

Roath News



Summer 2019

Free but donations always welcome

THE PARISH OF ROATH, CARDIFF

The Vicar:	Canon Stewart Lisk Tel: 20487854; 07794157604 email: stewartlisk@live.co.uk
Curate	The Reverend Ruth Coombs
Reader:	Mr Geoff Smith Tel: 20499498.
Parish Wardens:	Parish Vicar's Warden Mr Robert Hyett Tel: 20471247 Parish People's Warden Mrs Gill Day
Parish Treasurer:	Mr Jim Bendon Tel: 20482082
PCC Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Anita White Tel 02920 491340
Roath Church House bookings	RCH Booking Secretary Mrs Anna Mason Tel: 07720641653
Parish Website:	www.roath.org.uk

The Clergy are always available to minister to the sick and dying. Please inform the clergy of sickness. Holy Communion may be received at home by those who are unable to come to church.

*The Parish Surgery is open on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 6.00.p.m. and 7.00.p.m. in Roath Church House to arrange **Baptisms and Weddings**. (Contact no. 20487854).*

Confessions and the Sacrament of Healing by arrangement.

Copy date for the next magazine (Michaelmas / Harvest) is 2nd September

From the Vicar of Roath, the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk

My dear Friends,

“What is that man for?” was the question of a young child to his mother when first seeing a member of the clergy in the street dressed in clerical collar and cassock. It is an understandable query. The child would have known the uniform of a police officer, a nurse and maybe even a firefighter and would have had a good idea what they were ‘for’. The clergy are not so visible today as they once were and in some places hardly seen. Not so in Roath!

At this Petertide, the time around St Peter’s Day, our thoughts traditionally turn to Ordinations to the Ordained ministry which often take place throughout the Christian Church at this time. I was ordained Deacon 31 years ago on 2nd July 1988. I remember well getting used to the stares of people in the street as I walked along in my new clerical wear. It was often accompanied by a smile but sometimes a negative comment! It is something we as clergy get used to.

This year we are delighted that the Reverend Ruth Coombs is joining us in the Parish of Roath. Her ordination was at the Cathedral on 29th June at 10.30 am. It is an appropriate time to remind ourselves what a Deacon is “for”. In the Anglican Church we share with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches the threefold order of ministry – Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

In the New Testament the Deacons (from the Greek ‘Diakonos’) were originally those who served at table, that role is still reflected in the Holy Eucharist today. However in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles Ch 6, we are told of some deacons who were chosen to preach the Word and devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

In the Church in Wales Prayer Book service of Ordination of Deacons the Bishop in the charge says:

“A deacon is called to work with the bishop and priests as a fellow servant. Your task is to assist the priest in leading the worship of the people especially at the Holy Eucharist. You are to help the priest in

the ministration of Holy Baptism and in preaching the Word of God. You are seek out and care for those who are in need.”

This is a brief job description and there is much more that the clergy find themselves doing but the above describes the essentials. You will see Ruth joining us in the worship and work of the parish. At our Eucharist services you will hear her call the congregation to repent at the confession. After we confess the Priest will pronounce God’s absolution. She will usually read the Gospel, proclaiming the words of Jesus to us all. On a regular basis she will expound the word of God in the sermon. (Ruth has already been a Reader in the parish of Whitchurch).

At the time of the Ministry of the Sacrament our Deacon will prepare the Altar for the communion, assist with the administration of the elements, our Lord’s Body and Blood, and then complete the ablutions at the end of the Eucharist. At the conclusion of the service it is also the Deacon’s role to send us out into the world – to live and work to Christ’s glory. This last liturgical act links our worship in Church with our life as Christians in our daily lives.

Traditionally the Deacons are much involved with pastoral care, particularly with the gravely ill and dying and those who are in need. I remember from my own diaconate and in my Assistant Curacy in Glan Ely parish this took up a great deal of my time. It was a privilege to be part of people’s lives at crucial moments. This work of course goes on when we succeed to the office of Priest as one does not cease to be a Deacon as well. We both need to keep the example of our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in front of us.

Ruth is a Non-Stipendiary Minister, as was the Reverend Dr Rhys Jenkins, and so has limited time to perform parish duties but I know she brings enthusiasm and skill which will be invaluable in the time she has to spend with us. As a former Headteacher she will I know be interested in our work with children and young people. Her present post as Head of the Equality and Human Rights Commission for Wales shows her commitment to issues of social justice in our community and nation.

Please pray at this time for Ruth as she begins this new stage in her life as an Ordained Deacon. Pray also for all who are recently ordained and an increase in Vocations as we work together both laity and clergy to proclaim the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ in the world today.

With every good wish and blessing

Sharon





NEWS FROM THE Lychgate



Since the last communication “from the Lychgate” summer has come upon us. Our churchyard is lovely with its beautiful trees, the squirrels chasing each other in the yew tree and thousands of daisies. Of course we mustn’t be too complacent. Things change. The lovely trees actually belong to the city and the council mowers regularly lop the heads off the daisies, So maybe it’s a lesson to us to be glad while we can!.

Recently the Scouts, our Scouts, celebrated their hundredth anniversary. The 19th Cardiff (Bishop Crossley’s Own) they are designated. At one time nobody remembered why they were called Bishop Crossley’s Own. Does anyone now know? There were celebrations in the Scout Hut and an afternoon in Roath Church House. No doubt there were many happy reunions. There will also be a commemorative service at St Margaret’s sometime in the Autumn. Can we call God’s blessing in all the young men and women known to us who have been Scouts in this Parish? And give thanks for all the dedicated, kind, and faithful adults who have led the Scouts over the years, and who have passed down their love of Scouting to the next generation.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Brian Hooper, who had recently been ill. He will be remembered for the stained glass cross which he made, and which adorns the parish office. He and his wife Jean, were faithful members of St Margaret’s and he will be missed. We send our love and condolences to Jean and his family at this sad time.

I expect that the sophisticated ladies of the Ladies Circle will forgive me quoting a rhyme of my mother’s

“Mothers’ Meeting
Fathers’ invited
Children can come if
They don’t get excited”

These busy ladies are often in our news. This time we report on a very successful coffee afternoon at the beginning of June. £620 was raised for this year’s charities. These are Wales Air Ambulance, and S.A.N.D.S. There was also an interesting evening recently with a speaker from “Stillborn and Neonatal Death Society” (SANDS). Once again we say “Well done, ladies!”

On the subject of fundraising Mal asks us to remember that on the 14th July there will be a collection for the Mission to Seafarers, on Sea Sunday. We should also note the very creditable amount raised for Christian Aid Week. Door to door collections raised £1363 with Gift Aid to be added to that. The quiz night made £308 and the St Anne’s Orchestra Concert made £208. Well done to everyone who helped in any way to raise this excellent sum of money for our brothers and sisters overseas.

The Sunday School delighted the 9.30 congregation on Whitsunday by a Pentecostal procession down the main aisle of the church, waving tissue paper torches of orange, yellow & red to represent the Tongues of Fire, and wearing crowns similarly decorated! It was a real happening and expressed some of the wonder and excitement of the events of Pentecost. I’m sure that the children will remember it. The Sunday School have also recently been looking at the Stories of Jesus in His Resurrection Appearances, and learning about the role of Deacon in our Parish. End of term will be 14th July to be celebrated with a party, and 8th September will see the return of Sunday School.

We thank all those who teach and help in the Sunday School. It is where most of us started on our Christian Journey. We are

grateful to Karen and her helpers who miss most of the 9.30 communion service in order to be with the children. Karen says that if anyone is interested in Sunday School teaching, that they should come along.

We remember people who are too ill or infirm to join our services. We send them our blessing, "the peace of the Lord be always with you," and hope they can join us again soon.

Finally, but not least, we mention our hard working Vicar who always has a smile for each one of us. We know that he has had an extra busy time as Dean since Rhys left us for pastures new. But there is the Sunday School learning about the role of Deacon, and here is a lady called Ruth Coombs who is to be our new curate after her ordination as Deacon on 29th June. By the time this newsletter is published she will be amongst us. We welcome her and hope she settles down in our happy busy parish.

We know our lovely church and church yard are perfect for a wedding and on the 1st of June Jacs and Paul Rothwell were married. It was a very musical wedding with Only Men Aloud featured in the Processional and lovely hymns. Members of the choir, the Caritas Consort sang during the signing of the Register, A Psalm "the Lord's my Shepherd" was sung by Jacs' pupils, It sounds as though it was a super occasion, topped off by Cwm Rhondda. We hope that Jacs and Paul have a very happy musical marriage, and we send them every blessing.

Summer Blessings to each & every one of you



Julia & Sally



The Story of the Prichard Reredos

It was in 1867 that the old white-washed church of St. Margaret's was demolished by the third Marquess of Bute. He brought in local architect John Prichard, restorer of Llandaff Cathedral, to build a new state-of-the-art Gothic replacement. The new church opened for worship, to great acclaim, on 10 July 1870.

A very distinctive feature of the interior of St. Margaret's, besides the polychromatic brickwork, is the extensive use of Alabaster, sourced locally from Penarth. Alabaster is often mistaken by the inexperienced eye to be marble.

Alabaster was used in St. Margaret's in the walls of the chancel, sedilia, and pulpit. It was also used in the stone reredos, which originally graced the wall behind the high altar when the new building opened. This reredos was also the work of the rising architect John Prichard.

Around this time a Henry Withers was selling small quantities of alabaster from his quarry on Penarth beach.

Now the builder of the new St. Margaret's was a Mr. Thomas Williams of Canton, and Withers' records show that he delivered his largest ever recorded load of 30 tons of alabaster to Mr. Williams in Roath, though some of this might have been destined for the nearby Roath Court. It is not known if Prichard used this actual alabaster in his reredos, but the large quantity involved makes this seem quite likely.

Notwithstanding its illustrious creator, in the mid 1920s it was decided to erect the present altogether rather grander, larger reredos, designed by Sir Ninian Comper, as a tribute to the three great Victorian Vicars of Roath, the Reverends Puller, Smythies and Beck. This was dedicated in September 1925 by the Lord Bishop of Zanzibar (who had been an assistant priest in the Parish of St. Saviour until 1897).

So the Prichard reredos was moved in 1925 to a new home in the Parish, at the daughter church of St Anne's, which sadly is now closed for worship.

The Prichard reredos is a much acclaimed work, and is regarded by many as one of national importance! Fearing that it might be lost (if for example St. Anne's were to be demolished) strenuous efforts were made to find a new home for it. Both Margam Abbey and Pyle and Kenfig expressed interest in taking it, but subsequently declined it. So a decision was taken by the PCC to save it by bringing it back home to St Margaret's after suitable restoration by an expert in conservation.

The conservator chosen for this work is Mr. Kieran Elliott of "Elliott Ryder Conservation", ably assisted by Susanne Ryder, who are both registered members of the Institute of Conservation. Their CV reads like a Who's Who of eminent conservation works.

Kieran describes the work as follows:- "The reredos which is known to have been carved in 1870, is a relatively simple symmetrical design with a larger central equilateral arch, flanked by two smaller arches of the same type. Tiered crenellating runs horizontally across the top of the 'whole'. The arches are supported on squat colonettes of red marble. Behind this is a central white marble lamb, with a horizontal motif course running side to side beneath that. This comprises of (raised) quatrefoils depicting different monograms, religious motifs and symbolism. Immediately above this is a horizontal alabaster course with incised lettering."

Although the reredos is made predominantly from off-white orange-veined Penarth Alabaster, there is also a pale green-yellow imported marble, a dark-green marble (probably from Connemara in Southern Ireland), red marble colonettes



A pre-1925 photo showing the reredos before removal from St. Margaret's



Reredos before its removal from St. Anne's

(probably Sienna marble), and a small amount of white marble for the Lamb.

When the reredos was moved to St. Anne's it was unfortunately poorly re-built there, and with a pronounced lean backwards toward the top.

When surveyed the reredos was found to be in an extremely poor condition, being adversely affected by both falling and penetrating moisture, and being built into an external wall. It is well-known that alabaster as a material is very slowly soluble in water (approximately 10 times more soluble than marble) and therefore the alabaster in the reredos was badly affected by the elevated moisture levels. Thankfully there was not yet wholesale breakdown of the alabaster, the piece having been rescued from such a poor environment just in time!

The time that has elapsed between the removal and rebuilding has been taken up in 1) the dismantled components being allowed to acclimatise to ambient workshop conditions with regard to soluble salts prior to any conservation interventions, and 2) the administrative processes of the Diocese (see reference to a Faculty below).

Once the decision was made to relocate to St. Margaret's the final location came down to the only two places in church with a space on the wall big enough to receive it. The next job then was to apply to the Diocese for a Faculty. To apply for a Faculty the PCC must first approve the proposal by the passing of a minuted resolution of all its members.

The Faculty was eventually granted by the Chancellor, but the Diocesan Advisory Committee first visited church to see for themselves, and it was they who selected the north wall of the nave as the best and most sympathetic location.

The reredos was supported both in St Margaret's originally and subsequently in St. Anne's on a stone plinth raised up from

ground level. However in the proposed new location, a support plinth built up from ground level was not really an option, as this would have involved shortening of the existing wooden Prichard pews (permission unlikely to be granted), and also removal and excavation beneath the wooden church floor to build new foundations (all additional costs). So our architect engaged a structural engineer (Tom Martin of Mann Williams) and they came up with a system to support the load on steel brackets soundly fixed to the massive church wall.

So far then one can see there has been a lot of work going on out-of-sight, and once the special steels have been ordered, fabricated and delivered, we hope that the conservator will be able to start reinstallation fairly soon, although he has an extremely busy schedule, working on several other projects currently.

Let's hope we will all be able to see and enjoy the restored reredos before too much longer? Then all we will have to do is pay for it!

Sadly we don't have any sponsorship for this work apart from the donations already received, for which we are profoundly grateful. But further donations would always be most gratefully received and appreciated by your Vicar and Wardens. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity!.

Robert Hyett (Vicar's Warden)
June 2019

St Edwards Notes Summer 2019

REVIEW

Every couple of months its magazine time, what to write, what to put in, leave out.....and since it was before Easter that the last St Edward's notes were written, approximately three months have gone by.

In that time the weekly cycle goes on, worship, practices, concerts, cleaning, polishing, opening the church for concerts, events, it's a whole local community involving hundreds of people.

We have lost one of our regular groups, the Rock Choir has moved on, as they felt they had outgrown our available space. We wish them well and thank them for their time with us.

A new regular date is Cardiff Stroke Support, who meet 2pm – 4pm on Wednesdays in the Schoolroom. Memory Games, Puzzles, Reading, Writing and Speaking, all of which are designed to be accessible to everyone, notwithstanding their degree of disabilities. There is a £2 charge (£5 if the VEST bus picks you up and takes you home). Anyone who wants to join the group, please call beforehand: 07932-666107 or 07802-642344.

As (Canon) Stewart mentioned in a recent sermon, supporting others is part of our Christian calling, and the Forget Me Not group is another great example. Thanks to everyone involved for their dedication & support.

ARCHITECT

Thank you to Amanda Needham of Volute Architects who joined us at the Eucharist on 23rd June to update us on the background to the building project and stayed behind for coffee and to answer questions from the congregation. We are at stage 3 (of 7) and with

all the permissions in place (a huge task in itself) we are now moving into the fundraising phase.

CHRISTIAN AID Once again a small band of determined volunteers pounded the streets, delivering envelopes and seeking donations for the annual Christian Aid collection week in May. This year the amount raised was up on last year at more than £2,000 including gift aid. The Quiz and concert raised £500+ and the rest was from the door-to-door collections. Thanks to everyone involved.

The **NEWSLETTER** celebrated its 43rd birthday at Pentecost and Alan received a very well deserved round of applause for this much admired publication which he has produced every week for all of those 43 years.

PREVIEW

As the magazine is being prepared, Ruth Coombs is also preparing, to become ordained Deacon. She will be in the Parish on the last Sunday of June, having been ordained the day before. A very warm Roath welcome to her.

There are lots of events taking place over the summer, keep up to date via the weekly newsletter.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS To everyone taking a break. Travel well, come back safely, and bring news for the next edition of the magazine if you can.

Not many people know this, but we have a Welshman to thank for the institution of the (often apprehensively anticipated) quinquennial inspection, referred to, by church wardens as the QI. An abridged version of his 1993 obituary follows.

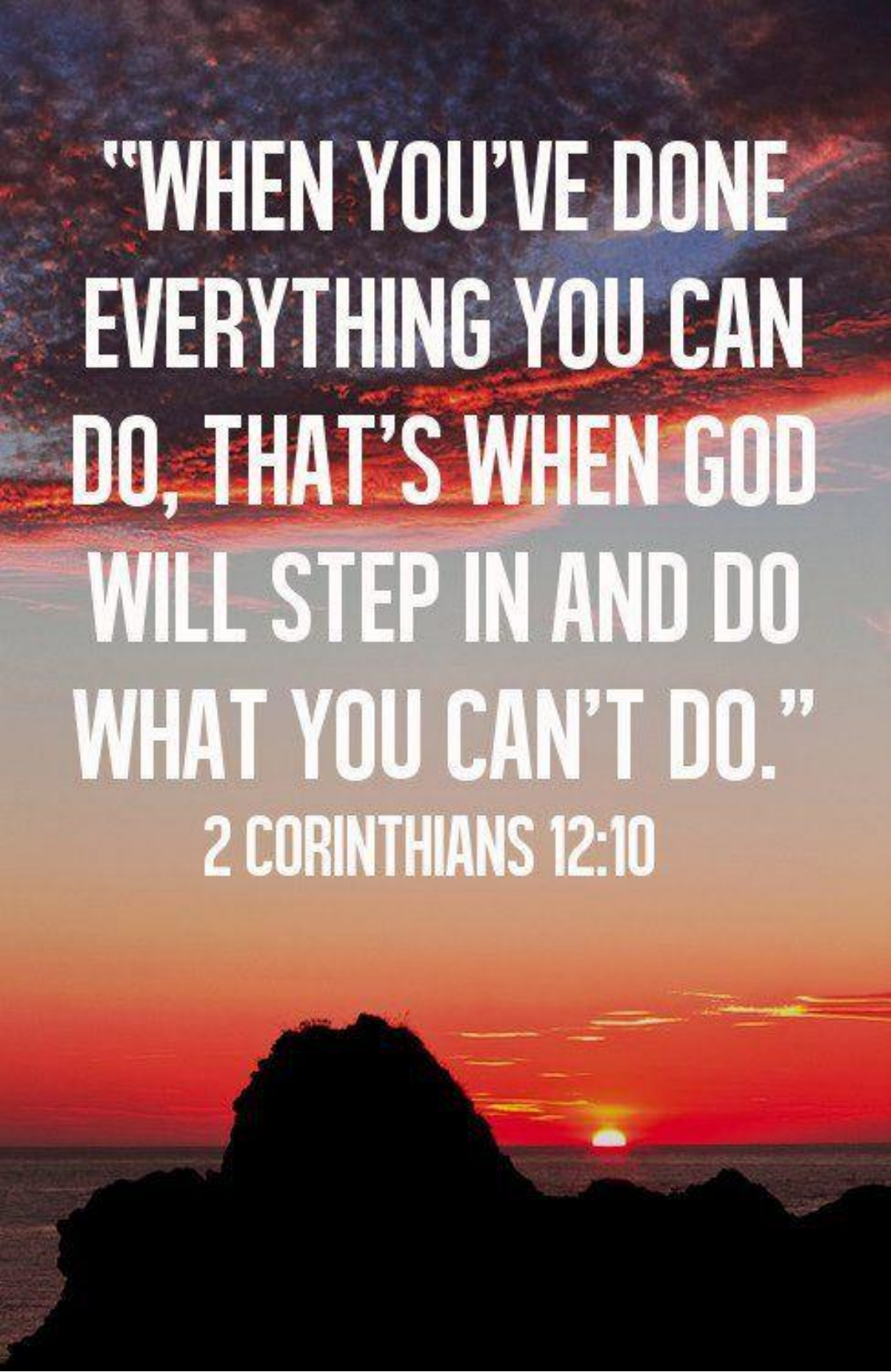
“Ivor Bulmer- Thomas, born early in the C20th, (he adopted the Bulmer, his wife's maiden name, in 1952) came from a humble home in Cwmbran, Monmouthshire. From school at Pontypool he won a scholarship to St John's College, Oxford. Oxford had a profound effect and he left with First Class degrees in Mathematics and Literae Humaniores (Greats). He represented his university, and his country, in cross-country running and athletics and but for an injury might have been selected for the 880 yards at the 1928 Olympics. He knew many of the dramatis personae of the film *The Chariots of Fire*.

Although born a Baptist, he was among the leading supporters of the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church of England. He sat on the General Synod for nearly 20 years, having previously served for 20 in the House of Laity of the Church Assembly. For many years he helped to run an Advanced Sunday School in the west gallery of the City church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, which he fought to have rebuilt after the Second World War and for which he felt a special devotion.

In the 1950's Thomas had persuaded the Church of England to introduce the Quinquennial Inspection Measure, which stipulated that each church should be examined every five years. More than any other single Act, this modest Measure has prevented many of those sudden 'repairs crises' which carry off too many fine churches.”

He also founded the Friends of Friendless Churches. He died in 1993.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-ivor-bulmer-thomas-1509361.html>



**“WHEN YOU’VE DONE
EVERYTHING YOU CAN
DO, THAT’S WHEN GOD
WILL STEP IN AND DO
WHAT YOU CAN’T DO.”**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10

Notes from the North. No. 38

Another letter. I do not know where the time has gone, but I shall try to compress the goings on we have been enjoying!!!! over the last few weeks.

Kath. is in Hospital at the moment.!!!

We went to my surgery to see my Doctor. At the end of the appointment we headed back to the car. At the end of the corridor I opened the door to let Kath pass through. At that point a gentleman who had been following us, apparently passed out, fell forward, knocking me sideways, pushing Kath ahead and knocking her to the floor and lying on top of the lady. By the time I had gained my feet the surgery staff were trying to remove the male, and then to administer to Kath.

The ambulance arrived some time later, and Kath. was eventually loaded on to the vehicle to be taken to A & E.

I arrived some time later and we were eventually tended to. Sometime after the inspections had been completed, my lady was wheeled to the ward.

I visited the ward and found that there was some bone damage, a huge bruise had appeared on Kath's right forehead, her glasses had been damaged and later, she admits , not a very pretty sight. She is on the way to recovery now, but the force with which she hit the floor and the weight of the 'man', mean it will be, quite a long period of recovery.

She 'may' be able to leave the hospital, and has been promised a bed in a rehabilitation centre with supporting staff, and then we

may see if the house needs any changes before she returns here.

You could not write an action like that. It has shocked many of our friends.

We had hoped to spend a few days in the Lakes as our anniversary is due in a few days time. I think we may have to wait several weeks to celebrate.

Adrian and Lesley were in the West coast of Scotland last week, so they came home to the end of the action.

On a more positive note, the garage has a bathroom in it now.!!! Well that is not strictly true, but the contents for our 'new' bathroom are in there. We hope to get it done in late September, and that will require alternative accommodation and we could then really celebrate our anniversary with the completion of the bath room.

It has been a very unusual Summer so far. We shall try to be back to normal soon!! Or is that going to mess things up again.????

Best wishes to everyone.

Love from

David and Kath.

Like Mary or Like Martha

Like Martha I work very hard
To get things spick and span;
Like Martha I rush round and round –
I have to get jobs done;
I bake and Hoover, dust and scrub,
I do my very best
To make sure all is clean and neat
To welcome every guest.

I go on, overworked and tired,
Until a thought occurs –
What is my aim in life today?
What motivation spurs?
Who am I trying now to please –
Myself or my dear Lord?
And so I sit reluctantly
And ponder on His word.

For He said Mary was more blessed –
She sat down at His feet
And made the time to listen
To His words so pure and sweet;
It seems unfair on Martha
Who had all the work to do –
If Mary had just helped her
She could have sat down too!

But sometimes we cannot do both,
Must make a clearcut choice,
Priorities we should get right
If we would hear His voice;

To see beyond tasks looming large,
Put problems on one side
And sit like Mary at His feet,
So in His love abide.

He'll give us all the help we need,
Support us with His power,
Then underlying peace and joy
Will be there every hour;
The jobs are in perspective
For we His voice have heard;
Like Mary we have chosen well
For we have been with God.

From the collected poems of Olive M Checkley published in *Simply Jesus Book 2*, sold in aid of Chengeta School, Zimbabwe; © O M Checkley 2017
Chengeta School was built and is still being extended with funds raised by volunteers. All the money goes to the school, There are no overheads.





**SUNDAY AND WEEK-DAY WORSHIP
IN THE PARISH OF ROATH**

(For Holy Day Celebrations see Weekly Newsletter)

**ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH WATERLOO
ROAD**

**Sun: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist
9.30 am Sunday School R.C. House
(each Sunday during school terms)**

Wed: 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH BLENHEIM ROAD

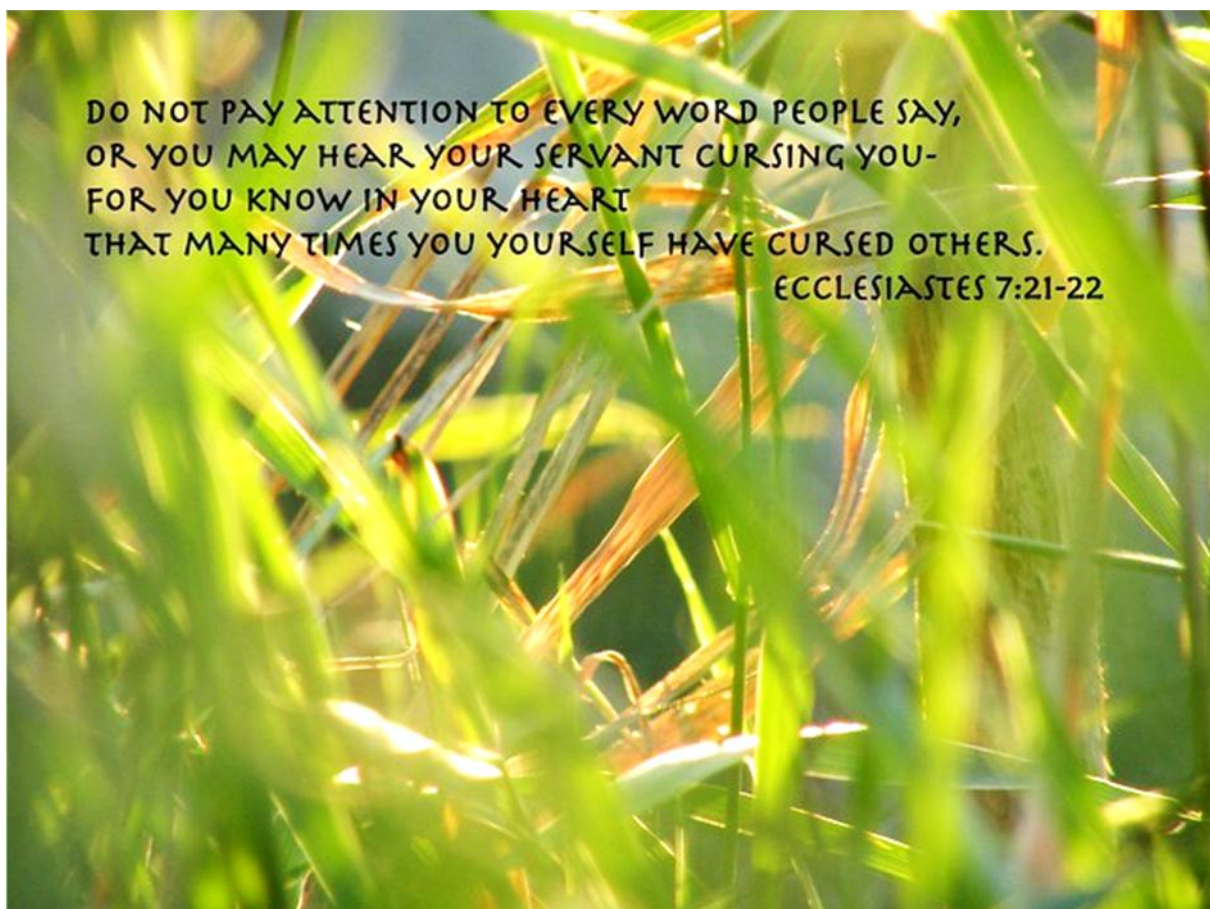
**Sun: 11.00 am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
7.00 pm Choral Evensong
Wed: 10.15 am Holy Eucharist**

**Conventional District of Tremorfa
ST PHILIP'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
TWEEDSMUIR ROAD**

**Sun: 9.30 am Family Communion
Tues: 3.15 pm 'Messy Church' (in term-time)**

**Copy date for the next magazine (Michaelmas / Harvest) is
Monday 2nd September**

Please send hard-copy (typed, hand-written or cut-out) to the Parish Office; email contributions to:
Sue Mansell, smmansell@icloud.com
or Gwynn Ellis, rgellis@ntlworld.com, (preferably using Arial font 12)



**Articles in this magazine reflect the views of their authors,
and not necessarily those of the editors, or the official
teachings of the Church.**