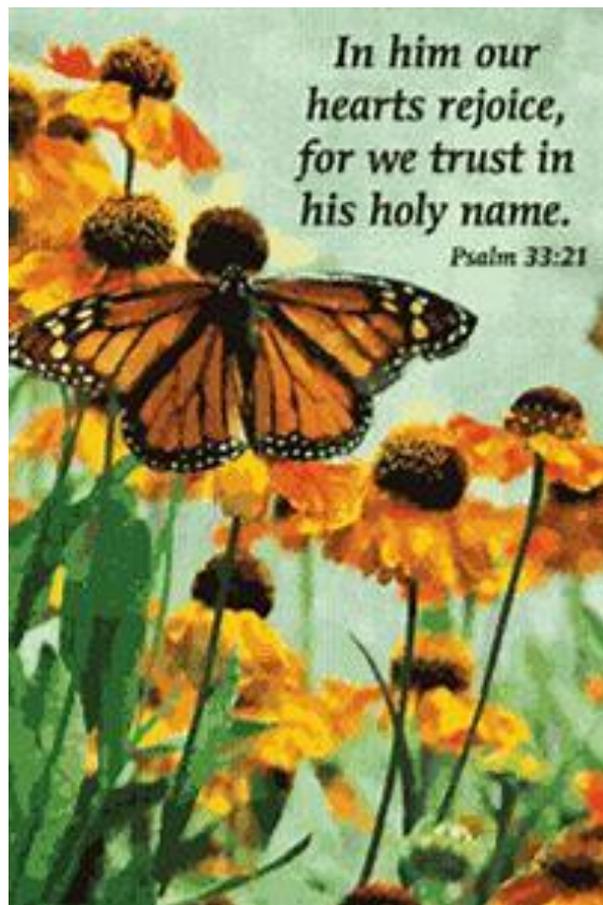


**ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL
CHURCH MUCHALLS**

August 2022



Sunday Service 10.30am

The church is open for private prayer during daylight hours
Please use the sanitiser provided before you enter the church



From our Minister

Sitting at my desk, writing this, I am aware that we are mid-summer holidays...there is a constant stream of kids passing my window! And I discovered you can even buy ice-cream at 10pm. The joys of summer.

Mike and I both love travelling, guidebooks in hand we often aim to get off the beaten track. In 2011 we found ourselves on a wee island, Cruit, off the coast of Donegal. The accommodation was basic and we felt that we were a million miles away from the hub bub of Cambridgeshire. One evening we did venture to a local pub, and for a few hours returned to civilization. Peering over someone's shoulder we were informed of the Syrian Refugee Crisis. Devastating images of people fleeing their beloved country flooded the television screen in the small bar. In the next few days, we occasionally caught RTÉ the Irish National Television Station, and we were both aware that the Irish response was quite different to what was happening in England. A response which we then saw replicated in communities on the west coast of Scotland. Over the years I have thought about this a lot and wonder if the experiences of migration due to the Clearances and the Irish Potato Famine a different sort of welcome to the stranger. Of course, many of our community are English, Americans and even Canadian, and here we should remember that many have come from somewhere else and built homes here. I realise that this is probably an over simplification of the story but I do wonder....

Welcome! Fàilte! Bienvenue! Salamo alaykom! ласкаво просимо!

Is perhaps the most important word in our vocabulary and in the vocabulary of all people.

Welcome is the word that speaks of the truth of our Christian faith, the love of God as demonstrated by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and those, including ourselves who have come after him. I think that we can all think of examples when we weren't made welcome over the years, or perhaps were not even particularly welcoming to others. Perhaps it is worth think of the reasons why welcomes have not been forthcoming, perhaps fear of the stranger, fear of offending, shyness, and at times even being overwhelmed by our own particular life situations or maybe a fear of rejection.

These days of course we are painfully aware that our church attendance numbers are declining and of course it is a worry. An American Franciscan, Richard Rohr suggests that the exodus from churches may mean that many Christians are moving beyond the church walls and instead living lives that demonstrate Christian values in the world within community. He states "Jesus does not need our singing; we need instead to act like a community. Actual Christian behaviour might just be growing more than we realize That is not to say that Christians will not gather to pray, but that perhaps the groupings may become smaller such as house groups, prayer groups, or healing circles etc. etc. Much to think about!!

A few weeks ago, Oksana and I had lunch together, I was introduced to the art of pierogi, central European dumplings, making and eating. In the time we shared we talked about many things and of course the subject of the war in Ukraine came up and all that it means. I am not sure how exactly we came to the point where we began to speak of a 'Drop In' for Ukrainians living locally, a safe place where people can gather and to share. Well one thing led to another and several conversations later and a meeting on Friday the 15th of July at St James it was

decided that we will have a go!!! And so, the first drop in will happen at St James Hall on the 5th of August between 6 and 9 pm.

Initially I had thought that it would be good if St Ternan's, the Community Church at Catterline, which meets in St Philip's and St James would work together as hosts. St James Hall as it is central would be the venue. However, many others from all sorts of organisations have expressed an interest to Welcome those who I hope will become our friends.

Since the 15th, I must say the notion has 'grown like Topsy' or as someone said 'grown legs'. I have been amazed at the response not only from church people but from those out with the church including local government and the NHS. Phrases such as "you have the will and the kindness to organise, and we can help with any questions - so it's a perfect combination." and "this is gold dust for my colleagues in our service (NHS) and "Despite our best efforts we've found it difficult to find a communal space for all our Ukrainian friends, to meet up. "

So, there you have it... like to be involved...be in touch...like to join in the welcome please contact Paula Fogiel her email is paula.hall5@btinternet.com

As the Marty Haugen hymn says...

Let us build a house
Where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where
Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive

Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place



Mary

Ukrainian soldiers treat Bible like 'a life-saver'

Since the war broke out more than six months ago, Bible Society has been making the Bible available to soldiers as well as civilians in Ukraine.

Recently, Serhii, the commander of a military unit, told Bible Society colleagues in Ukraine how vital the Bible is to his troops. He said, "It is very important for soldiers to have the Bible. Things are very tough at times and many soldiers are praying to God.

"They may have never attended a church before. They may not have believed in God before. But now they are turning to Him. Many of them treat the Bible as a life-saver.

"I have a friend, an officer. He also received a Bible from our chaplain. Sometimes he faces situations that seem to be desperate. He turns to the Bible....and he says, 'You wouldn't believe it. Every time I find an answer. The Bible has a way out! I do as the Bible says and everything works well.'"



Serhii added, "So, for those people who are facing enormous pressures on the frontlines, who experience hardship, both physical and moral, when they have this Bible in their pocket, when it gets very hard, a soldier can open it and find words that he needs to hear at that very moment. It is very important. Thank you!"

Working from Rest - Canon Paul Hardingham

*August sees many of us taking holidays to get some well-earned rest from working. But what is the biblical relationship between rest and work? The Bible shows us that **we are to work from rest, not rest from work**. How is this working out in our current experience?*

When God created human beings on the 6th day, the next full day was a day of rest before the work began: *'Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.'* (Genesis 2:3). Sunday is a day of rest at the beginning of the week.

Jesus lived out this rhythm of rest and work in His own ministry: *'Very early in the morning, Jesus got up and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed'* He then told His disciples: *'Let us go somewhere else so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.'* (Mark 1:35-38).

Here is a rhythm for our own lives: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit' (John 15:5). Our work/fruitfulness arises out of the time we abide/rest in Jesus. He will then show us what aspects of our lives need pruning: 'while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.' (2).

Let's use this month to reflect on how this pattern is working in our lives:

Are we spending enough time 'abiding' in Jesus?

Are we putting our energies into the right balance of rest and work?

Are there unproductive areas of our lives and churches that need pruning?

Remember God created us as *human beings* not just *human doings*!!

Things you do on holiday but never at any other time - David Pickup



- Lend your key to a neighbour and spend half an hour explaining the knack of locking the front door which entails pulling, turning, and pushing at the same time.
- Worry about your cat.
- Spend an hour looking for window lock keys which you have not seen since last year and why aren't they in THEIR SPECIAL PLACE?
- Get up at 3am to drive to an airport.
- Climb on a bus without knowing quite where you are going, or where to get off.
- Miss having a proper cup of tea.
- Buy postcards.
- Eat chips with almost every meal.
- Wonder if your cat is okay.
- Have a pocketful of foreign coins which you try to spend on your last day.
- Get on another bus and hope it is headed back to your hotel, whose name now escapes you.

Christian Basics: No 8: Prayer- Canon Paul Hardingham

Most of us identify with the disciples' request: '*Lord, teach us to pray*' (Luke 11:1); having seen Jesus pray, they wanted to know *how* to pray!

A Loving Relationship

Jesus begins with *father*: '*When you pray, say: Father*' (2). Prayer is like a child asking their parent for help. This reflects Jesus' own intimate relationship with His Father. He invites us to share this relationship using the Lord's Prayer, as way into His presence (2-4). Imagine using this prayer as a child sitting on your parent's lap. God delights to hear us!

A Loving Readiness

Jesus' parable makes the point that God is always ready to hear our prayer. When the man turns up at midnight asking for bread, his friend inside gives him whatever he needs because of his '*shameless boldness*' (*lit*)' (v.8). If the man answers despite all his family being asleep, *how much more* will our Father in heaven respond to our prayers. We should never give up!

A Loving Richness

Jesus concludes with a threefold promise: *'ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'* (9). Does this mean that God will give us whatever we ask for? As earthly parents only give good things to their children, *how much more* is this true of our heavenly Father: *'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?'* (11,12). He doesn't give us everything we want, but what is best for us.

'If God were to say to me, 'I want to give you a special love gift, what would you like?'' I would say: 'you choose'' (SD Gordon).

Prayer and Chat



Prayers for the world, our community and those that we love will be said at St Ternan's every Wednesday at

11 am. This service will last for approximately 30 minutes.

Following the time of prayer, Rev Mary will be in church should you wish a cuppa and a chat.

Please let Mary know any situations or people you would like prayer said for...m.jepp@btinternet.com

All Welcome

The story of the yellow ribbons - Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

One of the greatest doctrines in the Bible is the love of God for His people. Both Old Testament and New Testament tell us what God said to His people through Jeremiah: "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (31:3).

It was that love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world (John 3:16). Paul writes glowingly of "that great love with which He loved us" (Ephesians 2:4). John emphasises the same great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words: 'God is love' (1 John 4:8). Quite simply there is nothing in all creation more reassuring, more comforting, more encouraging, more uplifting than to know that God loves us. And we can even put it in personal terms as Paul did. 'He loved me and gave Himself for me' (Galatians 2:21).

The following true story, from the life and ministry of John Wilbur Chapman, is a good illustration of such love.



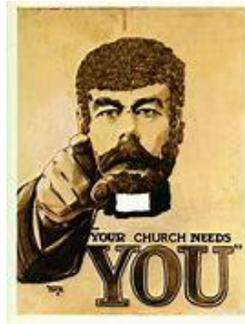
Back in 1893, Chapman was a Presbyterian minister from Richmond, Indiana, who had moved into full-time evangelistic ministry. Chapman told of how one evening he was travelling by train in a rural part of the state of Kansas. The only other passenger in the carriage was a young man and Chapman noticed that he was becoming very agitated. He kept glancing out of the window and then covering his face with his hands. Finally, Chapman asked if he could help.

The young man was a bit reluctant, but finally opened up. Many years before he had run away from home and 'sown his wild oats.' He had not contacted his parents for many years and now he was afraid they wouldn't want him back. He had written home some weeks before and told them he would be travelling on this train. At a certain point it passed very close to his home. In the letter he had begged his parents' forgiveness and asked if they wanted him to come home. If so, they were to tie a yellow ribbon on the old apple tree that grew right beside the railway lines.

"Sir," he said to Chapman, "the train will soon pass my home but I'm afraid to look. If there's a yellow ribbon on the tree, I'll get off at the next station and go home. If there's no ribbon, I'll just travel on. But I'm too afraid to look out for the tree." So, Chapman offered to look for him. The young man hid his eyes and Chapman kept watch.

"You can open your eyes now," he said a few minutes later. The returning prodigal looked at Chapman with tears and quivering lips. "All is well," said the evangelist. "There is a yellow ribbon on the apple tree. In fact, there's far more than one. Every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores and scores of them. Your parents love you so much and want you to come home."

If parents can love their wayward children like that, how much greater is the love of God! Truly, we are loved with everlasting love.



Recently we have lost several members from our cleaning rota and coffee rota so if you would like to volunteer or to find out information as to what is involved, please speak to Rhona or Sheila.

Grace – it really is amazing - Lester Amann

Most of us will know the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, by John Newton. Grace is an essential element of our faith, but what is it, exactly?

In everyday life the word 'grace' has many uses: in the courts, a pardoned person has been 'shown grace'; in the arts, an exquisite dancer moves with beauty and grace; if someone undertakes an unpleasant task cheerfully and willingly, it is done with 'good grace' and composers sometimes add 'grace notes' to their music to enhance the playing of their music.

The biblical use of the word 'grace' is quite different! The New Testament describes grace as God doing something for us that we could not do for ourselves. That 'something' is the free and unearned favour of God towards us. It is God's goodness which removes human inferiority and worthlessness and which raises our status. It pays the debt of sin. Grace welcomes the wretched, the weak and the wayward. It adopts us – homeless orphans – into God's family.

The story of King David and Mephibosheth is a remarkable example of grace. (see 2 Samuel 9:1-13) When David discovered a disabled relative of a former friend, he opened the way for this person to be brought into the royal household. He was accepted into David's family and given the same status as one of his sons.

Similarly, God accepts the unacceptable into His Heavenly Family. He accepts us as we are, regardless of status, health - or any objections we may have! Our gracious God loves us even though we are unlovely, undesirable and unholy.

We most see God's love in the gift of His Son. We can only be thankful that through Christ we have a new relationship with God. It is by His grace we are saved.

In John Newton's famous hymn, he wrote 'grace will lead me home'. Through the grace of God we can be assured of eternal life, joy, peace and security with Christ.



Prayer for August - Daphne Kitching

Dear Heavenly Father,

In this month of August, thank you for your presence. Whether we're at home or on holiday, in one place or travelling, working or resting, happy or sad, young, middle-aged or elderly, you are with us.

As we journey through the different stages of this life on earth, help us to know that wonderful assurance of your presence, by putting our trust in Jesus now.

No matter what ups and downs come our way, we will never be alone. You are with us, sharing it all day by day - and leading us home.

Thank you, Lord of all our journeys, In Jesus' name.

Amen.

5th August Oswald, a king with faith, courage and humility

Many Christians have dreamed of doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 to 642AD, was in a position to do so.

He was a King, whose father, Aethelfrith, was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelfrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only 12 years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim his kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the River Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage... for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria. Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield.

Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry. Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh Castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne.

Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates.

But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one.

Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (5th August), written by the Northumbria Community:



"I place into your hands, Lord, the choices that I face. Guard me from choosing the way perilous of which the end is heart-pain and the secret tear.

"May I feel your presence at the heart of my desire, and so know it is for Your desire for me. Thus, shall I prosper, thus see that my purpose is from You, thus have power to do the good which endures." (Copyright Northumbria Community Trust, 1996)

God in the Arts- *Revd Michael Burgess - with a look at 'The Transfiguration' by Fra Angelico. It is found in the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence.*

We behold the glory

TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could be a piece of music or the sight of an evening sunset at sea or a new-born babe. We look, we hear, and what we look at or hear evokes a sense of wonder and amazement that has an almost physical effect on us. Something sublime unfolds before us producing delight and awe: a hint of glory that leads us to wonder and even to worship.

The monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as

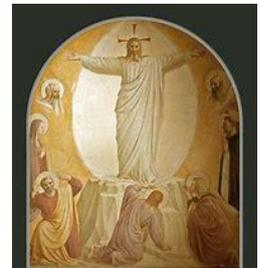
Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence. On 6th August we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico's fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month's painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life. As Thomas Jones says in his poem on this episode:

*Like a pearl we hold
Close to our hearts
what we have heard and seen.*



6th August The Transfiguration of Jesus

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face. Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.



Have you ever noticed that ...?

- After your hands become coated with grease, your nose begins to itch.
- Identical parts - aren't.
- It is a mistake to allow any mechanical object to realise that you are in a hurry.
- The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so they can tell when they are really in trouble.
- Middle age is when you begin to exchange your emotions for your symptoms.

Keeping Calm in the Storm- *Dr Ruth Bancewicz*

One of the most famous stories about Jesus is the calming of the storm (Luke 8:22-25). Of course, anyone could say that the wind stopped suddenly of its own accord, but the disciples were not fooled. They had seen a number of these 'coincidences' in Jesus' ministry, and they weren't about to ignore this one. Jesus had calmed the waves with only His words. Wasn't this an act of God? Who else could be in complete control of creation?

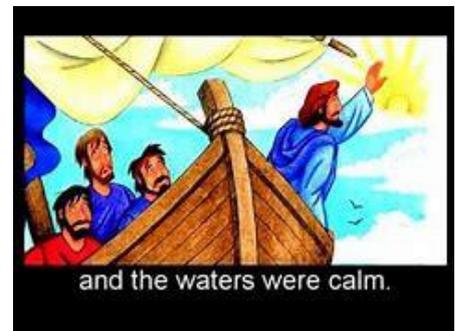
Jesus dealt graciously with the very pressing and practical issue of the raging storm before He did a bit of teaching, asking His followers "Where is your faith?" It's not surprising that they were scared, given the circumstances, but clearly Jesus expected better of them. He had already been teaching them for some time, and clearly knew they were ready to trust Him.

In similar circumstances, Christians often do several things in quick succession. We start by panicking and being afraid. After a while we might remember what we know about God's character and pray for help, trusting that whatever happens He will help us to handle it. Most often, we don't get the storm-calming effect when we ask for it, but battling on with faith and God's help is much easier than trying to keep going in a panic.

'Peace' in this kind of situation is a very active holding on to what we know about God. The difference between trusting and not trusting can be like night and day in terms of stress levels. I have found that it can make the difference between unmanageable stress and something that stretches me and teaches me something new.

Knowing some science can help us to trust God. A Being who created the whole universe, sustaining the wonderfully creative processes that produced diverse life on earth, must be both extremely powerful and extremely wise. The God who can both calm the waves and walk on them must be in complete control of the things He made. When this knowledge goes hand in hand with experience of God's intimate love for us and care for us in every situation that we find ourselves in, I am reassured that He's got things in hand. I will always need help from others to pray faithfully in stormy situations, but hopefully I've seen enough now not to panic for too long.

Time (and my closest friends) will tell!



How prayer reaches God

An anxious mother confided in her minister: "My 10-year-old daughter says her prayers every night, but I am not sure they are reaching heaven."

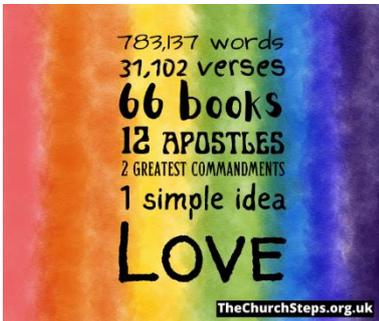
Touched by her worry, the minister spent some time explaining to her about God's omniscience and omnipresence. But still, the mother looked worried. So finally, he asked the mother why she thought her daughter's prayers would NOT be heard by God.

She explained: "Because when my daughter finishes, instead of saying 'amen', she says 'click, send'."



Last Month on the Facebook Page

18th June 2022



The bible is quite a long book which spans thousands of years of history. The Old Testament is an eclectic collection of writing. From the story of the Israelites to the wisdom of Proverbs to the beauty of the Psalms. The New Testament gives us the story of Jesus and the founding of our Christian faith in the letters of the apostles. How do you read such a book? Well, not in one sitting that's for sure! In all those words we can sometime lose sight of the simplicity of the message. The words of Jesus sum up the message perfectly. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and love your

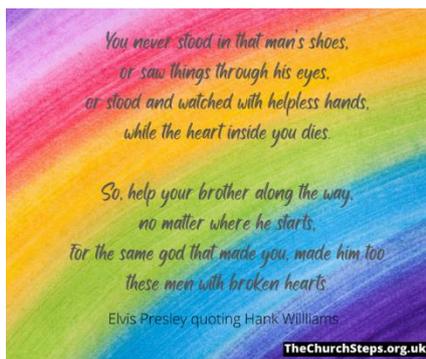
neighbour as yourself. That simple beautiful message of love is the core of our faith and we should live it every day.

26th June 2022

These words are from 1st Corinthians 12, written by St Paul. The passage talks about unity and diversity in the church. It emphasizes the idea that we are all different. That we are not somehow less because we are not the same. Taking the idea of a real body, Paul asks if the foot is somehow not part of the body because it is not a hand. The body is made up of lots of different parts. All equally important. In fact, Paul points out the body cannot be without the parts. He asks if the whole body were an eye, how would it hear. It seems to me the Paul had a good handle on the things that still trouble us today. Let's take a moment to remember that we are all one body and if we seek to exclude parts, we are all somehow less. When any part is honoured, let us rejoice.



3rd July 2022

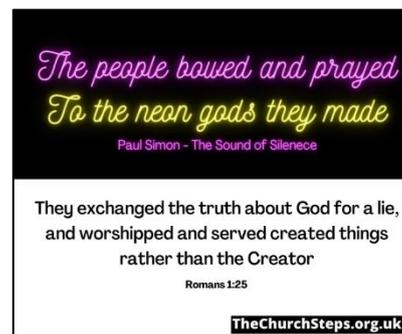


I was looking for a way to finish off an address the other day when I came across these words. I found a video on YouTube, where Elvis uses these words to introduce a song he is about to sing. The words are a paraphrase of a song by Hank Williams. The words talk about how we can never really understand another person's perspective if we don't have their experiences. If we haven't lived their life. If we haven't felt their pain. If we haven't been excluded or marginalised. How can we judge their actions? The short answer is we can't. If our experiences separate us, then the verse reminds us of one thing we share. We were all created equal by the same God. God loves us all,

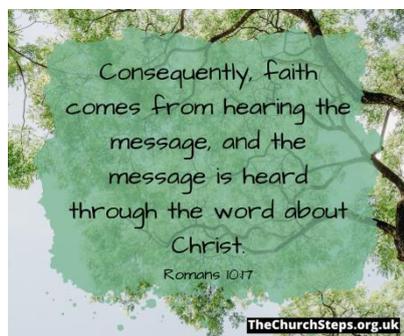
God accepts us all, God is there for us all. It's good to remind ourselves of that.

10th July 2022

I like Simon and Garfunkel's hit *The Sound of Silence*. It is a thoughtful song. I've picked out the line about Neon Gods and paired it with a line from Romans which says the same thing. They both talk about worshipping material things. We can chase wealth and success. We can worship at the altar of fancy cars and big houses, but will we ever be satisfied? There will always be someone with more, something bigger for us to chase. We will spend our lives chasing something that we can never obtain, because true peace comes from somewhere else. Contentment comes from richness of spirit. True joy comes not from material things but the hope and love that we find in God. It's not wrong to work hard and have nice things, it is just not the most important thing.



17th July 2022



The parents of teenagers will no doubt be familiar with the expression, "talking to a brick wall". You know fine well that nothing you are saying is getting through to them. Sometimes I think that I can be a bit like a moody teenager in my relationship with God. I can pray, I can go through the motions and ask for guidance. If I am not open to hearing the answer, then God's words are wasted on me. The first step in a truly fulfilling relations with God is to be open to the message. To come to God with no preconceived ideas about that I should be hearing and open myself to God word. When it is done properly faith is not easy, but it is always worth persisting with.

Steven Coull

Parents and children

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and be quiet.
2. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children even more awful than your own.



This is the address which George Mason gave on Sea Sunday 10th July 2022 based on the following readings :-Amos 7. 7-17, Colossians 1. 1-14, Luke 10: 25-37

Today's Gospel is from Luke "The Good Samaritan". People hear the words of this parable today and can immediately understand the kindness shown by the Samaritan. But if we were to rewind the clock by 2,000 years, on hearing this parable we would have been shocked, in some cases outraged, and seen a Jesus who challenged those around him head on.

His choice of language, people, settings, and place would have directly put him into opposition with the leading and ruling religious elite.

Jesus gives this parable after being challenged by an expert in religious law. Jesus has already given an answer summarising the whole of God's law and how we should relate to one another. However, this expert presses further asking, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to answer him, and in doing so would have shocked those who heard. We don't know much about the traveller who is attacked, though we do know that those who heard this parable would have been shocked that this man had risked travelling the Jericho road alone. Foolish or ignorant of the danger that lay ahead of him, or perhaps obliged to take this journey for personal reasons, Jesus does not reveal why this man was making this long hard difficult journey alone. Of course, these hazards the Samaritan encountered would have also applied to the priest and the Levite

We do know, however, the reaction of those who came across him, and it is the reaction of the three passers-by that would have shocked the listeners. You see, fundamental to the religious life of the Israelites was the protection of life, and as Jesus had just said, "Love your neighbour".

But the first two passers-by, shock by their actions. Both the priest and the Levite, religious men, fail in that duty to love their neighbour.

Yes, it's true helping involved taking a risk. Especially as this wounded man might be a trap, with the robbery waiting to strike and lure in anyone who tries to help. Remember where you are, miles and miles of barren wilderness- no one will come and help you.

For those listening to Jesus the shock continued when they heard the Samaritan who represented a people who, at that time, were despised by both Jew and Roman, shames these other two by helping this man. The man the other two were content to forget and walk by, placing their safety and their needs over everything else.

How does the Parable of the Good Samaritan relate to Seafarers?

Well, many seafarers are forgotten, unseen, and working in a dangerous environment at sea, where they experience long hours, poor working conditions, and further threats such as piracy. Ukraine is a case in point where we rely on Seafarers, and they are in great danger. At the start of the conflict there were 120 ships and 1,500 seafarers in Ukrainian Ports. Today there are 70 ships from 16 different countries remaining stranded in Ukrainian ports with their crews still onboard.

A Russian missile hit the MV Banglar Samridhi a bulk carrier 590 feet long killing the 3rd Engineer. The Black Sea around Odessa is covered with mines some floating about, some on the seabed waiting for a ship to pass over them and blow it and the crew to smithereens. Before the war, Ukraine accounted for 10% of Global wheat exports. 20 million tonnes of harvested grain is still stuck in the country. These bulk carriers carry the grain grown in Ukraine

all over the world. What strikes us nearer to home is that Oksana's son was a Deck Officer on one of these bulk carriers.

Like the traveller on the road, we don't know all the reasons these seafarers choose to work at sea. – money to support the family, to gain work experience – there could be a whole list of reasons. But we do know that we all benefit from the work they do non the less. Our cars, computers, food, most of which is brought across the sea by seafarers.

And like the man in the parable, many of the seafarers can end up in trouble, whether financially, with health issues, tough working conditions, the lack of contact with family, or, as in recent times due to the pandemic, being stranded thousands of miles from home.

And just like the priest and the Levite who were more concerned with their own lives and goals, these seafarers can be passed-by by governments, and other organisations involved with the shipping industry. Often, they can be abandoned alone in a distant port, or just simply not paid. This is where the Missions to Seafarers comes in. I served in the Merchant Navy for 10 years and I always appreciated the welcome I received at the Missions to Seamen etc in the ports located in the Far East and UK, Alec Young and Audrey's husband also served in the Merchant Navy. There are possibly others in the congregation who I am not aware off.

The Mission to me is the Good Samaritan at the side of the road going above and beyond to help. The Mission provides the means to connect with family via Wi-Fi access, and offering centres for the seafarers to come and talk while in port, to relax, to feel human and to feel welcome.

An example of this was the help and assistance given to the crew of a ship where they had not been paid for months, the ship was impounded in Aberdeen Harbour. The Mission to Seafarers gave support to the crew over the months it was tied up in port with money, food, and personal needs and being their advocate to ensure they received their back payment of wages. If I remember right the ship was sold so that the crew could receive the wages owed to them. From providing warm clothing to meeting their spiritual needs, the Mission does not leave them helpless and alone. Like the Samaritan, the Mission tends to the seafarers needs and provide respite, bandaging the wounds of whatever experience they may have had. The Mission does this not for praise or adoration but because, although unseen by many, Seafarers are still our neighbours.

Sea Sunday is just once a year, but loving our neighbour is a 365 day a year job for all of us. Please pray and commit to pray for the work of the Mission to Seafarers, and for all seafarers.

THE PILOT PSALM

When my engine room watch was finished at midnight or if I was on the 12-4, I loved nothing better than sitting out on deck looking at the stars with amazement and wonder about God's creation. Of course, I also had a can of Anchor beer or even a can of Tenant's if we were outward bound, to drink after I had rung the sweat out of my T shirt, accumulated during my watch in a very hot engine room.

So, this "The Pilot Psalm" written by Captain John Roberts as a take on the 23rd Psalm resonates with me. It was written in 1847. Note also he was a Captain and a Navigator not an Engineer like me, very few engineers in those days.!

The introduction was written by a Master Mariner who lives not far from here, whose daughter also has a Masters Certificate.

One of the glories of being a navigator sailing the oceans of the world is the privilege of keeping a night watch on the wing of the ship's bridge under a starry sky, with the moon reflecting across the rippled sea all the way to the horizon.

It is on nights like this that the navigator can feel at one with creation while using measurement from the stars to find a safe course to the next port.

Captain John Robert's summed it up when he wrote this sailor's version of the 23rd Psalm away back in 1847.

The lord is my pilot; I shall not drift
He lights me across the dark waters:
He steers me in deep channels.
He keeps my log:
He guides me by the star of holiness
For his name's sake.
Even though I sail mid the thunders and tempests of life, I will dread no danger:
For you are near me;
Your love and your care shelter me;
You prepare a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity:
you anoint the waves with oil, so my ship rides calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight will favour me on the voyage I take;
and I will rest in the port of my God forever.

I immediately wonder if Captain Roberts, away back in 1847, had also been reading, to pass away the endless hours at sea, about Jesus calming the storm. I wonder if he also saw it as a parable given from Jesus in the way that we as disciples should have no fear and become calm, as we cross to the other side through the storms of life, as we continue our voyage, on our way to God's kingdom. Praise be to God.





The hand of Christ

*The hand of Christ rests gently on my head,
Love's blessings flow from God's eternal heart
Into my veins.*

*The Spirit's breath pulsates within my soul
And in the life that Christ has won for all
On Calvary's hill*

*I step out gladly into God's Creation,
There to praise the holy Name of God,
In triune-majesty forever reigning.*

*O God most high,
Most Holy Father, blessed Son,
and gracious Spirit, Three-in-One.
We bow before the eternal throne
and, in the strength of love received,
we give Your love in blessing
to your world.*

By Sam Doubtfire

Revd Mary Jepp Tel: 01569 762917

George Masson Tel: 01569 739283

AUGUST

ROTA

2022

Date:	CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address	Readers/ Intercessions:	Readings:	Sides person	FLOWERS (cleaning) Teas
07/08/22 PENTECOST 9 Transfiguration of the Lord	GEORGE MASSON <i>Irene Buter</i> Address: George Masson	Ken Tonge John Usher Carol Masson Dee Foulds	DANIEL 7: 9-10, 13-14 2 PETER 1: 16-19 LUKE 9: 28-36	Steven Coull	Sheila Usher Katy
14/08/22 PENTECOST 10	REV MARY JEPP <i>Sheila Usher</i> Address: Rev Mary Jepp	Sheila Usher Katy Gill <i>Sue Selway</i> Ken Tonge	ISAIAH 5: 1-7 HEBREWS 11: 29-12.2 LUKE 12: 49-56	Irene Butler	Rhona Vassilikos Sylvia/David
21/08/22 PENTECOST 11	REV KATE GIBSON <i>Sheila Usher</i> Address: Rev Kate Gibson	Carol Masson Stephen Coull Dee Foulds Sue Selway	JEREMIAH 1: 4-10 HEBREWS 12: 18-29 LUKE 13: 10-17	George Masson	Sheila Usher Carol/George
28/08/22 PENTECOST 12	REV MARY JEPP <i>Irene Butler</i> Address: Rev Mary Jepp	Carol Herbert Ken Tonge Michael Price Dee Foulds	JEREMIAH 2: 4-13 HEBREWS 13: 1-8, 15-16 LUKE 13: 10-17	Sue Selway	Rhona Vassilikos Katy
04/09/22 PENTECOST 13	ARMA ISLES <i>Sheila Usher</i> Address: Arma Isles	Andrew Herbert Steven Coull George Masson Sheila Usher	JEREMIAH 18: 1-11 PHILEMON 1-21 LUKE 14: 25-33	Irene Butler	Sue Manson Sylvia/David