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May 2010

Eastertide

The Prioress in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales wore a brooch, and on that brooch was written AMOR VINCIT OMNIA. – LOVE CONQUERS ALL!

The Jewish Sabbath is on Saturday. It is the last day of the week and commemorates the rest of God after the work of Creation. The Christian Sunday is the first day of the week and commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead. It marks the new beginning of God's new creation- the conquering love of Christ.

We had a very long and hard winter. A cold spring with a bitter wind. However the buds, blossoms and daffodils, scillas and so on were welcome signs that summer was on the way. They brought hope as we longed for the sunshine.

All this tunes in with deep down longing; to be free from the things which easily entomb us. The Gospels are also about people who are longing, people who were hungry or all at sea, people who were aching at the loss of a child, and people who were fearful and paralysed by it. Christ had brought hope, like springtime, but that hope was dashed on Good Friday when Christ was crucified on the cross.

The following day, the Sabbath, was a day of resting and waiting. Very early the next morning, the first Christian Sunday, the women went to the tomb where he was buried. They meant to carry out the last duties of love for the dear dead, and to embalm and anoint Jesus's body with their spices. But the stone was rolled away from the tomb which was empty!

There must have followed puzzlement, disbelief, shock, hurt and anger. Yet all this began to roll away as it dawned on them that "something out of this world" had happened, something like a new creation. Christ had been raised from the dead! The earthly body of Jesus had been transformed into a heavenly body. "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen!" And as the sun rose and night gave place to day, the women, and later the men were transformed by the resurrection.

They give answer to the question "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" Down the ages countless lives have been transformed. People have been raised up to new life, from despair to hope and from fear to trust.

Megan told me the story of Laura. The Pope was visiting Mexico City. Megan went to see the Pope but there was nowhere to stay, no vacancies anywhere. In the crowd she happened to meet Laura, a total stranger who offered her hospitality. "Come home and stay with me," she said. Grateful for a resting place, Megan followed Laura to the outskirts of the city. To her dismay, she discovered that Laura lived near to the rubbish dump in Cardboard town, no running water, no electricity and a dreadful smell everywhere. There Laura lived with her three small children and as she sought to make ends meet, she sang and laughed all day long.

After a day or two, Megan, who was a theologian, and busy all day at the Pope's conference, couldn't help asking her hostess, "Laura, why do you sing and laugh so much? I don't understand, - you have so little and your life is so hard."

Laura looked at her for a moment, and then her eyes filled with tears. "Do you think I don't know that? But maybe I have something which all you theologians don't have, or have forgotten. - I sing for joy because I truly believe in Christ's Resurrection. I have to believe in that because it is what keeps me and my children alive. I believe that life is stronger than death, that love is stronger than hate. If I didn't, we would all perish from despair. YOU may say the words. I live the words, "Christ is Risen."

Megan said, in later life, if ever she felt remotely depressed, she would remember those words of Laura, and reaffirm her faith with the same words, "Christ is Risen!"

Just before Easter there was a mining disaster in China, leaving 152 miners trapped and entombed in darkness. Rescue teams from all over China came to help rescue them. The task seemed impossible. As they pumped out the flood water, equivalent to fifty Olympic size swimming pools, they were overjoyed on the fifth day to hear a faint tapping from far beneath. Divers went down into the filthy water, and eventually after more than a week underground, more than a hundred men have been rescued alive. In the fierce love for their fellow human beings seen on the rescuers' faces we see a reflection of Christ's victorious love. A power that is stronger than the forces of destruction.

"And on that brooch was written "Amor vincit omnia." "

David Garnett

30 May is Trinity Sunday

Thousands of the ablest minds over the centuries have pondered this problem and no man has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have. It must be a revelation. *GH Lang*

Useful Telephone Numbers

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

DATES TO NOTE

Saturday 29 May	6 - 7 pm Visiting Bellringers from Wakefield
Monday 31 May	4.30-5.30 Visiting Bellringers from Ashover
Saturday 3 July	St. Peter's Church Garden Party - The Old Vicarage
8 - 10 July	Pilsley Well Dressing & Village Fair
18 July	3.30pm Pet Service & Picnic St. Peter's
23 July	2.30pm Pilsley School End of Term Service - St. Peter's

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 May	Bakewell Parish Church 7.30pm Harp Recital Tickets £8 on the door.		
4 May	Beeley PCC Meeting 7pm		
11 May	BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall Resolutions Meeting followed by a tassel workshop facilitated by Janet Fairley		
13 May	9.30am Holy Communion for Ascension Day - Edensor		
15 May	SKIP: Beeley	Devonshire Square	7.45 - 8.45
17 May	Beeley Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall Everyone welcome!		
19 May	CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Cavendish Annexe Resolutions Meeting - Fish & Chip Supper Competition: Personal Resolution Flowers & Parcel: Mrs Symonds		
22 May	SKIP: Baslow	Council Houses	7.45-8.15
		Nether End Car Park	8.20-10.45
22 May	SKIP: Edensor	The Green	7.45-9.30
	SKIP: Pilsley	Garage Yard	9.45-10.45
30 May	2pm Family Fun Day in Beeley		

FAMILY FUN DAY IN BEELEY!

30th May

From 2pm there will be a procession from the Church and a blessing of the Brook followed by games, treasure hunt and competitions at the Village Hall. With cake and a BBQ to round off the fun.

Good for all ages.

Look out for the flyers for more information.

Tickets available in advance from Sarah Porter 01629 732365 or Jane Hornsby 01629 733184

Keep it in your pond!

What is that lurking in your garden pond, just below the water? Don't let it get out!

Charlie Dimmock, the television gardener, has warned gardeners of the perils of letting loose the exotic pond weeds, bought at their garden centre to brighten up their garden pond. They may be fine in your pond, but they are NOT fine in the waterways of Britain. Aquatic plants like water primrose or parrot's feather could quickly begin to spread and clog up our lakes and river systems. In fact, invasive aquatic plants can cause such serious damage that they should be burned when taken from your pond, not dumped on the compost heaps, where even one might take root and begin to spread...

'SPICE' SUNDAY

The collection of 5pence pieces on Sunday 11th April raised £115.75 for the Restoration Fund. Thank you for your continued support.

St. Peter's Church 100 Club - March Draw 2010

1st Prize £30 no.43 Vacant number

2nd Prize £20 no. 28 David Garnett

Funds to church this month -

£43 +£30 = £73

We still have space for more members!

BAKEWELL PARISH CHURCH

SATURDAY 1st MAY - 7.30pm

I TOOK MY HARP..... *A Recital by Brian Wilson*

From childhood days as a chorister of Liverpool Cathedral, where he was first attracted to the sound of the harp, playing this instrument has proved to be a life enriching experience. Brian will be playing attractive harp music and relating some of his more amusing experiences to the audience in his recital.

The music will be certain to please the ear and the secrets of what Louis Spohr's wife called 'that nerve destroying instrument' will be revealed!

TICKETS £8 on the door.



Traidcraft

Sales this month have been £596 including £45 at Bakewell Guides, £33 at the Choral Society Concert, £15 at the Methodist Coffee Morning and £24 at the Richard Roddis Concert.

One of Traidcraft's most varied food items is sugar with no less than 6 different varieties. Demerara is from Mauritius and has a hint of molasses – ideal for sweetening our various coffees. Dark Muscovado is also from Mauritius and has a toffee flavour and is used in dark cakes. For light cakes and biscuits try the Mauritian Golden Castor with its slight buttery taste. Also from Mauritius is the Raw Cane unrefined granulated sugar, an alternative for sweetening tea or making preserves. The organic Raw Cane, slightly sweeter, comes from Paraguay and finally we have ordinary white granulated from Malawi. *Peter Bird (01629 813087)*

If modern classical music confuses you....

Do you find modern classical music hard to listen to? Just too chaotic and confusing to understand?

Well, it seems you may not be such a philistine after all. While traditional classical music follows strict patterns and formulae, modern symphonies by composers such as Arnold Schoenberg and Anton Webern are lacking tonal centres. These 'atonal' compositions do not confine themselves to a home note or chord – and therefore simply confuse listeners' brains.

Philip Ball, author of 'The Music Instinct', has drawn on the latest scientific findings from neuroscientists to argue that structure and patterns in music are a fundamental part of musical enjoyment. If you find modern music challenging,

“ relax... it is not because you are in some way too musically stupid to appreciate it. The brain is a pattern-seeking organ, so it looks for patterns in music to make sense of what you hear.”

Traditional composers such as Mozart, Bach and Beethoven, it seems, subconsciously followed strict musical formula.

Book Review...

Restoring the Woven Cord - Strands of Celtic Christianity for the Church today

By Michael Mitton, BRF, RRP £8.99

Celtic spirituality continues to inspire many Christians. It offers a unique way to find an expression of faith that weaves together the themes of being and belonging, worship and witness in a stimulating and powerful way.

In this revised edition of his bestselling book first published in 1995, Michael Mitton examines a number of the important strands that make up the Christian faith including community, creation, prayer and the ministry of women. He looks at how each was expressed in the life and witness of the Celtic Church. Each chapter focuses on a Celtic saint drawing out their contribution to understanding a strand

and then applies their insights for the Church today.

This new edition includes insights on the continuing popularity and development of Celtic spirituality from Ray Simpson of the Community of Aiden and Hilda, Lindisfarne, Jack Stapleton of the USA branch of the Community, Bishop Eric Pike of South Africa and Liz Hoare, Tutor in Prayer, Mission and Spirituality at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

The Celtic Church continues to challenge us to rediscover the vital strands of our Christian faith, to weave them together in our own lives and in the life of our Church. Restoring the Woven Cord provides a helpful guide for groups and individuals to take up that challenge not to abandon what we already have but, in the true Celtic way, to change and transform.

All in the month of : MAY

- 350 years ago: - on 29th May 1660 that the English monarchy was restored with Charles II on the throne after several years as a Commonwealth under Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell.
- 200 years ago: - on 3rd May 1810 that the British poet Lord Byron swam across the Hellespont (now called the Dardanelles), a tumultuous four-mile strait in Turkey that links Europe to Asia. He did it to emulate the legendary Greek hero Leander.

- 150 years ago: - on 9th May 1860 that J M Barrie, the Scottish dramatist and novelist ('Peter Pan') was born.
- 100 years ago: - on 1st May 1910 that Halley's Comet began a spectacular show in the sky as the Earth passed through part of the comet's tail on 18th May.
- 80 years ago: - on 24th May 1930 that British aviator Amy Johnson became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.
- 40 years ago: - on 8th May 1970 that The Beatles released their final album 'Let It Be'.

The return of the Filofax

Move over BlackBerries and iPhones - the Filofax is back! Sales of the personal organiser, which was the ultimate symbol of yuppie aspiration in the 1980s, have taken off again.

First time round, the Filofax was seen as a crucial accessory for any up-and-coming banker, (along with braces and a brick-sized mobile phone). This time, it is women who bought about two-thirds of the sales of 500,000 personal organisers sold last year. They are shunning electronic organisers in favour of solid, easy-to-use stationery, which can be made more personal and distinctive – indeed, into a fashion statement.

The modern Filofax starts at about £25, and still uses a ring binder allowing customers to collect a diary, address book, notepaper, business card holders and other stationery in one folder, usually leather-bound. As one devotee explains: “I have an emotional attachment to my personal organiser, in a way I could never do with a BlackBerry.” Another says: “Does an iPhone smell like leather? A Filofax or Smythson organiser suggests you have class. What’s not to like about that?”

YOU MAY BE POSHER THAN YOU THINK!

Next time you visit a stately home, take a good look at the dukes and earls in the portrait gallery – you may recognise a family likeness to yourself! It seems that in bygone centuries, Britain’s aristocracy were such philanderers that it is reckoned that as many as one in five of us may be descended from them.

In recognition of this, the National Trust is backing research into the family trees of the people who lived at its historic properties. A project is being run between the trust and Ancestry.co.uk, the

genealogical database which contributed to the BBC television series ‘Who do you think you are?’ The NT’s 3.8 million members are being offered a discounted rate to join Ancestry.co.uk, which charges about £7 per month for its basic service.

Research suggests that 4 per cent of us have some link to royalty, while Ancestry.co.uk claims that more than 20 per cent of us are connected in some way to the aristocracy... though often through illicit liaisons. Which brings us back to that portrait of that lascivious earl....

1st May ~ May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "*for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?*"

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young

Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but only harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span,
it flourishes like a flower
We are here today, and gone tomorrow
- we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

When you plan your garden this Spring

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be happy

Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed

Turnip to help one another

Turnip the music and dance.

Water freely with patience and

Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden.

Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden

We must have thyme:

Thyme for fun

Thyme for rest

Thyme for ourselves.

Garden produce

A toddler was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust his mother asked,

"Well . . . what does it taste like?" "Worms," was the reply.

Good news if you want an allotment

The National Trust has created more than 300 allotments in the past year, and it is now on target to establish a thousand plots for local people on its land by 2012. The NT allotments have been created in 26 spaces ranging from restored kitchen gardens, farmland and vacant land close to National Trust properties.

The trust aims to establish 500 further allotments this year at stately homes, estates and land including Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire, and Lytes Cary Manor, Somerset.

The NT is hoping to encourage schools, communities and families to grow more of their own fruit and veg.



Contact the National Trust to see if any allotments are in your area.... or likely to be.

GOD IN THE ARTS

'Jesus on the Tube'

by Antonia Rolls

'FOR I GREET HIM THE DAYS I
MEET HIM'

'To me you are anonymous

God calls you by name.

To me you are a mystery

God knows your every breath.

To me your destiny is unknown

God guide you safely there

And his blessing be yours now and
always.'

Michael Turnbull's blessing for the person opposite on a train reminds us that no one is an island. We are all part of the continent of humanity as John Donne tells us in his meditation. But it is often that very humanity that blinkers our eyes and tells us that we are the most important person in the world, whatever the needs around us.

Several years ago the New Statesman had a competition for its readers to suggest misleading information for tourists visiting London. Gerard Hoffnung submitted 'Try the famous echo in the British Museum Reading Room,' but the one that stuck in my mind was the advice: 'On first entering an Underground train, it is customary to shake hands with every passenger.' Just imagine the chaos that would ensue if that advice was followed in the rush hour of commuter traffic! And yet Michael

Turnbull's blessing reminds us that there is a humanity around us: it links us to our fellow women and men and invites us to reach out. It is the theme of this month's painting: 'Jesus on the Tube' by Antonia Rolls. She was born in 1960 and now lives and works in west Sussex. As a little girl of 5, her father took her to see Bellini's Deposition: that was a special moment in her life and marked out her own future vocation as an artist. Influenced by the great painters of the past, she brings her own sense of fun and faith into the subjects she paints – 'God's Study' and a delightful set of angels, shy, stubborn and tired, are among the themes of her religious work.

'Jesus on the Tube' is a small painting, but its impact has been so great that it now has its own website. If you find this painting intriguing, then google the title or the artist's name. In the painting Jesus looks as if he has stepped straight out of an orthodox icon. Dressed in sumptuous Byzantine robes, he is travelling on the Circle line, but the people around ignore him. No one pays him any attention, and so he sits there waiting for a human response, waiting for us to recognise him and welcome him.

With perceptive humour and deftness, Antonia Rolls points to the great problem of life and faith. We

all live with so many duties and responsibilities around us, deadlines to meet, appointments to keep, and timetables to honour. That means we have little time and space to nurture and feed our hearts and souls, and little time for others. 'Jesus on the Tube' invites us to look around and to find Jesus in our neighbour – sitting opposite on the

tube, perhaps, or wherever we are. Waiting for us to meet him and greet him, and then to bless when we understand.

You can see a copy of this painting at: <http://www.jesusunthetube.co.uk/>

The Rev Michael Burgess

Chill out – for less money

Stressed out? Before you book an expensive massage or even thermotherapy (in which arms and legs are wrapped in warm towels), why not just go into your living room, take the phone off the hook, turn down the lights, and listen to relaxing music? You can do that for free, whereas other 'relaxation treatments' can cost up to £90 an hour.

In a recent study, it was found that all three methods were equally effective at easing anxiety. Scientists at the Group Health Research Institute in Seattle said that simply listening to relaxing music in a quiet peaceful place can calm anxiety and reduce worry and depression.

Personally, the thought of spending £90 to be wrapped in warm towels brings on an instant panic attack! I'd go for relaxing music or a book every time.

How do readers of this magazine 'chill out'? Let us know and we can put them in the next issue for others to try.

Too hot to handle

Beware those bags of grain that you are supposed to heat in a micro wave and use as hot water bottles: the fire department has issued an alert after two wheat-filled bags overheated and set fire to two houses in West Yorkshire.

13 May Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely

going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder, then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Hail the day that sees him rise
To his throne above the skies;
Christ, a while to mortals given,
Reascends His native heaven.
Charles Wesley

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: John

'I like the comparison of John's Gospel to a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is both simple and profound. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian.' (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of the fourth Gospel, writing in Ephesus (Asia Minor) at the end of the First Century. John writes 'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.' (20:31). He stresses the deity of Christ, and presents Jesus as the Son of God. His gospel is quite different in character from the three synoptic gospels, with different stories, but highly literary and symbolic.

The prologue (1:1-14) brings together the gospel's major themes, like an overture in a musical work. John proclaims Jesus as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father to us. Throughout the gospel many references are made to Jesus' deity. Most notably Jesus declares, 'Before Abraham was born, I am!' (8:57-58), referring to Exodus, where God describes himself as 'I am.' John also presents the contrast of darkness and light; Jesus has come as light into

the world so that those who believe in him will not remain in darkness (cf 12:46).

The heart of John's narrative contains seven signs or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and show his creative and transforming power over creation and in people's lives:

- turning water into wine at Cana (2:1-11)
- healing of the royal official's son (4:46-54)
- healing of the paralytic at the pool (5:1-18)
- feeding of the 5000 (6:1-14)
- walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee (6:16-21)
- healing of the man born blind (9:1-41)
- raising of Lazarus (11:1-44).

After these signs, Jesus 'hour' arrives, and the story moves into the discourses in the upper room that interpret the meaning of the death, and resurrection narratives that follow. The whole gospel is a progressive revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father.

It can be well summed up in its most famous verse: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16).

Why your television is like the Trinity *Rev Michael Harding*

Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three: red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB".

These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all "additive" colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million colours.

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours, whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours to reflect back merely a small part of the light falling on the colour that you see.

You'll soon call out the repair man if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them

shine at full brightness, at the same point – and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue.

Take away any One member of the Trinity, and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So -

- It DOES matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.
- It DOES matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.
- It DOES matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated bit of theological nonsense, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

Treasures of Lambeth Palace Library - 400th Anniversary Exhibition 1610-2010

To celebrate 400 years since its foundation, Lambeth Palace Library is set to open its doors with a fascinating exhibition, 'Treasures of Lambeth Palace Library - 400th Anniversary Exhibition 1610-2010', opening in Lambeth Palace's Great Hall from Monday 17 May until Friday 23 July 2010.

On show will be key items collected during Lambeth Palace Library's four hundred years as a working library. Treasures include a Gutenberg Bible (Mainz, 1455), the first book printed in Western Europe from

movable metal type; the 12th century Lambeth Bible, regarded as one of the monuments of Romanesque art; and King Richard III's 15th century manuscript Book of Hours, which was in his tent at the Battle of Bosworth in August 1485.

'Treasures of Lambeth Palace Library - 400th Anniversary Exhibition 1610-2010' runs from Monday 17 May to Friday 23 July 2010. It will be held in The Great Hall, Lambeth Palace Library, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7JU. For further information and advance bookings (recommended), visit www.lambethpalacelibrary.org or ring 0871 230 1107

Snooze your way to brain power

Do you get sleepy after lunch? Then go ahead – have a nap. Research is on your side. It has found that sleeping for an hour in the afternoon can boost brain power and dramatically increase your ability to learn facts and tasks.

On the other hand, the more hours we spend awake, the more sluggish our minds become and the less able to absorb new information. The study, at Berkeley in California, found that sleep 'not only rights the wrong of prolonged wakefulness, ... it moves you beyond where you were before you took a nap.' In other words, sleep refreshes your memory.

GLORIOUS THE SONG WHEN GOD'S THE THEME': THE STABAT MATER

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we sense the heartache and trial of much of her life: a teenage mother giving birth in a stable, fleeing with her new-born baby and Joseph to Egypt, losing the child Jesus while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following her son on his ministry but always in the background, and there at the foot of the cross as her son is crucified. It is then Mary must have thought back to that occasion in the temple when Simeon took her child and told her that a sword would pierce her own soul.

That sense of heartache and the sorrow it brings is poignantly expressed in a beautiful poem of the Middle Ages called *Stabat Mater*, which pictures Mary at Calvary and that sword of desolation and sadness that pierces her soul. We are not sure who wrote this poem. It is ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who became a Franciscan friar on the death of his wife in the 13th century. The contemplation of Mary's sorrows in the *Stabat Mater* has inspired many composers, and there are wonderful settings by Palestrina, Rossini, Dvorak, Verdi and Poulenc.

This month let us focus on a very simple setting, but one that captures those searing pangs of sorrow at the heart of the poem. It is by Antonio Vivaldi, who was born in Venice in 1678. In 1703 he was ordained a priest, but by then he had made his name as a skilled violinist and composer. He continued to compose throughout his life: a vast amount that includes some 40 operas (though only 18 survive), 400 concertos, and over 100 choral works. In 1730 Charles de Brosses described him as 'an old man with a prodigious fury for composition.' For much of his life Vivaldi was music director of the *Ospedale della Pieta*, a music school for girls. Then in 1740 he left Venice hoping for preferment in Vienna. That was not to be, and his final days were marked by poverty and neglect, and in 1741 burial in a pauper's grave.

Most of us know Vivaldi through the brilliance and colour of 'The Four Seasons' and his setting of the *Gloria*. The tone is more restrained in his setting of the *Stabat Mater*. There is a very fine CD recording entitled 'Vespers of Sorrow' where the work is linked to a sonata, a psalm setting and the *Magnificat* for an imagined celebration of our Lady's feast.

The *Stabat Mater* is a long poem and Vivaldi restricted himself to setting 8 verses for contralto and strings: the solo voice standing for

Mary as she sings of the despair and agony as the mother of Jesus. The opening verse, 'At the cross her station keeping' captures the intensity of emotion with the throbbing rhythms of the accompaniment – that mood recurs throughout the work. And then with the verse, 'Eja Mater, fons amoris' (O thou Mother! Fount of love!) the violins and viola accompany without any bass instruments. It is a pivotal point in the work as the solo voice cries out 'Mater' across the heights and depths of the music, leading into the prayer that the love of Mary will touch all human hearts. The final verse set by Vivaldi begins 'Make me feel as thou hast felt,' and so Mary stands for all mothers who have lost loved ones: perhaps sons killed in Afghanistan, perhaps daughters dying through disease.

Mary's love for Jesus, her son, touches the hearts of them and of all parents. Hers was a protective, sacrificial love that led her to the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave

his mother and John, the beloved disciple, into the care of each other. The sacrificial love of a mother mirrored in the sacrificial offering of her son in death.

Julian of Norwich meditated on this motherly love in her Revelations. In chapter 60 she wrote, 'A mother's caring is the closest, nearest and surest for it is the truest...As we know, our own mother bore us only into pain and dying. But our true mother Jesus, who is all love, bears us into joy and endless living. Blessed may he be!' So the protective care of mother Mary cries out to us in Vivaldi's setting of the Stabat Mater. The closing lines of that poem look to Christ's maternal love like Mother Julian:

'Christ when Thee shall call me hence,
By Thy mother, my defence,
By Thy Cross of victory.'



A Prayer for You

May the sun brightly shine in your corner
And the wind always billow your sails,
May you always find peace and contentment
And shelter from life's fiercest gales,
May you always be blessed with compassion
And concern for the needy and weak,

May you always be truthful and honest
In each single word that you speak,
May you always be just in your dealings
Protect fairness with all of your might,
But above all may you be granted the will
Forever to do what is right.

by Colin Hammacott

A vet bill just too far

Cats and dogs are being put down because their owners can simply no longer afford rising vet bills. In the last two years or so, almost 90 per cent of vets have said that they have found owners having to choose to end their pets' lives, rather than meet the costs of medical care for them.

Vets' bills have risen by a staggering 12 per cent in just one year, according to the recent study by Sainsbury's Finance. Conditions that have finally defeated pet owners range from dental trauma to gastro-enteritis, lameness and diabetes. Advances in veterinary sciences mean that pets can be offered more and more sophisticated treatments - but all at an eye-watering cost.

There is a charity which might be able to help you with vets' bills – visit www.pdsa.org.uk/.

After that row with your spouse....

Here's something you probably would not have thought of: next time you have a row with your nearest and dearest, reach for a crossword puzzle or Sudoku – it will help you make up more quickly after your argument.

Psychologists from Harvard University say that stimulating mental activity helps to stop people from harbouring a grudge. It seems that emotions are better controlled among people who have more activity in the part of the brain – the lateral prefrontal cortex – which is associated with puzzle solving.

Haiti Recording at Abbey Road Studios

The Haiti earthquake disaster may be slipping from the media radar, but fundraising for the victims is still going strong. More than 200 professional singers turned up at The Beatles' former music hub – Abbey Road studios in north London – to record the charity single "Somebody Please," released in late April.

The artists include: Graham Kendrick, Beverley Trotman and Noel Robinson. Catch a sound bite from the track and learn what part the singers' faith played in the recording by tuning into <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.webradio>.

SERVICES & ROTAS FOR MAY 2010

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY			FLOWERS
2	9.30am	Holy Communion	Mrs K Reeve
9	9.30am	Holy Communion	" "
16	9.30am	Holy Communion	Mrs Swain
23	9.30am	Holy Communion	" "
30	9.30am	Holy Communion	Mrs Turner
June 6	9.30am	Holy Communion	" "
ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR			SIDESMEN
2	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Machin
9	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Wardle
13	9.30am	Holy Communion for Ascension Day	
16	10.30am	Matins	R S Sherwood/Diana Walters
23	10.30am	Holy Communion	R A Gray/J Bowns
30	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mrs Thomas/S Liddicot
June 6	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Gordon
	COFFEE	CLEANING	FLOWERS
2	Mrs Mather	-----	Laura Gale
9	Mr & Mrs Sherwood	Mrs Sherwood/Mrs Kembery	" "
16	Mrs Bradshaw	-----	Diana Walters
23	Mr & Mrs Dempsey	Mrs Davies/Mrs Walters	" "
30	Clive & Joy Thrower	-----	Jayne Boyd
June 6	Mrs Cooper/Mrs Clarke	Mrs Machin/Mrs Thomas/M Pinder	" "
MAY READINGS	ST. PETER'S	ST. ANNE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL	
2 Acts 11. 1-18	Diana Walters	Sarah Porter	
John 13. 31-35		Lynda Hinxman-Allegri	
<i>Sunday School</i>		<i>Fiona Swain</i>	
9 Acts 16. 9-15	Margaret Thomas	Fiona Swain	
John 5. 1-9		Rupert Turner	
<i>Sunday School</i>		<i>Sarah Porter</i>	
16 Acts 16. 16-34	Molly Marshall	Di Homer	
John 17. 20-26		Sarah Porter	
<i>Sunday School</i>		<i>Lynda Hinxman-Allegri</i>	
23 Acts 2. 1-21	Diana Symonds	Lynda Hinxman-Allegri	
John 14. 8-17		Sarah Porter	
<i>Sunday School</i>		<i>Fiona Swain</i>	
30 Romans 5. 1-5	Tony Gray	Rupert Turner	
John 16. 12-15		Fiona Swain	
<i>Sunday School</i>		<i>Sarah Porter</i>	

'The Bridge' Parish Magazine-60p per copy (£7.20 per year) Items for inclusion in the June Magazine should reach me no later than Monday 17 May. e-mail: lizbradshaw@onetel.com