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May 2011

Life into Prayer and Prayer into Life.

We are a remarkable paradox, human but made for the divine, time-bound with a nostalgia for the eternal. The African Saint Augustine of Hippo said that in each of us is a God shaped space which only God can fill. "Thou hast made us for thyself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee"

Whenever we try to find happiness in anything less than God we find that it almost always turns to ashes in our mouths. Whether it is material prosperity, success, alcohol, sex, if it is exalted into a god, it turns into a demon.

The African world view, like the Celts, rejects the popular dichotomies between the material and the spiritual. All life is religious, all life is sacred, all life is one piece. The spiritual is real and permeates all existence. There is a lovely prayer of a fisherman who, concerned to be not too harsh in exploiting the river, asks for its permission to fish. What a reverent attitude to Creation!

Prayer opens us up to God. Michael Ramsey said that even the desire to pray is a prayer. And Mother Julian said, "Prayer is yearning, beseeching and beholding." We seek to give ourselves to the One who gave himself to us. For me the key is saying "thank you" . . . for sleep and for a bed to rest on, for water and for refreshment, for kindness and generosity and so on. Psalm 100 (The Jubilate) puts it well, "Oh be joyful in the Lord always, and come before his presence with a song. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise."

Thanksgiving opens the gates to the presence of God. And as we enter our thanks turns to songs of praise and wonder.

All we need to do is to be deeply thankful, to be Eucharistic people, to say freely: "Thank you God for loving me so much." Praise and adore God and thank him forever and ever. Amen.

David

Rogation Sunday - 29th May
St. Anne's & St. Peter's

Rogation (from the Latin to "ask") is the time of the year when we ask God's blessing on crops, agriculture and industry. Either meet at 11.30am at St Peter's, and walk to the bridge at the end of the Park, or set out from St Ann's Beeley at 11.45am and walk across the field towards the bridge. The idea is that we all meet up and walk back to St. Peter's for a Faith Lunch. There will be prayers en route!

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

Baptism - Sunday 27th March - Samuel George Leigh

Interment of Ashes - Friday 1st April - John Heathcote

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

Interment of Ashes - 19th March - David John Stewart Taylor

Funeral Service followed by Burial - 11th April -

Margot Adele Jill Gibson aged 57 years

Donations to St. Peter's & St. Anne's

Cheques for £80 have been given to both churches in memory of Canon Bob Honner, who died in January.

We send our thanks to his daughter, Mrs K Pollard, for this gesture.

Useful Telephone Numbers

St. Anne's	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Vernon Mather M.B.E.	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	

DATES TO NOTE

- 7 May Kinder Children's Choirs of the High Peak -
Concert in Bakewell Parish Church 7.30pm
- 13 May Chatsworth WI Fashion Show 7.30pm Cavendish Hall
- 14 May Friends of the Peak District - 7.30pm Tickets £10
Concert by Renaissance Voices in St. Peter's Church
- 15 May BELLRINGERS - The Rossendale Group will be ringing
before the Sunday service (from 9.45am-10.30am)
- 22 May OXFAM Supporters Group - Jazz Breakfast 10.30 - 1pm -
The Medway Centre
- 22 May Wedding, St. Peter's 1.15pm Ben Woollard & Amanda Richards
- 26 May Wedding, St Peter's 2pm Mark Hanretty & Katherine Green
- 29 May St. Peter's & St. Anne's Rogation Sunday Walk from both churches
meeting at One Arch Bridge and returning to St Peter's for lunch.
- 2 July St. Peter's Church Garden Party - to be held on
the Village Green, Edensor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 10 May BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting -7.30pm Village Hall
Resolution Meeting &
First aid for babies and children (from April)
- 14 May **SKIP: Baslow** Council Houses 7.45-8.15
Nether End Car Park 8.20-10.45
SKIP: Edensor The Green 7.45-9.30
Pilsley Garage Yard 9.45-10.45
- 18 May CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting
7.30pm Cavendish Annexe
Resolutions Meeting - Fish & Chip Supper
Competition: Personal resolution
Flowers & Parcel: Mrs Symonds
- 21 May **SKIP: Beeley** Devonshire Square 7.45-8.45
- 23 May BEELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING -
7.30pm Village Hall - Everyone welcome

St. Peter's Church 100 Club - March Draw 2011

1st Prize £30 no. 92 - Roger Bemrose
2nd Prize £20 no. 21 - Doreen Gaynor
Funds to church this month - £50

'SPICE' SUNDAY

10 April

This brought in £72.85 for
the Restoration Fund -
thanks to everyone who
contributed.

Sarah, Steve, Oscar, Annabelle and Phoebe Porter would like to thank their lovely friends and neighbours for the fantastic support and affection they have received during Sarah's mother's illness. Margot died on 1st April and the family have been overwhelmed with the love shown during her illness and since. This is a very special place to live.
Thank you.

Prince Charles backs the King James Bible as a 'benchmark of civilisation'

The Prince of Wales has described the King James Bible as 'part of the very architecture of our culture'.

And in a foreword to the special 400th anniversary edition, recently published by Bible Society, HRH The Prince of Wales writes: 'I have always given a high priority to the spiritual roots of our society. I do believe that the survival of civilised values, as we have inherited them from our ancestors, depends on the corresponding survival in our hearts

of that profound sense of the sacred.' Bible Society's new edition remains faithful to the original, but the text is easier to read, the layout has been revised, and a glossary explains some of those hard-to-understand phrases.

It also contains a concordance, a full index to names, and a summary of the best-known Bible stories. The new anniversary edition of the King James Version is available now from www.bibleresources.org.uk/kjv priced at £14.99 plus postage and packing.

We are no longer rubbish with rubbish...

For the first time, more than 40 per cent of all the rubbish that English households create is being recycled. Only ten years ago, 14 per cent of rubbish was recycled.

While less junk is ending up in landfill, still the average person is producing more than half a ton of rubbish every year. English households create 23 million tons annually. The statistics come from the Environmental Department. Last year the amount of waste being sent to landfill by local authorities fell by 2.3 per cent.

**CHATSWORTH WI
S.O.S. FASHION SHOW & SALE**

Friday 13th May 2011
7.30pm Cavendish Hall, Edensor

Tickets £4 includes glass of wine
available from:

Mary Read 01246 582434/Kath Watts 01246 211437
More details available in Pilsley Post Office
& Edensor Parish Noticeboard

**RENAISSANCE VOICES
at ST PETER'S CHURCH EDENSOR**

14 May 2011 - 7.30pm

The concert will present items from the choir's repertoire of Renaissance and Baroque secular and sacred music.

The Church music half of the evening's performance will comprise anthems and motets by Byrd, Tallis, Weelkes and Purcell and continental composers Palestrina, Guerrero, Monteverdi, Victoria, Lobo and J.S. Bach.

Secular music, with texts covering the usual subjects of pastoral delights and human passion in both light-hearted and serious modes, will include English Ayres and Madrigals by Dowland, Morley and Gibbons, Italian madrigals by Monteverdi, A. Gabrieli and Gesualdo and French chansons by Lejeune and Arcadelt.

Extracts from G. F. Handel's masque "Acis and Galatea" will conclude the evening.

*David Young
Director Renaissance Voices*

Tickets available from David Young (01433 631308)
& Friends of the Peak District Office (0114 266 5822)

29 May - Rogation Sunday

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of

the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation was said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

For favourable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons,
that there may be food and drink for all your creatures,
we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon
them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people,
we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches
of your creation may abound from age to age,
we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Libya Talk & Lunch 27 March

Extracts from an essay by Mohammad al-Asfar, which first appeared in the New York Times on 3rd March and was reprinted in The Guardian. This was read to us by Monam Shafie and anyone who wishes to read it in full should contact him.

Libya's Patient Revolutionaries

The revolution in my country is aflame, and has achieved considerable success, internally and internationally. Each time a city is liberated, makeshift institutions to manage everyday life and defend freedom arise, and more members of the former regime's leadership, whether they are political, cultural or business figures, join in.

Our flag is no longer a solid green field; the one we carry now is red, black and green with a crescent and star in the middle. The colors are a reminder of the darkness and colonization we have suffered in our history.

For decades, we lived in terror, surrounded by spies and informants, facing the risk of imprisonment or "disappearance" at any moment. No one could intervene on your behalf; there were no real courts, no human rights, nothing.

Everything before this revolution was dedicated to enriching the tyrant and his family. Everything was for their benefit: the army, the police, water, culture, education, hotels, restaurants, the flag. Even sex was regulated: many people couldn't marry until the regime organized a mass wedding or they were "gifted" a bedroom for the

wedding night.

Fifteen years ago, in a single night, the tyrant and his mercenaries murdered 1,200 people at the Abu Salim prison in Tripoli, where political prisoners are held. The bodies were piled in a mass unmarked grave — prisoners from all over Libya, of all ages, killed without even a symbolic trial. My only brother was one of them.

I wrote about the massacre in my first novel. And my second. And my third. And I was not the only one who couldn't forget. The brutality of that summer evening was one of the sparks that ignited this revolution. The families of those victims began the current protests, here in Benghazi, and were soon joined by the young men of the revolution.

The Libyan people are now brothers of mankind. We can speak freely to those in the Arab world and elsewhere whom we have longed to meet, and can embrace them without fear. Our lives as Libyans have been troublesome: for those of us lucky enough to travel, everywhere we faced an accusatory finger — for the disappearance of the Lebanese Shiite cleric Musa al-Sadr on a trip to Libya in 1978; for the Lockerbie bombing in 1988 and the downing of a French airline over Niger the next year. But now we have shown the world that the blame for these acts does not lie with the Libyan people, but with the heinous dictatorship.

Libya Friendship Group, Monam Shafie
Tel: 01 246 583537: Email:
monamshafie@hotmail.co.uk

Lybia Lunch & Talk - 27 March

A lunch of 3 deliciously different versions of lentil soup and traditional food - both savoury and sweet - followed the talk organised by Monam Shafie (Libya Friendship Group). Donations totaling £384 were made by those people who attended the talk and lunch. Monam is hoping to visit Lybia as soon as he is able to and will keep us posted about how the money has been used.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Fear in Juba, Southern Sudan, as July approaches

Church leaders in Southern Sudan and Uganda have called for urgent action to end the threat caused by northern Uganda's rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The attacks are escalating, threatening a fragile peace in a region that will celebrate independence on 9 July.

The LRA regularly harasses, wounds, abducts and often kills innocent people along the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, Southern Sudan and Central Africa Republic borders.

The Roman Catholic Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala of Tombura-Yambio diocese in Southern Sudan said recently: "Many of our children are still in the hands of the LRA. We do not know if they are alive or dead. Those who have managed to escape bear the physical and mental scars of suffering and will never be the same again."

Child benefit crucial for tackling child poverty

The Church of England has called on the Government not to freeze child benefit.

Child benefit is the one area of the Government consultation on 'Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Life Chances' on which the Church, in a submission from the Archbishops' Council Mission and

Public Affairs Council, disagrees. It argues that child benefit is a vital element of tackling child poverty.

The Rt Revd John Packer, the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds says "from my experience of working with families in times of austerity, child benefit really gets to the purse of the one who feeds and clothes the children. It's popular, so its take up is large, it is simple and it is without stigma."

The Way I See It

By David Winter, a former Head of BBC Religious Broadcasting who has contributed to Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' for the past 22 years.

On Radio 5 Live there's a feature once a week in the afternoon when listeners are invited - indeed, urged - to phone in or text their biggest moans. This isn't really intended for what one might call Major Whinges - the state of the NHS or poverty in sub-Saharan Africa - but for all those petty irritations that wind us up and that we feel a desperate need to get off our chests.

I always listen spell-bound, marvelling at how often I find that exactly the same things irritate me: the woman in front of me in the supermarket cash-out who half-way through the process discovers she forgot to get a tin of baked beans and disappears into the farthest reaches of the store to get it while we wait and fume. Or the man who fills his car with petrol and then spends twenty minutes doing his minor shopping or having a coffee while his car is parked at the pump that I want to use. Or the dog owner who couldn't be bothered to

pick up their dog's mess, which eventually ends up on my shoes. You see what I mean? They are petty irritations. They're trivial, we know that, but they often upset us much more than the serious problems of life. For some reason, they really bug us. We know, in our heart of hearts, that we're getting upset about things that really don't matter, while at the same time sitting lightly to things that matter enormously. In other words, our sense of priorities has got distorted.

Priorities: that was the theme of the famous Sermon on the Mount of Jesus. Take a look at Matthew's Gospel chapter 6, especially verse 19 to the end. We need to know, he says, what our true 'treasure' is. If we did, we wouldn't worry about food, clothes, appearance and what might happen tomorrow - God knows we need them. Our priority would be 'the kingdom of God and his righteousness' - doing what God requires. Letting my blood pressure rise over someone's tin of baked beans is, in the language of Jesus, 'straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel'. And I wouldn't want to do that, would I?

Sleep – and learn

You really do need your sleep. In fact, light dreamless sleep is essential for recharging the mind and boosting your ability to learn. It seems that the traditionally undervalued phase of sleep, which can take up half the night, allows your brain to recharge itself. So beware if you are sleeping for less than six hours, because you may not be getting enough of the right kind of sleep. The study was published in the Journal of Current Biology.

Why your children need Snow White and Sleeping Beauty

When it comes to Snow White, Cinderella, The Ugly Duckling, and Sleeping Beauty, don't worry about whether they are politically correct or not. Reading them will do your children far more good than harm.

So says a child development expert, Sally Goddard Blythe, who argues that fairy tales can play a crucial role in a child's moral development. She says they nurture moral behaviour and show youngsters the strengths and weaknesses inherent in human nature. A fairy tale contrasts good and evil, rich and poor, vanity and valour. She argues that fairy tales tackle difficult issues, such as life after the death of parents (Cinderella), and also enlist 'children's innate wish for good to triumph.'

A recent poll by the TheBabyWebsite.com found that a quarter of mothers reject some fairy tales because they deem them too frightening and not politically correct. But Mrs Goddard Blyth, director of the Institute for Neuro-Physiological

Psychology in Chester, urges: "When you don't give children these stereotypes, you don't give them a moral code on which to develop their own lives."

So – what do fairy tales teach?

- Cinderella: humility, generosity, love, kindness and obedience are good; but greed, envy, deceit, cruelty and neglect are bad.
- The Ugly Duckling: endurance, hope, maturity and being true to oneself are good; but fear, enforced conformity and discrimination are bad.
- Snow White: celebrates diversity and teaches that generosity, kindness and hope are good; while vanity and jealousy are bad.
- Sleeping Beauty love and bravery are good; but envy and pride are bad.

Of course, Christian parents also have a deep wealth of stories with which to introduce their children to a moral and social view of the world: the stories of the Bible. There are a number of excellent Bible story books for children.

The Award-winning KINDER CHILDREN'S CHOIRS of the HIGH PEAK
All Saints Parish Church Bakewell on Saturday 7th May 2011 at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 from The Bakewell Bookshop, or from Mrs Joyce Glencross, 1 The Meadows, Grisedale Road, Great Longstone, Derbyshire, DE45 1TP. Please send cheque (made payable to 'Bakewell PCC') and a SAE, or download an application form from www.kinderchildrenschoirs.org.uk/diary.php

Refreshments will be available. Funds for Bakewell Parish Church.

The Bakewell Oxfam supporters group

invite you to

A JAZZ BREAKFAST

with the Steve Salfield Band
at The Medway Centre Bakewell on

SUNDAY MAY 22ND.

from 10.30am to 1pm.

Start your Sunday with some cool, mellow jazz,
while enjoying a continental style breakfast.

*The last jazz breakfast was a sell out! Order your tickets now
from Jude (01629 815469), from Daryl (01629 813209)
or call in at the Bakewell Bookshop.*

Adults £8 ~ Under sixteens £5 ~ Under fives free.

All proceeds go to Oxfam.

BUDGET 2011 – churches welcome proposal on gift aid declarations

The Church of England, as well as other churches, has warmly welcomed the recent Budget proposal on gift aid. Now charities and community amateur sports clubs will not need to obtain gift aid declarations for small donations of £10 or less up to an annual maximum of £5,000.

The Bishop of Exeter, Chairman of the Churches' Legislation Advisory Service (CLAS), said:

"The Government's announcement that from April 2013 charities will no longer have to provide gift aid declarations for small donations of £10 or less is very good news for churches.

"Being able to make Gift Aid claims on loose collections will be valuable in itself - but perhaps even more valuable is the time that it will save hard-pressed church treasurers. The present system, with Gift Aid envelopes and the associated record-keeping, is incredibly time-consuming and we will be delighted to see an end to it as soon as possible."

Get growing some vegetables this Spring - with a new garden community

Here is something you would not expect to find the Church of England and the BBC doing together: encouraging you and your neighbours to grow vegetables.

But now a new national community growing project has been launched, with both the Church and the BBC actively involved. The aim is to get neighbours to help each other to grow fruit and vegetables in their own gardens.

Grow Zones has been created with 'new growers' especially in mind. It wants to enable local teams of people who enjoy their gardens to share their skills and tools, and to produce food - which will eliminate food miles. Grow Zones has produced a resource kit which will help a group get started - without necessarily having any expert knowledge.

Grow Zones is supported by Shrinking the Footprint, the Church

of England's national environmental campaign, and endorsed by a BBC Gardening expert, Alys Fowler.

Alys Fowler says: "Grow Zones is a brilliant resource for anyone who wants to gather some like-minded people together to get gardening. Now all you have to do is get out there!"

David Shreeve, the Church of England's national environment adviser, says: "Churches and faith groups are ideally placed to establish Grow Zones. Many younger families have the enthusiasm, whilst older people often have the gardens." Grow Zones will provide more than vegetables – "it can produce a very real sense of community."

Grow Zones is supported by the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food scheme. It was started by EarthAbbey (www.earthabbey.com) and piloted by the Rev Chris Sunderland, a priest in Bristol Diocese. Chris Sunderland says: "Grow Zones shows that it seems easier for people to make friends over shared work."

Rise - and roam - of the garden gnome

Garden gnomes are making a comeback. Nowadays one in five young adults will even admit that they own one. But if a gnome is living happily in your garden this Spring, beware: there has also been a rise in gnome-related kidnaps, known as 'gnoming'.

They are hard to protect.

Rev Dr Jo White considers the ways of expressing God's love and grace towards others....

Signs & Symbols: that Final Blessing

What do you say when you leave someone? 'Have a nice day!' 'Ta-rar' 'See you later' or just 'Bye'.

They all sound vaguely the same – but the last one is actually grounded in a hope and trust that far outweighs the simplest wish; for it comes from the word, 'Goodbye' which in turn comes from the much longer phrase, 'God be with ye'.

We say our farewells to each other by asking God to bless us, for there's nothing we can do for each other while we're apart except trust in God to look after and be with the other person. We only have to think of our family and friends living away from us to know the reality of that, never mind watching the news of places where people are in terrible conditions.

We see and hear this particularly in church at the end of a service where

Smile

What it says...

On Sunday after church, a mother asked her very young daughter what the lesson in Sunday School had been about. Her daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, her mother was mystified. A few days later she ran into the teacher in town, and asked for details. The teacher smiled. "It was: 'Be not afraid, your comforter is coming'."

the person leading the service gives a 'blessing'. In many churches the words go like thisand the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. And we reply, 'Amen' which means, 'I agree'.

We often quite literally see this blessing as the priest raises his or her hand to form the sign of the cross over the congregation. Some Christians like to incline their heads at that moment and imagine the minister is wrapping them up in a blanket of love and protection and that no matter what happens until they meet again, God will wrap each one around and hold them fast.

This month:

Watch as the minister gives you a blessing and 'feel' those words and his actions combine. What does it make you think? Is it different when you cross yourselves as he says the words or if he doesn't make the sign of the cross but just speaks?

GOD IN THE ARTS

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a third century statue of The Good Shepherd. It is in the Museo Pio Cristiano, Vatican. You can view it at: www.christusrex.org/www1/vaticano/PC1-Shepherd.jpg

'I am the Good Shepherd'

There is a remarkable story about a shepherd in the Yorkshire Dales many years ago. During a particularly severe winter, he went out to search for his sheep. Sadly he never returned, and a search party discovered his dead body beneath many feet of snow. His neighbours were stunned and upset by his death, but they were also puzzled. The shepherd had been clasping the third finger of his left hand. Nobody could explain this, until a schoolmistress recalled a lesson she had taught her children. She would make them recite 'The Lord is my shepherd', and at each word she would point to a finger of her hand, beginning with the thumb. (Thumb) The (Index) Lord (Middle) is (Ring) my (Little) Shepherd. The mystery was solved, for as the man lay dying in the dreadful wind and cold, he was affirming his faith that God was his shepherd, and so he had nothing to fear.

The image of the Good Shepherd has been a powerful and pervasive

picture from the earliest days of Christianity in expressing that very faith. It has been found in the catacombs, and was often carved on sarcophagi. Just as Crimond is popular at funerals today, so that image of the shepherd marked out funeral rites in the first centuries of Christian life. It is the image we are focussing on in May : a marble statue of Jesus the Good Shepherd, which may have been part of a tomb decoration. It was discovered in the catacomb of Domitilla and dates from the late 3rd century. The statue is now in one of the Vatican museums.

Jesus is portrayed as a beardless young man with a sleeveless tunic and bag. The influence on the sculpture is very much classical, and the artist was borrowing his portrayal from depictions of Orpheus, who in ancient legend tamed animals and restored the dead to life. But the sculptor was also affirming his own faith that Jesus had conquered death, and so life for all who followed Christ was always new and ageless.

In the sculpture Jesus has found the lost sheep and is bearing him back to the flock. But He is not just the one who seeks the lost: He will lay down his own life and ward off all danger for the sheep, both as the door to the sheepfold and as the one who is crucified.

In these weeks after Easter we can reflect on what our Lord has gained for us by his death and resurrection. The image of the Good Shepherd here in this sculpture and in scripture lays it before us vividly. Jesus protects his sheep; He cares for them; He loves them; He believes in them; and above all He never lets them down. Substitute 'us' for 'them'

and we will know something of the power of this image and the joy of eternal life, which Easter celebrates.



GLORIOUS THE SONG WHEN GOD'S THE THEME :

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

'THERE IS SWEET MUSIC HERE:

Jean-Philippe Rameau and the harpsichord

The fifth day of creation must have been a special moment in the book of Genesis, for we are told that birds were created on that day. For the first time bird song would have resounded in the air of the new world.

Up to then the only sound was probably the lapping of water on the shores. With the fifth day the music of the birds singing rang out from trees and hills. Each morning I look out on my garden where the birds are feeding, as I imagine many of us do. We hear their dawn song, we see the rich variety of plumage, and we can identify their

characteristics : joyous and shy, angry and timid, brilliant and drab.

What is it that the birds are singing? In that wonderfully evocative book, 'Pilgrim at Tinker Creek,' Annie Dillard asks that question. Is it a territorial claim the birds are making? How can we unlock the key to this beautiful sound? 'It could be,' she writes, 'that a bird sings I am a sparrow, sparrow, sparrow, as Gerard Manley Hopkins suggests: 'Myself it speaks and spells, crying *what I do is me: for that I came.*'

Birds – their songs and their characters – are captured by this month's musical instrument, the harpsichord. One critic called the music of this instrument 'a performance on a bird cage with a toasting fork.' But in the early part of the 18th century Jean-Philippe Rameau composed three volumes of pieces for the harpsichord that gave the lie to that mocking. Rameau

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composed fine operas, and he was also a gifted keyboard player. In these volumes there are dances in abundance, but there are also more tender, reflective pieces – all expressing the range of the harpsichord's capabilities. No more so than in two pieces inspired by bird song. 'The call of the birds' imitates a variety of birds, and then in 'La poule' Rameau focuses on one bird, the hen.

We hear the hen clucking, we sense it pecking for food, and we can imagine the chicks rushing to their mother for safety and comfort. And

all in just four pages of music. In Matthew 23 Jesus says how he imagined himself to be a mother hen gathering her brood under her wings, and knowing how impossible that was because Jerusalem did not honour its prophets. Imagining could not become reality there, but here in this imaginative and virtuoso piece by Rameau, we see the mother hen doing exactly that: calling her offspring to stay close and rest secure in the warmth of her protective heart. We hear the mother hen speaking to us in the music that *What I do is me: for that I came.*

'The King's Speech' has cleaned up at the Oscars. The film was a vivid reminder of how determination and hard work can triumph over adversity. But it was even more – a reminder of just what a miracle speech itself is ...

The King's Speech

The words that flow from page to eye
And from there to our mind,
Which then gives shape to voice's sigh
And structure, as the vapours fly
The sound of the Divine!

A wondrous gift from God above
To read, and speak, and hear;
The words of strength, the words of love
And words which, gentle as a dove,
Can quell the sense of fear.

As with King George, the chain may break
By unkind twist of chance;

For some may struggle words to make
Or deafness may the meaning take
And yet - they still advance.

We see them strive to overcome
Through courage, strength, and heart.
They may be deaf, they may be dumb,
But meaning shines as bright as sun –
And we've the humbler part!

Far greater cause of pitying tear -
That we misuse our gifts;
Our words of hatred, words of fear,
And careless words which, like a spear
Can wound, and cause deep rifts.

So, as we think of our late king
Perhaps we should reflect,
And rid our speech of everything
That may cause pain or suffering –
And fill it with respect!

By Nigel Beeton

Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport RING AND RIDE

For many years Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport has provided a service to residents of the Hope Valley and Bakewell areas, known as the Community Car Scheme. The service has been renamed **Ring and Ride**. It is essentially the same as before, offering transport to people who may have difficulty getting to an appointment, either because they cannot drive, or they may no longer feel able to travel on public transport, for reasons of mobility, or it may simply be that the timetables are not convenient or the family cannot help out, and a taxi might not be available. The scheme has provided help to many and our passengers have the reassurance of knowing they will be picked up from their home and taken to their destination, removing the stress of worrying about arriving on time, or knowing where to go. The driver will wait and return them home after their appointment. There is a moderate fare for the service, depending on the length of the journey. Additional funding and recruitment of several new drivers means the scheme can now cover the Matlock, Darley Dale and Two Dales area.

The **Ring and Ride** scheme is made possible by a team of approx 70 volunteer drivers using their own cars and devoting their spare time to helping others. All volunteers are CRB checked and vehicle documents and driving licences are inspected regularly.

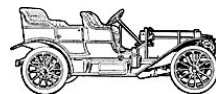
They are reimbursed for their travelling expenses.

If you think the scheme could benefit you, pick up the phone and give us a call on 01629 641920. You do not have to be elderly or unable to drive to use the service. We have passengers under the age of 10, (anyone under 18 has to be accompanied by an adult.), and some who can drive, but find the journey to the city hospitals and finding somewhere to park too stressful. You can also take along a friend, relative or neighbour if you wish. It takes a few minutes to register over the phone, and booking a journey is a simple procedure. We only ask that you try and give us a week's notice.

The scheme is primarily used for medical and health related appointments, but journeys such as an appointment with your solicitor, a visit to the hairdresser or hospital visiting can also be considered. Last year we undertook 3,300 journeys and one of our very grateful passengers had this to say about the scheme: "All the drivers are very helpful and easy to chat with. At the destination they are supportive as I have mobility problems. They are very patient if there is a delay. Thank you for all your hard work."

Look out for leaflets in local surgeries and posters in your area for more information.

Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport is a registered charity no. 1049389.



The Bible in our Community

By Lucy Moore, Messy Church Team Leader, www.messychurch.org.uk

I saw a Bible in a charity shop the other day. It was a thick-as-a-brick Family Bible, a bargain at only £4.50. It was in immaculate condition with each page corner still as chiselled and gold-edged as the day it was printed. No sticky fingers had sullied these pages. No disrespectful hand had broken its spine.

But oh dear, it was a tragic sight. That book had never had verses highlighted, Post-it notes stuck in its margins or dates pencilled alongside passages in it. It hadn't been opened. It hadn't been read! It was a parable in miniature: was that Bible better kept safe as a collector's item, or brought into the hurly-burly of life to risk being creased or battered?

Is God's word supposed to be kept untouched by the grubbiness of daily life or, like the Word himself, should it be part of our everyday existence, working in our communities like yeast in dough? Jesus wasn't afraid to risk mixing with people with infectious diseases and infectious lifestyles; he knew he could bring only healing and wholeness. His word, surely, is also meant to bring healing and wholeness, not kept on a shelf?

What might it mean, to bring the Bible out into the communities we live and work in? For some it might mean finding ways to open up the Bible as a family and allow its challenge and comfort to get to work in family life. The new website www.faithinhomes.co.uk has some friendly easy ideas to help families enjoy the Bible together.

For others, it might mean thinking about what the Bible says in a different way: not just 'How can the passage I'm reading help me through today?' but 'What might God need me to bring to my office, school, factory floor or hospital through this passage? Who might I need to bring this message to today?' and having our eyes and ears open to recognise opportunities to share some appropriate and timely story, thought or opinion that has been shaped by God's story.

The main way the Bible will be shared is not through writing its words on billboards but by 'gossiping' it as good news and living it out. This is how our communities can be healed.



SERVICES & ROTAS FOR MAY 2011

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

FLOWERS

1	9.30am	Holy Communion		Mrs Fearn
8	9.30am	Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	Mrs Homer
15	9.30am	Holy Communion		" "
22	9.30am	Holy Communion		Mrs Hopkins
29	9.30am	Holy Communion		" "
<i>2 June</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion for Ascension Day - St. Peter's		
<i>5 June</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion		Mrs Evans

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

SIDESMEN

1	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mrs Thomas/S Liddicot
8	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Gordon
15	10.30am	Matins		Mr & Mrs Jackson
22	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Machin
29	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Wardle
2 Jun	9.30am	Holy Communion for Ascension Day		
<i>5 Jun</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion		R.S.Sherwood/Diana Walters

COFFEE

CLEANING

FLOWERS

1	Clive & Joy Thrower	-----	Wedding Flowers
8	Mrs Cooper/Mrs Clarke	Mrs Bateman/Mrs Robinson	" " remain
15	Mr & Mrs Bosett	-----	Angela Dempsey???
22	NO COFFEE - wedding Mrs Day/Mrs Nelson		Laura Gale
29	Mr & Mrs Sherwood	-----	Wedding Flowers
<i>5 Jun</i>	Mr & Mrs Carter	Mrs Sherwood/Mrs Kembery	" " remain

READINGS

ST. PETER'S

ST. ANNE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL

1	1 John 5: 4-12 John 20: 19-23 <i>Sunday School</i>	Margaret Thomas	Rupert Turner Lynda Hinxman-Allegri Fiona Swain
8	1 Peter 2: 19-end John 10:11-16 <i>Sunday School</i>	Duke of Devonshire	Di Homer Sarah Porter <i>Fiona Swain</i>
15	1 Peter 2: 11-17 John 16: 16-22 <i>Sunday School</i>	Molly Marshall	Fiona Swain Judith Fraser-Martin Sarah Porter
22	James 1: 17-21 John 16: 5-15 <i>Sunday School</i>	Susanne Garnett	Fiona Swain Di Homer Lynda Hinxman-Allegri
29	James 1: 22-end John 16: 23b-end <i>Sunday School</i>	David Jackson	Judith Fraser-Martin Sarah Porter Fiona Swain

'The Bridge' Parish Magazine - 60p per copy (£7.20 per year). Items for the June Magazine should reach me **no later than Monday 16 May.**

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