

A note from the Vicar:

Towards the end of last year Reverend Christine came for lunch and, as requested, brought some of her art work for me to look at. What a wonderful creative gift she has!

In conversation Christine mentioned that she was hoping to take three months off to travel and to reflect. I think this is a wonderful opportunity and only wish I had done this some years ago. All clergy are encouraged to take a sabbatical at least one in ministry and twice throughout a long ministry as mine has been - my sabbatical will be my retirement!! :-)

I asked Christine to share her thoughts so far as to what she hopes to be doing during those three months away from home and from St. Saviour's. Do please read on:

Reverend Christine writes:

'Unanticipated invitations to travel are dancing lessons from God.'

I had been reading 'Learning to Dance', by Michael Mayne (writer of a number of profoundly spiritual books) and these words struck me and lingered in my mind. It felt like a message. Gradually the idea took shape that I had been given an opportunity which I could take, if I chose. As a retired priest with no continuing responsibilities and with grandchildren old enough to be beyond baby-sitting I could indeed travel. At the same time I was reaching a milestone in my art practice. I knew I had acquired skills and could now paint a reasonable picture, but could I get better, and how much better?

These thoughts gradually coalesced and I have now planned what I see as a spiritual and personal journey. I shall be away for the three months of March, April and May.

Part of that time I am going to be travelling in Spain, looking at the art, architecture and culture of Malaga, Cordoba and Madrid. Easter is early this year and I shall spend Holy Week and Easter on retreat in Yorkshire; a chance to reflect, to be open, to listen to what God is saying to me and to experience in depth the journey to the cross and to resurrection beyond.

After that I am travelling to Ireland, to a cottage in West Cork where I hope to be able to focus on painting and some writing, inspired by the earlier parts of my journey and by the surroundings I shall be in.

So the framework is in place but I have deliberately avoided any detailed planning for this time. Removing the normal routines and distractions of ordinary living leaves space and time to see what happens. I think it is important to concentrate on being, on living the experience, rather than setting up an expectation on myself to 'deliver something.' Most of you know my passion for art. In order to grow as an artist you have to look at who you really are inside; it is the same with faith and so it is as much a spiritual journey as an artistic one.

I shall set out with a sense of privilege and anticipation mixed with some trepidation, on a journey of discovery and pray to be open to the unexpected – maybe even to notice a burning bush or two! - and to trust in God to do whatever shaping He deems necessary.

God be with you all.

Revd Christine

(Michael Mayne was a former Head of Religious Programmes, BBC Radio and Dean Emeritus of Westminster. He died in 2006)

Canon Diane writes on our Weekly Giving

I would like to say a very sincere 'thank you' to all those of you who give willingly, generously, realistically and regularly towards God's work in our parish. I know I say this every year, but it's true - St. Saviour's couldn't survive without **your** money.

This year, we are facing yet another increase of over £3,000 in our Parish Share taking it to £64,366. This can only be paid by all of us increasing the amount we give and the best way to do this is by signing a pledge form where we promise to pay a certain amount each week/month.

As last year, over the last twelve months we have lost some lovely members of our Church Family. Somehow this money has to be found on top of the diocesan increase - this is not going to be easy.

I am hoping every one of us will be able to find an extra **£1 a week**. If you are able to give more then it would be wonderful.

I would like to encourage more of you to use standing orders. Envelopes are fine providing you put your money in them every week and bring them when you've been missing. Standing orders allow us to receive your money every month regardless if you are in church or not. In order to pay the diocese each month we need to know if the money is going to be there in the same way we budget in our own homes ~ standing orders generally guarantee this.

It is up to each one of us to give as much as we can, even if it means forgoing some luxury. Look at what we pay for certain everyday things such as a newspaper, a pint of beer, fish & chips or a curry, a cinema ticket, a meal out and then let us ask ourselves what God is worth. Surely more than all those things put together.

God counts what we have left, not what we give! He counts the amount of sacrifice, not the amount of money. The gift that matters is the gift that costs us to give. It's not the size of the gift that impresses God, but the sacrifice the giver had to make in order to give the gift.

We must look at our lives thankfully and give back to God out of sheer gratitude because we've already all been blessed.

Love Diane

The Rev Paul Hardingham considers this month's unlikely link of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day ...

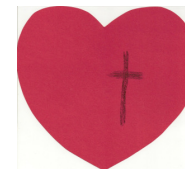
'Lenten Valentines'

During this month Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: *love!* Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on our Lord's experience in the wilderness (St. Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires. Satan tempts Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others. Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care.

Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.



Canon David Winter looks forward to Lent...

THE WAY I SEE IT : Resisting Temptation

Immediately after His baptism in the river Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judaea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on the 14th February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, I suspect most of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular stroke for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

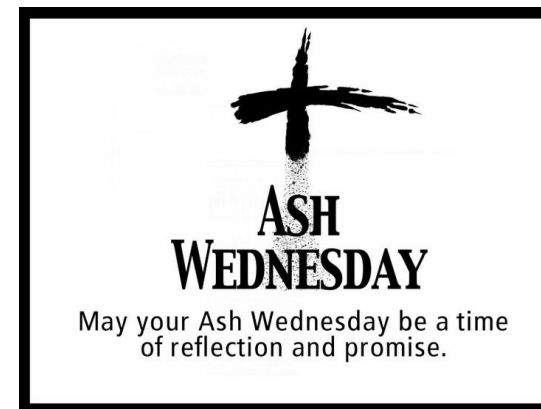
The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and you will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, abandon your principles and reap rewards. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise, in order to fulfil your ambitions. Or walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

Ash Wednesday 14th February

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

7.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist



**Instead of giving up
someTHING
try
Giving to someONE**

**Sunday 4th March
Lent Lunch & Fellowship
following the service at 12.30 p.m.
Tickets £5 available from Trisha**

Quotes on love & Life:

The beauty of life does not depend on how happy you are, but how happy others can be because of you.

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Forget what hurt you, but never forget what it taught you.

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Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." *Martin Luther King Jr.*

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Love the life you live. Live the life you love.

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Love is not what you say. Love is what you do.

~~~~~  
Some talk to you in their free time and some free their time to talk to you. Learn the difference.

~~~~~  
Love comes to those who still hope after disappointment,
who still believe after betrayal,
and who still love after they have been hurt.



What do children know about love? When questioned, some children came up with the following:

Love is when you're born and see your mummy for the first time.

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.

Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.

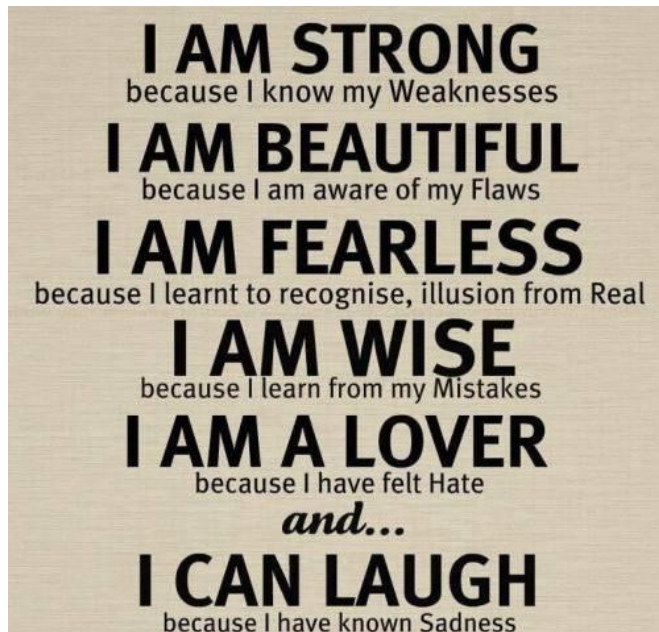
You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.

I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only picks on me because she loves me.

Love goes on even when you stop breathing, and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.

Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.

When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.



Remembering the Munich air disaster

The Munich air disaster took place 60 years ago, on 6th February 1958, when a plane carrying the Manchester United Football team – known as the Busby Babes – plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport.

Some 23 people were killed, among them eight players, including Duncan Edwards, widely regarded as the outstanding player of his generation and according to some potentially the best player in the world. He actually died a fortnight after the crash in hospital, and is commemorated by two stained glass windows in St Francis' Church, Dudley, his home town.

The team was returning from a successful European Cup match in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and the plane had to refuel. The disaster happened when it crashed on its third attempt to take off, following technical problems. Slowed by slush, the plane ploughed through a fence beyond the end of the runway, and the left wing was torn off after hitting a house – whose inhabitants survived.

Initially the captain of the plane was blamed, but he was cleared ten years later. The crash derailed the club's ambitions for that year and it took ten years to recover, with Busby rebuilding the team and winning the European Cup in 1968 with a new generation of 'Babes'.



Nell Goddard considers what real friendship can mean.

The God who befriends

Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.
Proverbs 27:5-6

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
Proverbs 27:17

I remember it really clearly: standing in the kitchen of my student house, clutching a cup of tea, and being told – in no uncertain terms – that I needed to be kinder with my words. The deliverer of this stark truth was someone I had met only once before, but who had been invited for dinner by one of my housemates.

In that moment, I knew three things. Firstly, I was cross. What right did this person have to offer up opinions and rebuke me when we'd only just met?

Secondly, they were right: I frequently used words as weapons rather than gifts, and they weren't the first person to call me out on it. But – strangely enough – this was the first person I listened to.

Thirdly, we were going to be friends. This realisation surprised me, but I knew it with a deep certainty. And I was right – three years later, this person is one of my closest friends.

This story is a worked example of these proverbs, and an illustration of how friendship isn't meant to be consistently comfortable and cosy. True friendship does not shrink from correcting the friend – after all, iron cannot sharpen iron unless forceful contact is made.

These proverbs assume that a friend persists and does not shy away from constructive criticism. Such criticism is done in a way which is open and direct, remaining caring and completely concerned with the best interests of the addressee. Does this ring true for your friendships? Or does it present you with a challenge?

Friendship is a key part of life and so, for the Christian, a key part of discipleship. Through friendship, God teaches us about others, about community, and about Himself. After all, He is the God who calls us friend.

Friendships are significant, presenting us with opportunities for both evangelism and discipleship, as well as for learning more about God, and they are a part of life where we can see God working powerfully – in us and through us, every day.

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All in the month of FEBRUARY

It was:

80 years ago, on 20th Feb 1938, that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden resigned over Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement with Italy.

Also 80 years ago, on 24th Feb. 1938, that the first toothbrushes with nylon bristles were introduced, by Du Pont. Until then toothbrushes had been made from the hair of boars or hogs.

65 years ago, on 5th Feb. 1953, that sweet rationing ended in Britain.

60 years ago, on 6th Feb. 1958, that the Munich air disaster took place. A plane carrying the Manchester United Football team, plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport. 23 people were killed, including 8 players. (see article in this magazine)

50 years ago, on 19th Feb. 1968, that the Thalidomide scandal's first compensation payments were awarded in Britain to 62 children born with deformities because their mothers had taken the drug during pregnancy. (Around 400 British children in all were affected.)

40 years ago, on 15th Feb. 1978, that New Zealand beat England in a cricket match for the first time.

30 years ago, on 5th Feb. 1988, that Comic Relief held its first Red Nose Day in the UK. It raised £15 million for charity.

25 years ago, on 12th Feb. 1993, that two ten-year-old boys abducted two-year-old James Bulger from a shopping centre near Liverpool. His tortured and mutilated body was found on a railway line nearby two days later. They were charged with abduction and murder.

15 years ago, on 1st Feb. 2003, that the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

Also 15 years ago, on 17th Feb. 2003, that London's Congestion Charge scheme began.

Parish Registers:

6 We welcome you into the Church Family 6

Charlie George Parkes was baptised on 20th January



In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection

Betty Greenbank died on the 7th December aged 93

Elizabeth Massey died on the 12th December aged 83

Charles Gallagher died on the 29th December aged 87

Audrey Riley died on the 6th January aged 91

May their family and friends find comfort and strength in the assurance of life eternal and may their souls rest in peace.

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What if we began to treat our bibles the way  
we treat our mobile phones?

What if we . . .

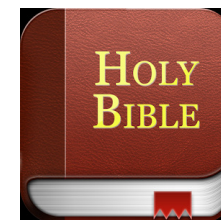
carried it with us everywhere?

Turned back to get it if we forgot it?

Checked it for messages throughout the day?

Used it in case of an emergency?

Spent an hour or more using it each day?



# From the Parish Nurse

In the January magazine the Vicar wrote about the Church colours. We live in a world where colours can mean so much. What about in my workplace, Stepping Hill Hospital? Why do the staff all wear different colours and what do they mean?

Across the wards, departments and community services you will see many different members of clinical staff. Most staff wear uniforms and all staff wear a name badge which identifies them and their role.

You will see a few navy blue uniforms with different piping on their collars and cuffs. The navy blue with gold piping is the Head of Nursing/Midwifery. Navy with red piping is a Matron, of which there are a few covering the different areas of the hospital, i.e. the Surgical Matron, Matron of Medicine, Matron of Diagnostics and clinical areas. The navy with white piping is a Ward Sister/Charge Nurse, but the Senior Sister/Charge Nurse of wards and departments wear a striking red uniform.

The grey uniform is worn by the Advanced Nurse Practitioners, whilst the deep blue is for the Nurse Specialists. These two groups of nurses have specialised and taken further training and degrees to be able to wear these uniforms and perform extended roles. A Registered Staff Nurse/Midwife will be seen in royal blue, these nurses have carried out a minimum of three years training at University. Our Assistant Practitioners wear blue and white pinstripe and have completed a two year foundation degree. Health Care Assistants wear a pale blue uniform and have had in-house training personalised to where they are working.

The Student Nurses, National Health Service Professional (Agency Staff), Pharmacists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists all wear white uniforms with slight differences. Our Domestic staff wear a lovely pale green colour. There are a couple of other uniforms around at the moment for new roles, a khaki green colour is for Transfer Staff and a buff coloured uniform for the Assistant Nurses, which is a brand new training program for those members of staff who want to nurse but do not want to commit to the usual three year university course.

You may also see staff wearing what are commonly known as scrubs, which can be blue or green. These staff work in theatres or treatment rooms such as endoscopy or urology. There isn't enough space to write about the different uniforms worn by the clerical staff, porters, volunteers and many others who work at Stepping Hill Hospital.

As you can see, there are so many different nurses and carers at the hospital and you can now play "spot the nurse and their role". To add to the confusion we have GP surgeries, Private Hospitals, Care Homes, Pharmacies and Social Care Services who can use any colour uniform they choose. You will see many Health Care Assistants wearing the same colours as the hospital Ward Sisters and Staff Nurses which is really very confusing!

Work is ongoing to try and standardise all the uniforms across the country but it is a slow progress. I always think, if in doubt, check the person's ID badge or ask what their job is as this will help you to identify their role and level of training they have received.

Here are some of the uniforms worn by my lovely colleagues.

