

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL

January 16th Florence Lily Celia SCOTT (93)



ALTAR FLOWERS

February 1st
February 8th
February 15th
February 22nd

Transfiguration

Mrs J Sugden
Mrs J Sugden
Mrs S King
Mrs S King

St Nicolas

Mrs P Thompson
Mrs F Ogden
Mrs F Ogden
Mrs C Adams



*To make this earth our hermitage,
A cheerful and a changeful page,
God's bright and intricate device
Of days and seasons doth suffice.
(R L Stevenson)*

Lent begins 25th February

DEADLINE

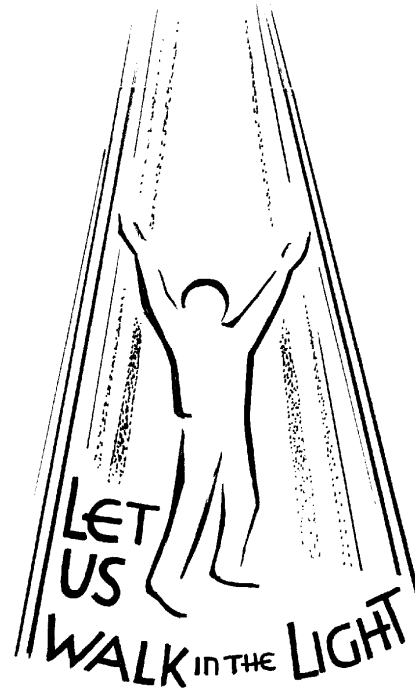
The deadline for the **March** edition of the Church Magazine is 10.00 am on Wednesday, **11th February 2009**

The Vicar writes...

February 2009

Dear Friends,

In Lent 2009, the Diocese of Salisbury is embarking on a project called **FULLY ALIVE** which can be summed up in some key words of St Irenaeus.



'The Glory of God is a human being fully alive.'

Under this umbrella, the theme of "*mature Christian discipleship*" is focussed upon three strands of the Christian life:

- **Our formation** – being nurtured in the Christian faith in a way that helps us to know and cherish the self that God has gifted.
- **Our vocation** – working out our faith in how we live with one another in a way that helps us to cherish the self that is the other.
- **Our mission** – the process of how we come to faith and draw others into it.

The project begins in Lent with talks given by Timothy Radcliffe, a preacher and author of some renown who is also a former Master of the world-wide Dominican Order who was admitted as a *Sarum Canon* in October 2007. His visit will begin and end with 'stand-alone' talks in Salisbury Cathedral on the 25th February and the 1st April.

His main contribution will be to speak in 3 different centres each week about living fully as a Christian. His addresses form the first phase of the project. The later phases move out from this beginning in ever wider circles and quite deliberately with less direction from the centre.

After Easter 2009 study material will be devised building on his talks, to be used at a local level as appropriate. The clergy conference at Swanwick in July will develop the theme, and there will be ideas and opportunities as the project continues through to Pentecost in 2010.

'We have the opportunity as a diocese of spending Lent 2009 with Timothy Radcliffe to develop our formation as mature Christian disciples' – David Stancliffe

FULLY ALIVE
Weekly Addresses

OPENING ADDRESS:

February 25th - Salisbury Cathedral
(Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 5.30 pm)

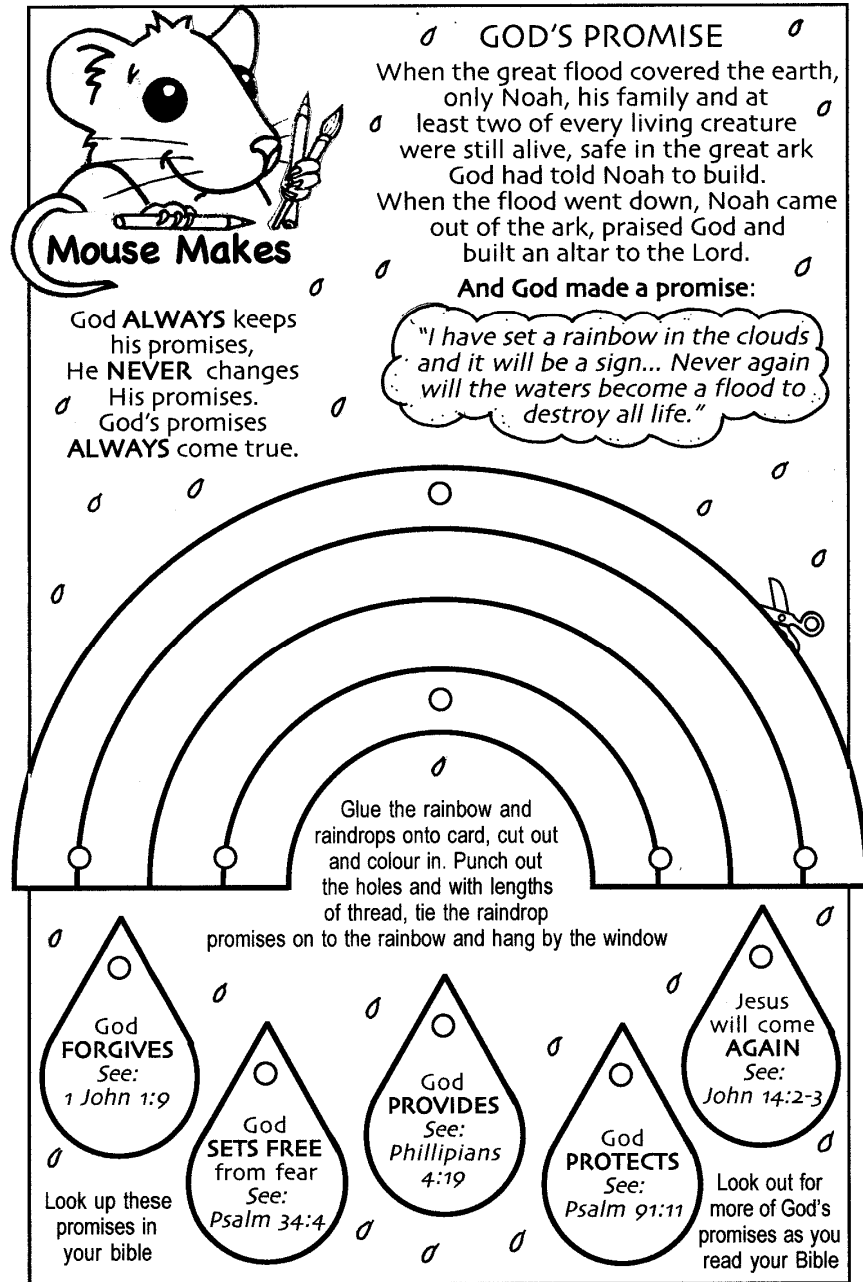
WEEKLY ADDRESSES:

Tuesdays, 7.30 pm at **St John's, Devizes**
(3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March)
Wednesdays, 1.00 pm in **the Cathedral**
(4th March, 11th March, 18th March, 25th March)
Wednesdays, 7.30 pm at **St Mary's, Dorchester**
(4th March, 11th March, 18th March, 25th March)

FINAL ADDRESS:

April 1st – Salisbury Cathedral at 7.30 pm)

www.fully-alive.co.uk



Sunday 22nd February – Sunday Next Before Lent

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Kings 2.1-12

Elisha witnesses his father, Elijah's ascent into heaven and is empowered to carry on his ministry.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 9.2-9

Peter, James and John witness the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain.



RAINING CATS AND DOGS



When we look out of the window and it is raining cats and dogs, it is too wet to go out. The origin of this phrase may allude to a famous occasion when it actually rained frogs. Apparently many were lifted into the air during a howling gale and then dropped to the ground around startled pedestrians. Cockney rhyming slang substituted 'cats and dogs' for 'frogs'.

There is also the ancient nautical myth which led sailors to believe that cats had some sort of influence over storms. According to the Vikings, dogs were also a symbol of storms and they always appear in descriptions of their own Norse god of storms. Odin, father of Thor, was the god of thunder and is described as an old bearded man with one eye who wore a cloak and wide-brimmed hat. Many claim he was the inspiration for JRR Tolkien's character Gandalf in The Lord of the Rings. Because of this connection, ancient mariners believed that when it rained it was the cats who caused it and when the gales appeared they were brought by the dogs, leading to the phrase 'raining cats and dogs'.

The phrase first appeared in literature in 1738 when Jonathan Swift wrote in his book 'A Complete Collection of Polite and Ingenious Conversation, 'I know Sir John will go, though he was sure it would rain cats and dogs'.

LENT 2009 – Lent begins on Wednesday 25th February with the ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. in the Church of the Transfiguration. As has become our custom, this midweek service will be in the Parish Church – as opposed to the Chapel of St Nicolas – throughout Lent. The previous evening – on SHROVE TUESDAY – we will have the service of healing and preparation for Lent – at 7.00 p.m. followed by pancakes in the Church Rooms (always a popular gathering!)

As the Church Magazine for March will be published before this date, full details of other aspects of Lent will be available in our next edition. Before that, details will appear on the weekly Church notice sheet.



TWO AFTERNOON TALKS NOT TO MISS – Please be sure not to miss two Thursday afternoon talks and presentations that have been lined up for February and March. On *Thursday 12th February* at 3.00 p.m. we will be welcoming Richard Jones of *BibleLands* who will be giving a presentation entitled, "*The Forgotten Faithful: Christian Witness in the Middle East*". The talk and presentation will last approximately one hour and will be followed by Tea.

On *Thursday 19th March* at 3.00 p.m. we will be welcoming the Revd. John Pridmore. Last year John published a book entitled '*The Inner-City of God*' subtitled, '*The Diary of an East End parson*' referring to his time as Vicar of Hackney. The book was reviewed by John Sentamu (the Archbishop of York) accordingly: '*John Pridmore's wry take on the stories and structures of parish life in Hackney will infuriate some, inspire others, and, I trust, amuse everyone.*' Surely, two dates for all our diaries.

With best wishes,

Verenny Oakes.

'THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD..'



As atheist adverts hit London's buses, one faith-based think tank says they will only get people thinking more about God.

Professor Richard Dawkins, the author of the book 'The God Delusion', recently appeared in front of a London bus featuring the atheist advertisement with the slogan 'There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life'. They are to appear on 30 of London's bendy buses. The campaign supported by professor Dawkins and the British Humanist Association is a response to evangelical Christian advertisements running on buses in June 2008. For the campaign 800 buses featuring the slogan are running across the country and 1000 advertisements are posted on the London underground railway system.

The posters are the atheist response to a number of high profile Christian advertising campaigns on London buses and billboards, notably ones run by the Alpha Course, whose posters ask, "Is this it?" and "If God did exist, what would you ask him?" The adverts have been publicly endorsed and partially financed by prominent atheist Professor Richard Dawkins, who told the BBC that the ad campaign was designed to make people think, an action he said was "anathema to religion."

The public theology think tank *Theos* has welcomed the campaign, saying it will encourage more people to think about the existence of God. "We think that the campaign is a great way to get people thinking about God. The posters will encourage people to consider the most important question we will ever face in our lives," said *Theos* Director Paul Woolley.

SUNDAY READINGS IN FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st February – Presentation of Christ

OLD TESTAMENT: Malachi 3.1-5

Malachi portrays man's encounter with God as a time of trial and judgement in which our shortcomings are exposed and commitment to the Lord tested.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 2.14-end

Christ is made in our image so that he can serve God and atone for our sins. He frees us from fear of death and helps those who are being tempted.

GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40

Jesus' unique identify and importance is confirmed by the testimony of Simeon and Anna.

Sunday 8th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40.21-end

Isaiah describes the power of Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, to renew the strength of those who believe in him.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 1.29-39

One evening Jesus heals many sick people. Early next morning he prays alone and then travels throughout Galilee preaching and healing.

Sunday 15th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

OLD TESTAMENT: Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

Solomon is wise. He rejoices in the presence of the Lord and the world he has made.

NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 1.15-20

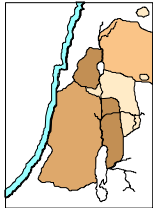
Christ is the source of a new creation in which the cross and the resurrection are the motivating force and the Church its historical expression.

GOSPEL: John 1.1-14

John is sent by God as a witness to His coming. He comes to use as the Word made flesh, the Word in whom we see glory, grace and truth.

CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

ISHMAEL & ISAAC



The story of these two half-brothers is found very early in the Bible, in Genesis 17 and 21. Abraham was their father but while Isaac was Sarah's, Abraham's wife, Ishmael was the son of Sarah's maid, Hagar.

God had promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have children but after many years they were still childless. Sarah then suggested that Abraham should have children by her maid Hagar and as soon as Hagar was pregnant, the trouble started. Sarah was jealous of Hagar and forced Abraham to send her away. God protected Hagar and told her to return to Abraham's house. There her son Ishmael was born and God promised that he would be the progenitor of a great nation.

Some years later Abraham had a son by Sarah, Isaac, and the tensions in Abraham's home became unbearable. Ishmael mocked Isaac, and Sarah again demanded that Hagar and her son should be sent away. God provided for Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness and renewed his promise that Ishmael would be the father of a mighty nation.

Ishmael and Isaac were to have significant destinies. Ishmael became the father of the Arab nations while Isaac became the father of the nation of Israel. Down the long centuries, and at the present time, the conflict between Jews and Arabs is a constant reminder of how it all began. Abraham and Sarah failed to wait for God's promise to be realised and so Hagar and Ishmael enter the story. The two half-brothers grew up in a home full of tension, bitterness and hatred - and sadly, the legacy continues to this day.



ASH WEDNESDAY – 25TH FEBRUARY



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday but why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins but soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'. The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day.

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "*Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return...*" (Genesis 3:19). The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.



ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH YOUR NHS TREATMENT?



The *Independent Complaints Advocacy Service* (ICAS) can support you through the NHS complaints process by providing information, assisting with letters and offering support at meetings regarding your complaint.

ICAS is independent of the NHS and provides free information and advocacy support to people who wish to pursue a complaint. This includes complaints about NHS Hospital services, GPs, Dentists, Opticians, Pharmacists, District Nurses, Ambulance Services, Physiotherapists etc.

Patients have six months from an event, or from the time they became aware of cause for complaint, and can be assured that details of their complaint will be kept separately from their medical records. Any information given to ICAS will be treated confidentially. ICAS can only offer advocacy to individuals with an NHS complaint and cannot deal with compensation claims or investigate complaints.

Phone lines are open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. We are able to meet with people who wish to make a complaint either at our office or an alternative venue. We can also make home visits to those unable to travel.

Contact ICAS on 0845 1203782 if you live in Dorset (except Poole and Bournemouth whose number is 0845 600 8616).



TROUBLESOME FRUIT



It wasn't the apple that caused the trouble in the Garden of Eden. It was the pair on the ground.

POINTS TO PONDER



Rose Kennedy: *"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but moments."*

Max L. Forman: *"Always hold your head up, but be careful to keep your nose at a friendly level."*

Maori Proverb: *"Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you."*

Rabindranath Tagore: *"Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man."*

Nancy Otto: *"Pray for a good harvest, but keep on ploughing."*

Yiddish proverb: *"What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul."*

Charles M. Schultz: *"It's never the end of the world. It's already tomorrow in Australia."*

Les Giblin: *"If you're not using your smile, you're like a man with a million dollars in the bank and no check book."*

Charlotte Bronte: *"I try to avoid looking forward or backward, and try to keep looking upward."*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: *"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."*

Helen Keller: *"The world is not moved only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."*

Laurence J Peter: *"The man who says he is willing to meet you halfway is usually a poor judge of distance."*

Robert Louis Stevenson: *"Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary."*

WHY STICKS ARE NO FETCHING MATTER



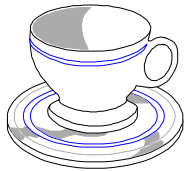
Next time you begin a game of 'fetch' with your dog, be careful. Many vets now warn against using a stick, because it can seriously damage your dog.

Sticks are often sharp and dirty, and can easily damage a dog's mouth and throat. There are horrific stories told of piercings which lead to extensive bleeding, infections, and even death.

Instead, vets encourage people to use a ball (too large for your dog to swallow), or a rubber toy, such as a Frisbee. One family who ignored the advice, ended up paying £5,000 in vet fees - and still their dog died.



“POOR BOY...”



A vicar in a small country church was looking forward to an important visit from his bishop, which would involve the bishop staying overnight at the vicarage after the service. His young son became very excited, as he had never spoken to a bishop before.

The vicar decided that his young son should be allowed to knock the bishop's door in the morning, and bring him in his morning tea. His father gave him instructions: *"First, knock on the door of the bishop's room and then say loud and clear: It's the boy, my Lord, it's time to get up."*

The young son was very excited and rehearsed his lines, repeating them over and over. Finally the bishop came and spent the night. Next morning day came and the young lad went to the door and knocked. He cried loudly: *"It's the Lord, my boy, and your time is up!"*

MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE



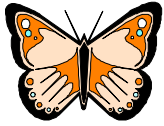
Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed - and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make perfect sense and you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role. The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias.

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws - and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias - and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen. Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!

GARDEN RESIDENTS NEED YOUR HELP!



As you plan the garden this year, spare a thought the remaining residents of your flower beds, ponds and trees. Here are some sobering statistics from the chairman of Natural

England:

- Bumble bees: the number of species in lowland Britain has halved since 1950.
- Hedgehogs: are losing an estimated fifth of their population every four years.
- House sparrows: have declined by 68 per cent in the UK since 1977.
- Moths and butterflies: numbers are declining rapidly; moths by nearly a third since 1968.
- Frogs: loss of ponds and habitats means just one thing: loss of frogs!



THE LIONS



A young missionary on his first term in Africa was reading his Bible in a clearing when a lion came up and laid down beside him. As he quietly prayed for deliverance, another lion came out of the bush and laid down by his other side. Convinced that this was a test of his faith, he returned to reading his Bible. As soon as he did, the two lions pounced on him and devoured him. Moral: Don't try to read between the lions.



Q: *Where was the first ice cream parlour in the bible?*

A: *Walls of Jericho.*



NEWSROUND



WEDDINGS WELCOME - Some top tips have emerged as the Church of England gives a wider welcome for weddings. Advice to clergy includes: 'keep Sundays free for shows like this', 'don't skimp on flowers', 'wear your dog collar', 'put your smiliest people on shift', 'don't leave coffee cups around', 'pray a blessing if asked' and 'always thank the organisers'. The Bishop of Leicester says: "*Many more people would choose a church wedding if they knew they could have one. We'll be working hard to let people know we welcome them for a wedding, whether they go to church or not. We're also going to be telling them about the new law which means that having a church wedding is now a lot easier.*"

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK CALLS FOR MUGABE REGIME TO BE TOPPLED: Dr John Sentamu has called for the international community to bring an end to the "*charade of power sharing*" and to remove the administration of Robert Mugabe from power in Zimbabwe. Writing recently in The Observer, Dr. John Sentamu compared the situation in Zimbabwe to that he faced as a dissident in Uganda under Idi Amin.

SIGN UP FOR SUPPORT - The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Andy Burnham, has recently announced that English Heritage, the Government's lead adviser on the historic environment, is making available £1.5 million to part-fund 30 Support Officers to help congregations of all faiths manage and maintain their historic places of worship. It is now up to each diocese or group to draw up its own job description, depending on the particular needs of their historic buildings. No two Support Officer jobs will be exactly the same. Some will focus on essential repairs, others on opening churches for tourism, community projects and cultural events.

U.K. CHURCHES TOLD TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST RACISM



Churches have been told they may have to speak out against racism if the recession triggers a wave of racist-based policies as governments across Europe attempt to steer their economies through the economic downturn. With 1 in 5 churchgoers in the UK belonging to an ethnic minority, the Jubilee Centre is encouraging the Church to challenge policies and philosophies that do not serve to safeguard unity, equality and diversity.

"It is important that Christians are willing to denounce racism and to encourage their leaders to work against racism," writes London School of Economics lecturer Dr. Sujit Sivasundaram in the latest edition of "Cambridge Papers." *"In Europe, if unemployment becomes an issue with the economic crisis, and race riots appear again, Christians will have a role to play, in petitioning the state."* The article asserts that the affirmation of ethnic diversity can give individuals and local communities a sense of cohesion and belonging, and calls on Christians and local churches to denounce racism and encourage their leaders to work against it. Churches, he says, should set an example of unity and respect for ethnic diversity.

He added, however, that faith groups needed to maintain their distinctiveness. "We need to beware of the danger of becoming religiously pluralist: the need for unity and diversity does not equate with the idea that all religions are the same," he said. "Christians need to defend the Gospel and stand up for the victimized."



PATIENTS TELL IT LIKE IT IS



A website that presents people's real-life experiences of health and illness is attracting over 600,000 visitors every month. Set up as a charity by a research group at Oxford University, the project is called DIPEX and features a collection of interviews illustrated with video, audio and written clips from patients who have been affected by a range of common diseases and health issues. Patients, carers and health professionals are all finding the site a valuable resource. The charity's patron is the broadcaster Jon Snow. Commenting on the *"tell it like it is"* case histories, author Philip Pullman says that these true stories *"feed the mind with information and the heart with hope and strength."*

The website* now has nearly 50 modules online, including the major cancers, heart diseases, autism, mental health and the sexual health of young people, as well as health issues such as screening. Parkinson's Disease is one recent addition. Other topics currently being tackled include pregnancy, the PSA test for prostate cancer, stroke and HIV.

"The stories on the website are there because people have volunteered to be interviewed," says Dr Ann McPherson, co-founder of DIPEX. *"At present we are looking to interview women about their experience of the menopause, and people bereaved by sudden traumatic death"*. The latter covers such causes as shooting, stabbing, drowning etc.

Readers who would like to take part (or donate to the charity) can send an email to info@healthtalkonline.org or write to DIPEX, P0 Box 428, Witney OX28 9EU. The telephone number is 01865 289328.

*Website address: www.healthtalkonline.org

SHROVE TUESDAY



It's about this time of year that we observe Shrove Tuesday – the day before Lent begins and the day for the increasingly popular pancake races. The most famous, and oldest, pancake race of all is, of course, at Olney in Buckinghamshire.

No-one, it seems, is quite certain how the Olney race originated but, according to one story, a local housewife was making pancakes in the year 1445 when she heard the parish church shringing bell. Worried that she might be late for the service, she rushed out of the house complete with pan and cake! The traditional prize for the Olney winner has been a kiss from the verger! How good it is to see this ancient custom still part of our yearly calendar.



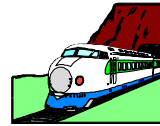
ARMLESS



No arms: "I want to help your church!" Vicar: "How can you with no arms?" No arms: "I could ring the church bell!" Vicar: "How?" No arms: "I could stand in the middle of it and bang my head on the sides!" Vicar: "We will try it for a few weeks and if there are no complaints then you can keep the job".

For 12 weeks he rings the bell and is forgotten by the vicar because of his busy schedule. One Sunday morning the armless man climbs the stairs and just as he's stepping into the middle of the bell he falls and lands at the bottom of the stairs unconscious. The church members find him and ask the vicar, "Do you now this man's name?" He replies, "No, but his face rings a bell!"

TRAIN JOURNEY



If there's one thing I enjoy it is a long train journey. In spite of the reading I take with me, I seem to spend most of the journey 'sitting and staring' – watching the passing panorama of towns and villages, fields and farms.

On one journey I passed through seven counties. With the 'cold' February sun shining and plenty of room in the carriage, it was sheet delight! By the time I'd reached my destination I realised more than ever what beautiful countryside we are blessed with here in England but God forbid that we should take it all for granted.

Over the years green pastures and meadows and woods have disappeared to make way for development. Oh yes, of course we must have development but eventually, surely, someone has got to say 'enough is enough'. Otherwise, England will no longer be a green and pleasant land. (Maurice Ennals)



DOMESTIC STRIFE



Adam was walking outside of the Garden of Eden with Cane and Abel when the boys were young. Cane and Abel looked into the garden and viewed waterfalls, lovely birds, lush forests and fruit trees bending over because of the large amounts of fruit on them. Then they took a long look at where they lived. It was dry, dusty with weeds and sickly-looking trees. "Dad, why don't we live in there instead of out here?" they asked innocently. Adam said, "Well sons. Eve and I use to live in there at one time but your mother ate us out of house and home."

WAKE UP TO THE BIBLE



There's one in just about every home - on a shelf behind the TV, or in a drawer. It's normally only got out when a crossword clue needs to be solved, or someone is watching a quiz on TV. It may be the world's best-selling book, but if it is, it's the world's least read best-seller. Even regular churchgoers tend to keep it for Sundays and that's a pity, because for Christians the Bible is the primary key to understanding ourselves, the world we live in, and our Creator. It is the story of our search for God, and his search for us.

First one tribe, then a nation, record in its pages their experience of God. They don't always get it right, but it's an honest search and God rewards it because, while people were searching for God, he was searching for them. That's the Bible's story, which reaches its amazing climax in the coming of Jesus, the Son of God. As John's Gospel puts it, *'No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known'*.

See the Bible like that and many of the problems people raise about it are answered. Yes, there's a lot of violence and bloodshed. There are some fairly crazy ideas at times about what men and women thought God wanted them to do but there is also the thrill of the search and the wonder of discovery - above all, the amazing idea that the One who made us, loves us.

Perhaps the time has come to rescue that copy of the Bible from the bookshelf and start reading it. There are many aids for those who want to read the Bible regularly but the main thing is the intention. People will say that they'd like to find out what's in the Bible 'one day'. Well, if it is the key to the search for truth - then it would be a tragedy to have it in our homes and not even bother to find out what it says. Perhaps 'one day' is *now*?

A HERO FOR BLIND PEOPLE

Louis Braille was born in 1809 in Coupvray, a small town near Paris where his father worked as the village saddler. One day he crept into his father's workshop to play and picked up an awl, a sharp tool used for making holes in leather. However, the awl slipped and pierced his eye, damaging it forever. Some time later his other eye became infected by the first and he lost his sight altogether. He was just four years old and his future must have seemed uncertain. However Louis Braille was to become one of the most famous Frenchmen ever to have lived.

Louis was an intelligent boy and, aged ten, won a scholarship to the Royal Institution for Blind Youth in Paris. The boys were taught to read using a system called 'raised type' where letters were created by pressing shaped copper wire onto a page but it was far from perfect.

In 1821, Charles Barbier, a captain in Napoleon's army, visited the school to demonstrate his 'night writing'. This was a tactile system designed for soldiers to send and receive messages at night without speaking. It used raised dots and dashes rather than actual letters. Louis quickly realised how useful this system could be, but thought it was too complicated. Over the next few years he worked hard to develop his own version of the code, using just six dots to represent the standard alphabet.

He spent his life teaching the system to as many people as possible, first as a fellow student at the school and then later when he became a teacher there, translating many books into braille. Despite encountering much resistance, he never stopped believing in his system. He died on 6th January 1852, just two days after his forty-third birthday, having contracted tuberculosis in his twenties, unaware that his invention would one day be used all over the world.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Sun	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion
PRESENTATION OF CHRIST		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>Sun Club in church</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
	Tue	3	10.00 am
Wed	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		2.00 pm	Opera & Ballet Group
Thu	5	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Sun	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion
3 RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT		9.15 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		10.30 am	Matins (<i>Sun Club in church room</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tue	10	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Thu	12	3.00 pm	Talk: BibleLands (See Pg 3)
Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.30 am	Family Service
2 ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>NO Sun Club</i>)
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
	Tue	17	10.00 am
Wed	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Thu	19	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
		4.00 pm	Magazine Collation
Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.15 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		10.30 am	Matins (<i>Sun Club in church room</i>)
SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
		10.00 am	Gardening Group
		7.00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Service
Wed	25	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
Thu	26	2.45 pm	Mothers' Union
Fri	27	4.15 pm	"Reflections" Prayer Group



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"Too many people pray like little boys who knock at doors...then run away." - Anon



OPERA & BALLET GROUP – The meeting this month will be on Thursday, 4th February at 2 pm with Brenda Bond, Flat 1, 2 Maxwell Road, Canford Cliffs, tel: 708938. Please let her know if you would like to come.

SHROVE TUESDAY SERVICE – The Shrovetide service of Lenten Preparation and Healing takes place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 24th February. Pancakes will be served after the service.

MOTHERS' UNION – We meet on Thursday 26th at 2.45 pm in the Church Rooms.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION DURING LENT – Please note that, during Lent, the midweek service of Holy Communion will take place in the parish church (and not at the Chapel of St Nicolas) at 10.30 am each Wednesday. Please come regularly and make this a part of your Lenten observance. Services will resume at St Nicolas after Lent.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY HOUSE – This year the Parish stay at Abbey House, Glastonbury in the glorious setting of the Abbey grounds, will take place from Monday, 1st June to Wednesday, 3rd June. Will those interested in going please contact Moira Lodge on 773461.

Throughout Lent (Monday to Friday), Evening Prayer will be said daily at 5.00 pm in the Lady Chapel.

**THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
at 3.00 pm**

**A Talk & Presentation entitled:
'The Forgotten Faithful':
Christian Witness in the Middle East
given by
RICHARD JONES of BibleLands
of BIBLELANDS**