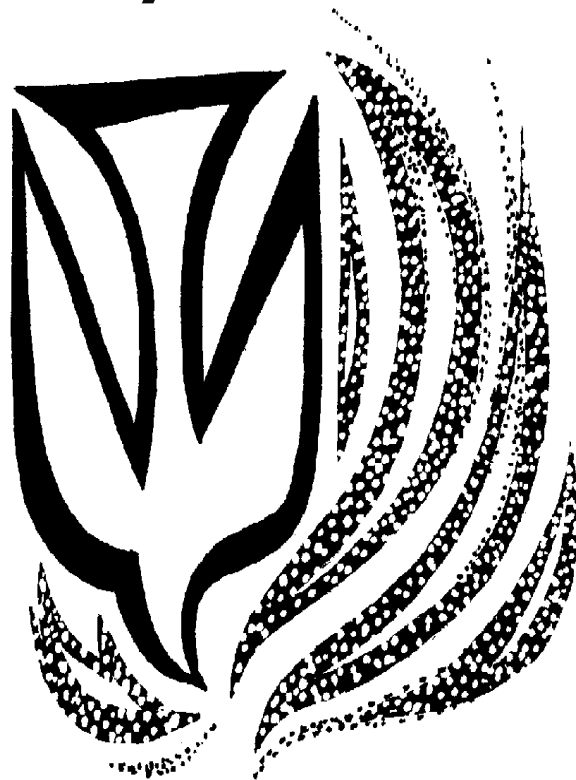


The Magazine of St Luke's & the Church of The Holy Spirit

BURPHAM TIMES

May 2022



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Resurrection power?

As I write this, we have just celebrated Easter with the annual reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection; his defeat of sin and death. A time of joy and celebration and yet this year, a stark contrast to the war that still continues in the Ukraine. How do we as Christians hold those 2 things together?

Let me share with you some thoughts from the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, as he shared a hopeful vision for the transformation of all death into new life in his book "God has a dream: a vision of hope for our time":-

"Dear Child of God, it is often difficult for us to recognize the presence of God in our lives and in our world. In the clamour of the tragedy that fills the headlines we forget about the majesty that is present all around us. We feel vulnerable and often helpless. . . . But we are not helpless and with God's love we are ultimately invincible. Our God does not forget those who are suffering and oppressed. "

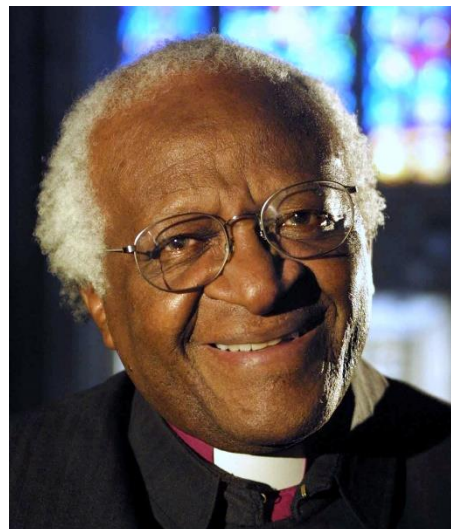
Tutu shares an experience he had when gathered with other church leaders during the most difficult days of apartheid:

"We met at a theological college that had closed down because of the government's racist policies.

During our discussions I went into the priory garden for some quiet. There was a huge Calvary—a large wooden cross with protruding nails and crown of thorns. It was a stark symbol of the Christian faith. It was winter: the grass was pale and dry and nobody would have believed that in a few weeks' time it would be lush and green and beautiful again. It would be transfigured.

As I sat quietly in the garden I realized the power of transfiguration—of God's transformation—in our world. The principle of transfiguration is at work when something so unlikely as the brown grass that covers our veld in winter becomes bright green again. Or when the tree with gnarled leafless branches bursts forth with the sap flowing so that the birds sit chirping in the leafy branches. Or when the once dry streams gurgle with swift-flowing water. When winter gives way to spring and nature seems to experience its own resurrection.

The principle of transfiguration says nothing, no one and no situation, is "untransfigurable," that the whole of creation, nature, waits expectantly for its transfiguration, when it will be released from its bondage and share in the glorious liberty of the children of God, when it will not be just dry inert matter but will be translucent with divine glory. . . . (Continued overleaf)





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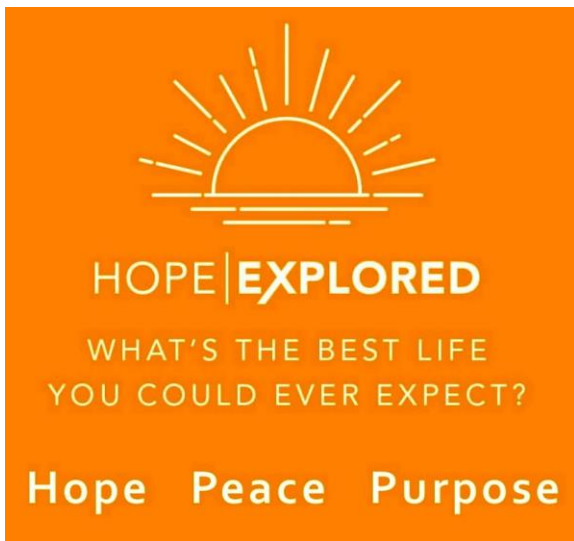
All over this magnificent world God calls us to extend [God's] kingdom of shalom—peace and wholeness—of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, and of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment *through us* because God *believes in us* and because God *loves us*. What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no oppression that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned to love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled."

Powerful words for us as we work out how to live out our resurrection faith in a dark world. Let's play our small part in transfiguring (as Tutu puts it) our tiny part of the world, extending God's kingdom of peace and wholeness, of justice, goodness compassion, caring, sharing, laughter and joy. What might God be calling you into this month as we share the resurrection power with those around us?

With every blessing
Rev'd Joanna Levasier

Make sure you pick up your term card with all this term's information or check out the diary on the church website www.burphamchurch.org.uk

6pm Sunday June 5th Pentecost Sunday
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What's the best future you could imagine?

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by. Where can we find a hope that won't disappoint us?

Hope Explored looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in Luke's Gospel, this three-session series shows that Christianity is about real hope: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.

Hope Explored does not require a huge time commitment and is a great way to explore some of the core beliefs of Christianity. Each session will involve looking at a passage in the Bible study, watching a film followed by discussion.

The course will run on

Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:30pm, 11th, 18th, 25th May,
please contact Jo Levasier to register your interest.

Musings on modern life:

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

You must have learned from others' mistakes. You haven't had time to think all those up yourself.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Misers aren't much fun to live with, but they make great ancestors.

Have you ever considered that..

- ~ A bird in the hand is safer than two over your head.
- ~ A narrow mind and a wide mouth usually go together.
- ~ A penny saved is a ridiculous waste of time.
- ~ A stitch in time would have confused Einstein.
- ~ No woman ever shot a man while he was doing dishes.
- ~ We need to save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.
- ~ Some people have a way with words, others not have way.

AS I SEE IT - by Joan Barnett

Let There Be Light

Psalm 18:28NIV *You Lord keep my lamp burning. My god turns my darkness into light.*

One morning I used this verse for the daily text when it dawned on me, I was sitting in what I can only describe as brightness. No celestial connotations here though. This brightness is connected to Charles Bonnet syndrome.

To a certain extent it is a nuisance rather than a light for my feet. I cannot see them! Fortunately, it does eventually fade. While it is there it can be quite disconcerting when walking around with this bright light everywhere.

When we are plunged into darkness as is the situation if there is a power cut during the evening, we realise how much we depend on lights and start fumbling for candles. Well, the sighted assistant does. Actually, it is a torch not candles he will find. I just carry on as normal!

Over the years our use of lights everywhere has spoiled our ability to properly see the night sky. Out in the country away from street lighting we can once again look up in wonder at the stars shining. Looking at the moon it is amazing to think man has walked on it. Trips into space are becoming reality for those who can afford it. From what I have heard they all come back with a different perspective on our planet and want to look after it. The Bible has many

mentions of stars and light appear all through the Bible. One name for Jesus is the Light of the World. We can find ourselves in a world of darkness due to situations in our lives as the psalm says. King David wrote many of them, maybe it helped him cope with his circumstances at the time.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY It was:

150 years ago, on 18th May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

125 years ago, on 26th May 1897 that Bram Stoker's horror novel *Dracula* was published.

100 years ago, on 27th May 1922 that Christopher Lee, British film actor was born. Best known for his many Hammer Horror films, especially his role as Dracula. He also played a leading role in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. (Died 2015)

90 years ago, on 9th May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

60 years ago, on 25th May 1962 that the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during WWII.

50 years ago, on 28th May 1972 that Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 years ago, 27th-28th May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War. British victory.

25 years ago, 1st May 1997 that the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

15 years ago, on 3rd May 2007 that three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing while on holiday with her parents in Praia da Luz, Portugal. Despite long-running investigations costing millions of pounds, she has never been found. Her disappearance is the most-reported missing person case in history.

10 years ago, on 18th May 2012 that social media network Facebook went public. Its initial public offering raised \$16 billion – the third-largest amount in US history.

Burpham Times for June 2022
Last day for copy - Sunday 22nd May

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian pilgrimage

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace within it.

We don't change God's message – His message changes us.

Editor: Both following articles are by Tim Lenton

REMEMBERING BERTRAND RUSSELL

It was 150 years ago, on 18th May 1872, that Bertrand Russell, the Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer, was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature for championing “humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought”.

A member of a prominent aristocratic family, the 3rd Earl Russell was a very public figure who lived to an advanced age. He was a social critic and freethinker who took what were at times extreme positions which he attempted to justify through his academic expertise in logic.

An enthusiast for world government, he was also a pacifist, up to a point. He went to prison for his devotion to pacifism during the First World War, but decided that the war against Nazi Germany was a necessary evil. He supported nuclear disarmament.

His grandmother, the Countess Russell, came from a conservative Scottish Presbyterian family but held progressive views in many areas, including Darwinism. She was big influence on the young Russell, who was brought up in an atmosphere of frequent prayer and religious formality.

This did have an effect, though probably not the one intended. In 1927 Russell gave a lecture in London entitled ‘Why I am not a Christian’, which has since been widely circulated throughout the world. It contained logical objections to Christianity which were less than convincing to Christians but enjoyed much support from atheists.

Russell's conviction under the Defence of the Realm Act for his pacifist activities during the First World War cost him his position at Trinity College and a fine of £100 (equivalent to roughly £5,700 today). He refused to pay in the hope of being sent to prison, but his books were sold to friends at auction to raise the money. He was later proud of his copy of the King James Bible stamped ‘Confiscated by Cambridge Police’.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL – 60 YEARS ON

Sixty years ago, on 25th May 1962, the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during World War Two. The Queen had laid the foundation stone in 1956, and she was present for the consecration.

On the night of 14th November 1940, the old Cathedral – together with much of the centre of Coventry – was devastated by incendiary bombs, but the decision to rebuild it was taken the next morning. The Provost, Richard Howard, wanted to do so as a sign of faith, trust and hope, rather than as an act of defiance.

This rejection of bitterness and hatred led to the Cathedral's Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, which continues to give spiritual and practical support in areas of conflict. It is symbolised now by the Cross of Nails, made from three nails found in the roof truss of the old cathedral and set in the centre of the altar cross.

The place now called Coventry Cathedral, on the site of a Benedictine monastery, is in fact two buildings – a joining of the old and the new. The older building, still hallowed ground, was originally a parish church, and then given cathedral status in 1918. Its 295ft (90m) spire, containing 181 stone steps, is the third highest in England, behind Salisbury and Norwich.

The 'new' Cathedral was an inspiration to many celebrated artists, most of them yet to become famous. Among those commissioned by the architect, Sir Basil Spence, were Graham Sutherland (iconic Christ in Glory tapestry), John Piper (baptistry window), Ralph Beyer, John Hutton, Elisabeth Frink and Jacob Epstein, who created the striking sculpture of St Michael defeating Lucifer.

The famous Charred Cross was created when the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, saw two wooden beams lying in the shape of a cross after the bombing and tied them together.

Miscellaneous observations on our Christian faith

Without God the world would be in a maze without a clue. –

Woodrow Wilson

Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have. –

Billy Graham

Among the attributes of God, although they are all equal, mercy shines with even more brilliancy than justice. –

Cervantes

Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self. –

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

8TH MAY – JULIAN OF NORWICH, A VOICE FROM A DISTANT CELL

by Canon David Winter

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

OUR ADDICTION TO PLASTIC

Take a good look next time you go to the supermarket. What is the thing you see most? Plastic.

It is everywhere. Tight around the cucumbers, holding the groups of apples together, protecting the chickens, keeping the sausages in a neat line. The yoghurt pots are all plastic. And on it goes.... Milk, juice, water, pasta, rice, frozen fish.... Almost everything we buy comes with a layer of plastic around it.

In the UK we use around 500,000 tonnes of plastic packages a year just for our food, and we generate 7.7 million single-use water bottles.

As Professor Steeve Fisher of the University of Portsmouth points out: "Half of all plastic becomes waste within a year of being made, and the vast majority isn't recycled. Eleven million metric tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans ever year, a shocking figure which is estimated to triple to near 29 million metric tonnes by 2040, if nothing is done."

WAR IN UKRAINE: APPEAL FOR MORE BIBLES

Bible Society is appealing for funds to send more Bibles to Ukraine. It says that Christians in the UK “can speak hope” into the crisis by providing Ukrainian pastors and churches with more Bibles with which to share “the love and power of God’s Word.”

Oleksandr, who leads the Bible Society team in Ukraine, tells the story: “A few days ago, a pastor visited our office, asking for Bibles. When he heard that we had none left, he pleaded for Bibles that were damaged or even copies with pages missing. He said, ‘These Bibles would be of immense value to my congregation and the community!’ It was heart-breaking.

“God’s Word can help bring comfort, peace, and reconciliation to our nation. We long for more Bibles.”

Details at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

Ed: The Revd William Mather is a retired vicar and still very active artist! He was moved to create this painting and wrote these words to accompany it. They are offered to you to use as we continues to pray for the suffering people of Ukraine.



The Pain of Ukraine

Ideas for paintings come in all sorts of ways. The awfulness of the Soviet Aggression in Ukraine has been in all our thoughts and prayers. For me, it was that early image of the block of flats hit by a missile causing death, destruction and a gaping hole. With it came a reminder of Jesus on the cross and a gaping hole in His side from the soldier’s spear. The two came together in my mind and so a painting idea was born.

With it came thoughts of the great Spanish artist Goya and his powerful etchings ‘The Disasters of War’ in protest over the French invasion and occupation 1810-1820.

The Christian teaching is that Jesus died on the cross for our sin. None of us is blameless, not least the soldier with the spear or the Russians with the missile. But the poignant promise through the pain – even the pain of Ukraine – is that the message of the cross is more powerful than any tyrant. Through it comes peace in the heart that lasts for ever.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers where Jesus is now.

THE ASCENSION

This month at Ascension Day, we remember Jesus ascending to ‘*God’s right hand*’ (1 Peter 3:22). It’s a somewhat neglected Christian festival, taking place on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. However, this phrase is used in three different contexts in the New Testament.

Sitting at God’s right hand

Jesus occupies a position of power and authority at the centre of the universe, ‘*exalted to the right hand of God*’ (Acts 2:33). This position was secured by His death and resurrection, enabling us to experience the life of heaven, including eternal life, forgiveness, healing and the power to transform lives and communities. Is this our expectation and experience?

Standing at God’s right hand

Our experience of heaven is only partial because of the presence of suffering and disappointment in our lives. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, saw Jesus ‘*standing at the right hand of God*’ (Acts 7:56), when being stoned to death. Do we see that Jesus is on the throne and has a purpose for our lives, even when we are going through setbacks and difficulties? As a result of Stephen’s death, the church grew and the apostle Paul was impacted. Where do we see the fruit of the suffering in our lives?

Praying at God’s right hand

Finally, we are told that Jesus is ‘*interceding for us*’ at God’s right hand (Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is on our side at the heart of the universe and fully knows our needs when praying for us. He is for us, even when we feel defeated by the wrong things in our lives. How does this help us now?

So where has Jesus gone? Because He is in heaven, the Ascension opens up the possibility that we can experience the life of heaven, both now and in eternity.

KNIT A CORGI FOR THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Thousands of people across the country are buying in light brown and white wool just now, in order to knit up a corgi in honour of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It is a fun way in which anyone with knitting needles can get involved in the coming celebrations.

If you google ‘knitting patterns for corgis’, you will find a wide variety of free patterns on offer. Knitted corgis could help decorate house windows, local shops and churches as the big day approaches

BURPHAM GARDENING CLUB

The delayed AGM will be on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm, when the future of the Club will need to be decided. *John Boon*

Things to do in the garden in May

Make successional sowings of Salad crops and Herbs, such as Basil and Parsley. French and Runner Beans can now be sown directly into the ground towards the end of the month.

Sow Cauliflower, Leeks and Purple Sprouting for harvesting next winter.

Plant out Courgettes and Tomatoes once the risk of frost has passed.

Peas should be staked and canes put up to support Runner Beans.

Main Crop Potatoes can be planted this month. Earth up potatoes to prevent the tubers reaching the light and turning green.

Tie Sweet Peas to their supports. Begin to liquid feed container plants.

Dead head Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

Cut back flowered Choisya to promote a second flush in the autumn.

Control early Aphid attacks with a systemic insecticide.

Cut lawns weekly and apply Weed & Feed with moss killer when rain is forecast.

Time to welcome your slugs and snails

So says the Royal Horticultural Society, as it recently began a campaign to encourage us to see the gastropods in our gardens in a better light.

The RHS says that the species play a key role in garden ecosystems, and thus are in need of 'positive PR'. It seems that only nine of the 44 known species in the UK are likely to threaten our gardens, and that all of them play a vital role in recycling dead plant material and animal waste, and acting as a food source for hedgehogs, frogs, birds, beetles and flies.

In fact, the RHS's principal entomologist says that we should consider our slugs and snails not as marauding pests bent on eating our flowers and vegetables, but rather as 'garden visitors'. "Our gardens would be duller and messier without them."

Mint is a valuable culinary herb, but if left unchecked, it can become invasive.

For successful cultivation it should be grown in a large pot or container to limit spread. Choose a bright spot in the garden, which is sheltered from the midday sun - ideally the container should be sunk into the ground, protruding slightly above the soil level to stop the roots escaping. Lift and divide the Mint every few years in the spring. If the plant look tired by mid season, cut back and apply a liquid feed to rejuvenate it. If not being planted in the garden, the container should be placed in partial shade.

pearmint, the most commonly grown, is very good for making Mint Sauce.

Peppermint is used medicinally and in Teas.

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