

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

BURPHAM TIMES

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SUMMER: SABBATH, SOLITUDE AND SILENCE

“The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.” So writes Richard J. Foster, in *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. I wonder if you agree. Things or people who appear initially very attractive and inviting, but later turn out to be shallow or superficial, are deeply unsatisfying. Perhaps he might be right?

But how do we become “deep” people? How do we swim against the culture around us, which leads us to the instant and easy? Some of the powerful tools that Christians throughout the centuries have discovered to help us in this quest are Sabbath, Solitude and Silence

“Silence is the royal road to spiritual formation. Without silence, the spoken word can never bear fruit. Moreover, only through silence can the word descend from the mind into the heart. As long as our hearts and minds are filled with words of our own making, there is no space for the word to enter deeply into our heart and take root.” So writes Henri Nouwen in his book *Spiritual Direction*:

Dallas Willard, in his book, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*, writes something similar *“Solitude well practiced will break the power of busyness, haste, isolation, and loneliness. You will see that the world is not on your shoulders after all. You will find yourself, and God will find you in new ways. Silence also brings Sabbath to you. It completes solitude, for without it you cannot be alone. Far from being a mere absence, silence allows the reality of God to stand in the midst of your life. God does not ordinarily compete for our attention. In silence we come to attend.”*

Sabbath, taking an intentional, one day out of seven, to stop, rest, delight and contemplate, is a pattern written into the fabric of creation according to Genesis. Funny how we seem to have forgotten the design of the designer, but I certainly know the power of this practice in my life, keeping me going in difficult times.

For those of you who use computers, you will know that if you never turn it off properly after a while it will glitch and you are forced to switch everything off and reboot. Guess what, it invariably works just fine when you turn it on again. Maybe I am more like my laptop than I'd like to think!!

(Continued over page)





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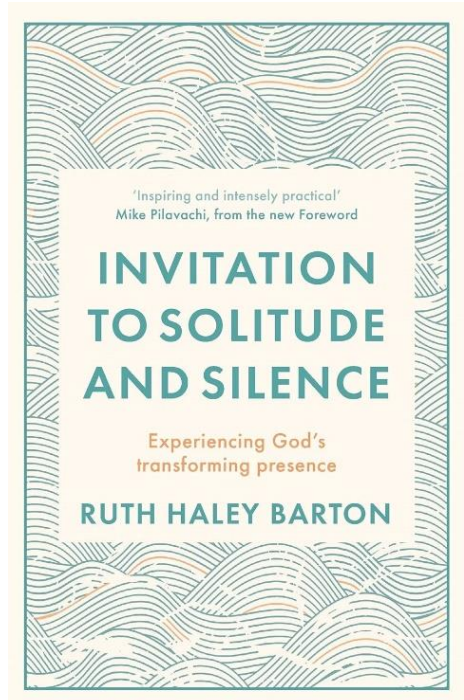
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Silence and Solitude are newer explorations for me, but I've come to realise that the early Christian church just might have been onto something with their focus on meeting God in silence and solitude. Perhaps I too need to learn to switch off from the pressing concerns of the world around me and seek God in that silent, solitary place.

Perhaps you might like to join me in this adventure? If you do, can I recommend this book: Invitation to solitude and silence by Ruth Hayley Barton – a highly accessible and practical book to help us on our journey into unfamiliar places. Who knows, perhaps we will work better if we learn how to turn ourselves off and reboot regularly!

With every blessing

Rev'd Joanna Levasier



Sunday 17th July sees the return of the community event, **Burpham Wellfest** in Sutherland Memorial Park. As last year, Burpham Church will be hosting a tent at this event and we would love to invite you to help. We have decided not to have a Messy church event in our building this half term but instead take it to Wellfest. Volunteers are needed to

- put up and take down the tent
- staff the Messy Church craft tables
- be a welcoming friendly face
- help people engage with a prayer station.
- Pray for the event whilst it is going on.

Contact me if you can help in any way. Jo Levasier



WANTED - A NEW EDITOR

Having been the Editor of Burpham Times for a very long time, I have decided to retire.

My last edition will be December 2022.

If there is anyone interested in taking over, please have a word with Jo, or let me know, and I can explain how I have done it.

John will also cease to liaise with the advertisers, so that job will also need a volunteer. (Unless the new editor does that as well!)

Valerie Boon

AS I SEE IT - by Joan Barnett

More Gadgets

Matthew 11:30 NIV. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Continuing from last month it is interesting to notice that despite modern technology and the digital world taking over some inventions continue to be produced with updates.

My favourite gadget is the Milestone. The size of a credit card, is a simple to use audio recorder with many functions. I use it daily for timing cooking and keep it on the clock setting. I have various folders copied from the computer or as is the case with the telephone numbers, recorded by me at the speed I find most suitable when dialling a number on the landline. There is a function for music and slot on the side for an SD card with Talking Books.

My first simple one bought back in 2006 is still sitting by the computer as it is easy to record a quick message. My second one which was an improvement on the first one was bought in 2011, later I had it refreshed when it began to deteriorate. Eventually it packed up. Due to the popularity of the smart phone the company stopped manufacturing the Milestone. I had to use my Blindshell phone for recording messages or timing cooking. I find this far more cumbersome as you seem to need to go through so many functions to find what you want. One day when listening to a podcast for visually impaired people on the Sonata Internet radio there was an item about a new milestone. It would seem that I am not the only one who loves this simple gadget. The next day I rang up and ordered my new Milestone. It is of course in daily use.

The Sonata Internet radio will no longer function from the end of October. Those of us who use it are waiting to hear what Wireless for the Blind will be offering in its place.

The verse from Matthew came to mind when thinking about how the various gadgets are an aid to help us in our daily life. A yoke spreads the burden to lighten the load. Audio gadgets are my preference although I am well aware that many visually impaired people use Braille for labelling. I label some items, audio books or CDs with a Braille label as well as an audio one. Using gadgets means we are able to live an independent life with requests for help when required.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY It was:

200 years ago, on 20th July 1822 that Gregor Mendel was born. This Austrian/Czech friar, and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created the science of genetics.

175 years ago, on 24th July 1847 that Salt Lake City in Utah was founded by Mormon pioneers, led by Brigham Young.

150 years ago, on 1st July 1872 that Louis Bleriot, French inventor, and aviation pioneer was born. He developed the first practical headlamp for cars and became the first person to fly across the English Channel.

125 years ago, on 21st July 1897 that the Tate Britain art museum opened in London.

100 years ago, on 28th July 1922 that Jacques Piccard, Belgian born Swiss oceanographer and engineer was born. Best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth. (Died 2008)

90 years ago, on 8th July 1932 that the USA's stock market (Dow Jones Industrial Average) fell to its lowest point (41.22) during the Great Depression.

80 years ago, on 4th July 1942 that the Siege of Sevastopol ended. Axis forces captured the Crimean port city which they had first attacked in October 1941.

Also 80 years ago on 31st July 1942 that the British charity Oxfam was founded. (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

75 years ago, on 9th July 1947 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

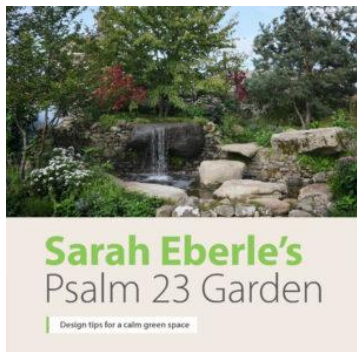
65 years ago, on 6th July 1957 that John Lennon and Paul McCartney met for the first time at a church hall in Liverpool, where 16-year-old Lennon was performing with his skiffle group the Quarrymen. 15-year-old McCartney joined as a rhythm guitarist shortly afterwards, and the pair went on to form the Beatles.

60 years ago, on 10th July 1962 that Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was granted a US patent for the three-point safety belt for vehicles. It is now used in practically all road vehicles.

50 years ago, on 21st July 1972 that Bloody Friday took place when the IRA exploded 22 bombs in Belfast, killing nine people and injuring 130.

25 years ago, on 1st July 1997 that the UK returned Hong Kong to China after more than 150 years.

10 years ago, on 4th July 2012 that researchers at CERN in Switzerland announced the discovery of particles consistent with the Higgs boson. The discovery was confirmed in March 2013 and the researchers were awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize for Physics.



Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden: design tips for a calm green space

By various authors, Bible Society, £6.50

A full-colour book showcasing the splendid Psalm 23 Garden, designed by Sarah Eberle for Bible Society's entry into last year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Sarah Eberle had previously won 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows, and her Psalm 23 Garden won another gold medal as well as awards for Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction Award. Psalm 23 is a beloved psalm in the Bible, invoking images of rest and refreshment.

Editor: Tim Lenton considers Gregor Mendel & Jacques Piccard

MENDEL, THE PEAS, AND THE BEGINNING OF GENETICS

Two hundred years ago, on 20th July 1822, Gregor Mendel was born. The Austrian/Czech friar and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created what eventually became the science of genetics.

Born to a relatively poor but devoutly Roman Catholic farming family in what was then Moravia, in the Austrian empire, Johann Mendel (he became Gregor after he joined the Order of St Augustine) became a monk partly to relieve “perpetual anxiety about means of livelihood”, but his faith was clear and frequently expressed.

He was also a meteorologist, mathematician and teacher, but his ground-breaking experiments with pea plants between 1856 and 1863 demonstrated the action of something invisible – now called ‘genes’ – in determining the inherited traits of an organism. Although he announced his results and published them in 1866, the significance of his work was not appreciated by scientists until around 1900, when his experiments were verified – another example of the consensus of scientists failing to recognise the validity of different ideas.

He was elected Abbot in 1868, and after that his life was taken up largely by administrative duties – including a long dispute about payment of religious taxes. He died in January 1884 of chronic nephritis. Czech composer Leoš Janáček played the organ at his funeral.

Mendel's work was introduced to Britain in the early years of the 20th century by William Bateson, the first Director of the John Innes Centre in Norwich – the first research institute devoted to Mendelian genetics in Britain. He translated Mendel's paper from German into English, championed his work and coined the word ‘genetics’.

REACHING THE DEEPEST PLACE ON EARTH

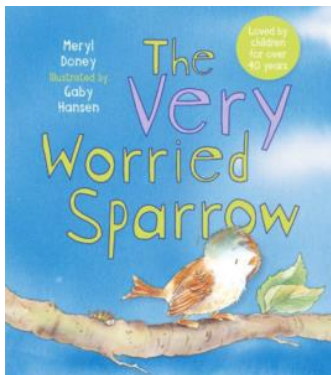
One hundred years ago, on 28th July 1922, Jacques Piccard, the Swiss oceanographer and engineer, was born in Belgium. He is best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth.

He came from a family known for daring achievements. His father Auguste set height records in ballooning, reaching the stratosphere, and later with his son adapted the technology involved in that achievement to create the bathyscaphe for deep sea exploration. As a result, the Piccard family made both the highest flight and the deepest dive.

Jacques Piccard taught economics at the University of Geneva before leaving to concentrate on deep sea research. His revolutionary vessel, developed with his father, was bought by the US Navy for salvage and rescue.

On 23rd January, 1960, Piccard and Lt Don Walsh, a submarine officer, descended to 35,800 feet in a chasm of the Marianas Trench known as Challenger Deep. There were no on-board experiments or scientific equipment. They finally touched down in “snuff-coloured ooze” where they found, amazingly, a flat fish and a new type of shrimp.

The Piccards followed this success by developing further vessels, including tourist submarines and another exploratory vessel that followed the Gulf Stream and studied its various features. Jacques Piccard, who died in 2008, also formed the Foundation for the Study and Preservation of Seas and Lakes. His son Bertrand, with Brian Jones, made the first non-stop circumnavigation of the world by balloon in 1999 (Switzerland-Egypt, 20 days).



The Very Worried Sparrow **By Meryl Doney and Gaby Hansen,** **Lion Children's, £6.99**

This is the story of a sparrow who worries about everything – whether there will be enough to eat, where he will build his new nest, how he will find a mate, whether his family will be eaten by a bird of prey. Then he hears about the Great Father who made and cares for all his creation – even the tiniest sparrow.

This delightful story has helped, reassured, and entertained many thousands of children since it was first published in 1978.

Burpham Times for August 2022
Last day for copy - Sunday 17th July

Ed: Nigel Beeton writes: Psalm 119, at 179 verses is not only the longest chapter of any kind in the Bible, and is longer than the books of Ruth, James, and Philippians! There is a story of a condemned prisoner who exercised his right to have a Psalm recited prior to his execution, chose Psalm 119, and received his pardon before the end of the Psalm! Almost every single verse mentions God's Word, His Law, His Statutes, or His Ordinances. That's how important it is to be familiar with the Word of God. Many of us neglect it at our peril, but many Christians spend longer in a day watching commercials than they do reading God's Word... This poem is based on only one stanza, Nun, which begins at verse 105, and is one of the most familiar passages:

Thy Word

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my way.

Thy Word is right, and I will keep
Thy Law from day to day.

Thy Word will revive my weary soul
Afflicted it was, and astray.

Lift me O Lord, and make me whole
By Thy side, O Lord, I will stay.

Although the wicked lay a snare
Thy ordinance makes me bold;

Within Thy tenderness and care
No devil can get a hold.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my way.

Thy Word is right, and I will keep
Thy Law from day to day.

Ed: Nigel Beeton continues: I loved books when I was a child. I read book after book, and learned my love of the language at a tender age. I think 'Biggles' was my favourite! Maybe I should have been reading Psalm 119, but I promise that I did read that, too!

Remember the Stories?

Remember the stories that we used to read?
Heroic adventures – we loved them indeed!
We'd read in the garden, if wet, in the porch,
Or under the covers at night with a torch!

Our fingers would avidly trace lines of text
Of what Katy Did, and what she Did Next.
And, starting this journey along Mem'ry Lane
We can't forget Biggles, up there in his plane!

We laughed and we laughed at Jennings at school.
Tormenting his teachers by acting the fool.
Just William's young friends, and their latest trick –
"I'll scream and I'll scream till I make myself sick!"

Black Beauty the horse brought a tear to our eye –
Some stories brought laughter, and some made us cry.
Like Paddington Bear, and the things he would do
Arriving by train from Darkest Peru.

There was Noddy, and Rupert, and Peter Pan, too;
The woodland adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh;
Little Women and Crusoe and Chalet School Girls;
Just So – all such stories were wonderful pearls!

This poem could go on for page after page
If your favourite is missing, please don't fill with rage –
Just nip to the loft, and dig through that box,
And sit down and read – ignoring the clocks!

By Nigel Beeton

NATIONAL 'DON'T STEP ON A BEE DAY' – 10th July

Bees need your help. And we need their help.

Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.

The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many beekeepers on our doorstep. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast?

You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>

SEA SUNDAY – 10th July

Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.

SHOWERS OF BLESSING *by Lester Amann*

According to British folklore, if it rains on 15th July, then we can expect 40 days of showery and stormy weather. This myth arose after the buried remains of St Swithun (Swithin) was removed from its original site in a church garden and taken into a Saxon cathedral.

Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester. During his decade in office, he was known for his devotion and passion to build new churches and to restore old ones.

Before he died on 2nd July 863 AD, he didn't want any veneration of his tomb and requested that his body be simply interred in the church grounds. He wanted people to pass by his grave and for it to be touched by the weather.

So far so good. But – a century later, it was decided to move Swithun *inside*, into the refurbished basilica. From that day it rained every day for nearly six weeks – as if this was his displeasure at being moved!

The Bible mentions rain (and water) many times. These include the great flood and Noah's Ark (Genesis 7); Ezra's open-air public assembly in Jerusalem in the pouring rain (Ezra 10:9) and the parable by Jesus about two houses in a rainstorm (Matthew 7:24-27).

Over the centuries, hymn writers have also used water and rain to describe our need for God. They've used such phrases as *I need Youlike refreshing summer rain* and *Father, like rain from the skies send Your word into our lives*. Some hymns include rain as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit to come and refresh, restore and revitalise us; to cleanse us of our sins or to wash away our sorrows.

Here are two verses and the chorus from an old hymn written by Daniel W. Whittle (1840-1901) that reminds us that when overwhelmed with gloom and despair, God can and will pour new hope into our lives.

There shall be showers of blessing, this is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Saviour above.
There shall be showers of blessing, O that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing, now as on Jesus we call!
Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need;
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

Miscellaneous observations on life and faith

Love all, trust a few, and do wrong to none. – William Shakespeare

(All's Well That Ends Well)

Anger is just one letter short of danger. – Anon

Nature is the art of God. Thomas Browne

Exercise daily – walk with the Lord. – Anon

BURPHAM GARDENING CLUB

The Autumn Show will be on Saturday 27th August

John Boon

Tomatoes should be watered regularly to prevent Blossom End Rot.

Feed Tomatoes and Dahlias once a week with a high potash feed, except for Bush Tomatoes. All side shoots on Tomatoes need to be removed and the top cut off above the fourth truss to prevent the plant wasting energy producing Tomatoes that will not ripen.

Pick Courgettes and Beans regularly to prevent them becoming too big, tough and stringy. Leeks, Brussel Sprouts, Kale, Purple Sprouting and Winter Cabbage should be planted out. Make sowings of Spring Cabbage, Turnip, and for a late crop, French and Runner Beans.

Harvest Autumn planted Onions, Shallots and Garlic.

Water containerised Camelias and Rhododendrons regularly to encourage next year's flower buds, and feed with a liquid feed.

Start dead heading bedding plants for a continuous display. Once you allow them to set seed, they will think that their job is done, and will stop flowering! Roses too should be dead headed and fed with a Rose fertiliser, to produce a good second flush.

House plants need to be watered when the pot feels light, and fed every 2 weeks.

Apply a summer feed to the lawn just before rain is forecast.

Among the most popular foliage plants are Hostas, but they do suffer from problems:-

Slugs and snails affect Hostas more than any other plant. They will enjoy 'midnight feasts' until nothing is left. Growing in pots can provide some protection, when they are stood on copper impregnated mats, or fitted with copper tape bands. Copper tape can also be used in the soil as a barrier around the plant which slugs and snails will be reluctant to cross, or thinly scatter slug pellets around the plants.

Pot grown Hostas can be attacked by Vine Weevil grubs eating the roots. To protect the plant, water with Provado Vine Weevil Killer 2.

Containerised Hostas need to be watered regularly. They are best grown in John Innes No. 3 compost. Feed in spring with a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore, or Fish, Blood and Bone. Use a liquid feed during the growing season. Divide and re-pot every 2-3 years depending on plant's vigour.

There are no chemical cures for viruses which may attack the plant. In such cases the plant should be destroyed.

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