

**ALL SAINTS' HIGHFIELD
PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2021**



*Thanks to Brigid for the photo of the Church garden:
Hardy geraniums Wargrave Pink and Rozanne between the two big lavenders.*

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk

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From the Minister



“Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.”
(Psalm 25:16)

Loneliness was a widespread problem long before Covid-19 hit. A few years ago, the UK even appointed the world’s first Minister for Loneliness. But this issue has undoubtedly been exacerbated by restrictions on meeting and movement. Many will be struggling as never before.

Mother Theresa spoke of ‘loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted’ as ‘the most terrible poverty’. Chronic loneliness has effects on our physical health as well as our psychological health. We can also find ourselves trapped in self-defeating mindsets; the pain can be such that we end up pushing away the very people who could alleviate our loneliness.

Of course, it doesn’t just affect those who live alone. We should not underestimate the loneliness of living in a difficult marriage or an embittered family. It is quite possible to be lonely without being alone, just as it is possible to be alone without feeling lonely.

What comfort is there for the lonely Christian?

The Lord understands our loneliness: *“We do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tested in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need [e.g. loneliness]”* (Hebrews 4:15-16).

We could point to many possible examples in Jesus’ life, but it was surely in the run-up to his death that he was plunged into his deepest loneliness. First, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter, James and John fell asleep in Christ’s hour of need – not once but three times. Then, when the soldiers arrived, all of Jesus’ disciples abandoned him and

fled. Worst of all, the next day, Jesus cried out on the cross, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*”

The Lord is with us in our loneliness. Christ was God-forsaken so that we need never be. Christ was abandoned by God’s people so that God’s people won’t be abandoned by him. Therefore, the LORD says to the Christian, “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God” (Isaiah 41:10).

Here is a heart-warming passage from a brilliant old book called *Practical Religion* by Bishop J. C. Ryle:

"The Lord Jesus goes with His friends wherever they go. There is no possible separation between Him and those whom He loves. There is no place or position on earth, or under the earth, that can divide them from the great Friend of their souls. When the path of duty calls them far away from home, He is their companion; when they pass through the fire and water of fierce tribulation, He is with them; when they lie down on the bed of sickness, He stands by them and makes their trouble work for good; when they go down the valley of the shadow of death, and friends and relatives stand still and can go no further, He goes by their side. When they wake up in the unknown world of Paradise, they are still with Him; when they rise with a new body at the judgment day, they will not be alone. He will own them for His friends, and say, "They are mine: deliver them and let them go free." He will make good His own words: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20)."

The Lord will, one day, banish loneliness for ever. “I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4).

“Those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away” (Isaiah 51:11).

Until then, the Lord has work for us to do! Why not resolve with me that we will do all we can to make loneliness history – at least in our church and on our streets. Even at a time when it might feel tempting to ‘hunker-down’ and tend our own bruises, God calls us to move out with courageous love towards those around us. “*The soul of the generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed*” (Proverbs 11:25)

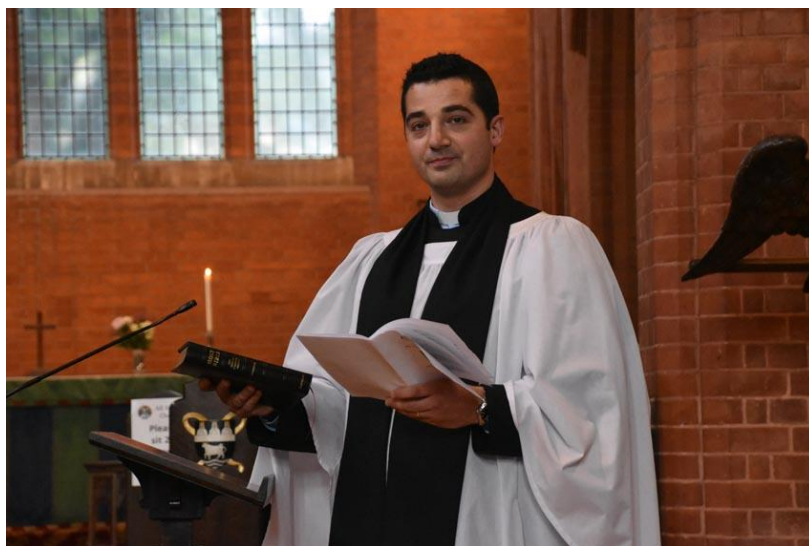
With warmest love and prayers,

Leon

Leon's Licensing Service



On 6 July 2021 an unusual event took place at All Saints' – the licensing of a new minister. The last such service took place on 23 February 1957 – 64 years ago! It gave the congregation much happiness to see Leon Catallo licensed by Bishop Steven, with Archdeacon Jonathan Chaffey, Area Dean Geoff Bayliss, and numerous clergy in attendance.



The service had to be modified because of continuing Covid restrictions, but the church was as full as it could be, with friends from St Ebbe's joining the All Saints congregation. There could be no congregational singing, but the choir, organised by Vivienne, sang beautifully and we are grateful to them and to Julian for enriching the service. They began with the anthem 'Holy, holy, holy, God Almighty Lord', and the hymns were 'How sure the Scriptures are', and 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven'. They ended the service with Rutter's 'The Lord bless you and keep you'. John Glasson and Brigid Crofton read the lessons. Leon was presented with symbols of his ministry: water for baptism (Valerie Boulter), oil of healing (Jerome Joseph), a Bible

(Phyllis Bolt), a copy of Common Worship (Martin Loudon), and bread and wine (Peter Boulton-Lea).



It was a happy occasion, and I am sure we all noticed the warmth of the applause and welcome that All Saints' gave Leon.

We were not able to provide refreshments after the service because of the restrictions on social gatherings, but there will be an opportunity for another celebration of Leon's arrival very soon.



Janet

Thanks to Keith and Rob (St Ebbe's) for the photographs.

Presentation to Peter Boulton-Lea, Sunday 4 July



Sunday 4 July was the last Sunday of our vacancy, and the opportunity was taken to make a presentation to Peter Boulton-Lea, who has been our Associate Priest throughout the last 18 months. Peter has been part of our community for over 10 years following his retirement to live in Headington, helping Jim by taking services and preaching. In the last few years of Jim's time he became a more and more familiar and very welcome face. So, we had got to know and value him well before Jim's retirement. However, his presence among us has been particularly special over the last 18 months, when we entered what for us was the totally unknown world of a "parish in vacancy". He has been that steady presence in our Eucharist services, and the priest in our midst. He has provided interesting and thought-provoking seasonal material for our newsletter, to say nothing of his sermons.

As a churchwarden arranging services, I have found Peter has always been the safe pair of hands that has taken on whatever needed doing by a priest; Sunday-by-Sunday services, funerals, and a baptism. Peter will still be with us, coming to services, preaching, taking services from time-to-time I'm sure. However, 4 July did represent an end to a special phase of his ministry among us. We are all very thankful for everything that he has done, the advice given, and the presence he has been over these past months. A presentation of a book token was made at the end of the service, which was given with all our respect, and love, and thanks.

James

Sunday Worship in August

10 am Holy Communion

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebrant/Preacher</i>	<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Sidespersons</i>
1 August	Leon	James	Jerome / Martin	Veronica / Hannah
8 August	Leon	Janet	John / Vivienne	William / Carol
15 August	Leon	Ginny	Ginny / Patrick	Jerome / Valerie
22 August	Leon	William	Susan / Barbara	Jerome
29 August	Leon	Vivienne	Christine / William	William

As well as these services in church, Christine will continue to offer a Compline service each Sunday evening at 8:30 pm via Zoom.

The joining details are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82317742452>

Dial in for people joining by telephone in the UK.

0203 481 5240 /0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 823 1774 2452

Leon

Parish Giving Scheme



A reminder that anyone wishing to go over to the Parish Giving Scheme should contact Janet for the appropriate form.

There is also information on the website if you prefer to organise your donation online.

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/highfield-all-saints-oxford/>

Happy Birthday Phyllis



Phyllis is the oldest member of our All Saints congregation, celebrating her 96th birthday on the 12th August, a wonderful event in itself, and is also the only one of us who was here when the Rev. Cecil Markby was vicar before Jim. She was 32 when Jim was inducted in 1957.

One of her memories linked to the Rev. Markby is being at church on the 3rd September 1939 when he announced war had been declared. After some special prayers everyone went home feeling very shocked and worried. She was 14.

Not only is Phyllis the very popular oldest member of our congregation but has been one of those who has contributed so much to the various activities linked to the church, for example the Mother's Union, and am sure other groups as well. For many years, whatever the weather, she unlocked the main door for the 8am service in the Lady Chapel.

Everyone at All Saints sends you lots of love and many Congratulations on your very special birthday. Three Cheers for Phyllis!!!

Brigid

Happy Birthday Eve

Greetings also go to Eve for her birthday on 26th August. We hope you have a lovely day.

Catherine

Lunch at the Britannia Inn

Corner of Lime Walk and London Road



This has proved a very popular event so why not come along and join other members of the congregation for lunch once a month at the Britannia Inn?

There is no need to book, just come along, choose your own meal and drink from the menu, order at the bar and join others for a chat.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 12.15pm for 12.30pm

Wednesday 4 August 2021

Wednesday 1 September 2021

Wednesday 6 October 2021

Wednesday 3 November 2021

Wednesday 1 December 2021

Further details from Carol Glasson 765682 or Susan Newey 761908

Other Dates for August

Friday 6 August 2021, 7.30pm by Zoom – Music, Arts & Events Committee meeting

Monday 9 August 2pm Church House – Church House Management Committee Meeting

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, Annual Ride and Stride

11th September 2021, 10am-6pm



It is time to ride and stride again. This is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people from all over the county (and other counties) cycle or walk around the city, nearby towns and villages. The idea is to visit as many churches as possible in the day or part day (between 10am and 6pm), and be sponsored for each one. There are more than 550 eligible churches and chapels in Oxfordshire to choose from. The event is organised by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and your sponsorship money will be shared between the Trust and All Saints'. Since 1964 The Trust has raised over £3.5 million. Despite all the difficulties last year a remarkable £108,000 was raised.

We do hope as many people as possible will join in this year's Ride and Stride event. If you would like to cycle or walk please enter your name on the list at the back of the church and pick up a sponsor form. If you have not done this before and would like to give it a try have a word with Eve Vause, James Larminie or myself, we have all done it many times.

On the day there will be a list in the porch for participants to sign.

More instructions for participants can be found on the official website rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk. Due to continuing uncertainty they will not be printing a list of participating churches, these will be listed on the website and updated as the day approaches.

Thank you,

Carol Glasson

Social Committee News

Now that most restrictions have been removed we are arranging events for the coming months, and hope they can all go ahead.

On **5th September** we are going to hold a **Garden Party** from 3pm to 5pm in the Church garden (in Church if wet). It will be an event to welcome Leon and will be open to all people in the parish.

The **Harvest Lunch** will be held in Church House at 12 noon on **Sunday 26th September** after the Harvest Service. There will be a list in Church later this month for you to sign if you wish to come.

We are planning a **Christmas Lunch** at a local venue, more in the September newsletter. Another new venture is a **regular board game café** – (see below). Also, for next year we hope to have some **Lent Lunches** and a **parish walk** in the spring.

✿✿✿✿✿✿

Board Game Café



Coming soon to a Church House near you!

An evening of 'bring and share' board games with light refreshments. Come on your own or with others. All welcome!

Dates to follow in the next newsletter.

Leon

Parent Support Group



Parent Support Group started in November 2020, at the start of the second lockdown. The government legislated that groups of 15 could meet in a public building (2m apart) for the purpose of ‘mutual aid’. We met in the St Ebbes Headington building on Lime Walk. The group was very successful and for many a lifeline during a very difficult season to have a new baby. There were no other groups running in Oxford at the time, so we had women coming from as far as Farringdon and Witney. Again and again, women kept telling me how lonely they were feeling and our group was providing support from other new mums to one another. It also was a way to make friends. Many women had been working so did not know who the other mums were in the area; our group provided a way to meet them. The group also helped me during a time it was very difficult keeping Elanor entertained. I valued the other women’s company a great deal.



Since Leon and I have moved to All Saints', Parent Support Group is now an All Saints' group. We meet at Church House on Tuesdays 3-4:15. The toys in Church House are excellent, and the room large, so we have toddlers and pre-school children in our group now and a corner designated for new-born and little babies. Around 10-12 parents and carers come each week. We have on average 2 to 3 men there as well as women.



We provide tea, coffee or hot chocolate at the start, and a penguin chocolate bar! Halfway through we sing some nursery rhymes and I give a short thought from the Bible. This thought we introduced in January because everyone was feeling very bleak. The aim was just to encourage everyone in just keep going in being a parent! The short thought is designed so that people with no faith can access it even if they don't believe in God at all. I have spoken on topics such as a 'Your strength is incredible' from Proverbs 31:17, 'Friendship' from Galatians 6:2, 'A kind hearted woman gains honour' Proverbs 11:16, and 'Rest is essential' from Genesis 2:2. If you would enjoy reading these talks, please email me at charlottechristine@live.co.uk, I would be happy to share them with you.

We would also value your prayers for this group as we seek to reach out in love to the parents, carers and babies in our parish.

Charlotte

Hymns and their Tunes

Now that congregational singing is allowed again, I thought I might write an occasional series of short articles on hymns and their tunes (with some prompting by Vivienne), some of which have an interesting story behind them. I thought I would begin by looking a bit further into the three hymns that we sang at the first service where we were permitted to sing as a congregation since the start of the pandemic, on 25th July - the 8th Sunday after Trinity.

We began by singing ‘Tell out my Soul, the Greatness of the Lord’ to the tune ‘Woodlands’ by Walter Greatedorex . The words are a metrical paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary’s hymn of praise to the Lord from St Luke’s Gospel (1:46-55), by Timothy Dudley-Smith.

Timothy Dudley-Smith was born in 1926 and served as Bishop of Thetford from 1981 until retiring in 1991, after which he became Honorary Assistant Bishop in Salisbury. He has written a number of hymns of which the best known are probably this one and the New Year hymn ‘Lord for the Years’. In 2003 he was awarded an OBE for services to hymnody.

Walter Greatedorex was born in 1877 in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and became a chorister at King’s College, Cambridge in 1888. He was appointed as Director of Music at Gresham’s School in Norfolk in 1911 where he remained until he retired in 1949, when he moved to Bournemouth and died a few months later. Two of his notable students were the composer Benjamin Britten and the poet W. H. Auden. One of the houses at Gresham’s School is called Woodlands, after which this tune is named.

Our second hymn was ‘Praise to the Holiest in the Height’ sung to the tune ‘Gerontius’ by J. B. Dykes. The words are by Cardinal (now Saint) John Henry Newman from the poem ‘The Dream of Gerontius’, written in 1865 and subsequently set to music in 1900 by Edward Elgar.

John Bacchus Dykes was born in 1823 in Hull, and by the age of 10 was assistant organist at St John’s Church where his grandfather was vicar. He subsequently became a canon of Durham Cathedral and then Precentor. In 1862 he became vicar of St Oswald's, Durham until his death in 1876. He was a prolific writer of hymn tunes and his style of composition reflected a rather sentimental view of life prevalent during the Victorian period. During the first part of the twentieth century there was a reaction to this style. Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was musical editor of the English Hymnal at the time, wrote in the music preface, ostensibly about Victorian hymn tunes in general, but clearly with Dykes in his sights ‘...it is far easier to dwell in the miasma of the languishing and sentimental hymn tunes which so often disfigure our services.’ In spite of Vaughan Williams taking the high moral ground, many tunes by Dykes survive into the twenty first century. Among the best known are ‘Nicaea’

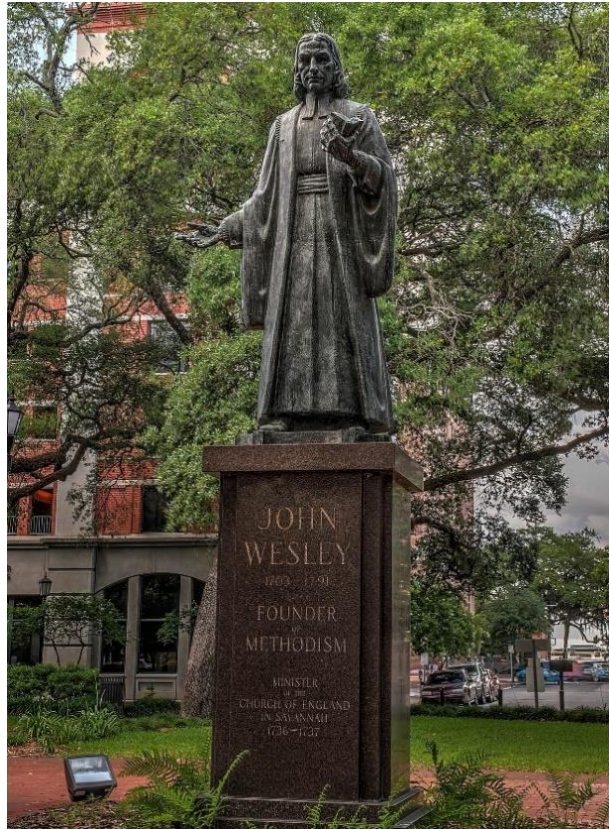
(Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!), Dominus Regit Me (The King of Love my Shepherd is) and Gerontius, which Dykes obviously wrote for this hymn.

Our third hymn was 'Take my life and let it be', words by Frances Havergal. The first tune provided in Common Praise is another tune by Dykes 'St Bees', possibly not one of his finest. The second tune 'Nottingham' by Wenzel Müller is a better tune, but possibly not so familiar to our congregation, so Julian wisely chose 'Savannah'. This tune is better known for its use with the Easter hymn 'Love's redeeming work is done'.

Frances Ridley Havergal was born in 1836 at Astley, Worcestershire and then moved to the Rectory of St Nicholas, Worcester at the age of five. She wrote around fifty hymns, poems and religious tracts. She died at Caswell Bay on the Gower Peninsula in 1879.

The origins of the tune 'Savannah' are quite interesting. The melody was composed by Johannes Thommen (1711-1783) but it is where it first became well known that is of more interest. Originally in the Herrnhut Collection, John Wesley (1703-1791) included this melody in his Foundry Collection. In 1742, John Wesley published 'A Collection of Tunes, Set to Music, as They Are Commonly Sung at the Foundry'. The Foundry was the first Wesleyan Chapel and was formerly a foundry that cast guns and mortars for the Royal Ordnance and had been sitting vacant for 23 years; it had been abandoned because of an explosion in 1716. It was located in Moorfields on the north side of the City of London in the road now known as Tabernacle Street, which was called Windmill Hill in Wesley's time. Most of the texts in the Foundry Collection were written by John Wesley's brother Charles, but this was before Charles became famous as one of the great hymn writers that we know today. So, why is the tune called 'Savannah' and what is the German connection? In October 1735, John and Charles Wesley sailed on *The Simmonds* from Gravesend in Kent for Savannah in the province of Georgia in the American colonies. Wesley had been invited by James Oglethorpe, the founder of the colony, to be the minister of the newly formed Savannah parish. On the voyage, the Wesleys came into contact with the Moravian settlers, and were greatly influenced by them. John Wesley left the colony in late December 1737 and returned to England.

The Moravian Church is one of the oldest Protestant denominations in the world, dating back to the reforms associated with Jan Huss and his followers (Hussites) in ancient Moravia and Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic), during the fifteenth century. Its members fled to the small Upper Lusatian town of Herrnhut in Saxony in 1722 to escape religious persecution. Herrnhut was the place of the Church's renewal, hence the German connection. The Moravians then spread out from Saxony to many places, including England and America. The Moravians did not succeed in establishing a colony at Savannah in 1736, but they did establish a permanent presence in Pennsylvania in 1741, spreading to other parts of America.



John Wesley is known for naming tunes after places he visited during his itinerant ministry, so this answers the question of the name of the tune. The picture above shows a statue of John Wesley in Savannah, Georgia, erected to mark his ministry there in 1736 – 1737.

Keith

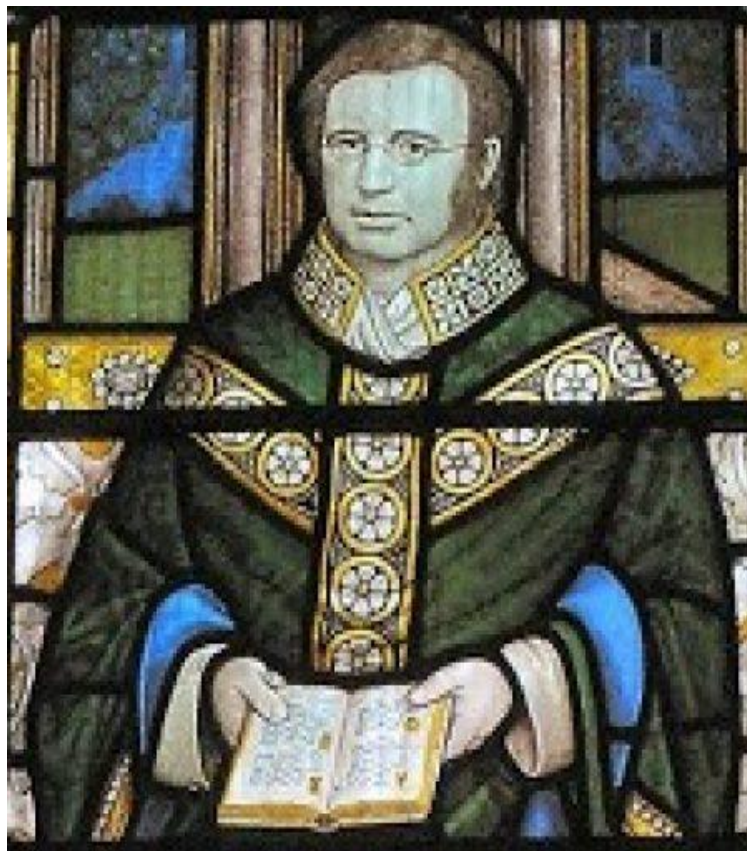
Sing Praises to God, Sing Praises

(Psalm 47 v. 6a)

Now that lockdown restrictions have largely been lifted, one of the great joys and pleasures for many church congregations is that we may once more sing hymns during services. Hymn singing, the combination of words and music, enrich our services in many ways, not just outwardly but inwardly. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430) described hymn singing as ‘praying twice’. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, in a recent book *‘(Rowan Williams in Conversation with Greg Garrett, SPCK)’* described the importance of singing as follows:

‘...people forget that singing is a physical activity that has some of the same centring effect [as bread making]. The less we sing, the worse things go. That’s not going to work whistling “Heigh ho, heigh ho, it’s off to work we go”, it’s recognising that song is a way of inhabiting your body in a deeply affective, deeply transforming way, being and saying more than you think you are. Song together is powerful’.

In the Anglican church we are fortunate to have a wonderful collection of hymns to sing and on August 7th, the Church will remember one of our most prolific hymn writers John Mason Neale.



Neale was born in 1818, studied at Cambridge and was priested in 1842. He became an enthusiastic supporter of the High Church (Oxford) Movement which raised

suspicion among many of his contemporaries, but chronic ill health prevented him from becoming a parish priest. In 1846 he became Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead in Sussex, not a college but an almshouse, and in 1854 he co-founded the Sisterhood of St Margaret, an Anglican order of women dedicated to nursing the sick.

He was however able to devote much of his time to translating Eastern liturgies into English and wrote a mystical commentary on the psalms. But he is best known as a hymn writer and translator, translating ancient and medieval hymns from Latin and Greek as well as from Russian and Syrian. He was passionately fond of music but although he is said to have had an exquisite ear for melody and words, 'he had not a note in his voice'. Among his many hymns that can be found in today's hymnals are; 'All glory laud and honour', 'Jerusalem the golden', 'O come O come Emmanuel', 'Of the Father's love begotten', 'The day of resurrection' and the Christmas hymns 'Good Christian men rejoice' and 'Good King Wenceslas'.

Today hymnals tend to have a large format but early editions were often pocket sized so that they could be easily carried and referred to in spare or quiet moments for personal meditation and thought; good hymns express good theology.

Neale died on 6th August 1866. Since the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration on that date, the Church remembers Neale on August 7th. As we continue to enjoy singing hymns in our church services, may we remember Neale in the following prayer:

Almighty God, beautiful in majesty and majestic in holiness, you have shown us the splendour of creation in the work of your servant John Mason Neale. Teach us to drive from the world the ugliness of chaos and disorder that our eyes may not be blind to your glory and that at length everyone may know the inexhaustible riches of your new creation in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Ginny

Flower Diary



As we are now able to have flowers back in Church, I have re-instated the Flower Diary, which you will find on the notice table.

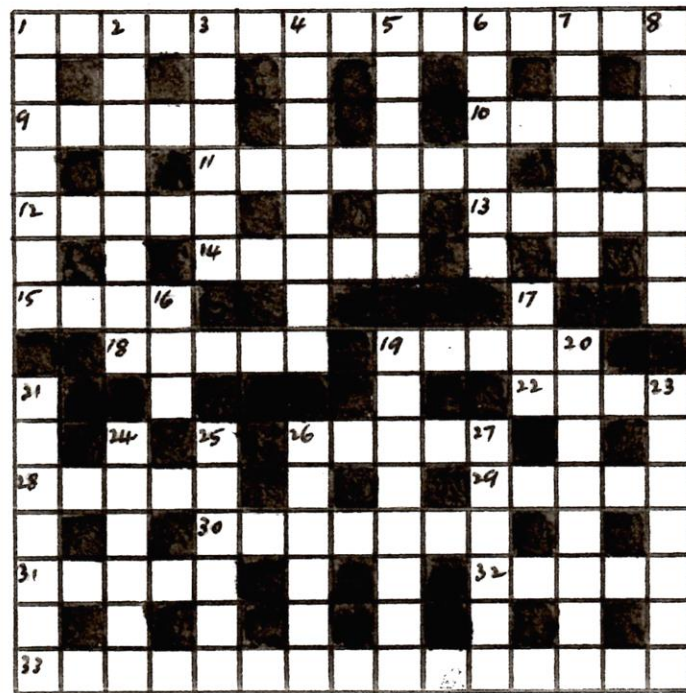
If you would like to have a display of flowers, please write your Name and the Date when you would like them put into the Church and your choice of colour (if I can find them in the shop). If you wish to write a short message, this will be put by the arrangement. Please put all of this into the Diary for me to follow. A small donation for the purchase of the flowers would be appreciated, and can be given to me for that purpose.

We ran this scheme at the beginning of 2013, and I would so like it to resume.

Thank you

Valerie

Crossword Compiled by Robert



CLUES

ACROSS

1. Where to get a stop watch? (6, 4, 5)
9. Even with a letter it could be more than an ordinary occurrence. (5)
10. The old nag died shortly, removed, and her remains laid out lengthwise.(5)
11. Refer to change in it on men. (7)
12. Properly prepared he met the subject. (5)
13. Invigorating key-note. (5)
14. Obviously a dirty word. (5)
15. Move easily from side to side though it appears steadfast. (4)
18. Anger rises between the same points – how weird. (5)
- 19.Sport in the snow with extra loud trappings but altogether it is waterborne.(5)
22. ... so run easily with liquid movements. (4)
- 26.A large number in dry surroundings produce bitterly pungent atmosphere. (5)
28. Sup with me by arrangement – mere froth. (5)
29. Send the clock or similar device back. (5)
30. Enquire of Cane who is rather befuddled and looks anywhere but at you.(7)
31. Deduce from tin, ferrous metals and other things. (5)
32. She's rather more than nice, relatively speaking. (5)
33. Day and night, night and day. (5, 5, 5)

DOWN

1. Lets her find proper bearings to take cover. (7)
2. Give it to believe. (8)
3. Hazel possibly and Megan almost add flavour. (6)
4. Two instruments in sprightly nautical setting. (8)
5. Indigenous savage? (6)
6. Rather a ramshackle ballad! (6)
7. Spring with a start to proliferate. (6)
8. American serviceman in the pub sees things very clearly. (7)
16. Responsible for an open and shut case. (3)
17. It's simply not on. (3)
19. ... for it has no weak spot. (8)
20. Almost on fire, the dandy follows the torch. (8)
21. Beast is rigid to a degree. (7)
23. Observe the testimony. (7)
24. Repulsive old fellow? (6)
25. Annually the letter arrives before time. (6)
26. It has the power to turn red to blue – political genius? No, just chemistry. (6)
27. Some soaking for the sheep! (6)

Answers are at the end of the newsletter.

Acknowledgments

Very many thanks for everyone who has contributed to this 'bumper' newsletter. Circumstances have made it difficult for me to edit the newsletter this month, so most of the work has been done by my daughter-in-law, Catherine. I am greatly indebted to her.

The deadline for the September issue will be Wednesday 25 August.

Cardiff Opera

Coming to All Saints' Church 4 September!

Purchase tickets [here](#)

Cardiff Opera presents Mozart's beloved masterpiece *Le nozze di Figaro* in a concert performance. Sung in the original Italian with English narration written for the occasion, this promises to a wonderful summer evening of mishaps, madness, divine music and superb singing.



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