



THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE

A bridge needed to be built across a large, busy river so divers were sent to explore the river bed. The divers discovered a wreck of a large old sailing ship buried in the deep mud just where one of the bridge's main piers needed to be built. They used ropes and powerful tugs, but no matter what they did, the wreck would not budge.

Then an engineer had an idea: the river rises and falls with the tide twice a day so why not use the power of the whole ocean to lift the wreck? At low tide ropes were fastened to lots of barges and then they waited. As the barges rose on the ingoing tide so the ropes tightened and pulled. And slowly, the wreck was eased out of the mud. Nothing could resist the power of the rising water.

And so it is with the love of God. Nothing can resist its power or stand against it. When we would give up and say "it is impossible", God's love is bigger than any ocean and He changes what we believe is unchangeable.

WHAT WATER?

The answers to this Bible quiz are all to do with water.

1. The river where John the Baptist baptized Jesus? (Matthew, chapter 3)
2. The mountain where the Ark landed after the Flood? (Genesis, chapter 8)
3. Where Jesus walked on the water? (John, chapter 6)
4. Who lived by the Cherith Brook and was fed by a raven? (I Kings 17)
5. Jonah set out from this port. (Jonah, chapter 1)
6. The river where Moses was found in a basket. (Exodus, chapter 2)
7. The island where Paul was shipwrecked. (Acts, chapter 28).



Why was the whale so sad?
Because he was a Blue Whale.

What time is it when a whale runs into your boat?
Time to get a new boat.

Answers: 1.Jordan 2.Ararat 3.Sea of Galilee
4.Elijah 5.Joppa 6.Nile 7.Malta

(Source: Parish Pump)

October



2011

A Churchwarden Writes

Fellowship

A period of Interregnum, as St Mary's has been

experiencing now since July, is always a time when an extra appeal is made to the congregation where resources and improvisational talents are concerned. It is a period when a congregation is put to the test. There is no Chaplain as a central focus. We are responsible for ourselves. But our possible feelings of despondency are being remedied by a great deal of blessings!

Our first blessing is that the Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen has offered to return as our locum and, as Everhard wrote last month, we are grateful to see his familiar face every week and to be able to fall back on his long-standing experience.

A second blessing is to see how many resources and talents we have in our congregation. For example our 26th (!) Annual Fair on September 10th. It attracted more visitors than ever. Over 1250 people (not counting the children) found their way to the grounds of Castle Weldam. The atmosphere, also thanks to the glorious weather, was excellent. Live music and dancing enhanced the festive mood even more. The tea-room flourished, there was a choice of beautiful stalls, a tasteful art-room and many other attractions, like tours of the gardens and of St Mary's Chapel. There was also our church stall, where people were informed about the three charities St Mary's supports, The Luweero project in Uganda, The Brooke Hospital for Animals and the Young Achievers in Namibia. Behind the scenes lots of work was done in the kitchen. By now the Fair Committee is operating as a well-oiled machine; we feel a solid and happy team.

A third blessing is our new Local Contact Scheme. A number of our members are contact persons for their area. New visitors to St Mary's are being welcomed most warmly and we hope that more

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Twente News

Lost and Found

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "Not really a miracle," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."



Arrogance

A young and foolish pilot wanted to sound cool and show who was boss on the aviation frequencies. So, the first time he approached an airfield at night, instead of making his official request to the tower, he said: "Guess who?" The controller switched the field lights off and replied: "Guess where!"

Personal Message

Dear Friends,
Thank you very much for all the lovely cards and phone calls during the long weeks after the replacement of my left knee. It will still be a long time before I am back to where I was before the knee troubles began, but progress is steady.

With best wishes to you all,
Erica Schotman

Service 9/11

September 11, 2011, had a very special significance, and the service at Weldam opened with a short silence to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in America, in which nearly 3,000 people lost their lives – a defining moment in American history that continues to reverberate around the world.



On this Sunday too, it was good to see the Revd Sam van Leer back in St Mary's pulpit once more, and to hear how well his whole family were settling in up North. What's more, the Rembrandt Bible had duly arrived! So the presentations that had taken place on 17 July were now crowned with a final gift, with our Churchwarden Joyce Wigboldus performing the honours.

Key Dates

- 13 November Remembrance Sunday*
- 11 December Carol Service followed by Christmas Market

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

*Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear the organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Eat through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such goings-on could not be so,
For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's own house,
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.
By John Betjeman (1904-84)*





Poetry and Prose

World Animal Day

And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals (Jonah 4:11).

This verse ended the first reading on 18 September. As we celebrate World Animal Day and the feast day of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October, and while the humble mouse might not top the list of most lovable species, it's reasonably safe to assume there were one or two scurrying around Ninevah.

Moreover, with Harvest Festival still fresh in mind at this time of the year, this poem by Sir John Betjeman, who succeeded Cecil Day Lewis as Poet Laureate in 1972, seems to hit the seasonal mark on both counts.

Diary of a Church Mouse



Here among long-discarded cassocks,

Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the Vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.

All Souls Sunday Memorial: 6 November 2011

The names of those who have died in the past year, and any others whom church members would like remembered, will be read out during the Act of Memorial at the service on 6 November.

Please write the names of those you would like remembered on the list available in the Hut, or notify the Wardens: Joyce Wigboldus (0570 676007; wigboldus-dewit@planet.nl) or Everhard Ottens (0572 850199; efh.ottens@gmail.com) preferably by 2 November.

Comt nu met sangh

This is the title of a old Dutch song written by Valerius during the Tachtigjarige oorlog, the great war fought between the Northern Netherlands and Spain during the major part of the 16th and 17th centuries. It is also the title of a service being organized by the Council of Churches in the Hof van Twente. On Sunday, 23 October 2011, at 7 o'clock in the evening (19:00 hrs) people from all churches are coming together to sing Hymns of Praise. There are two choirs involved and also the Schola Cantorum from the Petrus and Paulus Church in Goor. A Roman Catholic priest and an Anglican priest will introduce some hymns. The service lasts an hour, and coffee will be served afterwards. Hope to see you there. Erica Schotman



Intercessions

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

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

U Turn

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I'd like to buy some cyanide, please." The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?" The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband." The pharmacist's eyes grew large and he exclaimed, "My goodness, I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. Absolutely not! That's against the law. I'd lose my licence and they'd throw both of us into jail!" The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in an amorous embrace with the pharmacist's wife. Looking thoughtfully at the picture, the pharmacist said, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

The only thing worse than an alarm clock that goes off is one that doesn't!

Whatever you do, avoid a romantic relationship with a tennis player. To them, "Love" means nothing.

The Ocean

according to Kids

If you are surrounded by ocean you are an island. If you don't have ocean all round you, you are incontinent.

– Wayne, age 7

Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend any more.

– Kylie, age 6

The ocean is made up of water and fish. Why the fish don't drown I don't know.

– Bobby, age 6

When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans.

– William, age 7

I'm not going to write about the ocean. My baby brother is always crying, my Dad keeps yelling at my Mom, and my big sister has just got pregnant, so I can't think what to write.

– Amy, age 6

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people will find the way to St Mary's to share in our worship.

And this is what it is all about: fellowship. Not only in the sense of sharing of activities and food and company, but also in the sense that we feel we are all members of God's church, believing that He is the One who governs our lives and who loves us despite all our shortcomings. It is also a matter of encouraging one another, praying for one another and comforting one another. We, in our Interregnum, bear some resemblance to the early Christian communities – just as they, we are hopeful for the future, and as John writes in his first epistle (Ch. 2, vs 8) ... *if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.*

Joyce Wigboldus



Songs of Praise Turns 50

The very first ever BBC *Songs Of Praise* was recorded 50 years ago this September, and broadcast on 1 October 1961. The first programme was recorded on 25 September at the Welsh Baptist Tabernacle Chapel in Cardiff city centre (Tabernacl, Capel y Bedyddwyr). This past summer all surviving members of the original congregation were invited to return for the recording of the anniversary edition, which was conducted by Tim Rhys-Evans, musical director of Only Men Aloud.

Songs of Praise has long been the most popular and beloved of all BBC worship programmes. During its 50 years it has visited more than 1,800 churches, cathedrals and chapels, singing over 12,500 hymns. Guest presenters over the years have included Sir

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By the end of the afternoon no less than 1250 people had received their tickets, and a quick calculation using standard European mathematical conversion tables will show that that's an awful lot of coffee cups to wash up. So much so, that even small grandchildren were drafted in to assist. Rolling up their sleeves, they were very willing to help. But if anyone was hoping for a loving remark that "hands that do dishes are as soft as your face", they were definitely disappointed. Obviously we were using the wrong brand of washing-up liquid!

The Art Exhibition proved to be a resounding success, and in the words of Pauline Talstra: "What an opportunity we are given to express and show off our creativity! The exhibition was a wonderful attraction for all the people who poured into this annual art show. So many comments, so much interest shown, so many photos and so many happy faces as people walked away with their pieces of 'affordable art'. We work so hard to put together this exhibition but in fact we gain so much. As we work together on the Friday, setting up, and then again on the Saturday, the day of the Fair, we share little stories about our lives and learn what drives us in our desire to express ourselves through art. Thank you to all those who have encouraged, helped and physically helped to bring about this exhibition."

An increasing number of visitors found their way to the chapel, and were able to enjoy the short walk through the woods, the architecture and the spiritual atmosphere – this year greatly enhanced by some reflective music.

And as some well-chosen *Songs of Praise* finally brought the event to a close, the sun was still shining and people were still enjoying refreshments outside the tearoom. It was a splendid day ... a perfect day! And our especial thanks go to Count Alfred Solms and Countess Christine for making it all possible.

things that have held us captive so long. we pray that thou wilt give unto us only what we really need. ... give us the vision, the courage that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking thy loving will for our lives.

– Peter Marshall (1902-1949), a former chaplain to the US Senate

Pumpkin Patch

Busy harvesting pumpkins, a woman was asked by a new co-worker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The woman replied, "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff inside. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see."

– Contributed by Blair Charles





Song of Lughnasadh

I am the sovereign splendour of creation,
 I am the fountain in the courts of bliss,
 I am the bright surrender of the willpower,
 I am the watchful guardian and the kiss,
 I am the many-coloured landscape,
 I am the transmigration of the geese,
 I am the burnished glory of the breastplate,
 I am the harbour when all strivings cease.

— Celtic Devotional
 Caitlin Matthews

Teach Us to Pray

Lord, teach us to pray.
 Some of us are not skilled in the art of prayer. As we draw near to thee in thought, our spirits long for thy Spirit, and reach out for thee, longing to feel thee near. We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts. We know that we are closest to thee when we have left behind the

Books used in preparing for the course:

Our Courteous Lord, material for six sessions in small groups on *The Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich. Prepared by Brian White (Methodist Publishing House)

All Shall Be Well, Revelations of Divine Love, abridged and arranged for daily reading, by Sheila Upjohn, ISBN 0-232-51970-6 (now published under a new ISBN)

The Wisdom of Julian of Norwich, compiled and introduced by Monica Furlong, ISBN 0-7459-3645-8

Praying with Julian of Norwich, by Gloria Durka, ISBN 0-88489-221-2

Castle Fair 2011

The moral dilemma of whether to opt for jam today or jam tomorrow was certainly not one that confronted visitors to Weldam Castle Fair on 10 September this year. Stocks were such that the wish for jam could be satisfied for the foreseeable future! What's more, there were a host of stalls catering to all tastes: embroidery, bookbinding, stained glass, porcelain, plants, Morris dancing, small antiques and much much more. In fact visitors were greatly surprised by the array of activities and delights on offer and were already making a note in their diary for next year.



And the weather forecasters were right! The weather was beautiful. Did we ever doubt them in the days leading up to the event, when we routinely awoke to grey skies and dismal rain? Well, perhaps we did – and mentally summoned up some provisional comments about meeting the needs of the farmers. But all was well and the visitors turned out in force, heralded in by the bagpipers as the "turnstile" opened for business at 11.00 am.

Julian of Norwich Part 2

The September issue of the magazine contains the first part of an article that I wrote in 1997 concerning a discussion series that we held during Lent with the title "Our courteous Lord". This series used material on *The Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich. This is the second part of the article.

In her writings Julian of Norwich rarely quoted from the Bible, although her book is well grounded in God's word. Three passages from John serve as a summary of Julian's teaching on the love of God:

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour." (John 3:16-17)

"Now is the time for this world to be judged: now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (John 12:31-32)

"And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us. God is love and whoever lives in love lives in union with God and God lives in union with him. Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on Judgement Day; and we will have it because our life in this world is the same as Christ's." (1 John 4:16-17)

These passages show Julian's vision of a loving Christ who will make all creation new. In each of the sessions of the Lent course we made use of the material in the booklet *Our Courteous Lord* prepared by Brian White. In this material each session contained a passage from the writings of Julian, a number of applicable Bible references, a comment on the passage to clarify the text and a number of questions for discussion.

Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves into chargers.

— Christopher, age 7

My dad was a sailor on the ocean. He knows all about the ocean. What he doesn't know is why he quit being a sailor and married my Mom.

— James, age 7

Back to Nature

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez Oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000.00. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were being released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

⚔ dress to kill ...



... and I cook the same way too.

Male or Female?

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. *House*, for instance, is feminine: *la Casa*. *Pencil*, however, is masculine: *el lapiz*. A student asked, "What gender is *computer*? Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether *computer* should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that *computer* should definitely be of the feminine gender (*la computadora*), because:

(1) no one but their creator understands their internal logic; (2) the native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else; (3) even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval; and (4) as soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself

The first of the sessions covered Julian's vision of the hazelnut. Julian writes: *"He showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, and I perceived that it was as round as any ball. I looked at it and thought: What can this be? ... In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that he loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what is that to me? It is that God is the creator and the lover and the protector."* (From the Short Text: chapter 4.) This shows Julian's understanding of the value of creation in the eyes of God.



Icon of Julian holding a hazelnut (photo by kind permission of the Julian Centre)

In another session we looked at Julian's optimism in "All will be well", which is probably the best known saying of Julian and is often quoted. The saying is included in thoughts about sin and why God in his wisdom allowed sin in the first place. *"And I saw that nothing stood in my way but sin. And I saw that this was the same for all of us. And it seemed to me that, if sin had not been, we should all have been clean and like unto our Lord, the way he made us. And so, in my folly, before this time, I had often wondered why, by the great foreseeing wisdom of God, the beginning of sin was not prevented – for then, I thought, all*

Like St Paul in Romans, chapter 5, Julian well understood that sin came into the world through one man, Adam, and that Jesus Christ was the second Adam. Through his sacrificial death all mankind would be saved from the consequences of sin. According to the comment in the discussion material *"Julian comes as near as it is possible to being a universalist – one who believes that all will finally be saved. She does however stop short."* Although we read that Christ died for all mankind, there is always the possibility that some will choose to reject what is offered. I think that we should therefore take our own responsibility to accept the wonderful gift which God offers to us and to encourage others to do the same. For those who appear not to respond we should remember that for God nothing is impossible. We need to have faith in him. The writings of Julian of Norwich have changed my way of looking at this question.

In our last session we looked at Julian's writings on what she learned from it all. *"Would you know your Lord's meaning in this? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show you? For love."* (From the Long Text: chapter 86.) We concluded our lent course on the last evening, in Holy Week, with a short service of Holy Communion in my home, in which the previously consecrated bread and wine were distributed by our lay assistant at the time, Paul Chesmond. I certainly enjoyed running the lent course on Julian of Norwich and gained a lot from doing so. I hope that this two-part article has introduced you to Julian of Norwich and will have interested you to read more of her writings.

Simone Yallop

(References over page)

was white.

Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women.

We bought Ray-Ban sunglasses for five euros from a street trader, only to find out they were fake.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It only took the Americans three hours to get home.

The brochure stated: "No hairdressers at the accommodation." We're trainee hairdressers – will we be OK staying here?

I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts.

(Some complaints received by Thomas Cook Holidays)



It isn't hard to make a mountain out of a mole-hill. Just add a little dirt.

Intrepid Travelers!

A woman threatened to call police after claiming that she'd been locked in by staff. In fact, she had mistaken the "do not disturb" sign on the back of the door as a warning to remain in the room.

We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish.

There was no egg slicer in the apartment.

It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during siesta time. This should be banned.

On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all.

We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels.

We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it

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In looking at Julian's writings on "All shall be well" we had a most interesting and fruitful discussion. In reading about this, I had been reminded of an episode of the old television series *Bless me Father*, which had recently been re-run on television. The series was a comedy about a Roman Catholic priest, Father Duddleswell, played by Arthur Lowe, and his curate Father Neil. This particular episode reflected the subject that we were discussing and so we watched part of it on video during the session. The episode concerned an old man who was about to die but all through his life did not want to have anything to do with the church. His family, particularly his grandson, were very concerned about him. Where would the old man go when he died since he had never wanted to know anything about the church or religion? At this time Father Duddleswell and several local church leaders were having a conference on the subject of heaven and hell and various points of view were put forward. Towards the end of the programme the old man died and Father Duddleswell conducted the funeral service. After the service Father Duddleswell's curate asked him why he had been prepared to bury an atheist. Father Duddleswell said that he had done it for the family and that he believed that somewhere deep down in the old man's heart he did believe, and added: "The church calls us to believe in hell, but no one but a raving lunatic would believe that there is anyone there."

This seemed to me to be in keeping with what Julian had been saying about the fact that we should believe the church's teaching about heaven and hell, but that in the end God would make all things well. We are not to know about how God will do this. We probably all know people who in their lives have not responded to the Christian message. I think that we can take comfort from the words of Julian that in the end God will make all things well.

should have been well. I should have left off this worrying, but nevertheless I mourned and sorrowed over it without reason or discretion. But Jesus, who in this showing told me all that I needed, answered by this word and said: 'Sin is behovely – it had to be - but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'" (From the Long Text: chapter 27)

Julian questioned how this could be and was told that *"There is a Great Deed which the blessed Trinity shall do at the last day ... This is the Great Deed, ordained by our Lord since before he began ... by which he shall make all things well."* (From the Long Text: chapter 32)

Julian struggled with the apparent inconsistency between her experience of God's unconditional love and the teachings of the church on God's judgement, final damnation and salvation. Julian wished to be faithful to the teachings of Mother Church whilst working out a theology of sin and salvation that was faithful to her own experience of God. In this, God comforted her. *"And, understanding all this, I thought it was impossible that all manner of thing should be well, as our Lord showed me at this time. And I had no other answer from our Lord God in these showings except this: 'What is impossible for you is not impossible for me. I shall keep my word in all things and I shall make all things well.' So I was taught by the grace of God that I should hold steadfastly to the Faith, as I had already understood it, and also that I should soberly believe that all things shall be well."* (From the Long Text: chapter 32)

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spending money on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine (*el computador*), because:

(1) in order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on; (2) they have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves; (3) they are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and (4) as soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won. (But no prizes for noticing that the teacher was a *señor(in)a!*)

My mouth doesn't seem to have a back-space key ...

A young curate who had just been ordained stepped in to take the sermon at very short notice, because the vicar was ill. At the end of the sermon he explained apologetically: 'At such short notice I'm afraid I just had to rely on the Holy Spirit. Next week I hope to do better!'

His ...

Why do women have smaller feet than men? It's one of those evolutionary things that allows them to stand closer to the kitchen sink.

– Anon (M)

... and Hers

Men are always whining about how we suffocate them.

Personally, I think if you can hear them whining you're not pressing hard enough on the pillow.

– Anon (F)

Mature Romance

Jack, age 92, and Barbara, age 89, are very excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a pharmacy. Jack suggests they go in. Addressing the man behind the counter, he says: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?" "Of course we do," answered the pharmacist. "How about medicine for the circulation?" "All kinds," came the response. Jack continued, "How about medicine for rheumatism, memory

St James the Least of All When the film makers come to church

My dear Nephew Darren,

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.



Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble to go round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the 19th century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmont was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a 19th century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting

It's hard to believe that he is 90.

Yet the truth is, we are becoming increasingly aware that more and more people around us are reaching that once rare milestone. I remember being taken as a child to see a great-aunt who had just had her 90th birthday. We were ushered into the room to be confronted with a frail figure, mouth open, pale eyes almost invisible – a kind of living waxwork. Today among our friends, neighbours and fellow church members there will probably be many 90-year-olds – and even centurions – who are far from being waxworks. People may not yet match Methuselah in the Bible, who (it is claimed) reached 969 years, but we are on average living longer, and that prolonged life more often retains a degree of good health and activity.

Yet we live in a world which worships youth! The reason the Bible lists all those legendary men of old in Genesis (chapter 5) is that old age was seen as the mark of wisdom, something to be valued and revered. The leaders of Israel, and the leaders of the early churches, were called "elders", because it was inconceivable that younger men could do it. None of that "too old at fifty" in those days!

It's an observable fact that congregations in our churches are, on the whole, well above the national average age. That probably doesn't matter too much, so long as they are constantly fed with the rising age-groups. As one shrewd observer commented to me, "It's quite natural to mug up for finals!" St Paul told Timothy not to let the people among whom he ministered "despise his youth" (he was well over 30 at the time). We now need the balancing advice. Let no one despise the elderly! We're not just hanging around. Like Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we'll faithfully do our bit until we topple off the perch.

© David Winter, a former Head of BBC Religious Broadcasting; courtesy Parish Pump

cake had already been sold. On hearing the news, Alice was horrified. Everyone would know! What would they think? All night, she lay awake thinking about people talking about her behind her back. The next day, Alice decided to forget the cake and attend the luncheon at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. She did not really want to go because the hostess had more than once looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa. Still, having accepted, she couldn't think of an excuse to stay home. The meal was elegant, the company was upper-crust old south, and to Alice's horror the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her face. She started out of her chair to tell the story, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake!" Alice, still stunned, sank back in her chair ... when she heard the hostess say, "Thank you, I baked it myself."

Contributed by Joop & Stephanie Prins

Icing on the Cake

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Baptist Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa, but only remembered at the last minute – the morning of the bake sale. After rummaging through cabinets, she found an angel food cake mix and quickly made it amidst the early morning rush. Taking the cake from the oven, she found the centre had dropped. "Oh dear," she exclaimed, "there's no time to bake another!" This cake was important because Alice did so want to fit in at her new church community. So being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the centre of the cake. She found it in the bathroom – a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. The finished product looked beautiful. Before leaving to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened and buy the cake. Alas, when the daughter arrived, the attractive

Shepherd Family Cookbook

Upon receiving a long-awaited treasure of family recipes, I discovered it was salted with a few odd ones. My father's Missouri-based family loves to tease. Let me know if you give this one a try!

Linda ten Berge-Shepherd

Stuffed Camel: *Sheik Em Down Shepherd*

1 whole camel, medium size	
1 whole lamb, large size	
20 whole chickens, medium size	
60 eggs	12 kilos rice
2 kilos pine nuts	2 kilos almonds
1 kilo pistachio nuts	110 gallons water
5 tbsp. pepper	Salt to taste



Skin, trim and clean the camel, lamb and chickens, and boil until tender. (Be sure the pot is large enough.) Cook rice until fluffed. Fry nuts until brown, and mix with rice. Hard boil the eggs and peel them.

Then stuff the chickens with eggs and rice. Stuff the lamb with five of the chickens and some rice. Stuff the camel with the lamb and more rice.

Broil in large oven or near a gas flare until brown. Spread the remaining rice on a large tray and place the camel on top. Place the remaining stuffed chickens around the camel. Decorate rice with boiled eggs and nuts.

As the Duke of Edinburgh Turns 90 ...

This summer the Duke of Edinburgh reached his 90th birthday. Those of us who can remember the tall, fair-headed naval officer who married Princess Elizabeth in 1947 have become used to his figure walking just behind the Queen on royal occasions over the last 64 years, often raising a laugh as he follows her along a line of well-wishers with a few well-chosen (or occasionally not quite so well-chosen) remarks. His has been a remarkable life and his continuing energy and individuality as the Prince Consort have been remarkable.

them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

© *The Rev Dr Gary Bowness*

(Continued from page 4)

Cliff Richard, Alan Titchmarsh and Toyah Willcox.

At its peak, 12 million viewers watched the programme, with audiences still 2.5 million *Songs of Praise* has featured in episodes of comedies *Vicar of Dibley* and *The Brittas Empire*.

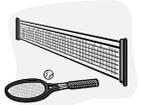
Cardiff's Millennium Stadium was the location for *Songs of Praise's* largest ever episode. The special edition saw 60,000 worshippers, a 6,000 piece choir, an orchestra of 100 harps, the band of the Welsh Guards and an anthem specially written by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber marking the first Sunday of the new millennium.

(Source: *Parish Pump*)

problems, arthritis, heartburn and indigestion?" "Yes, a large variety. The works." "Oh, just one more thing, what about wheelchairs and walkers and canes?" "All speeds, all sizes," replied the pharmacist. "Good," said Jack, "We'd like to use this store for our wedding presents list."

Action Man

A middle management executive has to take up some sport on his doctor's orders, so he decides to play tennis. After a couple of weeks his secretary asks him how he's doing. "I've learnt quite a bit," the manager says. "When I'm on the court and I see the ball speeding towards me, my brain immediately says, 'To the corner! Back hand! To the net! Volley! Stretch up! Smash!'" "Sounds great," says the secretary.



"Yes, but then my body says, 'Who? Me? You must be kidding!'"

9th October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	First Reading Arthur Cass	Isaiah 25:1-9
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Janice Collins	Philippians 4:1-9
	Gospel	Matthew 22:1-14

16th October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	First Reading Arjen Haffmans	Isaiah 45:1-7
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Elizabeth v.d. Heide	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
	Gospel	Matthew 22:15-22

23rd October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	First Reading Maureen v.d. Heide	Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Agnes Lee	Colossians 3:12-17
	Gospel	Matthew 24:30-35

30th October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
All Saints Sunday	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Janice Collins
	First Reading Jeanet Luiten	Revelation 7:9-17
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with Ministry for Healing	Second Reading Els Ottens	1 John 3:1-3
	Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12

6th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
Third Sunday before Advent	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Els Ottens
	First Reading Victor Pirenne	Wisdom 6:12-16
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with All Souls Memorial	Second Reading Heleen Rauwerda	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
	Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13

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