

Poetry and Prose

St Thomas the Apostle (believed martyred by spear, 3rd July, India)
Thomas was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' confusion is shown in talks with Jesus but Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it. Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Jesus appears but, instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God". Thus Thomas' honest doubts turned to honest faith have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries who also want to follow Jesus but require some proof of this amazing event. In Thomas' complete affirmation of faith after meeting the risen crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Page 16

The Incredulity of St Thomas: Peter Paul Rubens (Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp; <http://www.peterpaulrubens.org/The-Incredulity-Of-St-Thomas-large.html>)

In the fourth Gospel Thomas moves to centre stage. He queries the words of Jesus, evoking the confession "I am the way and the truth and the life" from our Lord. After the Resurrection, unconvinced by the accounts of the others, Thomas has that memorable and moving encounter with the risen Lord.

In *The Incredulity of St Thomas* (1614), part of a triptych, Thomas gazes in wonder at the marked hand of Jesus. The light in the canvas comes from the risen body of Jesus, and the disciples move from the shadows into that light as their faith in the risen Lord grows and matures. It is a momentous occasion, for this meeting of master and servant, of Lord and disciple, is not just an exercise in overcoming doubt. It is an affirmation that only God can raise or be raised from death.

In the painting, one hand is turned towards the disciples, the other reaches out to us. We may come to Jesus, like Thomas, with doubts and concerns, with worry and anxiety. Jesus will meet us in the honesty and openness of our faith to reassure us that he is, as he was for Thomas, the way, the truth and the life – our Lord and our God.

*Oh! If the iris of the skies
Transcends the painter's art,
How could he trace to human eyes
The rainbow of the heart;
When love, joy, fear, repentance, shame,
Hope, faith, in swift succession came,
Each claiming there a part;
Each mingling in the tears that flowed,
The words that breathed - "My Lord! My God!"*
(Revd Thomas Dale (1797-1870), last verse *Unbelieving Thomas*)

Abstract from God in Arts by the Revd Michael Burgess



The Chaplain writes **Of Rocks and Ant Hills**

Along with 20 or so others, I attended the East Netherlands' Quiet Day on June 12th at the Franciscan House in Denekamp. Elsewhere in the magazine you can read others' impressions of the day, skilfully led by Maria Kersten (OFS) on the subject of "Images of God which support and guide our faith journey". For my part, I found the day spiritually deepening, and trust that other participants did too. (And the beautiful surroundings and gorgeous weather helped those of us who like to meditate peripatetically!)

In the morning session, we were given the opportunity to reflect on a natural symbol of God from the Old Testament that particularly spoke to us and our faith journeys. Examples included the Potter (as in Jeremiah's image of being fashioned like a jar by the Potter), the Eagle (as, in one instance, Isaiah's image of being lifted up on wings of eagles), the Rock (as in "Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just" of Deut. 32:3b-4a).

I was given to reflect on the Rock image, using Scripture and the environs of the Franciscan House as substance for meditation. I wandered about a bit and ended up on a shaded bench looking out on some farm fields. No impressive rocks were in immediate prospect, but my eyes fell on the flagstones below me. There, a small mass of ants were devoting their Saturday to DIY on their multi-storey flat (a.k.a. ant hill).

I found myself pondering what God's perspective might be on our projects and efforts. Ants are known (and rightly admired) for their industry. Proverbs 30:24-28: ²⁴ Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: ²⁵ Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; ²⁶ coney are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the

(Continued on page 4)



Twente News

Congratulations

Our best wishes and warmest congratulations go to Zoe and Alistair Lilley on the birth (2 June) of their new daughter, Sophie Catherine, a sister for Sarah. Sophie and her family joined the service at St Mary's Chapel on 27 June, making it a very special occasion indeed.

Congratulations were also the order of the day for Els and Everhard Ottens, celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary on Friday, 2 July. Gifted in saying it with flowers, Linda ten Berge presented them with a lovely bouquet, expressing our sentiments in a more tangible form.

Farewell

Unfortunately, at the same service the time had come to say goodbye to the Allen family – Vivian, Michael, Rachel and Thad – who were returning home to America. They will be sorely missed at our services and at Junior Church, and we wish them Godspeed and every blessing in the future.

Council Meeting

A brief summary of the council meeting held on 21 June is given below:

- The collection on Remembrance Sunday is to go to the British Legion as decided at the AGM.
- It was agreed that there will be a training session for readers on Sunday, 10 October 2010.
- The council appointed the standing committee. This consists of the Chaplain, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.
- It was agreed that Count Alfred and Arthur Cass, together with the Wardens, will represent the Anglican Church Twente on the ENGC council.
- The council formally appointed Lub Gringhuis as Assistant Treasurer.

Those are my principles, and if you don't like them ... well, I have others. – Groucho Marx

Volcano

A recent letter that appeared in *The Independent* newspaper: "Following the recent interruption to air travel, I find myself out of pocket, due to what I am informed is an 'act of God'. To avoid future financial embarrassment, please could you recommend an atheist insurance company?"

Scared?

As a sergeant in a parachute regiment, I took part in several night-time exercises. Once, I was seated next to a lieutenant fresh from jump school. He was quiet and looked a bit pale, so I struck up a conversation. "Scared, lieutenant?" I asked. He replied, "No, just a bit apprehensive." I asked, "What's the difference?" He replied, "That means I'm scared, but with a university education."



THOMAS CRANMER



In June we read about the Book of Common Prayer, the first prayer book in English. The person who wrote most of it, Thomas Cranmer, was born on 2nd July 1489. He became Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of Henry VIII, however Thomas lived in dangerous times for anyone who took an interest in religious matters. When he was a young man people were executed for smuggling Bibles in English into this country.

Thomas worked to replace the old style of worship with a closer interpretation of scripture. God's word was available to most people for the first time: people were at last allowed to read the Bible in their own language. More people were able to read and write although it still wasn't something that most people could do. But Thomas Cranmer was part of that beginning that we take for granted every time we say our prayers now.

J-WORDS

All the words in this word search begin with the letters JU (for July among other things). Can you find them all?

J U B I L E E E C J
 U U J U S T I C U U
 D O G U K E K T B S
 O J U G G L E P O T
 J U K E B O X E X I
 U U C R E P M U J C
 J R I J U R Y P M E
 U Y T C B O X L B E
 G M B O E L B M U J
 J U M B O E G D U J

Jubilee Judge Judo Jug
 Juggle Juice Jukebox July
 Jumbo Jumble Jumper Jury
 Just Justice Jute



What has four legs and goes 'Boo'?

A cow with a cold.

Why are chocolate buttons rude?

They are nude Smarties.

What lies in a pram and wobbles?

A jelly baby.

What do you get if you cross a cow, a sheep and a baby goat?
The Milky Baaaa Kid.



⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘
**Did God
 Create Life?**

A recent publication by Craig Ventner and co-workers seems to have put the lie to this belief. They took a bacterium from which they sequenced the genome. Then they synthesized the genome from its building blocks, the nucleotide bases. They took a shortcut to make it easier: they synthesized the genome in pieces, inserted these in a yeast cell, which stitched them together. Then they removed the genome from the yeast cell and inserted it into a bacterium from which the original genome had been removed. Lo and behold: the bacterium started to divide with the synthetic genome.

Did they really "synthesize" a living cell? No, they needed the living yeast cell to put the genome pieces together. Yes, but in principle they could have synthesized the full genome. No, because they inserted the genome into a bacterial cell, which had all the enzymes and chemicals necessary to allow the genome to duplicate. So God is still not out of the picture.

Ah, but six years earlier, some researchers took the other approach: they made artificial micelles in which they enclosed a commercially available mixture of all biomolecules, including DNA, needed for protein synthesis. And indeed, protein synthesis took place. So conceivably, by combining the two approaches, a cell capable of both duplication and protein synthesis could be produced.

But even then God would not be completely out of the picture. We know that the first living cells cannot have used DNA for protein synthesis, because that requires certain enzymes, which are proteins. The chicken and egg problem! It is thought that RNA (the intermediate in production of proteins by DNA) may have provided proteins in the first cells. This still leaves the problem of how the thousands of different biomolecules operating in present-day cells could be formed from the simple inorganic molecules present on the primeval earth (ammonia, methane, carbon monoxide, hydrogen, hydrogen sulfide).

So God is still in the picture, but the molecular biologists are giving Him "a run for His life"!

By Sjoerd L. Bonting

- Count Alfred informed the council that work on the installation of the new heating system is expected to start at the beginning of January 2011. The work will take about one month. The council are looking at possibilities for a new venue for the services during that time.

Key Dates

4 July to 8 August	St Mary's Summer Teas
End July	Franciscan Pilgrims in Twente
2 September	Council Meeting
11 September	Castle Fair
3 October	Harvest Festival
10 October	Training Session for Readers
1 November	Council Meeting
14 November	Remembrance Sunday
12 December	Carol Service

Visit to Five Episcopal Churches

By Sjoerd L. Bonting

During our recent journey through the US we had the rather unique experience of visiting five different Episcopal churches on consecutive Sundays: on the Pacific coast, in Silicon Valley, in the Far West, in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

(continued on page 4)



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.

The Holiday Maker's Hymn

Let us, with a gladsome mind,
 Pack our bags for a great time.
 Holidays once more are here
 So our minds are full of cheer.
 Goodbye work and hello sun,
 Goodbye drudge and hello fun!
 Tell workmates they're in our thoughts
 As we go about our sports.
 To the airport for our flights,
 Through a sea of red brake lights,
 At check-in we join a crowd
 Held up by volcanic cloud.
 But at last we get away
 For our longed-for holiday.
 Flop down in our hotel room.
 (Hope the builders finish soon.)
 Though our money goes not far,
 Neither does our old hire-car,
 Yet we can't be very sad,
 It's a change, and that's not bad.
 Two weeks pass in blinding flash,
 On our homeward way we dash,
 And, with less than gladsome mind,
 Get back to the daily grind!
By Nigel Beeton

Positive View

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man could sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to clear his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end – about their wives, their families, their homes, their jobs, their vacations. Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would describe all the things he could see outside. His roommate began to live for these moments when his day would be enlivened by all the activity and colour of the outside world. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake, where ducks and swans swam while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the other man would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene. Days, weeks and months passed. One morning, the nurse came in only to find that the man by the

(Continued from page 1)

crag; ²⁷ locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; ²⁸ a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.”

When one is small, it may seem that things around one appear large and forbidding. (From an ant's eye view, a grain of sand may represent a considerable burden.) But if we, like the ants, work together and support one another's efforts – provided we always and only build on the foundation of the one true Rock – we, with faith and God's power, can move mountains.

Yours in Christ,
Sam Van Leer



(continued from page 3)

Things that struck us were the sameness in the liturgy, no references to the split in the Episcopal Church over the homosexuality approach, and the ageing congregations with few young families. Striking was that three of the five churches had a female rector, sometimes also a female assistant (18% in Diocese in Europe).

St Paul's, Ventura, CA: a prosperous town of 100,000 on the Pacific coast, north of Los Angeles. A male rector with three assistants. Large plant with day school and offices, but a rather small turnout at the main service. Traditional, staid, self-centred church.

St Thomas', Sunnyvale, CA: Silicon Valley community. Female rector (f) with two assistants. I served there as an assistant from 1985 to 1989. No significant growth in congregation since then. But active social programme, Our Daily Bread, which has served three free hot meals per week for 27 years.

(Continued from page 12)

an inspiring role model in this country where girls are not encouraged to get educations.

At the Edfu Hospital we learned about how tourists can help this worthy cause by choosing only well cared-for horses, by not having more than five people in a carriage and by not letting the drivers gallop the horses. Also contributions are gratefully accepted at the hospitals and receipts are given in return. It was a good decision when St Mary's Church chose The Brooke and I wish this hospital could have been there for Black Beauty. However,



in the present time our donation will help The Brooke's bounty to bring commitment, compassion and life to where there was disinterest, distress and death.

For more information about their activities and/or to make a donation, please look at their website: www.thebrooke.org.

By Katelyn Ferguson

Careful Driver

A man walks into a New York City bank and says he wants to borrow \$2,000 for three weeks. The loan officer asks him what kind of collateral he has. The man says "I've got a Rolls Royce – keep it until the loan is paid off. Here are the keys." The loan officer promptly has the car driven into the bank's underground parking for safe keeping, and gives the man \$2,000.

Three weeks later the man comes into the bank, pays back the \$2,000 loan, plus \$10 interest, and regains possession of the Rolls Royce. The loan officer asks him, "Sir, if I may ask, why would a man who drives a Rolls Royce need to borrow two thousand dollars?" The man answers, "I had to go to Europe for three weeks, and where else could I store a Rolls Royce for that long for ten dollars?"

Great opportunities come to all, but many do not know they have met them. The only preparation to take advantage of them is simple fidelity to what each day brings.

– A. E. Dunning

Learned at School

"Nearly time for the holidays," a father told his young son. "What have you learned at school this term?" "Well, I learned how to say 'please' and 'thank you' in French." "Good!" said his father. "That's more than you ever learned to say in English!"

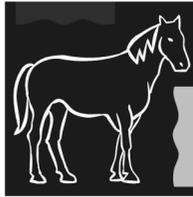
Hearing

A man went into a church and asked the minister to pray for his hearing. "Ah, certainly," said the minister, somewhat taken aback. The man knelt, and the minister placed a hand carefully on each ear and in a loud voice asked God to help the man with his hearing. "I hope that will help," he shouted to the man. "Well, we won't know for a while," the man replied softly, "it isn't until next month."

Out of the mouths ...

A woman invited some people from church to dinner. At the table, she said to her six-year-old daughter, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you've heard Mummy say before," the hostess answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

From Black Beauty to Brooke's Bounty



When I was a horse-crazy girl, I read every book I could find about these terrific equines, from Velvet's Grand National win to Misty's island adventures. However, the one book which was the first door to open my innocent world to the atrocities of animal cruelty was *Black Beauty*. I can still vividly remember my emotional turmoil and anger at man's inhumane acts against these fine animals. Since then, I have vowed to take action and to respond to animals in need of care, so I have been a strong proponent for The Brooke Hospital for Animals.

This hospital was started by another committed lady, named Mrs Brooke, who witnessed the distressing sights of badly treated horses in Egypt where she lived with her British military husband over 85 years ago. Since then, hospitals have been established in at least nine countries, and the kiln areas are especially targeted. Not only do donations pay for hospitals to physically care for wounded animals, but also for educating equine owners, building sun shelters, installing water wells, providing mobile clinics, etc. When I win the lottery, I plan to provide Healing Fields in these countries, near the hospitals, so that the horses and donkeys can lie down in green pastures ...

When I toured Egypt, I experienced the pain and pleasure of visiting the Brooke Hospitals in Cairo, Luxor and Edfu. It was painful to see the terrible wounds, skeletal frames and misery in these animals' eyes but, on the other hand, it was so encouraging to see the wounds being cared for, the horses getting fed and their fearful eyes fill with trust for the healers. The staff were very hospitable and welcoming. At each hospital we were given a tour and I met the doctors. At Luxor I met a young woman vet who is doing research for her doctoral studies there. She is

(Continued from page 4)

Also assistance to job-seekers, which may explain the presence of some young adults in the service. Lively service. Warm atmosphere.

St Luke's, Post Falls, ID: rural community in the Far West with much poverty. Small church with male rector. Our host is preparing for the perpetual deaconate. Traditional church. Friendly congregation. Social outreach in surrounding area. We had a visit with the Bishop of Spokane and saw the cathedral.

St John's, Sparta, WI: rural Midwest community. Small church with female rector and one female deacon. Good music by visiting English organist inspired Erica to sing a descant. Friendly congregation, ministry to Hispanics. Rector had just received D.Min. (doctorate of ministry) on this subject. In her absence I celebrated the Ascension Day service. I gave a well-attended lecture; audience included five Cistercians, a Lutheran and a Methodist pastor. Lively and extensive discussion.

St Luke's, Bethesda, MD: prosperous suburb of Washington DC, many government officials and professionals from nearby national institutes of health. Female rector with female assistant. From this church I was ordained in 1964 and was a curate for one year (on the previous day we visited the Washington National Cathedral, site of my ordination). It was Pentecost. A brass band played before, during and after the service. At the recessional the rector performed a solo dance in the aisle while the band played *When the saints go marching in*. Truly pentecostal!



It gave us an interesting view of the variety of Episcopal churches.

window had died peacefully in his sleep. As soon as appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch. Slowly he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside ... but the window faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have prompted his old roommate to describe such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse replied that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you," she said.

Epilogue:

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. Today is a gift – that's why it is called "the present".

Contributed by Blair Charles

Egotist: a person who suffers from too much vitamin I.

A closed mouth gathers no foot. – Anon

Defence Mechanism?

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was very strong evidence indicating guilt, but no corpse had been found. In the defence's closing statement the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, decided to try a trick. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom!" He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked, eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened. Finally, the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put it to you that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty." With that, the jury retired to deliberate. But after only a few minutes, they came back and pronounced a verdict of guilty. "But how?" the lawyer asked. "You must have had some doubt. I saw all of you stare at the door."

St James the Least of All

Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

My dear Nephew Darren

As you discovered at your Sunday School Anniversary Service last week, special service sheets can be a mixed blessing. It was unfortunate that the front page welcomed your diocesan *Nishop* (although perhaps a good thing you hadn't been welcoming a neighbouring *Vicar*), and it was a shame that one of the hymns contained one verse fewer on the sheets than the book the organist was playing to, obliging your congregation to sing the last verse twice – although since in your tradition you seem to repeat choruses endlessly, probably no one noticed anyway. But the regrettable misprint which meant that ranks of primary school children sweetly lisped an obscenity really was too much. Having said that, computer spell-checkers can cause their own problems. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and on the night found ourselves obliged to sing *away in a manger*, manglers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers – that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidespeople scuttle about looking for replacements, only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway, and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

said, I Am The Bread of Life, The Vine, The Good Shepherd etc. There are so many images, but we were asked to concentrate on Jesus as I Am The Way The Truth and The Life. Again we were given a paper with the relevant bible text from St John's Gospel. We were to meditate on this and answer some of the questions. By the way, none of the questions were a must to be answered; they were there to help us with our meditation. Again we had an hour to work with this, to take a walk in the grounds or just to sit in the sun while meditating. This was followed again by going back to our small groups to talk and tell what we had discovered. After this we came together again in our circle. Maria reminded us that Moses met the mystery of God in the burning bush, with the voice of God saying I Am that I Am. In the New Testament Jesus says I Am etc. The ever present I Am. Maria helped us to look deeper into our relationship with God through the images. The Love that will never let us fall, which is seen in the tenderness of the eagle for its young. The Rock that we can lean on, hide ourselves in and that provides shelter. The Potter, which is always shaping and reshaping us into something beautiful for him to behold.

The afternoon concluded with a liturgy. The hymns were specially chosen and during this liturgy we were asked to share with everyone our symbol from nature and our individual personal prayer. It was a fine ending and I am sure we all came away refreshed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank St Mary's Family for your prayers, the flowers and cards, and the special help I received after my operation when I was feeling weak and low. Thank you.

By Sheila Sprikkelman



Out of Stock

The manager of the garden centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most trusted assistants, saying to a lady customer: "No madam, we certainly haven't had any for some time, and who knows when we will get any." When the customer had gone, the manager tackled him: "I heard that, Jenkins," he remonstrated, "and I must say that I am surprised at you. Never, never admit to a customer that we can't get them something. That's what we're here for. If it's out of stock, tell her you'll get it for her soon. Now, what was it the lady wanted?" "Rain," said Jenkins simply.

Walk Out

After church, the woman at the door was embarrassed before the minister. "I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon." "I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted. "It's not a reflection on you at all," she assured him. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

Duty: what you expect from other people

— Oscar Wilde

Desk: a waste-paper basket with drawers.



Peace and Meditation: Quiet Day June 2010

It was a dry, sunny day in a quiet peaceful setting in Denekamp, where 20 people from the East Netherlands Chaplaincy met together for our annual quiet day led by Maria Kersten, who belongs to the Franciscan Order.

Summer Musing

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes when he had the chance?

Look and Observe

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have had to wait for them?

Here for What?

A parishioner was confiding to his vicar: "When you get to my age, you spend a lot more time thinking about the hereafter." "That's good," approved the vicar, "and what do you conclude?" "Nothing much," went on the parishioner. "It's just that more and more I find myself going into a room and thinking now what on earth did I come in here after?"

Roundabout

Moving in the right circles is not the same as making progress.

To begin with we sat in a circle, which included a home-produced altar. Maria had placed at the back of the altar an icon of the three angels that had come to visit Abraham. The three are sitting at a table – this being the first idea of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The icon has been painted to let us feel the space in front of these three figures, who seem to be inviting each one of us to join them at table. Then Maria asked us to sit quietly with our eyes closed and our hands open on our laps. She told us that God was within each person and to get near this mystery that is God; we could do that by breathing in God's Spirit and breathing out any thoughts that were not necessary. We were then given three images of God, taken from the Old Testament, and asked to choose just one of these images to work with during our morning session. God as a Potter, God as an Eagle and God as a Rock: whichever one we chose there was the relevant bible text taken from the Old Testament which accompanied that image, followed by questions to go with it. For example which word or sentence from the text speaks to you most. The last two questions asked us to think about a symbol from nature that went with our image and to make up and write down our own prayer. We had an hour to do this work, then we were divided into small groups to tell each other about our meditation if we felt like it. After an inspiring and thoughtful morning it was time for lunch.

The afternoon session was taken up with the image of Jesus from the New Testament. For example Jesus

Never, ever, print on them *Do not take home* as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction *Take this sheet home for reference* would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements, and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice resolve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard-bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

© The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

"Oh, yes," the jury foreman replied. "We all looked – but your client didn't!"

Untimely Answered Prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I've been asking God to teach me to whistle, and suddenly, he did!"

Prayer Equality

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" She replied, "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men'".



4th July	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
Fifth Sunday after Trinity	First Reading Elizabeth vd Heide	2 Kings 5:1-14
	Second Reading Maureen vd Heide	Galatians 6:7-16
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

25th July	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
Eighth Sunday after Trinity St James' Day	First Reading Victor Pirenne	Acts 11:27-12:2
	Second Reading Heleen Rauwerda	2 Corinthians 4:7-15
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 20:20-28

11th July	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
Sixth Sunday after Trinity	First Reading Arjen Haffmans	Amos 7:7-17
	Second Reading Jeanet Luiten	Colossians 1:1-4
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 10:25-37

1st August	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
Nineth Sunday after Trinity	First Reading Vivian Reinders	Hosea 11:1-11
	Second Reading Peter Ribbens	Colossians 3:1-11
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 12:13-21

18th July	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
Seventh Sunday after Trinity	First Reading Coretta Van Leer	Amos 8:1-12
	Second Reading Els Ottens	Colossians 1:15-28
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 10:38-42

8th August	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
Tenth Sunday after Trinity	First Reading Joy Romeijn	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
	Second Reading Philippa te West	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 12:32-40