

FROM THE WARDENS

Please enjoy the magnificent Magnolia tree in the front garden of the vicarage which is currently in full bloom and is one of the best to be found in Clifton – you may remember that it featured on national television last year. This annual display of the glory of nature is, not only something at which to wonder, but, it also symbolises so much more. The size of this tree indicates that it must have been planted in Victorian times, probably when the house was built, and it has grown and prospered until has become a jewel in the crown of the Clifton Garden scene and admired by many. This tree has survived and been preserved by the loving care of various generations who have lived at 68 Pembroke Road.

In the same way our beloved church was created by people with vision, rebuilt by people of equal vision and some tenacity, and has continued to this day with its fine liturgy and music to become something of unique beauty and holiness. Undoubtedly, to be admired and preserved. In fact we are delighted to learn that the diocese now acknowledges and refers to All Saints as a “Jewel in the crown of the diocese”. It is a great joy, therefore, that new members were voted onto the PCC at the recent AGM ready to take on this mantle of continuity of all that has been built up from the past but also with a strong vision for the future. We are holding this vision very much in our minds as a wide group of people are currently preparing our Parish Profile to submit to the diocese as part of the appointment procedure. Mindful of continuity it is also inspiring how a dedicated group are regularly saying morning and evening prayer with some even singing it! Again keeping our traditions going. The Revd Peter Dill and The Revd Kim Taplin, both from Clifton College have also come to our help with support for our daily mass tradition and more help is on the way!

The last few months have been unsettling for many but we can assure the congregation that the diocese of Bristol, the churchwardens and the newly appointed PCC are fully aware of the great responsibility that rests upon them in the sensitive appointment of the next Priest and the continuity of our traditions that comprise “The Jewel” of All Saints. The diocese has promised us action and we are doing everything on our part to ensure that they have no excuse but to deliver!

This interregnum is an exciting period and we are very grateful for all your support and prayers at this time. We will all have to play our part if we are to bring about God’s Kingdom but in our deliberations about the next appointment let All Saints, not just think about ourselves and our needs, but also our brothers and sisters in the wider world.

Enjoy the tree, the summer and all the events that will happen and live in continuous hope for the future.

With our thanks and Blessings

Andrew & Philippa

BAR NEWS

As is well known, the All Saints Society ('the Bar') was set-up some years ago to support the social life of All Saints. We are a 'members society' holding a club licence which we use to operate the weekly Sunday bar and also bars at parish lunches and after evening festival masses. Currently with 49 paid-up members, non-members can be 'signed-in' when drinks are on sale. With the annual subscription at £1.50 for the first year and 50p annually thereafter, and with drinks at prices you cannot get elsewhere, this represents excellent value and profits support All Saints.

Headlines from the recent AGM (where members decide on things like society officers, prices and donations) are:

- Sales up last year
- 2012 profit from sales - £1630 (66%)
- Balance of funds - £6162
- 2013 prices held – no price increases!
- Donations agreed –
 - £500 to All Saints (for use of facilities etc)
 - Up to £2000 towards parish room kitchen refurbishment
 - Provision of the wine for the annual crib service refreshments

All very good news and hard work for the volunteers who source the stock and staff the bar, all of which has to be done professionally and lawfully.

New members are always very welcome. Why not come up the parish room after 11am Sunday mass and meet friends old and new over a drink?

Roger Hopkins
All Saints Society Secretary

Sermon preached by the Dean of Bristol, The Very Reverend David Hoyle, at All Saints on Easter Sunday 2013

When I came to this diocese the Bishop's chief of staff made me fill in an *Observer* style Question and Answer interview. If I had realized it would stay on the diocesan website so long I might have taken more care.

What is your favourite smell? Claret
What is your guiltiest pleasure? Claret
Who would play you in the movie of your life? Danny de Vito.

I won't ask, though, as celebrities are asked each week in the *Observer*, what does love feel like?'

Andrew Marr answered:
'Skiing down a black run, not quite in control.'

Mary Beard thought it was:
'Distracting.'

And Sue Johnston said rather sadly
'I can't remember.'

Notice there is no stock answer. Lots of people do what Andrew Marr did and say it's a bit like this, a bit like that – 'it's like being on a trampoline'. That is how we talk about love, we don't reach for definitions, we get mysterious. W H Auden wrote a poem called 'Tell me the truth about love':

Does it howl like a hungry Alsatian,
Or boom like a military band?
Could one give a first-rate imitation
On a saw or a Steinway Grand?

There are some things, like love, that need to be talked about in that way. The alternatives don't work, don't fit. When psychologists talk about love they talk about the neurotransmitter dopamine in the *nucleus accumbens*

But then, when the candles flicker and the scent of roses is in the air and you catch the eye of your beloved there are not many of us thinking about the neurotransmitter dopamine.

I am telling you this for a reason. The reason is that in our desire to be focused and strategic, decisive and impressive we are reaching for definitions more and more. The gospel gets put into straplines: 'Going for growth'; 'Growing in God's love'. Parish life becomes a mission action plan and suddenly you need workshops for prayer and leadership training.

Let's be clear. The mission of the Church is a serious business, there is work to do and we need to be disciplined about that. We need strategies; we need leadership, nothing wrong with that at all. Let's also be clear today, though, that Easter people know something else, something more mysterious, something of the height and depth of God's glory.

The gospels tell the same story when they describe the crucifixion, it's a chorus. At the resurrection, however, the voices strike up as soloists; there are so many different details to pick out. All agree however that there was fear and trembling at the empty tomb. We heard that this morning, the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. And we heard clearly that they were looking in the wrong place.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.
Luke 24:5*

When we come to Easter this is what we must understand. There is not another event in the story of Christ's life, he taught in the Temple, he cured the sick in Galilee, he was arraigned before Pilate, and then he rose from the dead. It is not like that. The story of Christ is not the story of a man who lived, died and just lived again. Easter is something else altogether. We don't have a neat definition, a tidy account of what happened in the tomb and the Easter garden.

The central truth, the thing we say as Christians, is that God's life was lived amongst us. Here, once there was a life of love and mercy, what Rowan Williams calls 'a life

without rivalry and envy' and we could not bear it. We could not bear to see what we should be; could not bear to look on the life of God, so we killed it. We passed judgment on God and tried to kill life itself. That is what happened on Good Friday. And, at Easter God passes judgment on that. That is what Easter is, not another event, it is God's resounding 'Yes' to life, the resounding 'Yes' to the life of Christ. His 'Yes' when we said 'No'.

If we take out all the sharp little tools of definition, all our precise calibrations and calculations and reduce Easter to something we can define, we miss the point. We sell the story short, we turn from God's glory to resume our obsession with the things we can describe and define. No more than we should ever say that love is just dopamine should we reduce the resurrection to an event, a fact.

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.

I know very little of what has taken place in this community over the last few weeks. I know enough to understand that there is a great deal of pain and distress. I grieve for you. I am sure there is a hard road ahead and that, at the moment, some of you see that road leading in different directions. Whatever the issues, whichever way you are facing, remember the Easter gospel. The church is not about definitions, certainties or lines in the sand. We hesitate with faces bowed at an empty tomb. We acknowledge that we might even have arrived at the wrong place.

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.

The gospel is mysterious and it is redemption. It is a lifetime's work for all of us to put that into words. It is always work in progress it is never just definitions.

Let me put it another way. In 1066, when the Normans won the Battle of Hastings, things changed. We got a new government and new words for government. It is from Norman French that we get our words crown, throne, duke, servant, and even govern, authority, obedience and traitor. After the conquest, the lowly English looked after the animals, so we have English words for cow, ox, sheep and pig. But the ruling French ate the meat so we have French words for beef, mutton, veal, venison, and pork; a new language for a new society. A new order, a new language.

This is exactly what happens at Easter. We have not been given a doctrinal statement we can use to give us hope and trip up our opponents; we have been given a different way of looking at the world. We are asked to learn a new language today and it starts here with some hope and the recognition that we have a way to go. It starts not with what we know, or think we know, but with what we are given: with the life of Christ put into our hands. Bread and Wine. Hope and Glory. Today we begin to be made anew and we look for new words for a new communion. Happy Easter.

Glastonbury Pilgrimage 2013

Saturday 15 June 2013

“Behold, your Son”

Friday 14 June

6.00 pm: **Vigil Mass of St Joseph of Arimathaea** in the Undercroft of the Lady Chapel.
Celebrant: The Rt Revd John Ford, *Chairman of the Pilgrimage Association.*

Saturday 15 June

9.45 am: **Liturgy of the Russian Orthodox Church**, celebrated in the Undercroft by Mitred Archpriest Benedict Ramsden

from 10.00 am: **Events for children and young people**

10.00 – 11.30 am: **Confessions and Anointing** in *St Patrick’s Chapel*

12.00 noon: **Solemn Concelebrated Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary** sung in the Nave of the Abbey Church

Preacher: The Rt Revd Michael Langrish, Bishop of Exeter

Principal Celebrant: The Rt Revd John Ford, Bishop of Plymouth

3.00 pm: **Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Abbey for Solemn Benediction** in the Nave of the Abbey Church

Officiant and Preacher: The Rt Revd John Ford, Bishop of Plymouth

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HYMN BOOK SEARCH No 5

Last month: Search for the Sibyl
31(5); 505(10); 524 (1)

Now, in a month which this year includes four fat festivals, which two writers use the expression
“lost in wonder, love and praise”?

Are you interested in studying theology part time? Trinity College offers a two year part-time training programme for the Certificate in Theology, validated by the University of Bristol, and a shorter flexible Trinity College Foundation Certificate in Theology. Teaching takes place on Tuesday evenings, 4 Saturday mornings a year and a few units are taught in a whole week. For further information please contact Jo Norman on 0117 968 0253 or by email:

practical.training@trinity-bris.ac.uk

Website address: www.trinity-bris.ac.uk.

Students come from a variety of churches, jobs and backgrounds and there is a wide range of ages. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to explore this further. There is an open morning on Saturday 18th May and an Open evening on Tuesday 2nd July.