archdeaconry Synod were Christine Los, Maggie Vermeij (both Arnhem-Nijmegen), Caroline Siertsema and Joyce Wigboldus.

Every time we arrive at the Annual Synod of our Archdeaconry we realize that we, the Chaplaincy of the East Netherlands, are only a minute part of the worldwide Anglican Community (78 million people worldwide). Our Archdeaconry of North West Europe, consisting of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, is one of the seven archdeaconries in the Diocese of Europe (or Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe). It is, according to the website on the archdeaconries, the largest diocese in the Anglican Communion, covering some one-sixth of the Earth's landmass, including Morocco, Europe (excluding the British Isles but including Iceland), Turkey, and the territory of the former Soviet Union. Looking at a map of the diocese, what strikes you immediately is the vast area of the Eastern archdeaconry.

The venerable Patrick Curran, Archdeacon of this vast Eastern Archdeaconry in Europe, had come all the way from Vienna to explain the details of the Anglican Communion Covenant (see Anglican Communion Covenant on internet for full text) to our Synod. This Covenant – an agreement or promise which binds two parties together – has a long history. At the request of the Anglican Primates (the chief bishops), the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, established the Lambeth Commission on Communion in October 2003. This happened in response to developments in North America with respect to same-sex relationships. Its mandate was to "consider ways in which communion and understanding could be enhanced where serious differences threatened the life of a diverse worldwide church". The commission delivered the so-called *Windsor Report* in 2004. It was

arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he will assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded half way down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out, and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; dangers lurk a lot nearer home.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace
©The Rev Dr Gary Bowness



Dreams

Realize your dream!
Unless it's the one where you're at work in your underwear during a fire drill.

wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities.

I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in the towns where I have preached, in fact, some have threatened me, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget who I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I promise to do my best for you.

The board member turned to the committee and said, "Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?"

The good church folks were appalled! Consider a sickly, troublemaking, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Was the board member crazy? Who signed the application? Who had such colossal nerve? The board member eyed them all keenly before he replied, "It's signed, *The Apostle Paul*."

*– A Bucket of Surprises
J. John & Mark Stibbe*

13th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Second Sunday before Advent	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Remembrance Sunday	Intercessor	t.b.a
	First Reading	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
	Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
	Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30
10:30 am Service of the Word		

20th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Christ the King	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	First Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23
	Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46

27th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
First Sunday of Advent	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
	Gospel	Mark 13:24-37

4th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Second Sunday of Advent	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Peter Ribbens
	First Reading	Isaiah 40:1-11
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading	2 Peter 3:8-15a
	Gospel	Mark 1:1-8

11th December	Presiding	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Third Sunday of Advent	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	10:30 am Service of Nine Lessons & Carols	The Nine Lessons Various Readers
		

18th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading	Romans 16:25-27
	Gospel	Luke 1:26-38