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(Church website - www.stpetersedensor.org)

July 2009

Come and See!

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves
they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill
they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses
they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen
they will learn a lot of new things.

AND ABOVE ALL:

Blessed are those who recognise the Lord in all whom they meet - the light
of truth shines in their lives. They have found true wisdom.

An old Rabbi asked his pupils “how can you tell when night has ended and day has dawned?” One pupil replied “is it when you look in the distance and tell the difference between a cat and a dog?” “No” said the Rabbi. Another pupil answered “is it when you can see the difference between an apple tree and a pear tree?” “No” answered the Rabbi. “Then tell us,” exclaimed his pupils, “how can we tell night has ended and day has dawned?” “It is when you **‘look’** into the face of the next person you meet and **‘see’** God in your brother or sister. Then night has ended and day has begun”.

In all four Gospels there is great play on the word to “see” and also to “hear”. “If you have ears to hear then hear” exclaimed Jesus “and if you have eyes to see then see”.

When Jesus healed a deaf mute he said “Ephatha”. It is a word from his original tongue. Jesus spoke in Aramaic and the New Testament was written in Greek, the international language of the day. The fact that his original tongue is retained by the word Ephatha is significant. Perhaps the word Ephatha was a one word sermon! It simply means “Be thou open”. At once the deaf mute could hear and gave praise to God.

At the empty tomb on Easter Day the Fourth Gospel tells us that the first disciple “**saw** the linen wrappings but did not go in”. It was a casual look. Then Simon Peter went in “and **saw** the linen wrapping lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus’ head. It was not lying with the linen wrapping but was rolled up by itself”. This was the eye for detail. Then the other disciple went in: “he **saw** and believed”. This is the eye of faith.

The Gospels call us to see beyond the material into the eternal and beyond the immediate into eternity. Recently I visited the dentist. As she drilled my tooth she told me she had moved to a new village. “Do you know the church there?” she asked. I was speechless. “Arrh”, I answered. “There is something special in that church which I have never noticed before. I like to wander in there. I go and walk in the churchyard too. I have begun to hear the birds in a new way and see the hoar frost on the trees. It’s kind of magic and heavenly. Do you have such experiences?” “Arrh, arrh” I squeaked! Throughout the drilling she told me she was beginning to see and hear things in new ways. “Do you think I am getting religion?” she asked. “Mmm, mmm” I uttered. It was certainly a case of “Speak Lord, your servant is listening”!

The Bible is full of “seeing” and “hearing” in new ways. Shepherds “heard” angels proclaiming a baby as a unique sign of God. Astronomers “saw” a star, which pointed to heavenly realities.

John in his Gospel uses the word “signs”, to “see” the story of Jesus as revealing God. To see Jesus is to see God!

Early in his Gospel he tells the story of Jesus meeting a character called Nathanael. The name Nathanael means “gift from God”. He is the archetype of discipleship. For each one of us is a gift from God. Each of us is unique and unrepeatable. Each one of us reflects the image and nature of God. And each one of us is called to sing our own unique song as one of the disciples.

One disciple called Philip found Nathanael and told him “we have found the Messiah. He is Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Nathanael asked. “COME AND SEE” answered Philip. Soon Nathanael would break his bonds of distorted prejudice and “see” God in a new way. (It is often in the armpit parishes like Nazareth where you discover Christ most wonderfully at work!)

Next we are told that Jesus “saw” Nathanael coming to him and He said to him “Here is a true Israelite there is no guile in him”. Scratch the surface and there is more to this than meets the eye. Jacob, a man full of guile and a swindler was given the name Israel after his conversion. He had a dream of a ladder reaching up to heaven with angels descending and ascending on it. It marked the point when his eyes were opened and he saw and believed.

He learned that despite his crookedness and making a mess of his life that God had a great purpose for him. “All the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and your offspring. Know that I am with you”. (Gen. 28). He was called to be a blessing to all humankind. We too, and our churches are called to be a blessing. To fulfil God’s dream: “peace on earth and goodwill to all humanity”. This is well described by what Desmond Tutu calls UBUNTU. “A person with ubuntu is welcoming, hospitable, warm and generous and willing to share. Such people are open and available to others, willing to be vulnerable, affirming of others, do not feel threatened that others are able and good, for they have a proper self assurance from knowing that they belong to a greater whole”.

Jesus we are told, “saw” Nathanael, the true Israelite “sitting under the fig tree”. The fig tree was a symbol of Israel, and the fig tree was also a place for meditating under, of waiting, of dreaming God’s dream. That day had come. The fig tree belonged to the old order and is now superseded by the new order in the coming of Jesus.

Nathanael breaks loose and sees and acknowledges Jesus as “the Son of God, the King of Israel”. This new perception would lead to an even greater perception when he would discover that Jesus is the true mediator between heaven and earth. Jesus said to him “You will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man”. Just as the heavens were torn open at his baptism, and the curtain in the temple was torn open at His Crucifixion.

The invitation “Come and See” is not only to Nathanael but also to us today. Jesus still invites us. If we accept the relation ceases to be external, like the relation of you and someone standing near you. You become at home with Him. John tells us that the disciples “came and saw where he was staying and they were at home with him that day. It was about 4 o’clock in the afternoon”. Later on in the Gospel Jesus says, “make your home in me and I will make my home in you”.

As Michael Ramsay said, "Read the words of Jesus and use your imagination and affection. Jesus said 'I am the light'. He enables you to see. And through him you begin to see God by faith. You begin to see yourself with your illusions about yourself shaken and your pride shattered. You begin to see people as they really are, through eyes like those of Jesus and not through the eyes of your distorted prejudices. You also see the world and its needs with a new awareness and know that to serve others in their suffering is to serve Jesus himself".

If you x-ray a great master's canvas (e.g. Van Gogh) you find beneath the surface a maelstrom of mistakes and errors. A catalogue of indecision and alterations. I guess my own discipleship is a bit like that. But the good news is that God chooses us, calls us not because we are as we shall be in heaven. But because He loves us, and is in the business of breaking, moulding and shaping us in his own likeness, and to be disciples of Christ.

David

<u>Useful Telephone Numbers</u>		
<u>St. Anne's</u>		
Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
	Vernon Mather	01629 732317
Treasurer:-	Gloria Sherwood	01629 732983
<u>St. Peter's</u>		
Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
	Duncan Gordon	01629 734099
Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 582245
	e-mail: mtitterton@btinternet.com	

SPICE SUNDAY

The next SPICE Sunday will be 12th July. Remember those 5 pence pieces! Remember what Tony says "Extraction without pain".

St. Peter's Church 100 Club		
May 2009		
1 st prize £30	no. 100	Clive Robinson
2 nd prize £20	no. 6	Zoë Penrose
Funds to church this month - £48		



PILSLEY VILLAGE FAIR

SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2009

Sunday 5th July

3pm ~ Rounders Match on Pilsley Village Green

All adults and children welcome to play.

Do come along and join in!

Thursday 9th July

7pm ~ **Blessing of the Wells** followed by

Live Entertainment outside the Devonshire Arms

Saturday 11th July

Pilsley Village Fair: Children's Fancy Dress judged at the top of High Street at 1.30pm.

Procession starts 1.45pm

Opening 2pm

Karaoke on the Village Green starting 7.30pm

(Hot refreshments will be on sale)

RAFFLE/TOMBOLA/BRIC-A-BRAC/

PLANTS, PRESERVES & GARDEN PRODUCE/

HOME MADE CAKES/BOWLING FOR A PIG/

COCONUT SHIE/BOOKS /

MAYPOLE DANCING BY THE CHILDREN OF PILSLEY

SCHOOL AND MUCH, MUCH MORE



COME ALONG AND ENJOY OUR VILLAGE FAIR

A SUMMER SERENADE

St. Anne's Church, Beeley

again welcomes

The Hunloke Motet Choir

conducted by Robert Girdler

singing unaccompanied sacred music

and other pieces

including European madrigals

with Consortium Cestrefeld (Recorder Group)

on Saturday, 1st July 2009 at 7pm

Admission £6

Tickets from Vernon Mather 01629 732317/Judith Fraser-Martin 01629 733463

or at the door

DATES TO NOTE

- 4 July SKIP: Edensor The Green 7.45-9.30
Pilsley Garage Yard 9.45-10.45
- 5/9/11 July Pilsley Village Fair – See page 5
- 11 July St. Anne's Church, Beeley, The Hunloke Motet 7pm
- 11/25 July SKIP: Baslow Council Houses 7.45-8.15
Nether end Car Park 8.20-10.45
- 18 July SKIP: Beeley Devonshire Square 7.45-8.45
- 14 July BEELEY WI 7.30pm Beeley Village Hall
Celebrating 90 glorious years of Beeley WI –
The girls' BIG NIGHT OUT!
- 15 July CHATSWORTH WI 7.30pm Cavendish Annexe
Speaker: Joan Ward – Notable & Notorious Women of Derbyshire
Competition: A Posy
Flowers & Parcel: Mrs Beauchamp
Teas Hostesses: Mrs Rose & Mrs Rees
Vote of Thanks: Mrs Watts
- 18 July Summer Fair at the Medway Centre 12-4 for Bakewell Church
- 27 July Beeley Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Members of the public are welcome to attend
- 4 – 11 Dec St. Peter's Church, Edensor 'Floral Fanfare'– Winter Wonderland
Christmas Flower Festival with carols, concerts and talks by Adam Nicolson
(Sissinghurst) and Deborah Devonshire.

St. Peter's Church Roof Fund

During May there were four special events to raise money for the roof.

On the 12th May to a full house, the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, with Simon Seligman, entertained the audience with extracts from her new book 'Home to Roost'. Many thanks to Her Grace and all who helped to organise this event for a delightful evening. One week later on the 19th May, on a mostly fine and sunny evening, came the Azalea Walk and at the end of the week, May 22nd we had a talk with slides 'A – Z of Great Britain' by Lucinda Lambton followed by a wonderful meal in the Carriage House Restaurant – thanks are due here to Bridget Flemming for organising these 2 events. Rounding off May in great style we had 'A session with Matthew Parris'. This event was held in the church and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there – thanks are due here to Pauline Dunkley for organising this and I would also like to thank all those who came to help clean the church for this event and the two weddings the following day.

The Dowager's talk made a profit of £2,000

The Azalea Walk made a profit of £442.60

The Lucinda Lambton Dinner made a profit of £2,971

'A Session with Matthew Parris' made a profit of £1060 (£525 of which has been sent to Bishop Hilary's Kindergarten Appeal)

These events raised some much-needed funds for the roof. Thank you to everyone who helped to organise them and especially to those who supported them.

Matthew Parris evening: 29 May 2009

Total raised: £1060: proceeds divided between our church roof fund and Immanuel Kindergarten, Yei, Southern Sudan-where Bishop Hilary carries on managing the school's rebuilding project.

We had an enjoyable time listening to Matthew (and well done our interviewer Phil Hopkins!) followed by scrumptious refreshments donated by Michael Pinder, Peter Machin and Josephine Daubney.

Grateful thanks to all volunteers involved - including Janet Machin, those who cleaned the church for the event, our meeters and greeters Margaret and David Jackson, Liz Bradshaw and Christine Robinson.

..and thanks Matthew for being such a good sport - so refreshing in this p.c. obsessed culture we seem to inhabit!

Pauline D.



Summer Fair for Family Fun!
at the Medway Centre, Bakewell
Saturday 18th July, 12 noon – 4.00pm
This will be a fun occasion for everyone!

Bouncy-castle, Books, Bottles and Bric-a-brac; Cakes, China,
Children's crafts and games; Chocolate fountain, Drench the Vicar,
Face painting, and Toys; Gifts, Jewellery, Plants and Preserves;
Toiletries, Tombola, Raffle and more!

Official opening 12 noon by Carnival Queen Fiona Andrew.
Raffle & exciting prizes!

Light refreshments and delicious teas.

There is something for the whole family to enjoy!
So come and bring friends and family to join in with the fun.
All proceeds for a much needed kitchen, for Bakewell Parish Church.

For further information please contact:

Carol Wicksteed 01629 813232, or Angela Bird 01629 813087



Sales this month have totalled £790 including £313 at the Great Longstone Flower Festival and £36 at All Saint's Church Open Day. During the past year when I have been taking Services at St. Peter's Church, Fairfield, members there have purchased £668 worth of goods.

There have been a number of bargains recently amongst the clothing items as the warehouse has been cleared ready for the next catalogue's intake. Please ask me for details or look on

Traidcraft's website,
www.traidcraftshop.co.uk.

If you see anything you like I will be happy to order it, which will save you the postage.

The food items which are stocked here are only a very small part of Traidcraft's total range which you can see in full on the website or in the catalogue. Think Traidcraft when you are buying presents or restocking your home or your wardrobe – you won't be disappointed, and you will know you are helping one of the producers to earn a living.

Peter Bird (01629 813087)

Praise for the mighty oat!

This summer, if you want to lose weight, lower your cholesterol, lower your blood pressure, get rid of some toxins, and then increase your brainpower, libido, and even life expectancy, start eating oatmeal or muesli for breakfast.

It may not sound very exciting or dramatic – you could hardly imagine James Bond tucking into a bowl of porridge in one of the films, but it seems it works. The humble oat is packed full of healthy things for us. Certainly sales have soared this past year. Last winter the Quaker Oats factory in Fife (which also produces Scott's Porridge Oats and the microwavable alternative

Oats So Simple) had the biggest sales increase in its 110-year history - up by between 18 and 38 per cent.

So – how do you cook it? In 1929 Marian McNeill produced “The One and Only Method” for making proper porridge. She decreed that coarse oats should be added to boiling water “in a steady rain from the left hand, stirring it briskly the while with the right, sunwise.”* In Scotland, purists decree that only salt and milk or cream should be added; the English don't care, and add sugar.

**Presumably using a spirtle?*

Vino veritas



Who chooses the wine in your family? According to a recent survey, women buy eight out of 10 bottles of wine drunk at home these days. Six out of 10 women prefer red to white, and six out of 10 women also say they drink wine at least once a week. They say they feel that wine is a healthier alternative to other alcoholic drinks.

The research (for Decanter magazine) has shattered the myth that men are more knowledgeable about wine than women. As one wine retailer admitted: “It seems that the role of women in wine buying and the depth of their knowledge has been vastly underestimated.”

Knocked out

Policeman: “How did you knock the old man down?”

Motorist: “I didn't. I just pulled up to let him go across – and he fainted.”

Chocolate and numbers

Eating chocolate can help you solve maths problems, a new study at Northumbria University has found. This delightful news comes because compounds found in chocolate, called flavonols, have been found to increase the mind's ability to do mental arithmetic. Flavonols are part of a group of chemicals called polyphenols. They work by increasing the flow of blood into the brain. Dark chocolate contains the highest quantities.

So next time you need to sort your finances, do it with chocolate! It won't increase your bank balance, but it may help you figure out where all the money went...

Church noticeboard with a big difference

The world's first solar-powered church noticeboard was launched this Spring. The noticeboard features a discreet, stained glass strip providing a sustainable source of free power. The product is also fitted with a motion sensor, which only activates the internal lighting when someone comes close.

"No longer are churches going to be faced with thousands of pounds of electrical costs to get power to their notice boards," explains Simon Johnson, MD of the Church Noticeboard Co from Northwich, Cheshire. "It also gives out an environmentally-strong statement to your community whilst advertising your church." View it at:

<http://www.churchnoticeboards.co.uk/newsanddownloads/9/default.aspx>

Bible moved to top shelf in libraries

Librarians have been advised that the Bible and the Koran should be moved to the top shelves – in order to avoid offending the Islamic community.

Muslims have complained that the Koran has often been put on lower shelves, and see this as offensive. They believe that the holy book should be placed above 'commonplace things'. As a result, library officials have been advised to keep ALL holy books, including the Bible, on their top shelves, in the interests of equality.

This decision came to light earlier this year when guidance on how to handle controversial materials was published by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), a quango that answers to Andy Burnham, the Culture Secretary.

Librarians in Leicester had consulted the Federation of Muslim Organisations, and had been advised that all religious texts should be kept on the top shelf to ensure equality. Libraries are not obliged to follow the advice.

Go Swan Upping 20 – 24 July

Here is a delightfully English annual event that dates back to the 12th century, and which nowadays must keep the Americans and Japanese busy with their cameras: swan upping. The phrase may conjure up visions of everyday folk sneaking down to the Thames to grab a swan and whoosh - turning it upside-down - but the reality is nearly as colourful, and perhaps less of a struggle!

Swan upping is the annual ceremony of marking and counting the Queen's swans. A big deal is made of this each year, from Sunbury-on-Thames in West London to Abingdon in Oxfordshire - all 55km of the river. Swan upping is done in some style: traditional rowing skiffs, complete with flags and pennants, carry the Queen's Swan Marker and Swan Uppers, easily



recognisable in their scarlet uniforms.

The boatmen stealthily surround the birds, and then carefully lift them into the boats to be inspected and tagged. It has always been the duty of the Sovereign's Swan Marker to count the young cygnets each year and to ensure that the swan population is maintained. With the assistance of the Swan Warden, Professor Christopher Perrins of the University of Oxford, the swans are also given a health check.

If you would like to be there when the swans are upped, please visit the Swan Upping website for details, because different bits of the river are done on different dates. www.the-river-thames.co.uk/swupping.htm

Be kind to newts

July is a dangerous month for newts. This month they will be leaving their breeding grounds in ponds and ditches and striking out on land, where they will stay until next Spring. They will come out of the water hungry and looking for insects, worms and slugs before they hibernate this coming autumn. You are unlikely to see one, as they spend their days

hiding under stones, in wall crevices, or compost heaps. Newt numbers have plummeted as three quarters of our natural ponds have disappeared in the last 100 years. So to help the survivors survive a bit longer, why not leave the vegetation around any ponds long, and include some piles of logs, leaves and compost heaps in your garden?

Children in Prison

Philip Barron, considers a hidden problem

Did you know that England and Wales jails more children than any other country in Western Europe?

The Howard League for Penal Reform, the oldest penal reform charity in the world, has been so concerned about this fact that it set up a special legal team to represent children and young adults caught up in the penal system. The team has a track record of success in forcing improvement to prison conditions, parole procedures and support on release.

The League wants to encourage a new way of working with children who commit crimes — one which engages with the whole child and the underlying causes of their behaviour. It shouldn't be the crime that defines them.

In England and Wales, children are considered fully culpable for offences from the age of ten (the UN has said that a minimum age of criminal responsibility below 12 is "not internationally acceptable"). This criminalizes young children who would benefit from a wide range of social, family-based or other welfare interventions. At present there's a division between children who are

seen as needing protection (with access to Children's Services) and those who receive attention from criminal justice agencies.

This, says the Howard League, is an artificial division because children who are caught committing crimes are likely to be children in need. It demands that Government policy for all children should be based in the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Casework has revealed that some children do not get the legal representation to which they are entitled. Others receive a poor quality of service, which has meant that some have received levels of punishment that they did not deserve. Newly introduced fixed fees for legal aid ignore the fact that working with children is complicated, time-consuming and requires specialist knowledge. So the League asks that solicitors who provide advice for children should be paid for the work they do, not just a flat fee.

Further information can be obtained from the Howard League at 1 Ardleigh Road, London N1 4HS (telephone 0207 249 7373).

The sweetest cure for hay fever

Does the onset of summer with its soaring pollen counts reduce you to a snivelling wreck? If so, you've probably tried all the usual cures. You might barricade yourself indoors beside an air-conditioning unit for the next few weeks. Or you could spend the summer in a drowsy daze, high on antihistamines. Some people try steroids, and then look in the mirror a lot, worrying about what the drugs are doing to them.

But there is an easier way: have you tried swallowing a spoonful of honey a day?

So far the evidence that this really works is only anecdotal – no medical studies have proved conclusive. But thousands of

people in the UK have tried it, and say it has transformed their lives.

The principle behind the honey-taking is simple: desensitisation. For while the pollen that the bees set out to collect is the heavy-grained variety that doesn't cause problems, mixed up in that are small amounts of the light, windblown grass and tree pollens that inflame the lining of your nose and eyes.

So – if you suffer from hay fever, why not reach for the honey jar? Try a spoonful a day this summer, and begin again next April, well before the pollen season, to give yourself time to adjust to the pollen again. If it works for you, great. If not, all you'll lose is a bit of your waistline.

Top of the Pods

Have you heard the latest from the CofE? Podcast highlights include the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, talking about his new book *Hit the Ground Kneeling*, which offers a different approach to all types of leadership. Dr John Preston, the Archbishops' Council's Resources and Stewardship Officer, offers hope and advice for households and churches in the current financial situation in his podcast, while the Revd Jean Coates talks about her work as a busy Rural Officer for Dorset. Catch up with the top podcasts by visiting:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/podcast/previouspodcasts.html>

**NAME THREE COLLECTIVE NOUNS
DUSTPAN, DUSTBIN, AND VACUUM CLEANER.**

The trumpet will sound...and we shall be changed':

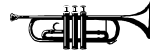
George Frideric Handel

Rev Michael Burgess, looking at great works of music

'He is the master of us all.' In those words Haydn praised the music of George Frideric Handel. They were echoed by Mozart, who said of him, 'He understands effects better than any of us – when he chooses, he strikes like a thunderbolt,' and Beethoven in conversation about Handel in 1824 said, 'I would uncover my head and kneel down at his tomb.'

Some thirty years later Leigh Hunt wrote, 'Handel was the Jupiter of music...his hallelujahs open the heavens. He utters the word 'Wonderful' as if all their trumpets spoke together. And then, when he comes to earth, to make love amidst nymphs and shepherds (for the beauties of all religions find room in his breast), his strains drop milk and honey, and his love is the youthfulness of the Golden Age.' In this year, the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, many of us would say 'Amen' to those resounding judgements.

Handel was born in 1685 in Lutheran Germany, the son of Dorothea and Georg, who was an eminent surgeon in Halle. His first instrument was the organ and he gained a prestigious appointment at the cathedral in that city while still in his teens. That musical training provided the foundation



for later life – in performing, where he showed great skill at the keyboard, and in composition, where he excelled in instrumental, vocal and orchestral works. His first stage work, 'Almira' was produced at Hamburg, but from Germany he moved to Italy for five years, before settling in London.

During his time in Italy he gained the patronage of three cardinals and composed a glorious setting of the psalm 'Dixit Dominus' when just 22 years old. It was an important time for Handel as he worked with Scarlatti, the founder of the Neapolitan school of opera. His own works moved from a heavy Germanic style to the lighter, brighter world of Italian opera. He composed a vast number of them, both in Italy and when he moved to England.

We see the genius of Handel when he is able to transcend poor libretti and muddled plots to create music that has been performed and loved ever since. 'Sosarme' is one of his weakest operas dramatically, but inspired arias and melodies that seemed to have flowed effortlessly from his pen and imagination. He raises the spirits and expresses the whole gamut of human emotions

in these works. In 'Giulio Cesare' there is a wonderful moment when Mount Parnassus opens to reveal Cleopatra, who sings a beautiful seductive air. But for many his most famous aria will be his Largetto, 'Ombra mai fu.' As Handel's Largo, it is played regularly at church and social occasions. The aria is far from religious: Serse, a strange character, has fallen in love with a plane tree and gives thanks for the shade it provides on a hot day. Somehow the music has taken on a life of its own, over and beyond that original setting.

It is there that Handel's greatness lies. In the midst of composing this

array of operas, he still found time to visit the continent, searching for singers and keeping up to date with musical developments there. At home he also composed orchestral works, including the Water Music, which became as popular as his operas and was played in taverns and grand houses alike. Next month we shall look at how Handel moved from opera to oratorio, but here we rejoice in a composer, who in his lifetime travelled far beyond the boundaries of country and religion to create music that has continued to speak to the heart.



Leaving a legacy?

Statistically, it is expected that 60,000 Christians throughout the country will die this year. A good proportion of them will be members of their local church. Yet how many local churches ever ask their members to consider leaving them a legacy – or indeed a legacy to any other Christian charity?

Christian Legacy, a consortium of six charities, has done a survey, and recently published the findings in 'Christian Charities: Future Funding Gap?'. The survey found that although the majority of churches (85%) strongly emphasise the need for committed giving, very few talk to their congregations about the importance of leaving a legacy to a Christian charity (18%).

The survey, which went out to 150,000 people, in nine Christian publications, also found that 19% of Christians had never thought about the idea of Christian legacy giving.

Last year, for the first time legacy income outstripped donations to charities, yet it seems that many church leaders have been slow to pick up on this. Christian Legacy also believes that Christian charities do not spend anywhere near as much as their secular counterparts on legacy promotion in the media.

Stretch your purse to the utmost, and do all the good you can. Richard Baxter

Is your faith a bit shaky? Here's how to grow it...

From the Bible Reading Fellowship

From time to time we may come across people who say to us 'I wish I had your faith'. We may know deep down, however, that our own faith is rather shaky, not to say downright weak. So the challenge is: how can we build up our own faith to be a solid basis for how we live our lives?

We can grow as Christian disciples in a number of ways – prayer, attending church, and especially fellowship with other believers. But what about reading the Bible? Bible reading can become one of those things we know is good for us, but we can't quite get round to. We may feel we don't have enough time; we don't know where to begin; and when we do actually pick up a Bible, we can't make head or tail of it!

If we think of it another way, though, Bible reading is not a chore like weeding the garden, but essential for spiritual health and well-being, rather like a well-balanced meal. If we're really busy, it may seem too much bother to stop for a decent meal. Or we may be tempted to grab something on the run, which ends up giving us indigestion. Like reading the Bible,

eating well is an essential part of keeping healthy and we neglect it at our peril.

What practical steps can we take to do something about this? First of all, we should admit to ourselves that reading the Bible may well be more than simply a matter of opening the book and reading it. Some parts of Scripture are very accessible to most people while others are far removed from our world and our personal experience.

Secondly, we can make use of the wide range of Bible reading aids available. Study Bibles, commentaries, daily notes and other resources all teach us about the Bible and help us apply it to our lives. As we continue to read the Bible, whether alone or in the company of others, so the Spirit works within us to instruct our hearts, inform our minds and strengthen our faith. And as we become more and more familiar with God's written Word, almost imperceptibly we find the presence of the living Word transforming our walk of discipleship. There are many Bible reading resources, just, visit: www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk.

You are what you eat

"Tell me what you eat, and I'll tell you what you are," said the pub's philosopher. Whereupon a meek little man, sitting a few feet away, called softly to the waitress: *"Cancel my order for prawn salad, please."*

'Use compass of Christ' urges new bishop

The Church of England's newest diocesan bishop, the Rt Revd Steven Croft, has issued a call for churches to refocus on Jesus as the compass to navigate the changing terrain of the world in a new book just published.

Taking his cue from Jesus' teaching about assessing the 'fruits' of endeavours (Matthew 7.20) Steven argues that "the source and the secret of lasting fruitfulness for any Christian community is not technique or good planning or the latest ideas. It does not rest primarily in great leadership or wealth or natural human ability. The source and secret of lasting fruitfulness is whether or not we are connected to and abiding in the vine: it depends on our connection to Jesus."

Having encouraged Christians to focus on the person and teaching of Jesus as their compass to navigate change, Steven Croft moves on to look at the Beatitudes, Jesus' teaching at the Sermon on the Mount. He considers the need not only to build the Church but also to change the world, and offers thoughts on finding the strength for change through Bible study, worship, fellowship and prayer. Each chapter ends with suggestions for reflection and discussion individually or in groups.

"Jesus' People" will challenge the reader to rethink both the role of Jesus in the Church and that of the Church in today's society and culture," comments Steven. *Jesus' People: What the Church should do next*, £7.99 is available from Christian bookshops.

Funeral music goes pop!

If you attend a funeral nowadays, you are much more likely to hear chart hits, anthems from the talent show X Factor, or even TV theme tunes rather than the traditional hymns such as Abide with Me or Amazing Grace.

A survey of 30,000 funerals last year found that hymns were most popular at only 35% of services, down from 41% in 2005. 58% of all requests were for contemporary songs, with only seven per cent of requests being made for classical music.

'My Way' by Frank Sinatra is overall most favourite. Next comes 'Wind

Beneath My Wings' by Bette Midler, and 'Time to Say Good-bye' by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. Other, more unusual requests have included Radio 4's 'Shipping Forecast', and the themes from 'Only Fools and Horses', 'Top Gear' and Channel 4 'Racing'.

The survey was carried out by Co-operative Funeralcare.

For his funeral, last October, one of my uncles had requested 'Match of the Day' to be played at the crematorium—he was a great football supporter!

SERVICES & ROTAS FOR JULY 2009

St. Anne's, Beeley

		Flowers
5 July	9.30am Holy Communion	Mrs K Reeve
12 July	9.30am Holy Communion	" "
19 July	9.30am Holy Communion	Mrs Swain
26 July	9.30am Holy Communion	" "
2 Aug	9.30am Holy Communion	Mrs Turner
	6pm Evensong	

St. Peter's, Edensor

		Sidesmen
5 July	10.30am Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Gordon
12 July	10.30am Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Jackson
19 July	10.30am Matins	Mr & Mrs Machin
26 July	10.30am Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Wardle
2 Aug	10.30am Holy Communion	R S Sherwood/Diana Walters

Coffee

Cleaning

Flowers

5 July	Mr & Mrs Dempsey	Mrs Day/Mrs Owen & Mrs Nelson	Mrs Penrose
12 July	Clive & Joy Thrower	-----	W.I.
19 July	Mrs Cooper/Mrs J Clarke	Mrs Sherwood/Mrs Kembery	Wedding flowers
26 July	Pat Cree	-----	Wedding flowers remain
2 Aug	Mrs Mather	Mrs Davies/Mrs Walters	???????

Readings at St. Peter's

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>Reader</u>
5 July	2 Corinthians 12. 2-10	Mark 6. 1-13	John Bowns
12 July	Amos 7. 7-15	Mark 6. 14-29	Roger Wardle
19 July	Jeremiah 23. 1-6	Mark 6. 30-34	Molly Marshall
26 July	Ephesians 3. 14-21	John 6. 1-21	Doreen Gaynor
2 Aug	Exodus 16. 2-4 & 9-15	John 6. 24-35	Diana Walters

FROM THE REGISTERS



St. Peter's Church, Edensor - Weddings

30th May Jonathan Elliott Beresford & Tracey Anne Marsh

James Robert Land & Rachael Ann Eaton

13th June Simon Victor Bernard & Kerry Jane Morgan

Baptism

14th June Harry William Hanbury



'The Bridge' Parish Magazine –60p per copy (£7.20 per year) **Items for inclusion in the August magazine should reach me by Monday 13th July**
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