

All our hope in God

The last few weeks have brought home to us what a violent world we live in. We are used to seeing violence and carnage on the streets of Middle Eastern towns or in other countries in the developing world but when we are confronted with it on our own doorstep we are naturally disturbed.

Although we have been used to bombings in previous decades - usually associated with the volatile politics of Northern Ireland, the recent outrages bring home the uneasy tension between the values of the West and those of predominantly Muslim culture. Apart from isolated violence in some north-western towns, the Muslim communities within our society live harmoniously alongside peoples of other cultures.

The danger of the present situation is that we see our Muslim neighbours as objects of suspicion rather than as fellow citizens of the United Kingdom. In such difficult times, it is easy for those who wish to exploit racial tensions to turn the spotlight on those who they feel are a danger to our community.

Our Christian faith reminds us that we are all children of God regardless of our colour or race. Men and women of faith have to work and live together in order to demonstrate that we are fellow-citizens not only

of our own country but also of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus, during his lifetime, spent time and energy talking and ministering to people of different races, religions and backgrounds. Saint Paul reminds us that within the family of God there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, male or female, rich or poor.

The Christian community has a great responsibility to work together with those of other faiths and no faith to create the kind of society within which we are all respected and valued. The three church primary schools within our parish prepare the ground amongst the youngest in our community. We adults are called upon to do the same.



Even though we may feel apprehensive about what is happening around us, we need to remind ourselves of our belief that Jesus is indeed Lord of all creation. We place our faith, our hope, and our trust in the one who died in order to draw all peoples closer to God. As St Paul reminds us, "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Chronicle

Ministry of Healing

A monthly service on the first Tuesday of the month,
alternating between St James and St Francis Churches

Healing Services at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 3rd August

St James Church

Tuesday 7th September

St Francis Church



The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.

BAD TIMING



The luggage-laden husband stared miserably out of the window of the airline terminal at the departing jet. "If you hadn't taken so long in getting ready," he complained to his wife, "we would have caught that plane!"
"That may be," she retorted. "But if you hadn't hurried me along, we wouldn't have so long to wait for the next one!"

NOTES FROM THE JUNE PCC.

The PCC received reports from the Treasurer, the Deanery Synod and the Church Committees. A meeting had been held to decide the distribution of our mission giving. The opening of the new Church Centre has been delayed until September. St. Francis' Church is pursuing enquiries about a new heating system.

The PCC authorised the letting of two rooms at the new Church Centre to The Fellowship of Reconciliation on a two year contract with the option of a third year.

The PCC heard that the Deanery is to carry out a mapping exercise for which we are asked to contribute a detailed profile of the Parish. A working group was appointed.

The outcome of the Christian Giving Initiative is not yet known as we are still awaiting replies.

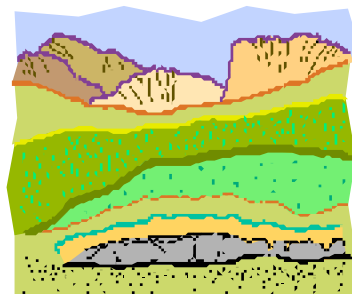
M.C.

QUIET HOPE IN A BAD WORLD

The following is a letter from Cyprian. He lived in the 3rd century, became Bishop of Carthage and was martyred for his faith. The letter was addressed to his old friend Donatus.

"This seems a cheerful world, Donatus, when I view it from this fair garden, under the shadow of these vines. But if I climbed to some great mountain and looked out over the wide lands, you know very well what I would see: brigands on the high roads, pirates on the seas; in the amphitheatres men murdered to please the applauding crowds; under all roofs misery and selfishness. It is really a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world.

"Yet, in the midst of it, I have found a quiet and holy people. They have discovered a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure in this sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the Christians, and I am one of them."



Introducing the new Archbishop of York

The Rt Revd Dr John Sentamu, currently Bishop of Birmingham, is to succeed the Rt Revd Dr David Hope as the next Archbishop of York. Here are some background notes to introduce him:

Bishop Sentamu, who is 56, was born in Uganda. He was educated in Uganda, graduating in Law from Makerere University, Kampala and is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda. He practised Law both at the Bar and at the Bench before he came to the UK in 1974.

Here he read theology at Selwyn College Cambridge, where he gained a Masters Degree and a Doctorate. He trained for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, then part of the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges. Following his ordination in 1979 he served as Assistant Chaplain at Selwyn College, Cambridge. From 1979-1982 he was Chaplain at HM Remand Centre Lachmere House and Curate of St Andrew's, Ham in the Diocese of Southwark.

From 1982-1983 John Sentamu was Curate of St Paul, Herne Hill, and from 1983-1984 Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill and Parish Priest of St Matthias Upper Tulse Hill. He then became Vicar of the joint benefice of Holy Trinity and St Matthias from 1984-1986. Between 1987 and 1989 he was also Priest-in-Charge of St Saviour Brixton Hill. He was appointed Bishop of Stepney in 1996 and Bishop of Birmingham in 2002.

Bishop Sentamu says: "I am looking forward to working with the Archbishop of Canterbury and other bishops to lead the Church of England in its mission to the nation. It is imperative that the Church regains her vision and confidence in mission, developing ways that will enable the Church of England to reconnect imaginatively with England.

"It is important that the Church of England's voice is heard locally, nationally and internationally, standing up for justice, bringing Good News to the poor, healing to the broken-hearted, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, and proclaiming the death of Christ and his resurrection until he comes again. What an exciting prospect."



In a statement from Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams welcomed Bishop John Sentamu as Archbishop of York. "He is someone who has always combined a passion for sharing the gospel with a keen sense of the problems and challenges of our society, particularly where racism is concerned. His ministry in London and Birmingham has been praised by Christians of all backgrounds. He is a caring pastor and an exciting communicator. I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with him."

Bishop Sentamu is married to Margaret, a Senior Selection Secretary in the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council, and they have two grown-up children, Grace and Geoffrey. Bishop Sentamu's interests include music, cooking, reading, athletics, rugby and football.

From 1997 to 1999, Bishop Sentamu was Adviser to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Inquiry and he chaired the Damilola Taylor Review, 2002. He has been the chairman of the NHS Haemoglobinopathy Screening Programme since 2001. Between 2002 and 2004 he was Chairman of the ECI New Deal. He became President of Youth for Christ in 2004 and President of the YMCA in April 2005.

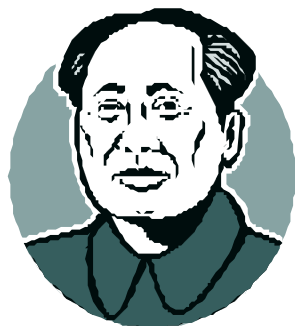


Rosanne interviews Sarah Moulders

Roll over Shakespeare, forget about 'Romeo and Juliet', I've got a real-life love story this month with a very different ending. In fact there are so many twists and turns to this story that it should be a full-length book.

Act one opens in the Chinese city of Hoojan during the austere regime of Chairman Mao. Three year old Wing Wa lived there with her family. Her much-loved auntie was a Christian. Although the government forces were knocking down churches and forbidding people to acknowledge their faith, somehow auntie managed to take Wing Wa to Sunday school. She also gave her a little card with a picture of Jesus on the front and a bible text on the back. This touched the little girl's heart and sowed a seed of faith within her that is still growing today.

By the time she was six, two more babies had arrived to increase the family and Wing Wa started school. There was no need for a school uniform, as the government ordered that all



Mao Zedong

clothes in The People's Republic should be either brown or dark-blue, a drab world indeed. At school she took an interest in science and so was directed towards a university course in metallurgy. Eighteen year-old Wing Wa's college was so far from home that she could only travel across the vastness of China once a year to visit her parents.

We next meet our heroine in the oppressive heat and noise of a factory where her degree qualified her to work as an engineer on the regulation of temperatures for the smelting furnaces. She was desperately unhappy and the intolerable conditions wore her down. She made up her mind to get out, saved hard and returned to college to study acupuncture. At the age of 23 she had qualified and decided to take her skills to Hong Kong. There she treated private patients in their own homes.

Now free to attend church in Hong Kong (then a British protectorate) Wing Wa met a rich businessman amongst her fellow worshippers. He courted and married her and now we have a completely different scenario. Her husband changed her name to Sarah and made it clear that from now on she would not work. Indeed she would lead a life of privilege. She learnt to paint in the Chinese style, to arrange flowers in the formal and symbolic oriental way and to be a successful hostess in her luxurious home. She was expected to entertain

as many as sixteen dinner guests quite regularly. She had an Amah (maid) to help and this same person was on hand to assist with the birth and babyhood of her two daughters Rachel and Miriam. The whole family attended church regularly and it was at this time that Sarah learnt to love the hymns that she heard there.

Let us now move on twenty years or so and we find the two daughters coming to Oxford to study. She bought a house for them in Headley Way and of course came over to visit them. She found a Chinese Christian group who worshipped in Headington and it is here (unknown to Sarah) that our love story begins. While she was over here in 1989 her daughters broke the news that her husband was having an affair with a much younger girl. She was devastated.

She had no visa to work here but decided to learn English. She did voluntary work helping the League of Friends at the Churchill hospital and serving in the Cancer Research shop in Headington. After a short time her visa expired and she returned to Hong Kong. She did not return to her husband but began divorce proceedings instead. Her youngest daughter was setting up her new business so Sarah helped her by arranging the flowers for conferences and conventions. Soon she was the owner of a flower shop working from dawn until way after dusk on flowers for big corporate company

occasions. One night exhausted and totally drained she slammed the door of her apartment, burst into tears and screamed at God, 'Why have you let my life come to this?' She told me that she believes in God as her Father and talks to Him as only a daughter can.

At this point our story returns to the Chinese church in Oxford where the president an Englishman named Clive Moulders had fallen in love. He had met a lady named Sarah there but before he had the time or the courage (who knows?) to declare his feelings she had left as suddenly as she had arrived. With no address or telephone number to help he set about finding her. He knew her name, that she had a flower shop in Hong Kong and that was all. After much searching he tracked her down and so it was that the very next day after her outburst a voice on the telephone said, 'Hello Sarah, this is Clive in Oxford. I want you to marry me'. She was stunned. Still, she knew him as a lovely man and she agreed to meet him. Love flourished and our "star-crossed lovers" finally married each other. Had God helped to answer their prayers? Sarah thinks so.

Her happiness is clear to see. I met her in her pretty home in Van Diemens Lane where she lives in great contentment with Clive. The Chinese influence is much in evidence, with a smooth split bamboo floor, beautiful flowers everywhere and even a Chinese speaking channel on T.V. Telling her story was not easy, the English language is still a challenge for her (imagine trying to sort out "metallurgy"!), the pain of past memories was clear, but there was pride too. Pride when she

showed me photos of herself and Clive on holiday in Thailand with her two beautiful daughters, son-in-law and adorable baby granddaughter. There were smiles too when she spoke with affection about St James' Church and its congregation. She finds great pleasure in helping with church flowers. She also enjoys a jolly good sing in the services and although she doesn't always understand all our conversation she values the friendship she encounters there. She is a little lonely but has friends amongst the group of Chinese ladies who meet in Botley and to whom she teaches singing and flower arranging. As I left with a bunch of her best roses and the notes for this article I realised that I had come across an amazing story and I couldn't wait to sit down and write it.

How would you describe yourself as a young child?

Never shy. I liked singing and dancing. When I was eleven years old I would make a group in the street to dance with banners.

Have you any childhood memories you'd like to share?

At school they say you can't believe in anything except the government and Chairman Mao but I have the little picture card with Jesus on the front and something from the bible on the back and I can sing and dance in the church garden.

Has God been part of your life since childhood?

I know inside that he always was. God knows me, he looks after me. When my first husband had an affair I was very

upset – I tried to kill myself. When I got out of hospital I argued with God "Why you make my life like this?" I had a dream with really bright light. I was nervous, I hold my face. Then I was really warm. For fifteen years I never had this warm feeling. Tomorrow not upset – OK – I change.

What upsets you about life today?

I don't like a liar. Jesus tells us not to tell lies

How do you like to spend your leisure time?

I teach my old Chinese people in Botley. I read. I would like to help out more with the church but I don't always understand what people want.

What makes you laugh?

I like to laugh with a friend.

Do you have any ambitions for the future?

If I can I would like to write a book about my life.



WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a local newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I am wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the Editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me I can't recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Author unknown

After the London Bombings In July

Two prayers from Reinhold Niebuhr which may be helpful.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892 – 1971) was Professor of Applied Christianity at the Union Theological Seminary in New York. He was passionately concerned with the revelation of God in the Bible and the political and social problems which beset mankind. The shadow of world war darkened many of his prayers.

For Victims and Tyrants

We pray to you this day mindful of the sorry confusion of our world. Look with mercy upon this generation of your children so steeped in misery of their own contriving, so far strayed from your ways and so blinded by passions. We pray for the victims of tyranny, that they may resist oppression with courage and may preserve their integrity by a hope which defies the terror of the moment. We pray for wicked and cruel men, whose arrogance reveals to us what the sin of our own hearts is like when it has conceived and

brought forth its final fruit. O God, who resists the proud and gives grace to the humble, bring down the mighty from their seats.

For Brotherhood

O God, who has ordained that all men should live and work together as brethren, remove, we humbly beseech you, from those who are now at variance, all spirit of strife and all occasion for bitterness that, seeking only what is just and equal, they may ever continue in brotherly union and concord. Lead us out of the night of this conflict into the day of justice. Give us grace to be instruments of the kingdom of love and justice in the affairs of mankind; and patience in dealing with all the sins and selfishness of men, and humility in recognising our own, that we may judge wisely between a man and his brother, between nations and peoples; and, by composing their differences, build them into a true community of nations.



INTIMACY NEEDED

When we have met our Lord in the silent intimacy of our prayer, then we will also meet him... in the market and in the town square. But when we have not met him in the centre of our own hearts, we cannot expect to meet him in the busyness of our daily lives. *Henri J M Nouwen*

**GET ACTIVE! – WITH THESE
WELL KNOWN EXERCISES**

Here is an exercise programme for those of us whose wisdom exceeds our ambition. The doctors say that physical exercise is good ...so here is an easy daily programme you can do anywhere.



Monday:

Beat around the bush. Jump to conclusions. Climb the walls. Wade through paperwork.

Tuesday:

Drag your heels. Push your luck. Make mountains out of molehills. Hit the nail on the head.

Wednesday:

Bend over backwards. Jump on the bandwagon. Balance the books. Run around in circles.

Thursday:

Toot your own horn. Climb the ladder of success. Pull out the stops. Add fuel to the fire.

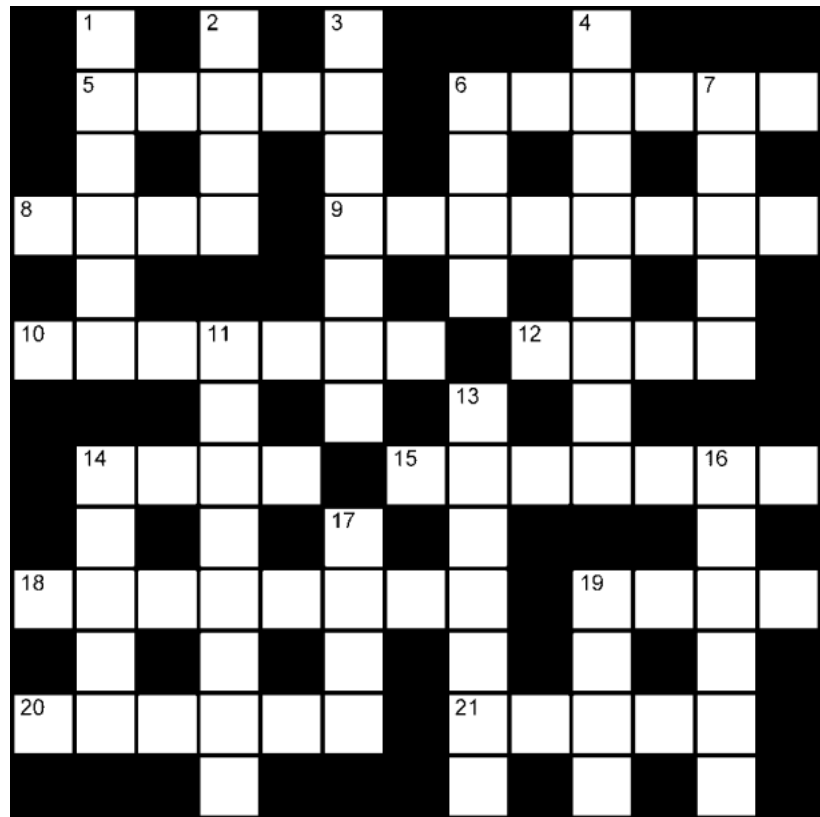
Friday:

Open a can of worms. Put your foot in your mouth. Start the ball rolling. Go over the edge.

Saturday:

Pick up the pieces.

August's Crossword



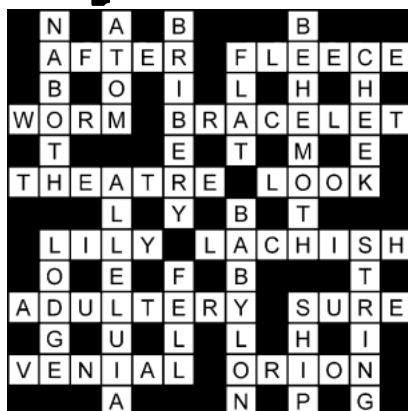
Clues Across

- 5 Visible result of burning (5)
- 6 Command with authority (6)
- 8 Express in words (4)
- 9 A place where wealth and precious objects are kept (8)
- 10 The first Christian martyr (7)
- 12 Delayed (4)
- 14 Cable (4)
- 15 Amount (7)
- 18 Odd (8)
- 19 Aspect (4)
- 20 Thoroughfare (6)
- 21 Mammal in which Jonah spent three days and nights (5)

Clues Down

- 1 Consequence (6)
- 2 Travel by ship (4)
- 3 Animal skin (7)
- 4 Sin (8)
- 6 Marked by depth (4)
- 7 Profane or obscene expression (5)
- 11 Used to anoint the dead (8)
- 13 Those claiming descent from Jacob (7)
- 14 Corn (5)
- 16 Second wife of Jacob (6)
- 17 Bring up (4)
- 19 Unleavened (4)

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>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
1.00 pm	Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

10.30 am	Parish Eucharist <i>[Family Eucharist - 2nd Sunday of the month]</i>
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Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Group – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	10.00 am	Toddler Service – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</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 James</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</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.

Day Off

Stephen has Friday off, Except in emergency, please try and respect this day of rest. Lorne can be contacted in the evenings and at weekends.

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