



"But, Mum, if the vicar wasn't coming here Trick-Or-Treating, why did she still take the chocolates I gave her?"

WINTER IS COMING

Greetings everyone,

We have just returned from a wonderful week's holiday in Portscatho on The Roseland Peninsular in Cornwall. This year we were lucky enough to watch the harvest moon rise up from the sea like a huge orange tinged ball. It was indeed a beautiful sight as it rose over the little harbour of Portscatho. The Autumn equinox had arrived and now nights are going to be longer than days, as they often said in the TV series 'Game of Thrones', "Winter is coming". The Harvest moon was a reminder that now is the time when farmers and gardeners will all be busy gathering in the fruits of their labours, as the line from a well known hymn says;

"All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin"

So when all has been gathered in it is time to reflect on how the year has gone. I am sure there have been crop failures, just as there has been bad times in our lives. We have all had to struggle with the Covid pandemic which shows no sign of abating with tens of thousands of cases and more than a hundred deaths every day. There are those who have lost loved ones and who mourn their loss. Oh yes, Covid is still reaping it's grim harvest.

Here in St. Barnabas we too have felt loss. Our dear friend and churchwarden, Margaret Fletcher passed away. It would be remiss of me not to mention how grateful we all are, as a church and as a community, for all that Margaret did for us. Our love and prayers go out to Nicola and all Margaret's family. Margaret will always hold a special place in our hearts.

There has been progress though and not all is doom and gloom. Schools are now fully functioning which is huge relief especially for all

our young people. Travel is becoming more flexible and people are taking foreign holidays again. I was fortunate to be able to visit my sister in The Republic of Ireland. Life is slowly getting back to normal and hopefully our EU lorry drivers will forgive us and come back so that we can have plenty of goods and food on our shelves and petrol for our cars.

Harvest is an important time in all our lives, it is a time to thank God for all the good things we have in our lives, it is also a time to think of others not so fortunate as ourselves. So I would ask you please to pray for them and especially to pray for the women and girls of Afghanistan for whom the future is frightening beyond belief.

My prayer for you all is that God will keep you safe and well and that your Harvest is plentiful.

God Bless you all
John Sibley

**ST. BARNABAS MONTHLY ROTAS
OCTOBER 2021**

Welcomers

OCTOBER 3 Brian Draper
OCTOBER 10 Jane Brown
OCTOBER 17 Jo Davies
OCTOBER 24 Karen Mayo

Readings

Nicky Phelps
Terri Lavis
Jane Brown
Jeremy Andrew

Intercessions

OCTOBER 3 Tim Mayo
OCTOBER 10 Fiona Rodgers
OCTOBER 17 John Sibley
OCTOBER 24 Jeremy Andrew

Coffee

Sheila Price/Jo Davies
Jane Brown
Carol James
Jo Davies

Cleaning

OCTOBER 3 Sheila Price
OCTOBER 10 Sheila Price
OCTOBER 17 Ann Lovell
OCTOBER 24 Sheila Price

ROTA FOR FLOWERS FOR THE MEMORIAL ALTAR

23rd October Beryl Holder

WARMLEY WARBLINGS

There are several people in our church family who need our prayers at this point in time, those who are unwell include Lydia Hughes, Carol James and John Eames. I am sure there are others too whom I may not be aware of, please, remember all those you know of who need our prayers 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 Margaret Hill has passed away and we send our love and sympathy to her friends and family. Margaret's funeral is in St. Barnabas Church at 2.30pm on Wednesday 6th October.

Our thoughts and prayers also go to Muriel Allen who was the victim of a burglary recently. This was a very traumatic experience for Muriel and we hope that she recovers soon. We remember also Wendy Pullin and the rest of the family who were of course affected by this incident.

We look forward to our harvest celebrations in St. Barnabas which are mentioned elsewhere in this magazine and hope as many people as possible will join us as we give thanks for all goods that this season brings us.

Brian Draper

14th OCTOBER

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – LOVE FOR CREATION

St Francis (1181 – 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious – until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45 and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

BIBLE SUNDAY – 24th OCTOBER

This special Sunday in the church's calendar is an opportunity to stop and consider the enormous blessing that the Bible has brought to people down the centuries. Without it, we would know nothing about God our Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit. It is God-breathed – full of His love and guidance to us. World history would have been radically different without it.

Whether or not you are able to get to church on 24th October, Bible Society has some excellent resources on Bible Sunday at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-sunday/>

SAVE THE DATE!



We are delighted to be in the position to be planning social events once more. As we continue to finalise the details, we are mindful that for many people, these events may be the first in a very long time and ask that everyone is aware that we may run things in a slightly different format to previous occasions. This is to maximise safety and comfort for all. One thing that is unchanged is that a warm welcome awaits you. Please keep an eye out for further information regarding the following events and more...

Event	Date/Time
Christmas Fair	Saturday 13 th November
Crib Festival	Saturday 4 th & Sunday 5 th December
Christmas Wreath Making Workshop	TBC (December)
Teas and Homemade Cakes	TBC (January 2022)

All events are in the church unless stated otherwise

Fiona Rogers: 07714 100092; fiona.rogers1@googlemail.com

Harvest Celebrations



Saturday 2nd October

7.00pm Harvest Supper in the hall

Please contact Sheila Price if you'd like to attend.

Sunday 3rd October

10.30am Harvest Festival in Church

All welcome. Donations of non-perishable goods appreciated to support the work of The Sisters of the Church, Bristol

Bring a picnic lunch for after the service.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE

These days there seems to be a day for everything, including the United Nations' 'International day for Older Persons', which is observed on 1st October. So perhaps October is a good month to think about meeting the needs of older people in church.

Many churches employ children's workers or youth leaders – but how many have appointed people to minister specifically to the older people in their congregation and beyond?

In St Albans, north of London, two Methodist churches have joined together to recruit an 'Anna Chaplain' to help meet the needs of seniors in local church congregations and beyond.

The new role is part of a growing network of [Anna Chaplains](#), named after the widow, Anna, who appears in Luke's gospel as a good role model of a faithful older person.

The development comes as charities that work with older people have published research which how badly the pandemic has impacted those aged 60 and above, and raised questions about how well they will 'bounce back' after Covid-19.

Age UK has called on the Government to give the NHS and social care services extra resources to help older people make the best possible recovery. With coronavirus now hopefully in retreat in the UK, the charity has also appealed to the wider public to keep supporting the older people in their lives.

It said: "The impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of some older people in early 2021 is so demonstrably severe that it raises big questions over whether they will be able to 'bounce back'."

Against this background, Maggie Dodd, the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire, explained: "Our vision is that older people are cherished and supported within their church communities, and also beyond, in the wider community.

“Often you have people who used to attend church, and they’ve become a little more frail and not able to attend or they’ve moved to a care home or sheltered housing, and they just lose touch with what’s going on. They’re not able to take themselves to church anymore.”

The work of Anna Chaplains includes ministry in care homes and other settings where older people live or gather. At this time of year, some churches organise ‘holiday at home’ projects and activities for seniors in their area.

Anna Chaplains are a ministry of Christian charity, BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) who have a vision “to see an Anna Chaplain in every small and medium-sized community in the country, and for the Anna Chaplain name to become synonymous with spiritual care for older people.”

MUSICAL DELIGHTS

With the Magpie Music Group

Natalie, Jenny, Naomi and Owen

In St. Mary’s Church, Bitton
On 2nd October at 3pm

ENTRANCE FREE

*Donations to church funds
And The Children’s Hospice South West*

31st OCTOBER – ALL HALLOWS EVE

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

REFLECTED FAITH SERIES : SACRED THINGS

Last month we thought about the bread we share at the Communion table. But what about any bread that is left over – regardless of the type of bread or wafer used?

During the service the bread and the wine are ‘consecrated’. That is, they are set aside for a specific purpose, in this case to be the body and blood of Christ. Because to Christians this is so very special, indeed ‘sacred’, we treat the unused bread and wine with special care.

No-one leaves very precious things lying around in case of theft, damage, or misuse. And so it is the same with the consecrated elements of bread and wine. When they have not all been consumed by the congregation, it is important that the surplus is dealt with in ways that honour the meaning that we give and receive from them. In most denominations they are consumed immediately, in others they are returned to the earth or given back to nature.

Sometimes, at the end of a service, you will see that some bread and wine has been deliberately kept aside to take out to those who are sick, or for use at a service where no priest will be present, and this then must be stored. So, the question arises – what vessels will be used?

The ‘pyx’ – literally a box – is the name for the container for the consecrated bread. Its size depends on the amount that it needs to contain; for taking to individuals in their own homes it is usually small enough to fit in the palm of a hand.

Although these can be especially bought from church suppliers, made in a variety of metals with embellishments, precious stones, enamel work and so on, you can actually use any container that fits the purpose.

This month

Have a look around your house and ask yourself, ‘What container would I use for a pyx?’ And thinking of containers, how about yourself? Do you and your life need a bit of cleaning and polishing to hold the bread? Are you aware how precious you are in God’s eyes as you receive the bread? The Bible says that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit – an awesome, sacred calling.

A LITTLE HUMOUR

Real-life extracts from church bulletins

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

The Men's group will meet at 6pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, wine and dessert will be served for a nominal feel.

Jumble sale: The ladies of our church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Fitting God in

A little girl said to her mother: "The minister's sermon this morning confused me." Her mother was surprised, so the little girl continued: "He said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true, too?" Again, the mother agreed.

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

What you need

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

Too clean

My mother is a cleaning fanatic. One Saturday she told me and my brother to get down to the living room and straighten it up. We had held a party there the previous evening, and she was none too happy about the mess.

As she watched us work, it was clear that Mum was completely dissatisfied with our cleaning efforts and let us know it. Finally, my brother, exasperated with having to do it all over again, reached for a broom and asked Mum, "Can I use this, or were you planning to go somewhere?"

SOME MUSINGS!

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right – only who is left.

They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted the pay cheques.

Excerpts from real life requests sent by tenants

The toilet is blocked, and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared.

This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door.

The toilet seat is cracked: where do I stand?

I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.

I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

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