



**St. Mary's Parish Church  
Allithwaite**

within  
The Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry



**SEPTEMBER 2017**

## EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

### THE QUEEN CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY TWICE EACH YEAR



Have you ever wondered why the Queen has two birthday celebrations, I hope the following explanation will explain the reasons behind it?

The Queen celebrates her birthday twice each year - once on the anniversary of the day she was born, and on an "official" birthday in June.

It is a tradition that was started by George II in 1748 and owes its origins to the ageless problem of the British weather.

George was born in November, and felt the weather would be too cold at that time of year for his annual birthday parade. So instead, he combined his birthday celebration with an annual spring military parade known as Trooping the Colour, in which regiments displayed their flags or "colours" so soldiers would be familiar with them.

It is a tradition that has continued to this day. All British sovereigns are given the option of having an "official" birthday, and because the Queen's real birthday is on April 21, she has stuck with the tradition of celebrating in June. During the early part of her reign the Queen's official birthday was on a Thursday, but it later changed to a Saturday in June so that more members of the public could enjoy it.

Mike (Ed)

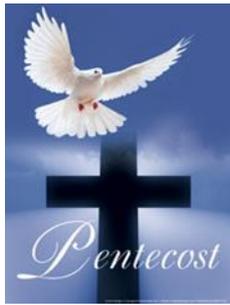
#### OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF .....

Out bicycling one day with my eight-year-old granddaughter, Carolyn, I got a little wistful. "In ten years," I said, "you'll want to be with your friends and you won't go walking, biking, and swimming with me like you do now."

Carolyn shrugged. "In ten years, you'll be too old to do all those things anyway."

#### BITE-SIZE THEOLOGY

Market Place Books are holding coffee shop sessions on the **11th October** and **8th November** in Café Nero, Kendal—**7pm—8.30pm**. These are led and supported by Rev'd Dr Roger Latham of Cumbria Christian Learning.



#### **FROM THE VICARAGE**

“Are you ready?” A question that I’m sure resounds around many a household in a morning. Are you ready...for what?

Whilst in Zululand, “Are you ready?” was a question asked on many occasions. However, it was much more about being ready for the experience rather than being ready to go. Africans are not best known for their time keeping!

Part of our trip involved visiting a vegetable garden which will form part of the Bishop’s Harvest appeal for the next 3 years. We had to travel for several hours to get there, I certainly was not ready for what I saw. Naively I was expecting a wonderful display of all sorts of vegetables growing in the beautiful South African sunshine. Instead I saw just one field where the workers were collecting the last of the maize harvest from their worn land.

The state of the land they were farming was a huge surprise to me, but this was only the beginning. What actually happened when we arrived was a moment I will never forget. The workers were overjoyed to see us as they thought no one would ever visit them,. They sang and danced for us and gave us a welcome fit for a king. I certainly wasn’t ready for that!

A charity called USPG, (United Society for Partners in the Gospel) help to support the harvest project. The hope is that the rural churches of the Diocese of Zululand will use their land and work with their communities to mobilise people to develop community vegetable gardens, with reliable irrigation systems and appropriate crops which are grown for the good of all those involved. This would be a huge asset to the local people. Through the work of USPG, groups, mainly of women, have been given not only a method to receive a small income through their labour, but also dignity and purpose. They hope to go on to grow a range of crops that can be sold in the local towns and villages.

I’m usually someone who likes to know what is happening so I can be prepared, but on this occasion, I was very happy to ‘not be ready’ and experience the joy that was so freely expressed from a group of people who had very little but were so grateful for the project and the opportunity that had been given them.

“Are you ready?” I pray that you too will be blessed today by the people you meet.

Rev Rach

## **THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN - 'WHO WOULD TRUE VALOUR SEE' – by John Bunyan (1628-88)**

John Bunyan wrote the words of the hymn while a prisoner in Bedford jail. They appeared as a poem in his great work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. He would have been astonished to learn that his poem would ever go on to become a well-loved hymn.

What was Bunyan doing in jail? He had got caught up in the religious/political tensions of the times, and suffered for it.

John Bunyan was born in 1628, only a few years after the Pilgrim Fathers fled England for America, and religious freedom. Those were troubled times in England, with great tensions between King Charles and the Royalists, who were Catholic and believed in the divine right of kings, and the Parliament, as represented by Cromwell and the Roundheads.

Bunyan had been brought up a Roundhead, and even became a soldier for a while in Cromwell's army. When another soldier died in his place, Bunyan was stricken with grief, and went on to become a committed Christian.

After the Restoration of the monarchy and the Established Church in 1660, Bunyan was viewed with suspicion as a Puritan sympathiser. He was ordered to stop preaching in public, but refused.

He was convicted and altogether spent 12 years in prison. They turned out to be the most fruitful years of his life, for he took up the pen, and in the end reached far more people than he could ever have done by preaching locally.

The poem appears in *Pilgrim's Progress* at the point where Christiania and her four sons meet and help Mr Valiant-for-Truth on the road. They wash his wounds, give him food and drink, and learn his story. Mr Valiant-for-Truth was on his way from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. He relates the obstacles and battles along the way, and then launches into 'Who would true valour see...'

The poem/hymn has been praised as 'calculated to inspire the most doubtful spirit; the most disconsolate soul and to rekindle the fire of zeal and enthusiasm for the pilgrim journey.' ... it was born out of Bunyan's own struggle... to be a pilgrim.' And it is the same faith, in the same Lord, and the same journey, that keeps millions of Christians in the Persecuted Church of today strong and looking forward... to the Celestial City!

Anon

### **OPEN FORUM**

A series of evening discussion meetings on topics of current interest and open to everyone. **'The Future of the NHS'**. Bishop James Newcome, Tim Farron MP and Dr David Walker at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 21st September 2017** at **St Mary's Church, Ambleside.**

Tea and Coffee provided, all welcome. No booking required or charge to attend.

## **JANE AUSTEN—WELL WORTH HER WEIGHT IN COINS AND BANK-NOTES!**

The much-loved novelist Jane Austen is about to make history. 200 years after her death, she will appear simultaneously on a British coin and a British bank note. That means that only the Queen, who as head of state must be depicted on British currency, will be more prevalent.

The Royal Mint has chosen Jane Austen as the new image for its commemorative £2 coin. About five million will be released into mass circulation sometime this Spring. At about the same time, the Bank of England will release its new, plastic, unrippable £10 note, with Jane Austen replacing Charles Darwin.

Historians cannot recall the last time a figure other than the reigning monarch appeared on both coins and notes at the same time. The release of both coins and notes will be in step with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, in the summer of 1817, at the age of just 41.

## **JANE AUSTIN – 200 YEARS SINCE HER DEATH**

Jane Austen, a brilliant, quintessentially English novelist much loved for her irony, social realism and criticism of the upper classes, died 200 years ago this month, on 18th July 1817. She was almost unknown in her lifetime, having published books like *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mansfield Park* anonymously.

She was also a Christian (and the daughter of a rector) but did not wear her heart on her sleeve. A reticent Anglican, she wrote early on that she “did not like the Evangelicals” but later felt that those who were Evangelicals “from reason and feeling must be happiest and safest”. Her novel *Mansfield Park* tackles a theme dear to the heart of many late eighteenth century Evangelicals – the abolition of the slave trade. Throughout her writing her main characters are transformed by love, an idea of course central to Christianity. Her faith may not call attention to itself in her novels, but it is everywhere in her work.

One critic wrote: “The stories are subversive and work like Jesus' parables. The humour and the ironic insight into human sin get under your skin.”

A man climbed to the top of Mount Sinai to get close enough to talk to God.

He said “God, what does a million years mean to you?”

The Lord replied “A minute.”

The man asked “And what does a million pounds mean to you?”

The Lord replied “A penny.”

The man asked “Would you mind giving me a penny?”

The Lord replied “In a minute.”

## **BEST QUOTE OF ANY ERA**

"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt.

People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance."

Cicero, 55 BC

Evidently, we've learned very little over the past 2,072 years

## ON THE PERILS OF 'STANDING IN' FOR ANOTHER VICAR

The Rectory  
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren,

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor.

I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St. James the Least with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations. No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever you do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be nothing of the sort. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short. So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THE BRITISH DRIVE ON THE LEFT?



There is an historical reason for this; it's all to do with keeping your sword hand free! In the Middle Ages, you never knew who you were going to meet when travelling.

Most people are right-handed, so if a stranger passed by on the right of you, your right hand would be free to use your sword if required.

Indeed the 'keep to the left' rule goes back even further in time; archaeologists have discovered evidence suggesting that the Romans drove carts and wagons on the left, and it is known that Roman soldiers always marched on the left.

This 'rule of the road' was officially sanctioned in 1300 AD when Pope Boniface VIII declared that all pilgrims travelling to Rome should keep to the left.

This continued until the late 1700s when large wagons became popular for transporting goods. These wagons were drawn by several pairs of horses and had no driver's seat. Instead, in order to control the horses, the driver sat on the horse at the back left, thus keeping his whip hand free.

Sitting on the left however made it difficult to judge the traffic coming the other way, as anyone who has driven a left hand drive car along the winding lanes of Britain will agree! These huge wagons were best suited to the wide open spaces and large distances of Canada and the US, and the first keep-to-the-right law was passed in Pennsylvania in 1792, with many Canadian and US states following suit later. In France, a decree of 1792 ordered traffic to keep to the "common" right and Napoleon later enforced the rule in all French territories.

In England, there wasn't much call for these massive wagons and the smaller British vehicles had seats for the driver to sit on behind the horses. As most people are right-handed, the driver would sit to the right of the seat so his whip hand was free.

Traffic congestion in 18th century London led to a law being passed to make all traffic on London Bridge keep to the left in order to reduce collisions. This rule was incorporated into the Highway Act of 1835 and was adopted throughout the British Empire.

### **Sunday Services**

There are services every Sunday at: 8.00am and 10.45am.

The **First Sunday** of the month is a Service of the Word.

The **Second** and **Fourth Sundays** in the month are Holy Communion.

The **Third Sunday** of the month is an All-Age Service.

The occasional **Fifth Sunday** could be anything!

Our **Sunday School** meets during the morning service on most Sundays apart from All-Age Services.

**Saturday morning prayers.** Meet at St Mary's Church every Saturday morning at 9am for an informal time of prayer. All are welcome.

**Service sheets**—large print copies are available on the Welcome Desk, we also have a hearing loop system.

## PET'S CORNER - ITCHY FLEAS

Fleas are flightless insects that are wonderfully adapted to our modern lifestyle. Fleas love the warmth and humidity that our modern centrally heated homes, fitted carpets and double glazing provide.



Because of this, they are a year-round problem, although they particularly enjoy the warm summer months, as well as the start of autumn when the central heating is first turned on. Cat fleas are not picky, and will happily feed on dogs as well as cats, but you can get dog fleas, rabbits flea, hedgehog fleas and even human fleas!

And, if no four-legged host is present, they are not above snacking on some human blood. They are not dangerous to humans, but can be very irritating, and bites are most commonly found around the ankles or on exposed skin around the midriff.

**HOW TO SPOT THEM:** The fleas themselves move quickly and are difficult to spot, but their droppings are mainly dried blood and can be seen as black specks in your pet's fur or on their bedding. Flea dirt can be distinguished from ordinary grit by putting some onto a piece of damp cotton wool or a bit of wet kitchen roll (wet paper test).

As it dissolves, a red blood-stained ring becomes clearly visible. The female flea lays her eggs on the animal, but they are smooth and fall off onto the carpet where they develop into larvae - a kind of maggot. The larvae actively burrow towards gravity and away from light, deep into the flooring or soft furnishings. They feed on shed skin cells and flea dirt and eventually form pupae which, if left undisturbed, can lay dormant for months or years.

Vibrations caused by animal movements will stimulate the young adult to hatch out. If a flea were the size of a human, it would be able to jump over Nelson's Column, so its relatively easy for them to hop up from the ground or from one animal to another. Young hatchlings will wait around until they can jump onto the first meal that comes their way. It's always better to prevent a flea problem rather than wait until your pet brings them into the house, because once they start laying eggs around the home, eradication can become quite troublesome.

A very heavy flea infestation can cause anaemia in young animals, simple due to the volume of blood they suck, but they can also carry blood-borne parasites between cats and spark off problems are triggered by an allergy to the saliva that a flea injects into its victim when it sucks blood, so even an occasional flea bite can spark off a severe reaction.

Modern veterinary spot-on preparations are safe and easy to use, and many combine treatment against internal worms together with external parasites such as fleas.

Keeping on top of any flea problem is essential as, once an infestation becomes established in the home, it will be necessary to treat the environment as well as pets to break the cycle.



In severe cases, it will be necessary to use household sprays all around the carpets and soft furnishings, or even enlist the services of pest control experts.

Regular vacuuming of the carpets and washing pet bedding also helps to keep the fleas under control.

## **LETTER FROM A TRAINEE READER – Episode 5**

It's been a long and lovely summer but soon I shall be 'back to school' along with all the children, teenagers, and their teachers, round here. I don't know about you but my whole life, pretty much, has been regulated by term days and dates. Without them I can't keep track of time, particularly during the long Summer break. I forget what day it is. But now, as the school year begins again, I know, for instance, that today is Thursday and that's the day I pick Henry and Eddie up from school. Every week, barring short holidays, will be marked by regular routines and commitments.

Our topic at the end of the Summer term was bereavement (bear with me, there is a link!) a subject which prompted me to read "Necessary Losses" by Judith Viorst which, as the title suggests, is about the griefs we all must bear and the necessity of letting go of them. Her theme doesn't only deal with human loss, however, it is also about letting go of dreams and illusions and unreal expectations. A recurring motif is that when we suffer a loss, of any sort, we are thrown into disarray and what disorients us most is the loss of a familiar routine. We develop habits, ways of living and operating which are appropriate to particular persons and places and beliefs about the world and when they go we face a, sometimes terrifying, void. Some people are left, quite literally, unable to function. They are 'frozen' in grief.

Her message doesn't finish there, though, because the inevitability of loss is not the end of her story. She speaks of our losses as "necessary" because, without them, we would not/could not grow. Every loss, however small, forces us to adapt and find creative adjustments to our changed circumstances. So, periods of mourning, like all else in life, come to an end. There is light at the beginning and the end of all tunnels.

(Freud talks) ... about the mourning we do at the death of people we love. But we may mourn in a similar fashion the end of a marriage, the coming apart of a special friendship, the losses of what we'd once had ... been ... hoped might be. For ... there is an end, an end to much that we have loved. But there can be an end to mourning, too.

In fact she goes further asserting that, except in extreme cases, mourning must and will come to an end. Mmmmm. Sound familiar? But I must go or I'll be late picking up my grandchildren.

Heather.

## SEPTEMBER QUIZ:

1. On 1 September 1939 Germany's invasion of which country prompted World War II?
2. Which disaster began in London on 2 September 1666?
3. Which English ruler died on 3 September 1658?
4. Where did Britain's first free lending library open on 6 September 1852?
5. On 7 September 1838 who saved survivors of the wrecked SS Forfarshire?
6. In which sport were the 'Marquis of Queensbury Rules' used for the first time on 7 September 1892?
7. Which sport competition began on 8 September 1888?
8. Which female tennis star defected to the west on 9 September 1975?
9. On 10 September 1894 for what crime was George Smith the first to be convicted in Britain?
10. What road safety requirement was introduced in the UK on 12 September 1960?
11. Which golfing first was achieved by Tom Morris on 14 September 1868?
12. On the 15 September 1830 Liverpool MP William Huskisson became the first to be killed by what engineering innovation?
13. Which banks first opened in Britain on the 16 September 1861?
14. The two-tier postal system was introduced in the UK on 16 September 1968. How much were first and second-class stamps?
15. What was seen at Blackpool for the first time on the 18 September 1879?
16. On 19 September 1893 which was the first country to grant women the vote?
17. On the 22 September of what year was commercial TV first transmitted in Britain?
18. Britain's first motorbus service began on 25 September 1897 in which city?
19. On the 30 September 1938 which Prime Minister made his famous 'Peace in our time' speech?
20. On the 30 September 1955 which iconic film actor was killed in a car crash?

Answers on page 20

## TWICE BAKED BUBBLE AND SQUEAK JACKET POTATOES

These make a good veggie main course, or a good side dish that can be made ahead of time and re-baked. 4 baking potatoes, ½ a head of Savoy cabbage, finely shredded Butter Parmesan cheese (optional) Not all parmesan is suitable for vegetarians so check first.

Pre-heat the oven to gas 5/1900C. Bake the potatoes in the oven (I often start them off in the microwave to save time) until they are cooked through and crisp on the outside. Sauté the cabbage in a little butter and a dash of water until tender. Season and drain really well. Slice the baked potatoes in half. Scoop out the flesh put into a mixing bowl. Mash well with a little butter, milk and seasoning. Add the cabbage mix well.

Spoon back into the empty shells. Place on a baking tray. Sprinkle over a little parmesan if using. Return to the oven and bake for about 15 minutes until the tops are golden. It will take longer if re-heating from cold.

Ann Jennings

**AND FOR THE WINE.....** Just returned from your holidays and wondering what exactly that novelty bottle of local liquid you bought tastes like? Something persuades us to buy Mediterranean "firewater"! Perhaps it was a monastic herbal liqueur (I bought one in Skofja Loka in Slovenia I recall), or a bottling from Morocco, Israel or Majorca?

This may indeed be a good opportunity to open up that bottle which we keep deferring - we've all got one in our collection. Our bubble-and-squeak jacket potato takes us firmly into the realms of rustic farmhouse fare. No need to visit the premium wines cabinet. Some possessions may even surprise us.

The Yarden Winery in Golan, Israel has made a splash with its sparkling wines. Such wineries, as in neighbouring Lebanon, often bear witness to French viticultural connections and grow traditional Gallic varieties.

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Chardonnay abound at Yarden. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cinsaut predominate in Lebanon's famed Chateau Musar. It is the same story in North Africa. We will certainly encounter wines in Morocco, although decades ago it was Algeria which was the big player in wine terms. When that country's revolution over 50 years ago took it in an Islamic direction, it was wine-making in the Languedoc region of southern France which felt a huge impact too.

No longer able to rely on supplies of robust, deeply-coloured wine from Algeria to blend with the thin pale stuff prevalent at the time, the vigneron of the Languedoc set about wholesale replanting of their vineyards: ripping up the weedy Aramon vines and planting Carignan.

Today's wines from North Africa derive mostly from classic French varieties: perfectly drinkable, rarely exceptional - but if you've got one of those holiday bottles tucked away, now's the time to pop the cork and drink to the next far-flung adventure! Enjoy your wine-sipping.

Ann Jennings

### **MY LITTLE FRIEND...**

I have a little SatNav  
It sits there in my car  
A SatNav is a driver's friend  
It tells you where you are.

I have a little SatNav  
I've had it all my Life  
It's better than the normal ones  
My SatNav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions  
Especially how to drive  
'It's thirty miles per hour  
And you're doing forty-five'.

It tells me when to stop and start  
And when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never ever  
Safe to overtake.

I'm sure no other driver  
Has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock the car  
It still gives its advice.

It fills me up with counseling  
Each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it  
And get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house  
Makes sure I'm properly fed  
It washes all my shirts and things  
And keeps me warm in bed.

Despite all these advantages  
And my tendency to scoff  
I do wish that now and then  
I could turn the damned thing off!

Anon. (Probably too scared to admit it - Editor)

### **THE ARTIST IN THE WAR – AND THE WAR ARTIST**

In the beautiful Berkshire village of Cookham, on the banks of the Thames, in the main street there is the Spencer Gallery, commemorating Cookham's most famous son, the artist Sir Stanley Spencer, who died in 1959.

He was a medical orderly in the Great War, though in Salonika, not France. In the Second World War he was made an official 'War Artist'. The young Spencer created many paintings capturing life at the front in the first of those wars, including a striking one entitled 'The Dressing Station', showing the horse drawn ambulances lining up (as at a modern A&E) to hand their patients over to the medics. That, and many other powerful evocations of life in the war zones, is part of the heritage of the Sandham Memorial Chapel, near Newbury.

The chapel was bought by the Sandham family to commemorate a son who was killed in the Great War. They commissioned Spencer to create a visionary array of murals capturing the life of the ordinary soldier (and his officers) to 'commemorate the forgotten dead'. Visitors might notice that amongst them all there is not a single weapon. These are men facing danger together, washing their clothes, cleaning their equipment and caring for the wounded – but not actually handling a gun or firing a shot. At the east end of the chapel is a main 'altar-piece', showing the risen Christ in the distance but all around him the resurrection of the soldiers who have been slain.

Resurrection was a great theme of Spencer's work. His most famous painting, 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', shows parishioners emerging from their graves, to be welcomed by the figure of Jesus, standing in the porch of the church. Much of his best work reflected the life and people of Cookham, often acting out a biblical scene. The exceptions are his war paintings from both conflicts. Like many people who lived through the two World Wars, they were defining events in his life.

There are older people in Cookham today who remember him, a somewhat eccentric figure wheeling his pram converted into a portable art station, complete with easel and paints, as he toured the area in search of suitable subjects. He made much of his living as a fine portrait painter, but his great reputation rests on a remarkable range of paintings in a modern style which capture forever the spirit of an age that is now past.

### **MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS ON POLITICS**

Political campaign- a war in which everybody shoots from the lip.

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who don't vote. (George Nathan)

Vote for the man who promises least. He'll be the least disappointing. (Bernard Baruch)

He knows nothing; and he thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career. (George Bernard Shaw)

Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book. (Ronald Regan)

A politician; one who shakes your hand before the election and shakes your confidence afterwards.

(Anon)

### **3 MEN HIKING**

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging, violent river. Needing to get to the other side, the first man prayed: 'God, please give me the strength to cross the river.'

Poof!.....God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about 2 hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed: 'God, please give me the strength and the tools to cross the river.'

Poof!.....God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: 'God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river.'

Poof!.....He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked two hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

'If at first you don't succeed, do it the way your wife told you.'



## **MEN'S WALKING GROUP**

Following on the heels of the celebrated Mr Wainwright, not to say Julia Bradbury, saw the men's walking group tackle the 2,700ft peak of Blencathra.

Undaunted from the task viewed from the roadside layby on the A66, we manfully kitted up in walking boots and rucksacks containing the all-important coffee and lunch provisions. Just 15 minutes into the walk the first issue occurred. No, we weren't lost, one of the drivers had somehow lost his car keys - possibly an age thing!

Successfully resolved we were on our way. Following a well-worn track that almost entirely went up at an alarming gradient, saw the group strung out as we put the 'world to rights'. At 1,700ft it was time for the compulsory coffee stop. The view even here was amazing.

Then the final push to the top. There was some discouragement when from time to time the odd fell runner passed, making us wonder at their extreme fitness.

We were all reminded of God's glory through his creation as we viewed the vista that stretched out below us. The Psalmist says 'He owns the cattle (and sheep) on a thousand hills. He knows every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are His'. What a wonderful God we have.

As they say, 'what goes up must come down', and so we flexed a different set of muscles as we dropped down to a strategically placed Inn.

The Rookie

## **DRIFTING AWAY**

Middle-aged people in the UK tend to 'lose' their religion as they get older. By their fifth decade, they are drifting far afield. This is among the findings of an analysis of the 1970 British Cohort Study, which has been following the same group of people for more than 40 years. It now shows an apparent decline in faith among the participants who have reached their fifth decade.

Two thirds had a religious upbringing, but just under half still register any connection with any religion and only seven per cent effectively class themselves as active members.

## **WOODBINE WILLIE - BRINGING LOVE WITH CIGARETTES AND THE BIBLE**

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27 June 1883 – 8 March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester.

He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed out soldiers: as well as good cheer, he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual.

Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEST**

For a Catholic school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These were some of the (real) results....

1. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.
2. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
3. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

## **IF YOU ...**

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 500 million people in this world.

If you can attend a Church meeting without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than 3 billion people in this world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep peacefully, you are richer than 75% of this world,

If you have money in the bank, a little in your wallet, and some change in a dish by your bed, you are among the 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are alive and still married, you are very rare.

If you can read, you are more blessed than over 2 billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Keith Buckler

If you could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people and retain all existing ratios in the world. This is what the village would look like.

There would be:

57 Asians,

21 Europeans,

14 would be from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south,

8 Africans

52 would be female, 48 would be male,

70 would be non-white, 30 would be white

93 would be heterosexual,

70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian

6 would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the USA,

80 would live in substandard housing,

70 would be unable to read,

50 would suffer from malnutrition,

1 would be near death, 1 would be near to giving birth,

1 (yes only 1) would have a college degree

and 1 would own a computer.

Keith Buckler

## **IS THE INTERNET TAKING OVER YOUR LIFE?**

Ofcom, the media watchdog, has issued some sombre warnings on a recent survey of national internet habits. More than half (59%) of all 50million internet users in the UK say they are addicted to surfing the web. (That includes 45% of the over-65 age group who are using the internet).

We now spend an average of more than 24hours each week on line. Huge numbers of us have neglected housework, been late for work, and even walked into people on the street, because we simply could not put down our digital devices. The internet is damaging our social and working lives.

Around a third of us have avoided friends and family in order to stay on line, while a quarter of teenagers are late for school because they are on line. A third of us have attempted a “digital detox.” One in six of us has even chosen a holiday destination with no online access. Meanwhile, perhaps most awesome- a quarter of adults admit to sending a text or instant messages to someone in the same room as themselves while at home. Why not just say something?



Our new academic year has got off to an enthusiastic and thoughtful start. Our school value this term is ‘responsibility’ and the children (and staff) were excited to see our new reflection garden on our return to school.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to use our garden during worship yet due to the inclement weather! However, we have exciting plans to start a prayer wall very soon.

We enjoyed our first ever ‘outdoor worship’ last week led by Rev Rach. We all participated in a ‘shout out’ to thank God for the wonderful creations around us that we could hear, see and feel. The children thoroughly enjoyed this different way of celebrating God and we hope to do many more outdoor worships.

As part of our ‘responsibility’ value work, the Snowy Owls have recycled old wellies into beautiful planters for our reflection garden. The Tawny Owls used old plastic bottles to create bright and colourful bird feeders, taking responsibility for our wildlife. In the barn owls class, the children are learning about fair trade and understanding how to make responsible decisions about purchasing products and helping others in the world. The Eagle Owls have made some miniature prayer boxes with their responsibility prayers for the world written inside, which we will be displaying in Church soon.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the whole school enjoyed a responsibility day at Castlehead Outdoor Activity centre. During the day, we worked in mixed aged house groups to complete a range of team games. The older children took responsibility for organising and supporting the younger children in these activities. We also worked in our new class groups, an opportunity to bond and ensure that we were showing thoughtfulness towards each other. The children had various tasks, such as raft building, to complete and the ethos of support and care was evident throughout. A wonderful memory building day.

### **A LITTLE MIXED UP**

Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And mixed up in the head.

I've got used to my arthritis  
To my dentures I'm resigned  
I can manage my bifocals  
But oh God, I miss my mind.

For sometimes I can't remember  
When I stand at the foot of the stairs  
If I must go up for something  
Or if I've just come down from there.

And before the refrig, so often  
My poor mind is filled with doubt  
Have I just put food away, or  
Have I come to take some out.

And there are times when it is dark  
With my nightcap on my head  
I don't know if I'm retiring  
Or just getting out of bed.

So if it's my turn to write you  
There's no need of getting sore  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember I do love you  
And I wish you were near  
But now it's nearly mail time  
So I must say "Goodbye Dear."

There I stood beside the mailbox  
With a face so very red  
Instead of mailing you my letter  
I opened it instead!

- Author Unknown

### **15TH JULY - ST SWITHUN (OR SWITHIN) - SAINT FOR A RAINY DAY**

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that. It all began when he was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

### **NOVEMBER - A MONTH TO REMEMBER!**

Everyone seems to remember the 5th of November and, for different reasons, 11th November, but perhaps many of us aren't aware of the centenary celebrations taking place on 2nd November this year.

One hundred years ago saw the signing of the Balfour Declaration. This was an expression made by the British Government to establish a national homeland for the scattered Jewish people.

Of course, the Balfour Declaration did not actually give the land of Israel to the Jewish people – this had been done 4,000 years previously! The God of the Bible made an everlasting covenant with Abraham to give to him and his descendants forever, the area of land from the river of Egypt (Nile) to the great river Euphrates (Genesis 12 :7, 13:15, 15:18). The ownership of the land has never changed, although the occupation by the Jewish people depended on their obedience to the terms of the covenant made between them and God.

History has shown that, due to their disobedience and idol worship, many Jewish people were taken captive to Babylon in 586 BC. After 70 years, King Cyrus of Babylon, allowed the exiles to return to their homeland, only to be conquered by the Romans in 63 BC who renamed the land 'Palestina'. Many Jewish people were sold as slaves but Jewish communities remained in Israel, especially in the Galilee area and larger cities.

However, the bible prophecies are clear that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would once again take possession of the land God gave to them (Jeremiah 31, Isaiah 11)  
This historic fulfilment of biblical prophecies took place in May 1948.

So, in celebrating the Balfour Declaration, acknowledgement is given to the British Government who supported the creation of the current Jewish homeland, which provides the only democracy in the middle East, where there is rule of law, human rights and religious freedom.

Frances Hogan

## **DRIFTING AWAY**

Middle-aged people in the UK tend to 'lose' their religion as they get older. By their fifth decade, they are drifting far afield. This is among the findings of an analysis of the 1970 British Cohort Study, which has been following the same group of people for more than 40 years. It now shows an apparent decline in faith among the participants who have reached their fifth decade.

Two thirds had a religious upbringing, but just under half still register any connection with any religion and only seven per cent effectively class themselves as active members.



**Saturday September 30th, 10am - 1pm** We will be planting daffodil bulbs in the church grounds, particularly on the bank alongside the drive. Drinks and cake provided in church.

**Sunday October 1st, 10.45am** Our Harvest Festival Service will include an update from one of our supported charities: "Children of Hope", who work with Children in Uganda. The service will be followed by an Auction of Produce and a Jacob's Join lunch. Once again a number of local organisations will be decorating the church windows for our Harvest Celebrations

**Sunday October 29th** On this fifth Sunday of the month we will once again be joined at St Mary's by the members of Flookburgh Church. At **9am** Come along and enjoy "The Big Brekkie" in support of McMillan Cancer Charity, followed at **10am** by an All Age Service.

**Monday October 30th 3.30pm onwards - MESSY CHURCH.** More or less what it says, lots of "messy" activities with a Christian theme, followed by a (hopefully not so messy!) meal. All aimed at children from 5 upwards (and parents, grandparents and carers).

**Saturday November 11th 7pm CURRY NIGHT** in church with talks and slides with a travel theme

**Sunday 12th November 10.45am.** Service of Remembrance

**December 13th 3pm.** The Big Carol Sing at The Pheasant

**December 17th 4pm.** Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 24th December 10.45am.** Christingle Service.

**Saturday morning prayers.** Meet at St Mary's Church every Saturday morning at 9am for an informal time of prayer. All are welcome.

**Foodbank.** Please continue to give regularly to the Foodbank, there is a list of the most needed items alongside the collection point by the church door.

If you want to get further details of any of these events, please speak to John Arthurs 35406

**DAYS FOR GIRLS**—thank you to everyone who came to sew, iron, make drinks, clear up, etc and to all those sewing at home. The next date for a sewing day is **Wednesday 18th October—10am—2pm**, usual arrangements.

We need to be looking out for fabrics suitable for the shields, ie: soft fabrics, preferably cotton. Everyone welcome. If you are able to come please contact Carole—33770. and remember to bring a basic sewing kit.

### **ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ:**

1. Poland.
2. The Great Fire.
3. Oliver Cromwell.
4. Manchester.
5. Grace Darling.
6. Boxing.
7. The Football League.
8. Martina Navratilova.
9. Drunken driving.
10. MOT vehicle tests.
11. First recorded hole in one.
12. Steam locomotive.
13. Post Office Savings Banks.
14. 5d and 4d.
15. The Illuminations.
16. New Zealand.
17. 1955.
18. Bradford.
19. Neville Chamberlain.
20. James Dean.



*Copy for Next issue by the end of November please.*

**THE CARTMEL PENINSULA TEAM MINISTRY  
PARISH OF SAINT MARY'S, ALLITHWAITE**

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Items for the next issue of the magazine can be submitted any time, but before the end of November please, and send to:

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You can also place your articles in the letter rack in the vestry, post them or e-mail [mikelamb34th@yahoo.com](mailto:mikelamb34th@yahoo.com).

Please sign your article and include your telephone number in case of queries. Thank you.

*Mike (Ed)*