

October



2011



WEST MOORS PARISH MAGAZINE

St Mary's Church WEST MOORS



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**Magazine Contributions for
NOVEMBER**

By, or before, Sunday 16th OCTOBER

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com

CHECK OUR WEBSITE : www.stmaryswestmoors.org.uk

including contents of the monthly magazine – see the pictures in full colour!

FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Mike Bowler, Gillian Clarke : Church Wardens

Noel Moss-Holland, Jenny Winslade: Assistant Wardens



Mike sent this contribution to Sidelines this month:

“Holiday are a fantastic opportunity to see different things, experience new cultures and hopefully to broaden ones knowledge and perception of life. The last few days visiting Turkey, Rumania and Ukraine have certainly done just that for me.

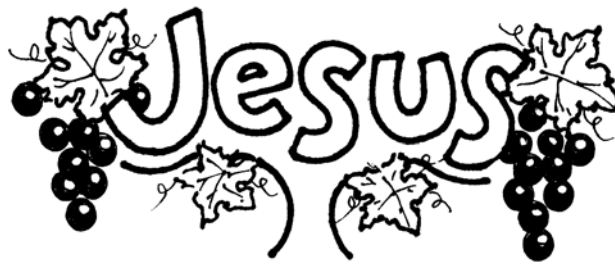
Hearing the call to prayer from the Minarets in Istanbul, currently a very cosmopolitan and secular society, put a picture in my mind of Andrew chanting regularly from the church roof rather than the bell ringing for just the one service on Sunday! Seeing the poverty in the rural area between Contanza and Tulcea on the Danube delta made me realise just how ‘rich’ we are, and I don’t mean in just the money sense. Rumania is a country that has been fought over for hundreds of years and has seen a financial collapse far worse than the current situation at home.

Finally the city of Odessa, and how many things struck cords there! A Cathedral was blown up in the 1930s and on the site was to have been built a sports centre. This was left as just a hole in the ground for over 60 years, but the area was always known as Cathedral Square; on the site now stands the new Preobrazhensky Cathedral, still not quite finished but beautiful. Perhaps St Mary’s West Moors’ 20 odd years to build a new hall wasn’t so bad after all! The other thing was the Potemkin Steps, all 192 of them; these are broken up by 10 platforms or landings. From the bottom you can only see the steps but from the top you can only see the platforms. Very much like life: looking forwards one can see many stages (steps) but looking back only the major stages are visible. Just to add to the illusion, from the top the platforms don’t appear to get narrower as they descend but from the bottom the steps do. Just how like life is this!”

Back here in West Moors, it has been a joy to have so many weddings and baptisms in our church over the last few months. We want our church to be used by the community and I know the congregation has

appreciated some of the extra garlands and floral displays at our Sunday Eucharist!

We have a particularly interesting celebration coming up on Sunday 23rd October, Bible Sunday. We will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The Authorised Version, as it is also known, has sold more than one billion copies since it was first published in 1611. It is arguable that there has been no more important single publication, as its impact on culture and language over the last 400 years has been huge around the world. Not only has it inspired great art, music and literature, but it has changed lives and shaped whole societies. The Prince of Wales has described the King James Bible as 'part of the very architecture of our culture'. To enhance the distinctive ambience of the celebratory service, the Book of Common Prayer will be used, we will sing some sixteenth century hymns and Andrew promises a medieval flavour to his sermon. So do come and join us!



WELL DONE!

The Sue Ryder shop in West Moors would like to say a big thanks to all who helped raise £258.20 for our good cause. On the sponsored bike ride, with help from a few members of West Moors Scout group, we cycled 60 miles along a section of the trailway.



Dawn and Elizabeth
Meetings in OCTOBER

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Afternoon Group

Wednesday 12th October - 2pm in the Church Hall.
"Help for Heroes". A talk by Shelagh Addy.

Evening Group

Monday 17th October - 8pm in the Church Hall.
Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.
A talk by Annette Plaistow-Trapaud.

Everyone is invited to come to either meeting and hear about the work of these wonderful organisations.

"What does love look like?

It has the hands to help others.

It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.

It has the eyes to see misery and want.

It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.

That is what love looks like."



Best Wishes . . .

. . . to Eileen Bates, in Christchurch Hospital.

We are pleased to hear that Eileen is full of spirit and making steady progress. We wish her well and remember her in our prayers.

Christian Concepts

A series of articles on Doctrine

3. The Covenant

'The Covenant' is a term to describe an agreement between God and Humanity.

It is a spiritual concord and is written down through the annals of Scripture. The original Jewish covenant has its parallels in

many ancient faiths and normally includes a statement of blessings and curses - I have seen an example ancient text from Babylonian times in a Museum in Istanbul for example. The first biblical covenant is between God and Noah at the time of the Great Flood; however the foundational covenant for the Jewish peoples is with Abram (later Abraham). The details are recorded in Genesis chapter seventeen with God promising Abram he will become the ancestor of a multitude of nations, exceedingly numerous. The Covenant will be everlasting between God and Abram's offspring - Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 2:24). By the time of Moses the peoples are being sprinkled with blood as a mark of the covenant (Exodus 24:8). Then a Tabernacle is built in which are housed the two stone tablets of the law ('Ten Commandments') in the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 24-40). In the book of Leviticus chapters 26 & 27 we learn that there will be severe consequences for a breaking of the covenant. The book of Deuteronomy charts blessings & curses and especially for the worship of foreign gods. In Joshua's time and thereafter the Ark of the Covenant is paraded as a Talisman for the Israelite armies until it is finally brought to the Shrine at Shiloh and thence to Jerusalem in the time of David and Solomon.

The Tabernacle – an ornate holy tent of meeting, the Shiloh Shrine which was developed from it, and later The Temple were places where the 'Shekinah' (divine presence) had his 'footstool' in the Holy of Holies, an inner sanctuary hidden behind the veil (curtain). In here until the 586 B.C. Babylonian conquest, were placed the Ark with the two Tablets of the Covenant, the Rod of Aaron and the pot of Manna. When the Temple was restored in 518 B.C. there was a raised area to mark the former place of the Ark. This most sacred sanctuary was only accessible once per year on the Day of Atonement and then only by the High Priest. Daily offerings and prayers of worship were made though, in accordance with the Mosaic Law by the Levitical Priests, on a rota system in these shrines throughout Jewish history, until the 70 C.E. sacking of Jerusalem.



To begin to obtain a Christian understanding of The Covenant this Jewish history is vital. At the Last Supper (a Passover Meal on 2nd April 33 A.D.) Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee took the bread and wine and blessed them in the time-honoured religious way. But as he broke the bread and passed it to the guests, his disciples, he said, "Take and eat, this is my body." Then taking the cup of wine he said, "Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28). Moses had sprinkled blood on the people as a sign of the covenant, now Jesus used the metaphor of the wine as his blood that would be shed during his passion as a sign of a New Covenant. Jesus in effect became the sacrificial lamb, offering his life to God and he also became the intermediating High Priest. As he died on the cross the Veil of the Temple was rent in two (Matt 27:51) and God was no longer hidden from view in some ancient empty sanctuary, but was revealed to humanity in the person of Jesus Christ the God/Man.

Jesus made a New Covenant, in perfectly fulfilling the Jewish Covenant in his life and death. This new accord between God and man was a covenant of eternal life for all who believed and put their trust in God through Jesus (John 14:1-6). It was a way of life open to all who chose to follow in his way, not just Jews, but all those who pledged their lives to God in response - they become a spiritual Israel. This includes all peoples.

Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah promised in the scriptures and his coming inaugurated a new era when God was revealed in person and his ways made clearly known. Jesus spoke of the kingdom of Heaven (meaning the reign of God). It is a time when God has fulfilled his eternal covenant with the ancient Israelites in full. Jesus said he would not drink wine again until he drank it anew in his Father's Kingdom with his people - disciples (Matt 26:29). The Kingdom era has begun. As Christians enter into worship and especially at Holy Communion they are reminded of this sacramental covenant between themselves and God in Jesus Christ.

The Covenant is an eternal spiritual relationship between God and mankind, mediated for Christians in Jesus Christ. Abraham did become the promised spiritual ancestor of many nations & peoples - Jews, Muslims and Christians. There has been a divergence of belief on the precise detail of the covenant, but billions believe that God is a creator who is involved and interested in his creation. Our sense of morality, of right and wrong is deeply rooted in the concept of the covenant. Since the Enlightenment we are less likely to believe in a direct punishment by God for perceived wrongdoing – in that sense we are less God-fearing. Human reason and philosophy have developed from a more spiritual primitive past – but still we value and trust in The Covenant with our loving God. A.R.

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN GOD?

This was written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton, for a homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God.

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

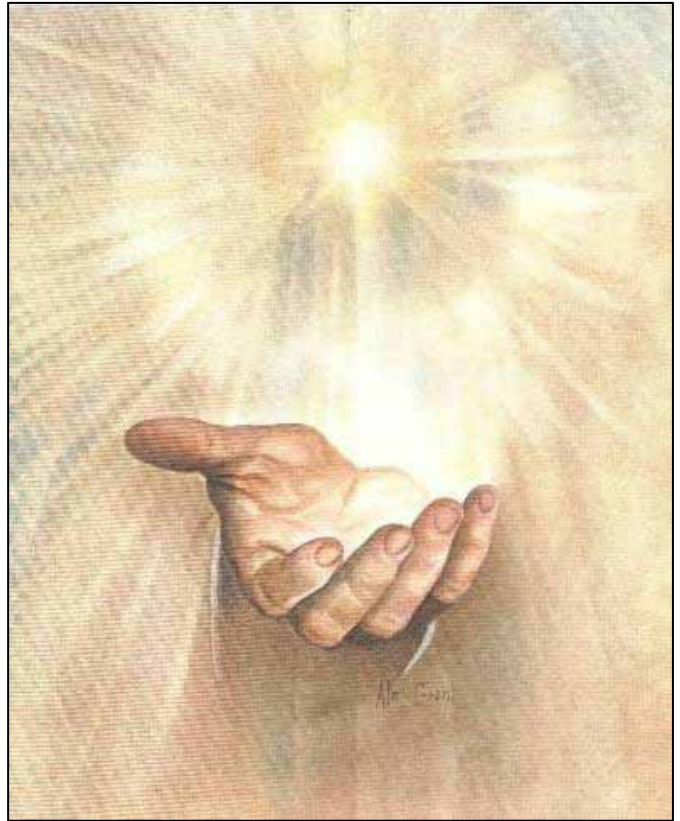
"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking him for something they said you couldn't have.

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in my town. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his Father and he told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

"His Dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his Dad out by



listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp or to school, but God can. It is good to know he's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God."

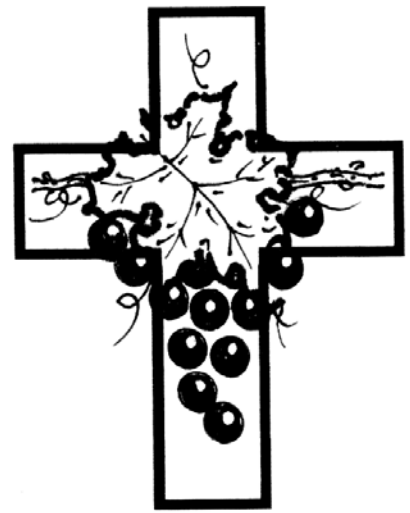


SOLDIERS BAPTISED IN AFGHANISTAN

Four servicemen were recently baptised in the chapel of Camp Leatherneck, a US military base in Afghanistan. Three US personnel and one Briton were immersed in a water tank, watched by a young, multi-ethnic congregation, singing modern worship songs. The US soldiers brought their guns to the service, as they must have their weapons with them at all times – even in church. The sermon was given by a British chaplain from the UK's Camp Bastion, Padre Cole. Each baptism was applauded and photographed on mobile phones. US marine Major Harbour said: 'This deployment has solidified my faith. Our faith helps us get through the tougher times.'

FENELON'S FORMULA FOR PRAYER

What is your prayer life like? Francois Fenelon, a 17th Frenchman, offered the following insights. It's a tried and true formula worth following:



***“Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one’s heart, its pleasure and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell him your troubles that he may comfort you; tell him your longings that he may purify them; tell him your dislikes that he may help you conquer them; tell him your temptations that he may shield you from them; show him the wounds of your soul that he may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved taste for evil, your instability.*”**

***“Tell him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride hides you from yourself and from others. If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs and troubles, there will be no lack of what to say. You will never exhaust the subject, for it is continually being renewed.*”**

“People who have no secrets from each other never want for subjects of conversation. They do not weigh their words, for there is nothing to be held back. Neither do they seek for something to say. They talk out of the abundance of their heart. Without consideration, they simply say just what they think. When they ask, they ask in faith, confident that they will be heard. Blessed are those who attain such familiar, unreserved communication with God.”

About four centuries on and Francois Fenelon speaks with such relevance for us today!

IS AUTUMN EARLY THIS YEAR?

The Woodland Trust would love you to help them find out. If you go to their website and download a form, you could keep an eye out for the details they need to build up a national picture.

Go to: <http://visitwoods.org.uk/en/visit-woods/Pages/get-involved.aspx>

Oakhurst Community First School

Our School Council

At Oakhurst Community First School we have a strong tradition of the children talking about their ideas and the things they would like to do in our school. Every September the children vote for School Council members, who will represent their class and the school.

The School Council play an active part in the school.

Every year they choose a charity to support and run events to raise money to support this charity. These have included a toy sale, sponsored run, cat food collection and other well supported events. Last year the School Council raised nearly £500 for their chosen charity.

The children have worked closely with the Governors on Health and Safety walks, pupil questionnaires and interviewing for new members of staff. The children's views make a real difference to the school.

During last year the children introduced 'Tidy Cloakroom' awards and took a lead in writing prayers and readings for special assemblies.

We are delighted to share with you our new School Council, who have been voted on this term by the children in their class.

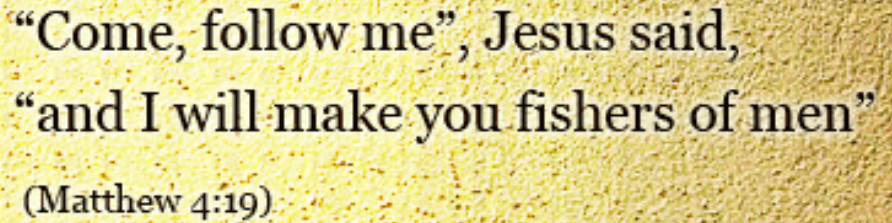


**Well done
for being voted
onto School Council!**

FISHERS OF MEN

Jim Currin, a Church Army evangelist, considers the joy of evangelism.

I love the Bible. To be more specific, I love the Gospels. The amazing array of diverse characters Jesus met on the sea shore, along the road and up the mountain. It is a joy to read—especially when you



“Come, follow me”, Jesus said,
“and I will make you fishers of men”
(Matthew 4:19)

see how Jesus deals with them. First there are the fishermen, fed up with a hard night's work and nothing to show for it. Do you remember the conversation with the carpenter and his call to leave their nets? Next, Jesus heals, and almost instantly his fame spreads and 'they brought him all the sick' (Matthew 4:24, NRSV). Then, when the crowd wanted to know more, he spoke the beautiful words of the Beatitudes. He didn't point the finger at people, but pointed the people to God and simply said where they would find blessing. It's amazing stuff!

As followers of Jesus today we are called to be 'fishers of men' (not 'vicious old men' as I once heard a child sing!) Human nature hasn't changed and two thousand years later people still want to see miracles and be blessed. We are the means by which that is most likely to happen, and the way to do it is to follow the example of Jesus himself. Meeting people where they are, having a conversation, praying and trusting the Holy Spirit - then offering beautiful words to those who ask. It's a great joy when it happens naturally.

We have just had an 'open gardens' afternoon with a Bible picture in ten gardens with a trail and quiz sheet. I offered cards for the website www.christianity.org.uk and small Gospels of Luke for the 'Year of the Bible'. I was really surprised and encouraged at the interest in the trail and the Bible story. We don't have to be pushy, but we do have to be present. Pray for the people you know and take the opportunity to listen to their story and then tell them about yours - in the bigger picture of God's story found in the Bible.

(Jim Currin is a Church Army Evangelist and Secretary for Evangelisation at Churches Together in England. His recent book, 'Sharing Faith the Jesus Way' (BRF, £7.99) offers helps and ideas of how to do personal evangelism.)



ST MARY'S CE VC FIRST SCHOOL New Staff at St. Mary's school



The latest member of our teaching staff is Mr Jon Smith.

He is a graduate of the successful Dorset Teacher Training Partnership.

Year Four caught up with Mr Smith to find out more about

What did you do before coming to our school?

I worked for eight years as an Archaeologist with Wessex Archaeology working on digs all around the country. I worked on sites from all periods of history.

What's the most exciting thing you found while digging?

An Iron age warrior's skeleton. The sword and weapons were all very corroded and rusty but the pottery vessels looked as though they had only just been buried.

What made you want to become a teacher?

I'd like to be able to make a difference to children's lives and I enjoy working with young people. They help you to stay in touch with reality and keep you feeling young!

How do you relax, what do you do in your spare time?

I go on family outings, I also like walking with my family or playing games on my playstation.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have two cats called Spike and Charlie.

What is your favourite film?

The Star Wars Trilogy! I love the characters and the stories are great.



Thank you Mr. Smith.

Now lets find out about Mrs Gemma Downing....

All about Mrs Gemma Downing, our new Administration Officer....

Gemma joined our school in July 2011.

Prior to that she worked at Bournemouth Borough Council.

She has a First class honours degree from Bournemouth University.

She loves Marmite!



What is your favourite shop?

I have lots! Probably my favourite is Schuh which sells lots of different and unusual shoes. (My husband says I have too many already though!)

Do you like reading books?

I love reading and like all kinds of books. My favourite books are Jane Eyre and the Harry Potter series.

Where is your favourite place to go?

I like going to the New Forest for walks and picnics. I got married in the New Forest this summer so it is even more special to me now!

Do you have a favourite DVD?

I have lots of favourite films, I like musicals which I can sing along to so my favourite is probably Evita.

What kind of pet do you have?

I have a large Old English sheepdog called Maggie. She is so bouncy she once broke my toe!

Thank you for talking to us Jon and Gemma. We hope you enjoy your time at St. Mary's School.



Diary Dates for October 2011



Please prepare for these acts of worship by reading and praying through these texts beforehand.

- Saturday 1 Harvest Meal & Entertainment
in The Church Hall at 7.00pm Booking Required!
- Sunday 2 **HARVEST SUNDAY**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7. Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-end
- Wednesday 5 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
- Sunday 9 **16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9. Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14
- Wednesday 12 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
2.00pm Afternoon MU Group 2pm in the Hall
"Help the Heroes"
- Thursday 13 3.00pm Tea @ 3 in the Hall
- Sunday 16 **17th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7. 1Thes 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22
- Monday 17 8.00pm Evening MU Group in the Hall
"Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance"
- Wednesday 19 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
- Sunday 23 **BIBLE SUNDAY** celebrating **The King James Bible**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Book Common Prayer Holy Communion
Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-4a Coll'ians 3:12-17
Matthew 24:30-35
- Wednesday 26 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)

Sunday 30 **4th BEFORE ADVENT/ALL SAINTS' DAY**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Our Family Service with Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Micah 3:5-end. 1 Thes 2:9-13
Matthew 24:1-14
3.00pm All Souls Remembrance Service



Advance Notices for your Diaries

13th November is Remembrance Sunday
Eucharist will be at 8.00am and 9.15am!!!
RBL Service at The Petwyn at 10.50 am

30th November is Advent Service with the
Advent Carol Service at 6pm

WEST MOORS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

**Memorial Hall
29th October 10.15am**

Stalls with Tombola, raffle etc

SMILE. . .

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning , "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY."

No wonder I have been gaining weight. I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved!



A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales

Geraldine Cole

The annual coffee Morning at Wimborne Church House on 10th September raised over £200 for the Children's Society. Many thanks for all the support given.

Our next event is on 12th November at the Allendale Charities Fayre in Wimborne, from 10.00am to 3.00pm. We shall be having our 'Christmas Stall' with decorations, Children's Society cards. Mince pies, jams and a Hamper raffle.

Please try to support this event. Many thanks.



FUND RAISING NEWS

Chris Wilson

Our next concert is by

VERWOOD CONCERT BRASS

SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER at WEST MOORS MEMORIAL HALL

This fine Brass Band proved a real hit, playing a wide variety of music at our concert last year. So, they have been invited back to fill the whole evening's entertainment.

This is a not to be missed show!

Adult tickets: £8 Children under 12: £4

Tickets are available from Chris Wilson 01202 890098 or Peter Dunning 01202 871616

Once again your help is needed to make this event a success. You can help by distributing fliers, displaying a poster and selling tickets and telling your friends all about the concert.

Thank you!

GOD IN THE ARTS - *The Rev'd Michael Burgess*

Jesus the physician



We live in a world where pain and suffering are ever-present realities. Aware of this, we turn to Jesus to bring newness of life and healing. And in that movement of turning, we find ourselves plunged into the heart of a mystery. We know that Jesus in his ministry worked for physical healing and inner healing, but he did that as the one who could save others, yet not save himself. T S Eliot, pondering this truth, used the image of Jesus as the wounded surgeon.

As the wounded surgeon, Jesus was always aware of the need for healing and wholeness in the lives of people around. The first stage in that healing ministry was compassion. The heart of Jesus yearned for others to be made whole. Wherever he went, the Gospels tell us that Jesus showed that compassion.

The second stage was creating a relationship with the sick – not treating them as objects, but making contact and reaching out to touch and heal. In doing that Jesus was not afraid to make himself unclean for a large part of his ministry as he associated with the sick, the dying and the dead.

This healing ministry of Jesus is presented with great strength and tenderness in this month's etching of 'Christ healing the sick' of 1647. It is by the Dutch artist, Rembrandt, whose work reflected his fascination with the life and ministry of Jesus. Here he illustrates that episode in Matthew 19 when Jesus went to the region of Judea. Large crowds followed him. Some like the Pharisees were there to test him. Others came to receive the touch of healing. The Pharisees on the left are asking a tricky question about divorce. Jesus meets them head on with his direct answer, but we sense that his concern is not with that verbal battle. It is the battle against all that disfigures and destroys humanity that he turns to. Innocent children are as much his concern as learned adults – the sick as much as the healthy.

We see a mother with her baby in her arms, an elderly man with a stick, a sick man on his pallet. The dog is looking away, but everyone else reaches out to Jesus. He shines out as the focus of their concerns and their need for healing. There are some 35 individuals in this etching – each one depicted in his or her uniqueness and need. As they reach out, so they begin to share in the light of healing that leads them out of the darkness.

It is a powerful and moving portrayal of this vital work of our Lord. We are told Rembrandt himself was prepared to offer 100 guilders for an impression of this etching, which was a vast sum of money in its day. It meant a great deal to him as the presence of Jesus meant so much to that multitude. With them we can turn to the compassionate face of Jesus to know his healing touch in our own lives, and to realize the great gift of life he brings as the wounded surgeon.

Pain and suffering do take us into the heart of the mystery of life. With Rembrandt we can find light in the darkness of this mystery in Jesus:

'The wounded surgeon plies the steel
That questions the distempered part;
Beneath the bleeding hands we feel
The sharp compassion of the healer's art.'
(T S Eliot: East Coker)

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled,
as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.*



LIFE EXPLAINED

Mike Reynolds wanted to share this with us. . .

On the first day, God created the dog and said: 'Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years.'

The dog said: 'That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?'

So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: 'Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span.'

The monkey said: 'Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?'

And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: 'You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years.'

The cow said: 'That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?'

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said: 'Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years.'

But man said: 'Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?'

'Okay,' said God, 'You asked for it.'

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you!

'THERE IS SWEETER MUSIC HERE' : *The Dance of the Flute*

Rev'd Michael Burgess

In the mid 1970s James Galway brought the flute into the musical spotlight with his brilliant, virtuosic playing. He showed the beauty and agility of the instrument: how it can sing out in melody and dance from note to note. The flute is a member of the woodwind family in the orchestra, but unlike the other members, it does not have a reed. The musical sound is produced from air blown across an opening. As such, it is one of the oldest instruments: a flute was found in Slovenia dating back 43,000 years. Jubal in Genesis may have played it, and it is certainly mentioned in Daniel. Shakespeare described the flutes playing to the rhythm of the oars as the barge bearing Cleopatra came to meet Antony. Its special qualities mean that the flute can display spirited runs of notes and sing out the infectious rhythms of the dance.

In dance we find ourselves not just in the company of Jubal and Daniel: we find ourselves at the beginning of creation as God delighted to bring into being this world, while scattering off stars and galaxies for the sheer exuberant joy of creating. Creation is movement: creation is dance. The historian van der Leeuw has written, 'In the dance shines the recognition of God, himself moving and thereby moving the world.'

And dance and movement are there in the work of salvation. In the carol, 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,' Jesus dances his way into this world and on into heaven, calling us, 'his true love,' to join in that dance. Creation and salvation reach out to eternity, and dance is there also in the words of the apocryphal Acts of St John: 'Divine grace is dancing. Dance ye all for the heavenly spheres make music for us.....All things join in the dance.' God's Spirit moving in the world and beyond – and calling us to take part.'

That same spirit moves in the music of the flute in Bach's 2nd Suite in B minor. The flute is accompanied by strings, and the work opens with a stately overture. But the dance quickly takes over the suite, and we hear one moment a regal sarabande, the next a delightful polonaise. There are two bourées and a minuet, and the work ends with a playful badinerie – all different forms of the dance. It is hard not to get caught up in the melody and rhythm of the music in this suite. So much of Bach's work is inspired by the dance. He is like a Pied Piper, inviting us to share in the movement of his music that dances off the pages of the score into our hearts and lives.

In the dance and movement of creation, we see the Spirit of God at work. In dance and movement we see the spirit of music. We hear the melody of the flute, calling us, like the carol, to join in the dance. And when we join in, we find it is the dance not just of creation, but of redemption.

WHAT HAS BIBLEFRESH DONE FOR BRITAIN?

1611 was the year that King James published the New Authorised Version of the Bible.

400 years later, on 1 January 2011 the Evangelical Alliance launched **Biblefresh**, aiming to encourage people to find new and creative ways of rediscovering scripture.

Some of the achievements so far include:

- A world-wide photographic competition. Entrants were asked to answer in one sentence 'How has the Bible changed your world?'. One of the winning entries was taken in Israel where a group of men covered in mud from the Dead Sea held a placard reading, 'Now I am washed clean.'
- 30,000 Britons contributed to the first hand-written Bible in multiple languages; the book includes verses in English, Chinese, Welsh and Braille with illustrations.
- 12-plus different dishes inspired by the Bible such as locusts and wild honey, Passover supper, pigeon, partridge and quail and bread and fish were served up by members of the Churches Together in Sidmouth.
- 3,000 shoeboxes were filled with different items to represent each of the 66 books of the Bible. Boxes included knitted figleaves, Lego men being massacred and the feeding of 5,000 jelly babies. The shoe boxes were displayed at Peterborough Cathedral.
- 200 limited edition Viral Bibles have been published. These Viral Bibles were given at random to people at 25 Christian festivals who are asked to underline the verses most meaningful to them and share these online before passing the book on to another person to repeat the process. Viral Bible has travelled to Africa, mainland Europe and North America so far and also to events as diverse as Glastonbury Festival in Somerset and General Synod in York.
- £21,000 has been raised so far by people donating a £1 for every copy of the Bible that they own. This has gone towards translating the Old Testament into Bissa Lebiri and the New Testament into Bissa Barka – two native languages of the Bissa people of Burkina Faso, the world's third poorest nation.

- Two people with visual impairments treated shoppers at a book store at Market Harborough in Leicestershire to a live reading of the Gospels of John and Matthew read in Braille.

Krish Kandiah, director of Biblefresh, says: "The Bible's 66 books are inspiring thousands of Christians to live for God 365 days a year. The words of the Bible are being translated by Christians into millions of acts of kindness and compassion. Countless people, across the UK and around the world are receiving the message of God's love and forgiveness. We're looking forward to the creativity that churches will bring to the Bible by the close of 2011."



BEWARE!

Sue and Baird Oldrey spotted this sign outside a church in Guildford. A challenging thought – it certainly caught their attention!





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 baptised 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)



If a whale mummy had a son and a daughter, what relation would they be?

Blubber and sister.



What jungle animal shouldn't get wet?

A rhinocerust.



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

Vicar's Vista

Big Boys' Toys!

Yes, it's me and I'm having great fun at the wheel of a London Bus – the same as I rode on to school yonks ago. Portia arrived with her father and bridesmaids in this *Routemaster* for her wedding on 3rd September. After the ceremony they all piled on the bus and went off to the reception.



You can just see Portia Ophelia and Michael Stephen, now Mr & Mrs Potter on the platform. It was a very special wedding (they always are) but the arrival of the Bus, which they just so happened to mention at the rehearsal, added greatly to the excitement for me!

The summer weather hasn't exactly been outstanding, but we've had a busy time. The Open Gardens was a great success and really made Zahra and I get things done in the front as well as in the back garden. Actually I did a bit and Zahra a lot, and we had to get some professionals in to attack the front. Since then the rain has kept everything pretty, but the August 'wet and warm' turned our prize manicured lawns into mushroom-growing beds!

On the right you can see a certain Big Boy Warden either supervising, or taking instructions from the event cake and tea contractors. I wonder which? Many thanks indeed to 'The Church Team' who worked so well together to promote, support and host the day. Welcoming so many visitors was such fun. That was it then, now we could *Rest on our Laurels* and have a quiet time of it!





Not a bit of it! We then, with the help and encouragement of Baird and Sue Oldrey, opened the gardens again, but this time for a Train Bonanza. It took much preparation (especially by Baird and myself but we were prepared to quietly suffer this duty). A marquee was erected and various train sets from 1930's Triang Clockwork, to 1970's Hornby 00, to modern Tomy Thomas & of course the modest G Scale Garden railway were pressed into action. The idea was to encourage all-comers to have fun and play trains. Controllers, old and new were thrust into delighted visitors' hands and much regression to

childhood was observed. Boys in their 80's to their 8's were attracted and a few honorary (girl) boys also! On the day we attracted hundreds and also raised a few bob for church funds. You can tell from Baird's grimace that this was a very difficult occasion for him to bear, but he did it gracefully, just for you!

That was it then, all over, back to work but no, there was a last hurrah this Summer of 2011 in the form of The Great Dorset Steam Fair where



I serve as a Chaplain and a Welfare Officer, and Zahra helps out in the Church Marquee. We always meet a few Westmoorians there and some take up residence (no names, no pack drill). They're dutifully visited in their caravan for the sake of their welfare and spirituality. It just so happens that the same were able to reciprocate with so much welcome hospitality! I also have to watch things like the Royal Signals Motorbike Display Team riding through fire. It's been a busy summer; think I need a holiday to recover! AR



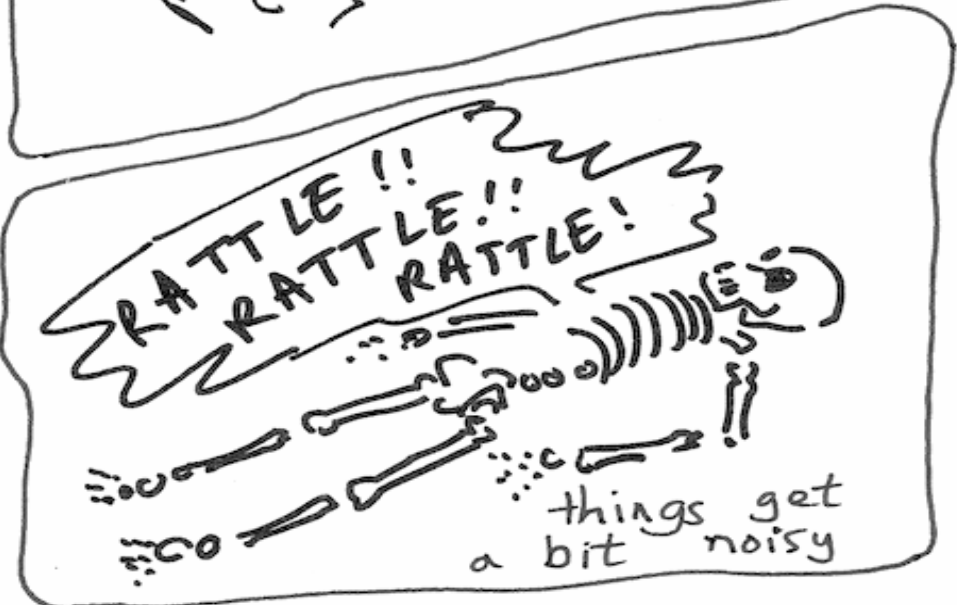
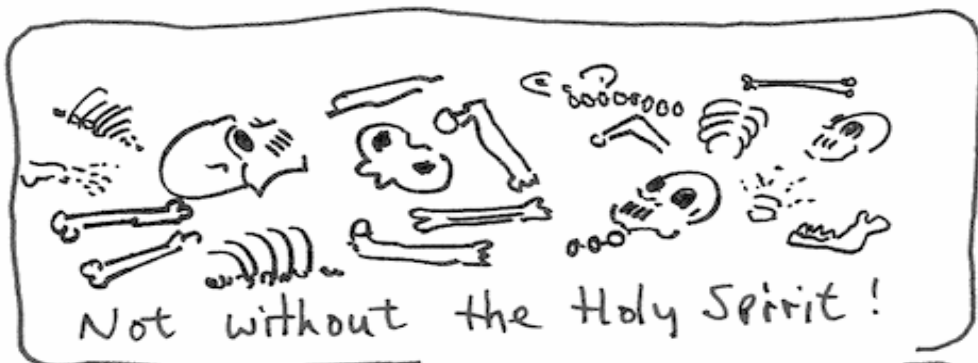
Bible Sketchbook

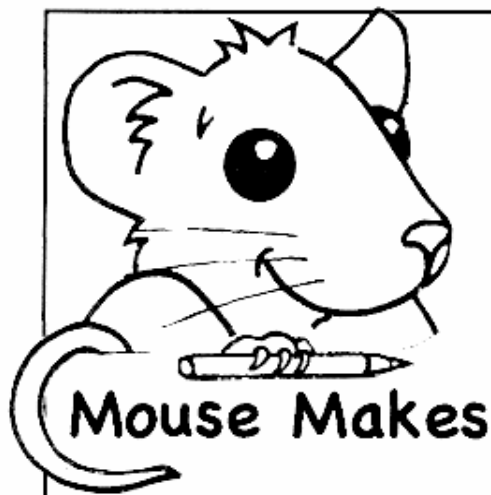
Can these dry bones live?

Greed in high places – politicians, police, press; teenage riots and extremist ideologies... Are these today's "dry bones"? Maybe, like Ezekiel, we need to prophesy to them and tell them about God's Word; about Jesus; about his Holy Spirit.

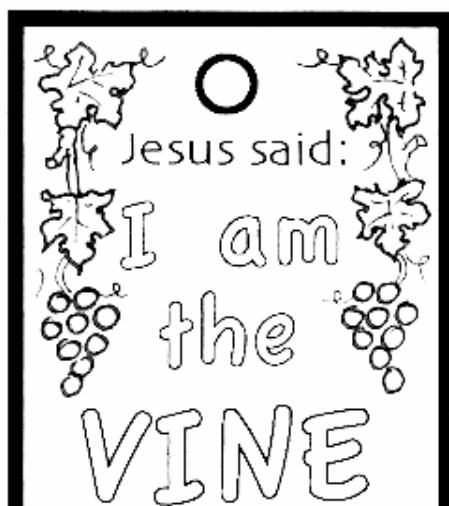
And God's promise as we do so is to send his "wind" - his Holy Spirit - and "to bring you back to life" – part of a great army! Do you want to experience this? Do you want to help others do the same?

Read more in
Ezekiel 37: 1-12

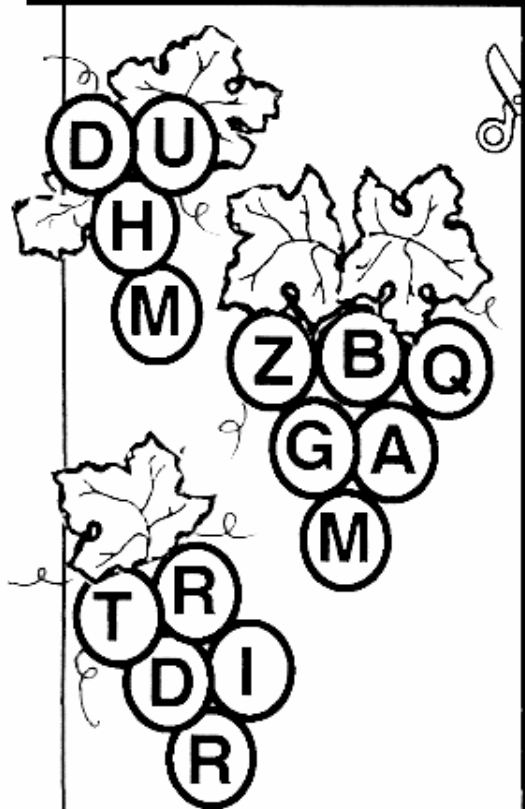




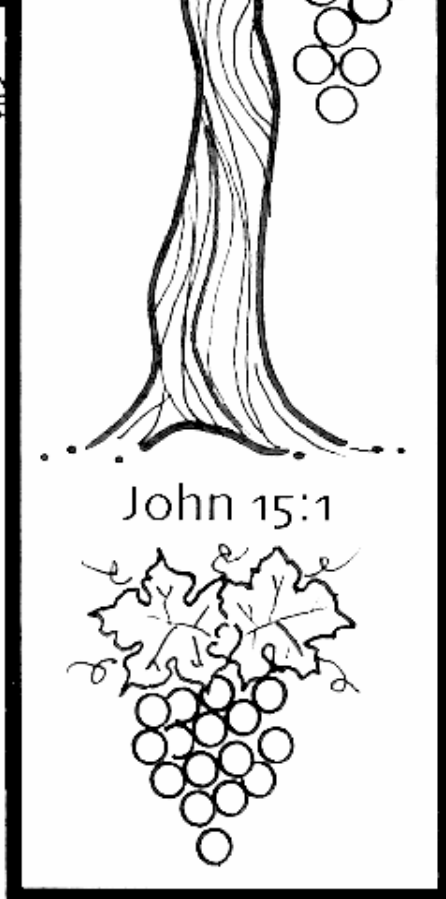
Glue onto card, colour, cut out the cross and hang up.



Jesus said
"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be



Change each letter on the grapes to the one after it in the alphabet then rearrange to find the words



*clean and bear more fruit...
 ...A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine, and you are the branches.*

Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."

John 15
 verses 1-2,4-5