

# The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

As we approach Harvest I think of that line from the Lord's Prayer "Give us this day our daily bread". This is not just physical nourishment, but the spiritual.

In the temptations, Jesus said "Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks". In the hymn "Judge eternal" by a Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, come the words, "Feed the faint and hungry heathen with the richness of thy Word".

Jesus himself needed spiritual nourishment and went off alone to be with God, to listen, to be in contact, to find out how to live.

"Give us daily spiritual nourishment", makes the whole prayer one theme – we weaken as soon as we start leaving God out of our lives. However physically well fed and strong we are, we start failing, losing strength, if we lose contact with God.

As I write this, we are preparing for the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II and her life reflected this dependence on God. Her faith underpinned her whole life and I am sure she spent some of her time reflecting on God in the quiet of Balmoral. As a country and as individuals, we can learn a lot from the Queen's dedication to service. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, Jesus spoke of the two great commandments: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength and Love your neighbour as yourself."

Sometimes we lose sight of the former in our attempt to fulfil the latter but without God underpinning our lives we will not have the warmth of God permeating our lives.

It has made a refreshing change to see the media however briefly, acknowledging the importance of faith in the life of our late Queen and we pray that our new King will also be supported by his faith as he seeks to serve his people.

With all good wishes  
Andrew

## **The Death of Queen Elizabeth II**

***'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'***  
(21st birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

We have all been shocked and saddened by the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II. For most of us, we've never known another monarch and we're used to the stability of her presence.

Much has been said about her humility, servant heart and commitment to duty over the 75 years of her reign. The secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service was her Christian Faith: *'To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example'* (2002). It is clear that she drew strength from her faith, seeking to live according to the teachings of the Bible.

However, the Queen recognised her need for forgiveness, which she found through her personal relationship with Jesus Christ: *'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person, neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are), but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.'* (2011).

We can truly give thanks for the Queen's commitment to serving God and the nation throughout her life. She has been a great example of what Paul says about Christian living: *'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.'* (Colossians 3:17). Let's make her our example!

*The Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham*

## **A PRAYER FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

O Lord our Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice: We remember before thee our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH, in thankfulness for the blessings which thou hast bestowed upon us by her reign; for the example she set of unwearied devotion to duty; for her steadfast courage; and for the love and loyalty borne to her by a great family of peoples in all parts of the world. And we beseech thee to give us grace that, having these thy mercies in remembrance, we may with one heart and one mind set forward the welfare of this land, and hasten the coming of thy kingdom of peace and goodwill among men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure...

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night,  
Before the rising sun.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the 'Father of English hymnody'. Certainly, before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business.

Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton. (At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs.) As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language (learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French). He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. (At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: *'There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!'*)

Watts' literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational

singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday.

It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns. Some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', and the Christmas carol 'Joy to the World'.

## **ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS and ...**

Arthur Sullivan was born in 1842, the second son of poverty stricken parents living in an alley leading off Lambeth Walk. His father played the clarinet in a small theatre orchestra, struggled to earn extra money by teaching in his spare time and copying out music by candlelight. When Arthur was three years old, his father was appointed Bandmaster at the Royal Military School of Music. As a treat, one day Arthur and his older brother, Frederick, were taken to listen to band practice. Arthur was enthralled with the sound of all the instruments playing together and pleaded for his father to teach him to play. Father said he was too young and too small as yet. However by the age of four, Arthur had learnt how to climb up and sit himself at the piano, stretching out his fingers to tap the keys. His father found him there, laughed and then allowed him to enter the music room daily. By the time he was six years old Arthur had taught himself to play by ear and to read uncomplicated scores.

Mr Sullivan was eventually persuaded and gave his son a few simple lessons on clarinet and flute. Soon, the boy was invited to play with father's band and during the next years he taught himself to play more wind instruments. He also learnt how to write music for an orchestra. At the age of eight, Arthur announced that he wanted to be a musician like his father. His parents tried to warn him of the hard life that would be, even great musicians seldom make much money.

Quite by chance, while out for a walk, Arthur met and befriended a young girl who just happened to be a maid in the house of the Master of Choristers of the Chapel Royal, St James's. This meeting led to the idea that Arthur might be suitable for the choir and an interview was arranged with Mr Helmore. At the age of twelve Arthur became a border at the choir school. After only a few months he was chosen as a soloist at the opening of the Crystal Palace. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert so admired his voice, he was invited to sing solo in a new anthem at the christening of their next child. Arthur was much congratulated and encouraged to become a "great musician" ! While at this school he organised his fellow choristers to form an orchestra by blowing into paper placed over combs. A tune heard or whistled by errand boys or street barrel organs would soon be transferred into the style of a fugue, as Arthur led his friends to play. He was soon writing sacred compositions.

Arthur was by then regarded as the Chapel Royal's most gifted chorister since Purcell and at the age of fourteen he was the first boy to win the *Mendelssohn Scholarship* for the best young composer or performer of the year. This enabled Arthur to take two years musical education at the Royal Academy of Music, as well as becoming leader of the Chapel Royal Choir, with responsibility for music at Sunday

services. When his training at the Academy was over, Arthur was presented with the Queen's bounty of £60, a Bible for his services as a chorister and given the opinion that one day he would become a famous musician.

In 1858 Arthur entered the Conservatoire in Leipzig for further scholarship training. The first obstacle was the fact that he was in Germany and needed to learn the language. He pleaded with his piano teacher (who had known Beethoven and taught Mendelssohn) to teach him German. After six months of hours of study he was sufficiently fluent to understand his masters and began to make progress. He was also able to enjoy socialising with other students including Edward Grieg and Carl Rosa! The German tuition offered specialisation in composition and Arthur was soon to conduct his own overture at a Conservatoire concert. This was received with great acclaim.

In 1861 Arthur returned to London and took on the job of organist at a church in Pimlico. The choir was made up almost entirely with women, but Arthur went to the local Police Station recruited some men and soon had one of the best church choirs in London.

He took on extra teaching and playing in order to make ends meet, but was still living in poverty. He joined a choral society which used to sing at large Victorian dinner parties and it was at one of those that he met Mr Gladstone and at another, Mr Disraeli. He composed many romantic ballads and sacred hymns selling the copyright for just £5 and at the age of twenty-four he was commissioned to write a piece for a large music festival. For some reason, he had no motivation and asked his father to advise him. Unfortunately, his father died suddenly, but that sadness was the inspiration Arthur needed to write *In Memoriam*. Queen Victoria took a personal pride in Sullivan's success and commissioned music for Royal family occasions. In

1863 he composed his highly popular *Wedding March* for the occasion of the future King Edward VII and his bride, Alexandra of Denmark. He became a Royal family friend and went on to meet many influential people.

As a member of a musical and literary society Arthur met dramatist, F C Burnand, who had just written a burlesque. He asked Arthur to compose a score for it in the style of Offenbach. Arthur had never done anything like that before, but was persuaded. *Cox and Box* was ready just in time for performance and continued to run for three hundred nights!

Soon after, Arthur Sullivan was introduced to William Gilbert and the pair went on to collaborate in a comic opera called *Thespis*. It was not successful and the score was never published. Arthur returned to composing mostly sacred music and in 1871 he wrote the music for "Onwards Christian Soldiers" to words written by Sabine Baring-Gould. The theme is taken from references in the New Testament to the Christian being a soldier for Christ and became Sullivan's most popular hymn. One hundred years later an attempt was made to strip Onward Christian Soldiers from some hymn books, due to perceived militarism. Outrage among church goers caused committees to back down!

However, of course, Gilbert and Sullivan did get together again and in conjunction with theatre impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte, they produced fourteen successful operettas. That partnership was to change their lives and bring happiness to generations of theatre goers.

But that is another story!

*Rosemary Gameson*



## **ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE**

Please do keep the articles coming in for the parish magazine. They are always very welcome and we all enjoy reading them.

Many thanks.  
Joanne

## **TO MAKE YOU SMILE.....**

*The following are genuine notes left for milkmen.*

- ~ Dear Milkman: I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- ~ Cancel one pint after the day after today.
- ~ Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
- ~ Please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops of the milk.
- ~ Please cancel the milk. I have nothing coming into the house except two sons on the dole.
- ~ Please bring me a form about cheap milk, as my boyfriend has made me stagnant.
- ~ Please do not leave milk at no. 14 as he is dead until further notice.



## **CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER**

Sat 1 6.30 pm

Harvest Supper

### **TRINITY 16**

Sun 2 8.00 am  
10.30 am  
6.00 pm

Holy Communion  
Harvest Communion  
Evening Prayer

Wed 5 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Thurs 6 10.00 am

Parish Art Group

Fri 7 10.30 am

***Coffee Morning in hall***

### **TRINITY 17**

Sun 9 8.00 am  
10.30 am

Holy Communion  
Matins

Wed 12 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Fri 14 10.30 am

Mums and Toddlers

### **TRINITY 18**

Sun 16 8.00 am  
9.30 am  
10.30 am

Holy Communion  
Family Service  
Parish Communion

Wed 19 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Thurs 20 10.00 am

Parish Art Group

Fri 21 10.30 am

***Coffee Morning in hall***

### **LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Sun 23 8.00 am  
10.30 am

Holy Communion  
Matins

Tues	25	10.00 am	Craft Group
Wed	26	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	27	3.30 pm	Magazine collation
Fri	28	10.30 am	Mums and Toddlers

### ALL SAINTS

Sun	30	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	All Souls' Service

### NOVEMBER

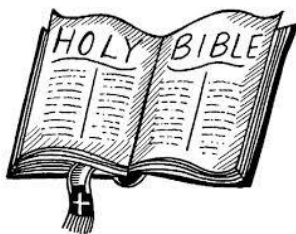
Wed	2	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	3	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	4	10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning in hall</b>

**ALL SOULS SERVICE** - On *Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October* at 6.00 pm we will be holding our annual All Souls' Service at which candles will be lit by those who wish to remember a loved one. We will be writing to families of the recently bereaved to invite them especially, but this service is, of course, open to anyone who would like to come. There will be lists at the back of church if you wish to add the name of a loved one to be remembered.



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 11.00 am until 1.00 pm. More details next month!



## **SUNDAY READINGS** **IN OCTOBER**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Trinity 16**

OLD TESTAMENT: Habakkuk 1. 1-4; 2. 1-4

*If God is not attentive to injustice, there is no safety.  
The lament calls out for God's attention.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Timothy 1. 1-14

*The letter is an exhortation not to be ashamed of the  
gospel and to stand firm even if that would mean  
suffering on its behalf.*

GOSPEL: Luke 17. 5-10

*This passage contains two sets of sayings on being a  
follower of Jesus. The first deals with faith and the  
second deals with what is expected of disciples.*

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Trinity 17**

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Kings 5. 1-3, 7-15

*Elisha ministers to a foreign general suffering from  
leprosy and self-importance.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 17. 11-19

*The story of the ten lepers who were healed and the  
one who thanked Jesus.*

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October - Trinity 18**

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 32. 22-31

*God commends Jacob for his successful wrestling and  
blesses him with a new name and a new shape for  
his future.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Timothy 3. 14-4.5

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for  
teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training  
in righteousness.*

GOSPEL: Luke 18. 1-8

*Jesus tells a parable about a persistent widow who demands justice from an unjust judge. If even a scoundrel like the judge can finally be moved to grant justice, how much more likely will God bring justice to those who pray continually for it?*

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Last Sunday after Trinity**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 45. 22-end

*God calls everyone from all the ends of the earth to turn and be saved.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 4. 16-24

*In his hometown synagogue Jesus reads from the book of Isaiah and announces that his ministry will fulfill a vision of liberation described by the prophet. When he explains that the people of Israel will not be the primary beneficiaries of his work some of them try to kill him.*

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October - All Saints**

OLD TESTAMENT: Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18

*Daniel had a dream about four great beasts coming up from the sea. He is told they are four kingdoms which will be received and possessed by the saints.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 1.11-end

*Christ's supremacy and triumph are expressed in terms of the church as the body of Christ doing God's work in the world.*

GOSPEL: Luke 6.20-31

*Jesus tells his disciples that those who suffer will be blessed whilst those who are well endowed will come to no good and also to treat all others well.*

## **HOLIDAYS!**

We returned last night after a lovely escorted coach tour holiday in sunny Portugal. We've seen many churches, chapels and monasteries as you'd expect and along the way the Tour Guide read a "prayer" in the coach.

### **The Tourist Prayer**

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble tourist servants who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech You, Oh Lord, to see that our plane is not hijacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Protect us from surly and unscrupulous taxi drivers, avaricious porters and unlicensed English-speaking guides.

Give us this day divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and the hot water running from the correct tap if at all. We pray that the telephone works, that the operator speaks our tongue and that there is no message waiting from our children which would force us to cancel the rest of the trip.

Lead us, Dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price of the meal. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand. Forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and overtipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for who we are and not for what they can screw out of us.

Grant us the strength to visit museums, cathedrals, palaces and castles listed as "musts" in guidebooks, and if perchance we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

For husbands only:

Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from bargains which they neither need nor can afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

For wives only:

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them with us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and nightclubs. Above all please do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

Together:

And when our voyage is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding willing audiences and a sympathetic ear for our stories, so that our lives as tourists shall not have been in vain.

Amen

*Tom and Beth Moore*



## **ADVENTURES WITH DAWN**

People deal with bereavement in many ways. When I lost John, my soul mate for 70 years, to Motor Neurone Disease in 2015, I knew that I wished to help others with this dreadful disease. Patients lose their speech, cannot swallow and have to be fed through a tube into their stomach. Professor Stephen Hawkins 'spoke' with an American accent. John was lent an I-pad, with a female American voice. He quickly typed "I want a sex change" and was given a British male voice.

My first challenge was to raise funds for VOICE BANKING, recording a patient's own voice before they lost their speech.

With your help I raised over £8,000 by doing a Wing Walk at the Bournemouth Air Show. I then took a team to Abseil down the Portsmouth Spinnaker Tower. With Annie Allen's son and husband, we went headfirst at 100 mph down the Velocity 2 Zip Wire in Wales. We raised sufficient money to buy the equipment and Speech Therapists at Poole Hospital for all new patients. Annie, one of the first to Bank her voice, went on TV and 'typed' "the most difficult thing I did was tell my 14 year old son that I had MND". The NHS has now taken Voice Banking over nationwide.

I am now raising funds for MANOMETERS that cost over £1,000 each. John slept sitting up with an NI Ventilator mask over his face to enable him to breathe. This ventilator had to be monitored at Southampton Hospital. This required taking the patient, in a wheelchair, with heavy ventilator to Southampton. The new Manometers can be taken into patients' houses, a real asset.

My latest challenge was to fly a Spitfire which I did at Biggin Hill on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. I had sponsorship for a third of the cost from two MPs, my undertaker (I've prepaid for my funeral)



and others. My niece, whose sister died on ALS (MND); my daughter; and four friends paid to follow in a Chaser Plane. My pilot flew under and over the Chaser Plane so they could take photographs. He then flew vertical (to avoid the enemy)!! I saw no Mesha Smits!! I then briefly took the controls and did a few wiggles. Would I like to do a Victory Roll? Yes please, and did this three times. Such an experience, but not as exhilarating as my Wing Walk.

THANK YOU all who have donated to my challenges for East Dorset and New Forest MNDA. I've raised over £2,000 off line, £950 on line to date. Just Giving/fundraising/charity/dawn-goodson5.

Julie suggests I swim with sharks without a cage next time! Basking Sharks, we see off the Cornish Coast, are vegetarian!

*Dawn Goodson*

*Thank you so much Dawn for this article. You really are amazing!*

### *A recollection from Mary Cooper:*

In 1953, when Mary's husband, George, was Commander of the Royal Naval Barracks at Lee-on-Solent, he welcomed the Queen at the door of the Ward Room and took her to inspect the Guard of Honour. As they stood ready for the inspection, the Queen suddenly said "Excuse me Commander, but I think you should remove the corpse". One of the Guardsmen had collapsed in the line after waiting for so long and had fallen to the ground. He was quickly removed and a substitute put in his place!

## Collecting firewood

It was April and the Aboriginals in a remote part of Northern Australia asked the new minister at their small church to ask God if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. The minister did not want to lose their confidence, as he had only just arrived, but when he prayed and looked at the sky, he had frankly no idea what the winter ahead would be like.

To be on the safe side, he told his congregation that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared. But after several days he had an idea. He called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked if the coming winter in his area was going to be cold. The meteorologist responded, "Yes, it looks like this winter is going to be cold."

So, the minister went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again, to ask if it still looked like it was going to be a very cold winter. The meteorologist again replied, 'Yes, it's going to be a very cold winter.'

So, the minister went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later, and still concerned, the minister called the Bureau again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" he asked.

"Absolutely," the man replied. "In fact, it's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the minister asked. The sky didn't look any different to him.

The weatherman replied, "Our satellites have reported that the Aborigines in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign."

## **ST. LUKE, THE EVANGELIST**

(18<sup>th</sup> October)

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good as linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Funerals**

9<sup>th</sup> September

Peter Arthur Mortlake Mann (92)

27<sup>th</sup> September

Aimee Marie Sharpe (48)

### **Wedding**

17<sup>th</sup> September

Oliver Hunter Smart and Katharine  
Jackson

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Wendy Bales

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Wendy Bales

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Wendy Bales

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Grace Martin

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Grace Martin



## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

The deadline for the November issue of the  
Church Magazine is  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**