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(Church website - [www.stpetersedensor.org](http://www.stpetersedensor.org))

August 2011

### OUR FATHER WHO ...

“Lord teach us to pray.” And Jesus said, “This is how you should pray: Our Father who art in heaven . . . . . Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

The phrase “Kingdom of God” is used widely in the Gospels. It was central to the message of Jesus. He went into Galilee preaching the “Good News of the Kingdom of God.” What does it mean?

Jesus spoke of the Kingdom in three different ways. (1) It existed in the past. (2) It is a present reality. (3) It is a future reality. How can the kingdom be past, present and future all at the same time? The key is in this double petition of the Lord’s Prayer. The style is known as parallelism. Hebrews tended to say everything twice. It was said in one way and then in another way to explain the first way. The Psalms show this parallelism in action, eg.

“God is our refuge and strength – a very present help in trouble.”

“The Lord is my shepherd – I shall not want.”

And so we have:

“Thy kingdom come - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

The second petition explains and defines the first. So the Kingdom of God is a society upon earth where God’s will is as perfectly done on earth as in heaven. It also explains how the Kingdom can be past, present and future. Anyone in the past who did God’s will is in the Kingdom, as in the present. But since society is very far from perfect we look to the future coming of the Kingdom.

So we might say, “Lord, bring in the Kingdom beginning with me.” It is also a corporate prayer. All over our magnificent world God calls us to extend the

Kingdom of SHALOM: peace and wholeness – of justice, of good news, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy and reconciliation.

God can transfigure the world right this very moment through us. Why? - Because God believes in us and because God loves us. What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we show God's love, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no oppression that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned to love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled. And we will rejoice in the coming of the Kingdom.

Whoops! I have gone on a bit! But perhaps as we pray the Lord's prayer day by day, we can recall and reflect on these things.

David.

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

WEDDINGS

25<sup>th</sup> June - Abigail Elizabeth Mellard & Christopher John Sibley

9<sup>th</sup> July - Lucy Georgina Clare Thompson & Nicholas David Roberts



17<sup>th</sup> July - Alexandra Kay Lewis

Useful Telephone Numbers

St. Anne's	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Vernon Mather M.B.E.	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: <a href="mailto:mtitterton@btinternet.com">mtitterton@btinternet.com</a>	

### DATES TO NOTE

- 20 August St. Anne's, Beeley - Wedding 2pm  
*Nathan Spencer & Natalie Read*
- 28 August OXFAM Supporters Group - Secret Gardens of Bakewell  
2-6pm. At least 14 gardens in the Butts Road & Yeld Road area  
will be open to the public. A charge of £4 gives access to all  
gardens.
- 11 Sept. St. Peter's, Edensor - 400th Anniversary of The King James Bible  
Cream Teas from 3pm followed by a talk 'Unlocking the Bible'  
and a special Act of Worship with readings and anthems.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 9 August BEELEY WI -Monthly Meeting  
**6pm** -Chatsworth Garden - a walk and talk with Head  
Gardener Steve Porter
- 13/27 Aug SKIP: Baslow Council Houses 7.45-8.15  
Nether End Car Park 8.20-10.45
- 20 August SKIP: Edensor, The Green 7.45-9.30  
Garage Yard, Pilsley 9.45-10.45
- 20 August Chatsworth Horticultural & Produce Show - Cavendish Hall  
doors open at 2pm

### **St. Peter's Church 100 Club - June Draw 2011**

1st Prize £30 no. 16 - David Jackson  
2nd Prize £20 no 9 - Nadine Harrington  
Funds to church this month - £50

*Smile....* Music festival as parent  
drops off teenagers...

*Daughter:* Did you ever hear  
anything so amazing as that  
band?

*Father:* Well, I once heard a  
collision between a milk float  
and a little van filled with ducks.

### MIDWEEK MONTHLY COMMUNION SERVICE



It has been suggested that we have a mid-week  
Communion Service .The proposal is to have this  
Service on the first Wednesday or Thursday of the  
month at 10 a.m. If you are able and would like to  
come to this Service, please let me know.

David Garnett  
01246- 582130

Article by Nancie Park

## PET SERVICE



Never for many years have I experienced such pure enjoyment as at the pet Service held in St Peter's Church, Edensor on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011. Most pets were dogs, no cats, (probably wise) but I met two tortoises and the owners of a Shetland pony brought him inside the Church – a very sporting gesture, and he was a credit to them.

Sitting behind me were two 12 week old black Labrador puppies on their first outing since being inoculated. I suggested it could be counted as a sort of Christening.

There was surprisingly little noise, maybe the dogs were muffled by their owners, or went to sleep. The service progressed in a charming, relaxed way. Mrs Hazel Henson, the Head Teacher of Pilsley School was present, together with two of her pupils who did a a reading together very well indeed.

Interspersed with singing and prayers, Mr Phil Moncur, the Diocesan Director of Education, gave a short address, and then entered the pulpit accompanied by a large black puppet, with a bright yellow beak, representing a crow. Some piped music was played and the puppet jumped up and down to the music. Most pets took no notice at all and after all, it was for the children. However, not so Pip, the sheepdog. He had been alert all through the service, and he watched the puppet's every move. Then, when a second puppet appeared, his trembling doubled and had he not been firmly held those puppets would have been investigated.

Just before the end of the service, pets and owners went to the altar where they were blessed. The pony stayed at the back and the Vicar blessed it separately.

It was all such a very happy occasion.



Why do we all love pets so much? –  
Perhaps because they give us so much and  
they never change.

Well done pets – and owners!

*Photograph courtesy of Peggy Guinness  
The Dowager Duchess of Devonshire with David  
Garnett, shetland pony & owners.*

## Edensor Hidden Gardens & Fete

The Hidden Gardens and Village Fete held on Saturday 2nd July was a huge success so a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this possible. Special thanks to those who opened their gardens to the public, the hardy souls who served cream teas in church (and washed up!), sold refreshing beverages in the Courtyard and the ones who manned the stalls. Much hard work went into the planning of this event so congratulations all round - it really was worth the effort!

In case you haven't heard we raised just over £8,000 on the day and after expenses have been deducted the proceeds will be given to St. Peter's for Churchyard Maintenance and Pilsley CofE School towards their extension.

## PILSLEY VILLAGE FAIR & WELL DRESSINGS

Following hard on the heels of Edensor's Hidden Gardens & Fete came Pilsley's Well Dressing & Village Fair.

This year's picture was a representation of the stained glass War Memorial window in St. Anne's Church, Beeley. It is a truly beautiful window and I would recommend anyone who hasn't seen it to go and have a close look at it.

The Village Fair on July 9th was very well supported by locals and visitors with the high spot of the afternoon's entertainment being Simon Airey with his 'corner exotics'.

On sale at this year's Village Fair for £5 was the 'Pilsley Village Fair Calendar 2012'. This has photographs of the village through the seasons taken by residents and is well worth the price - it would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the welldressing and the fair - another successful event. A total of about £2,400 was raised from events during the week.

# CHATSWORTH HORTICULTURAL & PRODUCE SHOW

48<sup>th</sup> Annual Show  
at the Cavendish Hall, Edensor  
Saturday, 20 August 2011  
Doors open at 2.00pm

TROPHIES TO BE PRESENTED  
BY  
VERNON MATHER M.B.E.  
AT 3PM FOLLOWED  
IMMEDIATELY BY AN AUCTION  
OF PRODUCE



Show schedules available from Sandra Elliott 01629 732114  
[mrselliott2114@gmail.com](mailto:mrselliott2114@gmail.com)

## Do you live in a warehouse?

Is your home full of clutter? How much of it is actually yours? It could well belong to your children - even though they no longer live with you. It seems the younger generation, living in small city flats, is using the family home as their storage dump for unused but still wanted goods. The phenomenon has become known as the 'warehouse of mum and dad'.

Some warehouse! – a survey has found that parents are now looking

after some £2.4 billion of their grown-up children's gear. One in 12 parents has asked their children to remove their old possessions, with no success. One in five says that their children were well into their twenties and early thirties before they removed their last possessions from the family home. The keepsakes range from old clothing to photographs, from holiday souvenirs to , old school books and music gear. Only one in eight parents say they enjoy the nostalgia of climbing over all this stuff.

*Earlier this year I was given draft copies of 'The Bridge' Parish Magazine covering the years 1980 - 1984. It was fascinating reading and the cover price for the earlier ones was 8p! I thought it would be interesting to use some of the articles from them from time to time and this poem, written by Rev. R A Beddoes is taken from August 1981. In the burials section of the same magazine is the following:*

"ARTHUR HULLEY was buried at Baslow on July 9th. The verses printed in this issue of the magazine are an attempt to express what so many people in this area thought of such a splendid character".

Arthur Hulley - July 6th 1981

The sheep still graze the Park, the trees still stand serene,  
the Derwent cuts its silver course through Edensor's folding green,  
Stand Wood, patrolled by pheasants, and still the sky-lark's eye  
takes aerial photography of Beeley's moor and sky.

This life of villages and hills he owned in special part,  
without possession - yet possessed it in his heart.  
The surest treasure, a portion never brief -  
certain as season, sure as summer's leaf.

His work became a social round, self-charged  
to help and cheer, a tour of friendship that enlarged  
an honest duty into service. A good man,  
a postman, more a mobile neighbour in his van.  
Learnt at the Norman landings - Aromanches was the beach,  
a deep and living tolerance of our restless reach,  
and comrades dearly lost and faces there  
reproved the foul, gave countenance to the fair.

Fortune may warm us or as easily strike chill,  
if good can keep on growing and things are not so ill,  
it is that good and honest men protect us from the cold  
and by their spirit turn the commonplace to gold.

R.A.B.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, EDENSOR



SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

*celebrating the*

400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF

THE KING JAMES BIBLE

THE AUTHORISED VERSION

**3pm**

Cream teas served in Church

**4pm**

'Unlocking the Bible' -  
the background to the Authorised Version

**4.30pm**

An Act of Worship  
with readings & anthems

We do hope that you will join us for this very special occasion





**Traidcraft**

Sales this month have continued at a high level at £953 including £250 at Shirley's Open Garden weekend, £88 at Rowsley Flower Festival, £44 at the Methodist Church Coffee Morning and £46 at the Choral Society Jazz Concert.

Fairtrade in the UK is worth £1 billion a year – the largest Fairtrade market in the world. This has all happened in the 30 years since Traidcraft, together with Oxfam and Christian Aid, started the Fairtrade movement. Supermarkets have a major role in this but they can only work with Fairtrade certified food producers who can supply them with the large volumes they need.

They can't help commodity producers who aren't at that level, but would like to be, nor can they

help the millions struggling to support themselves and their families making crafts, textiles, jewellery, ceramics and paper and card products for which no internationally agreed Fairtrade standard yet exists.

Traidcraft can and does help people such as these. A large part of our effort is directed towards helping some of the poorest and most marginalised producers gain their share of the growing global fair trade market. Sales from Traidcraft outlets play a vital role in making that work possible.

Next month I will say a little more about the relationship between Traidcraft and the Fairtrade movement.

Peter Bird (01629 813087)

### **Soul Food for Mums -**

*an ideal devotional for every baby's 1st year*

*By Lucinda van der Hart/Anna France-Williams, IVP, 9.99*

You are too exhausted to think, never mind pray, your home is a mess and you can't find your Bible ... 'Soul Food' will nourish you through your baby's first year, offering inspirational and practical ideas for applying God's word and incorporating prayer into your daily life. It won't make you feel guilty about the time or energy you simply don't have.

With honesty and humour, the authors draw upon their own, and others', experiences of motherhood. The result is both delightful and unusual. These succinct, accessible, weekly biblical reflections will be a lifeline for many a mother with a new baby.

## SECRET GARDENS OF BAKEWELL

The Oxfam Supporters' Group

*invite you to come and see some of*

BAKEWELL'S SECRET GARDENS

Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 6pm

At least 14 of the gardens in the area around Butts Road and Yeld Road will be open, gardens of all shapes and sizes with a great variety of plants, and many fascinating views of Bakewell and its surroundings.

Please note that there will be some steps and steep slopes.

Refreshments will be available in All Saint's Church.

There will be a plant stall and other stalls besides.

One charge of £4 gives access to all gardens.

There will be a free Shuttle Bus service to and from Bakewell Information Centre.

All proceeds will support the work of Oxfam.

For more information please ring 01629 814474 or 01629 733296



### **No money**

Lord, I have just balanced my cheque book. And now I must turn to you to find calm and peace. And dignity as well. This dignity which has been eroded for twenty years because of the awful worry about 'making ends meet'. This peace which I'm deprived of, for fear of not getting through another month. This calm which I lose when my small income

disappears and I never have a penny left. What I fear, Lord, is not really poverty.... what I'm afraid of is degradation. Afraid of no longer thinking of anything but money, just because I don't have any...

*By Paul Geres* (a nom de plume of a French priest who was in charge of a parish in an industrial city. This poem comes from his collection 'Prayers for Impossible Days')

## 6 August - The Transfiguration - or the day Jesus met Elijah & Moses...

*The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).*

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking him out. But on this day, he made time to take Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before his friends. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's

dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus. Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

## The Way I See It

### As the Duke of Edinburgh turns 90....

*by David Winter*

This summer the Duke of Edinburgh reached his ninetieth birthday. Those of us who can remember the tall, fair-headed naval officer who married Princess Elizabeth in 1947 have become used to his figure walking just behind the Queen on royal occasions over the last 64 years, often raising a laugh as he follows her along a line of well-wishers with a few well-chosen (or occasionally not quite so well chosen) remarks. His has been a remarkable life and his continuing energy and individuality as the Prince Consort have been remarkable. It's hard to believe that he is ninety.

Yet the truth is, we are becoming increasingly aware that more and more people around us are reaching that once rare milestone. I remember being taken as a child to see a great-aunt who had just had her ninetieth birthday. We were ushered into the room to be confronted with a frail figure, mouth open, pale eyes almost invisible - a kind of living wax-work. Today among our friends, neighbours and fellow church members there will probably be many ninety year olds - and even centurions- who are far from being wax-works. People may not yet match Methuselah in the

Bible, who (it is claimed) reached 969 years, but we are on average living longer, and that prolonged life more often retains a degree of good health and activity.

Yet we live in a world which worships youth! The reason the Bible lists all those legendary men of old in Genesis (chapter 5) is that old age was seen as the mark of wisdom, something to be valued and revered. The leaders of Israel, and the leaders of the early churches, were called 'elders', because it was inconceivable that younger men could do it. None of that 'too old at fifty' in those days!

It's an observable fact that congregations in our churches are, on the whole, well above the national average age. That probably doesn't matter too much, so long as they are constantly fed with the rising age-groups. As one shrewd observer commented to me, 'It's quite natural to mug up for finals!' St Paul told Timothy not to let the people among whom he ministered 'despise his youth' (he was well over thirty at the time). We now need the balancing advice. Let no one despise the elderly! We're not just hanging around. Like Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we'll faithfully do our bit until we topple off the perch.

## What's the Big Idea?

### - an Introduction to the Old Testament book of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings, mostly short and pithy, expressing truths about a wide range of human activity. They are described as *'mishle'*, which in Hebrew can be also translated as oracles or parables.

The opening verses of the book help us to understand its purpose. *'The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel.'* (1:1): Solomon was a man of outstanding wisdom, who uttered 3000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:32); many of these are recorded here, along with proverbs uttered by other wise men. Its purpose is *'for attaining wisdom and discipline...'* (1:2). Solomon is concerned that people, especially the young, would understand *'the sayings and riddles of the wise.'* (1:3-6). His guiding principle is *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.'* (1:7).

To give a taste of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few sample verses:

**Knowing God:** *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding'* (9:10). **Guarding Our Speech:** *'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver'* (25:11).

**Marital faithfulness:** *'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth'* (5:15-20). **Our Work:** *'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'* (Prov 6:6-11). **Dangers of Strong Drink:** *'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise'* (20:1). **Justice and Honesty:** *'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight'* (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, *'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths'* (5:21); providence, *'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails'* (19:21) and goodness, *'The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous'* (15:29).

Many people think that what's written in the Bible has mostly to do with getting right with God and securing a place in heaven! However, Proverbs reminds us that it is equally concerned with living well now. Jesus' prayer is *'on earth as it is in heaven'*. Wisdom is the biblical term for this *'on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven everyday living. Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'*.

(Eugene Peterson)

## GOD IN THE ARTS

*The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with*

### 'THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN'

*Now in the National Gallery in London.*

#### **Jesus – our model for prayer**

A favourite poem by John Betjeman is 'In Westminster Abbey.' It tells of an elegant lady who flits into the Abbey for some reassuring words with God in prayer. It begins

*Let me take this other glove off  
As the vox humana swells,  
And the beauteous fields of Eden  
Bask beneath the Abbey bells.  
Here, where England's statesmen  
lie,  
Listen to a lady's cry.*

She doesn't stay too long because a luncheon date is pressing. The petitions trip lightly off her tongue, and they are resoundingly self-centred. Prayer for this lady is a few moments graciously set aside in the course of a busy social round.

It is a distant world from the picture of Jesus at prayer in this month's painting. It is 'The Agony in the Garden' painted around 1460 by Giovanni Bellini which now hangs in the National Gallery in London. Here Jesus has not set

aside a few moments, but a whole night. Here the focus is not on self, but on God and his will. And so this month the face of Jesus is not turned towards us. He has his back to us, his face and prayer concentrated on the angel of consolation who holds the chalice of suffering that points God's way ahead for him.

We can see in the distance the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus, led by Judas. But our Lord remains focussed on the sky, vulnerable with his bare feet on the outcrop of rock. Bellini has not painted a night scene of darkness and foreboding: he has painted the dawn of a new day. It is the first Good Friday, and light is beginning to flood the scene with warmth and illumination. Just as the prayer of Jesus finds light and hope in doing the will of his Father.

When we look at the Gospels, we see how the earthly life of Jesus was underpinned and informed by prayer. From prayer at his baptism, through the prayer that preceded the calling of the twelve, through the prayer of the Mount of Transfiguration, through Gethsemane to the prayer offered by Jesus on the cross. At all stages in his life, Jesus was concerned to unite his will with the Father's in prayer.

*Continued on page 15*

In Bellini's painting the disciples miss the dawn because they are asleep, and the soldiers are turned from the angel in the sky. It is only Jesus who looks to the dawn of God's creation and finds there hope, strength and purpose. And in that he is a model for our own prayer.

In the 1980s there was a television series on the religious impulse in humanity called 'The Long Search' with Ronald Eyre. In one episode he visited a monk in a Romanian monastery and asked him, 'What use is the prayer of a monk?' 'What use is the sea?' was the monk's reply. 'Without it there would be no evaporation, no cloud, no rain, no life on the land.'

Jesus in Bellini's painting answers the question, What use is our prayer? Without it, we would not know the light and love of a relationship with God our Father. And so Jesus invites us to offer our time and life in God's service. Don't worry about good and pious feelings that don't seem to come as we set aside time and energy in prayer, he seems to say. Don't worry about the success of our prayer. For pondering this month's painting, we can learn that above all our concern in prayer is to unite our will with the will of God, and together with him to live in this world.

## **The secret of a long life**

People with lots of friends and some loving family members live longer than those who are solitary. In fact, being a hermit can be as unhealthy for you as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, being an alcoholic or doing no exercise. Even being obese is only half as likely to kill you as solitude, over any given period. A study of human interaction and health over seven years at Brigham Young University in London found that "When someone is connected to a group, and feels responsibility for other people, that sense of purpose and meaning translates into taking better care of themselves."

Meanwhile, another study has found that friendly physical contact, such as squeezing someone's hand, can have enormous health benefits on the elderly. Yet a poll of 3,000 people for Abbeyfield, a charity for older people, found that more than one in four said they had never held the hand of even a grandparent.

## 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':

### **The Protecting Veil**

Pablo Casals, one of the great cellists of all time, wrote in 1957 about his relationship with that instrument. He described the cello as 'a beautiful woman who has not grown older, but younger with time, more slender, more supple, more graceful.' It is certainly an instrument that can express the whole gamut of human emotions – from joy to longing, from beauty to darkness, from dance to lament. That is the grace and suppleness of the cello, which we can find just as much in Bach's suites as we can in the concertos of Dvorak and Elgar.

But in 1989 a work was first performed at the Proms in which the cello was not just the beautiful woman of Pablo Casals' experience: it was the Mother of God. The work was 'The Protecting Veil' by John Tavener. He had shot to fame with a cantata called 'The Whale' in 1968, and his early music was even recorded on the Beatles' Apple label. Then in 1977 he joined the Russian Orthodox Church, and from then on all his compositions have been infused and inspired by the theology and spirituality of that church.

The feast of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God celebrates her appearance at Constantinople in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The Greeks were under threat from pagan invaders, and during an all-night vigil, two Christians saw Mary, the Mother of God, towering above them in the dark sky and spreading her veil as a shelter for the church. In 'The Protecting Veil' John Tavener seems to express that universal grace of Mary, who is represented by the cello. It virtually never stops playing throughout the 45 minutes of the work, weaving a song without words that seems to stretch into infinity.

The music opens with the cello playing a very high melody that yearns ever outwards and upwards. It is a moment of great beauty and grace. From that almost hypnotic beginning, the work explores crucial moments in the life of Mary: her birth, the annunciation, at the foot of the cross, the resurrection, and her final days on earth. But that is not the end: that opening melody reappears – the cello singing out the love and care of a mother for the church and the world.

The BBC broadcast on the radio the first performance of this work. At the end there was a hushed silence, then tumultuous applause broke out in the Albert Hall. The commentator said that for many



listening to this remarkable work, it will have been not just a musical experience, but a religious experience. It is the mystery and wonder of how things of this world, like the cello, like

composers and musicians, can raise our hearts and minds to things heavenly.



## Reflecting on the Bible (or 'Meditating on scripture')

Many children enjoy boiled sweets – especially trying to see how long they can make them last. The pleasure of holding the flavoured sweet in your mouth is far better than crunching it up in a few seconds!

There is a way of doing much the same with a Bible passage, and it is called *Lectio Divina* or 'holy reading'.

Centuries ago, before Bibles were widely available, the abbot of a monastery would gather his monks together and read to them the Bible passage that was set for the day. He would read it three times and the brothers were encouraged to listen attentively and choose a phrase to remember. They would then go about their daily work in the garden, in the kitchen, in the infirmary or wherever. Through the day they would meditate on the phrase they had chosen and, rather like sucking a boiled sweet, would draw out the meaning for themselves.

You might like to try something similar: choose a passage from the Bible and begin to read it very slowly as if it were addressed to you. A few verses from Psalm 103 would be a good place to start.

Stop when a phrase captures your attention. Maybe it touches you in some way, attracts or even disturbs you. Repeat the phrase slowly over and over again, taking its meaning into yourself. Let it sink in slowly. What does it have to say to you? Why do you think it caught your attention? Where is the connection for you? What memories does it evoke? Is there a word, a phrase, a sentiment or an image that you can hold on to?

Move into prayer, expressing to God the thoughts and feelings that have spontaneously arisen in you. Let your mind be at rest and your heart open to the love and peace of God. When you are ready, carry on with reading the next bit of the passage or just leave it there for the day.

Follow the example of the monks and return to your phrase or phrases during the day. Ann Persson has written a book for BRF entitled *Time for Reflection: meditations to use through the year*, which may be helpful. The meditations are based on the Christian calendar, the seasons of the year in nature and also the theme of time. They will offer you further ways of exploring the greatest book ever written.

*Ann Persson's 'Time for Reflection: Meditations to use through the year', BRF £8.99*

*Nigel Beeton confesses: 'I'm probably ruining the chances of a decent summer with this next poem. I wrote this last August; the next day I was utterly drenched in a shower that seemed to go on for ever! I really must stop writing poems about weather!'*

### **Summer Wind**

O Southern wind of Summer,  
From golden beaches blown,  
How welcome when the comer,  
Brings joys such as your own!

It seems to us a pleasure,  
To feel your warming breeze,  
And see your gentle pressure,  
Upon the swaying trees.

The showers that you carry  
Though few and far between,  
They do not often tarry,  
Yet keep the meadows green.

The warm breaths that caress us,  
And gently stroke our face,  
The summer breezes bless us,  
A pleasant, soft embrace!

Too soon - the winds are backing,  
Too soon - the winter's rime,  
We'll realise what we're lacking -  
Enjoy the summer time!

*By Nigel Beeton*



## **Get children off the internet and into the library**

Children are failing to learn properly because instead of reading and thinking and learning, they simply go online and copy facts straight off the internet. That is the view of the new Children's Laureate, Julia Donaldson, the best-selling author of *The Gruffalo*. She has been speaking out against the Government's plan to close libraries.



"I care very much about libraries and I'm looking for more opportunities to speak out against the cuts and closures I see as so damaging to our children's future. Julia Donaldson was the most borrowed children's author in libraries last year. She hopes to undertake a tour of libraries from 'from Lands End to John O' Groats' to raise awareness of the closures.

SERVICES & ROTAS FOR AUGUST 2011

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

FLOWERS

<b>7</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion		Miss Abell
<b>14</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	Mrs M Fearn
<b>21</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion		“ “
<b>28</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion		Mrs Homer
4 Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion		“ “

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

SIDESMEN

<b>7</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Gordon
<b>14</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Jackson
<b>21</b>	10.30am	Matins		Mr & Mrs Machin
<b>28</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Wardle
4 Sept	10.30am	Holy Communion		R S Sherwood/Diana Walters

COFFEE

CLEANING

FLOWERS

<b>7</b>	Mrs Cooper/Mrs Clarke	-----	Susanne Garnett
<b>14</b>	Mr & Mrs Bosett	Mrs Bateman/Mrs Robinson	Julie Carter
<b>21</b>	Mr & Mrs Sherwood	-----	“ “
<b>28</b>	M Douglas/D Maskery	Mr & Mrs Nelson	Susanne Garnett
4 Sept	Clive & Joy Thrower	-----	“ “

READINGS

ST. PETER'S

ST. ANNE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL

<b>7</b>	1 John 3: 1-3 Mark 9: 2-7 <i>Sunday School</i>	Duke of Devonshire	Lynda Hinxman-Allegri Sarah Porter <i>Fiona Swain</i>
<b>14</b>	Jeremiah 23:16-24 Matthew 7: 15-21 <i>Sunday School</i>	Molly Marshall	Judith Fraser Martin Lynda Hinxman-Allegri <i>Sarah Porter</i>
<b>21</b>	1 Corinthians 11: 1-13 Luke 16: 1-9 <i>Sunday School</i>	Susanne Garnett	Di Homer Fiona Swain <i>Lynda Hinxman Allegri</i>
<b>28</b>	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 Luke 19: 41-47a <i>Sunday School</i>	David Jackson	Sarah Porter Judith Fraser-Martin <i>Fiona Swain</i>
4 Sept	1 Kings 3: 5-15 Luke 18: 9-14 <i>Sunday School</i>	John Bowns	Fiona Swain Di Homer <i>Sarah Porter</i>

Items for the September Magazine should reach me no later than Monday

**15 August** Mail to: [liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk](mailto:liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk)

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