

St. Augustine and St. Aidan Tonge Moor and Hall i'th' Wood

PARISH PAPER – AUGUST 2021



Dear friends

What a summer this is! For once, the heat of summer has actually appeared *during* summer, rather than in Spring, meaning at least that your Vicar has got some use out of his short-sleeved shirts this year!

Elsewhere, though, the heat has caused havoc. Record temperatures have been recorded in parts of the UK. A minor effect of this has been the splitting of the rubber covering on the children's play area at St Aidan's Hall. More major has been the consequence of the warmer air's ability to hold moisture: various areas of central Europe have had torrential rainfall, in some cases incurring a year's-worth of rain in just a few days.

The result has been - literally - catastrophic. Whole streets and roads have been washed away, leaving the large sewer pipes appearing as though they have magically been transported to the surface. Land has also been swept away by the force of swollen rivers, leaving fields of crops suddenly ending in a 20-foot cliff-face drop.

With more extreme winters, summers, rainfall, arctic ice-melts and the shifting southwards of the Gulf Stream, the effects of climate change are no longer in the future, but are with us now: and this is only the beginning of them. Previous changes to the earth's climate

have taken many centuries, if not millennia, to develop: this one is relatively sudden, and has one principal cause - mankind.

The COP26 summit is meeting in Glasgow in November, probably the most important such summit so far. The world's governments must reach agreement on reducing carbon emissions and other drivers of climate change, but the world's peoples must support and encourage them. You and I need to consciously change the way we shop, travel and dispose of our goods and waste, to provide the economic incentive for industry and commerce to change, too.

This is not only our civic duty, but our Christian duty. Mankind has neglected the world God created, allowing it to be gradually choked and poisoned. Many of the things that make our lives so comfortable and straightforward actively contribute to this damage.

As we pray for the success of the COP26 Summit later this year, pray also that God would give us the grace to see where our own lifestyle needs to be amended, so that we also play an active part in halting the looming disaster.

With my love and prayers

Fr Tony

WALSINGHAM FESTIVAL AT HOLLINWOOD

The season of Walsingham Festivals is upon us! A Walsingham Festival is to be held on Saturday 14th August at St Margaret's Church, Chapel Road, Hollinwood, OL8 4QQ. This will begin at 12 noon with a Solemn Mass and procession of Our Lady, followed by a lunch. The preacher at the Mass will be Fr Brian Bell, Vicar of St Paul's Monkbretton in

Barnsley and also a Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The cost of the lunch is £5 and booking is essential with Fr Tom on 07854770360 or email father.tom@live.co.uk

After lunch at 2.30pm will be Sprinkling, Healing liturgies and Benediction.

We hope this day will be of great encouragement to us all as many of us, for some time now, have been unable to go on pilgrimage to England's Nazareth. As always, this event is open to everyone, whether past-pilgrims to Walsingham or not.

WALSINGHAM FESTIVAL IN TONGE MOOR

Our own Walsingham Festival is to take place on Saturday 16th October at 3.00pm: this date is slightly later than usual, for reasons beyond our control.

Please put the date in your diary: our preacher and principal celebrant will be Bishop Glyn.

CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS EASED

On the 19th July, the Government removed the legal basis for the remaining restrictions, put in place to minimise the risk of transmitting the Covid-19 coronavirus. However, the Government has given no guidance how quickly or to what extent these restrictions should be removed, leaving it up to "Venue Operators", in our case the PCC.

The Bishop of London, who chairs the Church of England's Recovery Group, said:

"The relaxation of restrictions on Monday is only possible because of the vaccination programme which has reduced the percentage of those with Covid who become seriously ill or die.

"We are indebted to all who have developed and administered the vaccines and we encourage anyone who has not yet done so to take advantage of the protection they offer.

"Many will welcome the possibilities now before us, not least increased numbers at life events and a long awaited return of congregational and amateur choir singing.

"However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore our approach needs to be cautious and careful.

"Taking personal responsibility means responsibility for our neighbour, not just for ourselves, and taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be. Local church leaders know their communities and their own circumstances, and we will support them making local decisions to keep themselves and their community safe. We would ask everyone to support those making local decisions and respect risk assessments, which are in place to protect everyone as we enter the next phase."

The PCC sent out a Survey to all members of the congregation and members of the Electoral Roll, asking how they felt about removing various measures put in place earlier in the pandemic: overall there was a feeling of wariness. Thank you to those who returned the Survey.

The PCC decided to proceed cautiously, and a letter explaining the process and its reasoning has also been sent out. In the short term,

members of the congregation are being asked to bring their own hand sanitiser to use before receiving Communion, should they wish, and restricted refreshments after mass are to resume as soon as rotas can be arranged.

At the time of writing, infection rates have been reducing for the last seven days, albeit from a nationally-high level in the north west. We hope and pray that this will continue, resulting in increased confidence among our congregation, and the further removal of current restrictions while keeping everyone safe and feeling secure.

CATHOLIC EVANGELISM

This annual event, hosted by St Matthew's Church, Carver Street in Sheffield, is usually very good, but too far for many this side of the Pennines to travel to. This year's lecture, however, is being live-streamed on the Facebook pages of both St Matthew's and The Church Union, so is accessible to everyone. The speaker is The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel SSC, Archdeacon of Chichester.

It is sponsored by the Diocese of Sheffield and The Church Union, and takes place on Friday 24th September at 7.00pm. Places must be booked by email: lucy.nunn@sheffield.anglican.org.

Churches Together in Tonge Moor

We are having a break over the Summer, but the videos made in the past year are still available on the YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdqi28fO4Z4pmrgD8JUXkUA>

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th September 2021 7.30pm at the Church at the Centre to plan the Harvest Service that is to be on Sunday 26th September 2021.

Ruth Taylor

A man read his obituary in a newspaper. In great indignation he rang a friend: "Have you seen my obituary in today's paper?"

"Yes," replied his friend, "where are you phoning from?"

100 CLUB NEWS

The fourth monthly draw was via a Zoom meeting at 12.00pm on Sunday 11th July 2021.

Pam and Fr Tony were in charge of the drum containing the numbers at the vicarage.

numbers verified by Ken Fisher.

First Prize Number 93 - William Morris - wins £25

Second Prize Number 25 - Debbie Jackson - wins £15

Third Prize Number 9 - Christine Latham - wins £10

The fifth draw for this term will be on Sunday 7th August 2021, this could be drawn in the Parish Hall, but if it is via Zoom, Join the Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349787107?pwd=S1B2Q1BzTGxHQWdXckkveXdlS1lzZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 4978 7107

Passcode: 158738

If you are not a member contact David or Ruth Taylor to be allocated a number just £12 a year. Also to renew and/or take on a new number

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



Last month we held our first meeting since lockdown started. We began with Mass then afterwards we shared cakes while talking together. Hopefully you were able to join us in the Mass via the livestream.

Ruth Taylor is continuing in the role of Bolton Archdeaconry President.

We are hosting the Bolton Archdeaconry Festival on Monday 9th August at 7.30pm. This will replace our usual monthly meeting.

Volunteers to bake cakes for the refreshments would be appreciated.

We will also need people to, 1. Welcome and take names of visitors and 2. Serve the refreshments after the service.

If you are able to help please will you let me know.

Everyone is welcome.

Elsie



A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in whatever way with our **Summer Fair** on 24th July. We made an amazing **£918.08** on the day and with aftersales and donations it brought the grand total to **£1,040.88**.

	Prize	Ticket No	Name
1	Co-op Hamper	759	Morgan Taylor
2	Avon Hamper	106	Michelle
3	Famous Grouse Whisky	6	Ted Hale
4	Grants Whisky	114	Michelle
5	M&S Wine Box	183	Margaret Mullen
6	M&S Florentyna Box	700	Lilian
7	Red Square Vodka	200	Margaret Mullen
8	Bodycare Set	46	Lee
9	Café Chaud Coffee Server	116	Paula
10	Filter Teapot - London Pottery	665	Brenda
11	Inchcape Car Care Set	144	Jackie Schofield
12	Royale Bouquet Set	43	Brenda
13	Facial Massage - Color Institute Set	150	Jackie Schofield

14	Cortereale Shiraz	157	Christine Hudson
15	Chutney Selection	181	Rebecca Schofield
16	Lavender Set	16	Linda
17	Milk Tray	682	Lesley Emerton
18	McGuigan Merlot	97	Lilian
19	Cotton Traders Cooler Bag & Flask	51	Lee
20	Jigsaw	43	Brenda
21	Lindemans Alcohol Free Wine	748	Gill BT
22	Custard Creams	712	Emma
23	Fleurie Red Wine	176	Barbara
24	Bod Set	201	Margaret Mullen
25	Three Mills Tropical Fruit Wine	752	Elsie H
26	M&S Magnolia Set	37	Jennifer Hunt
27	Patersons Shortbread Biscuits	174	Barbara D
28	Hamilton Spa Treatment	171	Dani
29	Vina Nava Rose	684	Lesley Emerton
30	Emma Bridgewater Set	91	Lilian
31	Asda Chocolate Biscuits	148	Jackie Schofield
32	Ultimate Rose Bath Collection	764	Fr David

33	Marques Rioja	322	Jayne
34	Espirito Santa Wine	654	Jennifer Hunt
35	Roversi Wine	166	Tony Schofield
36	Three Mills Tropical Fruit Wine	155	Lee
37	Flying Kite Summer Berries Wine	3	Ted Hale
38	Try Dive	88	Ruth
39	Try Dive	38	Jennifer Hunt



We will hopefully start back with Messy Church on Saturday 18th September 2021, from 11am to 1pm.

Door Prize D Balwin

Tub of Celebration Chocolates

Guess my name?

Noah

Lilian Schofield

Lucky £1

Paula Holmes-Patel

£20 (half of takings)

Volunteers are needed to help with this and a planning meeting needs to be organised.

If you want to be involved or can help in any way, please let Ruth Taylor know.

The sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise.

Hats were blown off and copies of the Vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.



Keep Tonge Moor tidy!
Join us on the first Saturday of
each month



We will meet after the 10am Mass
approx 10.30am in St Augustine's
Parish Hall.
Grabbers, bags
High viz jackets provided.
Do as much as you feel able!
Meet back at The Parish Hall for Brew
& Bikkies approx 11.30am

The next litter pick will be Saturday 4th September



.Walsingham News

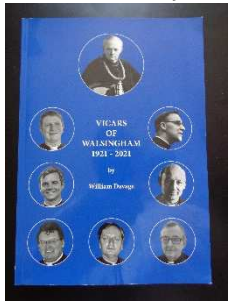
As much as anyone can anticipate anything these days, our Parish Pilgrimage for 2021 has been confirmed as the Shrine re-opened fully on the 19th July. All parts of the Shrine church and grounds are now accessible and hospitality is no longer limited to legal government restrictions. There was much joy when the first Wednesday outdoor procession since Autumn 2019 took place on the 21st July.

Before our 2019 pilgrimage, we had a very successful social afternoon and so as is our tradition now, we shall be doing the same on Saturday 21st - a couple of weeks before our departure on Bank Holiday Monday. It will be the first chance to meet socially as pilgrims and members of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham for a very long time - and welcome our 'first-timer' pilgrims. It gives us an opportunity to ask questions, hear what some of the inevitable changes have been in England's Nazareth and to be aware of what the Shrine is respectfully asking visitors and pilgrims to do for the safety of all. We shall meet in the Parish Hall at 2.30 on that afternoon for light refreshments. Everyone is very welcome, so even if you're not travelling with us this time please join us and be encouraged to think about coming on our very special anniversary pilgrimage next year.



Who can't wait to see this view as our coach draws up late on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon?

Sister Carol continues to post regularly on the Priory facebook page. They have slightly increased the seating in their chapel for those wishing to join in the Offices and have resumed having coffee after Mass. Although still unable to assist with the Tuesday and Saturday evening liturgies, both she and Sister Angela are regularly around the Shrine grounds on two or three afternoons if pilgrims wish to talk to them or ask for prayers.



Congratulations to Sr Carol who started a British Sign Language course during lockdown and has just successfully completed Level 1. A friend of mine was staying in the Priory a few weeks ago and contacted me with this conversation-stopper: "On

my own in the Shrine garden at the moment, as Sister Carol is playing bingo as part of her BSL on-line course!" Many of our pilgrims will remember Sister Teresa, who was Mother at the Priory for a time, died last year. After a long wait, her ashes were recently interned in the Sisters' burial plot at St Mary's.

At St Mary's parish church, Fr Harri Williams recently celebrated his 10th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

As it is 100 years since the appointment of the charismatic Fr Hope Patten as parish priest, St Mary's PCC commissioned 'Vicars of Walsingham 1921- 2021' - a book written by Fr William Davage - which profiles the successive priests of Walsingham to the present

day. If anyone would like a copy, please let me know as I probably have an opportunity to acquire some before our pilgrimage. Please note it is not available through the Shrine Shop. It's a fascinating read and costs just £10. I've read mine backwards - or should I say I've read the chapters in reverse order!

The Wells & Walsingham Light Railway has - at last - been able to recommence trips to and from Walsingham. There was some significant vandalism at the terminus point in Walsingham, partly of the safety and speed signage as well as the waiting wooden shelter. Precious funds had to be used for the repairs, which just goes to show nowhere is safe from those committing damage and spoiling the enjoyment of others.



Finally, a date for your diaries. Our parish Walsingham Festival is planned for Saturday 16th October - a change from our usual date of the first Saturday in October. Details in future editions of our *Parish Paper*.

Linda Parkington

One of the questions in an exam at a Church of England secondary school was: What does a bishop do?

One child wrote: Move diagonally across the board

Meeting

On the bus station - a name is called -
In the confusion of voices, and engines
Starting and stopping - only two people hear it.
The quick footsteps sound on the pavement - each
Step receding time
The two meet - quick recognition - then appraisal
Of the passing time wrought in each.
Another look, with searching - the grey hairs
The wrinkles faint and deep - the life lived
The stuff between "then" and "now".
They travel down the corridor of years,
From afar off - clatter of crockery - voices call
The tennis ball bounces on the court on hot days.
Soft organ notes sound - the lime leaves rustle overhead
The crucified Christ on the chapel reredos looks down.
The committees - the lectures - the artists achievement,
The paroled Italian prisoners of war - the smell of malt
And matches!
How important were we then - each hour of each
Day - a new adventure. Oh little fame!
Where have we come to now - with our income tax forms

And insurances - our second hand motor cars
And decent way of dressing?
The school bells and morning assembly
Breaktimes, hometimes and blessed weekends?
Each day is like the one before, the one after.
The timetable maps the minutes - the governor
Or attendance officer calls.
The seasons pass and death and partings
Have become familiar.
From out of ordinary everyday "now" and
Extraordinary everyday "then" - what link?
What remains unchanged - what changeless?
Quick! Find it now - or else the knell will sound
And cruel disappointment spread and turn with bitter twist.
So eye meets eye with light
And there is joy and laughter,
For in spite of the hours and the days and the years
God smiles out of each others eyes - the reality.
The spirit grows not old.
Jocelyn Darbyshire

1st August: Ethelwold - Wessex saint who founded the first monastic cathedral

St Ethelwold (c.912 - 84) did great things for the church at Winchester, which in those days was the principle town of Wessex. He began as a simple monk, eager to restore the Rule of Benedictine in England, a major reform for the church of the time. So, after serving at the abbey in Glastonbury, he was sent on to restore the old abbey at Abingdon. The king thought highly of him, and used him to teach his son, the future king, Edgar.

When in 963 Ethelwold became Bishop of Winchester, he replaced the cathedral canons with monks, thus founding the first monastic cathedral in the land. This was a uniquely English institution, which remained until the Reformation. The monastic reform quickly gained momentum: with the King's support, Ethelwold restored old monasteries such as Milton (Dorset), New Minster and Nunnaminster in Winchester, while new monasteries were founded and richly endowed at Peterborough (966), Ely (970) and Thorney (972).

Ethelwold was austere, able and dynamic. Under his leadership, the monks excelled at music, illumination and writing. When Ethelwold set the monks to work with the masons in the cathedral at Winchester, he built the most powerful organ of its time in England: it was played by two monks and had 400 pipes and 36 bellows. In music, Ethelwold's Winchester had the distinction of producing the first English polyphony in the Winchester Troper.

Ethelwold's monasteries also produced a surpassing new style of illumination, and his school of vernacular writing was the most important of its time: with accurate, linguistically significant

translations. A major event of his episcopate was the consecration of Winchester Cathedral in 980.

6th August: The Transfiguration - a glimpse of Jesus' future glory

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention of Jesus. The wonder of the

Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time - no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

9th August: Mary Sumner - founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now nearly 145 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" - qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal

'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle.

By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

15th August: 'Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?'

The Church responds with a resounding 'Yes' to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. (Usually her feast day is on the 16th.) An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary - her crossing over to eternal life - or the assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.'

The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. "For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus." Through all that happened to her - the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding -

Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, "Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see."

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.

28th August: Augustine of Hippo - the Christian for all seasons

After St Paul, who was the most influential Christian writer ever? Probably St Augustine of Hippo (354-430), whose feast-day is on 28th August. He lived and wrote in a time of social and spiritual chaos. The Roman Empire was collapsing, the world was about to slide into the dark ages and the Church was under serious threat from both heresies within and paganism without.

What St Augustine wrote at this time helped the Church both to avoid perversions of Christianity, and to stand strong and unafraid amongst the violent tumult of the times. His writings held sway over Christianity for the next 15 centuries or so, and still influence us heavily today.

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in modern Algeria. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a Christian. After studying rhetoric at Carthage to become a lawyer, Augustine instead became a scholar-philosopher. He abandoned Christianity for Manichaeism, and lived with a mistress for 15 years. He moved to Rome and then Milan to teach rhetoric, but slowly grew disenchanted with Manichaeism.

After a long interior conflict, vividly described in his *'Confessions'*, Augustine was converted and baptised a Christian in 386-7. He returned to Africa in 388, and joined some friends in establishing a quasi-monastic life. He was ordained priest in 391, and four years later became coadjutor-bishop of Hippo. From 396 until his death in 430 he ruled the diocese alone.

Augustine had a brilliant mind, an ardent temperament and a gift for mystical insights. Soon his understanding of the Christian Revelation was pouring forth in his many voluminous writings.

So what did he write? Most famous is *'The Confessions'*, the sermons on the Gospel and Epistle of John, the *De Trinitate* and the *De Civitate Dei*. This last, 'The City of God', tackles the opposition between Christianity and the 'world' and represents the first Christian philosophy of history.

Many other works were undertaken in his efforts to tackle various heresies: Manichaeism, Pelagianism, or Donatism, and led to the development of his thought on Creation, Grace, the Sacraments and the Church.

Augustine's massive influence on Christianity has mainly been for the good. Few others have written with such depth on love, the Holy Trinity and the Psalms. (The preamble to the marriage service in the BCP is closely based on Augustine.) But his views on Predestination and some of his views on sex (that it is the channel for the transmission of Original Sin) have since been mainly ignored by the Church.

As bishop, Augustine fearlessly upheld order as the Roman Empire disintegrated around him. By the time of his death, the Vandals were at the very gates of Hippo.

29th August: The beheading of St John the Baptist

Spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hip-hop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised Him in the Jordan at the start of His ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

30th August: John Bunyan - the man who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than 100 languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than 50 books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book, but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the *Pilgrim's Progress* covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, "My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder." ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...'

31st August: Aidan - the man who brought Christianity to England

31st August is the feast of St Aidan, who brought Christianity to northern England. He is a strong contender for the title of the first English bishop. Not that honours meant a great deal to this austere but captivating character.

In 635 he came to Northumbria at the invitation of the local ruler, Oswald. Oswald had spent several years of his childhood on Iona, and when he succeeded to the throne of his northern kingdom he was shrewd enough to realise that the Christian faith would be an ideal unifying force to pacify rival tribes of warlords.

Oswald's invitation was not immediately successful. The first missionary from Iona returned in despair, claiming that the barbarity of the Northumbrians made them unconvertible. But as Aidan listened, he felt the unmistakable call of God to try again.

"Perhaps you were too harsh on them," he found himself suggesting to the travel-stained missionary. Shortly afterwards, Aidan found himself at the head of a party of brothers heading for Northumbria. He was never to see his beloved Iona again.

The monks made the long journey to Northumbria on foot, singing psalms as they went. Their need to ward off the powers of evil with prayer was genuine, for these were dangerous times to travel through remote country unarmed. They arrived safely at Oswald's castle in Bamburgh, where he offered them lavish hospitality and assumed that they would found their community there.

However, the brothers realised that to live under the king's protection would make it difficult to avoid the world's temptations and establish a rapport with the local people. They saw the tidal island of Lindisfarne on the horizon and chose it as their base. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Aidan was much loved as a teacher and evangelist; though stern in his own self-discipline, he was prepared to travel to the most

inaccessible villages, where he cared for the local people with compassion and gentleness. In time, his influence grew and noble people joined the stream of visitors to Lindisfarne.

After Oswald's death in 642, his brother Oswin succeeded him as king. Oswin was concerned about Aidan's habit of walking everywhere. The saint was ageing rapidly, his body weakened by years of harsh fasting and exposure to the elements. Oswin wondered what would happen to him one day on the road, and also he felt that such a lowly means of travel was not appropriate for a bishop. So he gave Aidan one of his finest horses, complete with a beautifully worked saddle and bridle.

Aidan did not feel able to risk offending the king by spurning his generosity, but he rode out of the palace with a heavy heart. He knew that people would relate to him differently now that he had the trappings of affluence, and that it would be dangerous to stop and rest with such valuable belongings beside him.

The king had intended to give him comfort, but his gesture had had the opposite effect. Aidan had learnt that possessions, and the need to protect them, make it more difficult to follow God with an undivided heart. The story goes that he gave the horse, complete with saddle, to the first beggar he met outside the palace gates.

A more pragmatic Christian might have reasoned that keeping on the right side of Oswin would lead to opportunities that were too valuable to risk. Indeed, the king was angry when he heard what Aidan had done. "That horse was fit for a king, not for some vagabond," he protested. "I could have found you an old nag if you wanted to give it away." Aidan's reply was simply, "What do you

think, O King? Is the son of a mare worth more in your eyes than that the Son of God?"

There was an awkward silence; then the King removed his sword, knelt at Aidan's feet and asked his forgiveness. When he returned to the banqueting table, it was with a beaming smile. Sadly, he too was to perish in battle shortly afterwards; these were violent times. Yet Oswin, whose culture demanded that he should appear all-powerful in the eyes of his followers, had been publicly humbled by the integrity of a simple monk who had challenged his values.

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of 'press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary', until we end with '12 for requests for prayer.' I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing 'Thine be the glory' on one finger on an electric organ while I am 'on hold' I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace not to

ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not, as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second message on 8 for baptisms, and save on a large phone bill in months to come. As for 9 for funerals, entire families could be born, marry and die before they reach that one. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine does not accept incoming messages, and that I only answer personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may (or may not) be answered, at my convenience.

As for the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to say that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



The Early Church Acts 1 - 12

The Early Church: Acts 1-12

by [Dr. Ralph F. Wilson](#)

1. **The Promise of Power (Acts 1).** We witness Jesus' ascension, his promise of the Spirit, his commission to witness to the world, and the selection of the twelfth apostle.
2. **The Holy Spirit Comes (Acts 2).** Here's the pouring out of the Spirit on Pentecost with wind, fire, and speaking in other languages. We review Peter's sermon and call to repentance, and glimpse the simple fellowship of the primitive church.
3. **Peter and John Heal and Testify (Acts 3:1-4:22).** From the healing of a lame man in the temple, comes powerful testimony, interrogation before the Sanhedrin, and the declaration of salvation only through Jesus' name.
4. **Power and Fellowship in the Jerusalem Church (Acts 4:23-5:42).** Fresh from a scourging, the believers pray for boldness,



'Holy Spirit Flame', an original watercolor by Ralph F. Wilson.

- sell property to give to the needy, see the consequences of lying to the Holy Spirit, and share a powerful witness in Jerusalem.
5. **Stephen's Ministry and Martyrdom (Acts 6-7).** Seven men are selected to oversee the church's growing charitable ministry. Stephen preaches, does signs and wonders, and is then arrested and stoned, but not before he brings a powerful witnesses to his Jesus.
 6. **Philip Evangelizes Samaria and Baptizes an Ethiopian (Acts 8).** Persecution drives Greek-speaking Jews from Jerusalem into the hinterland where Philip preaches to a receptive Samaria and the Holy Spirit falls. Philip goes on to meet an Ethiopian treasurer on the road to Gaza and wins him to Christ.
 7. **Saul's Conversion, Peter's Ministry (Acts 9).** Saul ravages the church until he meets Jesus on the road to Damascus. Ananias ministers to him, and Saul preaches Jesus in Damascus, escapes in a basket over the city wall, and ends up in Tarsus. Meanwhile Peter heals Aeneas and raises Dorcas from the dead, evangelizing the entire coastal Plain of Sharon.
 8. **The Spirit Falls on Gentiles (Acts 10:1-11:18).** Peter has a rooftop vision that teaches him nothing and no one are common or unclean. Then he goes to the house of a Gentile in Caesarea, preaches, and sees the Spirit come upon them. Finally, he returns to Jerusalem to answer criticism for fellowshiping with Gentiles.
 9. **Revival in Antioch, Persecution in Jerusalem (Acts 11:19-12:25).** The gospel moves from Jews exclusively to rapid growth among Gentiles in Antioch. Barnabas find Saul to help him. Meanwhile Herod Agrippa kills the Apostle James and imprisons Peter, who miraculously escapes.

PARISH DATES

Tue	3rd	Home Communion in the area
Thur	5th	Home Communion in the area
Fri	6th	TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD: Mass 7.30pm
SUN	8th	12.15pm: Holy Baptism 6.30pm: Evening Prayer & Benediction
Mon	9th	7.30pm: Mothers' Union Archdeaconry Festival
SUN	15th	ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM 12.15pm Holy Baptism
Sat	21st	2.30pm: Walsingham get-together
SUN	22nd	3.00pm: Baptism Preparation Class
SUN	29th	12.15pm: Holy Baptism

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

July 18th Charles Muzusangabo Muvuku
Mia Dianne Smith

Calendar and Intentions for August 2021

SUN	1	18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	2	feria: The mentally ill and those who care for them
Tue	3	feria: Those receiving the Blessed Sacrament in their homes this month
Wed	4	S John Vianney: Confessors and their penitents
Thu	5	feria: Our Sunday School and the Schools in the Parish
Fri	6	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD: The Parish and the People of God
Sat	7	feria: Those preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism

SUN	8	19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	9	S TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS: The work and mission of the Mother's Union
Tue	10	S LAURENCE: All who suffer for their faith in Christ
Wed	11	S Clare: Religious communities and vocations to the religious life
Thu	12	feria: Greater confidence in the Covid vaccine among the hesitant
Fri	13	feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
Sat	14	S Maximilian Kolbe: Reconciliation between Christians and Jews
SUN	15	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	16	feria: Bolton Deanery, its churches and congregations
Tue	17	feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
Wed	18	feria: The Unity of Christ's church
Thu	19	feria: Those preparing to embark on pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham
Fri	20	S Bernard: Vocations to the religious life
Sat	21	S Pius X: The work of theologians
SUN	22	21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	23	feria: All who work in the NHS
Tue	24	S BARTHOLOMEW: Theological colleges
Wed	25	feria: The Bishop of Beverley, Ebbsfleet and Richborough
Thu	26	feria: The Bishop of Manchester and his staff
Fri	27	S Monica: The Church in Africa
Sat	28	S Augustine of Hippo: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate
SUN	29	22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	30	feria: The fire, police and ambulance services
Tue	31	S AIDAN: The Parish and the People of God

CHURCH WARDENS

David & Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS

email addresses can be completed by adding "staugustinestm.org.uk"

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: pccsec@

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: treasurer@

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: please contact the wardens for the time being

Child Protection: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964 - email: safeguarding@

Brownies: Nichola Smith Tel: 07748 188215 - email: brownies@

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586 - email: mu@

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) Peter Pemrick Tel: 01204 527699

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158 - email: hallbookings@

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: John Harrison Tel: 01204 792691

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Paper: Mike Cheetham - email: magazine@