



st JOHN[†]s
Living God's Love

Parish Magazine
HARVEST 2018

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

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Letter from the Vicarage by the Reverend Nicholas Anderson

I find myself in the curious position of unexpectedly writing my last letter from this vicarage. What can I possibly say for one last time which might be of any interest? A gentle reminder perhaps that faith communities exist not for themselves but for the communities in which they reside. These are meant to ensure that we remain confident and outward looking and less certainly defensive. We are, after all, bearers of grace and beauty, with all its echoes of a more ancient and numinous world view.

I think I would always wish us to continuing doing better theology based on the Scriptures, and that requires attentive and intelligent reading of texts. We are involved in creating an understanding of faith for how we live now. Christian faith is always in the process of seeking understanding; and the task is fundamentally existential – it is about making sense of life and of living well, behaving better; if it isn't, then it is about nothing at all. That living and behaving is not about isolated, purified individuals, but about communities of well-being that takes in the whole of creation. That living well and behaving better is the witness and testimony to God's glory; the God with us and the Kingdom of God among us.

As well as learning from and engaging with the Scriptures (but not as homogenous texts as is so frequently upheld), and from the social and cultural life in which we are immersed, it is invariably helpful to draw on past examples of those who have reflected theologically before us. Some things will remain central, even foundational. The Apostles' Creed (western in origin) and the Nicene Creed (Asia/African in origin) are a case in point. However, it is always expedient to remember two things about past examples: they are in the past not the present – not written as universal blueprints but as answers to situations that had arisen in a certain place at a certain time. Borrowing and learning from the past is a worthwhile skill, but it does not mean being dependent upon a slice of the past that has become utterly frozen.

Therefore, we need to be careful when speaking of 'tradition' within church settings. Tradition is not about seeking to preserve. The very etymology of the word

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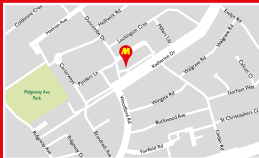
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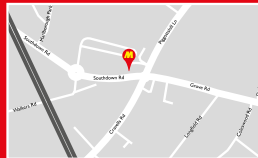


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means 'to hand on'. So, tradition is future orientated. It is not about conservation. As nostalgic conservationists, churches will end up being living museums, cultural archives, and that would be a profound betrayal of a living gospel. There are immense riches in the Christian traditions, upon which we ought to draw, but always with a lightness of touch. The singleness of Tradition with a capital 't' lies in its bearing faithful witness to the ongoing work of Jesus Christ in its various embedded locations, cultures and histories. In our global world it is good to be reminded that Christian traditions have never been just local and western.

I am greatly in favour of the drive to do more to facilitate, nurture and educate congregations of lay theologians. Lay, that is, with respect to ecclesial corporations and hierarchies; because the church elites tend to be rarefied and political and seem at times to have a vested interest in not leading or pushing through the sorts of changes that are required. A degree of honesty is called for: priests and bishops tend not to see the world as most of their lay congregations experience it, and that must be a source of some regret. For if Church teaching is rooted in living it needs to come from below, not above, and usually does. As priests and bishops, we do have a voice in the public square, but we no longer have a privileged position from which to speak; in fact, I suspect we are more marginal than we care to imagine, but in the long run that may be no bad thing. We should be encouraged by the theological lives being lived among ordinary Christians. These lives are well in advance and are setting the pace. That's always been where the hope of the church lies – with Christians, most of whom are lay, living faithfully and imaginatively with the complex pluralities of everyday life.

An issue that we have inherited and not engaged with properly is the history of our relationship between Christian mission and colonisation. The impact of that relationship is a mixed bag – education and literacy must be weighed alongside indoctrination and racism; patronizing at best, oppressive at worse. Today, most Anglicans and Episcopalians live in the Global South which raises some important issues internally within the Anglican Communion and externally when engaging with other Churches, other world faiths and the world in general.

The time will surely come when it will no longer be tenable for an Archbishop of Canterbury to be elected by a committee drawn from within the Church of England if he or she is to fully represent the Anglican Communion. Perhaps the time will come when one of the functions of the Anglican Primates will be to gather, deliberate and pray and then elect from their number a bishop who is representative of the 21st century global Anglican Communion and not the 19th century English establishment. Buildings may be made of stone, but living institutions never are, and in this regard the Holy Spirit is always at work within the Church.

It goes without saying that I wish you well. To the new vicar of St Harpenden St John, when he or she comes among you, every blessing for a fruitful ministry in the years that lie ahead.

With best wishes,
Nicholas Anderson

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A 21st Century Martyr in Europe

How unusual that an ordinary French Catholic priest who was well retired but stayed on in his parish has become Europe's first martyr of this century. On 26 July 2016 Father Jacque Hamel woke at 7am, as was his custom, recited a prayer of protection, read morning prayer and went to the bakery to buy bread for his breakfast. He left his home around 8.30am and walked about a quarter of a mile to the church where he was due to celebrate the 9am Mass.

When Father Hamel arrived, there was a small but committed congregation—three Vincentian sisters, a married couple of 64 years and another layperson. It was during the Prayers of Intercession that two Islamic State-inspired perpetrators barged in, knocked Father Hamel down and cut his throat.

Some months before his death, Father Hamel suffered a recurring nightmare. He would leave the little church that he served in St.-Étienne-du-Rouvray and make his way through the town toward his house. The streets were deserted. Suddenly, a group of strangers would ambush him and begin to beat him. He would look around for help, but there was no one there.

Father Hamel was a long-time admirer of the hermit saint Charles de Foucauld, who was murdered in the desert at Tamanrasset in southern Algeria in 1916, and was known for his charity, gentleness and holiness. Father Hamel also knew of Prior Christian de Chergé and his brother monks from the Abbey of Our Lady of the Atlas, who suffered

a similar fate at the hands of Islamist extremists in 1996. Their fate had been a major news item in the French media, and a source of much earnest debate.

As one would expect, the most poignant reflections on the attack and its aftermath come from the people who were directly affected by Father Hamel's death. Janine and Guy Coponet, the elderly married couple who witnessed those last moments of the priest's life, have forgiven the perpetrators and are praying for their families. Father Hamel's sister, Roselyn, stated that she does not hold the Muslim community collectively responsible and during a prayer service for her brother went to speak with them and console them. She said the community was both surprised and immensely relieved that she did not hold this crime against them.

Nobody knew what would transpire the day that Father Hamel was murdered in his parish church except for God. Father Hamel was not seeking martyrdom—it came to him. But now that the terrible event has occurred, can God not bring about a greater good from it?

This is the true effect of the martyrs: sowing the seeds of faith that then grow into flowers of love. If Father Jacques Hamel is officially declared a martyr and saint by the Catholic Church, and the current pope is keen that this should be the case, it will be because of an exemplary life lived simply for God and his parishioners. His murder beckons unity, not division; peace, not war. ●

News from St Nicholas Primary School

This autumn, St Nicholas Primary School celebrates its 160th anniversary of developing the children of Harpenden.

The school was set up by the Anglican charity the 'National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church' and was known as the 'National School' until 1906. The main school building dates from 1865.

St Nicholas is the only Church of England Primary School in Harpenden and is today an inclusive school that welcomes families of all faiths and no faith. Last year St Nicholas appeared in The Times' 'Top Ten Schools List' in Hertfordshire and was rated 'Outstanding' in the Church Schools inspection. The 2018 Key Stage 2 results saw 100% achieving the expected standard in reading, grammar, punctuation and spelling and maths, and 95% in writing. These are excellent results way above the national average. However, for the first time in 2018 St Nicholas has a fall in Reception intake and there are currently spaces available in our reception year. Pupil numbers have fallen across Harpenden and families who may have previously thought they may be unable to get in to St Nicholas may have chosen not to apply.

Stuart Burnett, who represents St Johns Parish on the school Governing Body, said, 'at St Nicholas we are passionate about providing a nurturing Christian school environment to our children in Harpenden and I encourage the friends and family of all St Johns parishioners to support our local

Church of England school and consider St Nicholas as a place to choose for their children.' The school website, <http://www.stnicholasce.org/>, provides further information. Church attendance has not been necessary to secure a place at St Nicholas for any of the last three years.

Adopt a tree challenge

During the week beginning 9 July every pupil at St Nicholas Primary School in Harpenden learnt something new and wonderful about trees. As part of the 'Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Award', each class adopted a tree in the school garden, and planned how to decorate it in a way that celebrates how trees support life.

Headteacher, Mrs Crouch, explained,



A year 1 pupil decorates a tree in the school garden

'our youngest pupils thought about how trees provide safe habitats for mini-beasts, and decorated some suitably low and beckoning branches on their tree with a happy huddle of smiling spiders. Year 1 and 2 pupils thought about the birds that live in trees and made some nutritious fat balls in cunningly recycled plastic containers. They wrote a wonderful poem extolling the virtues of a tree. Further up the school, pupils

made delicate observational drawings of leaves, which they inked onto wood circles, with word swirls of poetry on the reverse to celebrate features of trees. It was a wonderfully creative opportunity to spent time in our outdoor learning space thinking about science, nature and sustainability.' ●



A few of year 4 and 5 pupils with their tree decorations.

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Cultivate

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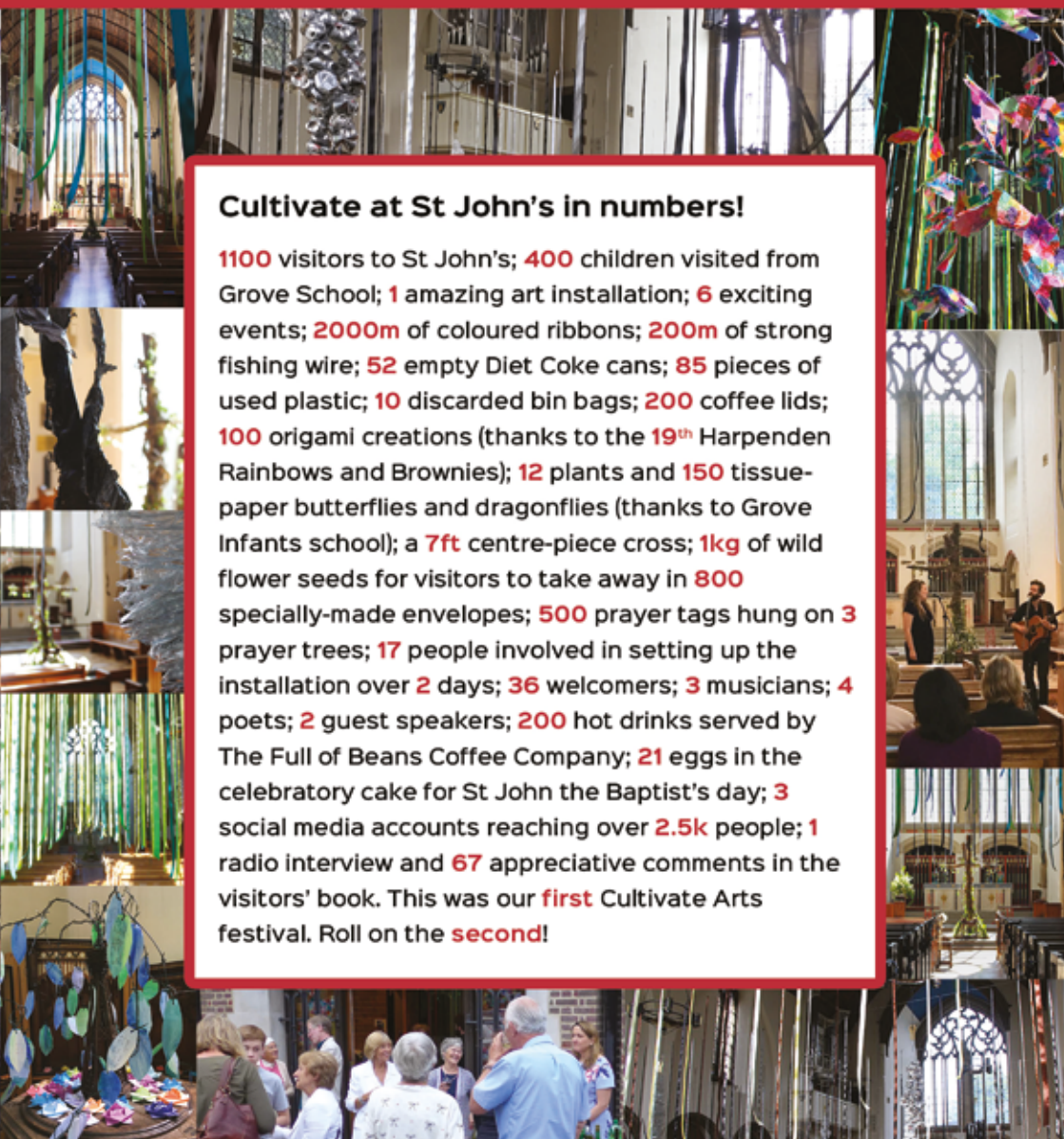


'Thought provoking and powerful' – J Smith

'An amazing, sobering yet uplifting experience' – J Warner

'Such a beautiful idea to cultivate and collaborate with an inter-faith festival' – K & M Wallace

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in making the first Cultivate Arts Festival such a success. This year's festival was held from 21-24 June, at eight venues across Harpenden.



Cultivate at St John's in numbers!

1100 visitors to St John's; **400** children visited from Grove School; **1** amazing art installation; **6** exciting events; **2000m** of coloured ribbons; **200m** of strong fishing wire; **52** empty Diet Coke cans; **85** pieces of used plastic; **10** discarded bin bags; **200** coffee lids; **100** origami creations (thanks to the **19th** Harpenden Rainbows and Brownies); **12** plants and **150** tissue-paper butterflies and dragonflies (thanks to Grove Infants school); a **7ft** centre-piece cross; **1kg** of wild flower seeds for visitors to take away in **800** specially-made envelopes; **500** prayer tags hung on **3** prayer trees; **17** people involved in setting up the installation over **2** days; **36** welcomers; **3** musicians; **4** poets; **2** guest speakers; **200** hot drinks served by The Full of Beans Coffee Company; **21** eggs in the celebratory cake for St John the Baptist's day; **3** social media accounts reaching over **2.5k** people; **1** radio interview and **67** appreciative comments in the visitors' book. This was our **first** Cultivate Arts festival. Roll on the **second!**

If you would like to be involved with next year's Cultivate, please contact the parish office.

(We are actively looking for other spaces / places which might like to host the installation. Please contact Liz Sergeant via the parish office.)

A poem inspired by St John's Art Installation...
Midsummer Transformation by Emma Bresslaw

How fitting that it is today
- the day of hallowed Druid gatherings -
when but a breath of moon
separates the outstretched hands of West and East,
that we should open wide our Western doors
inviting all to tread the well-worn path of bride and pall bearer
from the glorious blood-shot sunset,
through the briefest solstice night
to a resurrection dawn of hope:
an oriental transparency framing boughs
and showcasing the light of present day.
The verdant, shiny, lush abundance of God's grace
crammed with species, rich in diversity,
font of living water,
Beauty.
Colour.
Joy.
Gives way to starker, sparser, barren space:
Black.
Grey.
Brown.
Monochrome.
The cluttered, littered prizes of planetary disease:
rust,
refuse,
rubbish,
weapons of environmental destruction.
Suffocation and strangulation.
Pollution and consumerism.
False joy.
Fools' gold.
False idols.
.....gasping....slowing.... heartbeat.
But....take a better step.....another step ...a new step.....
Awake to Calvary where the charred wood of the cross
opens wide its outstretched arms to fill the place
where every Sunday hymns are sung
with love with peace and hope
where anthems sing God's praises

in the daily tasks of life
 and in the furthest corners of the earth,
 where confession leads to absolution
 and the resuscitating spirit
 hovers upon each who listens, longs and welcomes.
 How fitting that it is today
 - when light displaces any length of night-
 and the long sigh of our sun
 blows out the other candles in the galaxy,
 that we should walk from West to East
 and then from East to West
 charged and primed to scatter seeds
 upon the fallow fields of Eden.

The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2018 'Give peas a chance'

The project selected for our Bishop's annual Harvest Appeal this year is called 'Give peas a chance' and aims to improve the lives of farming communities in Southern Malawi. Christian Aid is our partner in this work.

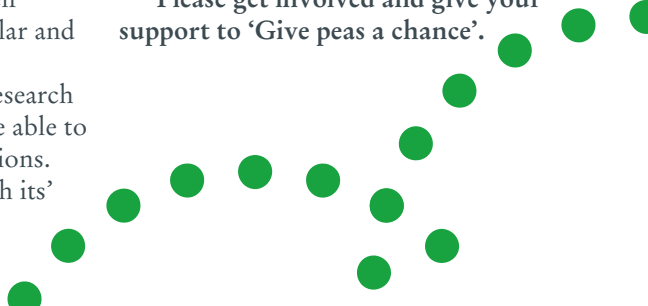
For more than thirty years the lives of Southern Malawian farming families have been devastated by dramatic and fast-changing weather patterns, such as drought and flash-flooding. These weather conditions have completely destroyed their traditional crops, mostly maize, leaving nothing at harvest time. These families rely on their harvest for income and for regular and nutritious meals.

There has been substantial research and testing to find crops that are able to survive these devastating conditions. The remarkable Pigeon Pea, with its'

robust, deep root system and benefits to the soil, is just that crop. The Pigeon Pea, despite severe conditions, has survived and grown healthily, producing an abundant harvest.

The Bishop's Appeal, 'Give peas a chance', will bring these valuable pea seeds, along with the necessary fertiliser and tools, to many more families in Malawi. The farmers also receive help in setting up local co-operatives, which gives them in a stronger, shared negotiating position to achieve better prices for their peas.

Please get involved and give your support to 'Give peas a chance'.



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Mothers' Union

At the start of my last newsletter in this magazine I wrote that we were awaiting Spring to fully unfold. I don't remember that we experienced much Spring – Winter seemed to turn immediately into Summer and I now read that this Summer has been the hottest ever recorded. God springs surprises on but never fails us.

I hope you are all enjoying the weather and occasionally managing to find a little refreshing breeze.

Sadly, in July we lost two of our long standing members, June Jones and Mavis Treacher. We shall miss them and their various talents but will retain fond memories of them.

In May Maggie Taylor spoke to us about the donkey sanctuary in Sidmouth and in June we welcomed a representative from 'Nannies for Grannies'.

Our fund raising efforts have borne fruit. We have passed on £130 to the Mother's Union and £230 for the

Mother's Union 'Summer of Hope' fund, the former was raised from serving coffee at Wesley's and the latter from donations made during our garden party hosted by Sue and Colin Chambers. Colin and Sue made their garden very welcoming and several Mothers' Union friends from Redbourn and the Parish of Harpenden joined us. We anticipate great fellowship once more when these friends join us for our deanery lunch in August.

Our diocesan AGM took place at the Church of King Charles the Martyr in Potters Bar and our banner was amongst many paraded in this lovely church.

The monthly evening talks begin again in September on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the committee room. Do join us.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer holidays.

Julia Smith

Telephone: 01582 763615

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

29 April 2018

Lauren Johanna Robinson

27 May 2018

Rosie Matilda Florence Izzard

10 June 2018

Jasper Arthur Henry Ashley

Marriages

Joined by God

There were no weddings in this period.

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

26 April 2018

Professor David Edward Fenton

8 May 2018

Michael Phillip Bentley

12 June 2018

Genevieve Therèse Gabrielle Crawford and Sidney Crawford

10 July 2018

Sylvia Mary Coggan

31 July 2018

Mavis Treacher

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Getting to know the congregation

An interview with David Nye

How are you involved in the local community?

Well, we've lived in Harpenden for 40 years. Currently, I sing with the Harpenden choral society, which I love. I'm a member of the local rotary club, in fact I'm vice president at the moment. We organise activities, both social events and also to raise money for the community like Classics on the Common. I apologise if that has meant traffic jams through Harpenden but it does some very good work bringing business to the retailers of the town which I think is wonderful and also raising about £30,000 for charities each year.

I also spend a lot of time on church affairs including for the Diocesan office in St Albans on the board of finance. I've been on the board of finance for... too many years! My wife, Heather, keeps saying, 'Oh yes, but you enjoy it don't you!' And of course the most important part of my life is my family: a loving wife, three wonderful daughters, and four adorable grandchildren. So life is busy, life is full and life is enjoyable.

And how are you involved at St John's?

I'm what is called a licensed Reader. I'm a layman, a retired chartered accountant, but I did a training course and have had the Bishop's licence since 1982, and that means that I'm able to take certain services and parts of services at church, including preaching and taking funerals. A very important part of what I do is for the housebound and sick. I visit people at home and in hospital and take communion to those not able to get to church anymore. I'm one of the parochial church councillors as well.

What is your motivation for community and church involvement?

We live in challenging times, when a lot of

people have difficulties and not always on the surface. I think Christians are called to be an antidote to the feeling that there is just evil and badness in the world. That is not true; there is hope and goodness and joy! I think that being a joyful person and spreading that joy is a wonderful thing to do. Christians need to care for each other, and for God's creation. We hear so much about climate change and we all have a responsibility. God has created the world and it is a good place; we have been given so many resources and it is our responsibility to look after those, to be stewards of them and to pass them on. Part of my faith is also to thank God for the many blessings we have and that we should share.

That's for this world, for today. But Christians believe that there is something after death, in the next world, whatever we understand by that. There is a great hope that there is something to come, something better than the transitory life we have here with its difficulties. There is hope for the world to come where we will be reunited with our dear departed ones and where there will be a life of joy and fun, peace and plenty for everyone. A sort of paradise, if you want. We call it heaven. We have glimpses of heaven on earth now, that's a foretaste, a sample of what we believe is to come. ●



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Contributions from St John's

Sat 15 Sept

10.30-11.15 Coffee Concert

Classical music and free coffee

3pm Family Friendly Art Workshop

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Sun 16 Sept

4.30pm Songs of Praise

*Favourite hymns as chosen by members of the
Southdown community with stories of what they
mean to them. Free refreshments*

8pm Diverse Voices @ Jay's cafe

*Including humanist poet Irvine Hunter and
priest singer-songwriter James Christie Brown
Tickets available at Jay's*

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 **Southdown Festival**



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14th – 23rd May 2019

10 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee

Led by The Ven. Paul Hughes (Archdeacon of Bedford) and Canon Liz Hughes, assisted by Tony Boon.

The cost of this tour is £1,895 sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. We stay in two family-owned and managed hotels. In Jerusalem, the three-star Golden Walls Hotel, close to the Damascus Gate, overlooks the Old City walls and is within walking distance of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In Tiberias, we stay at the four-star Ron Beach Hotel in a wonderful situation right on the lakeside. The tour is on a full-board basis with buffet breakfast, lunch and table d’hôtel evening meal.

For a chance to meet the leaders and administrators, who will be happy to answer any questions without commitment, please go the Pilgrimage Open Morning on Saturday, 15th September Diocesan Office Holywell Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HE.

The following article is based on the text of a reflection given on Wednesday 11 July – the Festival of St Benedict – and again at evensong on Sunday 15 July

Anually, on 11 July, the Church celebrates the festival of St Benedict, known as the founder – the father even – of western monasticism and as the author of a Rule for a way of life that is still followed by many men and women today.

Benedict would, I suspect, have been very much in favour of the fact that it is a lay leader of worship who is writing about him, since he was a layman himself, and in fact seems to have had a somewhat suspicious regard for priests. He lived in 5/6- century Italy, established a monastic community and wrote his Rule establishing a spirituality and way of life based on principles of order, hospitality, stability and prayer. His spiritual centres were strongholds of light throughout the Dark Ages and contributed significantly to the saving of both Christianity and Western Civilisation. He died in 547.

What exactly, you may ask, is the Rule of Benedict? How and why has it survived the test of time for nearly fifteen hundred years? What is the appeal of this 'instruction manual for beginners' that it continues to provide a life orientation for numerous monastics and lay people?

In writing this totally 'Christocentric', or Christ-centred Rule, Benedict drew most of his inspiration directly from the Scriptures, the Rule of St Basil, and the writings of John Cassian. Following their lead, he stresses the paramount importance of prayer in everyday life and per-

sonal asceticism as the means of drawing closer to God. The Rule contains specific yet flexible directions for all aspects of monastic life and continues to provide grounding, solace, perspective and retreat to millions of people around the globe.

Yet does it really have any relevance to, or place in, life in our contemporary high-tech, computer-driven, individualistic, some would say 'broken' society?

To get to what is really at the heart of the Rule, and to understand its importance for our modern world, let's just consider and ruminate upon its very first word: *obsculta* (var. *ausculta*), 'listen'. The opening sentence in the prologue directs the reader to, 'Listen carefully, my son, to the master's instructions, and attend them with the ear of your heart.'

Obsculta, or *ausculta*, is an unusual word, although my eldest daughter, Charlotte, regularly 'auscultates'. She is a GP and auscultating is what doctors do with their stethoscopes – they listen very carefully to the sounds of a patient's chest to hear or diagnose what the situation demands and then they respond accordingly. Is there a rattle/irregular heartbeat? What medicine or cure may be required? It's not just hearing; it's listening very attentively and proactively. Benedict would urge us all to listen with the same attentiveness to each other, or – in the silence – to our own hearts, to the rhythms of nature and our threatened world, and of course for God's voice. Benedictine life exhorts us gently but

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firmly at all times to listen very carefully and then to respond both heartily and joyfully to achieve a result

This isn't always as easy as it sounds. We are human and we are frail and we cannot always be bothered to do that which we know we should. After all, week after week we come before God to confess our sins, those acts and those omissions which we have yet again allowed to occur. Benedict knew that, he recognised the frailty that is symptomatic of human nature and so the Rule is designed to mitigate the chance of these slip-ups, by ordering life in such a way that God stays central to our life every day and in everything.

Anyone, at any time of life, can incorporate the ethos of the Rule into their daily regime. Paying attention to all things, be it changing that light bulb that has gone, washing the windscreen when it is dirty, concentrating on the Gospel when it is read in church, putting into practise the beautiful and much recited words of the Lord's prayer, paying attention to all things and getting them right, without a doubt improves community

life and enables every mundane task to be lifted up to God.

There is no distinction between the holy and the unholy. God can be honoured and served in a telephone conversation or cleaning the kitchen floor as much as he can be when we are here at prayer in the Lady Chapel. He is everywhere in everything at all times, and everything can therefore be sanctified and offered to Him.

It is a Rule which in Benedict's words is neither 'harsh' nor 'burdensome'. It persists and thrives because it is simple. At its heart it addresses the two fundamental and timeless Christian commandments: to love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

It simply requires us, from the outset, from that very first word – *ausculta* – to listen and respond and then, turning to the final, closing word of the Rule, *pervenies* – we shall arrive and achieve our goal, which is to spend eternity with our gracious God.

Emma Bresslaw

All Age Services

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9th September: All-Age Parish Communion: Education Sunday

7th October: All-Age Parish Communion: Harvest Thanksgiving

4th November: All-Age Parish Communion: All the saints

Alternative Sunday Evening Services

30th September: Taizé Service

28th October: Celtic Service

MATTHEW TANT D.O.

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Forthcoming events

September 2018

Wednesday 5 September	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting
Friday 7 September	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 8 September	10.00 am	Bike'n Hike
Sunday 9 September	4.00 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall TBC
Friday 14 September	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Friday 14 September – Sunday 16 September		Southdown Festival
Saturday 15 September	10.30 am	Coffee Concert (Roger Carter – organ)
Sunday 16 September	11.30 am	Family baptism
Monday 17 September	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Thursday 20 September	8.15 pm	Standing committee
Friday 21 September	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Monday 24 September	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Friday 28 September	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

October 2018

Monday 1 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study Group
Tuesday 2 October	8.15 pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 3 October	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting
Friday 5 October	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 7 October	4.00 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Monday 8 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Friday 12 October	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Monday 15 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Friday 19 October	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 20 October	10.00 am	Deanery safeguarding training
Monday 22 October	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Friday 26 October	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Sunday 28 October	11.30 am	Family baptism x 2

November 2018

Friday 2 November	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 4 November	4.00 pm	Faith and Light in the parish hall
Monday 5 November	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Wednesday 7 November	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch meeting
Friday 9 November	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Monday 12 November	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Tuesday 13 November	7.15 pm	Deanery Synod
Thursday 15 November	8.15 pm	Standing Committee
Friday 16 November	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 18 November	6.30 pm	Amici Voices Vespers in place of Evensong
Monday 19 November	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Friday 23 November	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Saturday 24 November	7.30 pm	Carillon concert in church
Monday 26 November	8.00 pm	Fellowship & Study group
Wednesday 28 November	8.15 pm	PCC meeting
Friday 30 November	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

Coffee Concerts

FREE classical concerts within the beautiful acoustic of St John's Church followed by coffee

Sat 15th September

10.30 - 11.15 am

Roger Carter - 'Organ lollipops'
part of the first ever
Southdown Festival

Sat 15th December

10.30 - 11.15 am

Roger Carter - organ music
for Advent and Christmas

st JOHN'S



PARISH OFFICE

For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

Telephone: 01582 712776
parish.office@
stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

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PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

Revd Mary Monk

Revd Julia White

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Services at St John's

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

Wednesday

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

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