

The Good News

Summer 2023



North West Northants Pastorate

Many years ago whilst on holiday in Somerset my parents visited a picturesque church in the small village of Selworthy. Naturally they took me with them.

It was a bright and sunny day in July or possibly August. I remember the place as being very calm, quiet and tranquil.

We wandered around the church, unlocked in those days, and then had a look around the grave yard; for a small boy, spooky and yet beautiful.

After our visit to the church my mother spotted a sign pointing the way to 'Cream Teas Served Here'.

"Would you like a cream tea?" she said. Having learned not to refuse an offer like that,

I said yes and then asked what a cream tea was...

I discovered that you could cut the scone in half and put jam on one half, and cream on the other before pressing them together.

I turned the finished assembly first one way up, and then the other. A lady on the next table said, in a broad Somerset accent; "That young man has just solved the age old dispute between Devon and Cornwall".

I had no idea what she meant...



Dog Rose in Local Hedges
(Rosa Canina)

"For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

(Jeremiah 17:8)

Inside this Summer Issue

The best laid plans of mice and man...

North West Northants

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Contents:

3 Editorial

4 A message for all

6 Creaton URC News

7 Kilsby URC News

8 Long Buckby URC News

9 Crick URC News

10 Diary of Church Services

12 The Story Behind The Hymn

15 Lectionary Readings June

16 Lectionary Readings July

17 Lectionary Readings August

18 A Late Night Reflection

19 Poets Corner

20 Thanks and Afterthoughts

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Deadline for contributions to next issue: 16th August 2023

Good News welcomes contributions from readers, though publication is not guaranteed.

Editorial

Staying Cheerful

Hello Everyone,

We are all on some kind of journey, aren't we? Whether sampling the delights of Somerset cream teas, or wondering what to do after some life changing event.

Sometimes, what we assumed, thought or simply hoped would happen, doesn't. This isn't always bad, sometimes it's a good thing to be turned around and head the other way. Sometimes we have to wait for the Spirit to come upon us before we act...

Train journeys can be a bit like that; to get to Hereford, you have to go to Birmingham, which is the other way...

But when you get to Hereford you can visit the Cathedral, and in there you will find, among all the many other treasures, the Audley Chantry stained glass windows created by Thomas Denny.

These windows literally throw light on the visions of the 17th-century metaphysical poet Thomas Traherne.

So I went to see the Mappa Mundi and came away reading medieval poetry; at least you can do that on a train even if it is now heading toward Dorridge, Long Buckby is the other way!...

As my father once told me as a little boy, with cream and jam all over my face, sat in a cottage garden overlooking a small white church in Selworthy; "You just have to open up your senses and perceive what is around you, then you wont be so bored...". Yes, he did speak to me

like that, even when I was little.

I sometimes wonder whether he would rather have been a poet than an engineer.

With perfect irony, I also wonder whether I would rather have been a poet than an engineer.

Metaphysical journeys...



All Saints' Church, Selworthy,

West Somerset.

Photograph by Robert Cutts 2008

A Message for All

From Andrew Howes.

As we leave the liturgical season of Easter, I have been reflecting over the events of the last 7 weeks or so, well since Palm Sunday really; the highs and the incredible lows.

Such a lot happened over a relatively short period of time. It can be difficult for us to comprehend. How much more confusing it must have been for the disciples at the time. Were they thinking something like this?...

“As one of his 12 closest followers what things we have been through! The roller coaster of emotions we have experienced.

First there was the joy and celebration of that triumphal entry in Jerusalem, albeit on a borrowed donkey, then that strange supper with Jesus and the rest of us in the upper room where he gave us a new commandment and predicted he would be betrayed, very true as it turned out.

Then he was arrested. We had fallen asleep in the Garden – not a good look I admit. We then witnessed a show trial, he was tortured and then we had to watch him die that terrible, terrible death on a cross. What an incredibly sad day that was. We had to be careful as we were being hunted as his followers. I suppose we were in a sense of shock at that point – how had it come to this?...

Jesus the man we had followed for several years had been brutally killed.

Then we got the news a couple of days later that he had been seen alive again.

Now we had seen him do some miraculous things, healing people and feeding people, but coming back to life, really?...



Dicentra spectabilis
(Bleeding Heart plant)

A Message for All

From Andrew Howes.

He had told us something like this would happen, but we weren't really sure what he meant. But then we all saw him and had to believe as weird as it seemed.

Just when we were used to having him with us once again we saw him rise up and ascend into heaven to be back with his heavenly Father.

I know Luke has written about the great joy as The Lord ascended, but I must admit I think confusion was the order of the day and a feeling of nervous anticipation mixed with fear.

And then a few days later he sent us his Holy Spirit and what a day that was. I don't think any of us knew what to expect, but I suppose these new languages will help us for what comes next..."

Matthew and Mark both close their Gospels with these words, sometimes known as the "Great Commission". Jesus said,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

And that my friends,
should give us all great
joy.

God bless.



Forget-Me-Not
(*Myosotis sylvatica*)

Creaton News

News from Margaret Anderson

Hello from Creaton everyone!

Our Mission Statement:

Worship God joyfully
Offer Christ faithfully
Promote growth hopefully
Serve others lovingly.

Services

You are warmly welcome to join us for Sunday Worship. For more information, look at our website: search Creaton URC online

Pilots

We are sorry to say that Pilots has closed down due to lack of support. We thank Marion Heard most sincerely for all the work she has dedicated to the young people at this group over so many years.

Poppies Coffee Shop

Is open from 10.00am to 12 noon Wednesday and Friday.

Margaret.



Field Poppy (Papaver rhoeas)
To be found in Cottesbrooke Park

Kilsby News

News from Val Janes

Hello from Kilsby everyone!

Our Mission statement:

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm welcoming place for all people, of any age, to worship and to learn about faith.

As Featured on BBC Radio Northampton!

In a feature about the village of Kilsby, broadcast by BBC Radio Northampton, Kilsby URC was asked to participate by way of an interview, so now Val is world famous, well in Northamptonshire anyway...

It was a chance to provide details of worship times as well as the community café and other activities. Good job you managed to get some more chairs Val, you might need them...

Services are on Sunday mornings at 11am

Welcoming new people into our congregation; you can find our list of Services and Preachers in the Diary of Services.

Community cafe

Our increasingly busy and popular community café; every Monday and Thursday at 9am until 12noon everyone is welcome. **Any volunteers to help would be most welcome!**

Scrabble

Every Wednesday at 1pm everyone is welcome.

Sewing

Every other Friday at 2pm until 4pm everyone is welcome.

Val.

Long Buckby News

News from Peggy Bond

Hello from Long Buckby everyone!

Our Flower Rota:

June 4th Sian Ellison
11th Alan Ketley
18th Wendy Baker
25th Mr and Mrs P Colton

July 2nd Mary Bignell
9th Lucy Faulkner
15th Long Buckby Gardening Club
23rd Diana Babb

Aug. 6th Lucy Faulkner
13th Myra Griffiths family
20th Andrew Bodsworth
27th Lucy Faulkner



May blossom (*Crataegus monogyna*)
In local hedgerows

Birthday Wishes to friends who have birthdays soon:

Carol Bruce, Karin, Georgia Ball, Oliver Ball, Andrew Bodsworth, Alan Ketley, Julia Ball, Nicky Russ, Wendy Baker, Myra Griffiths, Jodie and Sean Russ, Sophie Ellison, Mary Bignell.

The Hope Centre

Please remember the collection box for the Hope Centre in Northampton. Food, coffee, tee bags, cleaning materials and laundry detergents very welcome.

Coffee mornings - Now with Bacon Butties!

Charity Coffee Mornings will be held every first Saturday for the rest of the Year. See the Notice board and Long Buckby URC web site for further information.

Crick News

News from Jenny Goodger

Hello from Crick everyone!

Our mission statement:

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm, welcoming place for people of all ages to worship God and to grow in faith.

Chapel Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes to Margaret Lane-Simms, Kathleen Green and Gwyneth Nisbet, who have birthdays soon.

Coffee Mornings

Attendance varies according to the weather, but regulars enjoy meeting for a good chat. Our latest donation of £100 was to Leukaemia Research.

We are a very small (and ageing!) congregation, but we continue to hold a weekly service and our monthly coffee mornings and lunch club are enjoyed by many friends.

Jenny.



Weeping Willow (*Salix Babylonica*)
Canal side

Diary of Church Services June 2023 to August 2023

Date	Long Buckby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Creaton All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
04/06/2023	John Perkins	Suzie James
11/06/2023	Margaret Hooper	Jon Heard with Holy Communion
18/06/2023	Michael Mabbutt	Rev. Jane Wade
25/06/2023	Rev. Jay Phelps with Holy Communion	Rev. Elizabeth Adams
02/07/2023	Cecil Gee	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion
09/07/2023	Eric Nixon	Jon Heard
16/07/2023	Rev. Tim Huc with Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend
23/07/2023	Andrew Bodsworth	Wendy Pittman
30/07/2023	Joint Pastorate Service at Crick; Rev. Geoffrey Clark	Joint Pastorate Service at Crick; Rev. Geoffrey Clark
06/08/2023	Tom Baird	Rev. Geoff Townsend
13/08/2023	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion	Vaughan Griffiths
20/08/2023	John Perkins	Rev. Geoff Townsend
27/08/2023	Ruth Osborne	Rev. Nigel Adkinson

Diary of Church Services June 2023 to August 2023

Date	Crick All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Kilsby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
04/06/2023	Wally Mular	Trevor Boys
11/06/2023	Cecil Gill	Rev. Geoff Townsend
18/06/2023	Wendy Pittman	Pastor Cecil Gill
25/06/2023	Rev. Nigel Adkinson	Rev. Tim Huc with Holy Communion
02/07/2023	Rev. Ann Jack with	Rev. Nigel Adkinson
09/07/2023	Rev. Jane Wade	Rev. Andrew Howes with Holy Communion
16/07/2023	Jon Heard	Pastor Cecil Gill
23/07/2023	Trevor Boys	Keith Bishop
30/07/2023	Joint Pastorate Service at Crick; Rev. Geoffrey Clark	Joint Pastorate Service at Crick; Rev. Geoffrey Clark
06/08/2023	Rev. Jay Phelps with Holy Communion	Songs of Praise
13/08/2023	David and Pat Biddle	Wally Mular
20/08/2023	Elizabeth Taylor	Trevor Boys
27/08/2023	Hilary Crane	Rev. Elizabeth Adams

The Story Behind the Hymn

Lord of the Dance by Sydney Carter

Sydney Carter wrote Lord of the dance in 1963, it is said that it was inspired by three things; firstly by Jesus and then partly by statue he had on his desk, and possibly also as a tribute to the Shaker style of music.

'I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on...'

(Taken from 'Lord of the Dance', Sydney Carter, Copyright 1963 Stainer & Bell Ltd. London)

The melody was written by Elder Joseph Brackett, and is from the American Shaker song "Simple Gifts", Brackett lived in the Shaker community in Alfred, Maine.



Sydney Carter , 1915-2004
Image from Cyberhymnal

The Story Behind the Hymn

Lord of the Dance by Sydney Carter

Initially Carter didn't think that people would like the song, and somewhat perhaps, even argued that it was not Christian; The statue on Carters desk was that of the Hindu God Shiva in, a dancing pose.

As for the Shakers, dancing was a spiritual activity; although of course it's not known whether or not Jesus danced to musical instruments in Galilee in the same way...

Sydney Carter wrote; "I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality.

By Christ I mean not only Jesus; in other times and places, other planets, there may be other Lords of the Dance. But Jesus is the one I know of first and best. I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus..."

(Lord of the Dance and other Songs and Poems, Stainer & Bell (2002))

These are interesting words, given that many of us remember being taught this worship song at school.

It seems that many cultures have Creation as being spoken, sung or danced into existence.

The first few chapters of 'The Silmarillion', Tolkien puts this very well...



Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja).
Chola period, about 10th/11th century.
Tamil Nadu, India. Bronze

Let Us Entertain You...

Beautiful music and a cream tea?

Long Buckby United Reformed Church

Invite you to join us for
An afternoon of song, strawberries and scones



Featuring “3 In Accord”

Saturday 1 July 2023 at 2.30pm

Tickets £6, available from Richard Bignell, 07850 968155

Andrew Howes, 07814 076027

or pay on the door.

Long Buckby URC, Brington Road, Long Buckby.

NN6 7RW

Revised Common Lectionary Readings

June 2023

Trinity Sunday

June 4

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Proper 5

June 11

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Proper 6

June 18

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

Proper 7

June 25

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69: 7-10, (11-15), 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Weaving Sacred and Secular June

5th World Environment Day

18th Father's Day

19-25th Refugee Week

22d Windrush Day

Revised Common Lectionary Readings

July 2023

Proper 8

July 2

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

Proper 9

July 9

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Proper 10

July 16

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65: (1-8), 9-14

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Proper 11

July 23

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 or

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Proper 12

July 30

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 or

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Weaving Sacred and Secular July

1st Tour de France begins

20th Woman's World Cup begins

Revised Common Lectionary Readings

August 2023

Proper 13

August 6

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Proper 14

August 13

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Proper 15

August 20

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Proper 16

August 27

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20



Weaving Sacred and Secular August
24th-27th Greenbelt Festival

A Late Night Reflection: And The Page Fell Open...

Coming together, drifting apart and moving on

Psalm 139 (NIV)

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

I recommend that you read the whole psalm...

Some dialogue

"...He said on impulse "Merrily, how can you love him, how can you commit your?... " "Can I love him like a man?" Words to that effect. "You want this straight?" He nodded. "When I pray I don't see a man or woman, I just experience, it started out as imagination, but now it truly exists, a warmth and a light and a great core of what you describe, I suppose, as endless selfless love which asks for nothing in return but an acceptance of it, which is faith..."

(Phil Rickman, The Cure of Souls, Macmillan, 2001)

I recommend that you read the whole book...

If you have a library membership and a 'smart phone' try downloading the library app 'BorrowBox' lots of audio books free of charge

Poets Corner

Metaphysical journeys...

From 'Walking' by Thomas Traherne

To walk abroad is, not with eyes,
But thoughts, the fields to see and prize;
Else may the silent feet,
Like logs of wood,
Move up and down, and see no good
Nor joy nor glory meet.

Ev'n carts and wheels their place do change,
But cannot see, though very strange
The glory that is by;
Dead puppets may
Move in the bright and glorious day,
Yet not behold the sky.

And are not men than they more blind,
Who having eyes yet never find
The bliss in which they move;
Like statues dead
They up and down are carried
Yet never see nor love.

To walk is by a thought to go;
To move in spirit to and fro;
To mind the good we see;
To taste the sweet;
Observing all the things we meet
How choice and rich they be.



“You just have to open up your senses and perceive what is around you, then you wont be so bored...”. Yes, he did speak to me like that, even when I was little...

I recommend that you read the whole poem...

Thanks, Afterthoughts and Connections

Wandering From Whence We Came, What Do We Leave Behind?

Over the years I have had many cream teas of one type or another, mostly good, some not so. I wont name any names or places other than perhaps Selworthy, Oh, and the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan and a certain local history society and a theological college in Manchester...



Oak (*Quercus robur*)
For Strength and Wisdom

As ever, many thanks to all Good News contributors; writers, sifters and wranglers of content, proof readers, printers and distributors; all those that collaborate across time and travels, in all sorts of ways to produce and deliver all of the wonderful resources into which we dip and find treasures to share.

Most of all, thank You, for reading this magazine.

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