

Struggling for Unity

The best aspirations for unity are cruelly shattered at times. The last century saw two bitter conflicts which tore Europe apart and yet out of the ashes of that conflict came both the United Nations, with its own desire for unity across the world, and closer to home, the European Union which many, from our detached position in the eastern Atlantic, still view with much scepticism.

The desire for unity, so admirable, seems so difficult to maintain. Jesus sensed the difficulty which the disciples themselves would encounter as they prepared to establish the church after Jesus' return to the Father. He prayed to the Father that they might be one so that world might believe.

Of ourselves we can never resolve these human tensions and divisions. The Holy Spirit, called the go-between God, is the only person who can draw opposing voices into a divine union. It is so easy for like-minded Christians to feel safe and secure in the knowledge that God is in on their side

Our only hope for unity in our Church is for Christians with a diversity of opinion to come together to pray and to seek forgiveness and God's guidance for

the future.

What the Church has succeeded in doing in these last few weeks goes against all that Jesus tried to impress upon his disciples when he prayed for their unity. Only when Christians speak with one mind will people be drawn to the love of God. We must pray for that time when Christians, devout and faithful, of different persuasions and tradition can see themselves being

drawn together by Jesus. So that in St

Paul's words:

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the

household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Whatever our views on what has happened over the last few weeks we all need to open ourselves afresh to the love and grace of God. May his Spirit blow through us to cleanse us from any anger or bitterness; then fill us with love and peace; and draw us closer to the heart of God.



Chronicle

Healing Services

St James Church

Wednesday 20th August

7.30 pm

St Francis Church

Tuesday 5th August

7.00 pm



Anyone who would like prayers for themselves, or for others, or who would like to join us in praying for God's healing work is welcome.

Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

August no service

September 7th Evening Praise

October 5th Iona Worship

November 2nd Annual Memorial
Service (4.00 pm)

December 7th Waiting for the Saviour



Morning Prayer & Breakfast

St Francis Church

Saturday Mornings 9.15 am
all welcome



WELCOME BACK LIZZIE!!!!

St James Church

Sunday 24th August at 10 o'clock

Lizzie arrives back in England on August 19th.
On her first Sunday back, having supported her during her time in Kenya, we welcome her home.

ETHELWOLD - SAINT OF

WESSEX

St Ethelwold (c.912 - 84) did great things for the church at Winchester, in those days the

principle town of Wessex.

St Ethelwold began as a simple monk eager to restore the Rule of Benedictine in England, a major reform for the church of the time.

After serving at the abbey in Glastonbury, he was sent on to restore the old abbey at Abingdon. The king thought highly of him, and used him to teach his son, the

future king, Edgar.

When in 963 Ethelwold became Bishop of Winchester, he replaced the cathedral canons with monks, thus founding the first monastic cathedral in the land. This was a uniquely English institution, which

remained until the Reformation.

The monastic reform quickly gained momentum: with the King's support, Ethelwold restored old

monasteries such as Milton

(Dorset), New Minster and

Nunaminster in Winchester,

while new monasteries were

founded and richly endowed at

Peterborough (966), Ely (970) and

Thorney (972).

Ethelwold was austere, able and dynamic. Under his leadership, the

monks surpassed themselves in

music, illumination and writing.

When Ethelwold set the monks to

work with the masons in the

cathedral at Winchester, he built

the most powerful organ of its

time in England: it was played by

two monks, and had 400 pipes and

36 bellows. In music, Ethelwold's

Winchester had the distinction of

producing the first English

polyphony in the Winchester

Troper.

Ethelwold's monasteries also

produced a surpassing new style of

illumination, and his school of

vernacular writing was the most

important of its time: with

accurate, linguistically significant

translations. A major event of his

episcopate was the consecration of

Winchester Cathedral in 980.

Man's Best Friend

Why are dogs better than men?

Dogs don't criticise your friends
Dogs don't play games with you - expect fetch (and even then they never laugh at how you throw)
Dogs are happy with any video you choose to rent
Dogs don't feel threatened by your intelligence
You can train a dog
Dogs are already in touch with their inner puppies
Gorgeous dogs don't know they're gorgeous
Dogs understand what "no" means
Dogs understand it if some of their friends can't come inside the house
Dogs think you're a culinary genius
You can house train a dog
You can force a dog to take a bath
Dogs don't correct your stories
Dogs don't mind if you do all the driving
Dogs don't step on the imaginary brake
Dogs admit it when they're lost
Dogs aren't threatened if you earn more than they do
Dogs are nice to your relatives
Dogs don't have problems expressing affection in public

Why are men better than dogs?

Men have only two feet to get muddy
Men don't have to play with every man they see when you take them for a walk
Men don't eat sheep muck when they go out
Dogs have dog breath all the time
Men don't chase cats
Restaurants allow men

How dogs and men are the same:

Both take up too much space in bed
Both have irrational fears about vacuum cleaning
Both are threatened by their own kind
Neither tells you what's bothering them
Neither does the dishes
Neither of them notice when you have your hair cut
Both are suspicious of the postman
Neither understands what you see in cats



RIDE AND STRIDE – SEPTEMBER 13TH

This year the sponsored bike ride will take place on Saturday 13th September. We have taken part in these events for a number of years now and raised hundreds of pounds towards parish funds. If you possibly can, do take part either as a participant, a sponsor or a greeter at St Francis or St James' churches.



Sponsor forms are in church.

Phone me if you want further information - 453257.

Many thanks, Rosanne



BEARD-FRIENDLY AWARD

The Church of England has won the 'Beard Friendly Employer of 2003' award from the Beard Liberation Front (BLF), an informal network of beard-wearers. BLF said in a statement that the Archbishop of Canterbury's positive image "spoke volumes about the C of E's tolerance of the hirsute in its ranks."





Rosanne interviews Clivia Philbin

"The British have no domestic servants, so when you visit always help with the washing up. Never discuss religion or politics and always carry an umbrella."

Such was the advice given by The British Council in Port of Spain, Trinidad to a young nurse in the fifties, about to embark on the biggest adventure of her life.

Even as a little girl encouraged by her father to save in the 'penny-bank' for her fare, Clivia was determined to seek her fortune in Britain. The eldest of three, she describes herself as 'a bit bossy', especially with her two younger brothers. This trait developed when her train-driver father was tragically killed in a derailment and at 8 years of age she helped her mother to cope. The loss of her father did mean however that she and her brothers received free education in excellent schools on the island. Clivia speaks with affection and respect for Bishop Anstey who was the founder of her secondary school. He believed that "girls of colour were entitled to good education". Apart from shining in her favourite subjects – history, geography, religion, literature, French and Spanish, she was quite a gymnast, cricketer and

netball player. Amongst extra-curricular subjects she names drama, reading club, raising funds for the tuck shop and chapel and visiting orphans and the sick. She assured me that her mother would not allow shirked homework- busy girl! Mind you her Mum was quite a lady too. She died last year, aged 95, and right to the end was highly competent in needlecraft. When her husband died she learnt to sew, especially fine embroidery, producing exquisite work. Clivia remembers the way she sang her hymns at the top of her voice, read her Bible regularly and had a proverb for every occasion.

At 18 Clivia trained to be a nurse. She lived in a nurse's hostel and spent three years in general nursing and one year in midwifery. This became her passion and she went on to teach it to younger students. At 23 she was ready for the next big step – across the Atlantic by boat to Liverpool. She had applied to a number of hospitals in the UK and began at Charing Cross Hospital in London. She then moved to the Salvation Army Hospital in Clapham, mainly practising her midwifery. "That was lovely," she declares.

London at first was very bewildering for a young lady fresh from the warm sunshine of the Caribbean. It was foggy, the buildings seemed to close in around her and the lights were so bright, but she was not lonely. She made friends easily amongst the nursing sorority. Seeking to extend her knowledge of gynaecology she joined the staff of the West Middlesex Hospital. She began to "over-do" things, attending lectures on her days off, travelling long distances and working long hours. She suffered a breakdown and believed that she has been paying for it ever since. Her firm unshakeable faith in God has carried her through her worst times. She describes her health at that time like a see-saw and it was then that she went to work as an associate of St Mary the Virgin Convent in Wantage. For two years she stayed as matron/house mother of the boarding school. Then the nuns suggested that she might try nursing again. This move brought her to Oxford, The Slade Hospital to be exact and then when the "chest wards" moved to the Churchill so did she. Whilst living at the nurse's home she found St Francis Church. Fr Ian Randall helped

her to find a house in Fredrick Road and at last she had a home of her own. She often worshipped at St Luke's where friends kept a kindly eye out for her and then she began attending evening services at St James' as well. Through her friendship with Florence Thorne she joined the Mothers Union.

Eighteen or so years ago whilst working at The Slade, she met Patrick who was a hospital visitor on behalf of the Legion of Mary, a Roman Catholic organisation whose members also pray with a dying person, offer solace to the bereaved and so on. He and Clivia became firm friends and were married almost seventeen years ago. I well remember the delight of everyone at St James at their joyful news. Soon after her marriage Clivia retired and has never been busier. She is a keen member of OXPAG (ask her if you would like to know more). She belongs to the University of the Third Age at Ruskin College, she attends the West Indian Day Centre and is responsible for their six-monthly newsletter. She is also taking computer lessons and takes part in the Catholic Convent over 60s club enjoying music, speakers and prayer. But best of all she occasionally travels back to her beloved Trinidad where she meets up with her school's old girls association. This offers her a chance for endless chat and giggles, about those drama clubs, cricket and netball games and of course the teachers they had.

Was there one particular person who had a strong influence on your early life?

I suppose it would be my mother.

Can you remember an incident in your childhood which held special significance for you?

The one thing was when I was confirmed at seven. It was a shock for my parents because I had learnt my catechism and passed and they did not know. It was a wonderful day for me.

What sort of child were you?

Well disciplined (though I was very naughty). I enjoyed friends, the fellowship of school and the Y.W.C.A.

Has your faith been with you since childhood?

I was two years old when my brother was born and there was a lady next door who sang lots of hymns. I went to listen to her. I was her first congregation. But my father was a Roman Catholic and he promised I should be brought up in that faith.

Which period of your adult life has given you the most satisfaction?

My nursing

Are there any aspects of modern life you dislike?

The lack of understanding of differences between people. I suppose it is human nature but as Christians we must try to overcome this.

What is best about life today?

Free education for all in Trinidad. All the modern utilities. Good transport especially our 20p bus pass.

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

Reading – biographies, novels and religious literature. Gardening – mostly flowers. Visiting friends. Watching TV (I've got two favourite soaps) especially detective dramas.

What makes you laugh?

"Mrs Bucket" (Bouquet), "Some Mothers do 'ave 'em" and "The Good Life"

If you had a holy wand what would you change?

I want more tolerance and understanding among people. It helps you to appreciate them more.

If you were not doing what you do now what would the alternative be?

I'm quite content.

And what do you hope to be doing in ten years time?

Continue life long learning and further my spiritual development.



AIDAN - THE MAN WHO BROUGHT CHRISTIANITY TO ENGLAND



August 31st is the feast of St Aidan, who brought Christianity to England and is a strong contender for the title of the first English bishop. Not that honours meant a great deal to this austere but captivating character.

In 635 he came to Northumbria at the invitation of the local ruler, Oswald. Oswald had spent several years of his childhood on Iona, and when he succeeded to the throne of his northern

kingdom he was shrewd enough to realise that the Christian faith would be an ideal unifying force to pacify rival tribes of warlords.

Oswald's invitation was not immediately successful. The first missionary from Iona returned in despair, claiming that the barbarity of the Northumbrians made them unconvertible. But as Aidan listened, he felt the unmistakable call of God to try again. "Perhaps you were too harsh on them," he found himself suggesting to the travel-stained missionary. Shortly afterwards, Aidan found himself at the head of a party of brothers heading for Northumbria. He was never to see his beloved Iona again.

The monks made the long journey to Northumbria on foot, singing psalms as they went. Their need to ward off the powers of evil with prayer was genuine, for these were dangerous times to travel through remote country unarmed. They arrived safely at Oswald's castle in Bamburgh, where he offered them lavish hospitality and assumed that they would found their community there. However, the brothers realised that to live under the king's protection would make it difficult to avoid the world's temptations and establish a rapport with the local people. They saw the tidal island of Lindisfarne on the horizon and chose it as their base. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Aidan was much loved as a teacher and evangelist; though stern in his own self-discipline, he was prepared to travel to the most inaccessible villages, where he cared for the local people with compassion and gentleness. In time his influence grew and noble people joined the stream of visitors to Lindisfarne.

After Oswald's death in 642, his brother Oswin succeeded him as king. Oswin was concerned about Aidan's habit of walking everywhere. The saint was ageing rapidly, his body weakened by years of harsh fasting and exposure to the elements. Oswin wondered what would happen to him one day on the road, and also he felt that such a lowly means of travel

was not appropriate for a bishop. So he gave Aidan one of his finest horses, complete with a beautifully worked saddle and bridle.

Aidan did not feel able to risk offending the king by spurning his generosity, but he rode out of the palace with a heavy heart. He knew that people would relate to him differently now that he had the trappings of affluence, and that it would be dangerous to stop and rest with such valuable belongings beside him. The king had intended to give him comfort, but his gesture had had the opposite effect. Aidan had learnt that possessions, and the need to protect them, make it more difficult to follow God with an undivided heart. The story goes that he gave the horse, complete with saddle, to the first beggar he met outside the palace gates.

A more pragmatic Christian might have reasoned that keeping on the right side of Oswin would lead to opportunities that were too valuable to risk. Indeed, the king was angry when he heard what Aidan had done. "That horse was fit for a king, not for some vagabond," he protested. "I could have found you an old nag if you wanted to give it away." Aidan's reply was simply, "What do you think, O King? Is the son of a mare worth more in your eyes than that son of God?"

There was an awkward silence; then the King removed his sword, knelt at Aidan's feet and asked his forgiveness. When he returned to the banquet table, it was with a beaming smile. Sadly, he too was to perish in battle shortly afterwards; these were violent times. Yet Oswin, whose culture demanded that he should appear all-powerful in the eyes of his followers, had been publicly humbled by the integrity of a simple monk who had challenged his values.

What would it be like if contemporary leaders were equally open to God's influence, and if there were more Christian leaders of Aidan's strength of character? Today, we read that Governments are eager to work alongside churches in welfare initiatives, and that the cash-strapped Church of England is considering the unthinkable indignity of asking its bishops to sacrifice their chauffeur-driven cars. Will such stories stand the test of time? Over a thousand years after his death, a statue of Aidan stands in the churchyard of St Mary's on Lindisfarne, visited by pilgrims the world over.

The rector of that church is David Adam, who has brought Aidan to public attention through his excellent biography, "Flame in my Heart", and his well-known books of Celtic prayers. It seems that, for once, obedience to God has brought a rich and lasting harvest.

Flame in my Heart: St Aidan for Today by David Adam, Triangle Books, 1997

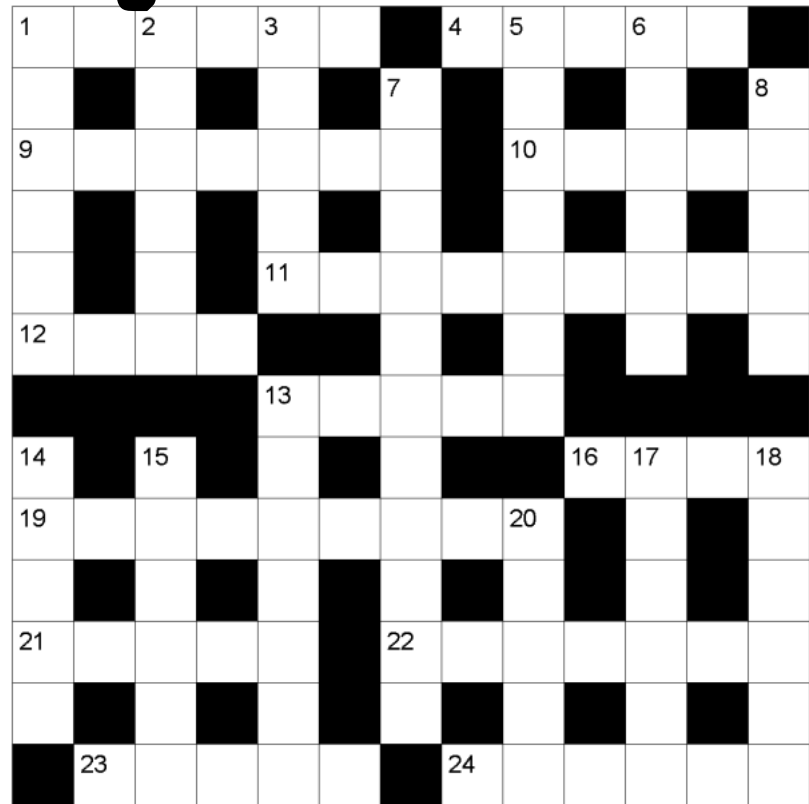
DEAR LORD, WHY?

Dear Lord,
It is so hard to open up to others, who speak proudly of their faithfulness to You but ignore their brothers and sisters who are weak or have fallen.

Lord, why do some Christians throw stones towards those who have already been so wounded by the world?

Dear child,
Just because one never misses a church service doesn't mean he is following my will. Remember, it was the Samaritan who reached out to the wounded soul. Those who proudly professed their walk with God, passed him by. It is not the outward appearance of a man that represents his heart. It is the depth of sincerity and openness of the heart that represents my true followers.

August's Crossword



Across

1. Place where an 1598 edict ended the French wars of religion (6)
4. Coral reef surrounding a lagoon (5)
9. German author of the hymn Praise To The Lord The Almighty (7)
10. After eighth mint (5)
11. For what reason (9)
12. Poverty(4)
13. The devil (5)
16. Place of wickedness (4)
19. Minor canon in charge of cathedral music (9)
21. Chosen by God (5)
22. Christ was an in the desert (7)
23. Dark granular mineral used for grinding and polishing (5)
24. Greek mythological sea god (6)

Down

1. Scottish saint and missionary (6)
2. Subtle distinction (6)
3. To provide with a source of income (5)
5. Wye valley abbey whose ruins inspired Wordsworth (7)
6. Capital city (6)
7. Construction of a church so its longer axis runs east to west (11)
8. Number of persons in one God (5)
13. Organisation for homeless people (7)
14. He will show you a large room (5)
15. Christ came to us from our sins (6)
17. Still existing (6)
18. Of the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter (6)
20. A part that revolves in a machine (5)

July's Solution



Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

| | |
|----------|--|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion |
| 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) Family Service (<i>2nd Sunday</i>) |
| 11.15 am | Sung Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>) |
| 6.00 pm | Evening Service [<i>1st Sunday of the month</i>] |

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8.00 am | Holy Eucharist |
| 10.30 am | Parish Eucharist [<i>Family Eucharist -</i> <i>2nd Sunday of the month</i>] |

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

| | | |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Monday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| Tuesday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 8.00 pm | St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i> |
| Wednesday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 9.30 am | Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 10.10 am | Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 12.00 pm | St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| Thursday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 9.30 am | Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i> |
| | 11.00 am | St Francis Prayer Group |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 7.00 pm | Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i> |
| Friday | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i> |
| | 5.00 pm | Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i> |
| | 7.00 pm | Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i> |
| Saturday | 9.15 am | Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i> |

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off; Fr John and Mark have Mondays. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on alternate Sundays.

Parish Directory

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Norah Shallow
Tel: 765199

DEPUTY WARDENS:

Rosanne Butler
Tel: 453257
Helen Doling
Tel: 779626