



We so enjoyed the fireworks display,  
can we do it again at New Year?

## WHEN LESS IS MORE

*“Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it.” (Prov.15:16-17.)*

So, in just a couple of weeks or so it will be Advent, and the lead up to Christmas will begin (if it hasn't already!). Will it be, I wonder, a return to the pre-pandemic days with the retail juggernaut gathering momentum from here on in or will there be perhaps a more reflective approach to this year's festivities. Around about now of course we are going to be bombarded with the usual seasonal adverts from the likes of M&S and John Lewis. And as I write this in October there is already excited speculation about who will be singing on the John Lewis ad! Some speculation too as to whether the *“fatted ox”* (in the form of the Christmas Turkey and pigs in blankets), might actually be in short supply.

But did you know that when it comes to the art of advertising, even it's early practitioners were well aware that its purpose was to make people dissatisfied and unhappy and to then to resolve that unhappiness through retail therapy! This is how one advertising expert puts it; *“Modern consumers are perpetually dissatisfied. Fulfilment and lasting satisfaction are forever just out of reach. Insatiability itself is as old as humanity, or at least the fall of humanity. What is unique to modern consumerism is the idealization and constant encouragement of insatiability – the deification of dissatisfaction.”* Not that consumption is always bad or sinful-after all we have to consume to live, but for many of the richer nations that seems to tip over into living to consume. You could be forgiven for thinking that the human race has become just that-a race where the winner is the one who dies owning the most stuff!

But I would like to think perhaps that this year, in the light of all that has happened since March 2020, the emphasis might just change. The vulnerable child whose birth we celebrate next month will grow up to challenge all our perceptions with his Sermon on the Mount, teaching the value of spiritual wealth, making it clear through many of his parables how the material seduces us away from the spiritual and distances us from community. He understood only too well the lure of instant gratification and its potential for spiritual bankruptcy when he says in Matthews Gospel “You cannot serve both God and money”. The world and its riches were created for God's delight, not for our personal use-Creation is His, and we need to understand that consumerism is not a force of nature. It is not part of creation. It's a human concept developed over centuries and perfected in the model of 21<sup>st</sup> century living, where we actually seem to have created an

economic system that relies on it! One of the real dangers in our situation today is that in seeking to reignite our economy we are actively encouraged to abandon sensible practices such as saving money and living within our means. In the words of G.K Chesterton *“There are two ways to get enough. One is to accumulate more and more. The other is to need less.”*

Responsible behaviour, the desire to share the planets resources equally with all and the idea of helping those less fortunate than us, all fade from view when society focuses on living to consume in an age where worth is judged by material wealth. Wealth that by and large ignores the consequences of our desires. When people consume, how much do they know or care about the origin of what they buy, the conditions of life for those producing it, or the effects on the environment? How do the insatiable desires of consumer driven economies relate to the lives lost in unsafe factories or bad working practices in poorer countries? Made as we are in God’s image, doesn’t consumerism tempt us to settle for desires and aspirations that are far below those for which we were created? And doesn’t it completely ignore the fact that this freedom of choice, so valued by the cult of consumerism and the individual, is not an option for the poor or those on limited incomes? In the Palestine of the New Testament money and possessions were as much a factor in social identity and positioning as now, and when Jesus says in Luke’s Gospel *“sell your possessions and give alms”*; and *“make purses for yourselves that do not wear out”*, this is not empty rhetoric. This is a direct challenge to our post-modern, consumerist society to set aside status and position and share the worldly wealth we have with those in need. The great novelist Rudyard Kipling, once gave an address at McGill University in Montreal. He warned students about making money, position or glory their life’s ambition. *“Someday,”* he said, *“you will meet a man who cares for none of these things. Then you will know how poor you are.”*

So as we approach the reflective season of Advent, perhaps we might rediscover just how much we need to cherish the lessons we have learnt over many, many generations; to regain our historical perspective and to discover anew just who this child is whose birth we will celebrate next month. To grasp what he has to teach us about our relationship to God, each other and Creation.

Because once upon a time shepherds and wise men knelt by a manger and looked into the face of the greatest love the world has ever known; and in that love lies the greatest hope that one day our world will live happily ever after.

Every blessing.  
Richard

**ST. BARNABAS SUNDAY MORNING ROTAS  
NOVEMBER 2021**

**Welcomers**

NOVEMBER 7 Rise and Shine  
NOVEMBER 14 Brian Draper  
NOVEMBER 21 Kyle  
NOVEMBER 28 Karen Mayo

**Readings**

N/A  
Kyle  
Terri Lavis  
Brian Draper

**Intercessions**

NOVEMBER 7 N/A  
NOVEMBER 14 Fiona Rogers  
NOVEMBER 21 John Sibley  
NOVEMBER 28 Tim Mayo

**Coffee**

N/A  
Jane Brown  
Carol James  
Jo Davies

**Cleaning**

NOVEMBER 7 Sheila Price  
NOVEMBER 14 Sheila Price  
NOVEMBER 21 Ann Lovell  
NOVEMBER 28 Sheila Price

**ROTA FOR FLOWERS FOR THE MEMORIAL ALTAR**

NOVEMBER 6 The Mayo Family  
NOVEMBER 13 Maureen Parsons  
NOVEMBER 20 Kath Filer

## WARMLEY WARBLINGS

There are several people in our church family who still need our prayers at this point in time, those who are unwell include John Eames and Martin Pullin. I am sure there are others too who I may not be aware of, please, remember all those you know of who need our prayer and remember also, those who care for them.

There are also those who are in care homes at this time, in particular, Rex Allen, Eileen Penny and Shaun Weeks, again, if there are others that you are aware of, please pray for them also and for their families and friends and for the staff who care for them.

We were very sad to hear that Lydia Hughes has passed away. We send all our love to her family including her sisters in New Zealand and her many friends. Prior to the first lockdown Lydia was a regular member of our church family and will be sadly missed by many. Her funeral will be held on Monday 1st November at 1.45pm at Westerleigh Crematorium.

We continue to think of and pray for Muriel Allen after the shock of her burglary recently. She has been staying in Collingwood and we also send our love to Wendy and the family who have to deal with this traumatic episode.

We send our thanks to all those responsible for organizing and providing the harvest supper held recently in our church hall, especially Sheila Price, Fiona Rogers and Carol and Roy James.

Brian Draper

## THE MAGAZINE – THE END OF AN ERA

I am proud to say that I have been involved with our magazine for about 48 years, most of them as the editor. It is a task that I have enjoyed very much and one that has given me a lot of pleasure and I hope provided news and entertainment for our readers.

I have decided however, that now is the time to relinquish this responsibility and I will edit and publish my last edition of the magazine in December of this year.

I have been very fortunate in having the help and support of a great many people over the years. The various people who helped with the printing in the early years of my involvement before we had our photocopier. All those who have contributed articles either as a one-off or in many cases, on a regular basis. To the various people who have collated and assembled the magazine over the years. The team of people who, prior to the first lockdown, delivered the magazine to our many subscribers and collected the money. To the companies and businesses who advertised in our magazine, to Helen and Hazel who have regularly ensured it gets onto our church website. To my wife Pam who since I started editing the magazine has read through each edition and checked it and pointed out all of my mistakes!

I hope that whatever format the magazine takes in the future or indeed whatever replaces it will enjoy success and I wish it and everyone involved all the very best,

Brian Draper

St. Barnabas' Church  
AUTUMN FESTIVE FAIR

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November

12 midday – 2.00pm

St. Barnabas Church, Church Ave, BS30 5JJ

Live Music from Oldland Brass, Crafts &  
Gifts, Christmas Shop, Books, Games,  
Refreshments and Grand Draw



Please wear a face covering unless exempt

## NOVEMBER 1st: ALL SAINTS' DAY THE FEAST OF ALL THE REDEEMED

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

*He wants not friends that hath thy love,  
And made converse and walk with thee,  
And with thy saints here and above,  
With whom for ever I must be...  
As for my friends, they are not lost;  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempests tost,  
Shall safely in thy haven meet....*

*The heavenly hosts, world without end,  
Shall be my company above;  
And thou, my best and surest Friend,  
Who shall divide me from thy love?\**

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints – a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.



## **NOVEMBER 2nd: ALL SOULS DAY A TIME OF RECKONING WITH THE PAST**

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

## ADVENT 2021

### WATCHING AND WAITING

As we prepare for Christmas you are warmly invited to join one of our three Benefice House Groups for a 4 week Advent course entitled **WATCHING AND WAITING.**

If you have not previously sampled the informal chat of these sessions this would be an ideal opportunity to try them out!

The start dates and details are as follows –

**Wednesday Morning Group** 10.30 to Noon Wednesday 17  
November

At the Bailey's home Westover, Bath Road, Bitton

*Further details from David Bailey 0117 932 8949*

**Wednesday Evening Group** 7.30 to 9.00 Wednesday 17  
November

At the Gibson's home 8 Church Road, Bitton

*Further details from Ken Gibson 0117 932 2122*

**Thursday Evening Group** 7.30 to 9.00 Thursday 18 November

At the Midgley's home 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge

*Further details from Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898*

## NEW TERM TIME STUDENT AT ST. BARNABAS

*Below is a piece about our term time student who will be in the benefice for the rest of the academic year and working with us. She is studying at Sarum college in Salisbury.*

*Jeremy Andrew*



Hello, my name is Sharon Gleed. I am married to Edward, we have two grown up daughters and a very exuberant black labrador called Theo!

I have come to train at St Barnabas, St Anne and St Mary's as part of my final year's training for ordained ministry with Sarum Theological college, Salisbury. I am studying full time for a BA in Theology, Ministry and Ministry. The course is made up of a mixture of residential learning at the college in Salisbury, a placement in a training church and distance learning study.

Prior to starting my full time training, I was a teacher at a primary school in Mangotsfield, where I taught for eleven years. Before that, I taught for the school for the Deaf in Bristol.

I love animals and really enjoy spending time gardening and walking in the countryside. I also enjoy creative activities like painting, when I have the time!

I am very much looking forward to getting to know you and learning about ministry and growing together in faith.

Every blessing,  
Sharon

## WAR MEMORIALS

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)*

National and local *memorials* to the casualties were first proposed during the First World War. After the war ended, local committees were set up to plan how to commemorate the sacrifice of their young men's lives. The committees were not usually run by the local churches but often by landowners, employers, and representatives of comrades' groups. Memorials often started as shrines where locals could gather to leave messages or flowers.

Over the next few years, permanent memorials were set up in every village, town and city across the UK. They differ widely in style. Sometimes a stone cross was chosen, other times a plaque or an obelisk. They usually list the names of local men who died, but sometimes all the men from the community who had served.

Sometimes they list just names, while others are complete with details of the units they served in. They usually reflect an equality in death – that no-one was more important than another.

In many cases, memorials were not dedicated until well into the 1920s. It took time to decide on the design and raise money. In many cases there was difficulty in tracing the names of all the fallen. There was also the question of where to site the memorial. Most are on roadsides, or in the centre of a community. Some, but not many, are in churchyards. Many memorials were facilities for the community such as recreation grounds or village halls in addition to the lists of names.

Most memorials were paid for by public donations, local fetes and concerts. No-one gave a thought to who would pay for their upkeep in the future. Now, one hundred years later, many are in need of repair, cleaning or restoration. Sadly, some have been vandalised or have had the metal plaques stolen.

Many local authorities, including town and parish councils, have taken responsibility for the upkeep of memorials although there rarely is any legal duty to do this.

What you can do

Research the history of your local memorial. Your county record office may have information. When was it dedicated? If appropriate, mark the centenary. You can find out about casualties via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website.

Also, there may be people in the area who have memories or photographs of the men who served. Some of the older locals may remember what it was like to grow up in the area during the war or what their parents remember.

Is the area near the memorial looked after and free of litter? Start a local campaign to improve this or get some rubbish bags and do it yourself.

If the memorial needs attention, then this is a skilled job. The War Memorials Trust works to protect and conserve war memorials in the UK. The charity provides free advice to anyone as well as running grant schemes to support repair and conservation projects. You can find a range of resources at [www.warmemorials.org/](http://www.warmemorials.org/)

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## **ST. PETER'S HOSPICE MIDNIGHT WALK**

Jane Brown and Bethany have received a letter from St. Peter's Hospice after taking part in their Midnight Walk Appeal and raising £332 plus Gift Aid for those with life limiting illnesses and their families in Bristol.

Donations such as these are making such a difference to thousands of families facing their most challenging circumstances.

Jane and Bethany would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who supported their efforts in this way,

Jane Brown

## A LITTLE HUMOUR

### **Daily Mail**

At a recent church meeting, our Sunday School teacher requested that a notice be put into the weekly pew-sheet, asking for church members to bring in any old copies they had of the Daily Mail. She wanted the newspapers for a big Christmas project involving lots of paper mache, and thought that the ink on the Daily Mail would be less messy.

The secretary made a rough note, and the notice went in: 'Wanted by our Sunday School teacher: lots of daily males.'

### **Tee-shirt**

My kindergarten-aged daughter announced, just before school, that she needed to take a clean tee shirt to class. The teacher was going to iron an anti-drug message on it.

My wife frantically swept through my daughter's room, finding nothing usable but one tee shirt that already had something printed on one side. She sent it off to school with my daughter. That afternoon, my daughter returned and happily showed off her shirt.

On one side it said, 'Families are Forever.' And on the other, 'Be Smart, Don't Start.'

### **Know what to do**

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning, and you have a number of people, spread throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

### **The congregation**

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation were like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church.

The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

### **Ketchup**

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it.

“It’s the minister, Mum,” the child said to her mother. Then she told her caller: “Mummy can’t come to the phone right now. She’s hitting the bottle.”

### **Rooms**

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. “It’s great,” the little boy replied. “At last I have my own room, and Mike has his own room, and Jemma has her own room, and Robbie has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad.”

### **One out of Ten**

A Sunday School class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, “Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbour’s wife.”

### **Family tree**

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. “Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror,” observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, “What about you dear? Can you go back very far?” “Not very far,” came the reply. “You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood.”

### **First Communion**

My three-year-old niece, Kelly, went with a neighbour’s little girl to church for her First Communion practice. The minister had the children cup their hands, and then went solemnly down the line, giving each child a piece of bread, and intoning: “God be with you”. Apparently, this made quite an impression on my niece. She came home and told her mother to cup her hands and bend down. Kelly took a piece of bread from her sandwich, placed it in her mother’s hands, and whispered, in her most angelic voice, “God will get you.”

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

VICAR	The Rev. Jeremy Andrew	9672724
HON. CURATE	The Rev. Jillianne Norman	9561551
LAY MINISTERS	Leslie Wilcox	9236411
	John Sibley	9679478
CHURCHWARDEN	Sheila Price	9400717
TREASURER	Philip Heap	07974 008259
PCC SECRETARY	Fiona Rogers	07714 100092
VERGER	Brian Draper	9326276
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Brian Draper	9326276
HALL BOOKING	Terri Lavis	9327039
CHURCH FLOWERS	Fiona Rogers	07714 100092
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (CHILDREN)	To Be Appointed	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (VUNERABLE ADULTS)	Helen Willcox	9236411