Parish News

Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield

JUNE 2023





In this issue...

- Music Director Martin talks Coronation music
- Hugh Wright on HT's fake or fortune moment
- And your Street Market needs you!

Plus all the news from around the Benefice...

www.htboa.org

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Times of Services			
Holy Trinity	(Check Bulletins and notices or Church website)		
Sundays	8am Eucharist (Traditional language)		
	9.30am Eucharist (coffee afterwards)		
	2nd Sundays 9.30am 'In the Round' (coffee afterwards)		
	1st Sundays 6pm Evensong		
Weekday Eucharist	10am 1st Wednesday of the month only		
Daily	Morning Prayer at 8.30am most days		
	(please check Sunday Bulletin)		
mainly music	10.30am, Tuesdays (term-time only)		
Choir Practice	6.15pm, Thursdays		
Mothers' Union	2.30pm, usually 3rd Wednesday of every month		
Saxon Club	2.30pm –4pm every Tuesday except August		
Bell Practice	7.30–9pm 2nd and 4th Mondays		
Benefice website	www.htboa.org		
Weekly Bulletin	Notices to Netty not later than Wednesday for the following		
	Sunday please.		

Please see the bulletin or visit www.htboa.org for more details on service times and locations.



STREET MARKET

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BRADFORD ON AVON, BA15 1LW

Saturday, 1 July 10am - 4pm

*STALLS * REFRESHMENTS * ENTERTAINMENT*

FREE ADMISSION



HOLY TRINITY - JUNE 2023

1 Thursday 1 Thursday 2 Friday 4 SUNDAY	10.45am 8pm 2pm TRINITY SUN	Trio Paradis Coffee Concert <i>Contemplative Hour @ St MaryTory</i> Golden Wedding Blessing NDAY	St Mary, Tory
5 Monday	9.30am 2.30pm 6pm 2pm	Sung Eucharist Holy Baptism of Noah Atlas Baxter Evensong Funeral of Anne Bostock	
6 Tuesday 6 Tuesday 7 Wednesday 11 SUNDAY	10.30- 11.45am 2.30-4pm 10am BARNABAS	Mainly Music Saxon Club Eucharist FHE APOSTLE	
13 Tuesday	9.30am 10.30- 11.45am	`In the Round' Mainly Music	
13 Tuesday 14 Wednesday	2.30-4pm 7.30pm	Saxon Club Bradford Deanery Synod	
15 Thursday	11am- 12.30pm	Forget Me Not Café	
17 Saturday	1pm	Marriage of Ashley Keirl & Nicola Gregory	
18 SUNDAY	THE SECONE	SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
20 Tuesday	9.30am 10.30- 11.45am	Sung Eucharist Mainly Music	
20 Tuesday 21 Wednesday	2.30-4pm 2.30pm	Saxon Club MU meeting – 'Climate Change' with Jane Jones	
25 SUNDAY	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
27 Tuesday	8am 9.30am 1pm-6pm 10.30-	Eucharist (Traditional Language) Sung Eucharist `Secret Gardens' Teas Mainly Music	
27 Tuesday	11.45am 2.30-4pm	Saxon Club	



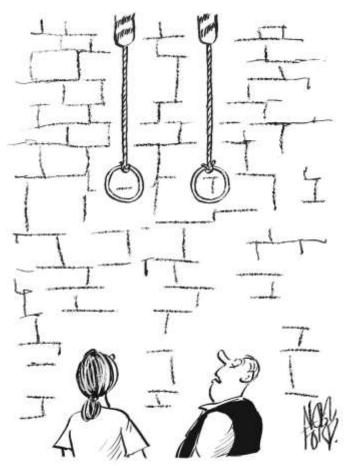
WINGFIELD & WESTWOOD - JUNE2023

4 SUNDAY TRINITY SUNDAY

11 SUNDAY	9.30am 11.15am 2-5pm BARNABAS 1	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer <i>Church Teas in the Parish Rooms</i> T HE APOSTLE	Wingfield Westwood <i>Westwood</i>
15 Thursday 17 Saturday 18 SUNDAY	9.30am 11.15am 7.30pm 2.30-5pm THE SECONE	Holy Communion Holy Communion PCC Meeting at 83 Lower Westwood Village Fête (Church Lane) SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	Wingfield Westwood <i>Westwood</i> <i>Wingfield</i>
25 SUNDAY	9.30am 11.15am THE THIRD S 9.30am 11.15am	Chuppa Sunday Morning Prayer (BCP) UNDAY AFTER TRINITY Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Wingfield Westwood Wingfield Westwood



ONLINE: Look out for updates at Holy Trinity's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/htboa or online at: www.htboa.org



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

The Trinity of Life

he month of June this year begins gloriously with Trinity Sunday, and I get the feeling that this is how it's going to go on! It has led me to reflect upon the concept of the Trinity in rather broader terms... It is about an undivided relationship, about togetherness, about life being multi- (or at least tri-) faceted. We do need to look at things from different angles and learn from one another. And, after all, we are a benefice of three parishes – our very own Trinity! – and we are gradually learning from one another's strengths. Just as the Holy Trinity is such a gift in enabling us to learn and understand more about the nature of God, so any ready-made grouping in which we find ourselves, such as the benefice, is a real gift and opportunity.

And when we look at the quite extraordinary miracle of God's creation too, we can see how none of us, or no part of God's creation, are designed to function on our own or in a static fashion. I've always been fascinated by the tides, as you watch them come and go relentlessly, and somehow effortlessly. There is nothing we can do to stop them, and you become aware of how this regular pattern and rhythm has actually continued for millennia. I was reminded of this quotation from Brutus in William Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar':

"There is a tide in the affairs of men Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life Is bound in shallows and in miseries".

To me, in this context, it speaks of togetherness and life's opportunities. The Trinity has often been likened to a dance – a dance as between the three persons – a dance of love. And Shakespeare's 'tide' not only gives the idea of movement, but of carefully co-ordinated movement, of being led along by something or someone other than yourself, and of timing. God's timing. And what a glorious sense of opportunity we are offered here. Equally, if we do not choose to join the dance, or miss the moment, there is the alternative of 'shallows' and 'miseries'. Life offers us a fantastic invitation. And at our Baptism, I often imagine ourselves being launched into a fairly fast-flowing river where we swim along with millions of other baptised Christians for the rest of our days, together.

The Holy Trinity, God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is also often described as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. And that certainly embraces all of our lives in a very practical way. We are reminded that we are continually being created, we are continually needing to be redeemed, and how we need to be continually sustained, to sustain one another and, lest we forget,



to sustain God's intricately and immaculately worked natural creation. We need each other to thrive. And three is good! We have three very engaged PCCs, three Secretaries and three Treasurers. Yet we still have only two licensed ministers in the benefice and only two churchwardens – so there remains quite a lot of fast paddling going on under the water!

Enjoy the Westwood Parish Rooms Teas at the beginning of the month. Enjoy the Wingfield Village Fête in the middle of the month. And prepare to enjoy the Holy Trinity Street Market and Sarah's and my own 10th and 20th ordination as priest celebrations at the very beginning of July. All part of the amazing 'Trinity of life' which we shall delight in together.

With my love and prayers and every blessing

100m

FROM THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

	Holy Baptism		
Abel Alexander Lee Morrison	30 April	(Wingfield)	
Arthur Sirius Clayton	14 May	(Holy Trinity)	

THE SOMALI NURSE-MIDWIFE PRIZE WINNER

he winner of this year's £1.1 million Templeton Prize is Edna Adan Ismail, an 86-year-old nurse-midwife & the first black African woman to receive the honour.

The prize honours those who "harness the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it", and was first given 50 years ago to Mother Teresa. Her father, a Muslim, was a nationally-respected doctor; and her mother, a Roman Catholic, was the daughter of the postmaster general.

Edna Adan has founded both a hospital and university in her Somaliland home city, and has spent more than 40 years championing women's health in East Africa, including campaigning for an end to the practice of female



genital mutilation (FGM). Driven by a passionate belief in women's innate dignity and divine-given potential, she has enacted a transformation of female health in her native land. She has said that she will use the money to support and expand the work of the Edna Adan Hospital, including training the next generation of healthcare workers "that East Africa so desperately needs".

FLOOD AND LANDSLIDES DEVASTATE RWANDA

e only seem to hear about the threatened removal of migrants when it comes Rwanda. But floods have devastated this tiny, landlocked nation during May, and brought about a humanitarian crisis that is beyond the capacity of the Church to meet alone.

The Anglican Archbishop of Rwanda, the Most Revd Laurent Mbanda, reports: "This is beyond us, we need all the help we can get." More than 130 people have died, and thousands have been made homeless, by flooding and landslides that have swept entire houses away. Clergy in the worst-affected regions are aiding the relief effort, alongside religious groups, government authorities, and humanitarian organisations - but Government officials have asked them to do more.

RING FOR THE KING

ony and Terry Stock, twin brothers aged 85, were among the ringers who rang in the newly crowned King on Coronation Day.

The brothers, with their friend, Terry Earle, have been ringing at All Saints', Stisted, in Essex, for more than 70 years, and had also proudly rung for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, her various Jubilees, and her death. Terry decided to follow his grandfather as a ringer, aged 15, and he then persuaded the twins to join him. They've all been ringing ever since! Meanwhile, St Jude's Anglican



Church, in the Sydney suburb of Randwick has the most easterly bells in Australia. They rang a two-hour peal on the Coronation afternoon, and among the ringers was 91 year old Enid Roberts, who had also rung for the late Queen's coronation in 1953, and remains very active in towers around Sydney.



CLIMATE INVESTMENT PROTEST

he Church Commissioners have announced that they will be voting against all directors at the upcoming AGMs of Exxon, Occidental Petroleum, Shell, and Total, in response to their failure to meet climate change objectives.

The statement they released read: "High energy prices produced huge profits at oil and gas companies last year - a golden opportunity to invest very significantly in the transition to a low carbon economy, and one that was comprehensively missed. So we will be supporting all the relevant climate resolutions, and voting against all of their directors."

LIVERPOOL CHURCHES CELEBRATE EUROVISION

hurch doors were thrown open and buildings were lit up as part of Liverpool's show of solidarity when the city hosted the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine.

There was a real sense of Liverpool being a kind of "surrogate" for Ukraine. "I think Liverpool turned into a little Ukraine," remarked a Ukrainian Roman Catholic priest in Liverpool, "Ukrainians are proud about this".



The Rector of Liverpool agreed: "This was about Ukraine, but also... a unifying event that has brought together many nations, and that's a great thing".

LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOP

here's quite a difference between having a stall, or even a foodbank, inside a church building, and having a full-blown, community-owned business! But as upkeep of buildings gets harder and community services decline, more places of worship are looking afresh at their space and how it might be better used to benefit both church and community.

The community-run stores at Broad Chalke, near Salisbury (a village of 700 residents), also has a post office and a café, located in the United Reformed Church chapel. Their minister observes cheerily: "There are no larders for the elderly of Broad Chalke any more. If they run out of butter, they just pop in, pick up some more, and have a good chat." What's more the chapel congregation of four has risen to 21 as a consequence of the shop and café attractions, and the worship space on the mezzanine is a meeting place where all the local churches can come together. On Saturday afternoons, the café volunteers prepare the church for Sunday worship, and, after worship, the congregation set it up for opening again bright and early on Monday morning.



SUNNY SAXON CHURCH PLANT SALE SUCCESS

May Saturday morning blessed with sunshine, and the Saxon Church Plant Sale was a happy and colourful event with all sorts of exciting and lovingly nurtured plants being snapped up from the start! The net grand total raised was a spectacular $\pounds 1,135$.





CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

V e all came together for a magnificent Benefice Sung Eucharist on 7 May – with Bernard Newman from Westwood enhancing the benefice flavour as he assisted Martin at the organ.

All the stops were pulled out, the choir sang the specially composed 'Sing for the King' Anthem, we used the specially created Coronation liturgy, and all this even inspired some new liturgical colours for the stunning flower-arranging.



WINGFIELD REWILDING

A visit to the inspirational churchyard of St Mary, Wingfield is always an experience to warm anyone's heart. But there is surely no better time than when the sun shines and the PCC's rewilding experiment has revealed the beauty of the wildflowers native to this ancient and sacred space.

We're so grateful to the amazing team of volunteers from the village, always under the careful eye of Bob Coulthard, who keep our churchyard looking so perfect. Come and see for yourself – any time – but a good opportunity will be when you come for the Village Fête in and around the church in Church Lane on the sunny afternoon of 17 June!



A CELEBRATION OF SONG - 'WELCOME IN THE MAY'

nd the combined voices of two of our most loved local Community Choirs, Songways and Clarity, did just that at Holy Trinity on the

Sunday afternoon. A mid-afternoon free, informal and fun concert always goes down well - and this one certainly did, playing to a full house.

Jane Harris and Clara Atkins each led their respective choirs in a few pieces from all around the world, and then combined forces (making a choir of more than 100) for the final flurry. The photo is of Jane conducting their final song, 'Welcome in the May' – hence the headdresses!



Across: 1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary; 20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden

Down: 1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona; 7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian; 16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

You can contact the editorial team on: *ht.parishnews@gmail.com* The **July 2023** issue copy deadline is **Friday, 16 June 2023**.

STREET MARKET



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

Donations needed! Please could all contributions should be brought to church on Friday, 30 June between 2 and 6pm. Do contact the stall holder also as most are happy to collect large quantities!

Vintage, Collectables & Tools: Vernon & Judith Burchell, tel: 862782, vernonandjudith@tiscali.co.uk NO large/heavy items please.

*IMPORTANT - contact V&J beforehand to agree arrangements.

Books: Peter Yarker, tel: 01373 834268 pfyarker@gmail.com (*Peter's particularly asking for book donations*!!)

Bottles: June Harrison, tel: 863745, randjcharrison@btinternet.com Choir Gift Stall: TBA

MU cakes: Marlene Haffenden, tel: 864412,

marlene.haffenden@googlemail.com

Refreshments: Judith Holland, tel: 866215 judithholland23@gmail.com Plants: Colin Johnston, tel: 868132, <u>colin.johnstonboa@btinternet.com</u> Raffle: TBA

Toys: Alison Cook, tel: 864116, <u>alison_cook_1@hotmail.co.uk</u> For more information, to offer help or to make a donation you can also contact: John Potter: 07717470449 mrjohnpotter@hotmail.co.uk or Elaine Giles: elaineagiles@gmail.com

A Day of Remembrance

n 10 April 2023, a 50th Memorial Anniversary was held in Congresbury, Axbridge and other adjacent villages in Somerset, to commemorate those who lost their lives in the tragic air disaster in Basel, Switzerland.

In 1973, 139 people from that area set out from Bristol Airport on a day's outing to shop and sightsee. The plane ran into a

snowstorm and crashed, attempting to land. Only 37 survived. Most of the passengers

"In 1973, 139 people set out from Bristol Airport... only 37 survived."

were young mothers, some with children, and family members. It was a terrible tragedy.

At Axbridge, a small ancient town south of Congresbury, only three survived of the 23 who had booked to go on the outing. The Vicar of St John's at that time was the Revd Anthony Martin. Before his appointment to St John's, he served as curate at Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon. He met Betty his wife here.

Shortly after his moving to Axbridge, the tragedy occurred. He took an Evening Service and pledged himself to giving comfort to the many bereaved children left motherless, and the husbands who had lost their wives. It was recorded that he was a thin, slight man who was seen tracing & retracing his steps through the town, head bent low. It is difficult to imagine the shock and distress it must have caused him. In the 1980s, Tony and Betty returned to Bradford on Avon to retire quietly. Tony became very frail; the sorrow of his parishioners never left him. His final days were spent in the town's

> local Community Hospital, where he was visited by the then Bishop of Ramsbury's representa-

tive. Before her husband died, Betty joined the Ladies' Choir and continued to sing when gentlemen joined and it became Holy Trinity Choir. When the Revd Tony passed away and she lived on her own, although visited and supported by members of the congregation who still remember her family, her health suffered. The past events and the loss of her husband affected her deeply and she passed away unexpectedly. They left two adopted sons.

Muriel Freeborn

[with grateful thanks to David Milne for his internet research, & Daphne Squire who was a sister at the hospital and recalled the visit to Tony by the bishop's representative.]

Children's Society—Update!

he Bradford on Avon area fund raising committee for The Children's Society have just completed their account for the year! As a result of a wonderful Christingle at Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve, Lent Coffee mornings, a stall at the Street Market, a

talk on Egypt , House Box contributions and very many generous donations ,our annual statement came to £2298:60. Very many thanks to all our loyal supporters, your



Update: Liz & friends on a stall

On another challenging note but not at all the same, I have in my loft a very precious community quilt made for The Children's Society in 1995. It was inspired by a visiting quilt from Durham made by Christian women of the north east. As the then secretary of

> our local society I persuaded schools, organisations and individuals to create a panel of their choice. 39 panels were put together ... two of The Children's Society, an old logo and the Joker always played at

continued help is so appreciated and aids so many vulnerable children and young people in this country.

When Edward Rudolf founded the society (The Waifs and Strays) well over 100 years ago I am quite sure he did not visualise that in the 21st century the needs and problems for children would be the same and even worse. These are challenging times we live in but so much more for children and young people. Everything we can do as a Christian society is so vital. I thank everyone for their support and hope that we can raise as much, if not more! In the coming year.

Quiz Suppers, and the rest a complete variety. When the quilt was finished it was shown around the town in different places. A folder accompanies it with all the names & details & it was well received. Since then, many organisations have closed, some creators have died, some are now adults & still live in the town. It is a piece of history. I approached the town museum but sadly there is no space for display or storage. If anyone can think of a solution to solve my problem I would be most grateful. Liz Forbes



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Music Crowns the Day

or someone like me who has taken meticulous interest in the music of all of the great state services from Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral over a lifetime, the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was the zenith so far in that realm of experience.

Perhaps we hoped to know a little more of what to expect prior to the event but much of the musical content was kept secret until the very morning. It would have been a strange service indeed had it not included Handel's famous Coronation Anthem, 'Zadok the Priest', sung at every coronation since that of George II in 1727.

And surely we fully expected Hubert Parry's 'I was glad', written for Edward VII in 1902, performed with such huge dignity on this occasion. What a piece to coordinate for the brand new Abbey Director of Music, Andrew Nethsingha, with the choir in their stalls, orchestra and organist on the screen, fanfare trumpeters in a gallery, and the scholars of Westminster singing their 'Vivats' from another location, requiring three conductors in their different settings! Other music from former Coronations to have stood the test of time includes several works by William Walton - the two Coronation Marches 'Crown Imperial' (1937) and 'Orb and Sceptre' (1953) and his wonderful 'Coronation Te Deum' of 1953 - a glorious and joyous piece to its core.

From start to finish, we heard 51 pieces of music altogether, as we reached back across centuries to the great Gregorian tune, 'Veni Creator Spiritus' with the choir singing successively in English, Welsh, Gaelic and Irish, words that were written but a few hundred years after the time of Jesus himself.

In addition to Bach and Handel, we relished in divine and deeply moving music by two composers whose 400th anniversary is celebrated this year - William Byrd and Thomas Weelkes - whose anthems, mass and service settings are essential mainstays of cathedral music worldwide. Henry Purcell was in there too in his great hymn, 'Christ is made the sure foundation', and lying buried close to the organ screen in the Abbey which he served as Organist from 1679-1695, it was good he was very much still in the thick of it!

But I was particularly interested in the 12 newly commissioned



works. And I suppose I was put in mind of the exchange between George Bernard Shaw and Sir Winston Churchill. Shaw: 'I am enclosing two tickets to the opening night of my new play: bring a friend... if you have one.' To which Churchill riposted: 'Cannot possibly attend opening night, will attend second... if there is one!' One has to wonder how many commissioned works will receive a second performance. I won't get caught in that debate, but I will say that, for me, the star amongst them, was Sarah Class's sublime setting of words by Welsh poet, Grahame Davies - 'Sacred Fire.' This was sung by South African soprano, Pretty Yende, dressed daffodil-like in bright yellow in an utterly beguiling, effortless performance which tore at every emotion. I have watched it and listened to it many times since - do dig about on YouTube and you'll find it.

At the 1953 Coronation, the choirs of Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal were joined by that of St Paul's Cathedral and boy choristers from churches across the realms. This time, the resident choirs were boosted by groups of girl choristers from Truro Cathedral and from Methodist College, Belfast. Being a Cornishman, I am



bound to say that I found that very moving - my father was an Honorary Canon of Truro from 1957 to 1992 - but one could only be struck by the professionalism of all these young people, miles from home, singing with such confidence. But, in all of that, let us not forget that these senior girls were joining the much younger boy members of the Abbey and Chapel Royal choirs, who sang with equal, consummate expertise.

So much went into this musical pageant. All of it was learned and painstakingly prepared from seconds-long fanfares through to works demanding the full choral and orchestral resources available. What we do know is that music was a quintessential part of the whole day - not just in the Abbey and we have so much in which we can take the deepest pride as we reflect on the skills of our composers and performers, and a long tradition of music-making of the highest order.

Martin Cooke

Forget-me-not Café

Free refreshments, cake, & good fun and company



For anyone who would enjoy some good company, and people with memory problems, their families and carers.

Claire Mitchell: clairem@alzheimers wiltshire.org.uk

Revd Joanna Abecassis: 01225 864444 joanna.abecassis @cantab.net



Dementia Action Alliance Bradford on Avon Community Area

JUNE 2023

Thursday, 1 June 3 - 4.30pm

Dog & Fox Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT Thursday, 15 June

11am - 12.30pm

Holy Trinity Church Church St, BA15 1LW

JULY 2023

Thursday, 6 July

3 - 4.30pm

Dog & Fox Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT Thursday, 20 July

11am - 12.30pm

Holy Trinity Church Church St, BA15 1LW

AUGUST 2023

Thursday, 3 August

3 - 4.30pm

Dog & Fox Ashley Rd, BA15 1RT Thursday, 17 August

11am - 12.30pm

Holy Trinity Church Church St, BA15 1LW

Prayer Paths: After Trinity Sunday, Matthew's Gospel

fter Trinity Sunday brings the 'seasonal' part of the lectionary to a close, we move into 'Ordinary' time. The readings this year are focused on Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew has a special flavour among the synoptic gospels. Almost certainly written for a Jewish audience, the Gospel is structured around five 'discourses' modelled on the five books of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy in the Old Testament). Matthew's aim is to show that Jesus has come to renew Israel through offering a re-imagining of the Torah. The Gospel revolves around five discrete discourses with linking material.

The reading for Trinity Sunday from Matthew 28 serves as a really good introduction to the Gospel as a whole. It contains Jesus' instruction to his followers to teach all that he has commanded, and then it is laid out in the five discourses of the Gospel.

What is often called the 'mission discourse' starts in chapter 9 and continues to 11. The 'parables discourse' is in chapter 13; there are parables elsewhere too, but this chapter contains some of the major parables, such as that of the Sower and its explanation by Jesus, giving his disciples – and us – clues as to how to read all the other parables. There are three more 'discourses': 'discipleship '(chapters 5 to 7), 'relationships' (18 to 20) and 'the future' (24 to 25).

The mission discourse shows Jesus calling a wide variety of people into his company of disciples and sending them out in the towns of cities of Judea to share his message. The parables chosen by the lectionary continue this theme, exploring how the Gospel is sown and takes root in the world, with Jesus giving an example for us to follow. It seems that Matthew's concern – in keeping with Mark & Luke - is not just to give us the story of Jesus (which they all do), but also to provide a narrative of how his followers should live in the world. We will meet ourselves in these Gospel readings as much as we meet Jesus & a cast of other characters.

Risen Saviour, you first appeared to Mary Magdalene, the apostle to the apostles: Help us hear you when you call our names, that we, too, may proclaim the good news of your resurrection throughout the world, to the honour and glory of thy name. (*Elizabeth Rankin Geitz*) *Sarah Jackson*

WINGFIELD



Saturday, 17 June 2023 Church Lane 2.30-5pm

Dog Show - Tug of War - Steam Tractors

Teas - Cakes - Open Garden - White Elephant - Hoopla -Silent Auction - Tombola - Ice Creams - Bouncy Castle -Raffle - Church Tour -Trowbridge Brass Band - Beer tent Plenty of Free Parking!



Christ Blessing by Quinten Metsys

en years ago in 2013 Maximiliaan Martens of the Flemish Academic Centre for Science and the Arts, Ghent University, formally confirmed Quinten Metsys as the author of a painting that that been given to Holy Trinity in 1940 by Major Clarence Goff and his wife Cecilie of The Courts, Holt.

When Cecilie died three years later the house was given to the

National Trust. Their daughter Moyra continued to live there until her death in 1990. At Holy – Trinity we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. Major Goff was a great grandson

of William IV and doubtless this was how the picture had come into the family. It had hung in The Courts since they bought the house in 1921.

OFFICIAL AUTHENTICATION

The official authentication came at the end of a process which had begun in 2006 when the Revd Canon Bill Matthews invited the art conservator Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins with her partner Hugo Platt to advise on a painting that was hanging in the church that

"The Co Chairman of Sotheby's Worldwide described the rediscovery [of the painting] as the most important in the field of early Netherlandish art in the last generation"

purported to be by Van Dyck. They were accompanied by the Art Historian Simon Watney. The rest as they say is history but on this tenth anniversary of the end of the story of the identification of the Goffs' picture, (that was hanging beside the one the experts had been invited to examine!), it is worth putting this discovery on record once again - the moment when the long history of Holy

> Trinity took a spectacular turn. The Co Chairman of Sotheby's Worldwide described the rediscovery as the most important in the field of early Netherlandish art in

the last generation. What made it all the more certain was that the panel on which it had been painted, with its companion from which it had been separated more than a century before, could be proved to have been from the same two oak planks that made up Metsys' earliest known work, which hangs in the National Gallery in London.

An image of its companion, The Virgin in Adoration, was spotted while flicking through an old Christie's sale catalogue, by Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins soon after she began the process of identification of the one from Holy Trinity. The companion from which it had been separated, Metsys's 'The Virgin in Adoration', is in the private collection of Lady Juliet Tadgell. Another stroke of extreme good fortune. When

they were rejoined for identification the panels fitted together perfectly.

The Maestro

Quinten Metsys (sometimes known as Quentin Massys) was born in Leuven in 1466. He first trained as a blacksmith but is reputed to have fallen in love with an artist's daughter so he became an

Replica: A replica of the original picture is on the wall in Holy Trinity

1575. The sons' early work imitated their father's and indeed Jan may well have been responsible for the some of the copies of the original diptych of Christ and the Virgin by their father which helped with its identification. One of these is in The National Gallery in London.

> Thirty seven other works by Quinten Metsys have survived. His early work was influenced by Durer and Holbein, especially Durer's St Jerome in his study, though Metsys's original of that is lost. His best known work is also in the National Gallery, a portrait of an old woman often known as 'The Uqly Duchess'. His sitter had suffered

artist instead and when they married and moved to Antwerp in 1491 he joined the city's Painters Guild.

He died there in 1530. They had two sons, both painters, the eldest Jan was master of the guild in 1531 in the year after his father died. He was banished for his 'heretical opinions' from this stronghold of protestant teaching but returned and died there in from Paget's disease, which had disfigured her.

This picture was clearly known to John Tenniel, the first illustrator of Lewis Carroll who made her the model for the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland. Another famous picture by Metsys is in Longford Castle near Salisbury. This is also half of a double portrait, though in this case the two have always been separate. The one in Longford Castle is of Peter Gillis, a friend of Erasmus in Antwerp and Metsys painted them both there. A photographic copy of the Goff family's Metsys hangs on the north wall of Holy Trinity as a memorial of a generous gift that turned out to be what can only be described as a Godsend.

Hugh Wright

Top: Christ Blessing by Quinten Metsys with thanks to the Klesch Collection *Right:* A Metsys diptych painting hangs in the National Gallery





A MODERN DAY PARABLE

he discovery of the Quinten Metsys painting in Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon is in a way a modern day parable.

The painting of great value was not recognised at first and was somewhat ignored. Instead honour was given to its neighbour, a painting that turned out not to be as valuable as others had suggested. Every evening we sing in the Song of Mary (Magnificat), 'he has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.'

The recognition of the Metsys and the dismissal of the supposed Van Dyck illustrates the upside down world of the Kingdom where the lowly are lifted up and the mighty cast down – and all to the glory of God as we now see in the wonderful, imaginative re-ordering of Holy Trinity that then became possible and was achieved.

It is a sign that the Kingdom is indeed very near to us, that God is bountifully generous and that God is full of surprises.

Rt Revd Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury

Nature Now: June 2023

he lengthening, warmer days of May brought ample opportunities for foraging in the local fields and woods.

Wild garlic grew in massed, strongly scented carpets and the young, tender leaves offered good picking, neatly coinciding with the appearance of St George's mushrooms, so called because they are at their best about 23 April, St George's Day, although this year they were still appearing in mid-May. They are one of the first fungi to appear, about the same size as field mushrooms but creamy white all over, including their gills, and giving off a pleasant mealy odour.

Once cooked they remain quite dense and meaty in texture. I combined St George's mushroom and wild garlic to make a big batch of soup, a very tasty wild food mix, some of which is now in the freezer ready to enjoy once their season for harvesting is past.

I was invited by a local householder to have a look at another species of fungus which she had noticed in her front garden. It's not a handsome beast – I always think it resembles an inside-out brain – but it is prized among foodies for its excellent taste, although I've never found enough to consider



Above: A Morel, a prized edible fungus

picking it myself. This is one of the Morel family (scientific name Morchella). Unlike the St George's mushroom, the Morel has no gills, instead bearing a cap with a labyrinthine network of ridges and furrows. Traditionally they are dried to preserve them and can be bought this way. A Google search, purely in the interests of Nature Now, led me to a firm offering dried morels at £100 per kilo. The same site also offered frozen ones – a mere snip at about £80 for the same weight.

A PREHISTORIC PLANT

About the same time as these fungi popped up, I noticed the stirrings of a plant which at first glance might be mistaken for a fungus, since in its earliest stage it is a rather ghostly, palid beige.

This is the Horsetail (*Equisetum*) the only surviving genus of a family of plants which for over 100 million years dominated the understorey

of forests in the late Paleozoic era. This was a time of dramatic geological, climatic, and evolutionary change, when great forests of primitive plants covered the continents, many of which formed the coal beds of Europe and eastern North

America. Some species of Equisetum at that time were large trees reaching as tall as 30m. The Horsetail we know today first appeared during the later Jurassic period, when the climate was warmer than the present. There were no ice caps, and forests grew close to the poles, with large arid expanses in the lower latitudes.

In spring the Horsetail that we know today appear as single stems that produce cone-like structures at the tips, as you can see in my photo. Unlike flowers, which when fertilised produce seeds, these structures are similar to fungi in



horsetails showing needlelike leaves

that they develop spores. As spring progresses, needle-like leaves grow out from nodes along the stems.

CORONATION MEADOWS

You may remember that last month I mentioned Plantlife, an organisation set up to safeguard vulnerable plants and fungi in Britain. I've since heard that Plantlife is working with English Heritage to enhance and create a hundred meadows over the coming decade in celebration of the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Right: Orchids and cowslips thriving in a meadow in May this year

Sites chosen are among English Heritage's castles, abbeys, prehistoric stone circles and palaces, including Stonehenge and the

14th century Jewel Tower in the heart of Westminster. The aim is to create a natural legacy at its historic sites, establishing flowerrich grasslands right across England, restoring those that have been lost, and enhancing those that already exist.

Prior to the advent of post-war modern farming practices, the UK supported a much more diverse flora. Since then 97% of our meadows have been lost, and the English Heritage estate has diminished in its botanical diversity. But with the right management, many of these sites have the potential for meadows to thrive once again. Creating and enhancing wildflower-rich grasslands across England can greatly benefit nature, help tackle pollution and permanently lock away atmospheric carbon below ground.



And, for visitors to the sites, they will hark back to the type of landscape that their historic occupants would have enjoyed.

THE BATTLE TO SAVE BUGS

Plants aren't the only wildlife in urgent need of protection. Buglife is an organisation whose aim is to protect invertebrates, many of which thrive in flower-rich meadows. Do you remember a time when any car journey in late spring and summer would involve cleaning the windscreen of squashed gnats, midges and other flying insects? Sadly, it's a job we rarely have to do these days, because their numbers have dropped so dramatically. The 'windscreen phenomenon', as it's called, describes how we are noticing such a dearth of these insects compared to several decades ago.

Bug bother: Bug numbers have dropped dramatically in recent decades

Buglife introduced a Bugs Matter survey for citizens to observe and report any squashed bugs on their cars following a journey, and last year the results were shocking. A report released by Kent Wildlife Trust and Buglife showed that the number of insects sampled on vehicle number plates by citizen scientists across the UK reduced by a staggering 64% between 2004 and 2022. These findings are consistent with reported declining trends in insect populations across the globe. Considering our own existence is dependent on all sorts of insects (think of all those pollinators, for instance), this is a really worrying situation.

Buglife want to repeat the survey every year to build up a better understanding of insect populations. To take part the Bugs Matter project this summer (from 1 June to 31 August), you can download the free app to get started. Go to www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/surveys/bugs-matter/ for more information about the project.

CLEVER CROWS

This spring, photographer and naturalist Nick Upton has been



capturing some previously undocumented behaviour of Carrion crows. He observed them wading into a woodland pond in the Forest of Dean to catch spawning Common toads before eating their toxic prey in a rather gory but clever way. He writes:

"Very few predators are known to attack and eat Common toads as they're well protected by poison glands, especially on their backs and behind their eyes, but the Crows were eating edible portions using a very precise technique. Having caught a toad they turn it onto its back, pin it down with a large claw and swiftly peck away at the soft underbelly, where the thinner skin likely has the fewest poison glands.

The Crow then begins to feed, mostly seeming to target the muscular back legs, often pulling them out intact from the long "stocking" of toxic skin, before swallowing the naked, skinned legs whole."

This behaviour has not been recorded before as far as Nick can find out, and it is new to some expert academics he has contacted who study amphibians, bird behaviour and Crows. He did find out, though, that the Torresian crow of Australia has learnt to kill and eat the safe parts, such as the back legs, of the large, very toxic Cane toad. Some Carrion crows in Germany and Denmark are also believed to use another technique to feed on toads, pecking a precise hole in their backs to remove their livers, which can lead to the maimed toads then inflating with air and exploding! Other crows in the Forest of Dean and beyond may have learnt to eat toad legs safely as toad predation behaviour was shown to pass from crow to crow within local populations of the Australian crows.

Nick says: "The Crow family should never be underestimated, as many studies have shown that their intelligence is extraordinary, even matching primates such as Gorillas and Chimpanzees in some ways. There are examples of tool use, and phenomenal cognitive functioning: they have an excellent memory, which they use to find







food they have hidden away, and they can even recognise individual human faces. Their complex social interactions include the use of different calls with different meanings—a 'crowcabulary', as it were. Specialist toad predation can now be added to their list of talents." Dave Green

Thought for the Month: Jewels in the Earth



here was once a farm, which had been in a family for generations. Eventually, the property was sold and a neighbour bought it. One day, the new owners were walking through a field when they noticed a strange rock sticking up out of the soil. After washing it, they took it to a jeweller where it was confirmed that the 'old stone' was, in fact, a large, uncut emerald a priceless jewel!

The gemstone had been in the field for hundreds of years. The previous owners had overlooked it, because it looked like an ordinary rock. When we 'discover' something, we are really finding something that already exists even though we were unaware of it. Something may look ordinary, but is in fact unique and special.

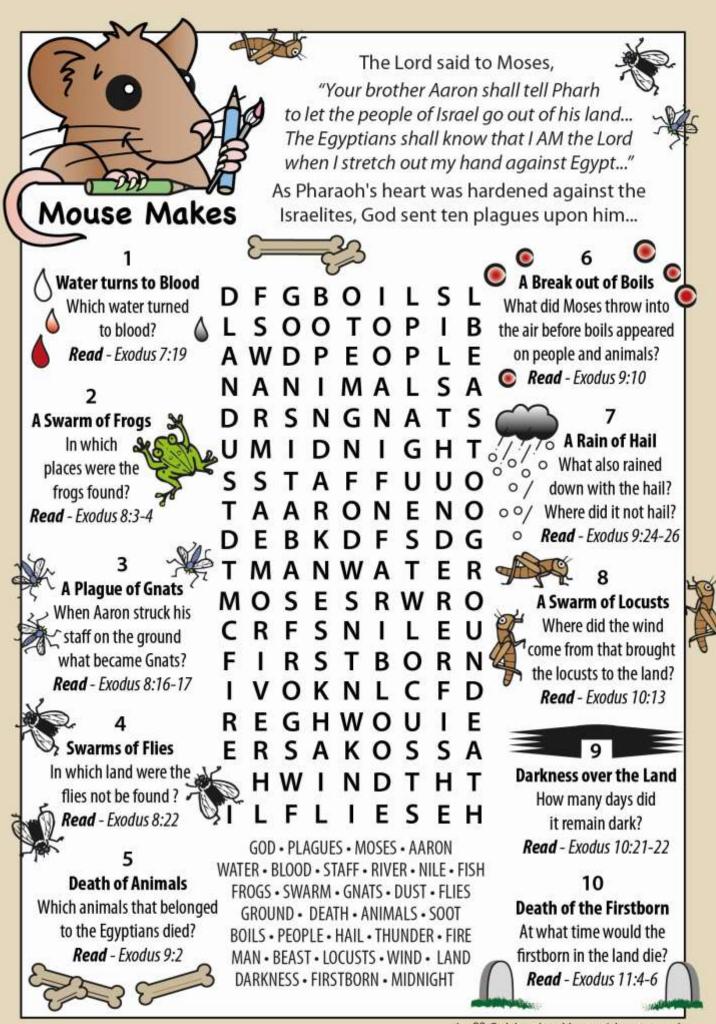
Who or what do we walk past and overlook?

What parts of ourselves (the treasure within us) could be uncovered if we delve further?

Where can we inspire others to seek out the best in themselves?

Christians are advised to keep searching for God's will for their lives, helping them to uncover what is right under their noses, but that has not been recognised. Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will". When you are living the best version of yourself, you inspire others to live the best versions of themselves.

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St Laurence - 'Spring the Changes'

ay is a very difficult time of year in a school. The advent of the examination season is filled with hope of course, as well as the natural anxiety that exams bring, but it also has a huge sadness to it. The young people we have spent at least five, if not seven years with, are about to leave our care and take the next steps in their life.

People often talk about 'remembering that teacher' who made an impression but today, I was reminded that young people can also make a significant impact on teachers. I was interviewing candidates for an English teacher position and on arrival I welcomed everyone and had to do a double take on one candidate who I politely asked 'did I used to teach you?'. The answer came back as a yes and I instantly remembered them in my GCSE class and all of the extra curricular work they had been involved with.

May is also a challenge as teaching staff have until 31 May to hand in their notice if they are wishing to start elsewhere in September. As a head, it is a time where holding your nerve is important but it is also exciting and meeting the new people who are going to be a part of the community I lead. I am thrilled to say we are fully staffed with specialists in every classroom for September. Not every school can say the same sadly based on teacher recruitment being such an issue. It was good that Ofsted recognised this but more importantly that our young people show such respect for our staff and their skills.

Finally, the other challenge is that after months of being told that 'it's so cold', you suddenly have to start to get used to 'it's so hot!' but I imagine we will cope! *Tim Farrer*



Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

Saint for the Season: Evelyn Underhill

Velyn Underhill whose life is celebrated by the Anglican Church on 15 June became a devout Anglo-Catholic after the death in 1925 of Friedrich von Hugel, a Roman Catholic who as her spiritual advisor had had a huge influence on her. Her influence in turn on the Anglican church has been so great it is hard to grasp the extent of

a morbid interest in your own misdeeds. Pick yourself up, be sorry, shake yourself and go on again.

"On every level of life, from housework to heights of prayer, in all judgement and efforts to get things done, hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur. "Eternity is with us, inviting

her achievement. She regarded her vocation to be the care of souls, carried out though individual counselling and retreats. She was a pioneer of the retreat movement and contemplative prayer, both of which we now take for granted. She



our contemplation perpetually, but we are too frightened, lazy and suspicious to respond; too arrogant to still our thought and let divine sensation have its way. As the genuine religious impulse becomes dominant, adoration more and more takes charge. 'I come to seek God

was also a pioneer as an Anglican woman, who through her writing and lecturing awakened the church to the medieval Catholic mystics.

Here are a few quotations from her spiritual writings, which make clear how much we can learn from her: "If God were small enough to be understood, he would not be big enough to be worshipped.

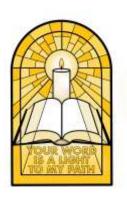
"Every minute you are thinking of evil you could be thinking of good instead. Refuse to pander to because I need him', may be an adequate formula for prayer. 'I come to adore His splendour and fling myself and all I have at his feet', is the only possible formula for worship."

It is those who have a deep and real inner life who are best able to deal with the irritating details of outer life. Life, more life, a larger, richer, more satisfying life, is in the last analysis, the end of religion. *Hugh Wright*

For Prayer and Reflection

June 2023

- Peace in our world especially in Ukraine and Sudan
- Students finishing their GCSE & A levels and planning the next stage of their lives
- Bradford Deanery Synod and our new Rural Dean, the Revd Jane Palmer
- 'Love your Burial Ground Week' (3-11 June) & the 'Great Big Green Week' (10-18 June)



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PCC Secretary: Jill Ross, jillbenedictross@gmail.com

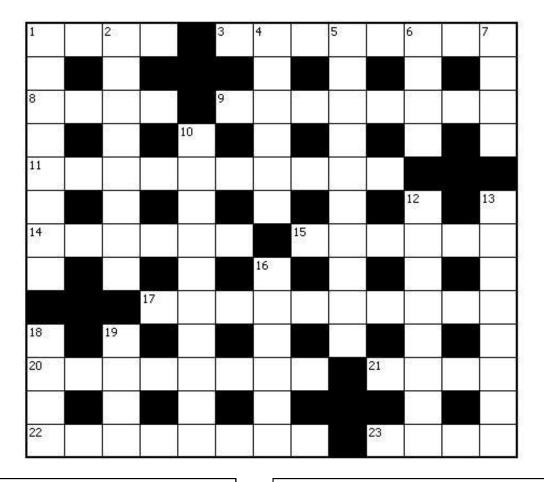


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Clues across

1 See 23 Across 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8) 8 Invalid (4) 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8) 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10) 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6) 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6) 17 Mary on Isis (anaq.) (10) 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8) 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4) 22 Deaf fort (anaq.) (5-3) 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of - to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Clues down

 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping

oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)

4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)

5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)

- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)

12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)

13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)

16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is

crippled in both feet'(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)

18 David Livingstone was one (4)

19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

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