

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

Can we be open to learn from, and even receive truth from, other faiths, whilst at the same time being wholehearted in our own religious commitment?

In many ways our ideas of how we share our faith have changed dramatically from that of the nineteenth century missionary. Then, the one goal was to convert to a western religion at all costs. There is a story of a Scottish missionary who built a stone church on an island in the South Seas with stones brought from Scotland! Many missionaries have since then seen that very often those we seek to convert have more to offer us than we them. Of course, the Gospel tells us of many ways in which Jesus, a Jew, related to people of other races. Luke 7.1-10 commends the faith of a Roman centurion who didn't share Jesus' own Jewish faith. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, it wasn't the priest or the Levite, but a man of a different race who was the neighbour. It is tragic that whilst Jesus constantly broke down barriers between races, Christians have often put them up against Jews and others - even to the point of persecution.

Three Roman Catholic monks experienced something of inter-faith living. Dom Aelred Graham, a Benedictine, travelled widely in India, and concluded that the heart of Jesus' teaching of God's love was embodied in other religions. William Johnston, a Jesuit, spent many years in Tokyo with Buddhists and saw how East and West must meet in dialogue with each other. Bede Griffiths, another Benedictine, lived in India for thirty-seven years, looking for what he called the centre, a place of meeting where

different religions have their source and life's meaning is discovered.

So, we are not looking for some sort of mish mash of religions. Most of us belong to a certain religion because it is predominantly the religion of the country into which we were born. So different faiths can be seen not as a threat, but as a golden opportunity to widen our own horizons of life. As the Hindu scripture says of God, "howsoever men may approach me, even so do I accept them, for on all sides, whatever path they may choose, is mine". Only when there is peace amongst people of different faiths will there be peace in the world.

Lord, what we know not, teach us,
Lord, what we have not, give us,
Lord, what we are not, make us.

With all good wishes
Andrew

ENTER ALL THE ANGELS, LED BY MICHAEL

(29th September)

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.



The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the

Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Canon David Winter

REMEMBERING MOTHER TERESA, 25 YEARS ON

Some 25 years ago, on 5th September 1997, Mother Teresa died. She was an Albanian nun who was born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in what is now Skopje, North Macedonia, and spent most of her life in India, founding and running the Missionaries of Charity. She was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

Mother Teresa, who took Indian citizenship, received several honours. She was beatified in 2003 and canonised on 4th September 2016. The anniversary of her death is her feast day. At the time of her death, the Missionaries of Charity had over 4000 sisters. By 2020, it had grown to 5167.

Anjezë became convinced she should live a religious life by the age of 12. She left home six years later to join the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin. She saw neither her mother nor her sister again. By 1929 she was in India, beginning her novitiate in Darjeeling, in the Himalayas. She took the name of Teresa after Thérèse de Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries.

She then moved to Calcutta, where for 20 years she was a teacher and head teacher. She became concerned for "the poorest of the poor" and in 1952 opened her first hospice – an abandoned Hindu temple – with help from Calcutta officials and from a group of young women assistants. The aim was to help people die "a beautiful death" with dignity, whatever their faith.

Mother Teresa, who was fluent in five languages, was widely admired but also came in for criticism, partly for her views on abortion and contraception. She said: "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HADRIAN'S WALL

It was 1900 years ago, from 13th September 122 to 128, that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for nearly 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians'.

In pre-Christian England the Picts – from Scotland, or Caledonia – were a real threat, often raiding Roman territories, using what we would call guerilla warfare to steal cattle and capture slaves in a province far from the centre of the empire. But the Wall also served to encourage trading with those outside, and enable the Romans to tax anyone who entered their territory. Hadrian had a mixed reputation as Emperor. Described by historian Edward Gibbon as one of the “five good emperors”, he was regarded by many as a benevolent dictator but by others as remote (he did spend a great deal of time away from Rome) and authoritarian, sometimes generous and sometimes cruel. He was certainly ambitious.

He was responsible for putting down the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judea (132-136) in an almost genocidal way. More than half a million Jews perished, and many more died of starvation or disease. This is a critical event in the history of the Jewish people.

Today the Wall remains the largest surviving archaeological feature from Roman Britain, and an amazing feat of engineering through difficult country – though only 10 per cent of it remains still visible. It is sometimes mistakenly thought to mark the English-Scottish border, but in fact most of Northumberland – an English county – is north of the wall.

Real life extracts from church notices that didn't come out quite right...

- * *Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference:* The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals.
- * *Report in a church magazine:* Miss Charlene Mason sang *I will not pass this way again*, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- * *From a pew-sheet:* Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. Now's your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- * *From a pew-sheet:* The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.
- * *From a pew-sheet:* Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. Do go along if you can sing at all. They need all the help they can get.
- * *From an announcement:* Sadly, Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping, and so has requested tapes of the minister's sermons.

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home."

BACK TO SCHOOL

September is that time of year when we get back to school after the summer break, along with our other routines. As disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference as disciples in our school and workplace, family and friends. As Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17).

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to share God's love with the people around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, as a response to God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day:

'Who are you?' He replied, *'I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.'* If we were asked the same question I wonder what we would say. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September represents going back to school with Jesus, to learn how we can live for Him.

The Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham

DRITHELM - VISION OF THE AFTER LIFE

(1st September)

St Drithelm is the saint for you if you have ever wondered what lies beyond death, or have had a near-death experience. He was married and living in Cunningham (now Ayrshire, then Northumbria) in the 7th century when he fell ill and apparently died. When he revived a few hours later he caused panic among the mourners, and was himself deeply shaken by the whole experience.

Drithelm went to pray in the village church until daylight, and during those long hours reviewed the priorities of his life in the light of what he had seen while 'dead'. A celestial guide had shown him souls in hell, in purgatory, in paradise and heaven... suddenly the reality of God and of coming judgement and of what Christ had done in redeeming mankind became real to him, and his life on earth could never be the same again.

Next day he divided his wealth into three: giving one third to his wife, one third to his sons, and the remainder to the poor. He became a monk and went to live at Melrose, where he spent his time in prayer and contemplation of Jesus.

Drithelm's Vision of the after-life is remarkable in that it was the first example of this kind of literature from England. It was SO early: seventh century Anglo-Saxon England! Drithelm has even been seen as a remote precursor of Dante.

On a lighter note, Drithelm can also be a saint for you if you didn't get abroad this summer, but ventured to swim instead off one of our beaches: he used to stand in the cold waters of the Tweed for hours, reciting Psalms.



CALENDAR FOR **SEPTEMBER**

Fri 2 10.30 am

Coffee Morning in hall

TRINITY 12

Sun 4 8.00 am
10.30 am
6.00 pm

Holy Communion
Parish Communion
Evening Prayer

Wed 7 10.30 am
Fri 9 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Mums and Toddlers

TRINITY 13

Sun 11 8.00 am
10.30 am

Holy Communion
Matins

Wed 14 10.30 am
Fri 16 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Coffee Morning in hall

TRINITY 14

Sun 18 8.00 am
10.30 am

Holy Communion
Parish Communion

Wed 21 10.30 am
Thurs 22 3.30 pm

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
Magazine collation

TRINITY 15

Sun 25 8.00 am
10.30 am

Holy Communion
Matins

Tues 27 10.00 am
Wed 28 10.30 am

Craft Group
Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

SUMMER FETE

A big thank you to everyone who organised stalls, refreshments, parking, setting up and taking down and generally clearing everything away at the end of a very long day. As well as raising money it is good to see so many people who are willing to support the church. The weather was hot and sunny, but at least people felt able to come and support us and parking didn't seem to be an issue. We raised the magnificent sum of £5,020.62. Many thanks to everyone for all their hard work.



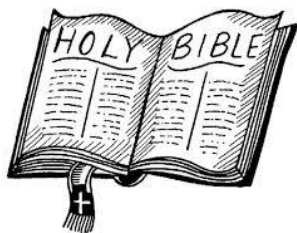
HARVEST SUPPER

Our Harvest Supper will be taking place this year on Saturday 1st October at 6.30pm for 7.00pm. It will be in the form of a ploughman's supper and the cost will be £10.00 per ticket. We will have a list to sign at the back of church from 4th September.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be celebrating Harvest with services at 8.00 am Holy Communion and 10.30 am Parish Communion.



SUNDAY READINGS **IN SEPTEMBER**

Sunday 4th September - Trinity 12

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 30. 15-end

The offer of life or death. If we listen to God and his voice and turn to him we will have life.

NEW TESTAMENT: Philemon 1-21

The letter of Paul to Philemon in which he pleads for Onesimus, the slave, to be seen as a free man.

GOSPEL: Luke 14.25-33

Jesus explains to the large crowds travelling with him that unless they are prepared to give up everything they have they cannot be his disciples.

Sunday 11th September - Trinity 13

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 32. 7-14

The exchange between the Lord and Moses follows Israel's greatest moment of failure, the golden calf incident.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 15.1-10

The parable of the lost sheep.

Sunday 18th September - Trinity 14

OLD TESTAMENT: Amos 8. 4-7

God's chosen people have become consumed by their pride, and echoing Micah 6, Amos condemns the unjust practices of a people who have lost their Way.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Timothy 2.1-7

Paul gives instruction in worship and prayer. Advising his listeners to pray for each other and for those in authority.

GOSPEL: Luke 16.1-13

The parable of the shrewd manager.

Sunday 25th September - Trinity 15

OLD TESTAMENT: Amos 6. v. 1 and 4-7

Amos condemns those who are content with their riches and will not help the poor.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 16.19-end

Jesus describes the plight of the insensitive rich and rebukes those like Lazarus who have ignored the teachings of Moses and the prophets.

CAPTAIN ALLEN GARDINER: Founder of
SAMS

(6th September)

Captain Allen Gardiner is a saint for anyone who refuses to give up on their calling. For this courageous and indomitable man founded what became the South American Mission Society, though he sacrificed his own life in the process.

Gardiner had not started out to be a missionary. Born in 1794, he had left Berkshire to embark on a naval career which took him to Cape Town, Ceylon, India, Malaysia and China. But the death of his first wife in 1834 caused him to turn back to Christianity. He soon left the navy, in order to become a missionary.

With his second wife, Elizabeth, Allen Gardiner felt called to South America. But from 1838 onwards he faced implacable opposition from the authorities there, both secular and religious. His efforts to evangelise among the Chilean Mapuches – which included a family journey of 1000 miles overland by pack mule from Buenos Aires to Santiago and Concepción – met with hostility. So, in 1842 he settled on the Falklands, and tried to reach out to the Patagonian Indians. By 1844 he had founded the Patagonian Mission, because no other British Christian society felt able to take on responsibility for his work.

Next, Gardiner reached out to the Bolivian Indians of the Gran Chaco, but was again repulsed. So, he turned back to Patagonia, and decided to spearhead a bold attempt to evangelise the Indians of Tierra del Fuego.

He tried to raise the funds for a 120-ton schooner which would have provided him with a secure base near Picton Island. But in the end, he could only manage two 26-foot launches, Pioneer and Speedwell. Nevertheless, in December 1850 Gardiner and six other men sailed to Picton Island. But again they met with disaster. Fierce weather, Indian hostility, a series of errors and logistical problems led to disease and finally disaster. By March 1851 the group had had to flee for their lives. They sailed eastwards to Spaniard Harbour, a bay at the mouth of Cooks River. Here they waited in vain for fresh stores to arrive, and by September all six men had died of starvation.

Gardiner's journal, water-damaged but readable, was found in his hand the following year by the crew of HMS Dido, and includes the plea to God, "Let not this mission fail", and this prayer:

"Grant O Lord, that we may be instrumental in commencing this great and blessed work; but should Thou see fit in Thy providence to hedge up our way, and that we should even languish and die here, I beseech Thee to raise up others and to send forth labourers into this harvest..."

The work of the South American Society in the subsequent 160 years and the growth of the Anglican Churches of South America are God's answer to that prayer. Gardiner had to face many failures in his life, but his solid, resolute faith is an inspiration.

DHCT Summer Church Crawls

In June we went further afield than usual over the border into Somerset where we started off at St Mary's in the pretty village of Limington. We were welcomed there with coffee and biscuits. Built in ham stone and dating from the 12th century the church has some interesting features. There are four effigies lying in the 12th century chantry chapel one of which is County Knight Sir Richard Gyverney. The detail of his armour and costume is exquisite. Also of note are the 19th century Clayton and Bell stained glass windows and the 16th century finely carved bench ends to the choir stalls. There are six extremely rare fragments of grave covers originating from the 13th century built into the recess on the north side of the chancel arch. They were discovered under the floor in 1882. Similar grave covers can be seen in Wells Cathedral.

On our way out of the village we took a wrong turning, as we often do in these far flung parts, and found ourselves driving round the airbase at Yeovilton on our way to the church of St Mary The Virgin at Marston Magna. Of interest there were Norman windows dating from the 11th century,

later 15th century windows, the original stone flooring, high Anglican effigies of the Virgin Mary and a wall painting depicting the killing of Thomas a Beckett. The owner of the adjacent manor house kindly let us use his facilities, at the same time admiring the stunning array of flowers in his garden.

We then went on to Queen Camel where we had our picnic lunch by the pond in the extensive garden of one of our members. Luckily the weather was sunny and warm that day and we spent a very relaxing time there chatting and looking round the interesting house and garden. St Barnabas Church dates from the 15th century with a rood screen, carvings on the wooden ceiling, a font with four extra feet and rather extraordinary 1950s lights! All Saints Church at West Camel has a similar roof to St Barnabas, is built of Saxon stone with a Norman font and medieval stone pulpit.



At the end of July we were in the Wool area of Dorset and our first port of call was St Nicholas Church, Moreton, a church I had always wanted to visit as it is world famous for several reasons, namely the burial place of Lawrence of Arabia who lived nearby and the Whistler windows. The church on the Moreton Estate, owned by the Frampton family, was rebuilt in 1776 and heavily altered in the 19th century. However, on October 8th 1940, a bomb fell in the churchyard close to the north wall causing severe damage. Not a shred of glass was left in any of the windows and most of the interior decoration obliterated. The church has now been beautifully restored and it is not easy to discern the old from the new. The thirteen new windows started in the 1950s and completed in the 1980s are the work of Laurence Whistler and St Nicholas is almost certainly the only church

in the world where the windows are entirely of engraved glass. Perhaps the most interesting and most controversial window is the Forgiveness Window, the subject matter being Judas Iscariot. For many years the parish was divided on whether to install it but in 2013 it was installed with all the Whistler family present and dedicated by the Bishop of Salisbury.

We did manage to tear ourselves away from Moreton and continue on to the tiny church of St John the Evangelist at East Holme on the estate owned by the Bond family. Indeed, the Revd Nathaniel Bond was responsible for the building of the church between 1864 and 1880 and Lady Selina Bond designed the wall decorations. We had our packed lunch among the old tombstones in the sunny churchyard.

Our final visit was to the Roman Catholic church at Wool which was entirely different from the other two being only fifty years old. The Weld family were benefactors just as the Framptons and the Bonds had paid for the building of the churches on their estates. Anthony Jaggard designed the church with a freestanding, isolated altar made from Purbeck stone. The pews are made of concrete and soft cushions are a must! The geometrical structural design of the roof was by L G Mouchel & Partners of Bath and is most unusual and spectacular. All the components were factory made and assembled in the air on site, were very light and hence no lifting gear was required – quite remarkable!

We thoroughly enjoyed our day which as usual was made all the more interesting by the talks given by our expert in church architecture, Dr Tim Connor. We finished by having a welcome cup of tea at nearly Holme Gardens.

Nina Crane

NEWS FROM BURWASH

Dear All at the Church of the Transfiguration.

First of all, many thanks for enquiring after us! We value your thoughts, prayers and interest – please do feel free to let us know any of your news as well – one of the strange things about moving on is that you end up leaving in the middle of people's stories and not knowing how they end! I hope that you are all well, and we do pray for you.

We are all very well here in Burwash, the time has gone very quickly and it's a shock to find that we've been here 9 months already. The community are very friendly, and we have settled well into village life. There is plenty to be getting on with here, and my ministry has been very active and very fulfilling. To give a flavour, we are starting baby/toddler groups in two of the parishes, going in to do assemblies in two church primary schools (one of which I am a governor for as well). At St Bartholomew's, Burwash, we are just starting a reordering project which will give us a toilet and kitchenette in the church – currently we have neither, and the nearest toilet is in the pub down the high street which is rather inconvenient! A similar project is due to start in Etchingham but outside of the church, joint with the village council which is taking a little longer to get off the ground.

I have three PCCs to run, and the vicar in the next door parish is retiring, so we will be recruiting soon. On top of all of this, the Bishop of Chichester has asked me to be a honorary 'liturgical chaplain' and I also have the usual courses and continued training. Oh, and a sermon to write each week, and services to take across the benefice!

Luckily the summer is quite gentle, and I have taken up cricket with the local team, as well as starting to ring bells again - now that we have found some babysitters Sarah and I can go together. We enjoy the countryside, and have been cycling and enjoyed visiting the many national trust castles in the area (Scotney and Bodiam are both within 20 minutes drive.) Together we are getting on top of the garden, and Freddie is enjoying the space, and thriving with it.

Freddie has grown up a lot – he is now very chatty, although mostly incoherent. He is a big fan of trains, tractors and dogs, luckily all of them are easily available here. He is probably better known around the village than we are as he comes to help me out with our drop in at the school (the school is just below the churchyard so once a week we open the church early and serve water and biscuits to the children on the way to school, and tea and coffee to the parents as they come back). He also loves singing in Church, and has particularly enjoyed when I have occasionally had to play the organ to cover a service.



I hope this gives a good account of our time here so far! Please do feel free to drop by if you are ever in the area.

With all our blessings,
Tom, Sarah and Freddie.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

Saturday 17th September Oliver Hunter-Smart and
Katherine Jackson

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 4 th	Jilly Bourne
Sunday 11 th	Jilly Bourne
Sunday 18 th	Wedding
Sunday 25 th	



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the October issue of the
Church Magazine is

Friday 16th September