

Poetry
and
Prose



Promises
of
God

God may not have promised
skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
all our lives through.

God may not have promised
sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow
peace without pain.

But God has promised
strength for the day,
Rest for the labourer,
light on the way.

Grace for the trial,
help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
And undying love.

Lord Please Bless My Computer
Every night I lie in bed
This little prayer inside my head
God bless my mom and dad
and bless my children
and take care of my spouse
who brings me so much joy...
God, there's just one more thing
I wish that you would do
if you don't mind my asking
to bless my 'puter, too??
Now I know that it's not normal
to bless a small machine
but listen just a second
and I'll try to explain...
You see, that little metal box
holds more than odds and ends
Inside those small components
rest a hundred loving friends.
Some it's true I've never seen
and most I've never met...
never shaken hands or
ever truly hugged, and yet...
I know for sure they love me
by the kindnesses they give,
and this little scrap of metal
is how I get to where they live.
By faith is how I know them,
Much the same as I know You.
I share in life it brings them,
So if it's OK with you...
Just take an extra minute
from your duties up above...
to bless this little hunk of steel
that's filled with so much love.
So God, Please Bless My Puter...
by Unknown

May



2008

The Chaplain writes

Inspiration and Insight

I write this from Ashburnham Place in East Sussex, where I am attending the

Annual Chaplains and Families Conference of the Intercontinental Church Society. (If you're not already familiar with ICS from their monthly Prayer Diary, available at church, you will at least have heard of them around the AGM.) ICS has planted numerous churches in Europe, North Africa and in South America, and provides seasonal chaplains to Swiss and French resorts and Thompson cruise ship holidays. It also organizes a week-long conference each year aimed at resourcing the work of chaplaincies in Europe and around the world. I've been to three of its conferences so far, and have found them inspiring and useful, both for learning better how to minister effectively in Europe and for maintaining friendships with colleagues located around the Continent and further afield. Just today I caught up with friends serving in Northern Cyprus, Freiburg im Breisgau (DE), Brussels, Brittany, Poitiers and Paris and met pastors working in Casablanca and Grenoble. It is remarkable to get insight into the sheer variety of challenges of ministering in so many different cultural contexts, all of which gives perspective on my own work in the East Netherlands. I'll just share with you three highlights from the first day of the Conference as food for our thought:

The Revd Brian Roberts, National Director of the Bush Church Aid Society in Australia, has been the main speaker. His organization supports those ministering in the Australian Outback and other wilderness, mining and agricultural areas Down Under. Apparently, 85% of the Australian population lives on only about 15% of the land, mostly along the coasts. The rest is served by BCAS! It is demanding ministry. Many pastors who have been trained in urban theological colleges experience social isolation and cultural dissonance in the Bush. Although our language issues and weather are different, many of the issues of social adaptation are comparable to those experienced by English-speaking expats and those ministering among them in Europe. The Revd Roberts drew parallels between the biblical examples of the Israelites in exile in Daniel and the early Christian of the Mediterranean and with our own church communities on the thresholds of other cultures today. Thousands of years ago as today, it is essential to understand the culture in which one is planted in order effectively to be a blessing to and within it.

Dr Michael Moynagh, who is on the Archbishop's Panel for 'Fresh Expressions of Church,' spoke this afternoon about what these new initiatives are teaching us about mission. 'Fresh Expressions of Church' are new ways of being and doing church conceived to reach out to the huge number of people today who have no previous experience of church. At the moment only 6% of the UK population attends church each Sunday (down from only 12% in 1979), and studies indicate that those who

(Continued on page 5)



Twente News

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 6th April 2008 after the service. It was attended by 31 electoral roll members and a few other members of the congregation. At the AGM the reports of the Chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditors and Archdeaonry Representatives were presented and the budget for 2008 was approved. Also elections were

held for the Church Wardens, the Archdeaonry Representatives and for ordinary council positions. Those elected as wardens were Nettie van Sisseren and Blair Charles. The Archdeaonry Representatives elected were Joyce Wigboldus and Marykay Schouten. The two council members elected were Arthur Cass and Philippa te West. The auditors for the 2008 accounts were also elected and these will be Arjen Haffmans and Peter Ribbens. The AGM also discussed whether or not we should renew our link with the ICS. A vote was taken on the proposal to retain the link. 20 members were in favour, two were against and there were six abstentions. However, when it was questioned if retaining the link could be done without including the patronage of the ICS a second vote was taken. 14 members wished the question of patronage to be further investigated. This will be discussed by the council in the forthcoming church council meetings. The AGM concluded with thanks to all involved and presentations to the retiring wardens.

S. Yallop

Calling all Plants

On Sunday, 18 May, the Flower Guild will hold its annual plant sale by the hut after the service. It is a bring and buy so please check your garden, or your neighbours, to see what you can share this year. Anything horticultural, including tools, seeds, pots and so on are welcome as well as plants and cuttings. There will also be fresh floral bouquets for sale as well. If you have any questions please see me, Linda ten Berge-Shepherd, or call 0546-868139.



(Continued on page 3)



PENTECOST

11th May

Do you know what happened on the first Pentecost? On that day what really amazed all the people was that everyone there heard the message of the good news in their own language. You can read about this in Acts, chapter 2.

How many languages can you speak? We all speak English but most of us know at least a few words in more than one language. I bet you know some French, even if it is only 'bonjour' or 'merci', perhaps you know some Urdu, Spanish or Polish too.

There are so many languages in the world we couldn't hope to learn more than a few of them – but Jesus knows our language... he speaks everyone else's language too. His gospel can be translated into every possible dialect and tongue because, whatever words are used, that gospel is the same. It is for all people, everywhere. Jesus speaks to everyone in His own language.

P - QUIZ

All the answers in this Bible quiz begin with the letter P - can you find them all?

1. Paul wrote to the people of this town.
2. The Roman Governor who washed his hands.
3. Where the last book in the Bible was written.
4. Short stories Jesus told.
5. Goliath was one.
6. What Amos and Hosea were.
7. To begin with he was called Saul.
8. The Egyptian ruler who argued with Moses.



Where would you look for a lost vicar?

The Bureau of Missing Parsons.

What is wet, round, and taste of peppermint?

Water Polo.

What did the policeman say to the naughty frog?

Hop it.



ANSWERS: 1. Philipp 2. Pontius Pilate 3. Patmos 4. Parables 5. Phillistine 6. prophets 7. Paul 8. Pharaoh

🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸

Social News

The Bathtub Test

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started.

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

'Well,' said the Director, 'we fill up a bathtub and then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.' 'Oh, I understand,' said the visitor. 'A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup.'

'No,' said the Director, 'A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?'

DID YOU PASS, OR DO YOU WANT THE BED NEXT TO MINE?

Contributed by Mrs J. Charles



Birthdays

Colin Lee celebrates his birthday on Thursday, 8 May. On this day in 1945 the war in Europe came to an end. Rather fittingly, on this day in 1970, the Beatles released their last album, 'Let it Be'. How fitting that Colin shares his birthday with a day of peace and a song of tolerance. Happy birthday Colin.

Hans Siertsema is yet another year wiser on the 18 May. Hans, a driving force behind so many events in the Church, shares his birth date with the *European Convention on Human Rights*. On this date in 1954 the worlds first attempt to give legal content to human rights came into effect. Somewhere around the same time, so did Hans. De best wensen Hans.

Then on the 27 May our organist Louw Talstra keys up to play another birthday in. On this day in 1986 the Irish singer Bob Geldof received an honorary British knighthood for his efforts to raise money for the starving people of Africa. Best wishes on your birthday Louw.

Congratulations to all three of you and thank you all for the work you all make to the church.



Note: Please remember, if there is any event that you would like to share with your friends at St Mary's Chapel, please feel free to use this page. Contact information is on the back cover.

Summer Teas

The Summer Teas will run from the 13 July to the 17 August. Theda and Jan ten Barge will help to coordinate the teams. In June, lists will go up in the hut for people to put their names down to help.

Each team will need people to serve teas and cakes in the hut as well as some one to help visitors in the chapel. For those people who do not wish to serve teas or guide, volunteers are also needed for the baking.

Therefore, look out in June for more information on the Summer Teas and please put your names down. A few hours on one afternoon, or maybe a couple of plates of fresh scones. Summer teas help with the Chaplaincy finances as well as helping to advertise the presence of the Anglican Church in the Twente region.

Posters and leaflets will be available in mid-June. Jonneke and Arjen will distribute posters and leaflets to the local VVV's.

A new bible class/growth group

has been set up in the area of Goor and the northern part of our parish. In the coming months we are doing the Emmaus course 'Growing in Prayer' in four sessions. Dates: 20/4, 3/5, 25/5, 15/6. Times: after church on Sundays; 2.30 pm on Saturday 3/5. Venues: participants' homes.

Other interested people very welcome!

Enquiries: Everhard (0572-850199)

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 18 May - Dedication of the new Council.

Tuesday 20 May - The new Council meet for the first 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.



ask him what He thinks would be appropriate attire for worship.'

The old cowboy assured the preacher he would. The next Sunday, he showed back up for the services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots, and hat. Once again, he was completely shunned and ignored.

The preacher approached the man and said, 'I thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our Church.'

'I did,' replied the old cowboy.

'If you spoke to God, what did He tell you the proper attire should be for worshipping in here?' asked the preacher.

'Well, sir, God told me that he didn't have a clue what I should wear. He said He'd never been in this church.'

Contributed by Mrs. M. de Lange

Signs of the times

My 10 year old niece says her prayers every night and instead of "amen", she says "click, send."

You asked for it

The student, when asked by the teacher to write an essay on 'The Effects of Laziness', turned in a blank sheet of paper.



A child's faith

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence, but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is." The little girl said, "Well, who is she?" "That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

English/Dutch Translation Guide

On the 11 May we celebrate Pentecost, the time when the disciples received the gift of tongues. The congregation at St Mary's Chapel is a healthy mixture of Christians of all nationalities. In order to improve communications, the editors of the magazine have brought to their readers this, tongue-firmly-in-cheek, translation guide.

British say: I hear what you say
British mean: I disagree and don't want to discuss it any further

Dutch understand: He accepts my point of view

British say: With the greatest respect
British mean: I think you are a fool
Dutch understand: He's listening to me

British say: That's not bad
British mean: That's very good
Dutch understand: That's poor or mediocre

British say: Quite good
British mean: A bit disappointing
Dutch understand: Quite good

British say: Very interesting..
British mean: I don't believe you...
Dutch understand: They are impressed

British say: That's an original point of view
British mean: You're an idiot
Dutch understand: They like my ideas!

British say: I'll bear it in mind
British mean: I will do nothing about it
Dutch understand: They will probably do it

British say: I was a bit disappointed that...
British mean: I'm most upset and cross
Dutch understand: It doesn't really matter...

British say: I'm sure it's my fault
British mean: It's your fault!
Dutch understand: It was their fault!

you will be held accountable not only for everything that goes on inside the church, but also for the goal average of the local football team and the state of the economy. And if it rains for your first Summer Fete, you will be told reproachfully that this never used to happen when Mr X was here.

As you begin to ponder this momentous decision, allow me to give you a few pieces of advice. It will be assumed in the parish that every new incumbent is bound to be worse than his predecessor. The greatest compliment I ever received when leaving a parish came from an elderly parishioner: "I've known six Rectors of this parish; you weren't the worst."

Naturally the church you go to will have asked for a married man between 30 and 35 with a wife who will not have her own job but who wants to devote her entire life working for the parish - and it will be a definite advantage if she is a brilliant organist, professional caterer and fully computer literate. They will expect you to have two children, one of whom should be of primary school age, so he can attend the local Church school, where you will naturally wish to be chairman of governors and coach of the football team.

They will want you to have exceptional talents for attracting young people - but for young people who enjoy the sorts of Services that the present congregation prefer - and you should have the ability to stop a baby crying during Mattins with the briefest of glances. They will want you to bring "a breath of fresh air" into parish life without changing anything. They will hope you will shun holidays, preach short sermons and be able to run a tight jumble sale.

Your CV is already beginning to look a little thin. If you could acquire a wife and family within the next six months, become an expert flower arranger and qualify as a football referee, chartered accountant and trained electrician and plumber, it would prove very helpful. If in addition, you learned how to service photocopiers, had a mini-bus available for church outings, were an heir to a family firm producing a single malt whisky and could provide reliable horse racing tips, your choice of parishes would be endless.

On the other hand, my advice would be to stop attending all meetings where you know the bishop may be present; out of sight, out of mind. Have your phone disconnected, your letterbox sealed and only appear in public wearing dark glasses and false beard. Keep your head down, lay low, hold on to the charmed life of being a curate for as long as possible. Life will never be better.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

(The Rev Dr Gary Bouness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...)



the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

As good as it gets

A shipwrecked man spent five years on a deserted island. One day he was overjoyed to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A dinghy approached, and a ship's officer handed the sailor *The Times*, *The Financial Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. "The captain suggests," said the officer, "that you read what's going on in the world before you decide if you wish to be rescued."

Money

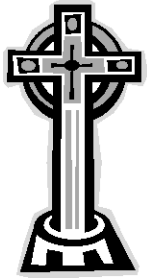
The credit manager asked the applicant: "Do you have much money in the bank?" "I don't know," said the applicant. "I haven't shaken it lately."

Thoughts for the day

Was Noah's wife called Joan of Ark?

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.





Pentecost

Pentecost was the old Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which took place at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was



exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles - but he knew they could not do the work themselves - they would need his help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues - to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptized. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.



St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, your bishop is dropping hints that you should begin to consider a move to having your own parish - "not for ever in green pastures" comes to mind. Do not be too hasty, remember that a curate can do no wrong but a vicar can do no right. As soon as you get your own parish,



(Continued from page 1)

have no experience of church consider it to be 'hierarchical, formal, old-fashioned, and 1950s-ish', in short, completely alien to their lives. But 'Fresh Expressions of Church', which may involve renewing an existing congregation, reinventing a fringe group, creating a new form of church in an existing parish, or a church joining in a larger outreach initiative of several parishes, have apparently helped begin to turn the tide. Examples include café churches in many cities, a skateboarders' church in Essex, house churches in new housing estates, a greeting card making group in Liverpool that turned itself into a Christian seasonal card making group with Bible study, and a 'Goth' communion service in Birmingham (for teens who like to dress in black!). All these imaginative Fresh Expressions have a 'we'll come to you' approach attuned to the contexts in which they find themselves, rather than the 'you come to us' view traditionally associated with churches. That said, none of the Fresh Expressions is intended to supplant churches that already exist. They are to provide new ways into faith for those who have no positive experience of Christianity. Intriguingly, many healthy parish churches appear to combine some elements of both the inherited model and of Fresh Expressions. These Archbishop Rowan Williams has referred to as 'mixed economy' churches, and he predicts they will be the wave of the future.

Finally, Miss Ruth Hassall of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, spoke on 'Growing Leaders' in the local church. She noted how many folk shy away from considering themselves leaders, but most people indeed actually have many of the skills and talents for leadership. She briefly outlined ways to identify leadership potential, invest in leadership training and entrust leadership in the local church. Virtually all the New Testament references to leadership in the Early Church were in the plural. And research suggests that even the best leaders have just under half of the 25 attributes identified with ideal leadership. These facts reinforce that church leadership is best when it is genuinely shared, and that the minister's job is primarily one of inspiring and enabling a team to work together.

I look forward to the remaining speakers, including Bishop Geoffrey Rowell (speaking to us on Prayer), all of whom, if the first day is any indication, will provide more wise and inspiring insights useful to us in building up each other in Christ in and around our own chaplaincies. I'll be happy to share them when I get back!

Yours in Christ,
Sam



"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'because she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace. May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

Contributed by Mrs. M. de Lange

Got it all already

"I cannot understand you," said the young man to his unmarried aunt. "You seem so happy and contented. I've always thought that unmarried women are lonely and miserable and just longing for the presence of a man about the place."

"Well," his aunt responded, smiling, "I've got a fireplace that smokes, a parrot that swears, a cat that stays out half the night with no explanation, and a dog that leaves muddy footprints all over the house. What more do I want?"

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4th May | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd Dr Sjoerd Bonting |
| Seventh Sunday of Easter | Intercessor | Linda ten Berge |
| | First Reading Agnes Lee | Acts 1:6-14; |
| | Second Reading Colin Lee | 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 |
| | Gospel | John 17:1-11 |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 25th May | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| First Sunday after Trinity | Intercessor | Marykay Schouten |
| | First Reading Coretta Van Leer | Leviticus 19:1, 2, 9-18 |
| | Second Reading Peter Ribbens | 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | Gospel | Matthew 5:38-48 |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 11th May | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| Pentecost (please bring a Bible in another language you know, so we can read this passage out in different languages!) | Intercessor | Pauline Talstra |
| | First Reading Victor Pirenne | Acts 2:1-21 |
| | Second Reading Heleen Rauwerda | 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 |
| | Gospel | John 20:19-23 |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st June | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| Second Sunday after Trinity | Intercessor | |
| | First Reading | Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28 |
| | Second Reading | Romans 1:16, 17; 3:22b-28 |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | Gospel | Matthew 7:21-28 |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18th May | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| Trinity Sunday Dedication of the new Council | Intercessor | Joy Romeijn |
| | First Reading Vivian Reinders | Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31 |
| | Second Reading Hans Ribbens | 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 28:16-20 |
| 10:30 am Sung Eucharist ? | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8th June | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| Third Sunday after Trinity | Intercessor | |
| | First Reading | Hosea 5:15-6:6 |
| | Second Reading | Romans 4:13-25 |
| | Gospel | Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 |