

Poetry and Prose

John Donne was born into a Roman Catholic family (his mother was great-niece of Thomas More, martyred in the reign of Henry VIII), and studied at the University of Cambridge, although he was unable to obtain a degree as he was unable to take the required Oath of Supremacy. Winding paths in life brought him into the Church of England and he eventually became Dean of St Paul's, a position he held at his death.



This sonnet is one of a cycle of seven sonnets called *La Corona (The Crown)*. The last line of each sonnet is repeated as the first line of the next sonnet, and the last line of the last sonnet is identical to the first line of the first sonnet. All seven are thus linked into a "crown," to which Donne refers in the first line of the cycle:

Annunciation

*Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which always is all
everywhere,*

*Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must
bear,*

*Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but
die,*

*Lo, faithful virgin, yields Himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb; and though He
there*

*Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He
will wear,*

*Taken from thence, flesh, which death's
force may try.*

*Ere by the spheres time was created,
thou*

*Wast in His mind, who is thy Son and
Brother;*

*Whom thou conceivst, conceived; yea
thou art now*

*Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's
mother;*

*Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in
little room,*

Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.

By John Donne (1572-1631)



March 2012

God in Music

**"In sweet music is such art":
The Go-Between's loss**

"The ceremony of innocence is drowned." These words are from a poem by W.B. Yeats called *The Second Coming*, and they remind us that, for children, the world is full of wonder and innocent enjoyment. As they grow up, innocence gives way to reality, and often it is a harsh reality, where knowledge and experience bring sometimes disillusionment and an awareness of the dark side of the world. It is the theme of the novel by L.P. Hartley, *The Go-Between*, which tells how a young boy, Leo, joins a school friend to enjoy the summer holiday at his grand country house home in Norfolk in 1900. Leo becomes part of that family life, but, like Icarus, he flies too near that summer sun and is scorched.

In 1970 it was released as a powerful film directed by Joseph Losey and starring Julie Christie, Alan Bates, and Dominic Guard as Leo. The music for the film was composed by Michel Legrand, perhaps better known for *The Windmills of Your Mind*. His score captures the summer enjoyment of croquet and cricket matches, but as the film opens, the piano in rhythmic octaves expresses the emotional turmoil that will dominate the drama and the dark side to that summer. Then suddenly the piano is all exuberance and liveliness as the two boys play and explore, but as they pass a belladonna plant, the sinister mood of the opening returns. Light and darkness vie with each other in the music as the drama unfolds.

Leo is the go-between, delivering messages from Marion, who is to marry a viscount, and the local farmer, Ted. He has fallen in love with Marion himself, and is only too happy to take the letters. Gradually he becomes aware of the true nature of the relationship across the class structures of that time. We feel the oppressive heat in the air of those summer days just as Leo feels the oppression of growing up into an adult world. On his 13th

(Continued on page 4)



Hotel Bill

An elderly lady decided to give herself a big treat for her significant birthday by staying overnight in one of London's most expensive hotels.

When she checked out next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for £250. She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. "It's a nice hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth £250 for just an overnight stop without even breakfast." The clerk told her that £250 was the standard rate so she insisted on speaking to the manager.

The manager appeared and, forewarned by the desk clerk, announced: "The hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use." "But I didn't use them," she said. "Well, they are here,

Caught on the Cusp

Transitions bring the occasional hiccup and in this instance it means you will find the Chaplain's contribution in an unusual location. It was unfortunately delayed in cyberspace due to the digital equivalent of "leaves on the line", but, no worries, normal service will be resumed as

soon as possible.

Castle Fair Committee

The Castle Fair Committee met on Wednesday, 15 February, to discuss the preparations for the 2012 Fair on September 8.

We discussed a number of stalls, to see whether we should still have them for another year or try to find some new fresh ones. Also on the discussion list were the following points: introducing a raffle; the dress code for the tearoom; integrating art in the tearoom; the number of helpers that we require and can make use of on a busy Fair day; and how to let everyone know exactly what we need of them – baking or otherwise.

As last year was a great success, the burden of exceeding that result rests heavily on our shoulders. We are hoping to have a wonderful display of different vintage cars, as we have found a new source to call on. Arranging the billboards this year is another point of interest, and renting a good, cheap, toilet group is also on our list of improvements for this year.



Left with many things to think about and work on, we decided our next meeting should be on 18 April.

Jeanet Luiten

Lateral Thinking

Many years ago in a small Indian village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to a village moneylender. The moneylender, who was old and ugly, was enchanted by the farmer's beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter. Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal. So the cunning moneylender suggested that they let Providence decide the matter. He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to pick one pebble from the bag:



- If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven.
- If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven.
- But if she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.

They were standing on a pebble-strewn path in the farmer's field. As they talked, the moneylender bent over to pick up two pebbles, but the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag. What should she do?

- The girl should refuse to take a pebble.
- The girl should show that there were two black pebbles in the bag and expose the moneylender as a cheat, probably incurring his wrath.
- The girl should pick a black pebble and sacrifice herself in order to save her father from his debt and imprisonment.

What would you recommend that the girl should do? Well, here is what she did

(See page 18 for the answer)

High Tech

Jenny was visiting her grandmother and praising the wonders of her brand new laptop. "Internet is really fantastic, you know. You can find out absolutely everything in just a couple of clicks. Why don't you have a go, Granny."



Granny sniffed. "I can't be messing with all this new technology," she said and picked up her knitting with an air of finality. But Jenny wasn't one to be put off that easily. "Just ask it a question," she persisted. "You'll be amazed." Realizing she wouldn't get any peace till she acceded to her granddaughter's request, Granny sighed and said, "Alright then. Ask it how Auntie Eileen is feeling after the operation on her leg."

Breaking News!

On 11 March, after service St Mary's Floral Guild will hold its annual Book Sale. Please survey your bookshelves, attics and under the bed for books, magazines, cd's and dvd's that need a new owner. Perhaps friends, neighbours or fellow members of clubs or organizations also have something to donate for a good cause. English language literature is always highly prized because it is so hard to come by. However, all languages are welcome – especially since we are all bi-lingual, intelligent, well-read and extremely multi-culti!

As ever, books are sold for 25 cents each, whatever their size, weight or original value. The proceeds support the Floral Guild – that at the moment is quite poor. In the last few months we've invested a goodly sum on plastic containers to organize and store all of our Christmas decorations that we have built up over the years. Mothering Sunday will be held on 18 March, so we want to have the funds to honour our ladies and also have St Mary's looking her best on Easter. Please come with what you collect and buy some new great reads at a bargain price!

For more info, please contact me, *Linda ten Berge* 0546-868139.

The girl put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately became lost among all the other pebbles. "Oh, how clumsy of me," she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked." Since the remaining pebble is black, it must be assumed that she had picked the white one. And since the moneylender dared not admit his dishonesty, the girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one.

Web News

Change is definitely in the air. Having managed the church website for some time now, Sietze Postma is stepping down. We would like to thank him for all the good work he has done in the past for St Mary's in this particular area. Fortunately, a successor has been found. Lub Gringhuis has very kindly offered to take over this task, and the date when the baton officially changes hands is 1 March.



While we're on the subject, why not visit our chaplaincy website? It has recently been updated, as you will immediately see.

Lastly a message from our Secretary, Simone Yallop: "Our church is mentioned on the home page of the website of the Diocese in Europe. It appears that Weldam features in the latest issue of *Country Life*. The link to the article on the Diocesan website is: <http://europe.anglican.org/homepage/smartweb/main/blog/post/226-dutch-church-makes-country-life-news/>"

Enrolment Forms

Just a reminder that, if you would like your name to be added to the Electoral Roll so that you can vote at the AGM on 22 April, please contact our Electoral Roll Officer, Simone Yallop. She will now have the forms with her on the intervening Sundays, so perhaps you could lighten her load!



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens 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 Churchwardens.

and you could have," explained the manager. He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which the hotel was famous. "We have the best entertainers from Paris, Vegas and New York performing here," the manager said. "But I didn't go to any of those shows," she said.



"Well, we have them, and you could have," the manager replied. No matter what amenity the manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!" The manager was unmoved, so she decided to pay, wrote a cheque, and gave it to the manager. The manager was surprised when he looked at the cheque. "But madam, this cheque is only made out for £50." "That's correct. I charged you £200 for the escort service – wining, dining and dancing with me," she replied. "But I didn't!" exclaimed the very surprised manager. "Well, too bad, I was here, and you could have."

How Many words?

Pythagorean Theorem: 24 words
Lord's Prayer 66 words
Archimedes' Principle: 67 words
Ten Commandments: 179 words
Gettysburg address: 286 words
US Declaration of Independence : 1,300 words
US Constitution with all 27 Amendments: 7,818 words
EU regulations on the sale of cabbages: 26,911 words
Puts things into proper perspective, doesn't it?

No Harm in Asking

Two widows of a certain age used meet regularly for lunch at their local country club. One day, sitting at their usual table by the window, they noticed a rather attractive gardener trimming the lawns. "He's new," said Mrs Fox, wonderingly. "Just a minute," she said to her friend, as she pushed back her chair and went out into the garden. Approaching the new-comer, she said, "I don't think I've seen you here before." "No," replied the man. "I've been out of

(Continued from page 1)

birthday, the story reaches its crisis point as Marion's mother, played by Margaret Leighton, drags Leo from his party past the deadly nightshade to the outhouse where Ted and Marion have met. The opening melody sounds out to tell us of the poison in human relationships.

The film is in flashback for it begins with an older Leo returning to make sense of that summer when he entered a world of innocence destroyed by human nature. It is Leo's puzzled, sad face in the taxi that ends the film. On Ash Wednesday we began the season of Lent with the invitation to make sense of our world by looking at how we live and grow, but also how we fail and fall. The sun shining in the sky above rural Norfolk in *The Go-Between* and echoed so evocatively in Michel Legrand's music is oppressive. That summer journey took Leo from innocence to dark reality. In this season, we can take another journey, which offers us hope with the light of another sun – the Son of God who leads us though Lent to the brighter sun of Easter and new life.

©The Revd Michael Burgess (Parish Pump)



True Meaning of Stress

While leading and explaining stress management to an audience, a young lady confidently walked around the room with a raised glass of water in her hand, and everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question: "half empty or half full?" But she fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour,



The Churchwardens of the East Netherlands
Group of Chaplaincies
have the pleasure of inviting you
to the Institution and Licensing of their new
Chaplain,
the Reverend Drs Alja Tollefsen,
by the Venerable John de Wit, Archdeacon
for North West Europe,
at a service to be held on
Saturday, 3 March 2012, at 2.30 p.m.
in the Diaconessenkerk, G.A. van Nispenstraat
139, 6814 JA Arnhem.
After the service there will be a reception.
Anglican Clergy and Readers, as well as Clergy
in Communion and Ecumenical guests are invited
to robe (white stole)
All clergy and readers are requested to arrive
by 2.00 p.m. if possible.

Exercise for People over 50

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)



After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too.

– Lionel Kauffman



A Journey Prayer

This day to me, God, do thou bless,
This very night, God, blessing give;
Thou God of grace, O do thou bless
All days and all the times I live.

God, bless the path I walk above,
God, bless the earth beneath my toes;
God, bless me, give to me thy love,
O God of gods, bless rest, repose;
God, bless me, give to me thy love,
O God of gods, bless my repose.

Ancient Celtic prayer

Husbands

Two men were in a pub, talking about how highly their wives thought of them. The first man said, "My wife, she thinks so much of me that she won't let me do any work around the house. It's incredible." The second man said, "That's nothing. My wife absolutely worships me. Every night at the table, she places a burnt offering before me."

Lady Day: the Annunciation (25 March)

This beautiful event (Luke 1.26-38) takes place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar and is one of the most frequently depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice: humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

Source: Parish Pump



Chinese Proverbs

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.

I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water," she went on, "you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden – holding stress longer and better each time practised. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night ... pick them up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, set them down for a moment. Relax, pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy it!"

And while you're about it: Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Contributed by Blair Charles

Key Dates

7 March	Council Meeting
18 March	Mothering Sunday
1 April	Palm Sunday
5 April	Maundy Thursday
6 April	Good Friday
8 April	Easter Sunday
22 April	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
8 September	Castle Fair 2012: Advance notice!



circulation for a while. In fact I've just got out of prison." "Nothing too dreadful, I hope," smiled Mrs Fox. "Well, actually I murdered my wife," came the reply. Mrs Fox returned inside and took her seat at the table. "And ...?" queried her friend. "Oh, good news," replied Mrs Fox. "He's single."

Healthy Living



Boasting about his fitness to a group of youngsters, an elderly man said, "Every morning, I do 50 press-ups, 50 sit-ups, and I walk three miles. In fact, I bet I'm fitter than any of you. You know why? Because I don't smoke, I don't drink, I don't chase after women. And tomorrow I'm going to celebrate my 89th birthday." "Really?" said one of the youngsters. "How?"

Four Little Words

... that no husband wishes to hear when out shopping with his wife: "While we're here ..."

Hmm ...Interesting

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times. Oh go ahead ... I'll wait.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes or shark attacks.

You burn more calories sleeping than watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are 50 years of age or older.

The King of Hearts is the only king without a moustache.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise. Since Venus is normally associated with women, what does this tell you? That women are going the "right" direction?

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

Pearls dissolve in vinegar.

St James the Least of All On how to have a music festival

My dear Nephew Darren,

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung al fresco in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties with drugs labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Matins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.



It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral

reaffirmed the reality of the Biblical message.

The Hut at Weldam is the scene of after-service fellowship, many a celebration, as well as the Christmas market and other events. It also functions – somewhat irregularly, it is true – as a library. The books on the shelves at the “other” end of the Hut (the end that does not feature the magnetic attraction of coffee) can be borrowed at will. You can imagine my surprise when, rather carelessly fingering the uneven rows, I came across *In the Steps of St Paul* (1936) – and yes, by the very same author. I came, I saw, I borrowed, I read. And with great pleasure. Well, Rome I have visited, in fact many times since my early teens, but that still leaves Jerusalem, Jericho, Petra, Cyprus, Malta, and many more enticing destinations. Hopefully I’ve been adequately prepared to take such steps by my library reading and by H.V. Morton. And by the way, in case my grandchildren should ever get to read this, I have joined the 21st century and enjoy surfing the internet, and the author’s full name is Henry Canova Vollam Morton (1892-1979). It was that “V” that aroused my curiosity!

Janice Collins



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The hardback copy we gave Geoffrey is a wonderful archive of photographs and illustrations, with the cover in art deco style. On the front is written: “you have in your hands a masterpiece”.

With many thanks to Philippa te West (who was put on the spot at the 11th hour!)

Here’s another quiz. See how you do on this one:

List a couple of teachers who aided your journey through school.

Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.

Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.

Think of a couple of people who have made you feel appreciated and special.

Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money ... or the most awards. They’re simply the ones who care the most.

On the Road

A teenager was always asking if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought he’d been given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, “That’s easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator.”

The Charles Schulz Philosophy

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them.

Name the five wealthiest people in the world.

Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.

Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.

Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.

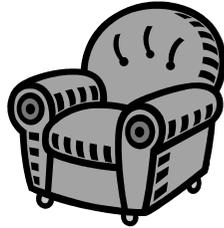
Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.

Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. And these are no second-rate achievers; they are the best in their fields. But the applause dies; awards tarnish; achievements are forgotten; accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Armchair Travelling

Delving back into family history – or genealogy, to use the more academic name for this pastime – is quite a popular activity these days, especially since the pervading power of the internet has eliminated much tramping over hill and dale from church to registrar to examine dusty records of births, deaths and marriages. And of course it's always intriguing to see just how far back you can go before your family tree sprouts a noble lord, a long-lost inheritance, or an inveterate sheep-stealer who breathed his last swinging on the gallows. Alas, I do not have to go back very far at all to discover criminal tendencies among my nearest and dearest.



In the dark ages (at least this is how my grandchildren view them), when holidays abroad were spasmodic to say the least, one of the first places I visited with my parents was Rome. Keen to prepare herself for this experience, my mother borrowed a book from the library called *A Traveller in Rome* (1957) by H.V. Morton. She borrowed it, renewed it, renewed it repeatedly ... until at last (when no-one else seemed interested in it – and therein lie the mitigating circumstances) she meekly “confessed” to the librarian that she had lost it and, restraining a smile, paid the fine demanded (about 25 pence in old money). This book has now formed part of my inheritance and, I'm afraid, shabby as it is, it will not emerge from the shadows to grace a book stall in the Hut on 11 March. With it came *In the Steps of the Master* by the same author. This I have just finished and, although dating back to 1934, it has been a veritable mine of information and stories. Many a time, it has dispelled myths created by Renaissance painters, who saw Gospel stories through the lens of their own environment, and

Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. “Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bell-ringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing.” The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: “On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from *Ancient and Modern*.”

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

©The Revd Dr Gary Bowness



Contributed by Nicole Zonnebeld

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs ... but not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

Just a Second!

A computer salesman, a hardware engineer, and a software helpdesk operator are driving in a car together. Suddenly the right rear tyre blows out, and the car rolls to a stop. Our three heroes pile out to investigate. The salesman announces sadly, “Time to buy a new car!” Says the hardware engineer, “Well, first let's try swapping the front and rear tyres, and see if that fixes it.” Replies the software helpdesk operator, “Let's just take the keys out of the ignition, wait 20 seconds, reinsert the keys and switch on the engine again; and maybe the problem will go away by itself.”

Well Noted

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen. It said, “Parking Fine”. So that was nice.



The Chaplain Writes

"The peace of the Lord be always with you"

Familiar words and maybe a bit worn out as we hear them so often. Still, I believe, very worthy to write this first article in the Parish Magazine. It expresses my hope that in peace we may grow and work together.

With former appointments I had never visited the parish before the actual licensing or induction and this time I had the pleasure to take services and meet you beforehand. The contacts may have been brief, but it gave me an impression of the warm atmosphere through the kind responses of people.

I have been asked to introduce myself, this new girl on the block. So, here we go! The older you get, the more there is to tell, so you may be in for a lengthy article. Or I leave some out.

Let me start with the moment I moved to the UK to start my training in Oxford. I went with the two children; my husband, who was still teaching at the University of Utrecht stayed in our house. The plan was that I would only spend nine months in the UK and come back. Well, it turned out differently. I finished my training in Oxford and became curate in Bramhall near Stockport. My husband joined us and we stayed in the UK for 12 years.

Twelve lovely years in which I worked in the parishes with great pleasure and the many contacts and messages still keep me in touch with many whom I met throughout the years.

In 2007 we returned to the Netherlands because of the worsening of my husband's illness. The children had returned earlier and were studying here and we wanted to be closer to them and our wider family and friends.



token "so he can browse to his heart's content". And then it was the turn of Linda ten Berge to present a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Trudy, Geoffrey's wife, as a token of appreciation for her unfailing support. Linda may say it with flowers but she has an eloquent turn of phrase in English too!

Refreshments, liquid and of the more solid variety, followed afterwards in the Hut, and there was even some impromptu singing to enhance the occasion.

Monday

Dear St Mary's,

Thank you all for the wonderful "send-off" or should it be sent home? Anyway, it was a lovely Sunday and a great congregation. The exciting book *The Hare with Amber Eyes* – just ask Philippa about it!

The card signed by you all and the book tokens, many more thanks. Arthur, thank you for the wine, I will begin when I'm off the antibiotics for sure! Trudy thanks you for the beautiful flowers, and we could see Linda has not lost her resplendent touch. I have assured your new Chaplain that I am still around and supportive, and leave with many happy memories. God Bless you all and totziens!

Geoffrey (and Trudy)

The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal

This is a lovely story, a true story about a Jewish family who become very wealthy, but lose everything after the war, and finally one of them becomes an Anglican priest. The story is entwined around the precious Japanese netsuke artefacts. This is very simplified, but there is a whole world in the book! It has won all sorts of awards, and is pure literature. The last daughter married a Dutch man, and it is his son who wrote the book.

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immediately that travelling is part of our parish. That will be mostly for me, but right at the start you are challenged as well. I am determined though that distances should not hamper our input and our determination to grow as a parish, to grow as individuals in a spiritual way. Because if we are able to grow in a spiritual way, we will grow in numbers, as our enthusiasm will inspire other people.

I wish us all the peace of the Lord. That we work together with this powerful tool as our aid to help the Kingdom come.

Alja Tollefsen



Comings and Goings

Sunday

When this issue of *St Mary's Magazine* went to the printers, we were officially without a Chaplain. Now it is in your hands, all that has changed (see page 17) and we are very happy to welcome the Revd Drs Alja Tollefsen among us. The other side of the coin is that on 26 February Canon Geoffrey Allen conducted his last service as our locum – and a beautiful service it was too, as many of you have remarked. We are all very grateful that he so willingly stepped into the breach last July and greatly appreciate all he has done for our community over the past months. Thank you Geoffrey – very much!

Of course, he wasn't allowed to escape that easily, and after a few well-chosen words by our Churchwarden Joyce Wigboldus, Philippa te West presented him with a very special book, "knowing that Geoffrey is an avid reader and will enjoy all the references to great writers and poets, and artists of the day", together with a book



I became vicar in the Old Catholic Church (OCC), as there is an agreement between the Anglican Church and the OCC and priests can officiate in both churches.

In January 2009 I resigned, mainly because of the failing health of my husband. I looked after him with the help of the children and so many others. We managed to keep him at home until he passed away last year. I can only say that it is a shame you will not have the opportunity to meet him.

I grew up in Rotterdam and even happened to meet a former primary school classmate in St Mary's! Small world.

I read Spanish and Medicine at the University of Utrecht and worked as a medical researcher until I went to the UK to train as a priest.

At the first interview with the panel amongst which were two church representatives I was asked what I like, what makes me happy as a priest. You will not be surprised that my answer was: a lively church. A full church and people involved in the service. I think that it satisfied the panel.

I then asked what they expect from me and their answer was: we like to grow spirituality. That of course completed the picture.

We have expectations together, we need to work together to make God's kingdom come. It will not just appear one day. No, we need to make an effort together to let it happen.

I am confident that there will be a lot of working together. So many people take on jobs and do an awful lot of work. There is activity and a willingness to let things happen. Could one wish for a better start?

At the moment preparations are being made to organize the Licensing Service in Arnhem. It points out

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11th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Lent 3	Intercessor	Janice Collins
	First Reading Heleen Rouwerda	Exodus 20:1-17
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Vivien Reinders	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
	Gospel	John 2:13-22

18th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	First Reading Caroline Siertsema	Exodus 2:1-10
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Hans Siertsema	2 Corinthians 1:3-7
	Gospel	Luke 2:33-35

25th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading Victor Pirene	Jeremiah 31:31-34
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Simone Yallop	Hebrews 5:5-10
	Gospel	John 12:20-33

1st April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Palm Sunday	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	First Reading Elizabeth vd Heide	Isaiah 50: 4-9a
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Maureen vd Heide	Philippians 2:5-11
	Gospel	Mark 11:1-11

5th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Dr Sjoerd Bonting
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Maundy Thursday	Intercessor	t.b.a.
	First Reading Simone Yallop	Exodus 12:1-14
20:00 hrs Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Els Ottens	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
	Gospel	John 13:1-17, 31b-35

6th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Good Friday Stations of the Cross or Passion Drama	Intercessor	t.b.a.
	N.A.	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
20:00 hrs	N.A.	Hebrews 10:16-25
	Gospel	John 18:1-19:42