

The Vicar writes:

What an absolute joy it was to attend the Ordination Service of Fr. Simon Vivian on the 1st July. It was a wonderful service - very emotional - tears and smiles. The Archdeacon preached an excellent sermon, as did Fr. Simon's vicar the following morning when he presided for the first time at St. Peter's.

One of the many blessings of my ministry is the opportunity to encourage, enable and nurture people on their faith journey. It has been my privilege and my great joy to see some of them answering God's call to ordination and ten of those are now curates or vicars of their own parish, not including those who came to St. Saviour's on Parish Placements!

I think Fr. Simon may well be my last ordinand as I come to the final 2/3 years of my ministry, unless, of course, there is someone in the congregation right now contemplating ordination!!

Fr. Simon, Charlotte, Alice and Samuel are coming up on Friday 20th October for a few days and Simon will preside at the Eucharist - I hope he will also preach!



As we congratulate Father Simon on his priesting, we are told of a sharp increase in numbers training to be priests

A 14% increase in numbers training for the priesthood has been welcomed by the Church of England. An anticipated total of 543 men and women will begin studies this Autumn at colleges across England.

Welcoming the increase, the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson, said: "I am delighted at both the number and the range of those whom God has been calling into ordained ministry over the course of the past year.

Fr. Simon with his diocesan Bishop



A hug from his very proud mum!

The figures show that 25% of the cohort beginning training this year are under 32. The increasing age profile of clergy has been a significant motivator for the Church in focusing on growing ordained vocations. Catherine Nancekiveill said: "The Church takes seriously the signs that God is calling Millennials to consider careers that offer the opportunity to work for the common good. We now have an officer working to raise awareness of what training for ministry can offer to young people. Our popular scheme which offers on the job ministry experience is to undergo substantial growth this year."

Commenting on the support of Allchurches Trust for the ministry experience scheme, Chairman, Sir Philip Mawer, said: "Young people are known to care deeply about finding a role in which they can help make the world a better place and for an increasing number that means going into ministry.



The lovely Vivian family

photographs courtesy of Sarah Summerton

Here are men and women who are choosing to put their faith on the line, so as to bring hope and spiritual nourishment to individuals and communities alike. In an increasingly uncertain world, nothing could be a greater privilege than walking alongside people in their joys and sorrows, from birth to grave."



Homeward bound!

Desert Island Discs by Sue Warner



The Vicar asked the following questions:

1. *How would you cope as a solitary castaway on a desert island?*
2. *Choose four pieces of music or hymns you would want to take with you, and one CD and please give a sentence of explanation for each.*
3. *What luxury item would you choose?*

I'm not sure how good a castaway I would be. I don't mind being on my own but that's usually because my days are quite hectic and it's good to have a bit of peace and quiet! As a special school head, I'm lucky to have a job that I love, surrounded by amazing staff and students and I would certainly miss their company if I was alone for too long. Having music around would definitely make life a little easier though.....

My first choice reflects early experiences at home where music and particularly musical soundtracks were frequently played and often sung. '**Let's Go Fly a Kite**' from the Mary Poppins movie reminds me of that time. It's also a very uplifting song full of hope and aspiration - something that resonates well with the vision we share now with our students during their often challenging learning journeys.

Fast forward a number of years when my best friend Julia (a fellow alto in the choir!) and I shared a flat in Manchester. Our infamous parties were always accompanied by the obligatory mixed tape which we would spend days preparing in order to impress friends with our eclectic musical tastes. David Bowie was a particular favourite and my choice from 'Hunky Dory' would probably be '**Kooks**' although it could actually be any of the tracks from that iconic album.

In the blink of an eye my daughter Rose was celebrating her 18th birthday. I was so proud of her achievements and my abiding memory of the celebrations was watching her and a large group of friends whom we'd known since she was five, hugging each other in a circle as they sang every word to the Killers '**Mr Brightside**'. A lovely moment to mark the end of her school career.

My final choice is a song by the comedian and songwriter Tim Minchin. His clever, witty and satirical lyrics have entertained us all over the last few years - Rose and I saw him in concert in Manchester and my son Jake and I watched his most recent musical Groundhog Day at the Old Vic last year. '**White Wine in the Sun**' is funny and moving but most of all reflects the importance of family - no matter how young, old or far away they may be. Plus the proceeds of its' sales always support autism research, so it ticks all of my boxes!

The CD I have chosen isn't music at all but the spoken word. I've sat in endless traffic jams in my journeys to and from work and listening to various audio books have helped keep me sane. My favourite is Alan Bennet reading his diaries in '**Untold Stories**'. His ability to reflect both the profound and mundane aspects of his life with an unmistakeable northern humour would I'm sure be very reassuring when a long way from home.

My luxury item follows a similar theme. A **wind up radio** with hopefully a signal that might just pick up a few favourite channels would be amazing. I could keep up to date listening to the Today Programme, cheer myself up with the News Quiz and while away many hours drifting off to sleep to Test Match Special.

It's actually starting to sound like quite a relaxing experience after all.....

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# *Summer Days*

'Summertime and the living is easy.' George Gershwin's words could be aptly applied to August, when many of us take holidays. It's a month to focus on summertime: family time and barbeques; the beach and ice cream; long days with no school! It's time to wind down from the frenetic pace of our normal routines.

However, while summer is a season, it is also a state of mind. We all have periods in life, which are summer-like, when life goes well. How can we walk by faith in the summers or good times of our spiritual lives?

**Summer Distinctives:** When we go through times of sickness, financial pressure, difficult relationships and other problems, we more easily focus on God. In a spiritual summer season, we can subtly find ourselves enjoying the gifts without acknowledging the Giver! The greatest danger in the summertime season of life is to forget who is responsible for the good life that we are enjoying.

**Summer Distractions:** Our normal routine revolves around clocks and calendars, but we can easily get distracted when we break these disciplined routines. In the spiritual summer seasons of life, there is a temptation to miss out on our regular times with God in Bible reading and prayer! Things that make summer seasons enjoyable can also become big distractions.

**Summer Directives:** How can we make the most of this summer season and keep focused on God? We need to maintain a 'gratitude attitude': thankful to God for all His blessings to us. 'When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God.' (Deuteronomy 8:10/11). So, stay close and stay grateful to God in this summer season of life!

## **Revd Richard Bewes considers the tragedy of Grenfell Tower. In the wake of London's fire**

"...Or those who died.... do you think they were more guilty than all the others? (St. Luke 13: 4)

It can be earthquakes... floods... terrorism, or – as in the case of London so tragically on June 12th - a terrible fire disaster at Grenfell tower block. The question 'Why?' is inevitably on our minds. My own mind goes back to another account of a tower disaster, recorded in the Bible. 18 people had died when Jerusalem's Tower of Siloam had fallen on them. This tragedy – following the wicked killing of other innocents under the despotic Pontius Pilate – was causing citizens in Jerusalem to come to Jesus, with the same question – 'Why?'

The Lord's answer to His questioners does not lessen our distress at calamities here in London. But - though deeply grieved - we are not so shocked that we are completely devoid of understanding.

For Scripture teaches us that adversity is firmly built into a Christian view of life on this earth:

1. We are all living in a fallen world. Our present world-order is not as originally created. Basically, we became a race of rebels, fallen from our custodianship over Creation – so bringing both ourselves and the Creation itself into the frustration of 'bondage to decay' (Romans 8:18-23). Even the ground was affected (Genesis 3:17,18). In our imperfection, judgements are faulty. Mistakes are made. Accidents take place, in which innocent people are both hurt and killed.

2. We are all living in a temporary home. When questioned in the face of Jerusalem's tower disaster, Jesus explained that those killed were no more 'guilty' to die, than anyone else. But His words give the warning: whenever and however it happens, it is inevitable that all of us will die one day. We should give thought to that, and prepare ourselves in all humility.

3. We are all living on borrowed time. Jesus went on to speak of a fruitless fig tree (Luke 13: 6-9). Should it be cut down? No, give it a year's reprieve. The lesson was clear. None of us can consider that this life is ours forever. We are all living, if you like, under a reprieve.

We do not know when our particular time will come to an end. We need to consider how best to use the life we have now. This leads to a final truth:

4. We are all living as debtors to love. People hung on Jesus' words because they knew that He had solid answers for this world's sorrows. Indeed, He was the answer, for at the Cross we meet the love of the suffering God Himself. One prayer must be that, out of the trauma of London's present troubles, there will be both helpers and sufferers themselves who experience this, and respond.

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David Winter offers some tips to parents...

Going off to Uni

This month thousands of young people will be preparing themselves for the exciting prospect of going off to what they all call 'Uni'. In my day, it was 'university', or, if you were posh, 'varsity'. Parents, grandparents and godparents will enjoy a mixture of pride and apprehension. This is a major step in life: leaving home, making new friends, study without compulsion and the heady gift of 'freedom'. Amazingly, the vast majority of students survive it and love it.

From my own experience as a father and grandfather, there are a few basic rules that it is well to adopt. As I found, ignoring them can be highly counter-productive. Firstly, don't get too involved in the choice of university. Modern students are a savvy bunch. They actually talk to their teachers, and they know their way around the Internet and social media. It's highly likely that they will correctly identify the 'right' course and place for themselves.

Secondly, be available (on the end of a phone) but leave them space to make the odd silly mistake. Make sure they carry on their person the number of a reliable taxi service, for that occasion when they find themselves in the early hours and far from their digs. Thirdly, don't worry about their being 'lonely'. The average student makes a friend or two in the first ten minutes of arriving in their digs – and sometimes it's for life! Look forward to their coming home for the odd weekend, probably with some washing, but don't regret it when they go back. In fact, enjoy the experience at second-hand. And lastly, there's a lot to be said for a little daily prayer for them.

Would you like a keepsake photograph of your beloved pet? I love to do animal photography and as part of a fundraising initiative for St. Saviour's Parish Church I am offering a special Pet Pawtrait opportunity for all of us pet lovers!

A session will take up to one hour and will cost £10. I will take photos of your pet in portrait or active positions, it's up to you. At the end of the session I will edit the photographs and prepare for you a photo DVD with the best shots on. You can then choose one shot to have printed in 10x8inch format. I have a field we can use or I can travel within reason!

Contact me on 07831 672 538 for more information or to book! Sarah
Here are some examples of my previous sessions:



The Rev Paul Hardingham considers...

How do people encounter God?

Human beings from ancient days have looked to the skies in a state of wonder, and attributed the scope and beauty of what they see to a Creator. For those who believe in God, that sense of wonder has increased in recent years as science has made us increasingly aware of how very unlikely it has been that life of any kind happened.

Like many people, Christians look at nature and marvel. In it they find powerful evidence for the existence of God. It speaks of the character of God – powerful, eternal and with a special place for humans in His purposes. However, it also poses unsettling questions about God, because nature is a place in which catastrophes can overtake men and women in a way that seems meaningless and entirely unfair.

Deep down in human nature is a curiosity that leads us again and again to speculate that there may be a God. These encounters take place in circumstances in which we confront something that money cannot buy. Sometimes it is a shock that leads to these questions – the loss of a job, a friend or health. Sometimes it is joy – such as the birth of children and the longing to give them a future full of hope. Sometimes it is disappointment that the activities of life do not make us feel fulfilled. Occasionally people encounter God through supernatural experiences that they cannot explain.

There are many circumstances in which people find their attention grabbed by the possibility that God might be making Himself known to them. However, Christians have always recognised that the most significant way that God has made Himself known is through a specific event in history. God has lived in a human body. At the start of the first century AD, God inhabited human flesh, and walked and talked on this planet - Jesus, the founder of the Christian faith.

When a child asks, 'What is God like?' a good answer would be, 'He is like Jesus.' Christians study Jesus' life and teaching because they appear to answer some of the questions they have about God.



All in the month of August - it was . . .

150 years ago: on 3rd August 1867 that Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister (1923-24, 1924-29, 1935-37) was born. He led the government during the 1926 General Strike, the 1935 Ethiopian crisis and the 1936 abdication crisis. He is the only British Prime Minister to have served under three monarchs.

125 years ago: on 24th August 1892 that Goodison Park opened in Liverpool. It was one of the world's first purpose-built football stadiums, and is the home of Everton FC.

90 years ago: on 13th August 1927 that the BBC took over the running of The Proms in London, following the death of their founder, the impresario Robert Newman, who had run them since 1895. The Proms were also broadcast on the radio for the first time.

75 years ago: from 23 August 1942 to 2 Feb. 1943 that the Battle of Stalingrad took place. It was the turning point of the war in Europe, and regarded as the largest and bloodiest battle in the history of warfare, and one from which the Germans never recovered.

70 years ago: on 14th August 1947 Pakistan gained its independence from the UK.

Also 70 years ago: on 22nd Aug 1947 (to 11th Sep) that the first Edinburgh Festival was held in Scotland.

65 years ago: on 15th August 1952 that the Lynmouth flood in Devon occurred. 34 people were killed and buildings and bridges devastated as a flood swept through the village.

60 years ago: on 2nd August 1957 that the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire began operating. It was the world's largest steerable radio telescope at that time.

30 years ago: on 19th Aug. 1987 that the Hungerford Massacre took place in Berkshire when Michael Ryan went on a shooting rampage around the town. He killed 16 people, including his mother, before committing suicide.

20 years ago: on 26th August 1997 that, following the IRA's final ceasefire (19th July) Britain and Ireland established the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. It oversaw the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons in Northern Ireland as part of the peace process.

Also 20 years ago: on 31st August 1997 that Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Fayed, and their driver, died in a car crash in the Place de 'Alma underpass in Paris.

Walnuts

A handful of walnuts may help reduce your feelings of hunger. Walnuts are unique among nuts in that they are mainly comprised of polyunsaturated fats, which help decrease ghrelin, a hormone that increases hunger. They also seem to increase peptide YY (PYY), a hormone that increases fullness or satiety.

As appetite hormones play an important part in regulating how much you eat, this could be good news. Whatever the science, a recent study published in the journal Nutrition suggests that walnuts “may favourably change appetite hormones so that we can feel fuller for longer.”

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## Harvest Festival Sunday 17th September



Every minute, every day, people suffer and lives are lost needlessly because of a lack of clean water and sanitation. Help us end this global crisis and transform lives. WaterAid is an international organisation whose mission is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Through our partners, we reached 2 million people with safe water and 3 million people with sanitation last year.

Everything we do is shaped by our six values:

- Respect
- Accountability
- Courage
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Integrity

## Fizzy fat

This is SO unfair. It seems that even fizzy water can help you put on weight. Apparently, the carbon dioxide in the drinks encourages people to eat more, as it increases the level of the hunger hormone ghrelin, some scientists have found.

In tests, volunteers found that those who drank sparkling water had ghrelin levels six times higher than those who drank still water. The discovery was made by scientists at Birzeit University in the Palestinian West Bank.

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Why you should not have gotten mad at American words

Center. Honor. Humor. Gotten. Ending words with ‘ize’ instead of ‘ise’. Turning nouns into verbs. If you have ever wondered why Americans mess up these words, then think again:

‘Honor’ can be found 500 times in Shakespeare; 100 more times than the English ‘honour’. Shakespeare also used ‘center’ more than ‘centre’, and ‘humor’ more than ‘humour’. Worst of all, Shakespeare used ‘gotten’.

Keats was no better: he turned nouns into verbs. As for ending words with ‘ize’, well it is closer to the words’ Greek origins than ‘ise’.

All of which leads Susie Dent, the Countdown lexicographer, to argue that American spellings are often closer to the true origin of words. “I love American English, not least because a lot of it was ours to begin with,” she says. On a programme for Radio 4 she recently speculated that popular hatred of Americanisms may be due to a ‘vestige of colonial imperialism’ and a ‘long-held grudge towards a superpower’. We should have gotten over that by now.



David Winter remembers the shock of that tragic day, now 20 years ago...

The night Diana died

From time to time I am invited to a local group called 'Speakability'. It is made up of people who have suffered a stroke or other condition which has made ordinary conversation difficult. Visitors like me are invited to introduce a topic which will encourage them to contribute to an animated discussion, forgetting any disability. For my last visit, I chose a topic which is particularly relevant this month, the twentieth anniversary of the event: 'Where were you when you heard that Diana was dead?'

I began with a brief resume of my own experience – woken by my wife to be told that Diana had been killed in a car crash. An hour or two later the bedside phone rang. Would I present a live programme on Radio 2 that evening reflecting the amazing impact this still young woman had had on so many areas of life? I said I would, but only once I'd taken the early Communion service. When I went into church at 7.45 there was a bunch of flowers on the altar and a card, 'For Diana'. The public response would be similarly spontaneous. When I got to London thousands of people had flocked to Kensington Palace, crowds that would grow bigger over the next few days.

Well, I said to them, what's your story of that day? And out it all poured. The leader eventually had to call a halt because we had to vacate the hall. Their stories were of shock, of tears, of feeling bereaved even though they had never met her. One man had been in Paris at the time and knew a nurse who was on the team that tried in vain to save her life. Another woman had got up early to visit her daughter and hadn't heard the news. She arrived to find her daughter sobbing in her kitchen.

It was obvious that this one woman – 'the People's Princess', as Tony Blair dubbed her – had made an enormous impact on their lives.



May Princess Diane continue to rest in peace



She will always be for ever young