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From the Vicarage

"Neighbours from Hell"

"Neighbours from Hell" is the title of a popular television programme which reports on disputes between neighbours, some of which have been going on for many years, and all of which are the source of anger and resentment between the parties involved, and the cause of much pain and distress - why is such a programme so popular?

An important theme in the teachings of Jesus is that of forgiveness and mercy. These are basic attitudes that every Christian must put into practice. Apart from the command to love one another there is no greater obligation placed on a Christian. But, in some of the circumstances of everyday living, forgiveness is more often talked about than put into practice. It is difficult to forgive. It is demanding, and it can take a great deal out of us. Within families and among neighbours incidents can get blown up out of all proportion; we can become so embittered by injuries and wrong-doings that we may find it impossible to forgive ... *by our own strength alone.*

Jesus teaches us to put all our human affairs into a proper perspective and to put our trust in him. In the light of eternity and the shortness of our life span, harbouring anger and resentment is pointless. What comes over clearly in the Gospel is that our ability to forgive others is a measure of the depth of our Christianity. The forgiveness that we offer makes it possible for us to receive God's forgiveness and to pray in a meaningful way "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

In the actual circumstances of daily living we are rarely put to the test of forgiveness in matters that are truly painful or emotionally crippling. But, aware of the loving forgiveness of God and his generous mercy shown to all who turn to him, when those times do occur we must be ready to place the situations we face into God's hands *in trust*, for, if we are to be true channels of God's love, then Jesus' teaching and example must be the standard by which we measure our lives and shape our own conduct.

*Heavenly Father,
look with compassion on our failings,
deliver us from hardness of heart
and grant that we may always be ready to forgive injuries
and heal divisions
in the strength of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

With my love and prayers

Chris Hardwick

Gulworthy Notes for July

The continuation of “Nature Notes from Gulworthy” – hasn’t it been a weird spring? Everything is so late.

The roses in our garden are at least a month behind but are finally in full bloom. The welcome rain of the last few days may have watered them but has also battered their petals – I guess that’s just par for the course! I am fighting an often-losing battle with the massed populations of voles and sparrows who find every beetroot seedling irresistible. I haven’t quite given in to razor wire and minefields but there are rolls of netting protecting all the juiciest of plants from the invading wildlife and I can only comfort myself by remembering that various owl species rely on voles for their own sustenance, so I am helping the local population by feeding said rodents!

Ongoing saga of the Morwellham Pear – 10 fruits hanging on in there which is 8 more than last year, but as yet, the beautiful friendship anticipated with this attractive but barely productive tree is struggling. Does anyone else have one of these? No information to be found anywhere!

On Saturday 26th June we asked for volunteers to help tidy St Paul’s after 18 months of not being able to do so; 14 people turned up and we managed to stay masked and socially distanced whilst we polished, washed, hoovered, strimmed, hacked and weeded. The result is that St Paul’s looks and smells wonderful without a sign of spiders’ webs or bat droppings and with the dust of many months swept away. Outside the gravel has been weeded, shrubs cut back and paths cut for children to enter Gulworthy school from the churchyard.

Thank you so much to everyone that came – there was great camaraderie and it felt like we were sweeping the cobwebs of the past months away, taking a deep breath and readying ourselves for the return of some degree of normality.

There are no events in our church diary as yet, but in our next PCC meeting we shall be looking to the future and planning for the Autumn and Winter. Meanwhile, if anyone has ideas for social events or for fundraising then please do let us know. We had many plans for 2020 which could not be carried out so the more ideas the better! Hopefully, by the beginning of August, we shall know if we can have large gatherings again, meanwhile we shall, as we have done all year, pray for the continued wellbeing of Gulworthy parish and for all our loved ones.

May we continue to live in love and faith

St Paul’s, Gulworthy.

Pilgrimage – 6: The Launch of the Archangel’s Way



Much has happened since I last wrote in this magazine about pilgrimage so thank you for your patience in waiting for the official launch of Devon Pilgrim and our very own Pilgrimage Walking Route, *The Archangel’s Way*.

The launch of *The Archangel’s Way* is now going to take place at 3.00 pm on Saturday 31st July 2021 at Belstone, that little village on the northern edge of Dartmoor. All will be welcome to engage with our fascinating landscape, find sanctuary in 12 historic churches and space for the soul through walking, poetry and the beauty of Dartmoor, past and present.

The 35+ mile Pilgrimage route begins from St Michael de Rupe on Brent Tor and ends at St Michael the Archangel in Chagford and will offer places of accommodation, a Pilgrim Passport for walkers, a series of guided reflective walks through the year and poetry, music and art along the Way.

The plan is that proceedings from the launch event will begin at 12.00 noon with a short inclusive service of worship led by Rev. Paul Seaton-Burn and will include the first performance of a song for the Way composed by Jim Causley and the bells of our Dartmoor churches will ring again! The Tors Inn will be open from its outdoor bar “The Shed” serving a selection of food and drink. The Chapel tearooms will also be open throughout the afternoon.

Several walking groups will be setting out earlier in the day from Brentor, Sourton and Chagford; planning to arrive by 3.00pm at Belstone for further celebration.

The planning group have been busy exploring the route and a number of trial walks from Brentor to Lydford, Chagford to Throwleigh and Lydford to Sourton have been successfully enjoyed, completed and timed. Several people have told us that they have already walked, cycled or run the route between Brentor and Chagford.

The website for Devon Pilgrim will be launched before the end of June with a section on *The Archangel’s Way* which will display all the information needed for following the route as well as offering optional diversions to places of interest. More information from Judith Oaks on: judith.oakes@btinternet.com or Revd Paul on paulsburn@btinternet.com

The Archangel’s Way is one part of a series of pilgrim routes being developed by Devon Pilgrim across the Diocese of Exeter.

The Devon Pilgrim initiative will have a stand at the Devon County Show in July but this may have to be visited digitally if the restrictions are not lifted soon.

As a member of the planning group and the Hospitaller for the two churches at Brentor, I am keen to ensure that the proposed route will be accessible to all, whether pilgrims are young or old, rich or poor, fit or facing disabilities. It is not intended to be challenging or competitive. It should be no more than a gentle stroll rather than a trek and, since it is too far to be completed in a day on foot, it can take several days with many options for refreshment and overnight accommodation along the way. It is my hope that everyone who decides to set out along the way should be welcomed wherever they wander along its route.

Christopher Pancheri (Retired Lay minister with permission to officiate)

Sunday 27th June 2021

A Prayer for July

As you love each other,
Grow in the love of God.

As you give yourselves to each other,
God gives himself to you.

As you share your lives together,
God shares his life with you.

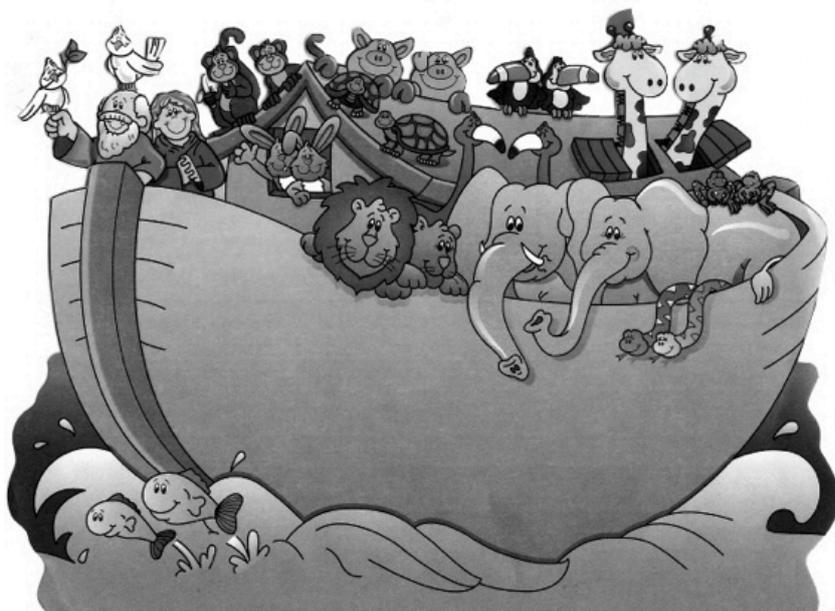
As you grow in awareness of each other,
Grow in awareness of God.

Let his love encircle your love,
Let his life fill your lives .

Let him bind you as one together
and one with him.

Animal Blessings Service

Animal Blessing Service at St Eustachius' Church Tavistock



On Sunday August 22nd at 3.00pm

All pets of every size and shape are very welcome, as are you, and pictures of your pet, or a cuddly friend also.

Tales from the Tower

Once again, we are still ringing in a limited fashion - just six at a time, hands sanitised, face masks on, and for no longer than 45 minutes at any session. Remembering the days when we could just drift in and out as we pleased (more or less, while keeping in mind that we were, after all, a team) it all seems to have been almost unbelievably casual. How could we have taken our wonderful art so blithely? How could we have taken it so much for granted? Will we ever return to those halcyon days?

Well, probably we will - because that's what human beings do. We value most the things we have most rarely or most little of. I expect it's what happened after the war, when the ringers who still remained (many, especially the younger ones, were lost either in the fighting or from other causes) gathered themselves together, remembered their half-forgotten skills and began to teach them first to handle a bell and then to move on either to call changes or to method ringing. And very successful they were too - by the time I began my ringing career, in 1951, there were many very accomplished ringers around, ringing full peals of three hours or more, and quarter peals of 45 to 55 minutes. I was soon achieving such heights myself - although the heights I reached were never great ones. A 'useful ringer' is more or less my claim to fame. (More or less useful, that is!)

That's what will happen now. We haven't been five or six years away from our bells and the bells themselves have not been neglected. Ringers old and new have been kept together via modern technology - Zoom, a word that once meant no more than a sudden rush, has been a lifeline in so many ways. We've kept in contact with each other; some of us have actually learned more via the wonders of RingingRoom, and we're now ringing again, sporadically it is true, since we in Tavistock are operating a rota - but we are ringing. And so we will soon be back, ringing the full ten and perhaps able to attend whenever we like - every Tuesday for practice and every Sunday for services. We are already being asked to ring for weddings.

And not just for weddings. On Saturday, 3 July we will be ringing for the memorial service of our much loved and respected past ringing captain, Robin Burnham, who passed away last Christmas. I am sad not to be taking part in this myself as I knew Robin and experienced his kindness, but I know that those who do ring for him will do so with good memories and a good heart.

This is what bells are for. To celebrate, to mourn, to mark time passing and time to come. This is why it is such a privilege to be able to ring them.

DONNA BAKER

Mission of the month for July



The Mission to Seafarers
Caring for seafarers around the world

Piracy, shipwreck, abandonment and separation from loved ones are just a few of the problems merchant seafarers face. Around the world, The Mission to Seafarers provides help and support to the 1.5 million men and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat.

The Mission works in over 200 ports in 50 countries caring for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs. Through their global network of chaplains, staff and volunteers they offer practical, emotional and spiritual support to seafarers through ship visits, drop-in seafarers' centres and a range of welfare and emergency support services. Her Majesty the Queen is the Patron, The Princess Royal is the President and the Secretary General is the Revd. Andrew Wright.

The Mission produces a regular newsletter called 'Flying Angel News', which gives an interesting update on how the Mission is performing against its key aims. It also gives an interesting insight into the work of some of their chaplains and caseworkers around the world. A copy of the current Flying Angel News can be found at www.missiontoseafarers.org/wp-content/uploads/FAN-Summer-2021-web.pdf.

In 2020 the Mission made 30,576 ship visits, encountering 187,140 seafarers onboard their vessels. Also, 86,996 seafarers visited their seafarers' centres, and 46,063 seafarers used their transport services. The Mission worked on 1,286 justice, welfare and medical cases. As part of their Covid 19 response, their Digital chaplaincy enabled 1,913 interactions on digital Chat to Chaplains; 144,612 items of PPE were given out to chaplaincy teams and centres globally; in India, 1,688 families benefitted from our the Mission's families feeding programme in Tuticorin; in the Philippines, 2,876 seafarers received essential food aid, transport and practical support through their Covid-19 response programme.

Sunday July 11th is designated as Sea Sunday, which has been happening for over 160 years, when prayers are especially focused on the seafarers upon whom we rely for global trade. We will be recognising Sea Sunday at St Eustachius on this day, remembering the work of the Mission in our prayers, and holding a retiring collection for them as well.

As we have done for other Missions of the Month during the current Covid crisis, we are running an online appeal for donations. As with the other collections, this is set up as a campaign within the St Eustachius' VirginMoneyGiving site, where you can make a donation, including gift aid if you wish. When this campaign is over, we will send the total to the Mission.

The donation page is available through the church website page at:

www.tavistockparishchurch.org.uk/the-mission-to-seafarers/

A Prayer for Seafarers Families

Heavenly Father we pray for the families of seafarers, often separated for long periods from their fathers, husbands, mothers and wives. Protect those families and help them stay close together until they are reunited. Bless the children of seafarers at school and help them in their learning. Amen.

A Prayer for the work of The Mission to Seafarers

Heavenly Father we pray for the work of The Mission to Seafarers and their kindred organisations, their Chaplains and Ships' Visitors around the world. Help them as they help seafarers and may the Mission always provide the practical and spiritual support that seafarers need. Amen.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

This letter has a lofty theme - God's plan to bring all creation together as one, with Christ as its head. This focus on unity shows that this is of the foremost importance within the Christian church.

The letter to the Ephesians is one of four written when Paul was a prisoner in Rome, and it deals with the unity of all things in Christ, and relations between Israel and Christians.

Most noteworthy features of the Letter to the Ephesians:-

- 1 God's great plan - see chapter 1 verses 9-12
- 2 Salvation through God's grace 2 : 8-10
- 3 Paul's prayer for love 3: 14-21
- 4 Reaching the state of Christ
- 5 Putting on the full armour of God 6 : 10-17

Wishing you all God's protection particularly at this time of the evil of Covid-19

Ian Silcox
