

st JOHN'S



Parish Magazine
HARVEST 2017



st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

Harvest 2017
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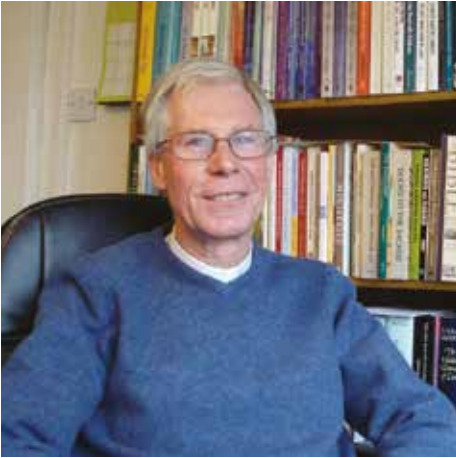
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Letter from the Vicarage by the Reverend Nicholas Anderson

Tuesday 31 October marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It was on that date that Martin Luther is said to have nailed on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg his Ninety-Five Theses opposing the sale of indulgences and what he perceived to be clerical abuses attached to this practice. Since then, the Reformation has made an impressive journey. Today, churches of the Reformation can be found in all four corners of the globe, with a steadily growing number living in the global south. Although for some Reformation Churches the year 1517 does not necessarily have special significance, since we associate different dates with the beginning of the Reformation, the commemoration of this quincennial anniversary offers an excellent opportunity for all Churches to reflect on the ongoing relevance of the questions that triggered the Reformation and to discern its societal impact.

At the heart of Luther's call was the affirmation 'ecclesia semper reformanda, semper reformanda': 'the church is always reformed, always reforming.' Whilst it is true that the reformers' theological children have sometimes preferred the stability of the past to the dynamic movements of the Living God, faithfulness to the Reformation is a matter of spirit and experience and willingness to constantly share our faith in new and creative ways.

In commemorating Reformation Sunday (28 October) we are stating that our Christian faith is forward- rather than backward-looking, evolving rather than static, at home in this world rather than in a previous age or a heavenly realm.

As Luther and the other 16th century reformers sought to articulate their reforming faith, they affirmed five 'solas'—sola scriptura, sola fides, sola gratia, solus Christus, soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the glory). These 'solas' expressed the contours of Reformation faith but without narrowly defining its meaning. To be faithful to the Reformed spirit, each of these must be constantly updated to respond to God's call in a constantly changing world. As children of the Reformation, we

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have the responsibility of describing what these 'solus' might mean in the global, postmodern, scientific, and pluralistic age in which we live. It is when we are comfortable building upon and going beyond the original insights of the Reformers that we are most faithful to the spirit from which the Reformation emerged.

What does it mean for us to say that Scripture alone is the ultimate source of authority in the Christian life and the life of the church? If this is too narrowly defined, it leads to an unimaginative, backward-looking, culture-denying, and intolerant literalism which is quite different from what the Reformers intended. Yes, Scripture is central to our faith, but it is not meant to be an idol. A reverence for and respect of the Word does not imply that we worship words or allow them to get in the way of the Living Word, incarnate in Jesus Christ.

For us to be faithful to Scripture today is to see it as a living and evolving series of books which possess an inner integrity, and not to be too selective in our reading of them. In the Scriptures, we have the fullness of what for now the Spirit says to the churches. That can make for uncomfortable reading, since these Scriptures challenge us today to be attentive to people fleeing brutal wars, persecutions, human rights violations, political instability and extreme poverty.

The Reformers challenge us to look for the word of grace within the words of Scripture. A graceful reading of Scripture opens us to experiencing divine wisdom in science, medicine, literature and the arts, and even in non-Christian faiths. Scripture is always an open door, and yet so often in the original lands of the Reformation it has become a closed book.

Another insight of the Reformers is that we receive God's love regardless of our current spiritual or ethical state. Though unmerited, grace is not 'in spite' of who we are but 'because of' who God is. Grace does not diminish the human enterprise, but invites us to live abundantly, fully, and creatively. Though grace is universal, it is not unilateral or uniform. Grace works uniquely within each person. Grace does not depend on our works; we receive it rather than earn it. Still, the shape of grace is personal and depends on our relationship to God and one another.

As men of their time, the Reformers saw grace as saving 'depraved' humanity, whereas some today would interpret this differently, arguing that grace heals 'good, but imperfect' humanity. By this, I think they mean that grace calls us to action, bringing forth our essential goodness and inviting us to be God's partners in healing the earth. In the quest for and the formation of a holistic faith unstoppable grace comes to us, accepting and empowering us in all our brokenness. In other words, our receptivity to grace leads to action and mission. The more complete our responses to grace are, greater are the works that God and we can achieve in the world. God does not compete with us in power; rather, God's power enhances our creativity, freedom, and power to change the world.

Against their detractors the Reformers affirmed that Christ alone is the rock of salvation. They remind us that the healing and saving power of Christ is not restricted to time and place. Grace is not grace if it is limited to adherence to a particular



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doctrinal understanding or religious confession. Christ liberates us to seek truth and healing wherever they are found, whether in the laboratory, hospital, library, or other faith traditions. Christ opens the doors of revelation to all creation, giving hospitality and inspiration to God's beloved children everywhere. Christ is alive, and he is moving within us to fulfil his healing, justice-seeking, and life-transforming mission in our time.

As children of the Reformation, we are being invited, during this October, to take our inheritance seriously, to be aware of the need for constant reform, living our faith anew, updating it constantly, and committing ourselves to a justice-seeking, world-affirming, beauty-creating faith. In this way, we will honour the Reformation's legacy.

With best wishes to you all,

Nicholas P. Anderson

Nicholas Anderson



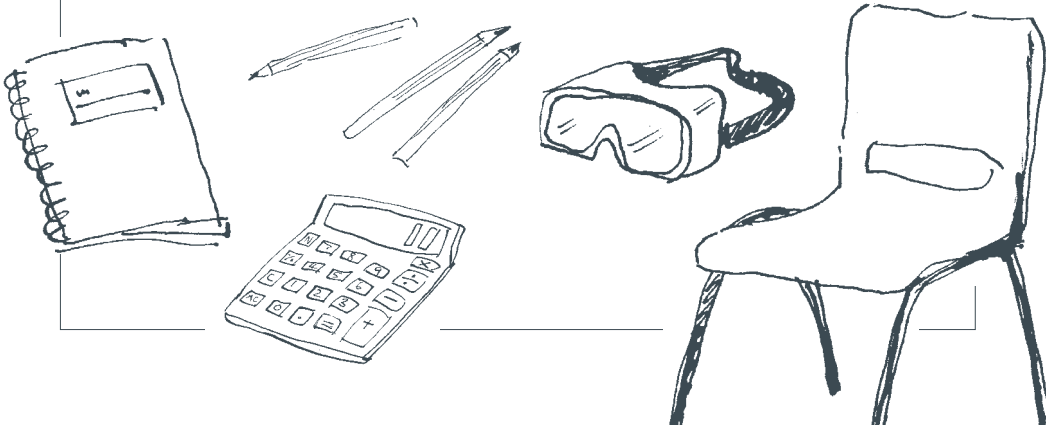
Education Sunday, 10 September 9.30 am

Come and join us as we ask God to bless the new academic year, with its new teachers, new expectations, new friends, new subjects to learn; or maybe you've moved from primary to secondary school, or have left secondary school this summer and are going on to university?

Whatever your situation, do come along. Bring your bags, and let the Lord bless your new adventure.

Nicholas Anderson

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From the Churchwardens

At the time of writing, summer appears to have been and gone at least once, and perhaps as we move into August, it will come and go again. We very much hope that whatever the weather, everyone has enjoyed some time of relaxation and refreshment during the holiday period.

At the end of April we held our annual meeting. The wardens (who were both voted in for another year's office) would like to thank all those who attended. Tom Venner was re-elected for a further term of office and we were delighted to welcome four new members to the PCC: Naomi Burnett, Dawn Mason, Bill Moore, and Liz Sergeant, and we look forward to working with them and all our PCC members.

Our thanks go to Jane Donati, who was formally elected for a further year as deputy warden at our May PCC meeting, and to David Christian who, as chair of the Fabric Committee, was co-opted to the PCC at the same meeting. We thank those stepping down from their PCC responsibilities for all their support and commitment over the past years of their tenure: Matt Barter, Margaret Charlston, Pat Hudis, Tracey Kennedy and Ian Richmond

A tremendous amount of work goes into preparation for the annual meeting, not least by Steve Creasy on the formulating of the accounts, Michael Coleby our independent examiner, and Neil Middleton who coordinates and provides the updates to the electoral roll. Our thanks go to them for the significant time spent and effort expended.

So far, it has been a summer of special occasions. Our patronal festival was,

appropriately, marked after the morning Eucharist by a presentation of the results of the feasibility study regarding our plans for a new parish centre by David Christian (who has chaired the design team) and Mark Eddison (our architect appointed to this phase of the study). 'Project Phoenix' was chosen as the project name, having received the highest number of votes, and the congregation was shown a number of potential options, together with two shortlisted plans, for how we might use the space that we have to enhance our mission and ministry in our parish.

Plans for tea in the vicarage garden were slightly altered to allow for the vagaries of the weather in the afternoon of St John's Day. We were, however, able to enjoy many and various cakes and savouries, together with copious cups of tea, in the hall (and outside, for those braving the somewhat threatening conditions) before joining for evensong in the Lady Chapel where, but for hastily rearranged chairs, it would have been standing room only.

Space was at an even greater premium the following Sunday in the Abbey for the ordination of deacons, and it was good to see so many St John's people at the service to support James Brown, our new curate, on that happy occasion. We were delighted to welcome James for his first Sunday Parish Communion on the following weekend, at which the junior choir sang and after which we celebrated with brunch. Thank you to all who provided bacon rolls, sausages, cakes, and suitable celebratory drinks.

Over the summer we have also acquired a new shed by the side of the Garden of

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Remembrance. Thank you to all who spent many hours emptying and dismantling the old shed and sorting through the accumulation of many years' activity.

Our thanks as always go to the many people who are involved in the smooth running of our church. We are always on the look-out for volunteers and helpers to cover a range of tasks and activities. At present we have various vacancies which need to be filled in order to ensure that we function efficiently, particularly on the various rotas that are maintained to keep our Sunday morning services running smoothly. If you think you could help, we would be delighted to hear from you.

And so we look forward to the coming harvest period and hope to welcome you to any of our services or events, the details for which are printed in this magazine.

James Hillman

Mary Jean Pritchard



Michael Readman

James Brown with the Bishop of Hertford at the Abbey after a service for the ordination of deacons.

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

28 May 2017

Joseph Jack Storkey

4 June 2017

William Joshua Anderson

16 July 2017

Grace Catrin Evans

30 July 2017

Freya Kate Hibbert

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

28 April 2017

Maureen Elizabeth Lacey

3 May 2017

Dennis Cyril Russell

7 July 2017

Philip Ernest Haig

7 July 2017

Kenneth Sidney Tyler

12 July 2017

Angela Best

14 July 2017

Violet Doreen Turnbull

31 July 2017

Mark Ernest Fletcher

Marriages

Joined by God

29 July 2017

Sean Brocklehurst
to Laura Wagstaff

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Christian Aid week

Once again, Christian Aid Week (14 – 20 May) in Harpenden was a great success. In just seven days, £17,000 (including Gift Aid) was raised to help some of the most desperate people in the world. We would like to thank all who contributed so generously to this magnificent result: most particularly all our dedicated collectors who may, sometimes, doubt whether their efforts are worthwhile. Never forget, those red envelopes are literally life-saving!

Christian Aid (CA) has its origins 70 years ago in response to the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War. The first Christian Aid Week (CAW) was born 60 years ago, in 1957, out of the same compelling need to respond to worldwide human suffering, and raised some £26,000 (about £440,000 today) from the 316 towns and areas that took part. Now CAW unites more than 20,000 churches across the UK and Ireland, determined to be a rock for our global neighbours in need, not only for refugees, but for victims of disasters and communities affected by climate change.

At harvest time, we very properly thank God for all His generous provision, but we also need to remember that not everyone's harvest is secure. Indeed, not everyone's seasons are secure. The cycles and rhythms of the earth upon which we rely are being disrupted by climate change. Already CA partners are finding that climate change is affecting the poorest and most vulnerable communities first and worst of all. That's why CA campaigns to tackle climate change.

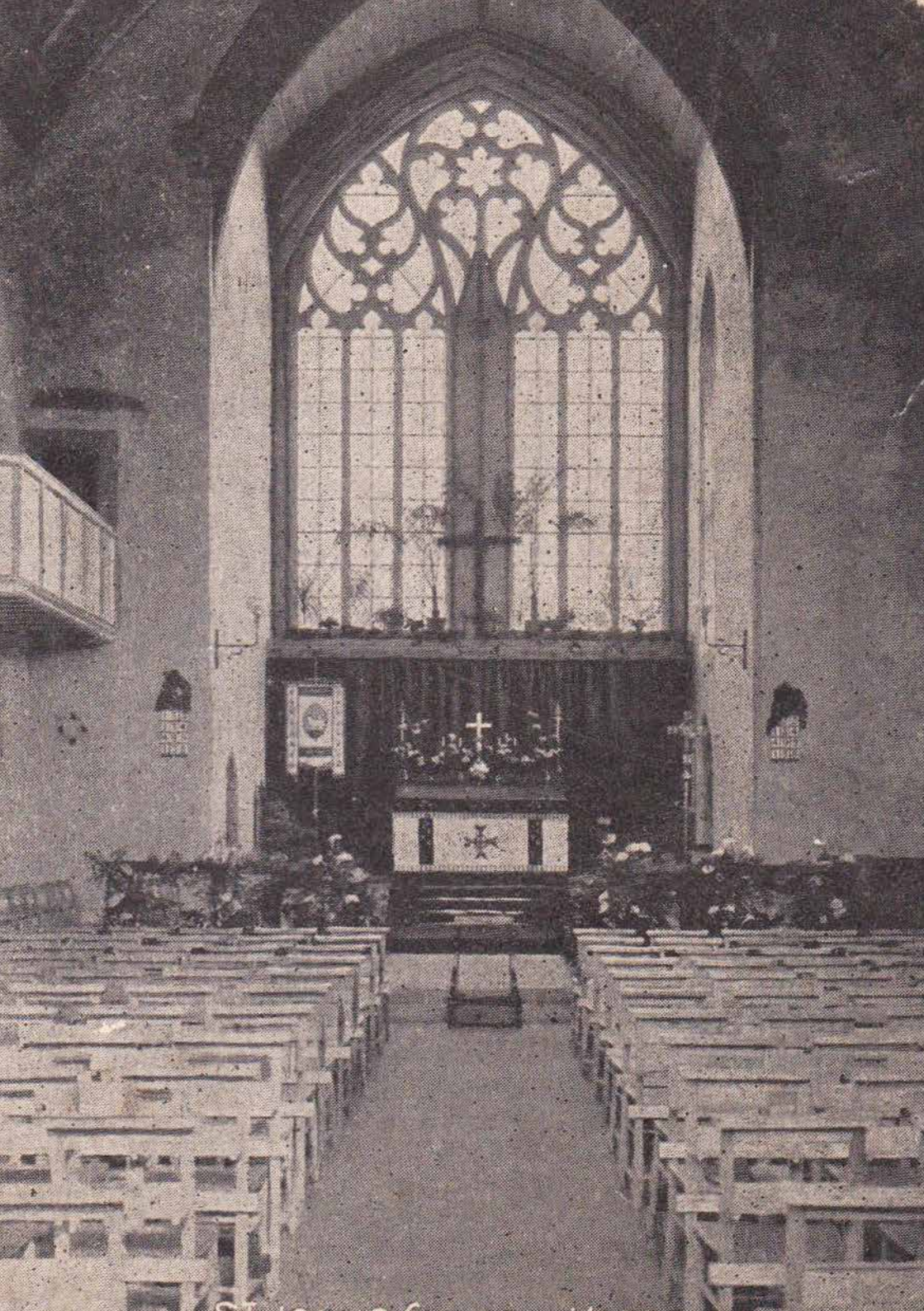
The 2016 landmark Paris Climate Agreement was the culmination of ten years' hard work, but the task is far from over. CA has now launched the Big Shift Campaign, which is designed to persuade banks to move money out of fossil fuels and into clean energy. At the international level, CA and other partners are challenging the World Bank to stop financing coal-fired power stations, but, as individuals, we all have a part to play.

For more information, please visit caid.org.uk/bigshift

Susan Holt and Pat Hudis

Used stamps: Thank you everybody who collects and donates British and foreign stamps. I collect them from the red box in the church porch and every so often I take them to the Embrace (BibleLands) office in Amersham. Experts are there to sort them for selling, and you would be amazed how much money they raise to send to blind children in the Holy Land, the likes of whom my husband and I saw years ago when we visited. Moira Carrington

Further donations of used stamps are most gratefully received. (Ed)



Looking back 90 years!

It was a great delight recently to receive some interesting items which highlight life at St John's over the past decades. Included were photographs taken in the 1980s, which brought back many happy memories, much hilarity and some embarrassment! Going back even further, and perhaps most interesting of all, a 90-year old copy of our magazine, dated September 1927, was part of the donation.

At that time, St John's was a sister church of St Nicholas, not becoming a separate parish until 1936, but we were allocated a page and a half in the Harpenden Parish Magazine – price 2d. The Curate in Charge at the time was the Rev W E Robinson, who lived in St John's House situated in Cravells Road (phone number: 'Harpenden 435'!), and the pattern of services was very similar to today's, with an 8:00am Holy Communion; Sung Eucharist at 11:00am on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, and Matins at 11.00 am on 2nd and 4th Sundays; Evensong at 6.30 pm and daily prayers at 9.00 am and 7.00 pm.

Then, as now, there was an active and thriving Sunday School, as told by an extract from the magazine: 'the Infants' Tea and Games took place on Saturday 6th August. We were especially favoured with splendid weather and there were no accidents of any kind.' Times do change, however, as it is also reported that 'the Catechism class will reopen on Sunday, 4th September.'

St John's, as we know, has a strong musical tradition going back many decades, as a report on the Organ and Choir Fund shows. This states that 'there

are still a few pounds owing on the organ repairs. We hope to do a good deal this autumn to improve our music and choir in every way. We have had to have the harmonium for practices repaired and this will cost £7. We want also to buy some new music. The council has decided that the women's choir ought to have a proper choir uniform which will cost £10. Will those who care for music, the music of God's worship, please help us to satisfy our desires for His service.'

And as we prepare ourselves in 2017 for a major fundraising exercise, it is interesting to read that in 1927 an article in the magazine headed 'Gifts for the Church' stated that 'now that there are evident signs that St John's is steadily growing and progressing, we are the more bold to speak of the many things St John's needs. We will gladly make suggestions to any who wish to make large or small presents to their church'.

History does repeat itself!

Thanks to Ian Richmond for handing on this little piece of history. And we remember all those who have made St John's the lovely place of worship we are privileged to enjoy today.

Margaret Creighton



St Luke's Cell

I was struck by this powerful statement by the author of a recently published book by the Bible Reading Fellowship (the book's preface is by Debbie Thrower), and thought it might help some people.

'In Jesus' teaching and practice (which is even more pertinent),... those with blocked ears, tied tongues, those who were unwashed, lacking in faith and with neither material goods nor intellectual prowess were attended to by the Son of God; they were healed, refreshed, remotivated by him; warmed, held, loved by him; called 'little children' and 'friends' by him. So there's hope for every one of us, including me, after all.'

From *Come let us Age!*, by Wanda Nash, published July 2017

St Luke's Cell meets monthly to pray for those in any kind of need, including the long-term sick.

Michael Hughes 01582 765576



In God's hands

(Written following a silent meditation with slides
on Jeremiah's visit to the potter's house)

You, me, a lump of clay, a lump of clay in God's hands -
Though even then His thumbs, His fingers leave their mark.
This unformed lump of clay,
This me, this you,
Is strongly shaped into a ball and thrown upon the potter's wheel.
The wheel is spun and I, you go with it.
Those hands and fingers gently, firmly holding us in place.
And as we spin a shape emerges.
First stretched high and thin
Then squashed back slowly towards the wheel
And the pressure of fingers and thumbs gently hollowing out
To make the space that can be filled.
Then, finally formed, the shape's cut free from the wheel.
But that is not the end.

No.

Next comes the firing, that blast of unbearable heat
To ease out the moisture, harden the clay,
To fix the shape for the work today.
The journey from that lump of clay
To the shape, the form for the working day
Is long and hard but must be done.
But not alone.

No.

God's hands, those fingers, thumbs and the wheel of life
Mould and shape and gently bend
To draw the form from that lump of clay;
A cup perhaps from which others may drink;
A jug maybe to be poured out;
A thing of beauty to store His treasures.
Who knows.

The potter did right from the start
As He eyed the shapeless lump of clay.
That shapeless lump that once was you or me.

Anne Edwards

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Ever since the Benedictine monks of St Albans bent their heads over manuscripts in the scriptorium of the Abbey, learning has been central to the life and work of the religious community in this area. St Albans Cathedral Study Centre is proud to continue in this tradition, offering a broad variety of talks, courses and study days on subjects ranging from mindfulness, watercolour painting and creative writing, to theology,

literature and ancient languages. Open to all, it offers opportunities to explore faith, to pursue theological and academic study under the tutelage of experts, and to encourage open conversation on all sorts of topics, such as poetry, psychology, music or science. It also has a very simple bursary scheme for those who would like to attend but find the cost preventative.

Here's just a small selection of what's on offer this autumn:

An Introduction to the Reformation

Mondays 18 Sept – 16 Oct
Time: 8.00 – 9.45pm
Cost: £60

October 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's 95 theses. This introductory course reflects on the background, development and ongoing impact of this seminal moment in history.

Tutor: The Rev'd Kenneth Padley, Tutor in Church History

The Book Group

Second Tuesday in the month
Time: 2.30pm and 6pm
Cost: voluntary donation

The book group meets once a month to discuss a novel of interest to a Christian audience. We'll be starting in September with William P. Young's 'The Shack', and will then read Nicola Griffith's 'Hild', Leif Enger's 'Peace Like A River' and Sarah Perry's 'The Essex Serpent' over the next 3 months.

Science and Faith

Thursdays 2 – 30 Nov
Time: 8.00-9.45pm
Cost: £60

Does science demolish faith or deepen it? How should we understand the Big Bang, evolution, miracles, God and ourselves? Looking at these questions from theological, scientific, historical and philosophical perspectives.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Tim Bull, Residential Canon of St Albans Cathedral

Come & Sing: Fauré's Requiem for Remembrance

Date: Saturday 4 November
Time: 2.30pm rehearsal, 6.30pm performance
Cost: £12

(tickets to hear the performance: £5)

An opportunity to learn Fauré's Requiem in an afternoon with the Cathedral's Master of the Music for a performance at the Cathedral in the evening. An ability to read music is helpful.

Tutor: Andrew Lucas, Master of the Music at St Albans Cathedral

Poetry Recital: Remembrance

Date: Tuesday 14 November
Time: 8.00-c.9.30pm
Price: £10

From 'Remember, Remember, the 5th of November', through Remembrance Day, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, there is good reason for calling November the 'Month of Remembrance'. The Archdeacon of St Albans leads a poetry evening with poems inspired by the theme of Remembering and Remembrance.

Please do take a look at the Cathedral Study Centre webpages for the full programme. I very much look forward to welcoming you at some of our events.

Caroline Godden,
Adult Learning Officer for the Study Centre, St Albans Abbey

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LLLW?

I seem to collect 'L's' in my life. First and foremost, there are my Labradors; then there was the LLB gained in a former lifetime, when I obtained my Law degree, and now I am training to be an LLLW. It is beginning to sound like cricket and I shall probably be LBW before I know where I am. 'So, what' I hear you ask, 'is an LLLW?'

LLLW stands for 'Local Lay Leader of Worship' and is a training scheme run by the diocese to enable worship to take place in every church every Sunday (irrespective of the size of the congregation). The worship embraces a wide range of services including Holy Communion and Services of the Word, with provision for all ages. Bishop Alan writes: 'This Scheme is designed to help parishes discern and affirm the gifts of lay people as local lay leaders of worship (LLWs)... My prayer is that...we might work for the glory of God, make excellent worship accessible to many as possible and also release the gifts and skills of lay people.' (Bishop Alan has thoughtfully allowed one 'L' to be dropped.)

The LLW training takes place over two days, some months apart, and comprises six sessions of 'teaching', practical elements and required reading (see the book review below). Lauryn, a Reader for St John's, was one of my course tutors. Nicholas has been helping me in my training, introducing me gently into the ministerial team rota and generally being a rock to turn to whenever I have needed guidance. I have completed the formal part of the training now, and all

the required paperwork: assignments and reflections have been submitted to the diocese. As long as everything is in order, Bishop Alan will issue me with a letter of permission recognising me as a LLW in St John's. Nicholas will continue to guide me, and for the next three years will undertake a formal annual review of my ministry. My training has been ratified by the PCC.

My lay ministry at St John's has been gradually growing over the years that I have worshipped here. It started with serving, reading the lesson and assisting with the chalice. It then moved onto becoming PCC secretary, unofficially helping to arrange social/fundraising events, having regular involvement at T@3 and, in the last couple of years, leading intercessions. This last step made me a much more prayerful person and I saw a significant deepening of my own faith. Each step along the way has been supported and guided by the ministry team, and my lovely St John's family, to whom I owe a big debt of gratitude for helping me to progress along my journey of faith. So, now I find myself in a new, exciting and challenging role, and it is with equal measures of humility and joy that I am now embarking on serving the St John's community as a lay leader of worship.

What exactly will I be doing? Well, it might be easier to say what I won't be doing. There is no theological training to my role, so I shall not – you will be relieved to hear – be preaching any sermons. I shall, however, deliver

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'alternatives to sermons', which, although not expounding the Scriptures, offer a guided meditation or reflection.

Evensong-goers have already been exposed to my thoughts on the man who was St Thomas the Apostle (in a nutshell, there was MUCH more to him than simply that he doubted.). I am really an extra pair of hands for the ministry team to employ in such roles as leading Services of the Word or assisting with All Age services. I find myself with something of a vocation at an interesting time in the Church of England, when it is very much the spirit of the age to find new ways and

fresh expressions of our faith. It is a very exciting time to be involved at St John's, especially now that James, our new curate, has joined us too.

The prospect of my future lay ministry fills me with great joy and hope. I would urge anyone else who is interested in taking this step to talk to Nicholas, Lauryn or me about it. I pray that I may serve this parish community in a way that is pleasing to God and that over time, with your support and prayers, I may grow in confidence, creativity and sensitivity in all that I am involved in as a LLW at St John's.

Emma Bresslaw

Mothers' Union

At the time of writing we are appreciating the warm weather, and our summer activities are in full swing.

Our outing this year was to Jordan's Mill near Biggleswade. The mill is mentioned in the Domesday Book and was purchased by the Jordan family in 1893. A year later it suffered fire damage, but this provided an opportunity to rebuild the mill and refit it with more advanced machinery. The mill subsequently became the largest flour producer in the region, leading the way in innovation and eventually becoming influential in the granola movement of the 1970s.

Although no longer producing flour, the mill is open to visitors as a charity, with guided tours showing the method of flour production. The gardens and meadow illustrate how flowers and crops can be grown together and how wildlife is supported. We had lunch in the cafe and the weather was perfect. We are hoping for another fine day for our garden party in August.

Our evening talks have been a success, with a talk by Sue Oxlade on her pilgrimages and another by Jean McIntosh on our theme for the year, 'Faith in Action', which Jean illustrated with stories about various Harpenden ladies. On another evening we also welcomed a local policeman who was bombarded with questions about our personal safety!

At the Diocesan AGM in Bedford, four of us learnt about the good causes which are helped by money raised by the MU, and Bev Jullien, the new chief executive, who was born in Harpenden, inspired us with her plans for the future.

We hope to welcome members of the congregation to our evening meetings, which resume in September on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the hall.

Contact me, Julia Smith, on 01582 763615

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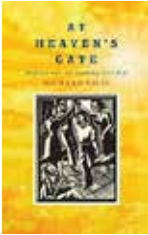
Book review

At Heaven's Gate: Reflections on Leading Worship

by Richard Giles

Published by Canterbury Press

ISBN 978-1-84825-046-8



This book is currently required reading for all those undertaking the LLW course. It is small, short (150pp), light, accessible and makes very interesting reading. I highly recommend it, and I actually commented to Lauryn that chunks of it should probably be preached on a Sunday morning. Its intended audience is those involved with leading worship, but since we all contribute to worship, just by being part of the assembly at a service, it merits a place on everyone's bookshelf. The aim of the book is to try and find the ways to create 'worship that will take us to the threshold of heaven'.

In his Introduction to the book, Giles comments, with characteristic candour, that 'we can be entranced by worship, literally "lost in wonder, love and praise", or be driven to distraction by it, vowing to remain in bed on Sundays.' He then proceeds to examine the foundations that are prerequisite in a faith community if good worship is

to have a chance of occurring. The largest section of the book looks more closely at the characteristics of good worship. It contains many bold ideas and is, perhaps, overly optimistic in what it feels can be achieved without losing faithful worshippers who wish to remain, at least in part, wedded to the familiar and the traditional. It is courageous, though, and exciting, and made me question what worship is and what makes good worship happen. Giles is adamant that good music is the most significant single element to good worship, not that it should be a separate show or entertainment within it, but that good music as an integral part of worship should, like a highly caffeinated drink, give us wings and lift us spiritually. He points to the success and growth in the new churches today, most of which sing contemporary music lustily and draw in many new disciples, to a large degree, by the strength of their musical worship. According to him, we should be learning a new hymn every week and embracing music of all cultures and genres. This is quite a challenge for the congregation and a massive task for the director of music.

It is hard, in a brief review of this book, to cover all the aspects the author focuses on. I would love to discuss it with someone else who has read it, so please give it a go and then perhaps collar me one Sunday and share your view with me. One final analogy I would like to share with you

from the book concerns the structures and workings of a church community. How can we arrange things so that everybody takes a turn and accepts responsibility? The success of all living arrangements, all communities, all institutions at every level, be it student accommodation or a family home, or, by analogy, our church community, rely on the fundamentals – whose turn is it to take the rubbish out and are they doing it? Worship, Giles argues, is a corporate event, not a private arrangement between God and the individual. Worship is not created for the individual but vice versa. The question should be, 'what can we all do for worship?', and not, 'what can worship do for me?' Giles quotes 1 Corinthians 3:10: 'According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.'

This is a book bursting with ideas. The author is supremely confident of his plan. Whether one agrees with all he proposes is almost irrelevant, but he speaks with such conviction that one cannot help but at least consider his ideas and question the status quo, which must be healthy. His aim is to enable worship that will transfigure and energise the congregation, irrespective of the ordinariness of ourselves and our surroundings, so that our worship takes us to stand at heaven's gate, caught up by the Spirit of God. Emma Bresslaw



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Forthcoming events

For regular services, see the back cover

August 2017

Wednesday 2 August	2.30 pm	Mothers' Union garden party at Barlings Road, Harpenden AL5 2AL
Friday 4 August	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 11 August	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 18 August	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 25 August	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Sunday 27 August	11.30 am	Family baptism

September 2017

Sunday 3 September	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall TBC
Wednesday 6 September	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting: Talk from 'Women's Aid in Luton'
Friday 8 September	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 9 September	10.00 am	Bike'n Hike
Wednesday 13 September	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Songs of Praise in Church Coffee served in church from 6.30 pm
Friday 15 September	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 17 September	11.30 am	Family baptism x 2
Monday 18 September	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Saturday 23 September	1.30 pm	Royal School of Music event in church
Friday 29 September	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

October 2017

Sunday 1 October	11.30 am	Family baptism
Sunday 1 October	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall
Monday 25 September	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Monday 2 October	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Wednesday 4 October	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting: Talk – Lauryn Awbrey 'A visit to Jerusalem'

Friday 6 October	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 7 October	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church
Sunday 8 October	11.30 am	Family baptism
Monday 9 October	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Tuesday 10 October	12 noon	Mothers' Union Deanery lunch at St Mary's, Redbourn
Friday 13 October	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Monday 16 October	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Friday 20 October	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 21 October	7.30 pm	Carillon concert in church
Friday 27 October	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Sunday 29 October	11.30 am	Family baptism x 2
Monday 30 October	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group

November 2017

Wednesday 1 November	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting: Talk – Ruth Bullock 'Literacy Lessons'
Friday 3 November	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 4 November	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church
Sunday 5 November	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall
Monday 6 November	2.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Friday 10 November	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 11 November	10.15 am	Mothers' Union Autumn Sharing Day, – 2.30 pm Welwyn Civic Centre
Saturday 11 November	Time TBC	Lea Singers autumn concert in evening (prob 7.30 pm)
Monday 13 November	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Friday 17 November	2.00pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Monday 20 November	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Friday 24 November	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Sunday 26 November	11.30 am	Family baptism
Monday 27 November	8.00pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Wednesday 29 November	2.30 – 3.30 pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Advent event, St Mary's Church, Kinsbourne Green

Parish Directory

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Sunday

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist followed by coffee time in the hall
All-Age Eucharist, first Sunday of the month
- 9.30 am Junior Church, except first Sunday, and Little Gems in the hall
- 11.30 am Holy Baptism, last Sunday of the month
- 6.30 pm Evening Worship, see Forthcoming Events for details

Wednesday

- 9.30 am Said Eucharist
- Major festivals advertised when appropriate in the magazine



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