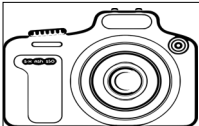


The Parish Voice



ST  JOHN
the Evangelist

July 2021



Many thanks to Michael, Clare and Kate, and to everyone who contributed photographs or articles for this issue of the magazine.

Feast of St Peter & St Paul: Our call to serve and bear witness



'I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church'

(Matthew 16.18)

I write this piece on 29th June, the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, a time each year when, in most Dioceses, new clergy are ordained, and serving clergy may recall anniversaries of their own ordinations. This year I've been an ordained priest for 21 years! So it's a time of year, in the context of the earlier Feast of Pentecost, when we think about callings and ministry. But, I would suggest, this is not just relevant to those who are clergy, but to all Christians, in their day-to-day walk of faith, and their vocation in society. The question is, where does the energy of this universal Christian calling to serve – in ordinary daily human affairs - come from?

In the Gospels, there are two particular turning points in the disciples' experience and recognition of God's presence and activity in their lives. Before the first Holy Week, there is the seminal moment of the encounter

with Jesus, on the road to Caesarea Philippi. Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And Peter - impetuous Peter, with feet of clay - is given to recognise, 'You are the Christ, the son of the living God!' So for St Peter, the turning point is his realisation of who Jesus is, and the radical reorientation of his life from this point.

The second turning point is represented by Saul, after Pentecost, in the earliest days of the Church. Saul was a persecutor of Christians, and yet, travelling on another road, to Damascus, he meets the risen Christ, who stops him in his tracks. Jesus asks, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And so another radical reorientation happens, as Saul – the persecutor – becomes Paul, the disciple and apostle. St Paul reveals, again, how an experience of Jesus radically re-shapes our lives, away from self-serving and towards the good of others, bearing witness to God's presence in the world.

Pope Francis, on 29th June, tweeted this message: 'At the heart of the story of Peter and Paul is not their own gifts and abilities, but the encounter with Christ that changed their lives. They experienced a love that healed and set them free, and because of that, they became apostles and ministers of that freedom for others.'

I truly believe that all of us, lay or ordained, also have a vocation, arising from *our* encounter with Jesus. And it's as we discover and experience the reality of Jesus Christ – in whatever way, whether directly, through prayer, or indirectly, through other people or events – that we're energised for our own particular work and calling. It may not be glamorous. In fact most work is tiresome at times, and requires real perseverance! But rooted in the love of Jesus, and seeking to discern his path, all of us are invited and called to be apostles of Jesus Christ, in the everyday. Yes, we all have a part to play, in witnessing to him. May we, at St John's, dare to be risk-taking witnesses to his presence in our communities, our families, and our daily responsibilities.

Clergy announcement from the Diocese of St Albans:

We are pleased to announce that The Reverend Christine Campbell, currently Assistant Curate at St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge, has been appointed as Rector of the benefice of Ashwell with Hinxworth and Newnham. This is subject to the completion of the usual legal formalities after which further information will be announced. Meanwhile please remember Chris, her husband Iain and their daughters, Charlotte and Emily, in your prayers as they prepare for the move. With my prayers and good wishes,

Archdeacon Janet
The Venerable Janet Mackenzie
Archdeacon of Hertford

Appointment of a new Spirituality Adviser to the Bishop of Ely

On 16th June, at Ely Diocesan Synod, the Rev James Shakespeare was commissioned by Bishop Stephen as his Spirituality Adviser. This is a voluntary post, alongside James' primary role as Vicar of St John's, and involves having oversight of spirituality and prayer in the wider Diocese. In practical terms, James chairs the Spirituality Advisory Group of the Diocese, which includes a range of people and organisations involved in lay and ordained ministry, and spiritual formation. James writes, "Encouraging the life of prayer has always been a passion and particular interest of mine. In Leicester Diocese I was drawn to offer a range of courses on prayer, as well as Retreats and Quiet Days, and I know how precious prayer is in my own life. It's therefore exciting to be given this opportunity to be an encourager of prayer within this Diocese." Some of the strands of James' new role include: a series of study days, for clergy leaders, on contemplative ministry; enhancing the availability of spirituality resources on the Diocesan website; overseeing and networking a range of prayer courses, initiatives and quiet days through the year; and contributing to the oversight of spiritual direction – a wide range of Christians, lay and ordained, seek spiritual accompaniment as a foundational aspect of their faith, rooted in the presence and activity of God in our lives. If you would like to talk to James about any aspect of prayer or spirituality, or to share your own wisdom and experience, please do get in touch: jshakespeare@btinternet.com.

Farewell to Chris

It is difficult to put into words my gratitude for all that Chris, and family, have contributed to our common life at St John's, over the past three years. Or indeed to capture even a fraction of what Chris has achieved here, in such a relatively short period, of her formal curate training.

Throughout her time at St John's, Chris has been an excellent and supportive colleague, within the Ministry Team, and help to me personally, as incumbent. Chris has been an energetic, dynamic and creative preacher and worship leader, encompassing many different styles and approaches. Within this, one cannot but comment on Chris' gifts as a story-teller, helping to bring the scriptures to life, in a meaningful and accessible way. Alongside formal worship of different kinds, Chris has been a dedicated Home Group leader,



both contributing regular Bible studies to our Tuesday morning group, as well as initiating and leading our new Tuesday evening Home Group. What especially stands out, however, is the way in which Chris, supported by Iain, took a entrepreneurial lead during the Covid-19 pandemic, setting up, editing and regularly leading our 'Church at Home' pre-recorded services. These have proved enormously popular, helping sustain our congregation during the lengthy lock-down, drawing on an amazing array of technical skills and media, as well as attracting new worshippers. I would never have managed the quality of our online worship without Chris.

Alongside the above, Chris has also taken a lead in overseeing our work with children and young people, steering the Children's Church team, as well as supporting Toddle Along and Messy Church, and offering a range of schools' work. And, alongside of her work with the young, Chris has been constant in pastoral care, visiting, and support to parishioners, of all ages. She has been diligent in ministering through baptisms, marriages and funerals, as well as providing support to the bereaved. Lastly, alongside

Charlotte and Emily, Chris has been a stalwart supporter and encourager of St John's Choir, entering into their life fully, and contributing to St John's strong musical tradition.

Chris, we are going to miss you greatly... Our loss is Ashwell, Hinxworth and Newnham's gain. And, still being relatively nearby – albeit in a different Diocese – we hope very much you will keep in touch. God bless your future ministry, Chris, and all the family.

James

To: The Revd Chris Campbell
From: St John's

When Chris and her family were assigned to this parish, we did not know it, but God gave us a huge present.

Over the three years they have been with us, it has been a bit like a game of pass-the-parcel. Though as each layer was unwrapped, we didn't find a forfeit, but instead a lovely surprise; and they kept coming!



What we must do now is pass the parcel on to your new parishes, because we suspect there are more layers to peel off and more surprises for your new congregations to discover. May God bless them as richly as he has blessed us in lending you to us for a season.

Go well and safely, and may the Lord be ever with you.

Kate

C is for Chris. Her presence we'll miss.

H is for holding us all in her prayers.

R is for reading the lessons we're needing.

I is for images seen on the screen.

S is for shining. May her light keep on glowing.

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Thank you Chris from One and All [Clare]

[You can read Chris's article on Deuteronomy—the conclusion of her series on the Pentateuch—at the very end of this magazine.]

Other Clergy Changes at St John's: the Rev Ceri Payne, and the Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy

Congratulations to the Rev Ceri Payne who was ordained deacon at Ely Cathedral on 4th July, following her two year training at Ridley Hall and Magdalene College. Ceri began her ministry as our new non-stipendiary Assistant Curate at St John's, on the 5th, and was welcomed during Sunday worship services on the 11th. We are much looking forward to Ceri's presence and ministry amongst us, and to welcoming her husband, Professor Mike Payne, and the wider family.



Congratulations also to the Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy who was ordained priest at Ely Cathedral on 3rd July, and celebrated Holy Communion for the first time on the 11th at St John's. We are thankful for Muthuraj's ministry, especially his sermons and teaching, over the past year of his diaconate, and look forward to his ongoing ministry – alongside of his work as full-time Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide.

New Churchwardens at St John's

On 30th May this year we held our Annual Parish Meeting and APCM meeting. Among other things, including activity reports on the previous year and financial statements, as well as the election of a new Parochial Church Council, we elected two new Churchwardens: Julia Margretts, and Joseph Philip. I am most grateful to them both for standing for election, and for their enthusiastic support to our ministry at St John's. Michael Fincham continues as Deputy Churchwarden, and I remain full of gratitude for his significant role. And at the same APCM, I expressed deep gratitude for Peter Tavner's faithful ministry, as Churchwarden, over the past three years, 2018-2021.

James

Parish Register

<i>Baptism:</i>	Elena Norton, 6 th June Alma Jux-Blayney, 20 th June
<i>Confirmation:</i>	Leila Seed, Gabriel Wolff, Charlotte Campbell, and Jane Gardiner by the Bishop of Huntingdon, at St John's, 20 th June
<i>Marriage:</i>	Frances Chilvers & Jonah Balmford, 18 th June Fiona Barton & Robert Leonard, 19 th June Imogen Pickup & Alexander Hartland, 26 th June
<i>Funeral:</i>	Lois Strangeways, 10 th June
<i>Memorial Service</i>	for Mary Pigott, 28 th June

Confirmed



Bishop Dagmar preaching during the service

Receiving a confirmation of something - the arrival of tickets for a much anticipated trip (if only!), a successful job interview, a dental appointment (maybe not!) is usually a good thing. If something has been confirmed then it's much more likely to happen, can't say definitely in these Covid-ridden days, but that confirmation slip, because it's usually in writing, means that we can start anticipating properly. Confirmation is the end of the delicate dance of invitation, a process which often begins with a casual question. One of the best holidays I ever had was the result of a friend asking casually 'How

would you feel about visiting my cousin's house on the coast?' Six months later ten of us were whooping it up Famous-Five style with walking, picnics, lashing of ginger beer and quite a few trips to the local pub. Confirmation at church works in exactly the same way as my response to my friend's question, essentially it's about saying yes, but the time scales vary quite a bit more than the six months spent planning my holiday.

So why was I confirmed at the end of June? Isn't that something that teenagers do? I think I've demonstrated that there really isn't an age limit for confirmation, like so many things it is both an end and a beginning. It's the end of a process which begins with baptism. Quite a lot of us will have been baptised as babies, at a point when we had no say in the matter. Our parents, godparents, sponsors and the congregation present then undertook to help and encourage us to know God in public worship and private prayer and now, we are confirming that decision, accepting God's invitation to join his family in our own right. We are publicly proclaiming our faith and our

intention to live it. That process doesn't have a sell-by date! As some of you know, I have had faith for years, been part of church life since my twenties in a different faith tradition and was baptised (total immersion!) as a young woman. It never occurred to me to be confirmed and no one ever asked me about it until this spring. It was during the interview process for Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) training that Bishop Dagmar enquired about my confirmation and I discovered that if I wanted to proceed then it needed to happen. A process which began so prosaically, as almost a box ticking exercise, became far more than that. I was surprised by the number of conversations I had about the

service beforehand, amazed by the number of my friends who came along to support me and stunned by the wave of joy which arrived when Bishop Dagmar laid her hands on me. This public declaration of my faith, I realised, was gloriously important and an excellent preparation and a preview of what is to come as I start my training in September. God has plans for us all and it's by saying yes that we start to see what he has in mind. If you haven't been confirmed then you might like to consider this as the next step along The Way. Do consider it and feel free to come and talk to me about it.

Jane



St John's Ecochurch 2021

Suggestions for reducing our carbon footprint in the home.

I've been interested in Climate Change since I did a degree in Environmental Studies after I retired. Each year that has passed I have been more concerned about our general lack of care for our planet, and so I am really very pleased that so many people in our church are concerned too, and Jo De Pledge has written a list of suggestions that we could try.

This year I took a course with U3A on Environmental Studies and it was an eye opener. I had to buy a book, "In time for tomorrow," by Rosemary Randall and Andy Brown, which we took chapter by chapter. It has changed my thinking and ways of behaving. So when I was asked to write something about ways in which we can change our lifestyles, I went back to this book as I knew they had already thought about all the different things we could do individually.

Some of the projects they suggest are easy and we probably do them anyway but of course some

are problematic and may be expensive or controversial.

25% of our carbon usage is in our home and daily life., Many of our homes were built before we even thought about the energy we used.

When I stayed in my grandmother's house it was often colder in the bedrooms than outside. And when I breathed I could see the condensed air coming out of my mouth. We certainly needed our thick sweaters. Now thank goodness, with central heating, our houses are cosy and warm but how much of the energy are we letting out into the surroundings? How can we reduce the output to the outside ? What can we do to make our houses energy efficient? Typically, older houses in the UK have draughty windows and doors, unfilled cavity walls, older boilers, single glazing, lights left on and inefficient appliances. If we could change this we would really be helping with our carbon footprint.

Jo de Pledge's suggestions:

- *Turn lights and appliances off when you don't need them:* we all know this, but it's worth being

reminded! And change the light bulbs to energy efficient ones.

- *Check electric appliances to make sure they are as energy efficient as possible, and when possible and affordable make sure that the boiler is the latest energy efficient model.*

- *Buy less:* every new item that we purchase – electronic equipment, clothes, toys, furniture – has been manufactured using energy and natural resources (eg wood, metals), and probably been transported halfway round the world. Of course, we all need to buy new goods from time to time.

- *Buy local, Buy British.* This saves all the shipping and air miles our goods use on their way to us.

- *Go second hand as much as you can:* this means no additional pressure on the planet's resources, is much cheaper, and often provides cash for charities. If you need furniture or household goods, consider Emmaus (in Landbeach), an organisation that helps the homeless, the British Heart Foundation (on East Road), or the Salvation Army shop, newly

relocated on Tenison Road. On the internet, Gumtree is a great place to start with many local listings, along with Ebay of course. Freecycle has postings of goods offered for free.

- *How green is your electricity?:* think about changing your electricity supply to a green tariff, that is, one that matches the electricity you use with power generated from renewable sources (eg wind, solar, hydropower), or that invests in the development of new renewable generation capacity. Most of the larger suppliers have their own green tariff (which is often no more expensive than the standard tariff), or there are many specialist energy companies.

- *Sign up to a milk delivery round:* old-fashioned milk rounds are making a comeback, and not just because of lockdown. They give you the option to buy milk in glass bottles which, when empty, can be rinsed out (with old washing up water) and put outside ready for collection, sterilisation and reuse. A great way to cut back on plastic.

- *Try not to buy new goods covered in plastic.* Difficult I know.

I had a dress covered with plastic this week.

- *Invest in a travel cup/flask for your takeaway hot drink:*

disposable cups are extremely difficult to recycle, because they combine plastic and paper, while the best travel flasks will insulate your drink and keep it warm for longer. What's more, many of the large coffee shop chains will give you a discount on the price of your drink.

- *Insulate your home:* for many of us, the fuel we burn to heat our home (usually gas) will be our biggest contribution to global warming. So it's important to make sure that we waste as little

heat as possible. The best way to do this is to insulate the loft – heat rises, and will escape from an uninsulated space. It should be cheap and easy to do, and grants are available for low income households. It's also a great opportunity to declutter in preparation for the work.

- *Windows doors and vents need attention.* Double glazing triple glazing and making sure our doors are tight. It's amazing how heat escapes through our poorly fitted windows and doors.

Well I think that's enough for now. Next time: travel and transport.

Gail



This is a bee orchid in Peter's garden.... I'm captivated by its beauty.

It relates to our Eco church initiative, and our efforts to leave wild spaces in our gardens and at church, and part of "No mow May, let it bloom June". It's called a bee orchid because it mimics the 'look' of a female bee, thus attracting the male bee to it to mate. The bee goes away disappointed, but has pollinated the flower! The wonder of nature....

Clare

News from the choir

Congratulations to Alex who was awarded with her RSCM Bronze (Dean's) award last month. Due to COVID restrictions Alex had to sing to an examiner and answer questions over zoom! She sang "Be thou my vision", psalm 148 and Elgar's "Ave verum corpus". She is the first chorister in the diocese of Ely to take an exam over zoom. Many congratulations.

Congratulations to Leila and Charlotte who were confirmed last month. The treble choir were delighted to sing for the Bishop of Huntingdon at this special service.



The choir who sang for the Confirmation Service, with the Bishop

Sunday Services at St John's

Sunday 25 July	9.30 am	All Age: end of term celebration
	11 am	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Zoom Evensong

In August, we expect to move to a single morning service, with our evening service in Church, providing Covid restrictions are eased. The pattern will be:

Sundays 1	10 am	All Age service (5 Sept: start of the school year)
August and 5	6 pm	Holy Communion
September		

Sundays 8, 22	10 am	Parish Communion
and 29 August	6 pm	Evensong
and 12 and 26		
September		

Sundays 15	10 am	All Age Communion
August and 19	6 pm	Evensong
September		

(On 15 August there will be a congregation worship discernment exercise in the 10 am service and on 12 September Children's Church, with a 'back together' party. Evensong will be Choral during term.)

Weekday Worship at St John's

Mondays	9.00am	Morning Prayer in Church
Tuesdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	10.30am	Bible Study Group
	6.30 pm	Sung Evensong with Charter Choir
Wednesdays	9.00 am	Morning Prayer in Church
	10.00am	Holy Communion in Church
Thursdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer – on Zoom
	6.30pm	Choir Practice (Trebles)

Other dates

Wednesday 28 July		Cambridge Summer Music Festival Concerts at St John's
Monday 9 August	10-11am	'Toddle Along', with older siblings and Children's Church children
Saturday 14 August	2pm	Marriage of Ka-Wai Chan and Robert Weatherley
Monday 16 August	3-5pm	Messy Church
Thursday 19 August	10.00am	Parish Walking Group outing—meet at St John's
Monday 23 August	10-11am	'Toddle Along', with older siblings and Children's Church children
Friday 3 September	10.00am	Parish Walking Group outing—meet at St John's
Sunday 5 September		Climate Sunday and start of Creationtide ecological liturgical season
Saturday 25 September	10.00am	Parish Walking Group outing
Monday 4 October		Rev James Shakespeare to lead Quiet Day at Launde Abbey, Leicestershire: 'St Francis and St Benedict in conversation, and how they can help us.'

Theological College Ordinand movements

As always, St John's has been richly blessed by its attachment ordinands during the academic year 2020-2021. In recent days we have seen the departure of all of our existing ordinands. Will Lyon Tupman left to be ordained deacon and begins his curacy at St Neots and Eynesbury (Ely Diocese). Tom Owen similarly was ordained deacon and begins his curacy in Stoke on Trent (Lichfield). Our other two ordinands, Sam Duckhouse and Louise Bryson, will be spending their final year on a different attachment, to give another perspective. Finally, during the month of July we have been joined by Pete Leith, on a full-time placement; Pete is also a Westcott House student.



The choir says farewell to Will

Mission Committee News

Our Mission Partners

Church Mission Society, Ultan McCabe

We are very happy to welcome our new mission partner Ultan McCabe who, via the CMS, joined the charity Middle East Concern (MEC) as Advocacy and Development Manager last year. MEC is a Christian ministry supporting believers in the Middle East and North Africa who are persecuted due to being or becoming Christians. Ultan writes:

‘The plight and suffering of Christians across the Middle East region is largely overlooked in their homelands and ignored in the West. It heightens my sense of grief that the Body of Christ is diminishing and its faithful are persecuted across the very cradle of Christianity. Without your generosity I would be unable to put my calling into action. My thanks to all at St John’s most sincerely for supporting me and in doing so becoming such a key part of these vital efforts.’

We were fortunate that Ultan was able to join our Zoom committee meeting at the end of June when he told us about his work and highlighted some of the many situations where he had been able to assist. We hope that he will be able to visit us at St John’s in the not-too-distant future. Ultan’s latest Link Letter will be available to read on the Mission notice board once we have returned to our normal patterns of worship.

The Bethesda Project, Burundi

A Toyota 4 x 4 has been purchased second-hand with funds raised by Kepplewray (our link with Bethesda) to which St John’s has contributed through our Lenten Projects. A report from Wilson, the team leader, described how they are helping young people with

Homerton Charter Choir celebrated this term with great joy, having been able to sing six Choral Evensong Services in St John's.



In late August the choir will be on tour and will be singing Evensong in the Cathedrals of Portsmouth, Truro, and Wells. Watch this space for news of next term.

Trish

disabilities to join sporting activities, particularly canoeing; and others who are severely disabled, by supplying wheelchairs, crutches and home improvements to make their lives easier. Whereas disabled children were formerly kept hidden away at home, some now are attending school and doing well at their studies. Again, there will be news on the notice board in due course.

St Peter's Happiness Nursery, Arua, N Uganda

Although the Church Council of St Peter's Church had given the Head of the school a year's notice to quit the land she rented from them, after only a few months they demanded that she remove all the school property forthwith. She hoped to be able to raise £2,500 to purchase land and rebuild the school there but has not been able to find the funds. Nursery schools in Uganda have been closed since the beginning of lockdown and there is no indication when they will reopen. Uganda is in full lockdown again.

As a committee we had previously agreed that we would continue to support the school financially until it closed. Given that there is no school, no land and no pupils we have very reluctantly decided that we must withdraw our funding.

The outcome of our *Toilet Twinning* appeal is covered elsewhere in this edition.

Italy – Memories of a Camping Holiday – 1952

The road from Milan to Genoa
Stretches endlessly,
Bordered on each side by Paddy
fields,
Vast acres of waterlogged
vegetation.
Nowhere to park a tent!

At Sundown we turn off
Along a cart track ending in a
Farmyard.
'Yes,' we can pitch our tent
On the green square in the
Courtyard.
Later, they invite us in for glasses
of wine
And a tour round their garden.
Communication is by hand-signs
And the use of a small dictionary.
Oh, the sing-song sounds in
Italiano,
How hard 'il suono Inglese,'
Cipolla, Carota for onions and
carrots!

Then to bed,
All come to watch
Our retirement activities,
Lighting the gas lamp,
Cleaning our teeth;
We undress under cover!

Midnight, we hear the rain
Pattering onto the canvas,
We watch with dismay
A puddle forming in the roof
above.
Fearing a collapse Michael climbs
out
To tighten the guy-ropes
And falls in the channel bordering
the courtyard.

Two o'clock, the frogs are
rejoicing
Croaking their throaty chuckles.
Four o'clock, the Italian Farm-
workers come,
They laugh, sing and chatter,
The cows moo and moan
Restless in their stalls,
Six o'clock, we drag ourselves up
And breakfast on home-baked,
crusty loaves
And milk straight from the cow.

Time to leave.
We are bidden to a garden seat
To receive gifts from the family,
Milk, eggs and cheese,
Lettuce, tomatoes, Spring onions.
We take photographs
Promising to send them.

We wave goodbye
To a place we shall never forget!
Beryl
(September 1992)

Life in the Garden



Temperate Britain does not yet experience the dramatic extremes in climate affecting so many people world-wide. However, of late we have had intense heat for short periods, heavy rain leading to flooding and long dry spells, all of which make rainwater a very precious resource. The church gardeners are valuing the additional storage our new water butts provide. It would also seem that the birds in the neighbourhood appreciate the recently sited feeders, and plants in the courtyard are thriving, after mulching with church-made compost. The compost bin was established just a year ago.

Additions to the garden include the dwarf apple tree given to James to mark his Installation as Vicar, and primroses and cowslips, which have been dug in to the edges of the lawns, all promising a show next

spring. We aim to achieve a happy compromise between the structured parts of the garden, which are used for a variety of functions, and the less tidy wild areas. Thanks are due to the mowing team led by Michael Fincham. Regular gardening sessions continue with valued support from Rebecca Jones, who works tirelessly on community projects in Queen Edith's. Look out for added summer interest in the front borders, helped along by a donation of plants from Coton Orchard via Rebecca.

As summer shifts into autumn there will be pruning of over-large shrubs on the periphery. We also anticipate the young people at St John's addressing bug hotels and hedgehog routes and houses. Meantime why not come along with family and friends, checking out the garden and using the new picnic table for alfresco eating or a mini-meeting. We have learnt over the past 18 months just how valuable and life-enhancing open spaces are to any community.

The Garden Team

Postscript: Pilgrimage G7 to COP26

Jo Depledge wrote helpfully and hopefully in the last Parish Voice about the Glasgow Climate Change Conference in November. Giving an ear to a recent Sunday programme on Radio Four at 7am, an initiative by the Young Christian Climate Network caught my attention. They are organising a relay pilgrimage over five months, starting from Truro, close to the recent G7 meeting, and ending in Glasgow, involving different communities along the way. They will carry a replica boat made from a wicker coffin. This contains messages about the climate emergency to world leaders from young people across the globe. The route does not come close to Cambridge, but you might like to support these pilgrims in spirit. www.yccn.uk www.trurodiocese.org.uk

Erica

A Christian Response to Poverty

Having expected to be free of lockdown restrictions and planning to hold the June Traidcraft stall indoors, the road map changed and we were again in the garden at the mercy of the weather. In April it was sunny and cold but in May an unexpected shower caused us to rush all our goods indoors to dry out.

In June we held back until the last minute, when the drizzle finally stopped. The photograph shows some of the 'shop' on a cold, damp day. We hope that when we set up shop again, on 1



August, we will finally be permitted to be in the Wilkinson Room.

Readers will be aware of the moves at St John's towards becoming an Eco-Church. One of the requirements is to use eco-friendly cleaning products and to that end we now supply the church with products made by Bio-D, a UK company based in Hull. Made from ethically sourced ingredients and with bottles which are made from 100% recyclable packaging, the products claim to be some of the most sustainable and environmentally friendly cleaning solutions on the market. We sell a wide range on our stall, including handwash, washing up liquid, dishwasher rinse aid, laundry liquid, toilet cleaner and bathroom cleaner. The products are also available in 5 litre containers so you can top up and re-use your smaller bottles and save on plastic waste.

Katie Knapton
katieknapton@talktalk.net

Calling all walkers!

The St Johns' walking group restarted in June this year. Walks will be planned and led by James, David Waterhouse or Cathy Davies. We will plan a morning walk of about 5 miles. We will meet at 10.00 am at St Johns and aim to be back at church by 1.30pm. The walk will include a break and we will advise you if this will be at a café or if you need to bring your own drink.

Our next walk will be on **Thursday 19th August at 10.00am**. This will be a circular walk around Fen Ditton and Horningsea.

Future walk dates are:

Saturday 25th September,
Thursday 21st October,
Saturday 20th November.

If you would like to join us, please let me know by email or text so that we know to expect you and can arrange transport together. I will add you to a circular email so that you will receive details of our planned walk each month.

Cathy Davies
cathdvs@btinternet.com text: 07746 985298



Plant Sales

After our record-breaking sale in April there have been a number of Sunday morning mini-sales selling plants which were not ready in April. Here is the produce waiting for customers on a cold and damp Sunday at the end of June.

Pentecost Collation of Rev James Shakespeare as Vicar of St John's

On the Feast of Pentecost, 23rd May, we had a wonderful celebration at St John's, led by the Bishop of Ely, the Rt. Rev. Stephen Conway.

The service was intentionally a celebration of our whole Christian community and congregation, and involved a re-commissioning of our common life, in mission and service. Thinking about the many challenges of the pandemic, it was very uplifting to look forward, to celebrate God's many blessings, and to anticipate the future, from a fresh vantage point. Alongside of this, James was Collated and Inducted as Vicar, following his first four years as Priest in Charge. On one level this marked an important legal shift of status and role, but essentially the day provided a fresh marker, for James, and indeed for the whole congregation.



Afterwards, as well as a rare experience - during these times of Covid restrictions – of coffee and cake outside, James was presented with the gift of an apple tree, which was subsequently planted on the North Lawn of St John's. It is a fitting symbol both of our Eco Church aspirations, and of fruitfulness in our Christian life and mission, through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Toilet Twinning

In the May issue of Parish Voice we reported that two of our toilets had been twinned with latrines in South Sudan. These were funded by the PCC at the request of the Overseas Mission Committee.



We also made an appeal to the congregation to fund the cost of twinning the remaining four toilets at St John's. Sufficient funds have been raised and all six are now twinned: one more in South Sudan and one in Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda and Malawi. The twinning certificates, which can be seen outside our toilets, give the GPS coordinates of the latrines which we have funded.

Our thanks go to the generous donors who are helping to flush away/pull the chain on poverty (puns created by Tear Fund!). One in four people worldwide don't have hygienic sanitation, which we take for granted. The human and economic impact of this is enormous.



Katie

In this issue, Chris completes her series on the Pentateuch, writing about

Deuteronomy

We've made it! Welcome to the final reflection in my series on the first five books in the bible - the section that's also known as the Pentateuch.

All in a name

The book of Deuteronomy is the fifth book in the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament – which some of you might find slightly confusing, since 'deutero' is a prefix meaning 'second'. However, its name is derived from the Greek for 'second' (or repeated) law; which gives us a clue to what the book is all about.

If you remember back to the book of Numbers, we heard that the Israelites kept grumbling and rebelling in the wilderness, and that they didn't trust God to lead them into the Promised Land. As punishment the Lord decreed that they would wander in the wilderness for 40 years and that none of that generation would enter it. So at the beginning of the book of Deuteronomy, we hear Moses speaking to the next generation, the ones who *will* enter into the Promised Land.

In fact, the whole book is crafted as a series of speeches, in which Moses retells the history of Israel, including the Ten Commandments, as a way of teaching this next generation how to be faithful to God and to live up to the covenant between them and God. It's a 'second' telling of the law they should already know and there's also some 'second' (new) law added!

However, although its form is of speeches by Moses (almost like his ‘last will and testament’), nearly all scholars agree that it wasn’t actually Moses who wrote it down. Instead, they think it was written down much later; possibly even hundreds of years after they entered the Promised Land; probably during the reign of King Josiah of Judah in 640-609 BCE. King Josiah pursued a series of nationalistic campaigns for independence, striving for the unity of his people; and so the Deuteronomic themes of being a unified people of Israel, worshiping one God, YHWH, in one place, Jerusalem, fit closely with his ideals.

Part one: Try and be better than your parents...

The first speech in the book starts by constructing a shared story, reminding the people where their parents had gone wrong and the reasons behind the wilderness wanderings. As well as the various misdeeds, it covers some of the early battles that the Israelites were involved in. Then, starting in chapter four, comes the retelling of the law – along with a reminder that they need to follow these laws, in order that they might go into the land that God is giving them. All through these chapters is the basic reminder; try to be better than your parents, don’t fall in the same ways that they did.

The Shema

Probably the most well-known verses in the whole of the book of Deuteronomy come in this first section. They are the Shema, named after the first word of the passage ‘shema’, which we tend to translate as ‘hear’ or ‘listen’.

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”
Deuteronomy 6.4-5*

The Shema became a daily prayer in Ancient Israelite tradition, almost equivalent to The Lord's Prayer for us.

Important elements of the Shema reflect many of the messages of the whole book of Deuteronomy. For instance, faced with polytheistic religions of both the Canaanites and the Egyptians, the Shema stresses that there is just one God, who the Israelites should worship. This theme is key to the book, as the Israelites prepare themselves to enter into a land where they will be faced with the temptation to follow other gods.

Perhaps even more significant is that both the commands 'to hear' and 'to love' are more active than perhaps our translation allows. For the Israelites, hearing and doing would be the part of the same thing. So 'Hear, O Israel' did not just mean listening to the words, it meant allowing them to sink in deeply and then respond. Nor was loving just a warm and fluffy emotion; it required obedience and response. The rest of the laws in the book of Deuteronomy show the Israelites how to practice that faithfully in their lives; reminding them that walking in obedience was part of a thankful response to God's love and generosity.

Part two: A reminder of how to be better than your parents...

The second major section of the book is in chapters 12 – 26. These are a detailed collection of laws, which repeat the laws that have been found elsewhere in the Pentateuch, build on them, and add in some new ones. These laws include:

- Laws about worship; both where they should worship and how they should worship.
- Laws guiding Israel's leaders; requiring them to be obedient to God in their own right, not putting themselves above the law and the prophets.
- Laws about civic life
- Laws about social justice

Many of the laws in the section might seem strange to us now, but it is important to remember that they were the law given to ancient Israel, and the context in which they were written is very different from ours. Comparing them to the laws governing their neighbours at a similar time, helps us to see that they were actually progressive in the context; also helping to form the Israelites into a unified people. It is interesting to see how Paul (for instance in the letters to the Corinthians) discussed and applied some of these ancient laws; giving us an example of how we might do likewise.

Part three: Choose life...

The final section of the book of Deuteronomy is presented as Moses' final speech to the people. In this, there is a call for the people to 'choose life'. The Israelites always have a choice; they can choose to listen and obey, following God and God's commandments and receiving blessings in response. Or they can choose to rebel, to walk away from God and to break the covenant they have with God – this will result in the opposite, curses of famine, exile and death.

Yet, even amid pronouncing these blessing and curses, Moses is realistic about the future. Moses predicts that the people will rebel again, that they will choose to walk away from God. But despite of that he pronounces hope; Moses tells them that whenever the people have gone astray and then decide to come back, whenever they reconsider their past choices and now choose to follow God and obey God's commandments, then God will restore their fortunes. God is a God who is always gracious and merciful, ever desiring to work within the Israelites' hearts, to bring them into love and relationship with Godself.

The book finishes with the reigns of Moses' leadership being handed on to Joshua. Moses then shares words of encouragement with Joshua, telling him to be 'strong and courageous' and not to be 'afraid or discouraged'. After this Moses again blesses the tribes, before

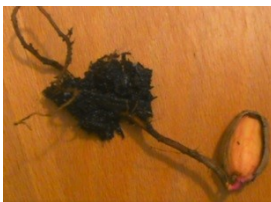
climbing Mount Nebo, so that he can see the land that has been promised to the people but will never enter into himself. Then Moses dies and the spirit of wisdom falls upon Joshua.

So why read Deuteronomy?

- Even though Old Testament Law doesn't govern our lives in the same way as it did the Israelites, the book of Deuteronomy gives us a good idea about the ways in which the command to love God should be reflected in our own way of life.
- The beauty of parts of the book, like the Shema, remind us that obedience to God comes from our love of God.
- Commandments about tithing and justice for the poor are a real challenge for us today; passages in Deuteronomy can be helpful in getting us thinking about generosity in our own lives.
- The book of Deuteronomy is foundational to other books in the Bible, and having some knowledge of it will shed light sections of Joshua, Kings, Jeremiah, Hosea and Amos, all who quote Deuteronomy regularly.
- One of the themes of Deuteronomy is that God always keeps God's promises; this can be a reassuring reminder for us all, when going through difficult times.

Remember Kate's seedling?

Look at it now!



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